

## Eigenvalue problems

Goal: Given a matrix  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ .

Find  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $v \in \mathbb{C}^n$  ( $v \neq 0$ ) such that

$$Av = \lambda v \quad (*)$$

$\lambda$ : eigenvalue,  $v$ : eigenvector

Along direction  $v$ , matrix  $A$  acts like scalar.

When  $A$  has  $n$  linearly independent eigenvectors,

we can rewrite (\*) for all at once

$$A \begin{bmatrix} \underset{\parallel}{\underset{\ddots}{v_1}} & \underset{\parallel}{\underset{\ddots}{v_2}} & \cdots & \underset{\parallel}{\underset{\ddots}{v_n}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \underset{\parallel}{\underset{\ddots}{v_1}} & \underset{\parallel}{\underset{\ddots}{v_2}} & \cdots & \underset{\parallel}{\underset{\ddots}{v_n}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & & \\ & \lambda_2 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A = V \Lambda V^{-1} \quad \leftarrow \text{eigen decomposition of } A$$

Applications: Control system, economic models, power grids,  
bio statistics, machine learning, ...

ex. Decoupling ODEs

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} u_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ u_n(t) \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} | & & | \\ a_1 & \dots & a_n \\ | & & | \end{bmatrix}}_{A = V\Lambda V^{-1}} \begin{bmatrix} u_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ u_n(t) \end{bmatrix}$$

$U(t) = (u_1(t), \dots, u_n(t))^T$

$\in \mathbb{R}^n$

• n coupled ODEs with

Solution: change to eigenvector coordinates  $u_1(t), \dots, u_n(t)$

Let 
$$\begin{bmatrix} u_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ u_n(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 & \dots & v_n \\ \vdots & & \vdots \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ c_n(t) \end{bmatrix}$$
 ← soln in eigenvector coordinates

same  
basis

Then  $\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} u_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ u_n(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{v}_1 & \dots & \dot{v}_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{c}_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ \dot{c}_n(t) \end{bmatrix}$   $\dot{c}_i(t) = \frac{d}{dt} c_i(t)$   
 $i=1, \dots, n$

The system is diagonalized (decoupled)

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} c_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ c_n(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ c_n(t) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \frac{dc_i}{dt}(t) = \lambda_i c_i(t), \quad i=1, \dots, n$$

$$\Leftrightarrow c_i(t) = e^{\lambda_i t} c_i(0), \quad i=1, \dots, n$$

Suppose initially  $u(0) = c_1(0) v_1 + \dots + c_n(0) v_n$

$$\text{then } u(t) = e^{\lambda_1 t} c_1(0) v_1 + \dots + e^{\lambda_n t} c_n(0) v_n$$

If  $\operatorname{Re}(\lambda_i) > 0$ , then  $e^{\lambda_i t} c_i(0) v_i$  persists

If  $\operatorname{Re}(\lambda_i) < 0$ , then  $e^{\lambda_i t} c_i(0) v_i \rightarrow 0$  as  $t \rightarrow +\infty$



- Eigenvalue solvers must be iterative

$$Av = \lambda v \Rightarrow (A - \lambda I)v = 0 \Rightarrow \det(A - \lambda I) = 0$$

— Characteristic polynomial  $p_A(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I)$

Eigenvalues of  $A \Leftrightarrow$  roots of  $p_A(\lambda)$

— Implication: Algorithms to find eigenvalues is very different from solving linear system  $Ax = b$

\* For  $Ax = b$ , the solution  $x = A^{-1}b$  is a rational function of  $a_{ij}$  and  $b_i$

\* For  $Ax = \lambda x$ , since  $\lambda$  is the root of  $p_A(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I)$ ,

finding  $\lambda$  is connected to the polynomial root finding.

$$\lambda \text{ is a root of } p(\lambda) = \lambda^n + c_{n-1}\lambda^{n-1} + \dots + c_0 \iff \lambda \text{ is an eigenvalue of } \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \dots & 0 & -a_0 \\ 1 & & & -a_1 \\ 0 & \ddots & & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & 1-a_{n-1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} \text{companion} \\ \text{matrix} \\ \text{of } p(\lambda) \end{matrix}$$

But by Abel-Ruffini theorem, there is no solution in radicals to general polynomial equations of degree  $\geq 5$

$\Rightarrow$  Any reasonable algorithm to find eigenvalues must be iterative (no direct method)

$\uparrow$   
finite step solver

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- Review on properties of eigenvalues / eigenvectors

- Algebraic multiplicity of  $\lambda$  = multiplicity of root  $\lambda$  of  $p_A(\lambda)$

Geometric multiplicity of  $\lambda$  = dim of eigen space spanned by eigenvectors that satisfies  $Av = \lambda v$

$$= \dim V_\lambda \quad V_\lambda = \text{span}\{v \in \mathbb{C}^n : Av = \lambda v\}$$

Thm: alg. mult.  $\lambda \geq$  geo. mult.  $\lambda$

- For any nonsingular matrix  $P$ ,  $A$  and  $P^{-1}AP$  are called similar, and share the same char. poly., alg./geo. mults.

- If alg. mult.  $\lambda >$  geo. mult.  $\lambda$ , for some eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of  $A$  then we call  $A$  defective, otherwise nondefective.

$A$  is nondefective  $\iff \dim V_{\lambda_1} + \dots + \dim V_{\lambda_r} = n$   $\left( \begin{matrix} \text{eigenvectors} \\ \text{corresponding to} \\ \text{different eigenvalues} \\ \text{are linearly independent} \end{matrix} \right)$

$\Leftrightarrow A$  has eigen decomposition  $A = V \Lambda V^{-1}$

where  $V \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  nonsingular (diagonalizable)

and  $\Lambda = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$ .  $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$

ex. Defective matrices do exist in many problems

ex.  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  (not singular)

$$p_A(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I) = (\lambda - 1)^2 \quad \lambda = 1, \text{ alg. mult.} = 2$$

$A$  triangular matrix  $\Rightarrow$  eigenvalues = diagonal entries

$$A - 1 \cdot I = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{rank}(A) = 1$$

$$\text{Null}(A - 1 \cdot I) = 2 - \text{rank}(A) = 1 \quad \lambda = 1 \quad \text{geo. mult.} = 1$$

$A$  is defective

In practice, almost no matrices are exactly defective.

(Actually, the set of  $n \times n$  diagonalizable matrices is dense

in  $\mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ , that is, if  $A$  is defective and there exists arbitrarily

small perturbation  $\Delta A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  such that  $A + \Delta A$  is diagonalizable,

which is usually the case when we take into account the

rounding error in real implementation)

However, working with almost defective matrix is still dangerous

in finding eig. decomposition.

ex.  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1+\varepsilon & 1 \\ 0 & 1-\varepsilon \end{pmatrix}$ .  $\lambda_1 = 1+\varepsilon$ ,  $\lambda_2 = 1-\varepsilon$ ,

$$A v_1 = \lambda_1 v_1 \Rightarrow v_1 = (1, 0)^T$$

$$A v_2 = \lambda_2 v_2 \Rightarrow (1+\varepsilon) v_2^{(1)} + v_2^{(2)} = (1-\varepsilon) v_2^{(1)}$$


$$\Rightarrow v_2 = (1, -2\varepsilon)^T / \sqrt{1+4\varepsilon^2}$$

$$V = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1/\sqrt{1+4\varepsilon^2} \\ 0 & -2\varepsilon/\sqrt{1+4\varepsilon^2} \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow V^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & * \\ 0 & -\sqrt{1+4\varepsilon^2}/2\varepsilon \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \|V^{-1}\|_2 = O(\frac{1}{\varepsilon})$$

These ill-conditioned similarity transformation could lead to large rounding error:


floating point matrix multiplication  $\rightarrow \text{fl}(V^{-1}AV) = V^{-1}AV + E$  where  $\|E\|_2 \approx \kappa_2(V) \|A\|_2 \varepsilon_{\text{mach}}$

We want to work with unitary similarity for numerical stability 

## • Schur factorization

For the purpose of finding eigenvalues, we can relax the restriction on diagonality. that is, consider a factorization of the form

$$A = Q T Q^*$$

 upper  $\Delta$

the diagonal entries of  $T$  are eig. val. of  $A$ .

Thm: For all  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ ,  $\exists$  unitary  $Q \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  such that

$$Q^* A Q = T, \text{ where } T \text{ is upper triangular.}$$

Pf: induction.  $n=1$  obvious.

Suppose true for  $n-1$ .

Let  $Av = \lambda v$ ,  $\|v\|_2 = 1$ .

We can find a unitary  $\hat{Q}$  with 1<sup>st</sup> col =  $v$

$$\Rightarrow \hat{Q}^* A \hat{Q} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & \omega^T \\ 0 & B \end{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} 1 \\ n-1 \end{matrix}$$

By induction,  $Q_1^* B Q_1 = T_1$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & Q_1 \end{pmatrix}^* \hat{Q}^* A \hat{Q} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & Q_1 \end{pmatrix} &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & Q_1^* \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & \omega^T \\ 0 & B \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & Q_1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & Q_1^* \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & \omega^T Q_1 \\ 0 & B Q_1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & \omega^T Q_1 \\ 0 & Q_1^* B Q_1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & \omega^T Q_1 \\ 0 & T_1 \end{pmatrix} =: T \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

• Special case:  $A^*A = AA^*$   $\leftarrow$  normal matrix

Thm  $A$  is normal

$\Leftrightarrow A$  is unitarily diagonalizable

$$A = Q \Lambda Q^*$$

where  $Q \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  is unitary  $Q^*Q = I$

and  $\Lambda = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$ ,  $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $i=1, \dots, n$

Pf: Let  $A = QTQ^*$  be Schur factorization of  $A$

then  $A^*A = AA^* \Leftrightarrow T^*T = TT^*$

Lemma: If  $T$  is upper triangular and  $T^*T = TT^*$

then  $T$  is diagonal. (Hint: check off-diagonal entries row-by-row) □

Special case:  $A$  is Hermitian  $\Rightarrow A$  is normal

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- Eigenvalue sensitivity:

Many eigenvalue solvers:  $V^{-1} A V \rightarrow D$

Question: how well do diagonal elements of a matrix approximate its eig. vals?  $\leftarrow$  perturbation of diagonal matrices

Thm (Gershgorin Circle theorem)

If  $A = D + N$  with  $N_{ii} = 0, i = 1, \dots, n$   
then  $\{\lambda: \lambda \text{ is an eig. val of } A\} \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^n D_i$   
 $D_i := \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z - D_{ii}| \leq \sum_{j=1}^n |N_{ij}|\}$   
 $\leftarrow$  or  $\sum_{j=1}^n |N_{ji}|$

Pf: Let  $\lambda$  be an eig. val. of  $A$ .

We can assume  $\lambda \neq D_{ii} \forall i = 1, \dots, n$

We know that  $(D - \lambda I) + N$  is singular

$\Rightarrow I + (D - \lambda I)^{-1} N$  is singular

$\Rightarrow 1 \leq \|(D - \lambda I)^{-1} N\|_{\infty} = \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{|N_{i_0 j}|}{|D_{i_0} - \lambda|}$  for some  $i$

$\Rightarrow \lambda \in D_{i_0}$

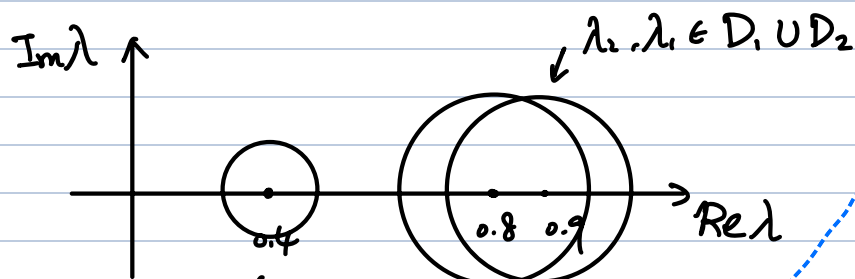


Remark: It can also be shown that

if some  $D_i \cap \bigcup_{j \neq i} D_j = \emptyset$ , then  $D_i$  has exactly 1 eig. val.

Remark: This theorem is also useful in estimating eig. values.

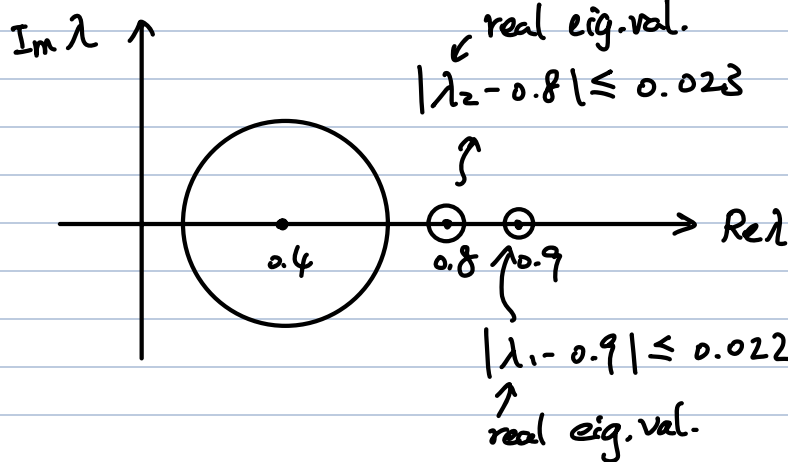
ex.  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0.9 & 0.01 & 0.12 \\ 0.01 & 0.8 & 0.13 \\ 0.01 & 0.02 & 0.4 \end{bmatrix}$



$| \lambda_3 - 0.4 | \leq 0.03$   
 $\uparrow$   
 real eig. val.

We can do better by similarity transformation  
 Let  $B = \text{diag}(1, 1, 0.1)$

$$B^{-1}AB = \begin{bmatrix} 0.9 & 0.01 & 0.012 \\ 0.01 & 0.8 & 0.013 \\ 0.1 & 0.2 & 0.4 \end{bmatrix}$$



In some methods, it is possible to show that the computed eig. vals are the exact eig. vals of  $A + E$ ,  $\|E\| \ll 1$  perturbation

we are thus interested in the following perturbation result

Thm (Bauer - Fike)

If  $\mu$  is an eig. val of  $A + E$  and

$$V^{-1}AV = D = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$$

then  $\min_{1 \leq i \leq n} |\lambda_i - \mu| \leq \kappa_p(V) \|E\|_p \quad \forall p \in [1, +\infty)$

$$(\kappa_p(V) = \|V\|_p \|V^{-1}\|_p)$$



Pf: It suffices to assume  $\mu \notin \{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n\}$

$$\begin{aligned} V^{-1}(A+E-\mu I)V &= D-\mu I + V^{-1}EV \\ &= (D-\mu I)(I + (D-\mu I)^{-1}V^{-1}EV) \end{aligned}$$

Since  $A+E-\mu I$  is singular

$\Rightarrow I + (D-\mu I)^{-1}V^{-1}EV$  is singular

$$\Rightarrow 1 \leq \|(D-\mu I)^{-1}V^{-1}EV\|_p \leq \underbrace{\|(D-\mu I)^{-1}\|_p}_{\|(D-\mu I)^{-1}\|_p = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \frac{1}{|\lambda_i - \mu|}} \|V^{-1}\|_p \|E\|_p \|V\|_p$$

Note: If  $A$  is normal,  $\kappa_2(V) = 1$  (b.c.  $V$  is unitary) □

An analogous result can be obtained via the Schur factorization

Thm Let  $Q^*AQ = \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{diag}}}{D} + \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{strict} \\ \text{upper } \Delta}}{N}$  be Schur fact. of  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$

Let  $\mu$  be an eig. val. of  $A+E$ , and  $p$  is the smallest integer such that  $\|N\|^p = 0$  ( $p \leq k$ ), then

$$\min_{1 \leq i \leq n} |\lambda_i - \mu| \leq \max \{0, \theta^p\}$$

where  $\theta = \|E\|_2 \underbrace{\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \|N\|_2^k}$

Remark: The eigenvalues of a nonnormal matrix may be sensitive to perturbation!