

Unit 3: Spectral theory II

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Theorem

Let A be a square matrix with eigenvector u belonging to eigenvalue λ .

- (a) If m is a natural number then λ^m is an eigenvalue of the matrix A^m with the same eigenvector u .
- (b) If the matrix A is invertible then the eigenvalue of the inverse matrix A^{-1} is

$$\frac{1}{\lambda} = \lambda^{-1}$$

with the same eigenvector u .

Step 1: Check the result for some base case

Step 2: Assume that the result is true for $m = k$.

$$Au = \lambda u.$$

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for any natural number m .

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Therefore, the eigenvalue of the inverse matrix A^{-1} is $\frac{1}{\lambda}$.

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Find the eigenvalues of A^7 where

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 & 5 \\ 0 & 2 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Solution. Because A is an upper triangular matrix, the eigenvalues are the entries on the leading diagonal, that is

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that is,

$$\lambda = 1, 128, 2187.$$

Question: For a square matrix A , is there an invertible matrix P such that $P^{-1}AP$ produces a diagonal matrix?

Example

Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$ and $P = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$. Determine $P^{-1}AP$.

Solution. We have

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Then

$$\begin{aligned} P^{-1}AP &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Similar matrices

A square matrix B is **similar** to a matrix A if there exists an invertible matrix P such that $P^{-1}AP = B$.

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Theorem

Let A and B be similar matrices. The eigenvalues of these matrices are identical.

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$$\begin{aligned}|B - \lambda I| &= |P^{-1}AP - \lambda I| = |P^{-1}AP - P^{-1}\lambda IP| \\ &= |P^{-1}(A - \lambda I)P| = |P^{-1}||A - \lambda I||P|\end{aligned}$$

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Theorem

Eigenvectors v_1 and v_2 that correspond to distinct eigenvalues λ_1 and λ_2 of a 2×2 matrix are linearly independent.

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$$c_1 v_1 + c_2 v_2 = 0. \quad (1)$$

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$$\begin{aligned} c_1 A v_1 + c_2 A v_2 &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow c_1 \lambda_1 v_1 + c_2 \lambda_2 v_2 &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

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Subtracting (3) from (2), we get

$$(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)c_1v_1 = 0.$$

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Therefore, v_1 and v_2 are linearly independent. \square

Generalizing the above theorem we obtain the following theorem.

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Theorem

Eigenvectors v_1, \dots, v_n that correspond to distinct eigenvalues $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ of an $n \times n$ matrix are linearly independent.

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Now, multiplying both sides of Equation (4) by λ_n , we get

$$c_1 \lambda_n v_1 + \cdots + c_n \lambda_n v_n = 0 \quad (6)$$

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Now, multiplying both sides of Equation (4) by λ_n , we get

$$c_1\lambda_nv_1 + \cdots + c_n\lambda_nv_n = 0 \quad (6)$$

Subtracting (6) from (5), we get

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Thus, we have eliminated the term containing v_n .

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Since eigenvectors are distinct and $v_1 \neq 0$, we must have $c_1 = 0$.

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Therefore, eigenvectors v_1, \dots, v_n are linearly independent. □

Diagonalizable matrix

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Theorem

An $n \times n$ matrix A is **diagonalizable** iff it has n linearly independent eigenvectors.

Theorem

If an $n \times n$ matrix A has n distinct eigenvalues, then it is diagonalizable.

Theorem

If a matrix A is symmetric, then any two distinct eigenvectors corresponding to different eigenvalues are orthogonal.

Proof. Let v_1 and v_2 be eigenvectors that correspond to eigenvalues λ_1 and λ_2 .

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Hence $(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)v_1 \cdot v_2 = 0$, but $\lambda_1 - \lambda_2 \neq 0$, so

$$v_1 \cdot v_2 = 0.$$

We mention the following result without proof.

Theorem

If A is a symmetric matrix, then all eigenvalues of A are real.

Example

Consider

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 & 3 \\ 4 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Compute its eigenvalues. Verify that

$$\begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -5 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

are orthogonal eigenvectors of A .

Solution. Note that this matrix is symmetric.
First, we compute 3 eigenvalues.

To do so, consider

$$A - \lambda I = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - \lambda & 4 & 3 \\ 4 & 1 - \lambda & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 - \lambda \end{pmatrix}$$

In this case,

$$|A - \lambda I| = (1 - \lambda)((1 - \lambda)^2 - 0) - 4(4(1 - \lambda) - 0)$$

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$$\begin{aligned}|A - \lambda I| &= (1 - \lambda)((1 - \lambda)^2 - 0) - 4(4(1 - \lambda) - 0) \\ &\quad + 3(0 - 3(1 - \lambda))\end{aligned}$$

In this case,

$$\begin{aligned}|A - \lambda I| &= (1 - \lambda)((1 - \lambda)^2 - 0) - 4(4(1 - \lambda) - 0) \\ &\quad + 3(0 - 3(1 - \lambda)) \\ &= (1 - \lambda)^3 - 25(1 - \lambda)\end{aligned}$$

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In this case,

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We see that if $\lambda = -4, 1, 6$, then

$$|A - \lambda I| = 0.$$

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So, the eigenvalues are $\lambda = -4, 1, 6$.

We now verify that the given vectors are eigenvectors.

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$$v_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} : \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 & 3 \\ 4 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

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Thus, the eigenvector v_1 is associated with $\lambda_1 = 6$.

$$v_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} : \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 & 3 \\ 4 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

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Thus, the eigenvector v_2 is associated with $\lambda_2 = 1$.

$$v_3 = \begin{pmatrix} -5 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} : \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 & 3 \\ 4 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -5 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

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Thus, the eigenvector v_3 is associated with $\lambda_3 = -4$.

To verify that the eigenvectors v_1, v_2, v_3 are orthogonal

To do so, let $V_O = (v_1 \ v_2 \ v_3)$ and let's multiply it by it's transpose:

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So, these three vectors are eigenvectors, and they are orthogonal, and so they provide a basis for \mathbb{R}^3 .

To normalize them, we divide by their norms, the square of which are the diagonal elements of $V_O^T V_O$.

Here are the normalized eigenvectors.

$$\lambda_1 = 6 : \quad v_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{50}} \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\lambda_1 = 1 : \quad v_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{25}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\lambda_1 = -4 : \quad v_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{50}} \begin{pmatrix} -5 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} .$$

Let's now work with these normalized eigenvectors. In this case, the 3×3 matrix of normalized eigenvectors (the columns of which form an orthonormal basis for \mathbb{R}^3) is

$$V = (v_1 \ v_2 \ v_3) = \begin{pmatrix} 5/\sqrt{50} & 0 & -5/\sqrt{50} \\ 4/\sqrt{50} & -3/\sqrt{25} & 4/\sqrt{50} \\ 3/\sqrt{50} & 4/\sqrt{25} & 3/\sqrt{50} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Clearly, $V^T V = I$. Moreover,

$$AV = V\Lambda.$$

Here is how do we express the matrix in two standard forms.