

Lecture 37: §9.7 Similarities & Diagonalization

Recall: An $n \times n$ real matrix A is diagonalizable over $\mathbb{C}$ if $A \sim D$ where $D = \begin{pmatrix} d_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & d_n \end{pmatrix}$ is a diagonal matrix in $\text{Mat}_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$

So $D = S^{-1} A S$ $\Leftrightarrow S \in \text{Mat}_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$ nonsingular ($\det S \neq 0$)

- $\{d_1, \dots, d_n\}$ are the eigenvalues of A (with possible repetitions)
- If $S = [\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n]$ then $A \vec{v}_1 = d_1 \vec{v}_1$
 $A \vec{v}_2 = d_2 \vec{v}_2$
 $A \vec{v}_n = d_n \vec{v}_n$ & $\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n\}$ is a basis for $\mathbb{C}^n$ (basis of eigenvectors!)
- S invertible so $S^{-1} = \frac{\text{Cof}(S)^T}{\det(S)}$, also $(S | I_n) \xrightarrow[\text{row-operations}]{GT} (I_n | S^{-1})$

Conclusion: A is diagonalizable over $\mathbb{C}$ means $\mathbb{C}^n$ has a basis of eigenvectors

Real Symmetric Matrices

Diagonalizable over $\mathbb{R}$!

Theorem: Fix A $n \times n$ real symmetric matrix. Then:

- ① A has only real eigenvalues $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ (possibly repeated!) L35
- ② $\mathbb{R}^n$ has an orthonormal basis B of eigenvectors for A
that is, $B = \{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n\}$ with $v_i \in E_{\lambda_i}(A)$. and $v_i \cdot v_j = \begin{cases} 0 & i \neq j \\ 1 & i = j \end{cases}$
- ③
$$\begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} = Q^T A Q \quad \text{with } Q = [\vec{v}_1 \dots \vec{v}_n]$$

($Q^{-1} = Q^T$ because B is orthonormal!)

Why diagonalize?

A: We can perform power operations very fast!

Proposition: ① If $D = S^{-1}AS$, then $A^k = S D^k S^{-1}$ for all $k=1,2,\dots$
($A \sim D$)

② If $D = \begin{pmatrix} d_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & d_n \end{pmatrix}$, then $D^k = \begin{pmatrix} d_1^k & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & d_n^k \end{pmatrix}$ for all $k=1,2,\dots$

If D is invertible, the same formulas work for $k=-1, -2, \dots$

Example (last time) $A = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -6 \\ 3 & -4 \end{bmatrix}$ $P_A(\lambda) = (\lambda - 2)(\lambda + 1)$ $E_{-1} = \text{Sp} \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right)$
 $E_2 = \text{Sp} \left(\begin{bmatrix} ? \\ ? \end{bmatrix} \right)$

Diagonalization over $\mathbb{R}$ vs over $\mathbb{C}$

Fix A an $n \times n$ matrix with entries in $\mathbb{R}$.

Theorem: ① A is diagonalizable over $\mathbb{R}$ if, and only if, all eigenvalues of A are real & $\mathbb{R}^n$ has a basis of eigenvectors for A .

② A is diagonalizable over $\mathbb{C}$ if, and only if, $\mathbb{C}^n$ has a basis of eigenvectors for A .

• Diagonalization of A over $\mathbb{C}$ = basis for $\mathbb{C}^n$ with eigenvectors

Diagonalizable = nm-defective

A in $\text{Mat}_{n \times n}(\mathbb{R})$

[L33]

Proposition: Pick $\{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_p\}$ distinct eigenvalues for A & $S = \{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p\}$ with $\vec{v}_i \neq \vec{0}$ & $A\vec{v}_i = \lambda_i \vec{v}_i$. Then S is li

Consequence: If $\{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_r\}$ are all the eigenvalues of A (in $\mathbb{C}$) & $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} E_{\lambda_i}(A) = \text{mult}(\lambda_i, P_A)$ for $i=1, \dots, r$, then $\mathbb{C}^n$ has a basis of eigenvectors.

Example:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 25 & -8 & 30 \\ 24 & -7 & 30 \\ -12 & 4 & -14 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow P_A(\lambda) &= -\lambda^3 + 4\lambda^2 - 5\lambda + 2 \\ &= -(\lambda - 1)^2 (\lambda - 2) \end{aligned}$$