

16 – Diagonalization Theorem

Definition

A matrix A is **diagonalizable** if $A = PDP^{-1}$ (or equivalently $D = P^{-1}AP$) for some *diagonal* matrix D and some invertible matrix P .

Theorem: Diagonalization Theorem

Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix.

1. A is diagonalizable if and only if A has n linearly independent eigenvectors.
2. If A is diagonalizable and $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n$ are linearly independent eigenvectors for A with corresponding eigenvalues $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$, then $A = PDP^{-1}$ for

$$P = [\mathbf{v}_1 \quad \dots \quad \mathbf{v}_n] \quad \text{and} \quad D = \begin{bmatrix} \overset{d_1}{\lambda_1} & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \underset{d_n}{\lambda_n} \end{bmatrix}$$

1. Diagonalize the following, if possible.

(a) $B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$

Eigen values: matrix is lower triangular (Δ) so eigenvalues are entries on main diagonal

$\lambda = 1, 2$

← Multiplicity 2

$\lambda = 1$ $E_1(B) = \text{Nul}(B - I) = \text{Nul}\left(\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}\right)$

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right] \sim \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] \begin{array}{l} x_1 = 0 \\ x_2 \text{ is free} \\ x_3 = 0 \end{array} \quad \bar{\mathbf{x}} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ t \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = t \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Basis for $E_1(B) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$

$\lambda = 2$ $E_2(B) = \text{Nul}(B - 2I) = \text{Nul}\left(\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}\right)$

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] \sim \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] \begin{array}{l} x_1 = 0 \\ x_2 = 0 \\ x_3 \text{ is free} \leftarrow t \end{array} \quad \bar{\mathbf{x}} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ t \end{bmatrix} = t \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

(b) $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ Eigenvalues: lower Δ so $\lambda = 1, 2$

$\lambda = 1$ $E_1(A) = \text{Nul}(A - I) = \text{Nul}\left(\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}\right)$

$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & | & 0 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 & | & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & | & 0 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1/3 & 0 & | & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & | & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & | & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ $\left. \begin{array}{l} x_1 = -1/3 x_2 \\ x_2 \text{ is free} \leftarrow t \\ x_3 \text{ is free} \leftarrow r \end{array} \right\} \bar{x} = \begin{bmatrix} -1/3 t \\ t \\ r \end{bmatrix} = t \begin{bmatrix} -1/3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + r \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

Basis for $E_1(A)$ is $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -1/3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ have 2 linearly independent eigen vectors in $E_1(A)$

$\lambda = 2$ $E_2(A) = \text{Nul}(A - 2I) = \text{Nul}\left(\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}\right)$

$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & | & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 0 & | & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & | & 0 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & | & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & | & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & | & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ $\left. \begin{array}{l} x_1 = 0 \\ x_2 \text{ free} \leftarrow t \\ x_3 = 0 \end{array} \right\} \bar{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ t \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = t \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

Basis for $E_2(A)$ is $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$

* Combining basis we get 3 Linearly Independent eigenvectors

$\begin{bmatrix} -1/3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$
 $\lambda = 1 \quad \lambda = 2$

Note: This Combining process from diff. eigenspaces always yields a Linearly Independent set

* A is 3×3 and has 3 Linearly Independent eigen vectors so it is diagonalizable: $A = PDP^{-1}$

$P = \begin{bmatrix} -1/3 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ $D = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$
 $\lambda = 1 \quad \lambda = 1 \quad \lambda = 2$

Theorem

Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix. If A has n different eigenvalues, then A is diagonalizable.

2. Explain why each of the following are diagonalizable.

(a) $A = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 7 & 8 & \pi \end{bmatrix}$

' A ' is a lower Δ so eigenvalues are $\lambda = 5, 0, \pi$

' A ' is 3×3 with 3-diff eigenvalues, so it must be diagonalizable.

(b) $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$

Eigenvalues: find char. poly.

$P(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I) = \begin{vmatrix} 1-\lambda & 2 \\ 3 & 4-\lambda \end{vmatrix}$

$= (1-\lambda)(4-\lambda) - 6 = \lambda^2 - 5\lambda - 2$

$P(\lambda) = \lambda^2 - 5\lambda - 2$

Eigenvalues: $\lambda^2 - 5\lambda - 2 = 0$

$\lambda = \frac{5 \pm \sqrt{25 + 8}}{2} \Rightarrow \lambda = \frac{5 + \sqrt{33}}{2}, \frac{5 - \sqrt{33}}{2}$

' A ' is 2×2

$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$
 $A = PDP^{-1}$
 $P = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{-3 + \sqrt{33}}{2} & -\frac{3 - \sqrt{33}}{2} \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$
 $D = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{5 + \sqrt{33}}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{5 - \sqrt{33}}{2} \end{bmatrix}$