

Characteristic polynomial and Diagonalizable

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Definition 1. \mathbf{x} is eigen-vector such that $A\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$ and $\mathbf{x} \neq 0$. λ is called eigen-value

Then how to find eigen vector and eigen value? get null space of $(\lambda I_n - A)$

$$A\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$$

$$(\lambda I_n - A)\mathbf{x} = 0$$

$$\exists \mathbf{x} \text{ such that } \mathbf{x} \neq 0 \iff \det(\lambda I_n - A) = 0$$

Theorem 2. $A, B \in M_{n \times n}. A \sim B \implies \det A \cdot \det B$

Proof. Suppose that $B = U^{-1}AU$

$$\begin{aligned} \det B &= \det(U^{-1}AU) \\ &= \det U^{-1} \cdot \det A \cdot \det U \\ &= \det A \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore A \sim B \implies \det A = \det B$

□

Theorem 3. $L \in \mathfrak{L}(\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{V})$ and \mathfrak{B} is a basis for \mathbf{V} . Define $\det L := \det([L]_{\mathfrak{B}}^{\mathfrak{B}})$.

Then $\det L$ is well-defined.

Proof. Suppose another basis \mathfrak{C} for \mathbf{V} be given. Then $[L]_{\mathfrak{B}}^{\mathfrak{B}} \sim [L]_{\mathfrak{C}}^{\mathfrak{C}}$.

By the Theorem 2. $\det([L]_{\mathfrak{B}}^{\mathfrak{B}}) = \det([L]_{\mathfrak{C}}^{\mathfrak{C}})$

$\therefore \det L$ is well-defined

□

Definition 4. $\phi_A(t) := \det(tI_n - A) \in \mathbf{P}_n(\mathbb{R})$ is called characteristic polynomial of A .

Rmk. Eigen values of A are solutions of $\phi_A(t)$

Definition 5. $(\lambda I_n - A)\mathbf{x} = 0$ where $A \in \mathfrak{M}_{n \times n}(\mathbb{R})$

Null space of $(\lambda I_n - A)$ is called eigen space of A with respect to λ ; $E_\lambda := N(\lambda I_n - A)$

Observation 6. Characteristic polynomial is invariant to similarity relation.

Therefore $\phi_A(t)$ is well-defined.

Proof. Suppose that $B = U^{-1}AU$.

$$\begin{aligned}
\phi_B(t) &= \det(tI_n - U^{-1}AU) \\
&= \det(tU^{-1}U - U^{-1}AU) \\
&= \det(U^{-1}(tU - AU)) \\
&= \det(U^{-1}(tI_n - A)U) \\
&= \det U^{-1} \cdot \det U \cdot \det(tI_n - A) \\
&= \det(tI_n - A)
\end{aligned}$$

$\therefore \phi_A(t)$ is well defined □

statement. $A \in \mathfrak{M}_{n \times n}(\mathbb{R})$ and $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$. λ is eigen value of $A \iff \phi_A(t) = 0$

Proof. [λ is eigen value of A] $\iff [\exists \mathbf{x}$ such that $(\lambda I_n - A)\mathbf{x} = 0$ and $\mathbf{x} \neq 0]$

$\iff [\ker(\lambda I_n - A) \neq \mathbf{O}] \iff [\lambda I_n - A \text{ is not invertible}] \iff [\det(\lambda I_n - A) = 0]$ □

Definition 7. A is diagonalizable if $D \sim A$ for some diagonal matrix D

Theorem 8. $A \in \mathfrak{M}_{n \times n}(\mathbb{R})$ is diagonalizable if and only if $[\mathbb{R}^n$ has n -linearly independent eigen vectors. ($\iff \mathbb{R}^n$ has a basis consisting of eigen vectors of A)]

Proof.

A is diagonalizable $\iff D = Q^{-1}AQ$ where $Q := [\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n]$ and $D := \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$

$$\iff QD = AQ$$

$$\iff \lambda_x \mathbf{x}_j = A\mathbf{x}_j \quad \text{for } j = 1, \dots, n \quad \text{where } \{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n\} \text{ is linearly independent}$$

($\because Q$ is invertible)

$\therefore D \sim A \iff \mathbb{R}^n$ has n -linearly independent eigen vectors. □