

THEOREM If A and B are $n \times n$ matrices, which are similar, then they have the same characteristic equation and hence the same eigenvalues.

PROOF Let A and B be similar $n \times n$ matrices. Then

$$B = \underline{P^{-1}AP} \text{ for some invertible matrix } P$$

$$B - \lambda I = P^{-1}AP - \lambda I$$

$$= P^{-1}AP - \lambda \underline{P^{-1}P} \quad \text{since } I = P^{-1}P$$

$$= P^{-1}AP - P^{-1}\lambda P \quad \text{since scalars } \underline{\text{commute}} \text{ with matrices}$$

$$= P^{-1} \underline{(AP - \lambda P)} \quad \text{by factoring out } P^{-1}$$

$$= P^{-1}(A - \lambda I)P \quad \text{by factoring out } P$$

Take the determinant of both sides:

$$\det(B - \lambda I) = \det[P^{-1}(A - \lambda I)P]$$

$$= \underline{\det(P^{-1}) \det(A - \lambda I) \det(P)} \quad \text{by properties of determinants (Theorem 6, Sec 3.2)}$$

$$= \det(P^{-1}) \det(P) \det(A - \lambda I) \quad \text{since determinants are } \underline{\text{scalars}}, \text{ they commute}$$

$$= \underline{\det(P^{-1}P) \det(A - \lambda I)} \quad \text{by properties of determinants (Theorem 6, Sec 3.2)}$$

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

$$= \underline{\det(A - \lambda I)}$$

$$\text{i.e. } \det(B - \lambda I) = \det(A - \lambda I)$$

Therefore, A and B have the same characteristic polynomial and hence, the same eigenvalues. ■

1. Determine whether the following statement is true or false. If it is true, prove it. If it is false, give a counter-example.

TRUE OR FALSE: If A and B are row equivalent, then they have the same eigenvalues.

[Hint: Consider matrices whose eigenvalues are really easy to find.]

If a matrix A is similar to a matrix with a simple form (e.g. a diagonal matrix), then it can help with many computations.

EX: Given the diagonal matrix $D = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$, compute $D^3 = DDD$. Show all your work.

2. Based on the last example, complete the following statement:

Let D be a diagonal $n \times n$ matrix, i.e. $D = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & a_{22} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & & \ddots & & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix}$. Then $D^k = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11}^k & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & a_{22}^k & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & & \ddots & & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & & a_{nn}^k \end{bmatrix}$.

THEOREM Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix that is similar to a diagonal matrix D . Then $A^k = PD^kP^{-1}$.

[Proof on next page.]

EX: Given $A = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 2 \\ -3 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$, $D = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$, and $P = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ 1 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$,

(a). Verify that A and D are similar by showing that $AP = PD$ and verify that P is invertible.

(b). Use the theorem to compute A^5

(c). After finding P^{-1} and easily computing D^5 , you only needed to do 2 matrix multiplications ($P \textcircled{1} D^5 \textcircled{2} P^{-1}$) instead of 4 if computing A^5 directly without the theorem ($A \textcircled{1} A \textcircled{2} A \textcircled{3} A \textcircled{4} A$).

If you computed A^{100} directly you would perform 99 matrix multiplications, but using the theorem you would still only use 2. Can you see the computational advantage? (rhetorical)

PROOF Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix that is similar to a diagonal matrix D .

That is, $A = PDP^{-1}$ for some invertible matrix P .

[Show $A^k = PD^kP^{-1}$.]

Basis ($k = 2$):

$$\begin{aligned}
 A^2 &= AA \\
 &= \underline{(PDP^{-1})(PDP^{-1})} \\
 &= (PD)(P^{-1}P)(DP^{-1}) \\
 &= \underline{(PD)(I)(DP^{-1})} \\
 &= (PD)(DP^{-1}) \\
 &= \underline{P(DD)P^{-1}} \\
 &= PD^2P^{-1} \quad \checkmark
 \end{aligned}$$

Induction: Assume true for $k = n$ (i.e. $A^n = PD^nP^{-1}$).

[Show true for $k = n + 1$.]

$$\begin{aligned}
 A^{n+1} &= A^n A \\
 &= \underline{(PD^nP^{-1})} (PDP^{-1}) \quad \text{by the induction assumption.} \\
 &= (PD^n)(P^{-1}P)(DP^{-1}) \\
 &= \underline{PD^n(I)DP^{-1}} \\
 &= PD^nDP^{-1} \\
 &= \underline{PD^{n+1}P^{-1}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, it is true for $k = n + 1$.

Therefore, by induction it is true for all $k \geq 2$.

[Note: It is true for $k = 1$ by the definition of similarity.] ■

DEF An $n \times n$ matrix A is said to be diagonalizable if there exists an invertible matrix P and a diagonal matrix D such that $A = PDP^{-1}$.

But how do we actually diagonalize a matrix A ? i.e. How do we find the matrices P and D ?

(rhetorical)

THEOREM The Diagonalization Theorem

An $n \times n$ matrix A is diagonalizable if and only if A has n linearly independent eigenvectors.

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

\Rightarrow : Let A be diagonalizable. [Show that A has n linearly independent eigenvectors.]

Then $A = PDP^{-1}$ for a diagonal matrix D and an $n \times n$ matrix P .

$\Rightarrow AP = PD$ by matrix multiplication and simplification.

Since A and D are similar, they have the same eigenvalues.

Hence the diagonal entries of D are the eigenvalues of A .

$$\text{i.e. } D = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Let $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n$ be the columns of P . That is $P = [\mathbf{v}_1 \ \mathbf{v}_2 \ \dots \ \mathbf{v}_n]$.

Then $AP = A[\mathbf{v}_1 \ \mathbf{v}_2 \ \dots \ \mathbf{v}_n] = [\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_1 \ \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_2 \ \dots \ \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_n]$.

$$\text{And } \underline{PD} = [\mathbf{v}_1 \ \mathbf{v}_2 \ \dots \ \mathbf{v}_n] \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} = [\lambda_1 \mathbf{v}_1 \ \lambda_2 \mathbf{v}_2 \ \dots \ \lambda_n \mathbf{v}_n]$$

Since these two products are equal (i.e. $AP = PD$), we have $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_1 = \lambda_1 \mathbf{v}_1$, $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_2 = \lambda_2 \mathbf{v}_2$, \dots , $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_n = \lambda_n \mathbf{v}_n$. (*)

[Before we can claim that these vectors are eigenvectors of A , we must show that they are nonzero.]

Since P is invertible, the Invertible Matrix Theorem says that the columns $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n$ form a linearly independent set.

Then all the vectors $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n$ are nonzero, otherwise they would be dependent.

Therefore, by (*), $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n$ are n eigenvectors of A , which are linearly independent.

\Leftarrow : Let A have n linearly independent eigenvectors. [Show that A is diagonalizable.]

Finish later as homework.

The previous proof shows us how to find P and D and thus diagonalize A . Complete the following corollary based on your work from the proof of the Diagonalization Theorem.

COROLLARY A matrix A is similar to a diagonal matrix D (i.e. $A = PDP^{-1}$) if and only if the columns of P are n linearly independent eigenvectors of A . Furthermore, the diagonal entries of D are the eigenvalues of A corresponding, *respectively*, to the eigenvectors in P .

Ex: Given that A is factored into the form PDP^{-1} below, use the corollary above to determine the eigenvalues of A and a basis for each eigenspace without performing any work.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 1/2 & 0 \\ 1/2 & -1/2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\lambda = 4 \text{ with basis: } \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

$$\lambda = -2 \text{ with basis: } \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

Homework: Finish proof, p. 4

Section 5.1, p. 271: #15, 19, 20, 21, 25, 27

Section 5.2, p. 279: #15, 17, 18, 21, 23, 24

Section 5.3, p. 286: #2, 3, 5