

Matrix Analysis: Review of linear algebra

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- Application to systems of differential equations

Example 1.1

Study the characteristic polynomials, trace, determinants, eigenvalues of the two following matrices

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Compute also A^2 and B^2 and conclude that, although these matrices share common characteristics, they cannot be equivalent!

Definition 1.1

A Jordan block of order k and value λ is defined as the matrix

$$J_k(\lambda) = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda & 1 & 0 & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & \lambda & 1 \\ 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & \lambda \end{bmatrix}, k \geq 2$$

and $J_1(\lambda) = \lambda$.

Exercise 1.1

Compute the following

① $J_k(0)J_k(0)^T.$

② $J_k(0)^T J_k(0).$

③ $I - J_k(0)^T J_k(0).$

Definition 1.2

We call a matrix a **Jordan matrix**, a matrix that block-diagonal where each block is itself a Jordan block.

Theorem 1.1

Let $A \in \mathbb{K}^{n \times n}$. There exists a non-singular matrix S such that

$$A = S \operatorname{diag} (J_{n_1}(\lambda_1), \dots, J_{n_k}(\lambda_k)),$$

where $n_1 + \dots + n_k = n$ and $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$ are not necessarily distinct eigenvalues of A . The Jordan form is unique, up to permutation of the blocks.

Proposition 1.1

To compute a Jordan canonical form of a matrix A it suffices to follow these steps:

- ① *Compute the distinct eigenvalues of A : $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_r$. They have algebraic multiplicities p_1, \dots, p_r .*
- ② *Compute $n_i^{(k)} = rk(A - \lambda_i I)^k$ for $1 \leq i \leq r$ and $0 \leq k \leq p_i$ (you can actually stop before p_i : as soon as $n_i^{(k)} = p_i$)*
- ③ *For each eigenvalue λ_i , they are $n_i^{(k-1)} - n_i^{(k)}$ Jordan-blocks of size $\geq k$. (hence, in the computation above, you can stop once you reach $n_i^{(k)} = n_i^{(k-1)}$)*
- ④ *Working backwards gives the number of blocks of a given size.*

Example 1.2

Find the Jordan canonical form of the matrix A , given the following information:

$$p_A(\lambda) = (\lambda - 2)^7(\lambda - 3)^3,$$

$$\operatorname{rk}(A - 2I) = 7, \quad \operatorname{rk}(A - 2I)^2 = 4, \quad \operatorname{rk}(A - 2I)^3 = 3, \quad \operatorname{rk}(A - 2I)^4 = 3$$

$$\operatorname{rk}(A - 3I) = 8, \quad \operatorname{rk}(A - 3I)^2 = 7, \quad \operatorname{rk}(A - 3I)^3 = 7.$$

Exercise 1.2

Find the Jordan canonical form of the following matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 & 1 & 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Remark 1.1

General strategy for finding the *Jordanizing matrix* (this is far from rigorous ... understanding why this work is no easy thing)

- ① Find a set of linearly independent eigenvectors – this gives the number of Jordan blocks
- ② Find $\mathbf{v}_i^{(2)}$ such that $(A - \lambda_i I)\mathbf{v}_i^{(2)} = \mathbf{v}_i^{(1)}$ (i.e. find a way to create your eigenvector in the range of $A - \lambda_i$). We say that $\mathbf{v}_i^{(2)}$ is a **(generalized) eigenvector of order 2** with eigenvalue λ_i .
- ③ Iterate until you're happy (i.e. you have enough linearly independent vectors, with the appropriate property)

Remark 1.2

There are many different use cases: practice as much as you can until you have encountered all of them: e.g.:

- n distinct eigenvalues
- 1 eigenvalue of (algebraic) multiplicity n
- 1 eigenvalue with algebraic multiplicity 3 but geometric multiplicity 2 (how to pick the eigenvectors?)
- algebraic multiplicity 4, geometric multiplicity 2: blocks of size 1 and 3, or 2 and 2 ?
- etc ...

Exercise 1.3

Find the Jordan canonical form and the (generalized) eigenvectors of the following matrices

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 2 & 1 \\ -7 & 4 & 2 \\ 5 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} 8 & 0 & 1 \\ 3 & 7 & 3 \\ -1 & 0 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$D = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Regarding C : Make sure to find the generalized eigenvector of order 2 as linear combination of the traditional eigenvectors.

Exercise 1.4

Let P be a matrix such that $P^2 = P$. Compute its Jordan canonical form.

Definition 1.3

*Let A be a $n \times n$ square matrix. The monic polynomial of minimum degree $m_A(x)$ such that $m_A(A) = 0$ is called its **minimal polynomial**.*

Remark 1.3

- This polynomial exists: the set of (monic) polynomials which annihilate A is non-void.
- It has degree at most n .
- It is unique!

Theorem 1.2

Let $A \in \mathbb{K}^{n \times n}$ and m_A its minimal polynomial. Let q be a polynomial such that $q(A) = 0$. Then m_A is a divisor of q .

Exercise 1.5

Find the minimal polynomial of the following matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Exercise 1.6

Find the minimal and characteristic polynomials of the following matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Exercise 1.7

Let $A \in \mathbb{K}^{n \times n}$ be such that $A^2 = A$. Give its minimal polynomial and compute its Jordan form.

Theorem 1.3

For any n^{th} degree (monic) polynomial

$$p(x) = x^n + a_{n-1}x^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1x^1 + a_0x^0$$

there exists an $n \times n$ matrix A such that $m_A(x) = p(x)$.

Definition 1.4

*The A matrix introduced in the previous theorem is called the **companion matrix** of the monic polynomial.*

Proposition 1.2

Let $X' = AX$ be a linear first order differential system. The general solution is given by

$$X(t) = \sum_{i=1}^k X_i(t),$$

where k is the number of Jordan blocks of the matrix A and X_i is the solution restricted to the i^{th} block. It is given by

$$X_i(t) = \sum_{j=1}^{n_i} e^{\lambda t} C_j \sum_{\ell=1}^j \frac{t^{j-\ell}}{(j-\ell)!} \mathbf{v}_\ell,$$

where \mathbf{v}_i are the Jordanizing vector of the current block.

For instance, we have:

$$X(t) = C_1 e^{\lambda t} \mathbf{v}_1 + C_2 e^{\lambda t} (t \mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_2) + C_3 e^{\mu t} \mathbf{v}_3,$$

for a 3×3 problem where one of the eigenvalue has a lack of geometric multiplicity.

Exercise 1.8

Find solutions to the following problems:

$$\begin{cases} x'(t) &= 2x - 3y \\ y'(t) &= -x + 4y \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} x'(t) &= 2x - y \\ y'(t) &= x + 4y \end{cases}$$

$$y'' = -3y' - 2y.$$