

Basic Linear Algebra
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Lecture - 32
Diagonalization and Real Symmetric Matrices - II

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Example

Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & -2 \\ 2 & 1 & -4 \\ 1 & -1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$. Find the eigenvalues and a basis of eigenvectors which diagonalizes A . Also write down a matrix X such that $X^{-1}AX$ is diagonal.

Solution:
 $D_A(\lambda) = -\lambda(\lambda^2 - 9) \Rightarrow \lambda = 0, \pm 3.$

$\lambda = -3$: Row reduction of $A + 3I = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 & -2 \\ 2 & 4 & -4 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ yields $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

$\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ as an eigenvector.

So let us look at one example to completely understand the process. So we are given this matrix A okay, so you want to find the eigenvalues and a basis consisting of eigenvectors to diagonalize this matrix A if possible right. So what is the first step? Find the eigenvalues. So look at determinant of $A - \lambda I$ so $A - \lambda I$ so along the diagonal you are subtracting λ , so here it will be $1 - \lambda$, $1 - \lambda$, $-2 - \lambda$ everything else remains the same.

Find determinant of that, so just written the answer here, it comes out $-\lambda$ times $\lambda^2 - 9$ that means $\lambda = 0$ and $\lambda = +3$ and -3 . So lucky here we have got 3 distinct eigenvalues right. So obviously because of the 3 distinct eigenvalues and matrices of order of 3×3 and each eigenvalue is going to give you a eigenvector and eigenvectors corresponding to distinct eigenvalues are linearly independent.

So for each eigenvalue will find a vector which is eigenvector, put them together, they will form a basis of consisting of eigenvectors. So that also will give me the matrix P which is going to diagonalize right because we are lucky here we have got 3 eigenvalues for 3×3

matrix. So let us just go through the process. For $\lambda = -3$, so what will be the matrix we will be looking at $A - \lambda I$, so λ is -3 so it becomes $A + 3I$ right, so that is the matrix.

And how do you find the null space or nullity? You have to reduce it to the row echelon form, so you are given here. The row echelon form is given by this okay. So once that is the row echelon form, what is the rank of the matrix? The rank of the matrix is 2. So what is the nullity? 1 right. So the eigenspace or the null space for this has only got dimension as 1 so how do you find that?

So you will find from here right $X_2 - X_3 = 0$ right, so $X_2 = X_3$. So you can give any value you like right. For the vector which does not have the pivot right that what does that give me $X_3 = 0$ anyway, sorry X_1 , the first one is X_1 , $X_1 = 0$. So $0 \ 1 \ 1$ is an eigenvector, is clear. Once you have gotten the reduced row echelon form, writing down the basis for the eigensubspace or basis for the null space is quite easy.

So for the eigenvalue $\lambda = -3$ $0 \ 1 \ 1$ is an eigenvector right or you can also say the null space is spanned by this vector, scalar times this also will be an eigenvector right. So for $\lambda = -3$ we have found.

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Example contd.

$\lambda = 0$: Row operations on A produces a matrix $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$.

Hence $\mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ is an eigenvector.

$\lambda = 3$: $A - 3I$ gives rise to $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$. Hence $\mathbf{v}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ is an eigenvector.

This enables us to write $X = [\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3] = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

$X^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 & 2 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$. Finally, $X^{-1}AX = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$.

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Let us go and do for $\lambda = 0$, so what will be $\lambda = 0$? $A - \lambda I$ that is the matrix A itself right. So that is the matrix and if you make it row operations, it becomes like this okay. So each again and again we have to look at $A - \lambda I$, reduce it to row echelon form and see

what is the dimension and find the basis. So again the rank is=nonzero number of rows is 2, so nullity is 1, so dimension is=1 right.

I will have only one eigenvector which spans this. So how do you find that? What is X_2 when the second equation $X_2 + 0X_1 - X_2 - X_3 = 0$, so what is X_2 ? 0, so you get 0 here. What is the first equation? $X_1 + 2X_1 - 2X_2 - 2X_3 = 0$. Which one gets the arbitrary value? X_3 , everything else is determinant of that. So X_3 you can give the value 1 just to be simple right. So give it 1 and compute X_2 is 0, compute X_1 , so you get the vector right.

Pivotal variables are computed in terms of non-pivotal variables. So arbitrary values are given to the non-pivotal variables. So here $X_1 + 0X_2$ right, so we got $X_2 = 0$ that is computing because there are right and the first one the non-pivotal variable X_2 is already determinant, the non-pivotal one is X_3 which can be given arbitrary value. So that arbitrary value we have given it as 1 and found everything in terms of that, so that is one eigenvector.

For the eigenvalue $\lambda = 0$, so let us do the same for $\lambda = 3$, so $\lambda = 3$ $A - \lambda I$ so that is $A - 3I$ right. Again same process, so if you do this is already in that, so if you do the row echelon form, this comes out to be this. So what is the rank again? Rank again is 2, nullity is again 1. See we have got 3 distinct eigenvalues, so rank of each null space is going to be 1 anyway.

It cannot be more right because each vector is going to be there and they are going to be linearly independent. So if you are getting something else then you are making a mistake in your computations. So again so for here you get X_3 is=the second equation gives you $X_3 = 0$ so that is=0. In the first equation, $X_1 - X_2 + X_3 = 0$, X_3 is given the arbitrary value, X_3 has been determinant, X_2 is given the arbitrary value, so X_2, X_3 are known, X_1 can be computed from that right.

Because this is $X_3 = 0$, so X_3 is known and from the first equation X_3 is known, X_2 is given as the arbitrary value that is non-pivotal variable and X_1 is determinant in terms of X_2 and X_3 . So that gives you 1 1 0 okay. So once you have got the 3 eigenvectors right, you can write them as the columns, so that is your matrix P or X whichever way you want to call it okay, so the first eigenvector, second eigenvector and the third eigenvector okay.

As the columns, I think there is a mistake here right. This v_3 this should be 0 here right, so once that is done, you check that $X^{-1}AX$ is equal to this or simply $AX = X$ times diagonal. If you do not want to compute X^{-1} , you can just verify that okay. So it is clear? How do you find given a matrix to see if it is eigen variable or not, first step find eigenvalues, characteristic polynomial and see what are the roots.

If all roots are distinct, you are lucky, will find eigenvectors for each, write down the columns of the matrix as eigenvectors and you get the matrix P which is invertible which will diagonalize it. If not, you have to see whether you are getting as many independent eigenvectors. The nullity is same as the algebraic multiplicity of that eigenvalue. If that is the case, again you are lucky (()) (08:42) right. If not, it is not diagonalizable right okay.

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Example

Consider the matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 4 & 2 \\ -2 & 1 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

The characteristic polynomial of A is

$$= \begin{vmatrix} 3-\lambda & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 4-\lambda & 2 \\ -2 & 1 & 5-\lambda \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= (3-\lambda)[(4-\lambda)(5-\lambda)-2]$$

$$= (3-\lambda)(6-\lambda)(\lambda-3).$$

Thus, A has two eigenvalues $\lambda = 3, 6$.

Thus $\lambda = 3$ has algebraic multiplicity 2 and $\lambda = 6$ has algebraic multiplicity 1.

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So another example okay. I want to do many examples, so that it is very clear what we are doing, so A is the matrix given like this $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 4 & 2 \\ -2 & 1 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$. So how you will write the characteristic polynomial? Diagonal entries becomes $3-\lambda$, $4-\lambda$ and $5-\lambda$, everything else remains the same $A-\lambda I$ right. So write that, find determinant of that matrix okay, so you can expand by any row or column.

But because here are 0s coming, so it is good to expand it by the first row itself. So $3-\lambda$ multiplied by, this goes, this multiplied by this, so that -2 right and simplify, it comes out to be this. So that means what? If that is the characteristic polynomial factorize, that means $\lambda=3$ is an eigenvalue and $\lambda=6$ is another eigenvalue. So this matrix has got only 2 eigenvalues, it is $3/3$, it has got only 2 eigenvalues and the root $\lambda=3$ is repeated right.

That means the eigenvalue $\lambda=3$ has got algebraic multiplicity as 2. $\lambda=6$ has got algebraic multiplicity=1. Total of algebraic multiplicity has to be equal to the order anyway because they are roots of that degree right okay. So that has algebraic multiplicity 1. So for $\lambda=6$ there is no problem because only one solution is going to be there which is going to span right, dimension is going to be 1, so you can do that process.

We will have to see for $\lambda=3$ what happens? What is the null space? We have to find the geometric multiplicity of the eigenvalue $\lambda=3$. If it is 2, then you are lucky, then you can diagonalize. If not, then it is not diagonalizing, so let us check what happens.

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Example

Let us eigenvector for the eigenvalue $\lambda = 3$. Note that

$$A - 3I = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 1 & 2 \\ -2 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 1 & 2 \\ -2 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Thus $A - 3I_n$ has rank 1 and hence

$$\mathcal{N}(A - 3I_n) = E_3(A) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \frac{x_2}{2} + x_3 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} \mid x_2, x_3 \in \mathbb{R} \right\}.$$

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So $\lambda=3$, so $A-3I$ so that is this matrix and you reduce it to row echelon form that comes out to be this right. Again and again since beginning, the only thing which is playing a role is how to make a matrix in the row echelon form or reduced row echelon form. If you know that, there is nothing much in the course as such other than understanding the concepts okay. So what is the dimension of this? Sorry, what is the rank?

What is the rank of this matrix $A-3I$? Rank is 1 because only one nonzero row right. So that means what nullity is=3-1 that is 2, so we are lucky. Nullity is 2 that means we should be able to find two linearly independent eigenvectors for this eigenvalue $\lambda=3$ because the reduced row echelon form or row echelon form says its nullity is 2 right. So how do you find that? What is the process of finding all solutions are linearly independent solutions for the null space?

What is the pivotal variable? x_1 , x_2 and x_3 will get arbitrary values. So the idea is you give x_2 and x_3 arbitrary values, so that they become independent right. So one choice is give $x_2=1$, $x_3=0$ one choice and find x_1 and the other choice is give $x_2=0$ and $x_3=1$ and find out x_1 in terms of that. Those will automatically become linearly independent, so that is what we do. So rank is 1 okay. So what is the null space?

You can give x_2 and x_3 arbitrary values right that is what we said x_2 and x_3 arbitrary values and find x_1 in terms of x_2 and x_3 . So that is how you write, it consist of all vectors of this form where x_2 and x_3 are arbitrary right. That is writing the null space and to find the basis, so this gives you the dimension is=2.

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Example

Hence $E_3(A)$ has dimension 2 and a basis is obtained by selecting $x_2 = 1$, $x_3 = 0$, and $x_2 = 0$, $x_3 = 1$:

$$X_1 = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, X_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

These two solutions are linearly independent.
Thus, we have linearly independent eigenvector for the eigenvalues $\lambda = 3$.

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And find the basis, so you give first $x_2=1$, $x_3=0$ and second choice $x_2=0$ and $x_3=1$. So once you do that, you will get x_1 and x_2 , you get two eigenvectors for the same eigenvalue $\lambda=3$ and they will automatically be linearly independent, you can just check anyway but it is not the issue at all because you have already done these kind of things, so these two are linearly independent.

So you have got two linearly independent eigenvectors for the same eigenvalue λ . For $\lambda=6$, we are going to get anyway one eigenvector, so you got 3 eigenvectors which are linearly independent, so matrix will be diagonalizable okay. So let us compute that.

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Example

Similarly, for $\lambda = 6$, since

$$A - 6I = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & -2 & 2 \\ -2 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} -3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

it has rank 2 and hence, its nullity is 1.
Further, given by

$$E_6(A) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \alpha \\ \alpha \end{bmatrix} \mid \alpha \in \mathbb{R} \right\}.$$

For example for $\alpha = 1$, we get

$$\mathbf{x}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

an eigenvector for the eigenvalue $\lambda = 6$.

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So $A - 6I$, so that gives you this. So its rank is = 2 as it should be because it is an eigenvalue and multiplicity 1, it cannot be more than 1. It has to be something at least 1 okay, so and what how will you get the solution? $X_2 - X_3 = 0$, X_3 will be given as the arbitrary value and X_2 determinant in terms of that right and those two values when they put here you get the value of X_1 but anyway X_1 gives you X_1 everything = 0, so X_1 is 0 anyway from there right.

The first equation gives you $X_1 = 0$, so you get the eigen-subspace corresponding to that is 0, alpha alpha when you put that value okay. Alpha is equal to right, is it clear? $X_2 - X_3 = 0$, so $X_2 = X_3$ right. So you put the value = alpha you got $X_2 = \alpha$, so you can make a choice, you can take any alpha you like right, the span right. So one eigenvector which will solve you, is one-dimensional so any vector nonzero vector will span, so will have to take alpha = 1, so 0 1 1 is an eigenvector for the eigenvalue lambda = 6 right.

So once that is obtained, we have got 3 eigenvectors corresponding to 2 eigenvalues but they are all linearly independent.

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Example



Since algebraic multiplicities of both the eigenvalues equals the respective geometric multiplicities, A is diagonalizable.
Let

$$P := [X_1 \ X_2 \ X_3] = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Since, $\det(P) \neq 0$, P is invertible. Thus $\{X_1, X_2, X_3\}$ is a linearly independent set and $P^{-1}AP$ is diagonal, i.e.,

$$P^{-1}AP = D = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Let us verify this.

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So we get the matrix the first one eigenvector, the second and the third, put them together you get the matrix P , determinant of this is not 0 because they are linearly independent, you can check also, so it is invertible and P inverse AP should be equal to diagonal, this is again a mistake here. This should be 3 3 n, there should be 6, the third eigenvalue right.

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Example

$$AP = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 4 & 2 \\ -2 & 1 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 3 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 3 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

and

$$PD = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 3 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 3 & 6 \end{bmatrix}.$$



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So check, so you can check by computing P inverse, you can compute P inverse AP and see it comes out diagonal or $A*P$ is same as $P*$ the diagonal matrix right 3 3 6, so either way you should check. So that is verification of that, actually you are getting a diagonal matrix. Is it clear diagonalization process? Everything clear to everybody? Yes, okay.