

# Similarity Transformations (相似变换)

Lecture 25 and 26

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# Similarity Transformations

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# Similar Matrices

Now we look at all combinations  $M^{-1}AM$ —formed with any invertible  $M$  on the right and its inverse on the left.

A whole family of matrices  $M^{-1}AM$  is similar to  $A$ , there are two questions:

1. What do these similar matrices  $M^{-1}AM$  have in common?
2. With a special choice of  $M$ , what special form can be achieved by  $M^{-1}AM$ ?

## Theorem

*Suppose that  $B = M^{-1}AM$ . Then  $A$  and  $B$  have the same eigenvalues. Every eigenvector  $x$  of  $A$  corresponds to an eigenvector  $M^{-1}x$  of  $B$ .*

## Example 1

Example 1  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  has eigenvalues 1 and 0. Each  $B$  is  $M^{-1}AM$ :

- If  $M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & b \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , then  $B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & b \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ : triangular with  $\lambda = 1$  and 0.
- If  $M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , then  $B = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}$ : projection with  $\lambda = 1$  and 0.
- If  $M = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$  (invertible), then  $B =$  an arbitrary matrix with  $\lambda = 1$  and 0.

# Change of Basis = Similarity Transformation

Similar matrices represent the same transformation  $T$  with respect to different bases.

## Theorem

*The matrices  $A$  and  $B$  that represent the same linear transformation  $T$  with respect to two different bases (the  $v$ 's and the  $V$ 's) are similar:*

$$\begin{aligned}[T]_{V \rightarrow V} &= [I]_{V \rightarrow V} [T]_{V \rightarrow V} [I]_{V \rightarrow V} \\ B &= M^{-1} A M.\end{aligned}$$

# Proof: Sketch

If

$$T(V_1, V_2, \dots, V_n) = (V_1, V_2, \dots, V_n)B$$

$$T(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n) = (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n)A$$

$$(V_1, V_2, \dots, V_n) = (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n)M$$

$$(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n) = (V_1, V_2, \dots, V_n)M^{-1},$$

then

$$\begin{aligned} T(V_1, V_2, \dots, V_n) &= T((v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n)M) \\ &= (T(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n))M \\ &= (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n)AM \\ &= (V_1, V_2, \dots, V_n)M^{-1}AM. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $B = M^{-1}AM$ .

## Figure 5.5

**Example** Suppose  $T$  is projection onto the line  $L$  at angle  $\theta (= 135^\circ)$ . This linear transformation is completely determined without the help of a basis. But to represent  $T$  by a matrix, we do need a basis. Figure 5.5 offers two choices, the standard basis  $v_1 = (1, 0), v_2 = (0, 1)$  and a basis  $V_1, V_2$  chosen especially for  $T$ .

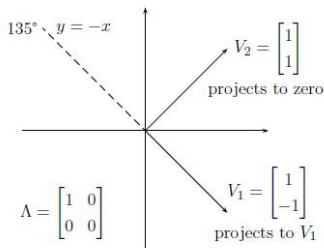
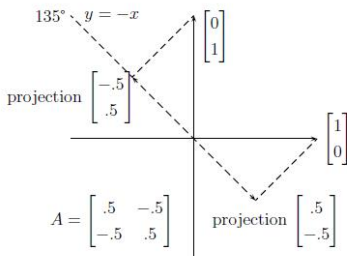


Figure 5.5: Change of basis to make the projection matrix diagonal.

## Summary

- The way to simplify that matrix  $A$ —in fact to diagonalize it—is to find its eigenvectors. They go into the columns of  $M$  (or  $S$ ) and  $M^{-1}AM$  is diagonal. The algebraist says the same thing in the language of linear transformations: **Choose a basis consisting of eigenvectors.** The standard basis led to  $A$ , which was not simple. The right basis led to  $B$ , which was diagonal.
- $M^{-1}AM$  does not arise in solving  $Ax = b$ . There the basic operation was to multiply  $A$  (on the left side only!) by a matrix that subtracts a multiple of one row from another. Such a transformation preserved the nullspace and row space of  $A$ ; it normally changes the eigenvalues.



# Triangular Forms with a Unitary $M$

## Theorem

**(Schur's lemma)** *There is a unitary matrix  $M = U$  such that  $U^{-1}AU = T$  is triangular. The eigenvalues of  $A$  appear along the diagonal of this similar matrix  $T$ .*

Can you prove this theorem?

Remark:

- This lemma applies to all matrices, with no assumption that  $A$  is diagonalizable.
- We could use it to prove that the powers  $A^k$  approach zero when all  $|\lambda_i| < 1$ , and the exponentials  $e^{At}$  approach zero when all  $\operatorname{Re} \lambda_i < 0$ —even without the full set of eigenvectors which was assumed in sections 5.3 and 5.4.

## Example

Example 2.  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  has the eigenvalues  $\lambda = 1$  (twice).

1. The only line of eigenvectors goes through  $(1, 1)$ .
2. After dividing by  $\sqrt{2}$ , this is the first column of  $U$ , and the triangle  $U^{-1}AU = T$  has the eigenvalues on its diagonal.
3. The triangular  $T$  is given as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} U^{-1}AU &= \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & -1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & -1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = T. \end{aligned}$$

This triangular form will show that any symmetric or Hermitian matrix—whether its eigenvalues are distinct or not—has a **complete set of orthonormal eigenvectors**.

# Spectral Theorem

We need a unitary matrix such that  $U^{-1}AU$  is diagonal. **Schur's lemma** has just found it. This triangular  $T$  must be diagonal, because it is also Hermitian when  $A = A^H$ :

$$T = T^H$$

$$(U^{-1}AU)^H = U^H A^H (U^{-1})^H = U^{-1}AU.$$

# Spectral Theorem

The diagonal matrix  $U^{-1}AU$  represents a key theorem in linear algebra:

## Theorem

*Every real symmetric  $A$  can be diagonalized by an orthogonal matrix  $Q$ .*

*Every Hermitian matrix can be diagonalized by a unitary  $U$ :*

*(Real)*

$$Q^{-1}AQ = \Lambda \text{ or } A = Q\Lambda Q^T.$$

*(Complex)*

$$U^{-1}AU = \Lambda \text{ or } A = U\Lambda U^H.$$

*The columns of  $Q$  (or  $U$ ) contain orthonormal eigenvectors of  $A$ .*

## Remarks

- In the real symmetric case, the eigenvalues and eigenvectors are real at every step. That produces a real unitary  $U$ —an orthogonal matrix.
- $A$  is the limit of symmetric matrices with distinct eigenvalues. As the limit approaches, the eigenvectors stay perpendicular. This can fail if  $A \neq A^T$ :

$$A(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \cos \theta \\ 0 & \sin \theta \end{bmatrix}$$

has eigenvectors  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta \\ \sin \theta \end{bmatrix}$ . As  $\theta \rightarrow 0$ , the only eigenvector of the nondiagonalizable matrix  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  is  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ .

## Example

**Example 3** The spectral theorem says that this  $A = A^T$  can be diagonalized:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- (a)  $A$  has eigenvalues  $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = 1$  and  $\lambda_3 = -1$ .
- (b) Every Hermitian matrix with  $k$  different eigenvalues has a spectral decomposition into  $A = \lambda_1 P_1 + \cdots + \lambda_k P_k$ , where  $P_i$  is the projection onto the eigenspace for  $\lambda_i$ .
- (c) Since there is a full set of eigenvectors, the projections add up to the identity. And since the eigenspaces are orthogonal, two projections produce zero:  $P_j P_i = 0$ .

# Normal Matrices

We are very close to answering an important question, so we keep going: For which matrices is  $T = \Lambda$ ?

## Theorem

*The matrix  $N$  is normal if it commutes with  $N^H$ :  $NN^H = N^HN$ . For such matrices, and no others, the triangular  $T = U^{-1}NU$  is the diagonal  $\Lambda$ . Normal matrices are exactly those that have a complete set of orthonormal eigenvectors.*

Remarks:

- Symmetric, skew-Symmetric, and Orthogonal are normal.
- Hermitian, skew-Hermitian, and Unitary are normal.

## Proof: Sketch

Step 1: If  $N$  is normal, then so is the triangular  $T = U^{-1}NU$ :

$$\begin{aligned} TT^H &= U^{-1}NUU^HN^HU = U^{-1}NN^HU \\ &= U^{-1}N^HNU = U^HN^HUU^{-1}NU = T^HT. \end{aligned}$$

Step 2: A triangular matrix  $T$  that is normal must be diagonal. (See Problems 19-20 at the end of this section).

Thus, if  $N$  is normal, the triangular  $T = U^{-1}NU$  must be diagonal. Since  $T$  has the same eigenvalues as  $N$ , it must be  $\Lambda$ . The eigenvectors of  $N$  are the columns of  $U$ , and they are orthonormal. That is the good case. We turn now from the best possible matrices (normal) to the worst possible (defective). See:

$$\text{Normal} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and Defective } \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$



# The Jordan Form

- Our next goal is to make  $M^{-1}AM$  as nearly diagonal as possible.
- The result of this supreme effort at diagonalization is the **Jordan form**  $J$ .
- If  $A$  has a full set of eigenvectors, we take  $M = S$  and we arrive at  $J = S^{-1}AS = \Lambda$ . Then the Jordan form coincides with the diagonal  $\Lambda$ .
- This is impossible for a nondiagonalizable matrix. For every missing eigenvector, the Jordan form will have a 1 just above its main diagonal.

# The Jordan Block

## Theorem

*If  $A$  has  $s$  independent eigenvectors, it is similar to a matrix with  $s$  blocks:*

$$J = M^{-1}AM = \begin{bmatrix} J_1 & & & \\ & J_2 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & J_s \end{bmatrix}.$$

*Each Jordan block  $J_i$  is a triangular matrix that has only a single eigenvalue  $\lambda_i$  and only one eigenvector.*

# Jordan Block

The Jordan Block:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \lambda_i & 1 & & \\ & \lambda_i & \ddots & \\ & & \ddots & 1 \\ & & & \lambda_i \end{bmatrix}$$

- The same  $\lambda_i$  will appear in several blocks, if it has several independent eigenvectors.

# Jordan Block

The Jordan Block:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \lambda_i & 1 & & \\ & \lambda_i & \ddots & \\ & & \ddots & 1 \\ & & & \lambda_i \end{bmatrix}$$

- The same  $\lambda_i$  will appear in several blocks, if it has several independent eigenvectors.
- Two matrices are similar if and only if they share the same Jordan form  $J$ .

## Example

Example 4  $T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  all

lead to  $J = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ .

(T)

$$M^{-1}TM = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = J.$$

(B)

$$P^{-1}BP = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = J.$$

(A)

$$U^{-1}AU = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = T \quad \text{and then} \quad M^{-1}TM = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = J.$$

## Example

Example 5  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ .

- Zero is a triple eigenvalue for  $A$  and  $B$ , so it will appear in all their Jordan blocks.
- There can be a single 3 by 3 block, or a 2 by 2 and a 1 by 1 block, or three 1 by 1 blocks.
- A count of the eigenvectors will determine  $J$  when there is nothing more complicated than a triple eigenvalue.

## Example

**Example 6** Application to difference and differential equations( powers and exponentials ). If  $A = MJM^{-1}$ , we have

$$A^k = MJM^{-1}MJM^{-1} \dots MJM^{-1} = MJ^kM^{-1}$$

$J$  is block diagonal, and the powers of each block can be taken separately:

$$(J_i)^k = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda \end{bmatrix}^k = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda^k & k\lambda^{k-1} & \frac{1}{2}k(k-1)\lambda^{k-2} \\ 0 & \lambda^k & k\lambda^{k-1} \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda^k \end{bmatrix}$$

This block  $J_i$  will enter when  $\lambda$  is a triple eigenvalue with a single eigenvector.

# Exponential

Its exponential is in the solution to the corresponding differential equation:

$$e^{J_i t} = \begin{bmatrix} e^{\lambda t} & te^{\lambda t} & \frac{1}{2}t^2 e^{\lambda t} \\ 0 & e^{\lambda t} & te^{\lambda t} \\ 0 & 0 & e^{\lambda t} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Here

$$I + J_i t + \frac{(J_i t)^2}{2!} + \dots$$

produces

$$1 + \lambda t + \frac{\lambda^2 t^2}{2!} + \dots = e^{\lambda t}$$

on the diagonal.



# Similarity Transformations

1.  $A$  is diagonalizable: The columns of  $S$  are eigenvectors and  $S^{-1}AS = \Lambda$ .
2.  $A$  is arbitrary: The columns of  $M$  include “generalized eigenvectors” of  $A$ , and the Jordan form  $M^{-1}AM$  is block diagonal.
3.  $A$  is arbitrary: The unitary  $U$  can be chosen so that  $U^{-1}AU = T$  is triangular.
4.  $A$  is normal,  $AA^H = A^HA$ : then  $U$  can be chosen so that  $U^{-1}AU = \Lambda$ .

# Special Cases of Normal Matrices, all with orthonormal eigenvectors

- (a) If  $A = A^H$  is Hermitian, then all  $\lambda_i$  are real.
- (b) If  $A = A^T$  is real symmetric, then  $A$  is real and  $U = Q$  is orthogonal.
- (c) If  $A = -A^H$  is skew-Hermitian, then all  $\lambda_i$  are purely imaginary.
- (d) If  $A = A^H$  is orthogonal or unitary, then all  $|\lambda_i| = 1$  are on the unit circle.

## Exercise

设  $A$  是三阶实对称矩阵,  $A$  的秩为  $2$ , 即  $r(A) = 2$ , 且

$$A \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- (I) 求  $A$  的所有特征值和特征向量;
- (II) 求矩阵  $A$ .

## Exercise

已知矩阵  $A = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & -2 & 1 \\ 2 & x & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 \end{pmatrix}$  与  $B = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & y \end{pmatrix}$  相似.

- (I) 求  $x, y$ ;
- (II) 求可逆矩阵  $P$ , 使得  $P^{-1}AP = B$ .

# Properties of Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

1. Symmetric Matrices:  $A = A^T$ ;  
real  $\lambda$ 's;      orthogonal eigenvectors:  $x_i^T x_j = 0$ .
2. Orthogonal:  $Q^T = Q^{-1}$ ;  
all  $|\lambda| = 1$ ;      orthogonal  $\bar{x}_i^T x_j = 0$ .
3. Skew-symmetric:  $A^T = -A$   
imaginary  $\lambda$ 's;      orthogonal  $\bar{x}_i^T x_j = 0$ .
4. Complex Hermitian:  $\bar{A}^T = A$   
real  $\lambda$ 's;      orthogonal eigenvectors:  $\bar{x}_i^T x_j = 0$ .
5. Positive definite:  $x^T A x > 0$ ,  $A$  is symmetric  
all  $\lambda > 0$ ;      eigenvectors can be chosen to be orthogonal

# Properties of Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

- 6. Similar Matrices:  $B = M^{-1}AM$ ;  
 $\lambda(A) = \lambda(B)$ ;  $x(B) = M^{-1}x(A)$ .
- 7. Projection:  $P = P^2 = P^T$ ;  
 $\lambda = 1; 0$ ; column space; nullspace.
- 8. Reflection:  $I - 2uu^T$   
 $\lambda = -1; 1, 1, \dots, 1$ ;  $u; u^\perp$ .
- 9. Rank-1 matrix:  $uv^T$   
 $\lambda = v^T u; 0, \dots, 0$   $u; v^\perp$ .
- 10. Inverse:  $A^{-1}$   
 $\frac{1}{\lambda(A)}$ ; eigenvectors of  $A$ .

# Properties of Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

- 11. Shift:  $A + cI$ ;  
 $\lambda(A) + c$ ; eigenvectors of  $A$ .
- 12. Cyclic permutation:  $P^n = I$ ;  
 $\lambda_k = e^{\frac{2\pi i k}{n}}$ ;  $x_k = (1, \lambda_k, \dots, \lambda_k^{n-1})$ .
- 13. Diagonalizable:  $S\Lambda S^{-1}$   
diagonal of  $\Lambda$ ; columns of  $S$  are independent.
- 14. Symmetric:  $Q\Lambda Q^T$   
diagonal of  $\Lambda$  (real); columns of  $Q$  are orthonormal.
- 15. Jordan:  $J = M^{-1}AM$   
diagonal of  $J$ ; each block gives 1 eigenvector
- 16. Every matrix:  $A = U\Sigma V^T$   
 $\text{rank}(A) = \text{rank}(\Sigma)$ ; eigenvectors of  $A^T A, AA^T$  in  $V, U$ .

# Homework Assignment 25 and 26

5.6: 2, 5, 6, 7, 15, 19, 20, 21, 30, 39.