

Lecture 7: Eigenvalue problem



School of Mathematical Sciences, Xiamen University

1. Eigenvalues

- The *eigenvalues* of a matrix $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$ are the m roots of its *characteristic polynomial*

$$p(z) = \det(z\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}).$$

- We have

$$\det(\mathbf{A}) = \lambda_1 \lambda_2 \cdots \lambda_m, \quad \text{tr}(\mathbf{A}) = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \cdots + \lambda_m.$$

Theorem 1 (Gershgorin's theorem)

Every eigenvalue of \mathbf{A} lies in at least one of the m circular disks in the complex plane with centers a_{ii} and radii $\sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij}|$. Moreover, if n of these disks form a connected domain that is disjoint from the other $m - n$ disks, then there are precisely n eigenvalues of \mathbf{A} within this domain.

The proof is left as an exercise.

Remark 2

The eigenvalues of a matrix vary continuously with its entries.

- Matrix Analysis and Applied Linear Algebra

Carl D. Meyer, 2nd Edition, SIAM, 2023.

See Chapters 6 & 8 for eigenvalue continuity and differentiability.

Remark 3

The eigenvalues of a matrix are not necessarily differentiable everywhere.

Example: Consider the $m \times m$ matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & & & \\ & 0 & 1 & & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & & 0 & 1 \\ \varepsilon & & & & 0 \end{bmatrix}. \quad \lambda_j(\varepsilon) = \varepsilon^{\frac{1}{m}} \exp\left(\frac{i2j\pi}{m}\right).$$

2. Eigenvectors

- A nonzero vector $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{C}^m$ is called a *left eigenvector* of $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$ corresponding to $\lambda \in \Lambda(\mathbf{A})$ if $\mathbf{y}^* \mathbf{A} = \lambda \mathbf{y}^*$.
- A nonzero vector $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^m$ is called a *(right) eigenvector* of $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$ corresponding to $\lambda \in \Lambda(\mathbf{A})$ if $\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \lambda \mathbf{x}$.

Theorem 4

If $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$ and if $\lambda, \mu \in \Lambda(\mathbf{A})$, with $\lambda \neq \mu$, then any left eigenvector of \mathbf{A} corresponding to μ is orthogonal to any right eigenvector of \mathbf{A} corresponding to λ .

Proof.

Let $\mathbf{y}^* \mathbf{A} = \mu \mathbf{y}^*$ and $\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \lambda \mathbf{x}$. We have

$$\mathbf{y}^* \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}^* (\lambda \mathbf{x}) = \lambda (\mathbf{y}^* \mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{y}^* \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = (\mu \mathbf{y}^*) \mathbf{x} = \mu (\mathbf{y}^* \mathbf{x}).$$

Then, $\mathbf{y}^* \mathbf{x} = 0$ follows from $\lambda \neq \mu$. □

3. Geometric multiplicity and algebraic multiplicity

- The *geometric multiplicity* of an eigenvalue λ is the dimension of the nullspace of $\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I}$, which is an *eigenspace* corresponding to the eigenvalue λ .
- The *algebraic multiplicity* of an eigenvalue λ is its multiplicity as a root of the characteristic polynomial. The algebraic multiplicity of an eigenvalue is at least as great as its geometric multiplicity.
- An eigenvalue is *simple* if its algebraic multiplicity is 1. Otherwise, *multiple*.

Remark 5

If λ is a simple eigenvalue of \mathbf{A} , then λ (as a function of m^2 variables) is differentiable at $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$.

Theorem 6

An eigenvalue is multiple if and only if it has a pair of orthogonal left and right eigenvectors.

The proof is left as an exercise.

4. Jordan form

Theorem 7

For any square matrix \mathbf{A} there exists a matrix $\mathbf{J} = \mathbf{S}^{-1}\mathbf{AS}$ such that

$$\mathbf{J} = \text{diag}\{\mathbf{J}_1, \mathbf{J}_2, \dots, \mathbf{J}_k\}$$

where each \mathbf{J}_i is a Jordan block: $\mathbf{J}_i = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_i & 1 & & & \\ & \lambda_i & 1 & & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & & \lambda_i & 1 \\ & & & & \lambda_i \end{bmatrix}$.

- Up to permuting the order of the \mathbf{J}_i , the Jordan form is unique.
- Up to a nonzero constant, there are only one left eigenvector and one right eigenvector per \mathbf{J}_i .
- **Discussion:** How to determine the rank of \mathbf{A} via its Jordan form?

- Jordan form is a discontinuous “function” of \mathbf{A} , so any rounding error can change it completely. Therefore, Jordan form is theoretically useful only.

Example: Consider the matrix

$$\mathbf{A}(\varepsilon) = \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon & 1 & & \\ & 2\varepsilon & \ddots & \\ & & \ddots & 1 \\ & & & m\varepsilon \end{bmatrix}.$$

It is easy to show that

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{A}(\varepsilon)) \neq \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{A}(0)) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & & \\ & 0 & \ddots & \\ & & \ddots & 1 \\ & & & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

5. Schur form

Theorem 8 (Schur factorization)

If $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$, then there exists a unitary matrix $\mathbf{Q} \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$ and an upper-triangular matrix $\mathbf{T} \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$ such that $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{QTQ}^*$.

Proof. By induction on the dimension m of \mathbf{A} . \square

Remark 9

See Demmel's book (Applied numerical linear algebra, Theorem 4.3, Page 147) for real Schur form of a real matrix \mathbf{A} .

Exercise: Let $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m$ be the m eigenvalues of $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$. Let

$$\mathbf{M} = \frac{\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A}^*}{2}, \quad \mathbf{N} = \frac{\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{A}^*}{2}.$$

Prove that

$$\sum_{i=1}^m |\lambda_i|^2 \leq \|\mathbf{A}\|_{\text{F}}^2, \quad \sum_{i=1}^m |\operatorname{Re} \lambda_i|^2 \leq \|\mathbf{M}\|_{\text{F}}^2, \quad \sum_{i=1}^m |\operatorname{Im} \lambda_i|^2 \leq \|\mathbf{N}\|_{\text{F}}^2.$$

- Let $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{T}\mathbf{Q}^*$ be a Schur factorization. If $\{\lambda, \mathbf{x}\}$ is an eigenpair of \mathbf{T} , then $\{\lambda, \mathbf{Qx}\}$ is an eigenpair of \mathbf{A} .

6. Unitary diagonalization

- A matrix \mathbf{A} is called *unitarily diagonalizable* if there exists a unitary matrix \mathbf{Q} and a diagonal matrix Λ such that $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{Q}\Lambda\mathbf{Q}^*$.

Examples: Hermitian, skew-Hermitian, ...

- A matrix \mathbf{A} is called *normal* if $\mathbf{A}^*\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{AA}^*$.

Examples: Hermitian, skew-Hermitian, ...

Theorem 10

A matrix is unitarily diagonalizable if and only if it is normal.

Proof.

“ \Rightarrow ”: Easy. “ \Leftarrow ” By Schur factorization of \mathbf{A} . □

7. Eigenvalue perturbation theory

Theorem 11 (Bauer–Fike)

Suppose $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$ is diagonalizable with $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{V}\Lambda\mathbf{V}^{-1}$, and let $\Delta \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$ be arbitrary. For each eigenvalue $\hat{\lambda}$ of $\mathbf{A} + \Delta$, there exists an eigenvalue λ of \mathbf{A} such that

$$|\hat{\lambda} - \lambda| \leq \|\mathbf{V}\|_2 \|\mathbf{V}^{-1}\|_2 \|\Delta\|_2.$$

Proof. Assume that $\{\hat{\lambda}, \mathbf{V}\mathbf{y}\}$ is an eigenpair of $\mathbf{A} + \Delta$. Then we have

$$(\hat{\lambda}\mathbf{I} - \Lambda)\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{V}^{-1}\Delta\mathbf{V}\mathbf{y}.$$

Thus, $\min_{\lambda \in \Lambda(\mathbf{A})} |\hat{\lambda} - \lambda| \leq \frac{\|(\hat{\lambda}\mathbf{I} - \Lambda)\mathbf{y}\|_2}{\|\mathbf{y}\|_2} \leq \|\mathbf{V}\|_2 \|\mathbf{V}^{-1}\|_2 \|\Delta\|_2$. \square

Corollary 12

If \mathbf{A} is normal, i.e., $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^* = \mathbf{A}^*\mathbf{A}$, then for each eigenvalue $\hat{\lambda}$ of $\mathbf{A} + \Delta$, there is an eigenvalue λ of \mathbf{A} such that $|\hat{\lambda} - \lambda| \leq \|\Delta\|_2$.

8. Hermitian matrix eigenvalues

Theorem 13 (Courant–Fisher)

If $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$ is Hermitian, then the eigenvalues $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_m$ satisfy

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_k &= \max_{\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathbb{C}^m, \dim(\mathcal{S})=k} \min_{\mathbf{0} \neq \mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{S}} \frac{\mathbf{y}^* \mathbf{A} \mathbf{y}}{\mathbf{y}^* \mathbf{y}} \\ &= \min_{\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathbb{C}^m, \dim(\mathcal{S})=m-k+1} \max_{\mathbf{0} \neq \mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{S}} \frac{\mathbf{y}^* \mathbf{A} \mathbf{y}}{\mathbf{y}^* \mathbf{y}},\end{aligned}$$

for $k = 1, 2, \dots, m$.

Theorem 14 (Interlacing property)

If $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$ is Hermitian and $\mathbf{A}_k = \mathbf{A}(1:k, 1:k)$, then

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_{k+1}(\mathbf{A}_{k+1}) &\leq \lambda_k(\mathbf{A}_k) \leq \lambda_k(\mathbf{A}_{k+1}) \leq \\ &\dots \leq \lambda_2(\mathbf{A}_{k+1}) \leq \lambda_1(\mathbf{A}_k) \leq \lambda_1(\mathbf{A}_{k+1})\end{aligned}$$

for $k = 1 : m - 1$.

Theorem 15 (Weyl)

Let $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$ and $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$ be Hermitian. Let $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_m$ be eigenvalues. Then

$$|\lambda_k(\mathbf{A}) - \lambda_k(\mathbf{B})| \leq \|\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}\|_2, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, m.$$

Corollary 16

Let $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times n}$ and $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times n}$ be arbitrary. Let $p = \min\{m, n\}$ and $\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_p$ be singular values. Then

$$|\sigma_k(\mathbf{A}) - \sigma_k(\mathbf{B})| \leq \|\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}\|_2, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, p.$$

Theorem 17

Let $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{l \times m}$ and $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times n}$ be arbitrary. Let $p = \min\{l, m, n\}$ and $\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_p$ be singular values. Then

$$\sigma_k(\mathbf{AB}) \leq \sigma_1(\mathbf{A})\sigma_k(\mathbf{B}), \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, p.$$

9. Generalized eigenvalue problem

- For $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$ and $z \in \mathbb{C}$, we call $p(z) = \det(z\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A})$ the *characteristic polynomial* of the pencil $z\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A}$.
- The pencil $z\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A}$ is called *regular* if $p(z)$ is not identically zero. Otherwise it is called *singular*.
- The eigenvalues of a regular pencil $z\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A}$ are defined to be the roots of $p(z) = 0$ and ∞ with multiplicity $m - \deg(p)$.
- Assume that λ is an eigenvalue of the regular pencil $z\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A}$. A nonzero vector \mathbf{x} satisfying $\mathbf{Ax} = \lambda\mathbf{Bx}$ is a right eigenvector for λ . A left eigenvector \mathbf{y} is defined analogously by $\mathbf{y}^* \mathbf{A} = \lambda \mathbf{y}^* \mathbf{B}$.
- Generalized Schur factorization for (\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}) :

$$\mathbf{Q}^* \mathbf{A} \mathbf{Z} = \mathbf{S}, \quad \mathbf{Q}^* \mathbf{B} \mathbf{Z} = \mathbf{T},$$

where \mathbf{Q} and \mathbf{Z} are unitary, and \mathbf{S} and \mathbf{T} are upper-triangular.

- Real generalized Schur forms for real (\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}) .
- QZ algorithm for generalized eigenvalue problem.

10. Matrix polynomial eigenvalue problem

- We consider the matrix polynomial

$$\mathcal{A}(z) := \sum_{i=0}^d z^i \mathbf{A}_i = z^d \mathbf{A}_d + z^{d-1} \mathbf{A}_{d-1} + \cdots + z \mathbf{A}_1 + \mathbf{A}_0,$$

where $\mathbf{A}_i \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$.

- The characteristic polynomial of the matrix polynomial $\mathcal{A}(z)$ is

$$p(z) = \det(\mathcal{A}(z)).$$

Assume that $p(z)$ is not identically zero. The roots of $p(z) = 0$ and ∞ with multiplicity $md - \deg(p)$ are defined to be the eigenvalues.

- Suppose that λ is an eigenvalue. A nonzero vector \mathbf{x} satisfying $\mathcal{A}(\lambda)\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ is a right eigenvector for λ . A left eigenvector \mathbf{y} is defined analogously by $\mathbf{y}^* \mathcal{A}(\lambda) = \mathbf{0}$.
- The case for $d = 1$ is a generalized eigenvalue problem, and the case for $d \geq 2$ is a nonlinear eigenvalue problem.

10.1. The quadratic eigenvalue problem

- F. Tisseur and K. Meerbergen, SIAM Review, 43: 235–286, 2001.

Consider the ODE system

$$\mathbf{M}\ddot{\mathbf{x}}(t) + \mathbf{B}\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) + \mathbf{K}\mathbf{x}(t) = \mathbf{0},$$

where $\mathbf{M}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{K} \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$. If we seek solutions of the form $\mathbf{x}(t) = e^{\lambda t} \mathbf{x}(0)$, we get

$$e^{\lambda t}(\lambda^2 \mathbf{M}\mathbf{x}(0) + \lambda \mathbf{B}\mathbf{x}(0) + \mathbf{K}\mathbf{x}(0)) = \mathbf{0},$$

i.e.,

$$\lambda^2 \mathbf{M}\mathbf{x}(0) + \lambda \mathbf{B}\mathbf{x}(0) + \mathbf{K}\mathbf{x}(0) = \mathbf{0}.$$

Thus λ is an eigenvalue and $\mathbf{x}(0)$ is an eigenvector of the matrix polynomial

$$z^2 \mathbf{M} + z \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{K}.$$

- Tacoma Narrows Bridge, London Millennium Bridge, Humen Bridge

10.2. Linearization of matrix polynomial eigenvalue problem

- The generalized eigenvalue problem:

$$z \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}_d & & & & \\ & \mathbf{I} & & & \\ & & \mathbf{I} & & \\ & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & \mathbf{I} \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} -\mathbf{A}_{d-1} & -\mathbf{A}_{d-2} & \cdots & \cdots & -\mathbf{A}_0 \\ \mathbf{I} & & & & \\ & \mathbf{I} & & & \\ & & \ddots & & \\ & & & & \mathbf{I} \end{bmatrix}$$

- The standard eigenvalue problem if \mathbf{A}_d is nonsingular:

$$z\mathbf{I} - \begin{bmatrix} -\mathbf{A}_d^{-1}\mathbf{A}_{d-1} & -\mathbf{A}_d^{-1}\mathbf{A}_{d-2} & \cdots & \cdots & -\mathbf{A}_d^{-1}\mathbf{A}_0 \\ \mathbf{I} & & & & \\ & \mathbf{I} & & & \\ & & \ddots & & \\ & & & & \mathbf{I} \end{bmatrix}$$