

# week07-03-eigen

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## 1 [George McNinch](#) Math 87 - Spring 2025

## 2 Week 7

## 3 Power-iteration & eigenvalues

## 4 Eigenvalues & power-iteration

Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  be a square matrix. Our goal is to understand the *eventual behavior* of powers of  $A$ ; i.e. the matrices  $A^m$  for  $m \rightarrow \infty$ .

### 4.1 Example: Diagonal matrices

Let's look at a simple example. Consider the following matrix:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

In this case, it is easy to understand the powers of  $A$ ; indeed, we have

$$A^m = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1^m & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2^m & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_3^m & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda_4^m \end{bmatrix}$$

### 4.2 example, continued

Observe that if  $|\lambda| < 1$ , then  $\lambda^m \rightarrow 0$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ . So e.g. if  $|\lambda_i| < 1$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ , then

$$A^m \rightarrow \mathbf{0} \quad \text{as} \quad m \rightarrow \infty.$$

If  $\lambda_1 = 1$  and  $|\lambda_i| < 1$  for  $i = 2, 3, 4$ , then

$$A^m \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

On the other hand, if  $|\lambda_i| > 1$  for some  $i$ , then  $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} A^m$  doesn't exist, because  $\lambda_i^m \rightarrow \pm\infty$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ .

Of course, “most” matrices aren't diagonal, or at least not *literally*.

### 4.3 Eigenvalues and eigenvectors

Recall that a number  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  is an *eigenvalue* of  $A$  if there is a non-zero vector  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  for which

$$A\mathbf{v} = \lambda\mathbf{v};$$

$\mathbf{v}$  is then called an *eigenvector*.

If  $A$  is diagonal – e.g. if

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda_4 \end{bmatrix} = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \lambda_4)$$

– it is easy to see that each standard basis vector  $\mathbf{e}_i$  is an eigenvector, with corresponding eigenvalue  $\lambda_i$  (the  $(i, i)$ -the entry of  $A$ ).

### 4.4 Eigenvectors

Now suppose that  $A$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix, that  $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n$  are eigenvectors for  $A$ , and that  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  are the corresponding eigenvalues. Write

$$P = [\mathbf{v}_1 \quad \cdots \quad \mathbf{v}_n]$$

for the matrix whose columns are the  $\mathbf{v}_i$ .

**Theorem 0:**  $P$  is invertible if and only if the vectors  $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n$  are linearly independent.

**Theorem 1:** If the eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  are *distinct*, then the vectors  $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n$  are linearly independent, and in particular, the matrix  $P$  is invertible.

### 4.5 Diagonalizable matrices

**Theorem 2:** If the eigenvectors  $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n$  are linearly independent – equivalently, if the matrix  $P$  is invertible – then

$$P^{-1}AP = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$$

i.e.  $P^{-1}AP$  is the diagonal matrix  $n \times n$  matrix whose diagonal entries are  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ .

Because of **Theorem 2**, one says that the  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  is *diagonalizable* if it has  $n$  linearly independent eigenvectors.

Thus if we are willing to replace our matrix by the *conjugate* matrix  $P^{-1}AP$ , then for  $A$  diagonalizable, for some purposes “we may as well suppose that  $A$  is diagonal” (though of course that statement is imprecise!).

## 4.6 Finding eigenvalues

One might wonder “how do I find eigenvalues”? The answer is: the eigenvalues of  $A$  are the roots of the *characteristic polynomial*  $p_A(t)$  of  $A$ , where:

$$p_A(t) = \det(A - t \cdot \mathbf{I}_n).$$

**Proposition:** The characteristic polynomial  $p_A(t)$  of the  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  has degree  $n$ , and thus  $A$  has no more than  $n$  distinct eigenvalues.

**Remark:** The eigenvalues of  $A$  are complex numbers which in general may fail to be real numbers, even when  $A$  has only real-number coefficients.

## 4.7 Tools for finding eigenvalues

python and numpy provides tools for finding eigenvalues. Let’s look at the following example:

**Example:** Consider the matrix

$$A = \left(\frac{1}{10}\right) \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

```
[1]: import numpy as np
import numpy.linalg as npl

float_formatter = "{:.2f}".format
np.set_printoptions(formatter={'float_kind':float_formatter})

A = (1/10)*np.array([[1,1,0,0],[0,2,2,0],[0,3,3,1],[0,0,1,2]])

A
```

```
[1]: array([[0.10, 0.10, 0.00, 0.00],
           [0.00, 0.20, 0.20, 0.00],
           [0.00, 0.30, 0.30, 0.10],
           [0.00, 0.00, 0.10, 0.20]])
```

Let's find the eigenvectors/values of this  $4 \times 4$  matrix  $A$ ; we'll use the function `eig` found in the python module `numpy.linalg`:

```
[2]: (e_vals,e_vecs) = npl.eig(A)
      [e_vals,e_vecs]

[2]: [array([0.10, 0.52, -0.02, 0.20]),
      array([[1.00, -0.12, -0.47, -0.30],
             [0.00, -0.51, 0.56, -0.30],
             [0.00, -0.81, -0.62, -0.00],
             [0.00, -0.25, 0.28, 0.90]])]
```

The function `eig` returns a “list of np arrays”. This first array contains the eigenvalues, and the second contains the a matrix whose *columns* are the eigenvectors.

We've assigned the first component of the list to the variable `e_vals` and the second to `e_vecs`.

To get the individual eigenvectors, we need to [slice](#) the array `e_vecs`.

For example, to get the 0-th (“first”) eigenvector, we can use

```
e_vecs[:,0]
```

Here, the argument `:` indicates that the full range should be used in the first index dimension, and the argument `0` indicates the the second index dimension of the slice is 0. Thus `numpy` returns the array whose entries are `e_vecs[0,0]`, `e_vecs[1,0]`, `e_vecs[2,0]`, `e_vecs[3,0]`.

Let's confirm that this is really an eigenvector with the indicated eigenvalue:

```
[3]: v = e_vecs[:,0]
      [v,A @ v,e_vals[0]*v, (A @ v - e_vals[0] * v < 1e-7).all()]

[3]: [array([1.00, 0.00, 0.00, 0.00]),
      array([0.10, 0.00, 0.00, 0.00]),
      array([0.10, 0.00, 0.00, 0.00]),
      True]
```

Let's check *all* of the eigenvalues:

```
[4]: def check(A):
      e_vals,e_vecs = npl.eig(A)

      def check_i(i):
          lam = e_vals[i]
          v= e_vecs[:,i]
          return "\n".join([f"lambda    = {lam}",
                           f"v          = {v}",
                           f"Av         = {A @ v}",
                           f"lambda*v   = {lam * v}",
                           f"match?:    {(np.abs(A @ v - lam * v) < 1e-7).
                           all()}",
                           ""])

      return check_i(0), check_i(1), check_i(2), check_i(3)
```

```
return "\n".join([check_i(i) for i in range(len(e_vals))])
```

```
[5]: print(check(A))
```

```
lambda    = 0.1
v         = [1.00 0.00 0.00 0.00]
Av        = [0.10 0.00 0.00 0.00]
lambda*v  = [0.10 0.00 0.00 0.00]
match?:   True

lambda    = 0.5192582403567257
v         = [-0.12 -0.51 -0.81 -0.25]
Av        = [-0.06 -0.26 -0.42 -0.13]
lambda*v  = [-0.06 -0.26 -0.42 -0.13]
match?:   True

lambda    = -0.019258240356725218
v         = [-0.47 0.56 -0.62 0.28]
Av        = [0.01 -0.01 0.01 -0.01]
lambda*v  = [0.01 -0.01 0.01 -0.01]
match?:   True

lambda    = 0.19999999999999998
v         = [-0.30 -0.30 -0.00 0.90]
Av        = [-0.06 -0.06 -0.00 0.18]
lambda*v  = [-0.06 -0.06 -0.00 0.18]
match?:   True
```

Let's observe that  $A$  has 4 distinct eigenvalues, and is thus diagonalizable. Moreover, every eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of  $A$  satisfies  $|\lambda| < 1$ . Thus, we conclude that  $A^m \rightarrow \mathbf{0}$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ .

And indeed, we confirm that:

```
[6]: res=[(npl.matrix_power(A,j) - np.zeros((4,4)) < 1e-7*np.ones((4,4))).all() for
        ↪ j in range(50)]

j = res.index(True)    ## find the first instance in the list of results

print(f"A^{j} == 0")
```

```
A^24 == 0
```

## 4.8 Eigenvalues and power iteration.

**Theorem 3:** Let  $A$  be a diagonalizable  $n \times n$ , with  $n$  linearly independent eigenvectors  $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n$  with corresponding eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ . As before, write

$$P = [\mathbf{v}_1 \quad \cdots \quad \mathbf{v}_n].$$

a) Suppose  $|\lambda_i| < 1$  for all  $i$ . Then  $A^m \rightarrow \mathbf{0}$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ .

b) Suppose that  $\lambda_1 = 1$ , and  $|\lambda_i| < 1$  for  $2 \leq i \leq n$ . Any vector  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  may be written

$$\mathbf{v} = \sum_{i=1}^n c_i \mathbf{v}_i.$$

If  $c_1 \neq 0$ , then

$$A^m \mathbf{v} = c_1 \mathbf{v}_1 \quad \text{as } m \rightarrow \infty.$$

If  $c_1 = 0$  then

$$A^m \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{as } m \rightarrow \infty.$$

#### 4.9 Proof:

For a), note that  $P^{-1}AP = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$ . Which shows that

$$(P^{-1}AP)^m = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)^m = \text{diag}(\lambda_1^m, \dots, \lambda_n^m) \rightarrow \mathbf{0} \quad \text{as } m \rightarrow \infty.$$

Let's now notice that

$$(P^{-1}AP)^2 = (P^{-1}AP)(P^{-1}AP) = P^{-1}AAP = P^{-1}A^2P$$

and more generally

$$(P^{-1}AP)^m = P^{-1}A^mP \quad \text{for } m \geq 0.$$

We now see that

$$P^{-1}A^mP \rightarrow \mathbf{0} \quad \text{as } m \rightarrow \infty$$

so that

$$A^m \rightarrow P \cdot \mathbf{0} \cdot P^{-1} = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{as } m \rightarrow \infty$$

#### 4.10 Proof of b):

Recall that  $\mathbf{v} = \sum_{i=1}^n c_i \mathbf{v}_i$ .

For  $i > 1$ , a) shows that

$$A^m \mathbf{v}_i \rightarrow \mathbf{0} \quad \text{as } m \rightarrow \infty.$$

while

$$A^m \mathbf{v}_1 = \mathbf{v}_1 \quad \text{for all } m.$$

The preceding discussion now shows that

$$A^m \mathbf{v} = \sum_{i=1}^n c_i A^m \mathbf{v}_i \mapsto c_1 \mathbf{v}_1$$

and b) follows at once.

### 4.11 Corollary

Suppose that  $A$  is diagonalizable with eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ , that  $\lambda_1 = 1$ , and that  $|\lambda_i| < 1$  for  $i = 2, \dots, n$ . Let  $\mathbf{v}_1$  be a 1-eigenvector for  $A$ .

Then

$$A^m \rightarrow B \quad \text{as } m \rightarrow \infty$$

for a matrix  $B$  with the property that each column of  $B$  is either  $\mathbf{0}$  or some multiple of  $\mathbf{v}_1$ .

**Indeed:** the  $i$ th column of  $B$  can be found by computing

$$(\heartsuit) \quad \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} A^m \mathbf{e}_i$$

where  $\mathbf{e}_i$  is the  $i$ th standard basis vector.

We've seen above that  $(\heartsuit)$  is either 0 or a multiple of  $\mathbf{v}_1$ , depending on whether or not the coefficient  $c_1$  in the expression

$$\mathbf{e}_i = \sum_{j=1}^n c_j \mathbf{v}_j$$

is zero.

### 4.12 Examples revisited: population growth & aging

Recall from last week our finite-state machine describing population & aging.

We considered a population of organisms described by:

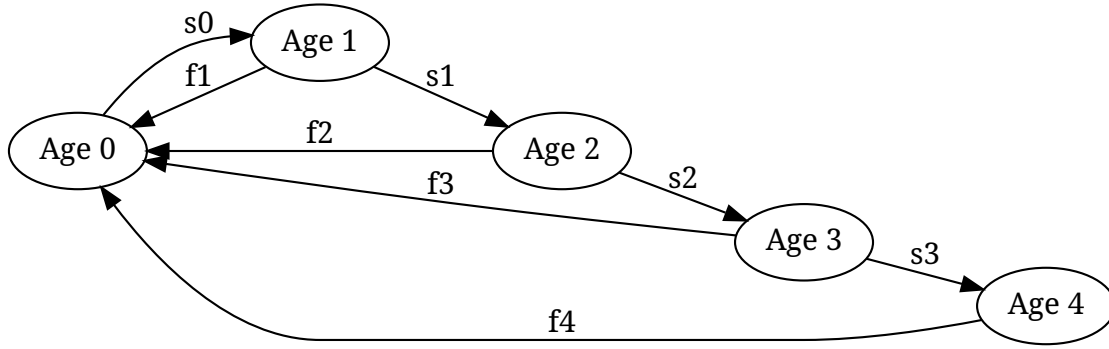
```
[30]: from graphviz import Digraph
pop = Digraph("pop")
pop.attr(rankdir='LR')

p = list(range(5))
with pop.subgraph() as c:
    # c.attr(rank='same')
    for i in p:
        c.node(f"Age {i}")

for i in p:
    if i+1 in p:
        pop.edge(f"Age {i}", f"Age {i+1}", f"s{i}")
    if i != 0:
        pop.edge(f"Age {i}", "Age 0", f"f{i}")

pop
```

[30]:



We suppose that  $s_7 = 0$ , so that the life-span of the organism in question is  $\leq 8$  time units.

If the population at time  $t$  is described by  $\mathbf{p}^{(t)} = [p_0 \ p_1 \ \cdots \ p_7]^T$  then the population at time  $t + 1$  is given by

$$\mathbf{p}^{(t+1)} = \begin{bmatrix} \sum_{i=0}^7 f_i p_i & s_0 p_0 & \cdots & s_6 p_6 \end{bmatrix}^T = A \mathbf{p}^{(t)}$$

where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} f_0 & f_1 & f_2 & \cdots & f_6 & f_7 \\ s_0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & s_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & s_2 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & s_6 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

### 4.13 parameters

Previously, we considered this model for two different sets of parameters:

`fA = [.30, .50, .35, .25, .25, .15, .15, .5]`

`sA = [.30, .60, .55, .50, .30, .15, .05, 0]`

and

`fB = [.50, .70, .55, .35, .35, .15, .15, .5]`

`sB = [.40, .70, .55, .50, .35, .15, .05, 0]`

```
[76]: import numpy as np

float_formatter = "{:.2f}".format
np.set_printoptions(formatter={'float_kind':float_formatter})

def bv(ind,list):
    return np.array([1.0 if i == list.index(ind) else 0.0 for i in
↪range(len(list))])

## note
```



```

## bv("b",["a","b","c"])
## >> np.array([0,1,0])

ones = np.ones(8)

def A(f=[],s=[]):
    return np.array([np.array(f)]
                    +
                    [x*bv(x,s) for x in s[:-1]])

def display(f,s):
    e_val,e_vec = npl.eig(A(f,s))
    s = [f"Eigenvalues lambda of A when",
          f" f = {f}",
          f" s = {s}",
          "are as follows:"]
    return "\n".join(s+[f" |lambda| = {np.abs(e):.5f}" for e in e_val])

```

```

[72]: fA = [.30,.50,.35,.25,.25,.15,.15,.5]
      sA = [.30,.60,.55,.50,.30,.15,.05,0]
      print(display(fA,sA))

```

```

Eigenvalues lambda of A when
  f = [0.3, 0.5, 0.35, 0.25, 0.25, 0.15, 0.15, 0.5]
  s = [0.3, 0.6, 0.55, 0.5, 0.3, 0.15, 0.05, 0]
are as follows:
|lambda| = 0.7665
|lambda| = 0.3648
|lambda| = 0.3648
|lambda| = 0.3483
|lambda| = 0.3483
|lambda| = 0.0000
|lambda| = 0.0000
|lambda| = 0.0000

```

```

[71]: fB = [.50,.70,.55,.35,.35,.15,.15,.5]
      sB = [.40,.70,.55,.50,.35,.15,.05,0]
      print(display(fB,sB))

```

```

Eigenvalues lambda of A when
  f = [0.5, 0.7, 0.55, 0.35, 0.35, 0.15, 0.15, 0.5]
  s = [0.4, 0.7, 0.55, 0.5, 0.35, 0.15, 0.05, 0]
are as follows:
|lambda| = 1.0105
|lambda| = 0.3650
|lambda| = 0.3650
|lambda| = 0.3749
|lambda| = 0.3749

```

```
|lambda| = 0.1788
|lambda| = 0.1729
|lambda| = 0.1729
```

Let's look at one more example, now where the organisms have a max life-span of 4 time units (for simplicity!)

Let's consider

```
fC = [0, .2, .49559, 0.4]
sC = [.98, .96, .9, 0]
```

```
[134]: fC = [0.000, .2, .49559, 0.399]
sC = [.9799, .96, .9, 0]
print(display(fC,sC))

e_vals,e_vecs = npl.eig(A(fC,sC))
print(f"\nIn fact, the largest eigenvalue is lambda = {e_vals[0]}")
print(f"\n& the corresponding eigenvector is {e_vecs[:,0]}")
```

```
Eigenvalues lambda of A when
f = [0.0, 0.2, 0.49559, 0.399]
s = [0.9799, 0.96, 0.9, 0]
are as follows:
|lambda| = 1.00000
|lambda| = 0.75089
|lambda| = 0.75089
|lambda| = 0.59912
```

In fact, the largest eigenvalue is  $\lambda = (0.9999969131763253+0j)$

& the corresponding eigenvector is  $[0.5298541 + 0.j \ 0.51920563 + 0.j \ 0.49843895 + 0.j \ 0.44859644 + 0.j]$

#### 4.14 Explainer

In each case, the matrix  $A$  has distinct eigenvalues (in case **C** there are two eigenvalues with the same absolute value, but they are complex and distinct from one another!) Thus  $A$  is diagonalizable in each case.

For the parameters **fA,sA** all eigenvalues of  $A$  have absolute value  $< 1$ . This confirms our previous conclusion that

$$A^m \rightarrow \mathbf{0} \quad \text{as } m \rightarrow \infty$$

For the parameters **fB,sB** there is an eigenvalue of  $A$  which has absolute value  $1.01 > 1$  (actually, this 1.01 *is* the eigenvalue). Thus  $A^m$  has no limiting value as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ .

Finally, the parameters **fC,sC** yield an eigenvalue of  $A$  which is very close to 1.

#### 4.15 fC,sC

In this setting, note that the corresponding 1-eigenvector is

`w=[0.5298541, 0.51920563, 0.49843895, 0.44859644]`

Let's normalize the vector `w` by dividing by the sum of its components:

```
[131]: w=np.array([0.5298541, 0.51920563, 0.49843895, 0.44859644])
      ww = (1/sum(w,0))*w
      ww
```

```
[131]: array([0.27, 0.26, 0.25, 0.22])
```

Thus the components of `ww` sum to 1. They represent *probabilities*.

We conclude that the expected longterm population distribution in this case is:

Age 0	Age 1	Age 2	Age 3
27 %	26 %	25 %	22 %