

Math 221: LINEAR ALGEBRA

Chapter 3. Determinants and Diagonalization

§3-3. Diagonalization and Eigenvalues

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Emory University, 2021 Spring

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¹Slides are adapted from those by Karen Seyffarth from University of Calgary.

Why Diagonalization?

Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

Geometric Interpretation of Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

Diagonalization

Linear Dynamical Systems

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Example

Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -2 \\ -1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$. Find A^{100} .

How can we do this efficiently?

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How can we do this efficiently?

Consider the matrix $P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$. Observe that P is invertible (why?),
and that

$$P^{-1} = \frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

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$$P^{-1} = \frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Furthermore,

$$P^{-1}AP = \frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -2 \\ -1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix} = D,$$

where D is a **diagonal** matrix.

Example (continued)

This is significant, because

$$\begin{aligned}P^{-1}AP &= D \\P(P^{-1}AP)P^{-1} &= PDP^{-1} \\(PP^{-1})A(PP^{-1}) &= PDP^{-1} \\IAI &= PDP^{-1} \\A &= PDP^{-1},\end{aligned}$$

Example (continued)

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and so

$$\begin{aligned}A^{100} &= (PDP^{-1})^{100} \\&= (PDP^{-1})(PDP^{-1})(PDP^{-1}) \dots (PDP^{-1}) \\&= PD(P^{-1}P)D(P^{-1}P)D(P^{-1} \dots P)DP^{-1} \\&= PDIDIDI \dots IDP^{-1} \\&= PD^{100}P^{-1}.\end{aligned}$$

Example (continued)

Now,

$$D^{100} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix}^{100} = \begin{bmatrix} 2^{100} & 0 \\ 0 & 5^{100} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} A^{100} &= P D^{100} P^{-1} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2^{100} & 0 \\ 0 & 5^{100} \end{bmatrix} \left(\frac{1}{3}\right) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} 2^{100} + 2 \cdot 5^{100} & 2^{100} - 2 \cdot 5^{100} \\ 2^{100} - 5^{100} & 2 \cdot 2^{100} + 5^{100} \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} 2^{100} + 2 \cdot 5^{100} & 2^{100} - 2 \cdot 5^{100} \\ 2^{100} - 5^{100} & 2^{101} + 5^{100} \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$



Theorem (Diagonalization and Matrix Powers)

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The process of finding an **invertible** matrix P and a **diagonal** matrix D so that $A = PDP^{-1}$ is referred to as **diagonalizing** the matrix A , and P is called the **diagonalizing** matrix for A .

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Problem

- ▶ When is it possible to diagonalize a matrix?
- ▶ How do we find a diagonalizing matrix?

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Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

Definition

Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix, λ a real number, and $\vec{x} \neq \vec{0}$ an n -vector. If $A\vec{x} = \lambda\vec{x}$, then λ is an **eigenvalue** of A , and \vec{x} is an **eigenvector** of A corresponding to λ , or a **λ -eigenvector**.

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Example

Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$. Then

$$A\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = 3 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 3\vec{x}.$$

This means that 3 is an **eigenvalue** of A , and $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ is an **eigenvector of A** corresponding to 3 (or a 3-eigenvector of A).

Suppose that A is an $n \times n$ matrix, $\vec{x} \neq 0$ an n -vector, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$, and that $A\vec{x} = \lambda\vec{x}$.

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Then

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda\vec{x} - A\vec{x} &= \vec{0} \\ \lambda I\vec{x} - A\vec{x} &= \vec{0} \\ (\lambda I - A)\vec{x} &= \vec{0}\end{aligned}$$

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Since $\vec{x} \neq \vec{0}$, the matrix $\lambda I - A$ has no inverse, and thus

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

Definition

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$$c_A(x) = \det(xI - A).$$

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Example

The characteristic polynomial of $A = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -2 \\ -1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$ is

$$\begin{aligned} c_A(x) &= \det \left(\begin{bmatrix} x & 0 \\ 0 & x \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -2 \\ -1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \right) \\ &= \det \begin{bmatrix} x-4 & 2 \\ 1 & x-3 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= (x-4)(x-3) - 2 \\ &= x^2 - 7x + 10 \end{aligned}$$

Theorem (Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors of a Matrix)

Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix.

1. The eigenvalues of A are the **roots** of $c_A(x)$.
2. The λ -eigenvectors \vec{x} are the **nontrivial solutions** to $(\lambda I - A)\vec{x} = \vec{0}$.

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Example (continued)

For $A = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -2 \\ -1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$, we have

$$c_A(x) = x^2 - 7x + 10 = (x - 2)(x - 5),$$

so A has eigenvalues $\lambda_1 = 2$ and $\lambda_2 = 5$.

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$$c_A(x) = x^2 - 7x + 10 = (x - 2)(x - 5),$$

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To find the 2-eigenvectors of A , solve $(2I - A)\vec{x} = \vec{0}$:

$$\left[\begin{array}{cc|c} -2 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ -2 & 2 & 0 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

Example (continued)

The general solution, in parametric form, is

$$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} t \\ t \end{bmatrix} = t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ where } t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

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To find the 5-eigenvectors of A, solve $(5I - A)\vec{x} = \vec{0}$:

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The general solution, in parametric form, is

$$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} -2s \\ s \end{bmatrix} = s \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ where } s \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Definition

A **basic eigenvector** of an $n \times n$ matrix A is any nonzero multiple of a basic solution to $(\lambda I - A)\vec{x} = \vec{0}$, where λ is an eigenvalue of A .

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Example (continued)

$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ are basic eigenvectors of the matrix

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

corresponding to eigenvalues $\lambda_1 = 2$ and $\lambda_2 = 5$, respectively.

Problem

For $A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -4 & 2 \\ 1 & -2 & 2 \\ 1 & -5 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$, find $c_A(x)$, the eigenvalues of A , and the corresponding basic eigenvectors.

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Solution

$$\begin{aligned} \det(xI - A) &= \begin{vmatrix} x-3 & 4 & -2 \\ -1 & x+2 & -2 \\ -1 & 5 & x-5 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} x-3 & 4 & -2 \\ 0 & x-3 & -x+3 \\ -1 & 5 & x-5 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= \begin{vmatrix} x-3 & 4 & 2 \\ 0 & x-3 & 0 \\ -1 & 5 & x \end{vmatrix} = (x-3) \begin{vmatrix} x-3 & 2 \\ -1 & x \end{vmatrix} \\ &= (x-3)(x^2 - 3x + 2) = (x-3)(x-2)(x-1) = c_A(x). \end{aligned}$$

Solution (continued)

Therefore, the eigenvalues of A are $\lambda_1 = 3$, $\lambda_2 = 2$, and $\lambda_3 = 1$.

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Basic eigenvectors corresponding to $\lambda_1 = 3$: solve $(3I - A)\vec{x} = \vec{0}$.

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 0 & 4 & -2 & 0 \\ -1 & 5 & -2 & 0 \\ -1 & 5 & -2 & 0 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

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$$\text{Thus } \vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2}t \\ \frac{1}{2}t \\ t \end{bmatrix} = t \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Solution (continued)

Therefore, the eigenvalues of A are $\lambda_1 = 3$, $\lambda_2 = 2$, and $\lambda_3 = 1$.

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Choosing $t = 2$ gives us $\vec{x}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ as a basic eigenvector corresponding to $\lambda_1 = 3$.

Solution (continued)

Basic eigenvectors corresponding to $\lambda_2 = 2$: solve $(2\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})\vec{x} = \vec{0}$.

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} -1 & 4 & -2 & 0 \\ -1 & 4 & -2 & 0 \\ -1 & 5 & -3 & 0 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

Solution (continued)

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$$\text{Thus } \vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 2s \\ s \\ s \end{bmatrix} = s \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, s \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Solution (continued)

Basic eigenvectors corresponding to $\lambda_2 = 2$: solve $(2\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})\vec{x} = \vec{0}$.

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$$\text{Thus } \vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 2s \\ s \\ s \end{bmatrix} = s \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, s \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Choosing $s = 1$ gives us $\vec{x}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ as a basic eigenvector corresponding to $\lambda_2 = 2$.

Solution (continued)

Basic eigenvectors corresponding to $\lambda_3 = 1$: solve $(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})\vec{x} = \vec{0}$.

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} -2 & 4 & -2 & 0 \\ -1 & 3 & -2 & 0 \\ -1 & 5 & -4 & 0 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

Solution (continued)

Basic eigenvectors corresponding to $\lambda_3 = 1$: solve $(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})\vec{x} = \vec{0}$.

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$$\text{Thus } \vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} r \\ r \\ r \end{bmatrix} = r \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, r \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Solution (continued)

Basic eigenvectors corresponding to $\lambda_3 = 1$: solve $(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})\vec{x} = \vec{0}$.

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} -2 & 4 & -2 & 0 \\ -1 & 3 & -2 & 0 \\ -1 & 5 & -4 & 0 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

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Choosing $r = 1$ gives us $\vec{x}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ as a basic eigenvector corresponding to $\lambda_3 = 1$. ■

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How does the linear transformation affect the eigenvectors of the matrix?

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Problem

How does the linear transformation affect the eigenvectors of the matrix?

Definition

Let $\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix}$ be a nonzero vector in \mathbb{R}^2 . Then $L_{\vec{v}}$ is the set of all scalar multiples of \vec{v} , i.e.,

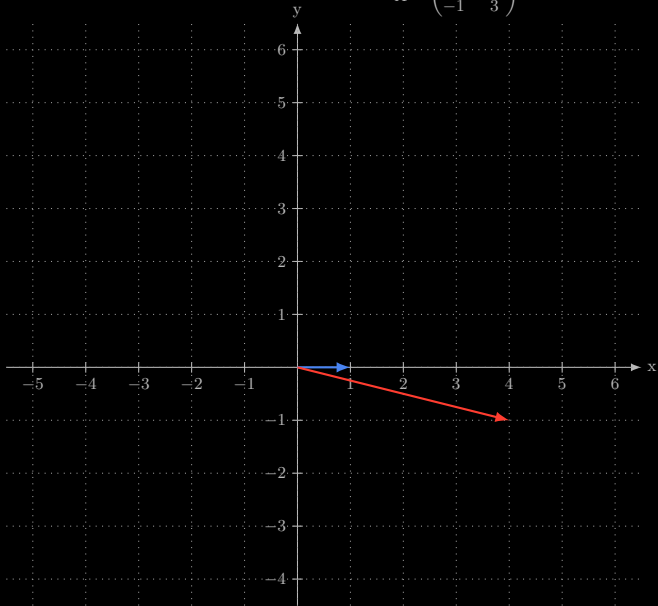
$$L_{\vec{v}} = \mathbb{R}\vec{v} = \{t\vec{v} \mid t \in \mathbb{R}\}.$$

Example (revisited)

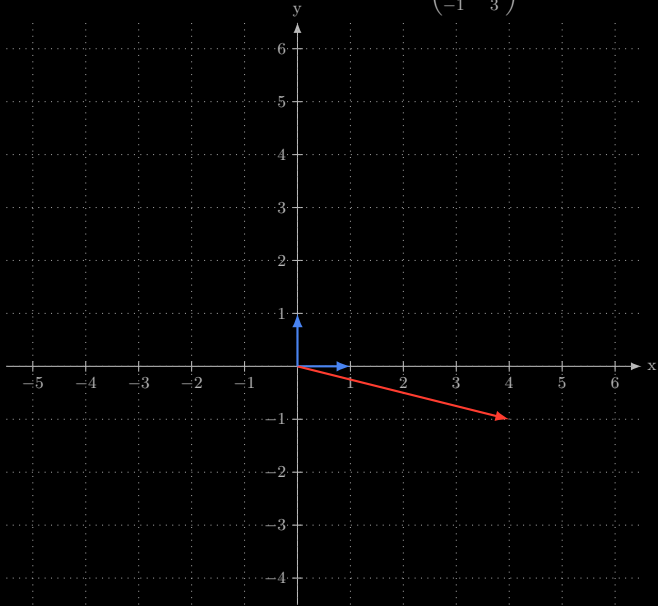
$A = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & -2 \\ -1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$ has two eigenvalues: $\lambda_1 = 2$ and $\lambda_2 = 5$ with corresponding eigenvectors

$$\vec{v}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{v}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1/2 \end{pmatrix}$$

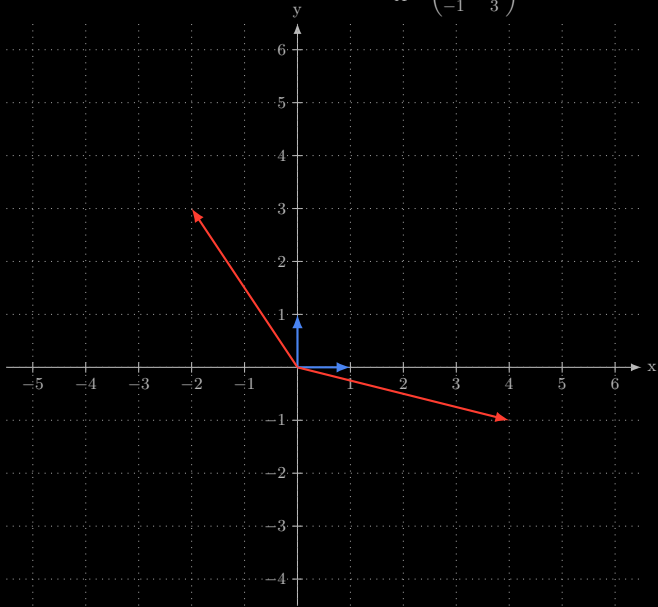
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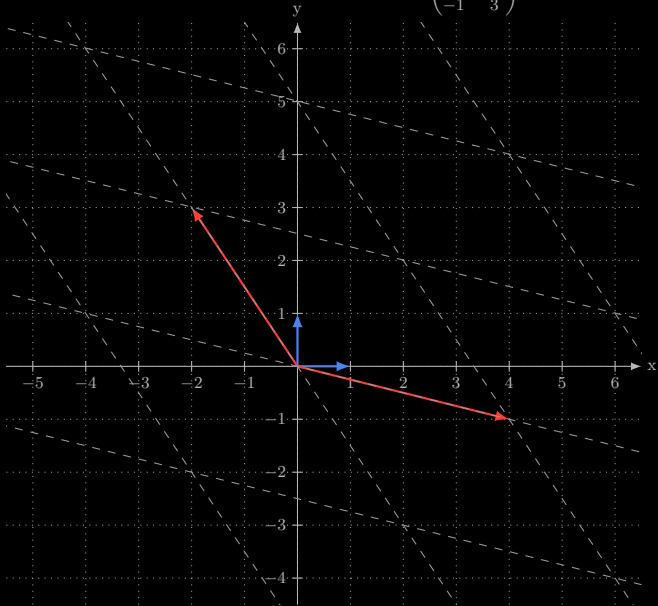
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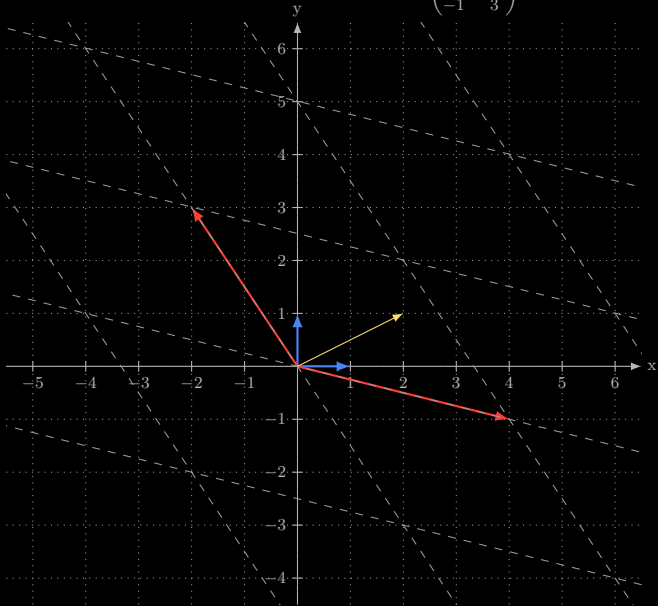
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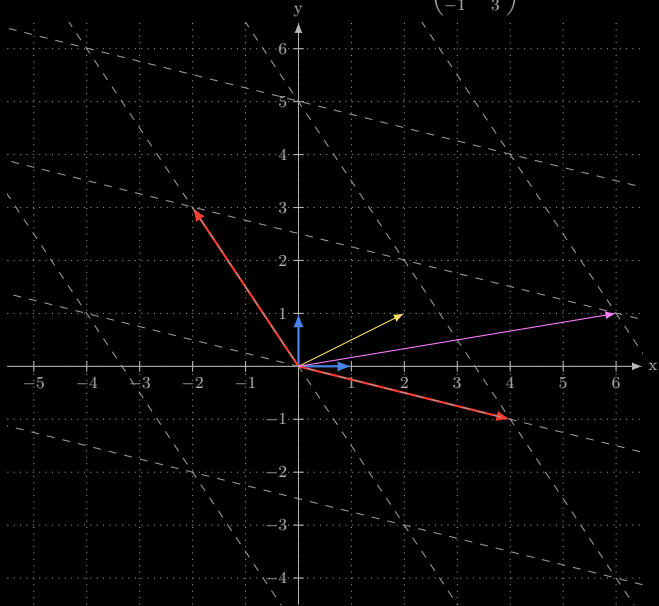
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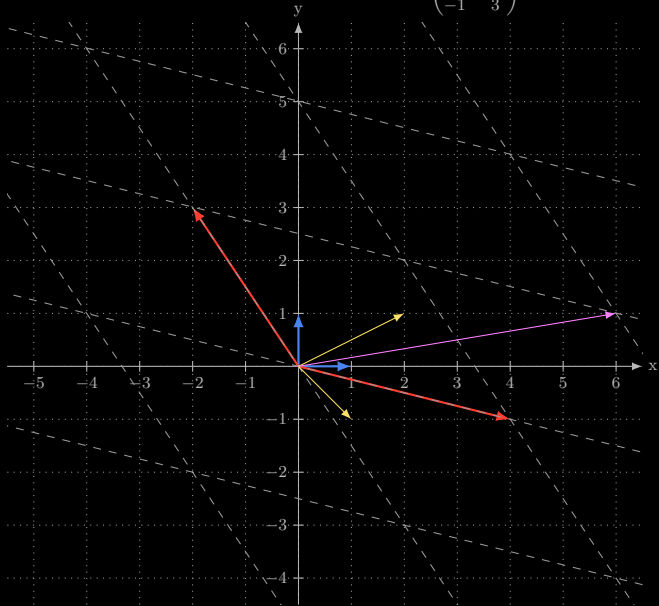
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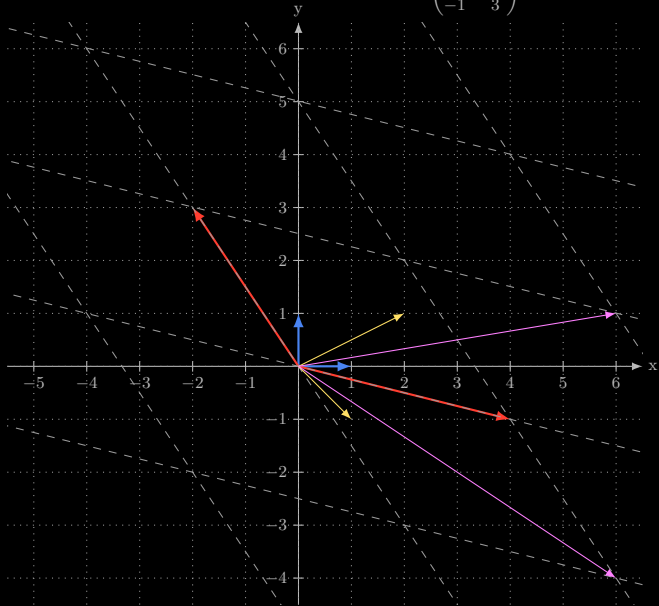
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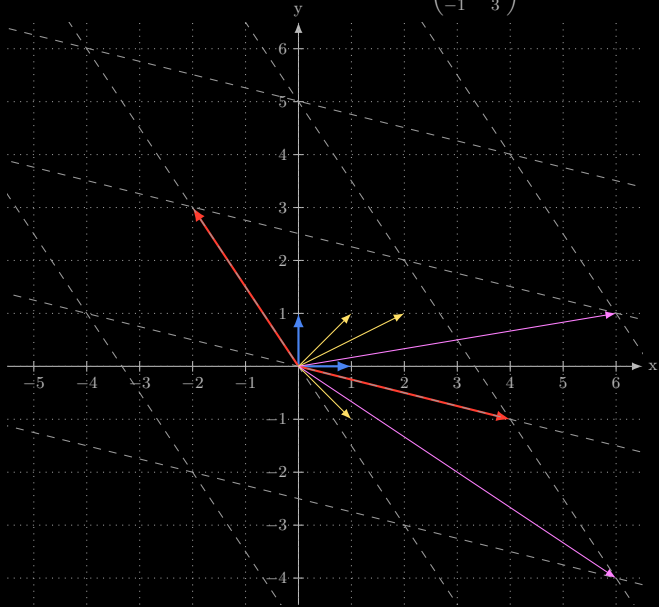
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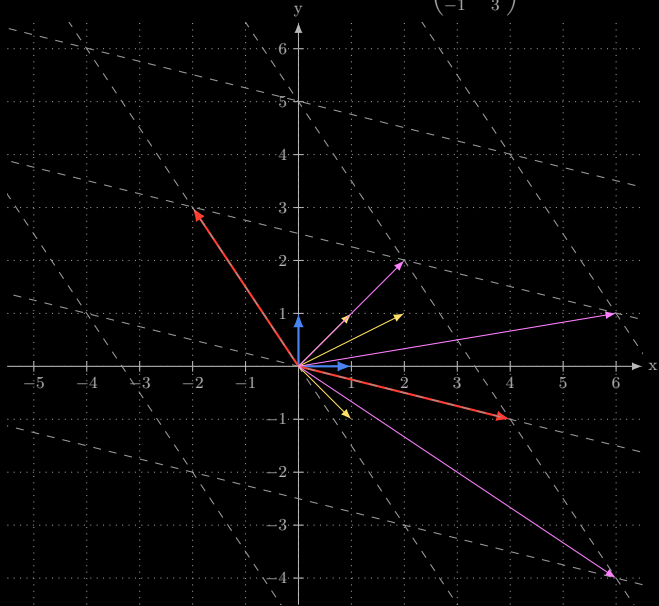
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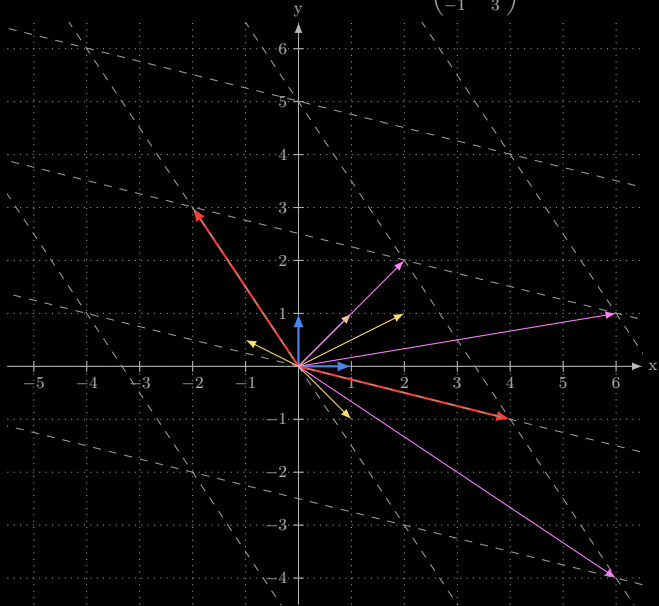
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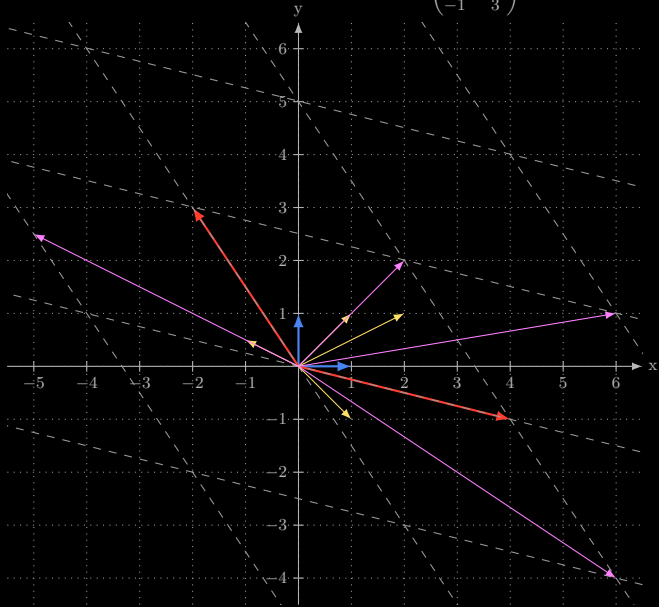
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i.e., $A\vec{x} = \lambda\vec{x}$ for some scalar $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$,
i.e., \vec{x} is an eigenvector of A .

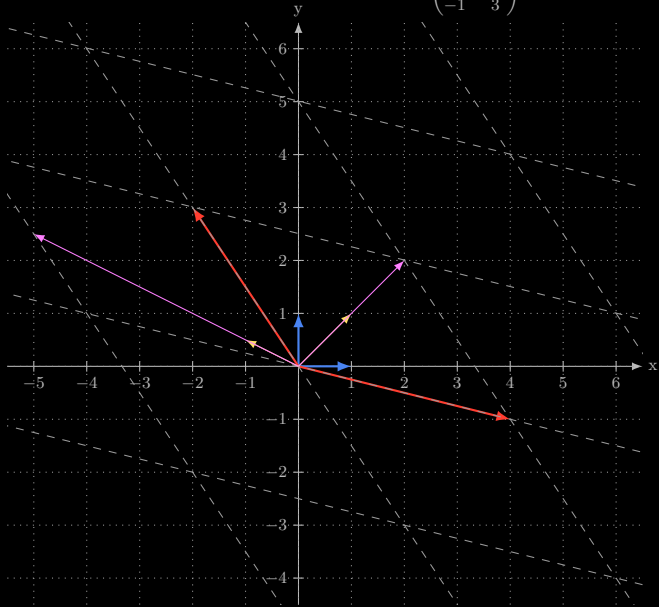
Definition

Let A be a 2×2 matrix and L a line in \mathbb{R}^2 through the origin. Then L is said to be **A-invariant** if the vector $A\vec{x}$ lies in L whenever \vec{x} lies in L ,
i.e., $A\vec{x}$ is a scalar multiple of \vec{x} ,
i.e., $A\vec{x} = \lambda\vec{x}$ for some scalar $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$,
i.e., \vec{x} is an eigenvector of A .

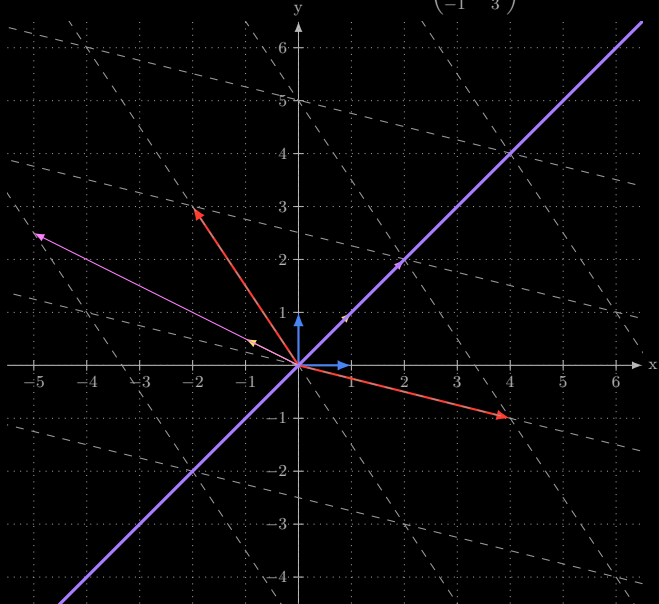
Theorem (A-Invariance)

Let A be a 2×2 matrix and let $\vec{v} \neq 0$ be a vector in \mathbb{R}^2 . Then $L_{\vec{v}}$ is A -invariant if and only if \vec{v} is an eigenvector of A .

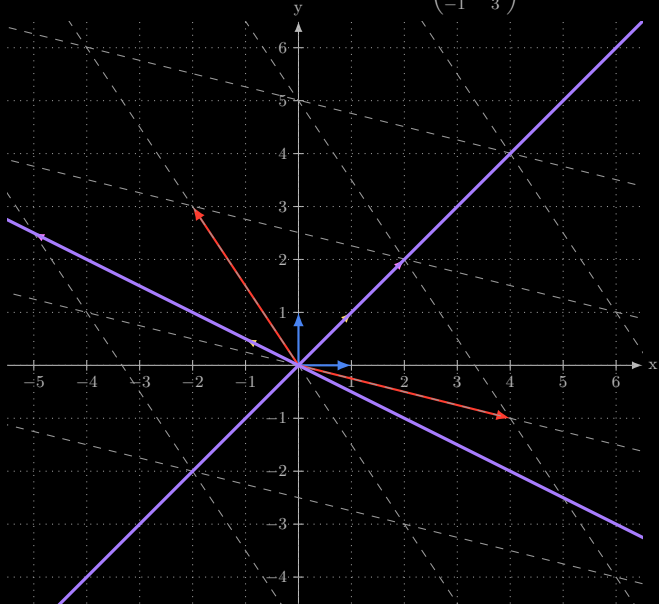
$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & -2 \\ -1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$



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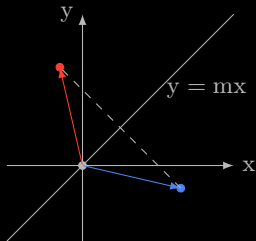


$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & -2 \\ -1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$



Problem

Let $m \in \mathbb{R}$ and consider the linear transformation $Q_m : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$, i.e., reflection in the line $y = mx$.

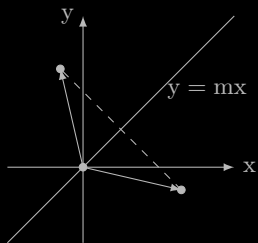


Recall that this is a matrix transformation induced by

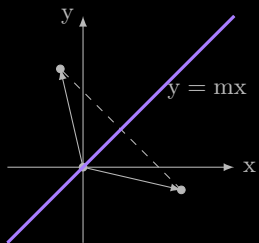
$$A = \frac{1}{1+m^2} \begin{bmatrix} 1-m^2 & 2m \\ 2m & m^2-1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Find the lines that pass through origin and are A -invariant. Determine corresponding eigenvalues.

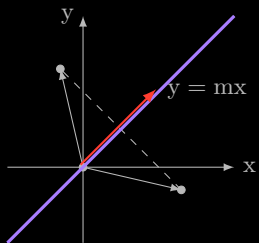
Solution



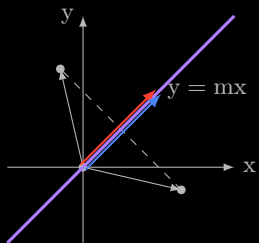
Solution



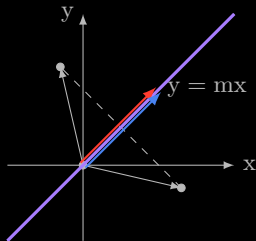
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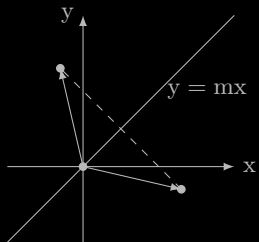


Let $\vec{x}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ m \end{bmatrix}$. Then $L_{\vec{x}_1}$ is A -invariant, that is, \vec{x}_1 is an eigenvector.

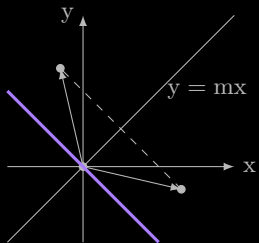
Since the vector won't change, its eigenvalue should be 1. Indeed, one can verify that

$$A\vec{x}_1 = \frac{1}{1+m^2} \begin{bmatrix} 1-m^2 & 2m \\ 2m & m^2-1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ m \end{pmatrix} = \dots = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ m \end{pmatrix} = \vec{x}_1.$$

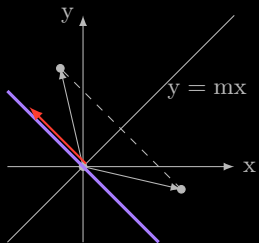
Solution (continued)



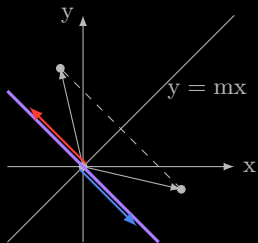
Solution (continued)



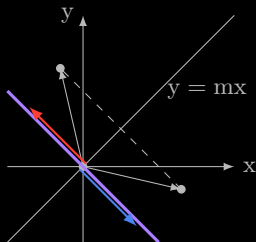
Solution (continued)



Solution (continued)



Solution (continued)



Let $\vec{x}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -m \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$. Then $L_{\vec{x}_2}$ is A-invariant, that is, \vec{x}_2 is an eigenvector.

Since the vector won't change the size, only flip the direction, its eigenvalue should be -1 . Indeed, one can verify that

$$A\vec{x}_2 = \frac{1}{1+m^2} \begin{bmatrix} 1-m^2 & 2m \\ 2m & m^2-1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -m \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \dots = \begin{pmatrix} m \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = -\vec{x}_2.$$



Example

Let θ be a real number, and $R_\theta : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ rotation through an angle of θ , induced by the matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}.$$

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Claim: A has no real eigenvalues unless θ is an integer multiple of π , i.e., $\pm\pi, \pm2\pi, \pm3\pi$, etc.

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Claim: A has no real eigenvalues unless θ is an integer multiple of π , i.e., $\pm\pi, \pm2\pi, \pm3\pi$, etc.

Consequence: a line L in \mathbb{R}^2 is A invariant if and only if θ is an integer multiple of π .

Why Diagonalization?

Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

Geometric Interpretation of Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

Diagonalization

Linear Dynamical Systems

Diagonalization

Denote an $n \times n$ diagonal matrix by

$$\text{diag}(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & a_2 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & a_3 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & a_{n-1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & a_n \end{bmatrix}$$

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Recall that if A is an $n \times n$ matrix and P is an invertible $n \times n$ matrix so that $P^{-1}AP$ is diagonal, then P is called a **diagonalizing matrix** of A , and A is **diagonalizable**.

► Suppose we have n eigenvalue-eigenvector pairs:

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- Pack the above n columns vectors into a matrix:

$$\begin{aligned} [A\vec{x}_1 \mid A\vec{x}_2 \mid \cdots \mid A\vec{x}_n] &= [\lambda_1\vec{x}_1 \mid \lambda_2\vec{x}_2 \mid \cdots \mid \lambda_n\vec{x}_n] \\ &\parallel \\ A [\vec{x}_1 \mid \vec{x}_2 \mid \cdots \mid \vec{x}_n] &\parallel \end{aligned}$$

$$[\vec{x}_1 \mid \vec{x}_2 \mid \cdots \mid \vec{x}_n] \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & & \\ & \lambda_2 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix}$$

► By denoting:

$$\mathbf{P} = [\vec{x}_1 \mid \vec{x}_2 \mid \cdots \mid \vec{x}_n] \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{D} = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \cdots, \lambda_n)$$

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► Hence, provided \mathbf{P} is invertible, we have

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{PDP}^{-1} \quad \text{or equivalently} \quad \mathbf{D} = \mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{AP}$$

that is, \mathbf{A} is diagonalizable.

Theorem (Matrix Diagonalization)

Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix.

1. A is diagonalizable if and only if it has eigenvectors $\vec{x}_1, \vec{x}_2, \dots, \vec{x}_n$ so that

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is invertible.

2. If P is invertible, then

$$P^{-1}AP = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n)$$

where λ_i is the eigenvalue of A corresponding to the eigenvector \vec{x}_i , i.e., $A\vec{x}_i = \lambda_i\vec{x}_i$.

Example

$A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -4 & 2 \\ 1 & -2 & 2 \\ 1 & -5 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$ has eigenvalues and corresponding basic eigenvectors

$$\lambda_1 = 3 \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{x}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix};$$

$$\lambda_2 = 2 \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{x}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix};$$

$$\lambda_3 = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{x}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Example (continued)

$$\text{Let } P = [\vec{x}_1 \quad \vec{x}_2 \quad \vec{x}_3] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Example (continued)

Let $P = [\vec{x}_1 \quad \vec{x}_2 \quad \vec{x}_3] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$. Then P is invertible, so by the above Theorem,

$$P^{-1}AP = \text{diag}(3, 2, 1) = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$



Remark

It is not always possible to find n eigenvectors so that P is invertible.

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A has only one eigenvalue, $\lambda_1 = 2$, with multiplicity three. Sometimes, one writes

$$\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = \lambda_3 = 2.$$

Example (continued)

To find the 2-eigenvectors of A , solve the system $(2I - A)\vec{x} = \vec{0}$.

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & -3 & 0 \\ -2 & -4 & 6 & 0 \\ -1 & -2 & 3 & 0 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & -3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

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The general solution in parametric form is

$$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} -2s + 3t \\ s \\ t \end{bmatrix} = s \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad s, t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

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Since the system has only two basic solutions, there are only two basic eigenvectors, implying that the matrix A is not diagonalizable. ■

Problem

Diagonalize, if possible, the matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$.

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Solution

$$c_A(x) = \det(xI - A) = \begin{vmatrix} x-1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & x-1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & x+3 \end{vmatrix} = (x-1)^2(x+3).$$

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A has eigenvalues $\lambda_1 = 1$ of multiplicity two; $\lambda_2 = -3$ of multiplicity one.

Solution (continued)

Eigenvectors for $\lambda_1 = 1$: solve $(I - A)\vec{x} = \vec{0}$.

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 & 0 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

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Solution (continued)

Eigenvectors for $\lambda_2 = -3$: solve $(-3\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})\vec{x} = \vec{0}$.

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} -4 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & \frac{1}{4} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

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$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{4}t \\ 0 \\ t \end{bmatrix}$, $t \in \mathbb{R}$ so a basic eigenvector corresponding to $\lambda_2 = -3$ is

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

Solution (continued)

Let

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 4 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

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$$P^{-1}AP = \text{diag}(-3, 1, 1) = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$



Theorem (Matrix Diagonalization Test)

A square matrix A is diagonalizable if and only if every eigenvalue λ of multiplicity m yields exactly m basic eigenvectors, i.e., the solution to $(\lambda I - A)\vec{x} = \vec{0}$ has m parameters.

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A special case of this is:

Theorem (Distinct Eigenvalues and Diagonalization)

An $n \times n$ matrix with distinct eigenvalues is diagonalizable.

Problem

Show that $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ is not diagonalizable.

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Solution

First,

$$c_A(x) = \begin{vmatrix} x-1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & x-1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & x-2 \end{vmatrix} = (x-1)^2(x-2),$$

so A has eigenvalues $\lambda_1 = 1$ of multiplicity two; $\lambda_2 = 2$ (of multiplicity one).

Solution (continued)

Eigenvectors for $\lambda_1 = 1$: solve $(I - A)\vec{x} = \vec{0}$.

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

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Therefore, $\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} s \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $s \in \mathbb{R}$.

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Therefore, $\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} s \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $s \in \mathbb{R}$.

Since $\lambda_1 = 1$ has multiplicity two, but has only one basic eigenvector, we can conclude that A is NOT diagonalizable. ■

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Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

Geometric Interpretation of Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

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Linear Dynamical Systems

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$$\vdots \quad \vdots \quad \vdots$$

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$$\vdots \quad \vdots \quad \vdots$$

$$\vec{v}_k = A^k\vec{v}_0.$$

Remark

Linear dynamical systems are used, for example, to model the evolution of populations over time.

If A is diagonalizable, then

$$P^{-1}AP = D = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n),$$

where $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$ are the (not necessarily distinct) eigenvalues of A .

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Thus $A = PDP^{-1}$, and $A^k = PD^kP^{-1}$. Therefore,

$$\vec{v}_k = A^k \vec{v}_0 = PD^kP^{-1} \vec{v}_0.$$

Problem

Consider the linear dynamical system $\vec{v}_{k+1} = A\vec{v}_k$ with

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 3 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{v}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Find a formula for \vec{v}_k .

Problem

Consider the linear dynamical system $\vec{v}_{k+1} = A\vec{v}_k$ with

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 3 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{v}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

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Solution

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Solve $(2I - A)\vec{x} = \vec{0}$:

$$\left[\begin{array}{cc|c} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -3 & 3 & 0 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

has general solution $\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} s \\ s \end{bmatrix}$, $s \in \mathbb{R}$, and basic solution $\vec{x}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

Solution (continued)

Solve $(-I - A)\vec{x} = \vec{0}$:

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has general solution $\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ t \end{bmatrix}$, $t \in \mathbb{R}$, and basic solution $\vec{x}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

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Thus, $P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ is a diagonalizing matrix for A ,

$$P^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad P^{-1}AP = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Solution (continued)

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{v}_k &= A^k \vec{v}_0 \\ &= PD^k P^{-1} \vec{v}_0 \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}^k \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2^k & 0 \\ 0 & (-1)^k \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 2^k & 0 \\ 2^k & (-1)^k \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 2^k \\ 2^k - 2(-1)^k \end{bmatrix}.\end{aligned}$$



Remark

Often, instead of finding an exact formula for \vec{v}_k , it suffices to estimate \vec{v}_k as k gets large.

This can easily be done if A has a **dominant eigenvalue with multiplicity one**: an eigenvalue λ_1 with the property that

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Suppose that

$$\vec{v}_k = PD^kP^{-1}\vec{v}_0,$$

and assume that A has a dominant eigenvalue, λ_1 , with corresponding basic eigenvector \vec{x}_1 as the first column of P .

For convenience, write $P^{-1}\vec{v}_0 = [b_1 \quad b_2 \quad \cdots \quad b_n]^T$.

Then

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{v}_k &= \mathbf{P}\mathbf{D}^k\mathbf{P}^{-1}\vec{v}_0 \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \vec{x}_1 & \vec{x}_2 & \cdots & \vec{x}_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1^k & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2^k & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n^k \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_n \end{bmatrix} \\ &= b_1\lambda_1^k\vec{x}_1 + b_2\lambda_2^k\vec{x}_2 + \cdots + b_n\lambda_n^k\vec{x}_n \\ &= \lambda_1^k \left(b_1\vec{x}_1 + b_2 \left(\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} \right)^k \vec{x}_2 + \cdots + b_n \left(\frac{\lambda_n}{\lambda_1} \right)^k \vec{x}_n \right)\end{aligned}$$

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Now, $\left| \frac{\lambda_j}{\lambda_1} \right| < 1$ for $j = 2, 3, \dots, n$, and thus $\left(\frac{\lambda_j}{\lambda_1} \right)^k \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$.

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Therefore, for large values of k , $\vec{v}_k \approx \lambda_1^k b_1 \vec{x}_1$.

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If

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 3 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{v}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix},$$

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$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad P^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

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$$P^{-1}\vec{v}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

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For large values of k ,

$$\vec{v}_k \approx \lambda_1^k b_1 \vec{x}_1 = 2^k(1) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2^k \\ 2^k \end{bmatrix}.$$



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Remark

Let's compare this to the exact formula for \vec{v}_k that we obtained earlier:

$$\vec{v}_k = \begin{bmatrix} 2^k \\ 2^k - 2(-1/2)^k \end{bmatrix} \approx \begin{bmatrix} 2^k \\ 2^k \end{bmatrix}.$$