

Example $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 4 & 6 \end{pmatrix}$

$$\begin{aligned}\chi_A(\lambda) &= \det(\lambda I - A) \\ &= \det \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & \lambda-2 & 1 \\ -1 & -4 & \lambda-6 \end{pmatrix}\end{aligned}$$

$$= \lambda((\lambda-2)(\lambda-6) - (-4))$$

$$= \lambda(\lambda^2 - 8\lambda + 16)$$

$$= \lambda(\lambda-4)^2$$

so eigenvalues are 0 and 4

Finding eigenvectors:

Once we've found the eigenvalues, we can find the eigenspaces by solving

$$(\lambda I - A)\underline{x} = \underline{0} \quad \text{for each eigenvalue } \lambda$$

Example : $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 4 & 6 \end{pmatrix}$ e-values are 0 and 4

0-eigenvectors: ^{solve} $(0I - A)\underline{x} = \underline{0}$

i.e. solve $A\underline{x} = \underline{0}$

by Gaussian elimination:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 4 & 6 \end{pmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 & 6 \\ 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 & 6 \\ 0 & -2 & -7 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -8 \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{7}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \longleftarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 & 6 \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{7}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

so solutions are $\begin{pmatrix} z=t \\ x=8t \\ y=-\frac{7}{2}t \end{pmatrix}$

these are the 0-eigenvectors

4-eigenvectors ; solve $(4I - A)x = 0$

i.e. solve $\begin{pmatrix} 4 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 4 & -2 \\ -1 & -4 & 4 & -6 \end{pmatrix} \underline{x} = \underline{0}$

$\rightsquigarrow$
i.e. $\begin{pmatrix} 4 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & 1 \\ -1 & -4 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \underline{x} = \underline{0}$

solve it
get a line of solutions
(one parameter)

Example:

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

$$\begin{aligned} \chi_A(\lambda) &= \det(\lambda I - A) \\ &= \det \begin{pmatrix} \lambda-2 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda-2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda-2 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= (\lambda-2)^3 \end{aligned}$$

so only e-value is 2

the 2-eigenvectors are the non-0 solutions
to $(2I - A)x = 0$

$$2I - A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

solve $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$

solutions are:

$$z = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} t \\ 0 \\ s \end{pmatrix} \quad t \text{ and } s \text{ arbitrary}$$

Diagonalisation:

Definition:

$n \times n$ matrices A and B are similar

if there is an invertible matrix P such that

$$A = P^{-1} B P$$

An $n \times n$ matrix is diagonalisable if it is similar to a diagonal matrix
i.e. there exists invertible P such that

$$P^{-1} A P \text{ is diagonal}$$

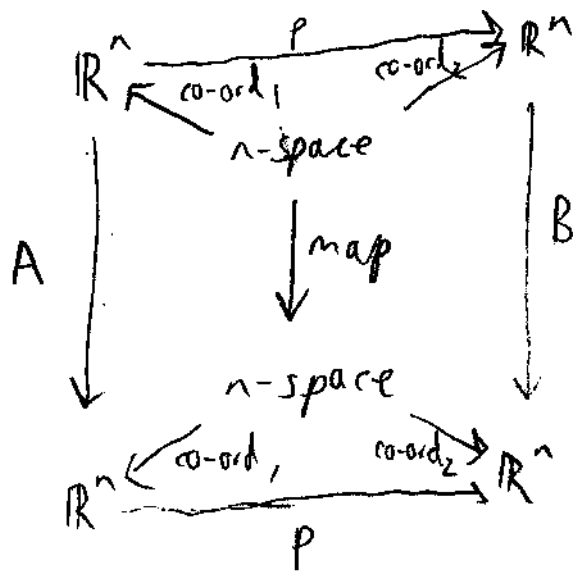
we then say that P diagonalises A .

what this really means (not on the syllabus):

A and B are similar iff they are representations

of the same ^(possibly) map from n -space to itself
with respect to different co-ordinatisations.

P is the "change of co-ordinates" matrix which maps the co-ordinates of a point according to A 's co-ordinatisation to the co-ordinates of that point with respect to B 's co-ordinatisation.



Remarks: If A and B are similar, say $A = P^{-1}BP$

then $\therefore B = (P^{-1})^{-1}AP^{-1}$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \det(A) &= \det(P^{-1}BP) = \det(P^{-1})\det(B)\det(P) \\ &= \det(P)^{-1}\det(B)\det(P) \\ &= \det(B) \end{aligned}$$

$\bullet$ A and B have the same e-values

since if $A\underline{x} = \lambda\underline{x}$, $\underline{x} \neq \underline{0}$

$$\text{then } P^{-1}BP\underline{x} = \lambda\underline{x}$$

$$\text{so } BP\underline{x} = P\lambda\underline{x}$$

$$\text{so } B(P\underline{x}) = \lambda(P\underline{x})$$

and $P\underline{x} \neq \underline{0}$ since P is invertible

so λ is a B e-value

Using diagonalisation to find powers:

If A is diagonalisable, say $P^{-1}AP = D$ is diagonal,

$$\text{then } A = PDP^{-1}$$

so $A^2 = (PDP^{-1})(PDP^{-1}) = PDP^{-1}PDP^{-1}$
 $= PD^2P^{-1}$

generally $A^k = PD^kP^{-1}$

finding D^k is easy: just raise the diagonal entries
to the k th power

so finding A^k is quite easy!