

7.1

Diagonalization of symmetric matrices

①

A square  $n \times n$  matrix is symmetric if

$$A^T = A$$

$\Leftrightarrow$  The  $(i,j)$  entry of  $A$  = the  $(j,i)$ -entry of  $A$

Ex 1  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  symmetric

$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  symmetric

$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 10 \\ 3 & -1 & 7 \\ 10 & 7 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$  symmetric

Recall  $P$  is orthogonal (say  $n \times n$ )

$\Leftrightarrow$  the columns of  $P$  form an orthonormal basis of  $\mathbb{R}^n$

$P = [u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n]$   $\|u_i\| = 1$   
 $u_i \cdot u_j = 0$  if  $i \neq j$

$\Leftrightarrow P$  is invertible and  $P^{-1} = P^T$

Ex 2  $P = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} & \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \end{bmatrix}$   
 $u_1$        $u_2$        $u_3$

$\|u_i\| = 1$   
 $u_1 \cdot u_2 = 0$   
 $u_2 \cdot u_3 = 0$   
 $u_1 \cdot u_3 = 0$

$P^{-1} = P^T$        $P^T P = P P^T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

Recall  $A$  is diagonalizable if there is (2)  
 $n \times n$  a basis of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  consisting of  
eigenvectors of  $A$

$v_1, \dots, v_n$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  basis.  $A v_i = \lambda_i v_i$   
for  $i=1, \dots, n$ .

$\Leftrightarrow$  there  $P$  invertible and there is  
 $D$  diagonal matrix such that

$$A = P D P^{-1} = P \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix} P^{-1}$$

Key fact: Can choose  $P = [v_1, \dots, v_n]$

Def'n An  $n \times n$  matrix is  
orthogonally diagonalizable

if it is diagonalizable and moreover  
can choose  $P$  to be an orthogonal  
matrix.

Thm An  $n \times n$  matrix is  
orthogonally diagonalizable  $\Leftrightarrow A$  is symmetric.

Remark " $\Rightarrow$ " Say  $A = P D P^T$

$$A^T = (P D P^T)^T = (P^T)^T D^T P^T$$

$$\underline{\underline{A^T}} = \underline{\underline{P}} \underline{\underline{D}} \underline{\underline{P^T}} = \underline{\underline{A}}$$

$$((EF)^T = F^T E^T)$$

Thm (The spectral theorem for symmetric matrices) (3)

Suppose  $A$  is symmetric. Then

(1)  $A$  has  $n$  real eigenvalues counting multiplicities

(2) For each eigenvalue  $\lambda$   
 $\dim(\underbrace{\text{Nul}(A - \lambda I)}_{\text{eigenspace}}) = \text{algebraic multiplicity of } \lambda$

(3) Eigenspaces are mutually orthogonal  
namely if  $Av_1 = \lambda_1 v_1$   $Av_2 = \lambda_2 v_2$   
and  $\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$  then  $v_1 \cdot v_2 = 0$ .

(4)  $A$  is orthogonally diagonalizable.

Ex 3 Diagonalize  $A = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 2 & 2 \\ 2 & -1 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$   $A = PDP^T$   
 $P$  orthogonal

First find eigenvalues

$$\det(A - \lambda I) = \begin{vmatrix} -1 - \lambda & 2 & 2 \\ 2 & -1 - \lambda & 2 \\ 2 & 2 & -1 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} =$$

$$= -(\lambda + 3)^2(\lambda - 3) = 0$$

$$\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = -3 \quad \lambda_3 = 3$$

Next eigenspaces

For  $\lambda = -3$   $A - \lambda I = A + 3I = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \leftarrow \begin{matrix} \text{rank} = 1 \\ \text{nullity} = 2 \end{matrix}$$

$$(A + 3I)x = 0 \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

$$x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 0 \quad s + t$$

$$x_2 = s$$

$$x_1 = -s - t$$

$$x_3 = t$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -s - t \\ s \\ t \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= s \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

↙ ↘ basis of eigenvectors for  $\lambda = -3$

$$p_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

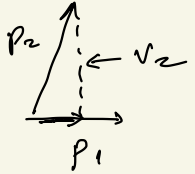
$$p_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

basis of Null  $(A + 3I)$   
but not orthonormal  
basis

Apply Gram-Schmidt

$$v_1 = p_1$$

$$v_2 = p_2 - \frac{p_2 \cdot p_1}{p_1 \cdot p_1} p_1$$



$$v_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$v_1, v_2$  orthonormal basis hence

$$\frac{v_1}{\|v_1\|} = u_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$u_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \\ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \\ \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{v_2}{\|v_2\|}$$

↙ ↘ orthonormal eigenvectors  
for  $\lambda = -3$

For  $\lambda = 3$

multiplicity = 1

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

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 - x_3 &= 0 \\ x_2 - x_3 &= 0 \\ x_3 &= s \end{aligned} \quad \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} s \\ s \\ s \end{bmatrix} = s \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

rank = 2  
nullity = 1

$$u_3 = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \end{bmatrix}$$

observe that  $u_3 \cdot u_1 = 0$      $u_3 \cdot u_2 = 0$

$$P = [u_1, u_2, u_3] = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \\ 0 & \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A = P D P^T \quad D = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Spectral decomposition of A symmetric

$$A = \lambda_1 \underline{u_1 u_1^T} + \dots + \lambda_n \underline{u_n u_n^T}$$

Note:  $u_i$   $u_i^T$   $u_i u_i^T$   $n \times n$   
 $n \times 1$   $1 \times n$

Ex 4

Find spec. decom for A from Ex 3

$$u_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad u_1 u_1^T = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (6)$$

$$u_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \\ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \\ \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}} \end{bmatrix} \quad u_2 u_2^T = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{6} & \frac{1}{6} & -\frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{1}{6} & \frac{1}{6} & -\frac{1}{3} \\ -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{2}{3} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$u_3 = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \\ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \end{bmatrix} \quad u_3 u_3^T = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\rightarrow A = (-3) u_1 u_1^T + (-3) u_2 u_2^T + 3 u_3 u_3^T$$

Spectral decomposition of A

Remark (Intuition)

$$\text{If } E_i = u_i u_i^T$$

$$\text{and } x \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^n \quad E_i x = \text{Proj}_{\text{Span}(u_i)} x$$

$$\text{Ex: } A = -I_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} = 1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + 2 \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + 3 \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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