

# Section 7.1 symmetric matrix : $A = A^t$ (symmetric across the diag $A$ )

↳ square matrix

**THEOREM 1**

If  $A$  is symmetric, then any two eigenvectors from different eigenspaces are orthogonal.

$$\begin{matrix} \lambda_1 \leftrightarrow v_1 \\ \lambda_2 \leftrightarrow v_2 \end{matrix} \Rightarrow v_1 \text{ is orthogonal to } v_2$$

**THEOREM 2**

An  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  is orthogonally diagonalizable if and only if  $A$  is a symmetric matrix.

def:  $A$  is called orthogonally diagonalizable if there exist an orthogonal matrix ( $P^t = P^{-1}$ )  $P$  & a diagonal matrix  $D$  such that  $A = P D P^{-1}$

**THEOREM 3**

The Spectral Theorem for Symmetric Matrices

An  $n \times n$  symmetric matrix  $A$  has the following properties:

- a.  $A$  has  $n$  real eigenvalues, counting multiplicities.
- b. The dimension of the eigenspace for each eigenvalue  $\lambda$  equals the multiplicity of  $\lambda$  as a root of the characteristic equation.
- ~~that~~ c. The eigenspaces are mutually orthogonal, in the sense that eigenvectors corresponding to different eigenvalues are orthogonal.
- ~~that~~ d.  $A$  is orthogonally diagonalizable.

## Spectral Decomposition

Suppose  $A = PDP^{-1}$ , where the columns of  $P$  are orthonormal eigenvectors  $\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_n$  of  $A$  and the corresponding eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  are in the diagonal matrix  $D$ . Then, since  $P^{-1} = P^T$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} A = PDP^T &= [\mathbf{u}_1 \quad \cdots \quad \mathbf{u}_n] \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}_1^T \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{u}_n^T \end{bmatrix} \\ &= [\lambda_1 \mathbf{u}_1 \quad \cdots \quad \lambda_n \mathbf{u}_n] \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}_1^T \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{u}_n^T \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Using the column–row expansion of a product (Theorem 10 in Section 2.4), we can write

$$A = \lambda_1 \mathbf{u}_1 \mathbf{u}_1^T + \lambda_2 \mathbf{u}_2 \mathbf{u}_2^T + \cdots + \lambda_n \mathbf{u}_n \mathbf{u}_n^T \quad (2)$$