

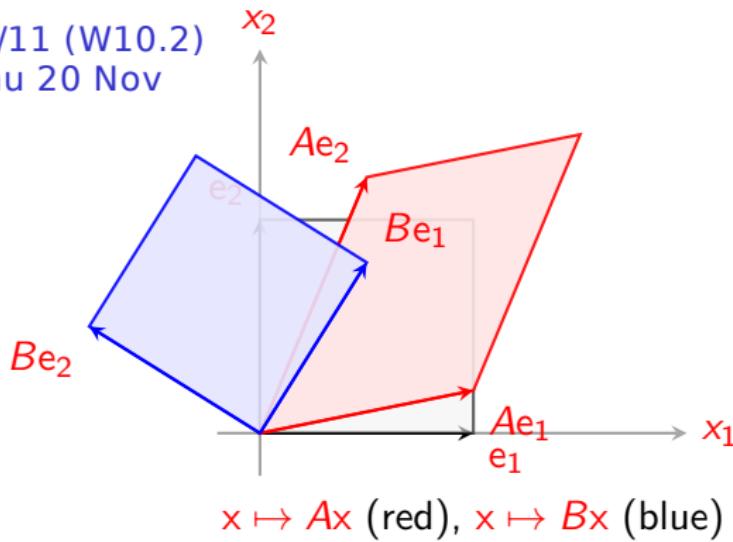
MA385 Part 4: Linear Algebra 2

4.2: Matrix Norms

Dr Niall Madden

November 2025

Started Thu 13/11 (W10.2)
and finished Thu 20 Nov
(W11.2)



1. Outline Section 4.2

1 Matrix Norms

- The idea
- Definition

2 Computing Matrix Norms

3 The max-norm on $\mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$

- $\|\cdot\|_1$

4 Computing $\|A\|_2$

- Eigenvalues

5 Exercises

For more, see Section 2.7 of Suli and Mayers:

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/nuig/reader.action?docID=221072&ppg=51&c=UERG>

Vector norms are related to the magnitude of the entries of the vector.

Now we want to generalise to the concept of a **matrix norm**. In a sense, we can just consider the magnitude of the matrix's entries.

However, if we think of a matrix as a linear transformation, or simply as a function that maps (via matrix multiplication) from \mathbb{R}^n to \mathbb{R}^n , we should think about how much it changes a vector.

Definition 4.2.1

Given any (vector) norm $\|\cdot\|$ on \mathbb{R}^n , there is a **subordinate matrix norm** on $\mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ defined by

$$\|A\| = \max_{v \in \mathbb{R}_*^n} \frac{\|Av\|}{\|v\|}, = \max_{\substack{v \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ \|v\|=1}} \|Av\| \quad (1)$$

where $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ and $\mathbb{R}_*^n = \mathbb{R}^n / \{0\}$.

We define a matrix norm like this because we think of A as an *operator* on \mathbb{R}^n : if $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ then $Av \in \mathbb{R}^n$. So the norm of A gives us information on how much the matrix can change the size of a vector.

"induced Matrix Norm" "Operator Norm".

3. Computing Matrix Norms

It is not obvious from the above definition how to calculate the norm of a given matrix. We'll see that

- ▶ The ∞ -norm of a matrix is also the largest absolute-value row sum.
- ▶ The 1-norm of a matrix is also the largest absolute-value column sum.
- ▶ The 2-norm of the matrix A is the square root of the largest eigenvalue of $A^T A$.

4. The max-norm on $\mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$

Finished here 10.2.
13 nov.

Theorem 4.2.1

For any $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ the subordinate matrix norm associated with $\|\cdot\|_\infty$ on \mathbb{R}^n can be computed by

$$\|A\|_\infty = \max_{i=1, \dots, n} \sum_{j=1}^n |a_{ij}|.$$

Eg $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ -1 & 0 & -5 \\ 4 & -1 & -2 \end{pmatrix}$

Then $\max_{i=1 \dots 3} \sum_{j=1}^3 |a_{ij}| = \max \left\{ \begin{array}{lll} i=1 & i=2 & i=3 \\ 1+2+3, & 1+0+5, & 4+1+2 \\ 6 & 6 & 7 \end{array} \right\}$
 So $\|A\|_\infty = 7$

4. The max-norm on $\mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$

Proof: Let v be any vector in $\mathbb{R}^n / \{0\}$ and let $K = \|v\|_\infty = \max_i |v_i|$

The

$$(Av)_i = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} v_j \leq K$$

$$\text{So } |(Av)_i| = \left| \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} v_j \right| \leq \sum_{j=1}^n |a_{ij}| \cdot |v_j| \quad \text{by the Triangle Inequality}$$

$$|(Av)_i| \leq K \sum_{j=1}^n |a_{ij}|$$

$$\text{So } \max_i |(Av)_i| \leq K \max_i \sum_{j=1}^n |a_{ij}|.$$

4. The max-norm on $\mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$

That is

$$\|Av\|_\infty \leq K \max_i \sum_j |a_{ij}|$$

So, since $K = \|v\|_\infty \neq 0$

$$\frac{\|Av\|_\infty}{\|v\|_\infty} \leq \max_i \sum_j |a_{ij}|. \text{ for any vector } v. \text{ Therefore}$$

$$\|A\|_\infty \leq \max_i \sum_j |a_{ij}|$$

To finish we need a vector v such that

$$\|Av\|_\infty = \max_i \sum_j |a_{ij}| \leq \|v\|_\infty = 1.$$

Say $\|A\|_\infty = \sum_j |a_{ij}|$ for a given i .

4. The max-norm on $\mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$

Let v be the vector with all entries $+1$ or -1 , and

$$v_j = \text{sign}(a_{ij})$$

(so $a_{ij} v_j \geq 0$).



A similar result holds for the 1 -norm, the proof of which is left as an exercise.

Theorem 4.2.2

For any $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ the subordinate matrix norm associated with $\|\cdot\|_\infty$ on \mathbb{R}^n can be computed by

$$\|A\|_1 = \max_{j=1,\dots,n} \sum_{i=1}^n |a_{i,j}|. \quad (2)$$

Computing the 2-norm of a matrix is a little harder than computing the 1- or ∞ -norms. However, later we'll need estimates not just for $\|A\|$, but also $\|A^{-1}\|$. And, unlike the 1- and ∞ -norms, we can estimate $\|A^{-1}\|_2$ without explicitly forming A^{-1} .

We begin by recalling some important facts about eigenvalues and eigenvectors.

Definition 4.2.2

Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$. We call $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ an *eigenvalue* of A if there is a non-zero vector $x \in \mathbb{C}^n$ such that

$$Ax = \lambda x.$$

We call any such x an *eigenvector of A associated with λ* .

5. Computing $\|A\|_2$

Eigenvalues

- (i) If A is a real symmetric matrix (i.e., $A = A^T$), its eigenvalues and eigenvectors are all real-valued.
- (ii) If λ is an eigenvalue of A , then $1/\lambda$ is an eigenvalue of A^{-1} .
- (iii) If x is an eigenvector associated with the eigenvalue λ then so too is ηx for any non-zero scalar η .
- (iv) An eigenvector may be *normalised* as $\|x\|_2^2 = x^T x = 1$.

If $Ax = \lambda x$ and A^{-1} exists,

then $\underbrace{A^{-1}A}_{I} \underbrace{Ax}_{x} = \lambda \underbrace{A^{-1}}_{A^{-1}} \underbrace{x}_{x}$

$$\Rightarrow x = \lambda A^{-1} x \Rightarrow A^{-1} x = \frac{1}{\lambda} x$$

- (v) There are n eigenvectors $\lambda_1, \lambda_n, \dots, \lambda_n$ associated with the real symmetric matrix A . Let $x^{(1)}, x^{(2)}, \dots, x^{(n)}$ be the associated normalised eigenvectors. The eigenvectors are linearly independent and so form a basis for \mathbb{R}^n . That is, any vector $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ can be written as a linear combination:

$$v = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i x^{(i)}.$$

- (vi) Furthermore, these eigenvectors are *orthogonal* and *orthonormal*:

$$(x^{(i)})^T x^{(j)} = \begin{cases} 1 & i = j \\ 0 & i \neq j \end{cases}$$

5. Computing $\|A\|_2$

Eigenvalues

Here is a useful consequence of (v) and (vi), which we will use repeatedly.

(v)

$$v = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i x^{(i)}$$

$$Ax^{(i)} = \lambda_i x^{(i)}$$

(vi)

$$(x^{(i)})^T x^{(j)} = \begin{cases} 1 & i = j \\ 0 & i \neq j \end{cases}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} v^T v &= \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i x^{(i)} \right)^T \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_j x^{(j)} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i^2 \end{aligned}$$

The *singular values* of a matrix A are the square roots of the eigenvalues of $A^T A$. They play a very important role in matrix analysis, applied linear algebra, and statistics (principal component analysis).

Our interest here is in their relationship to $\|A\|_2$.

But first we'll prove a theorem about certain matrices (so called, "normal matrices").

Theorem 4.2.3

For any matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, the eigenvalues of $A^T A$ are real and non-negative.

$$\text{Let } B = A^T A. \quad \text{Then } B^T = (A^T A)^T = A^T (A^T)^T$$

$$\text{So } B^T = A^T A = B$$

So B is symmetric

So any eigenvalue of B is real valued.

$$\text{Let } Bx = \lambda x.$$

$$\text{So } (A^T A)x = \lambda x$$

$$\Rightarrow x^T (A^T A)x = \lambda x^T x \Rightarrow (x^T A^T)(A x) = \lambda x^T x.$$

$$\Rightarrow (Ax)^T Ax = \lambda x^T x \Rightarrow \lambda = \frac{\|Ax\|_2^2}{\|x\|_2^2} \geq 0$$

Part of the above proof involved showing that, if $(A^T A)x = \lambda x$, then

$$\sqrt{\lambda} = \frac{\|Ax\|_2}{\|x\|_2}.$$

This at the very least tells us that

$$\|A\|_2 := \max_{x \in \mathbb{R}_*^n} \frac{\|Ax\|_2}{\|x\|_2} \geq \max_{i=1,\dots,n} \sqrt{\lambda_i}.$$

With a bit more work, we can show that if $\lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n$ are the eigenvalues of $B = A^T A$, then

$$\|A\|_2 = \sqrt{\lambda_n}.$$

Theorem 4.2.4

Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$. Let $\lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n$, be the eigenvalues of $B = A^T A$. Then

$$\|A\|_2 = \max_{i=1,\dots,n} \sqrt{\lambda_i} = \sqrt{\lambda_n},$$

Here is the main idea. For full details, see the text-book.

5. Computing $\|A\|_2$

Eigenvalues

6. Exercises

Exercise 4.2.1

Show that, for any subordinate matrix norm on $\mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, the norm of the identity matrix is 1.

Exercise 4.2.2

Prove that

$$\|A\|_1 = \max_{j=1, \dots, n} \sum_{i=1}^n |a_{i,j}|.$$

Hint: Suppose that $\sum_{i=1}^n |a_{ij}| \leq C$, for $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$. Show that for any vector $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n |(Ax)_i| \leq C\|x\|_1.$$

Now find a vector x such that $\sum_{i=1}^n |(Ax)_i| = C\|x\|_1$. Now deduce the result.