

EECS 205003 Session 24

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6.2 Diagonalizing a Matrix

Diagonalization & powers of A

We learned eigenvalues & eigenvectors

⇒ We can diagonalize a matrix A using eigenvectors if A has n independent eigenvectors

Diagonalize a matrix: $S^{-1}AS = \Lambda$

Fact Suppose $n \times n$ matrix A has n independent eigenvectors

$\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n$. Put them into columns of an eigenvector matrix S . Then $S^{-1}AS$ is the eigenvalue matrix Λ , i.e.,

$$S^{-1}AS = \Lambda = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix}$$

6.2 Diagonalizing a Matrix

Reason:

$$\begin{aligned} AS &= A \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_1 & \mathbf{x}_2 & \dots & \mathbf{x}_n \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 \mathbf{x}_1 & \lambda_2 \mathbf{x}_2 & \dots & \lambda_n \mathbf{x}_n \end{bmatrix} \\ &= S \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} = S\Lambda \end{aligned}$$

Since columns of S are independent

$\Rightarrow S$ is invertible $\Rightarrow S^{-1}$ exists

$$AS = S\Lambda \Rightarrow S^{-1}AS = \Lambda \text{ or } A = S\Lambda S^{-1}$$

Note: A can be diagonalize since S has an inverse

\Rightarrow without n independent eigenvectors, we cannot diagonalize

6.2 Diagonalizing a Matrix

Powers of A

Q: What are the eigenvalue & eigenvectors of A^2 ?

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

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

$\Rightarrow A^2\mathbf{x} = \lambda^2\mathbf{x}$

(Eigenvalues of A^2 are squares of eigenvalues of A)

(Eigenvectors of A^2 are the same as eigenvectors of A)

Alternatively,

$$A = S\Lambda S^{-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow A^2 = S\Lambda S^{-1}S\Lambda S^{-1} = S\Lambda^2 S^{-1}$$

Similarly,

$$A^k = S\Lambda^k S^{-1}$$

(eigenvalues raised to the k^{th} power)

(eigenvectors stay the same)

6.2 Diagonalizing a Matrix

Note 1: we can multiply eigenvectors by nonzero constants

$$A\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x} \Rightarrow A(c\mathbf{x}) = \lambda(c\mathbf{x})$$

$\Rightarrow c\mathbf{x}$ is also an eigenvector

Note 2: there is no connection between invertibility & diagonalizability

- Invertibility: whether **eigenvalues** $\lambda = 0$ or $\lambda \neq 0$

$\lambda = 0 \Rightarrow A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ for some nonzero $\mathbf{x} \Rightarrow A$ is singular

- Diagonalizability: whether we have n independent **eigenvectors**

A has independent column vector $\Leftrightarrow A$ is invertible

A has independent eigenvectors $\Leftrightarrow A$ is diagonalizable

6.2 Diagonalizing a Matrix

Note 3: Suppose all eigenvalues $\lambda_1 \dots \lambda_n$ are different

\Rightarrow eigenvectors $\mathbf{x}_1 \dots \mathbf{x}_n$ are independent

$\Rightarrow A$ can be diagonalized

Any matrix with no repeated eigenvalues can be diagonalized

Reason: check 2×2 case

Suppose $c_1\mathbf{x}_1 + c_2\mathbf{x}_2 = \mathbf{0}$ (\mathbf{x}_1 & \mathbf{x}_2 : eigenvector)

multiplied by $A \Rightarrow c_1A\mathbf{x}_1 + c_2A\mathbf{x}_2 = \mathbf{0}$

$$\Rightarrow c_1\lambda_1\mathbf{x}_1 + c_2\lambda_2\mathbf{x}_2 = \mathbf{0}$$

multiplied by $\lambda_2 \Rightarrow c_1\lambda_2\mathbf{x}_1 + c_2\lambda_2\mathbf{x}_2 = \mathbf{0}$

-)

$$c_1(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)\mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\Rightarrow c_1 = 0 \text{ if } \lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$$

Similarly, $c_2 = 0$, if $\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$. So $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2$ are linear independent

6.2 Diagonalizing a Matrix

Extend to $n \times n$ matrix

Suppose $c_1\mathbf{x}_1 + c_2\mathbf{x}_2 + \cdots + c_n\mathbf{x}_n = \mathbf{0}$

($\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n$: eigenvectors)

multiplied by $(A - \lambda_n)$ $c_1(\lambda_1 - \lambda_n)\mathbf{x}_1 + \cdots + c_{n-1}(\lambda_{n-1} - \lambda_n)\mathbf{x}_{n-1} = \mathbf{0}$

multiplied by $(A - \lambda_{n-1})$ $c_1(\lambda_1 - \lambda_n)(\lambda_1 - \lambda_{n-1})\mathbf{x}_1 + \cdots +$
 $c_{n-2}(\lambda_{n-2} - \lambda_n)(\lambda_{n-2} - \lambda_{n-1})\mathbf{x}_{n-2} = \mathbf{0}$

\vdots

\vdots

multiplied by $(A - \lambda_2)$ $c_1(\lambda_1 - \lambda_n)(\lambda_1 - \lambda_{n-1}) \cdots (\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)\mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{0}$

$\Rightarrow c_1 = 0$ since λ_i 's are different

Similarly, $c_2 = c_3 = \cdots = c_n = 0$

$\Rightarrow \mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n$ are linear independent!

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Ex: powers of $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0.8 & 0.3 \\ 0.2 & 0.7 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\det(A - \lambda I) = 0 \Rightarrow \lambda_1 = 1, \lambda_2 = 0.5$$

$$(A - \lambda_1 I)\mathbf{x}_1 = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{x}_1 = (0.6, 0.4)$$

$$(A - \lambda_2 I)\mathbf{x}_2 = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{x}_2 = (1, -1)$$

$$A = S\Lambda S^{-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 0.8 & 0.3 \\ 0.2 & 0.7 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.6 & 1 \\ 0.4 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0.4 & -0.6 \end{bmatrix}$$

same S for A^2

$$\Rightarrow A^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0.6 & 1 \\ 0.4 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.5^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0.4 & -0.6 \end{bmatrix}$$

6.2 Diagonalizing a Matrix

same S for A^k

$$\Rightarrow A^k = \begin{bmatrix} 0.6 & 1 \\ 0.4 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1^k & 0 \\ 0 & 0.5^k \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0.4 & -0.6 \end{bmatrix}$$

Limit $k \rightarrow \infty$

$$\Rightarrow A^\infty = \begin{bmatrix} 0.6 & 1 \\ 0.4 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1^k & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0.4 & -0.6 \end{bmatrix}$$

Fact

If A has n independent eigenvectors with eigenvalue λ_i , then

$A^k \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$ iff all $|\lambda_i| < 1$

(zero matrix)

6.2 Diagonalizing a Matrix

Repeated eigenvalues

If A has repeated eigenvalues, it may or may not have independent eigenvectors

$$\text{Ex1: } A = I = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = 1$$

$(A - \lambda I)\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0} \Rightarrow$ any \mathbf{x} would work

$$\Rightarrow N(A - I) \text{ is spanned by } \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

\Rightarrow independent eigenvectors

6.2 Diagonalizing a Matrix

$$\text{Ex2: } A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = 2$$

$$(A - \lambda I)\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \left(N\left(\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right) \text{ has dim}=1 \right)$$

\Rightarrow only one eigenvector

\Rightarrow no independent eigenvectors

Difference equation $\mathbf{u}_{k+1} = A\mathbf{u}_k$

Starting with \mathbf{u}_0

$\mathbf{u}_{k+1} = A\mathbf{u}_k$ is a first-order difference equation

sol: $\mathbf{u}_k = A^k \mathbf{u}_0$

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write \mathbf{u}_0 as combination of eigenvectors of A
i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{u}_0 &= c_1\mathbf{x}_1 + c_2\mathbf{x}_2 + \cdots + c_n\mathbf{x}_n \\ &= S\mathbf{c}\end{aligned}$$

then

$$\begin{aligned}A\mathbf{u}_0 &= c_1\lambda_1\mathbf{x}_1 + c_2\lambda_2\mathbf{x}_2 + \cdots + c_n\lambda_n\mathbf{x}_n \\ &= S\Lambda\mathbf{c}\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}A^k\mathbf{u}_0 &= c_1\lambda_1^k\mathbf{x}_1 + c_2\lambda_2^k\mathbf{x}_2 + \cdots + c_n\lambda_n^k\mathbf{x}_n \\ &= S\Lambda^k\mathbf{c}\end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{u}_k = A^k\mathbf{u}_0 = c_1\lambda_1^k\mathbf{x}_1 + \cdots + c_n\lambda_n^k\mathbf{x}_n = S\Lambda^k\mathbf{c}$$

6.2 Diagonalizing a Matrix

Fibonacci sequence

The sequence: 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, ...

$$F_{k+2} = F_{k+1} + F_k \quad (2^{nd} \text{ order difference equation})$$

Q: How do we solve a 2^{nd} order equation?

convert it into 1^{st} -order equations

$$\text{Let } \mathbf{u}_k = \begin{bmatrix} F_{k+1} \\ F_k \end{bmatrix}, \text{ then}$$

$$F_{k+2} = F_{k+1} + F_k$$

$$F_{k+1} = F_{k+1}$$

equivalent to

$$\mathbf{u}_{k+1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}_k$$

6.2 Diagonalizing a Matrix

Step1: Find eigenvalues & eigenvectors

$$|A - \lambda I| = \begin{vmatrix} 1 - \lambda & 1 \\ 1 & -\lambda \end{vmatrix} = \lambda^2 - \lambda - 1 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda_1 = \frac{1}{2}(1 + \sqrt{5}), \lambda_2 = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \sqrt{5})$$

$$\text{since } (A - \lambda I)\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 - \lambda & 1 \\ 1 & -\lambda \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\text{if } \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \mathbf{x}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{x}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Step2: Find $\mathbf{u}_0 = c_1\mathbf{x}_1 + c_2\mathbf{x}_2$

$$\mathbf{u}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} F_1 \\ F_0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = c_1 \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + c_2 \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow c_1 = -c_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}$$

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Step3:

$$\begin{bmatrix} F_{k+1} \\ F_k \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{u}_k = c_1 \lambda_1^k \mathbf{x}_1 + c_2 \lambda_2^k \mathbf{x}_2$$

$$\Rightarrow F_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^k - \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^k$$

using eigenvalues & eigenvectors, we obtain closed-form expression
for Fibonacci sequence

Summary: when a sequence evolves overtime following 1st order difference equation \Rightarrow eigenvalues of the system matrix determine long term behavior of the series