Note: Preview of slides from (LanguarangeInterpolationPolynomial.tex) by Qirui Li (https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6042-1291). For educational and non-commercial use only. Any unlawful use will be prosecuted.

© 2025 Qirui Li Licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 4.0. You may modify, share, or adapt with proper attribution, for non-commercial educational use only, and must include the license link: https://github.com/honeymath/Linear-Algebra-Slides/blob/main/LICENSE

Full license: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Computing polynomials of a matrix

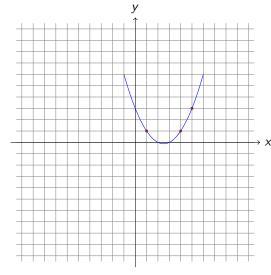
In previous slides, we leared that $char_A(t) = det(tI - A)$ is an annihilating polynomial, and we call the list of its roots the list of **eigenvalues**

The imporatance of the characteristic polynomial is that $char_A(A) = 0$, the Caylay Hamilton theorem.

In this part, we introduce an easier method to calculate g(A) for general polynomial g in this section. This enables us to calculate formulas like A^n or e^A for various purposes. This motivate us to define **eigenvectors** nand **eigenspaces**

1

Interpolation means to find a function with its graph passing through certain points,



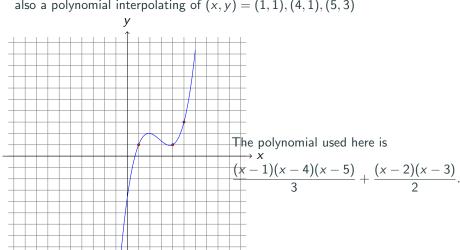
the left is a quadratic polynomial interpolation of

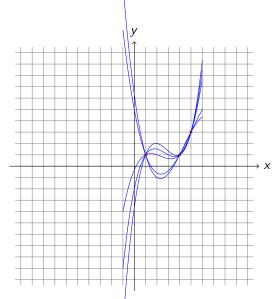
Х	1	4	5		
У	1	1	3		

The interpolation is given by $x^2 - 5x + 6$

$$f(x) = \frac{x^2 - 5x + 6}{2}$$

Note that the interpolation is not unique, for example, the following is also a polynomial interpolating of (x, y) = (1, 1), (4, 1), (5, 3)





We have all arbitrary choices of interpolation polynomials for

(x, y) = (1, 1), (4, 1), (5, 3).

What is the difference between any two of the interpolation polynomial?

Proposition 1

Suppose $x_1, ..., x_k$ are distinct numbers. Let g(x) and h(x) interpolating the same data set in the sense that

$$g(x_i) = h(x_i) = y_i$$

for

$$(x_i, y_i) \in \{(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \cdots (x_k, y_k)\}.$$

Then g(x) - h(x) is divisible by $(x - x_1) \cdots (x - x_k)$.

Therefore,

$$Q(x) = \frac{g(x) - h(x)}{(x - x_1) \cdots (x - x_k)}$$

is a polynomial. We may write

$$g(x) = Q(x)(x - x_1) \cdots (x - x_k) + h(x).$$

for any two interpolation of the data at $x_1, ..., x_k$.

For any polynomial g(x), it interpolate itself at

<i>x</i> ₁	<i>x</i> ₂	 Xn
$g(x_1)$	$g(x_2)$	 $g(x_n)$

Using Lagurange interpolation polynomial, we may also construct

$$h(x) = g(x_1) \frac{(x - x_2) \cdots (x - x_n)}{(x_1 - x_2) \cdots (x_1 - x_n)} + \cdots + g(x_n) \frac{(x - x_1) \cdots (x - x_{n-1})}{(x_n - x_1) \cdots (x_n - x_{n-1})}$$

Note that h(x) also interpolates the same data, we have $g(x_1) = h(x_1)$, ..., $g(x_n) = h(x_n)$. We have

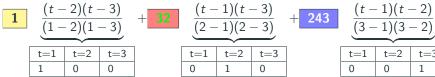
$$g(x) = Q(x)(x-x_1)\cdots(x-x_n) + h(x).$$

Excercise. Write down an interpolation of t^5 at point t=1, t=2 and t = 3.

Solution.We have the following table

$$\begin{array}{c|ccccc} & t = 1 & t = 2 & t = 3 \\ \hline t^5 & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{32} & \mathbf{243} \end{array}$$

The Lagurange interpolation at these 3 points is given by the following Lagurange interpolation.



$$\begin{array}{c|cccc}
 & & & & & \\
\hline
t = 1 & t = 2 & t = 3 \\
\hline
0 & 1 & 0
\end{array}$$

(3-1)(3-2)						
t=1	t=2	t=3				
0	0	1				

Then we can write

$$t^{5} = Q(t)(t-1)(t-2)(t-3) + \frac{(t-2)(t-3)}{(1-2)(1-3)} + 32\frac{(t-1)(t-3)}{(2-1)(2-3)} + 243\frac{(t-1)(t-2)}{(3-1)(3-2)}$$

Let us write things more straightforward for comfortable.

$$g(t) = t^5$$

and

$$h(t) = \frac{(t-2)(t-3)}{(1-2)(1-3)} + 32\frac{(t-1)(t-3)}{(2-1)(2-3)} + 243\frac{(t-1)(t-2)}{(3-1)(3-2)}$$
$$= 90t^2 - 239t + 150.$$

In fact

$$t^{5} = \underbrace{(t^{2} + 6t + 25)}_{Q(t)}(t - 1)(t - 2)(t - 3) + \underbrace{90t^{2} - 239t + 150}_{h(t)}$$

Excercise. Suppose A is a matrix with

$$(A-I)(A-2I)(A-3I)=0$$
,

write A^5 as a linear combination of I, A, A^2 .

Hint: use the Lagurange interpolation polynomial

$$t^{5} = \underbrace{(t^{2} + 6t + 25)}_{Q(t)}(t - 1)(t - 2)(t - 3) + \underbrace{90t^{2} - 239t + 150}_{h(t)}$$

Answer:
$$A^5 = 90A^2 - 239A + 150$$

Definition 1

We say a polynomial f(t) is of simple roots if one can write

$$f(t) = (t - x_1) \cdots (t - x_k)$$

for **distinct** $x_1, ..., x_k$.

Here distinct means $x_i \neq x_j$ for any $i \neq j$.

Definition 2

We say a matrix A satisfies a polynomial of simple roots if A satisfies

$$(A - x_1 I) \cdots (A - x_m I) = 0$$

for some distinct $x_1, ..., x_m$.

Summary

Suppose $t_1, ..., t_m$ are distinct points, amd A satisfies a polynomial with simple roots

$$(A - \lambda_1 I)(A - \lambda_2 I) \cdots (A - \lambda_m I) = 0.$$

Let g(t) and h(t) be any polynomials, then

$$\begin{cases} g(\lambda_1) = h(\lambda_1) \\ g(\lambda_2) = h(\lambda_2) \\ \dots \\ g(\lambda_m) = h(\lambda_m) \end{cases} \implies g(t) - h(t) = Q(t)(t - \lambda_1) \cdots (t - \lambda_m)$$

$$t = A \implies g(A) - h(A) = 0 \implies g(A) = h(A)$$

So g(A) only depends on the value $g(x_1), \dots, g(x_n)$.