
Linear Algebra

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Eigenvectors and Eigenvalues

- **Definition:** An **eigenvector** of a **square** matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is a **nonzero** vector $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $Ax = \lambda x$ for some scalar λ .
In this case, λ is called an **eigenvalue** of A , and
such an x is called an **eigenvector corresponding to λ** .

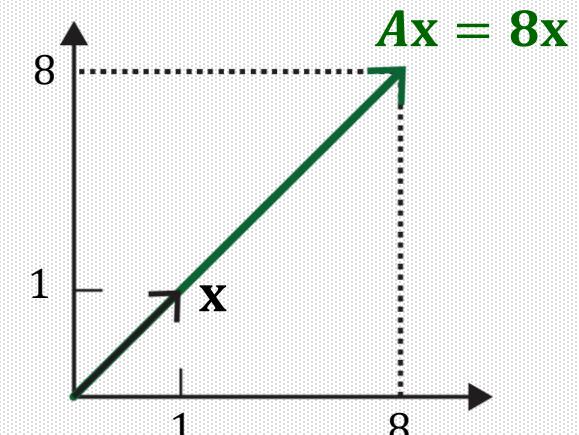
Transformation Perspective

- Consider a linear transformation $T(\mathbf{x}) = A\mathbf{x}$.
- If \mathbf{x} is an eigenvector, then $T(\mathbf{x}) = A\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$, which means the output vector has **the same direction** as \mathbf{x} , but the **length** is scaled by a factor of λ .

- **Example:** For $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 6 \\ 5 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$, an eigenvector is $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ since

$$T(\mathbf{x}) = A\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 6 \\ 5 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix} = 8 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$A \quad \mathbf{x} \quad = \quad 8 \quad \mathbf{x}$





Computational Advantage

- Which computation is faster between $\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 6 \\ 5 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ and $8 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$?

eignvector eigenvalue

Eigenvectors and Eigenvalues

- The equation $Ax = \lambda x$ can be re-written as

$$(A - \lambda I)x = 0$$

The diagram illustrates the equation $(A - \lambda I)x = 0$. A yellow oval surrounds the term $(A - \lambda I)$. An orange arrow points from the term λI to a red box containing the letter A . Another orange arrow points from the term x to a red box containing the letter x . The word "zero" is written next to the red box containing x .

- λ is an eigenvalue of an $n \times n$ matrix A if and only if this equation has a **nontrivial** solution (since x should be a nonzero vector).



Eigenvectors and Eigenvalues

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

- The set of *all* solutions of the above equation is the **null space** of the matrix $(A - \lambda I)$, which we call the **eigenspace** of A **corresponding to λ** .
- The eigenspace consists of the zero vector and all the eigenvectors corresponding to λ , satisfying the above equation.



Null Space

- **Definition:** The **null space** of a matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ is the set of all solutions of a homogeneous linear system, $Ax = 0$. We denote the null space of A as $\text{Nul } A$.

- For $A = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_1^T \\ \mathbf{a}_2^T \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{a}_m^T \end{bmatrix}$, x should satisfy the following:
$$\mathbf{a}_1^T x = 0, \mathbf{a}_2^T x = 0, \dots, \mathbf{a}_m^T x = 0$$
- That is, x should be orthogonal to every row vector in A .



Null Space is a Subspace

- **Theorem:** The **null space** of a matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, denoted as $\text{Nul } A$ is a **subspace** of \mathbb{R}^n . In other words, the set of all the solutions of a system $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n .
- **Note:** An eigenspace thus have a set of **basis vectors** with a **particular dimension**.



Orthogonal Complement

- If a vector z is orthogonal to every vector in a subspace W of \mathbb{R}^n , then z is said to be **orthogonal to W** .
- The set of all vectors z that are orthogonal to W is called the **orthogonal complement** of W and is denoted by W^\perp (and read as “ W perpendicular” or simply “ W perp”).
- A vector $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is in W^\perp if and only if x is orthogonal to every vector in a set that spans W .
- W^\perp is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n .
- $\text{Nul } A = (\text{Row } A)^\perp$.
- Likewise, $\text{Nul } A^T = (\text{Col } A)^\perp$.

Fundamental Subspaces Given by A

- $\text{Nul } A = (\text{Row } A)^\perp$.
- $\text{Nul } A^T = (\text{Col } A)^\perp$.

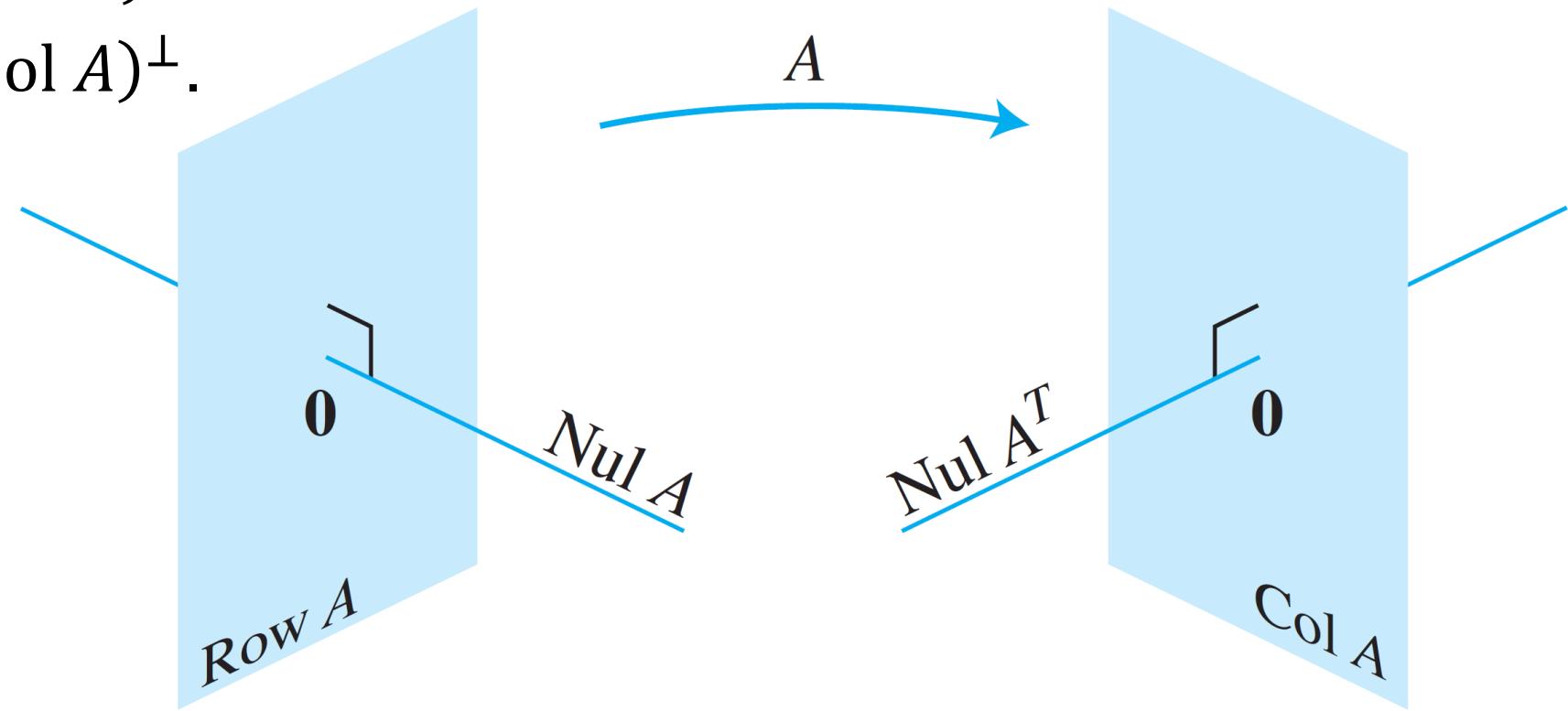


FIGURE 8 The fundamental subspaces determined by an $m \times n$ matrix A .



Example: Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

- **Example:** Show that 8 is an eigenvalue of a matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 6 \\ 5 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$ and find the corresponding eigenvectors.
- **Solution:** The scalar 8 is an eigenvalue of A if and only if the equation $(A - 8I)\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ has a nontrivial solution:
$$(A - 8I)\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} -6 & 6 \\ 5 & -5 \end{bmatrix}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$$
- The solution is $\mathbf{x} = c \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ for any nonzero scalar c , which is $\text{Span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$.



Example: Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

- In the previous example, -3 is also an eigenvalue:

$$(A + 3I)\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 6 \\ 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$$

- The solution is $\mathbf{x} = c \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -5/6 \end{bmatrix}$ for any nonzero scalar c , which is $\text{Span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -5/6 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$.



Characteristic Equation

- How can we find the eigenvalues such as 8 and –3?
- If $(A - \lambda I)\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ has a nontrivial solution, then the columns of $(A - \lambda I)$ should be noninvertible.
- If it is invertible, \mathbf{x} cannot be a nonzero vector since
$$(A - \lambda I)^{-1}(A - \lambda I)\mathbf{x} = (A - \lambda I)^{-1}\mathbf{0} \Rightarrow \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$$
- Thus, we can obtain eigenvalues by solving
$$\det(A - \lambda I) = 0$$
called a **characteristic equation**.
- Also, the solution is not unique, and thus $A - \lambda I$ has linearly dependent columns.



Example: Characteristic Equation

- In the previous example, $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 6 \\ 5 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$ is originally invertible since

$$\det(A) = \det \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 6 \\ 5 & 3 \end{bmatrix} = 6 - 30 = -24 \neq 0.$$

- By solving the characteristic equation, we want to find λ that makes $A - \lambda I$ non-invertible:

$$\begin{aligned}\det(A - \lambda I) &= \det \begin{bmatrix} 2 - \lambda & 6 \\ 5 & 3 - \lambda \end{bmatrix} \\ &= (2 - \lambda)(3 - \lambda) - 30 \\ &= -\lambda^2 - 5\lambda - 25 = (8 - \lambda)(-3 - \lambda) = 0 \\ \lambda &= -3 \text{ or } 8\end{aligned}$$



Example: Characteristic Equation

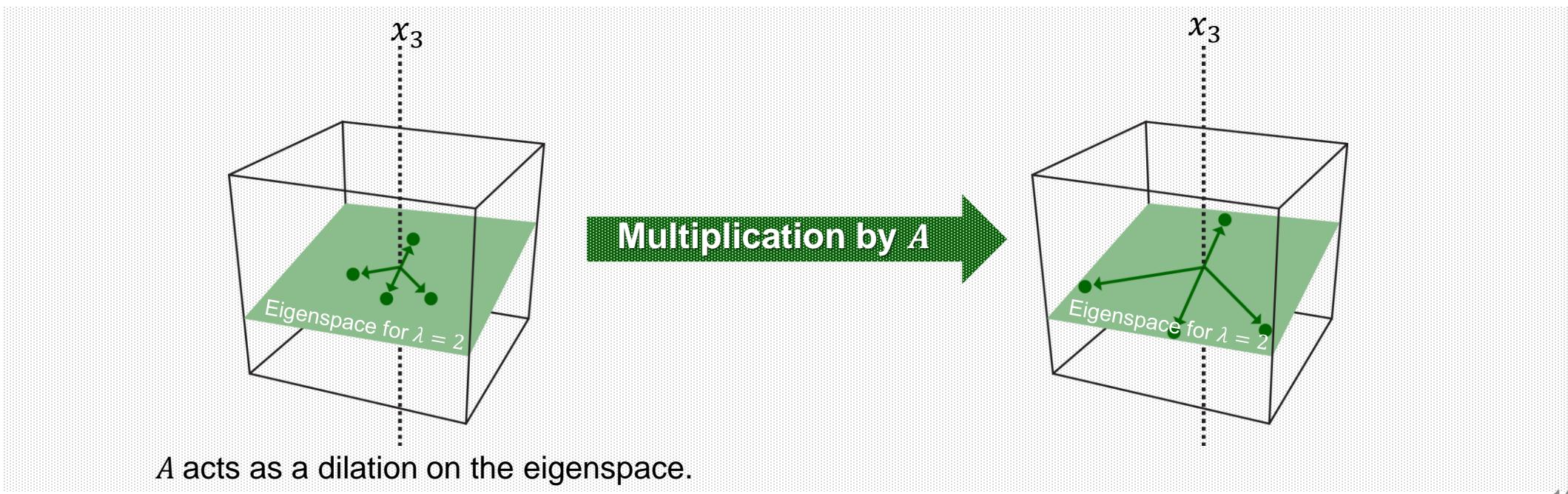
- Once obtaining eigenvalues, we compute the eigenvectors for each λ by solving

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

Eigenspace

- Note that the dimension of the eigenspace (corresponding to a particular λ) can be **more than one**. In this case, any vector in the eigenspace satisfies

$$T(\mathbf{x}) = A\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$$





Finding all eigenvalues and eigenvectors

- In summary, we can find all the possible eigenvalues and eigenvectors, as follows.
- First, find all the eigenvalue by solving the **characteristic equation**:

$$\det(A - \lambda I) = 0$$

- Second, for each eigenvalue λ , solve for $(A - \lambda I)\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ and obtain the set of basis vectors of the corresponding eigenspace.