

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -2 \\ -4 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$|\lambda I_2 - A| = \begin{vmatrix} \lambda - 3 & 2 \\ 4 & \lambda - 1 \end{vmatrix} = (\lambda - 3)(\lambda - 1) - 8 = \lambda^2 - 4\lambda - 5 \\ = (\lambda - 5)(\lambda + 1)$$

$$(\lambda I_2 - A)\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \vec{0} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad A\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \lambda \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}.$$

The eigenvalues of A are $\lambda = -1, 5$.

In case $\lambda = -1$

$$A\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = -\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \Leftrightarrow (-I_2 - A)\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \vec{0} \Leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -4 & 2 \\ 4 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \vec{0}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 2x - y = 0$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ 2x \end{pmatrix} = x \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (x \neq 0)$$

are the eigenvectors of A for the eigenvalue $\lambda = -1$.

In case $\lambda = 5$.

$$A \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = 5 \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \Leftrightarrow (5I_2 - A) \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \vec{0} \Leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 4 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \vec{0}$$
$$\Leftrightarrow x + y = 0$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -y \\ y \end{pmatrix} = y \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (y \neq 0)$$

are the eigenvectors of A for the eigenvalue $\lambda = 5$.

$$\vec{p}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \vec{p}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A\vec{p}_1 = -\vec{p}_1, \quad A\vec{p}_2 = 5\vec{p}_2$$

We define

$$P = (\vec{p}_1 \ \vec{p}_2) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$|P| = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 1 + 2 = 3 \neq 0. \quad P \text{ is regular.}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 AP &= (A\vec{P}_1 \quad A\vec{P}_2) = (-\vec{P}_1 \quad 5\vec{P}_2) \\
 &= (\vec{P}_1 \quad \vec{P}_2) \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 \end{pmatrix} = P \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 \end{pmatrix}.
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\rightarrow P^{-1}AP = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Definitions

Let A be a 2×2 matrix:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$$

Then $\alpha \in \mathbf{R}$ is called an eigenvalue of A if there exists $\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \neq \vec{0}$ satisfying

$$(\#) \quad A \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \alpha \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$$

In this situation $\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \neq \vec{0}$ satisfying $(\#)$ is called an eigen vector of A for the eigenvalue α .

Remarks

Remark that

$$(\#) \quad A \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \alpha \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \Leftrightarrow (\#)' \quad (\alpha I_2 - A) \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \vec{0}$$

and that

$$B\vec{v} = \vec{0} \quad \text{for some } \vec{v} \neq \vec{0} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad |B| = 0.$$

Accordingly it follows that

$$\alpha \text{ is an eigen value of } A \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad |\alpha I_2 - A| = 0$$

Eigenpolynomial

$$a + d = \text{tr}(A) \quad \text{trace of } A$$

We define the eigenpolynomial of A by

$$\phi_A(\lambda) := |\lambda I_2 - A| = \begin{vmatrix} \lambda - a & -b \\ -c & \lambda - d \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \lambda^2 - (a + d)\lambda + \text{ad} - bc$$

Remark that $|A| = \text{ad} - bc$

$$\alpha \text{ is an eigenvalue of } A \Leftrightarrow \phi_A(\alpha) = 0$$

Theorem

Theorem

We assume that $\phi_A(\lambda)$ is factorized by

$$\phi_A(\lambda) = (\lambda - \alpha)(\lambda - \beta)$$

with $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$ satisfying $\alpha \neq \beta$. Moreover we assume that the two vectors $\vec{p}_1, \vec{p}_2$ satisfy

$$A\vec{p}_1 = \alpha\vec{p}_1, \quad A\vec{p}_2 = \beta\vec{p}_2$$

with $\vec{p}_1 \neq \vec{0}, \vec{p}_2 \neq \vec{0}$. Then

$$P = (\vec{p}_1 \ \vec{p}_2)$$

is regular.

Proof

Remark that

$$|P| \neq 0 \Leftrightarrow P \text{ is regular} \Leftrightarrow (c_1 \vec{p}_1 + c_2 \vec{p}_2 = \vec{0} \Rightarrow c_1 = c_2 = 0).$$

We assume that

$$c_1 \vec{p}_1 + c_2 \vec{p}_2 = \vec{0}$$

and multiply the both hand sides by $(\beta I_2 - A)$ to get

$$c_1(\beta - \alpha)\vec{p}_1 = \vec{0} \rightarrow c_1 \vec{p}_1 = \vec{0}$$

It follows from $\beta - \alpha \neq 0$ and $\vec{p}_1 \neq \vec{0}$ that

$$c_1 = 0$$

In this situation we get

$$c_2 \vec{p}_2 = \vec{0}$$

It follows from $\vec{p}_2 \neq \vec{0}$ that

$$c_2 = 0$$

$${}^t A = {}^t \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 5 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 5 \end{pmatrix} = A$$

Example (1)

$$\text{Let } A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 5 \end{pmatrix}. \text{ Then } \Phi_A(\lambda) = |\lambda I_2 - A| = \left| \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \right|$$

$$\Phi_A(\lambda) = \begin{vmatrix} \lambda - 2 & -2 \\ -2 & \lambda - 5 \end{vmatrix} = (\lambda - 1)(\lambda - 6)$$

Thus the eigenvalues of A are $\lambda = 1, 6$. We find the eigenvectors of A as follows.

In case $\lambda = 1$

$$\Leftrightarrow (I_2 - A) \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \vec{0} \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -2 \\ -2 & -4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \vec{0} \Leftrightarrow x + 2y = 0$$

Thus

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -2y \\ y \end{pmatrix} = y \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (y \neq 0)$$

are the eigenvectors of A for the eigenvalue $\lambda = 1$.

vectors.

Example (2)

In case $\lambda = 6$

$$A \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = 6 \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \Leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 4 & -2 \\ -2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \vec{0} \Leftrightarrow 2x - y = 0.$$

Thus

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = x \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (x \neq 0)$$

are the eigenvalues of A for the eigenvalue $\lambda = 6$.

vectors

Example (3)

We choose two vectors $\vec{q}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$, $\vec{q}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$ and also a

matrix

$$Q = (\vec{q}_1 \ \vec{q}_2) = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

The Q is regular by the Theorem proven above and

$$AQ = (A\vec{q}_1 \ A\vec{q}_2) = (\vec{q}_1 \ 6\vec{q}_2)$$

$$= (\vec{q}_1 \ \vec{q}_2) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 6 \end{pmatrix} = Q \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 6 \end{pmatrix}$$

Thus we can diagonalize A by

$$Q^{-1}AQ = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 6 \end{pmatrix}$$

Symmetric matrices

Remark that

$$\vec{q}_1 \perp \vec{q}_2$$

This is not a coincidence. Actually we have the following theorem.

Theorem

Let A be a 2×2 matrix and assume that A is symmetric i.e. ${}^tA = A$. Moreover we assume that

$$A\vec{p} = \alpha\vec{p}, \quad A\vec{q} = \beta\vec{q}$$

with $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbf{R}$ satisfying $\alpha \neq \beta$. Then

$$\vec{p} \perp \vec{q}$$

proof

$${}^tA = A$$

$$(A\vec{p}, \vec{q}) = (\vec{p}, {}^tA\vec{q}) = (\vec{p}, A\vec{q})$$

Moreover

$$(A\vec{p}, \vec{q}) = (\alpha\vec{p}, \vec{q}) = \alpha(\vec{p}, \vec{q})$$

$$(\vec{p}, A\vec{q}) = (\vec{p}, \beta\vec{q}) = \beta(\vec{p}, \vec{q})$$

These two identities lead us to

$$(\alpha - \beta)(\vec{p}, \vec{q}) = 0$$

$$\alpha \neq \beta \quad \rightarrow \quad (\vec{p}, \vec{q}) = 0$$

Why do we need symmetric matrices?

We are given a symmetric matrix $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & c \\ c & b \end{pmatrix}$. We introduce the quadratic form for A by

$$\left(A \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \right) = ax^2 + 2cxy + by^2$$

Quadratic form
defined by A .

In case $A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$, we have

$$\left(A \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \right) = 2x^2 + 4xy + 5y^2$$

We need a more detailed analysis about the diagonalization of symmetric matrices for its application.

Rotation Matrices(1)

We define the rotation matrix of the angle θ by

$$R_\theta = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}$$

The rotation can be figured out by the identity

$$R_\theta \begin{pmatrix} \cos \alpha \\ \sin \alpha \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\alpha + \theta) \\ \sin(\alpha + \theta) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$R_\theta = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}$$

Rotation matrices

$$|R_\theta| = 1$$

Moreover we find that

$$R_\theta^{-1} = \frac{1}{|R_\theta|} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} = {}^t R_\theta$$

Accordingly

$${}^t R_\theta \cdot R_\theta = R_\theta \cdot {}^t R_\theta = I_2$$

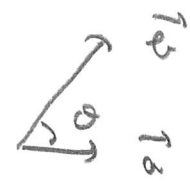
This identity leads us to

$$(R_\theta \vec{v}, R_\theta \vec{w}) = (\vec{v}, \vec{w})$$

for any $\vec{v}, \vec{w} \in \mathbb{R}^2$. In fact

$$LHS = (\vec{v}, {}^t R_\theta R_\theta \vec{w}) = (\vec{v}, I_2 \vec{w}) = (\vec{v}, \vec{w})$$

$$\vec{a}, \vec{e} \in \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$(\vec{a}, \vec{e}) = \|\vec{a}\| \cdot \|\vec{e}\| \cos \theta$$


Diagonalization of symmetric matrices

Let us go back to the example $A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$. We can diagonalize A by a rotation matrix chosen as follows. We define two unit vectors

$$\vec{r}_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \vec{r}_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Then $R = (\vec{r}_1 \ \vec{r}_2)$ is a rotation matrix and we have

$$A\vec{r}_1 = \vec{r}_1, \quad A\vec{r}_2 = 6\vec{r}_2$$

Accordingly

$$AR = (A\vec{r}_1 \ A\vec{r}_2) = (\vec{r}_1 \ 6\vec{r}_2) = (\vec{r}_1 \ \vec{r}_2) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 6 \end{pmatrix} = R \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 6 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Thus we have deduced } R^{-1}AR = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 6 \end{pmatrix}$$

Diagonalization of symmetric matrices

We now consider the quadratic form of A . Remark that R^{-1} is a rotation. It follows from this fact that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left(A \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \right) &= \left(R^{-1} A \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}, R^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \right) \quad R^{-1} \text{ is a rotation} \\
 &= \left(R^{-1} A R \cdot R^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}, R^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \right) \\
 &= \left(\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 6 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \xi \\ \eta \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \xi \\ \eta \end{pmatrix} \right) = \xi^2 + 6\eta^2
 \end{aligned}$$

$= 2x^2 + 4xy + 5y^2$

Here we used a rotational coordinate transformation defined by

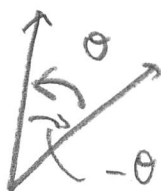
$$\begin{pmatrix} \xi \\ \eta \end{pmatrix} = R^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$$

$$R^{-1} A R = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 6 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$R = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}$$

$$R^{-1} = {}^t R = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} \cos(-\theta) & -\sin(-\theta) \\ \sin(-\theta) & \cos(-\theta) \end{pmatrix}$$



Diagonalize $A = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & -2 \\ -2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$

if possible by a rotation matrix.