

Lecture 25. Linear dynamical systems

Def A linear dynamical system is an equation $\vec{x}_{n+1} = A\vec{x}_n$ for a square matrix A and a sequence of vectors $\vec{x}_0, \vec{x}_1, \vec{x}_2, \dots$.

Note (1) The vectors $\vec{x}_0, \vec{x}_1, \vec{x}_2, \dots$ are called the state vectors, which may represent a collection of quantities that change over time.
e.g. stock prices, city populations, ...

(2) If the initial state \vec{x}_0 is known, the system has a unique solution given by $\vec{x}_n = A^n \vec{x}_0$.

$$(\vec{x}_1 = A\vec{x}_0, \vec{x}_2 = A\vec{x}_1 = AA\vec{x}_0 = A^2\vec{x}_0, \vec{x}_3 = A\vec{x}_2 = AA^2\vec{x}_0 = A^3\vec{x}_0, \dots)$$

Prop If a square matrix A has a diagonalization $A = PDP^{-1}$, its power A^n has a diagonalization $A^n = PD^nP^{-1}$

e.g. $A^2 = (PDP^{-1})^2 = PDP^{-1}PDP^{-1} = PD^2P^{-1}$

$$A^3 = (PDP^{-1})^3 = PDP^{-1}PDP^{-1}PDP^{-1} = PD^3P^{-1}$$

Prop Given a diagonal matrix D , its power D^n is given by raising each diagonal entry of D to the n^{th} power.

e.g. $D = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow D^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2^2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix}, D^3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1^3 & 0 \\ 0 & 2^3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 8 \end{bmatrix}$

Note If a square matrix A has a diagonalization, it is easy to find the solution of the dynamical system $\vec{x}_{n+1} = A\vec{x}_n$.

Ex Find the solution of the dynamical system $\vec{x}_{n+1} = A\vec{x}_n$ with

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -6 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \vec{x}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Sol $P_A(\lambda) = \lambda^2 - (4-1)\lambda + (4 \cdot (-1) - (-6) \cdot 1) = \lambda^2 - 3\lambda + 2 = (\lambda - 1)(\lambda - 2)$

$\Rightarrow A$ has eigenvalues $\lambda = 1, 2$

$\Rightarrow A$ is diagonalizable (2×2 matrix with 2 distinct eigenvalues)

$$A - I = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -6 \\ 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \text{RREF}(A - I) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(A - I)\vec{x} = \vec{0} \Rightarrow x_1 - 2x_2 = 0 \Rightarrow x_1 = 2x_2 \Rightarrow \vec{x} = t \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Nul}(A - I) \text{ has a basis given by } \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A - 2I = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -6 \\ 1 & -3 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \text{RREF}(A - 2I) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(A - 2I)\vec{x} = \vec{0} \Rightarrow x_1 - 3x_2 = 0 \Rightarrow x_1 = 3x_2 \Rightarrow \vec{x} = t \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Nul}(A - 2I) \text{ has a basis given by } \vec{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Hence A has a diagonalization $A = PDP^{-1}$ with

$$P = \left[\begin{array}{c|c} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 \end{array} \right] \text{ and } D = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

eigenvalues
for \vec{v}, \vec{w}

$$\Rightarrow A^n = P D^n P^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1^n & 0 \\ 0 & 2^n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 3 \\ 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\left(P^{-1} = \frac{1}{2 \cdot 1 - 3 \cdot 1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 3 \\ 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{x}_n = A^n \vec{x}_0 = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1^n & 0 \\ 0 & 2^n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 3 \\ 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}}_{A^n} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}}_{\vec{x}_0}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2^n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2^n \end{bmatrix} = \boxed{\begin{bmatrix} 2+3 \cdot 2^n \\ 1+2^n \end{bmatrix}}$$

Note Alternatively, we may compute $\vec{x}_n = A^n \vec{x}_0$ by writing \vec{x}_0 as a linear combination of \vec{v} and \vec{w} .

$$\text{We want } \vec{x}_0 = y_1 \vec{v} + y_2 \vec{w} \Rightarrow \vec{x}_0 = P \vec{y}$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{cc|c} 2 & 3 & 5 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \\ \hline P & \vec{x}_0 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\text{RREF}} \left[\begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow y_1 = 1, y_2 = 1 \Rightarrow \vec{x}_0 = \vec{v} + \vec{w}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{x}_n = A^n \vec{x}_0 = A^n (\vec{v} + \vec{w}) = A^n \vec{v} + A^n \vec{w} = \vec{v} + 2^n \vec{w}$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} A \vec{v} = \vec{v} \Rightarrow A^n \vec{v} = 1^n \vec{v} = \vec{v} \\ A \vec{w} = 2 \vec{w} \Rightarrow A^n \vec{w} = 2^n \vec{w} \end{array} \right.$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{x}_n = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + 2^n \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \boxed{\begin{bmatrix} 2+3 \cdot 2^n \\ 1+2^n \end{bmatrix}}$$

Ex If possible, evaluate $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \vec{x}_n$ for the dynamical system $\vec{x}_{n+1} = A\vec{x}_n$ with

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0.8 & 0.6 \\ 0.2 & 0.4 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \vec{x}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 0.7 \\ 0.3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Sol $P_A(\lambda) = \lambda^2 - (0.8 + 0.4)\lambda + (0.8 \cdot 0.4 - 0.6 \cdot 0.2) = \lambda^2 - 1.2\lambda + 0.2 = (\lambda - 1)(\lambda - 0.2)$

$\Rightarrow A$ has eigenvalues $\lambda = 1, 0.2$

$\Rightarrow A$ is diagonalizable (2x2 matrix with 2 distinct eigenvalues)

$$A - I = \begin{bmatrix} -0.2 & 0.6 \\ 0.2 & -0.6 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \text{RREF}(A - I) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(A - I)\vec{x} = \vec{0} \Rightarrow x_1 - 3x_2 = 0 \Rightarrow x_1 = 3x_2 \Rightarrow \vec{x} = t \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Nul}(A - I) \text{ has a basis given by } \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A - 0.2I = \begin{bmatrix} 0.6 & 0.6 \\ 0.2 & 0.2 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \text{RREF}(A - 0.2I) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(A - 0.2I)\vec{x} = \vec{0} \Rightarrow x_1 + x_2 = 0 \Rightarrow x_1 = -x_2 \Rightarrow \vec{x} = t \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Nul}(A - 0.2I) \text{ has a basis given by } \vec{w} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Hence A has a diagonalization $A = PDP^{-1}$ with

$$P = \left[\begin{array}{c|c} 3 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{array} \right] \text{ and } D = \left[\begin{array}{cc} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.2 \end{array} \right]$$

eigenvalues
for \vec{v}, \vec{w}

$$\Rightarrow A^n = P D^n P^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1^n & 0 \\ 0 & 0.2^n \end{bmatrix} \frac{1}{4} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\left(P^{-1} = \frac{1}{3 \cdot 1 - 1 \cdot (-1)} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{4} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{x}_n = A^n \vec{x}_0 = \underbrace{\frac{1}{4} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1^n & 0 \\ 0 & 0.2^n \end{bmatrix}}_{A^n} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0.7 \\ 0.3 \end{bmatrix}}_{\vec{x}_0}$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \vec{x}_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{4} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1^n & 0 \\ 0 & 0.2^n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0.7 \\ 0.3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{1}{4} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \begin{bmatrix} 1^n & 0 \\ 0 & 0.2^n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0.7 \\ 0.3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{1}{4} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0.7 \\ 0.3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{1}{4} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0.2 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{4} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \boxed{\frac{1}{4} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}}$$

Note This dynamical system is called a Markov chain as all columns of A and all state vectors are probability vectors

(i.e., consisting of nonnegative entries that add up to 1)

For most Markov chains, the state vectors converge to a probability vector in the 1-eigenspace, as in this example.