

Solutions Day 34, F 3/22/2024

Topic 16: Eigenstuff (day 1)

Jeremy Orloff

Problem 1. (*Eigenstuff and linearity*) Say A is a 3×3 matrix with eigenvalues $\lambda = 3, 4, 5$

and corresponding eigenvectors $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

Compute $A \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, A \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right), A \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

Solution: $A \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 3 \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ by the definition of eigenvalue and eigenvector.

Likewise $A \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = A \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + A \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 3 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + 4 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 6 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}$.

By inspection we see, $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$. So,

$$A \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = A \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - A \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 3 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - 4 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 6 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Problem 2. Find the eigenvalues and a basis for each eigenspace of the given matrices. Check your answer by multiplying the matrix times the vector.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 5 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 4 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Solution: A : characteristic equation: $|A - \lambda I| = \begin{vmatrix} 6 - \lambda & 5 \\ 1 & 2 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = \lambda^2 - 8\lambda + 7 = 0$.

Roots: 1, 7 (eigenvalues)

Eigenspaces:

$$\lambda = 1: A - \lambda I = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 5 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \overbrace{\text{basis for Null}(A - I)}^{\text{basis for eigenspace}} \text{ is } \begin{bmatrix} -5 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \text{ or better } \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$\lambda = 7: A - \lambda I = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 5 \\ 1 & -5 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \overbrace{\text{basis for Null}(A - 7I)}^{\text{basis for eigenspace}} \text{ is } \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$\text{Check: } A \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 5 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 1 \cdot \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \blacksquare$$

$$A \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 5 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 35 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix} = 7 \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \blacksquare$$

Summary: eigenvalue/eigenvector pairs for A are

$$\begin{array}{l} \lambda = 1, \quad 7 \\ \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{array}.$$

$$B: \text{ characteristic equation } |B - \lambda I| = \begin{vmatrix} 1 - \lambda & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 4 - \lambda & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = (1 - \lambda)(4 - \lambda)(6 - \lambda) = 0.$$

Eigenvalues (roots): $\lambda = 1, 4, 6$. (B is triangular, so eigenvalues = diagonal entries.)

Eigenspaces:

$$\lambda = 1: \quad B - \lambda I = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 3 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix}. \text{ We need a basis of } \text{Null}(B - I). \text{ Using row reduction to find}$$

the RREF we get

$$\begin{array}{l} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \text{basis of eigenspace} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ (eigenvector associated with } \lambda = 1) \\ \text{F} \quad \text{P} \quad \text{P} \\ 1 \quad 0 \quad 0 \end{array}.$$

$$\lambda = 4: \quad B - \lambda I = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}. \text{ Find the null space by row reduction:}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{RREF} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2/3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \text{basic eigenvector} = \begin{bmatrix} 2/3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ or } \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{P} \quad \text{F} \quad \text{P} \\ 2/3 \quad 1 \quad 0 \end{array}$$

$$\lambda = 6: \quad B - \lambda I = \begin{bmatrix} -5 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & -2 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}. \text{ Find the null space by row reduction.}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{RREF} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -8/5 \\ 0 & 1 & -5/2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \text{basic eigenvector} = \begin{bmatrix} 8/5 \\ 5/2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}. \\ \text{P} \quad \text{P} \quad \text{F} \\ 8/5 \quad 5/2 \quad 1 \end{array}$$

Summary:

$$\begin{array}{l} \lambda = 1, \quad 4, \quad 6 \\ \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} 8/5 \\ 5/2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{array}.$$

Check:

$$\begin{aligned}
 B \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 4 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \blacksquare \\
 B \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 4 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 12 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = 4 \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 12 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \blacksquare \\
 B \begin{bmatrix} 8/5 \\ 5/2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 4 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 8/5 \\ 5/2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 48/5 \\ 15 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} = 6 \begin{bmatrix} 8/5 \\ 5/2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \blacksquare
 \end{aligned}$$

Problem 3. (*Complex λ*) $A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 5 \\ -5 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$ –same instructions as Problem 2.

Solution: Characteristic equation: $|A - \lambda I| = \begin{vmatrix} 3 - \lambda & 5 \\ -5 & 3 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = (3 - \lambda)^2 + 25 = 0.$

Eigenvalues (roots): $(3 - \lambda)^2 = -25 \Rightarrow 3 - \lambda = \pm 5i \Rightarrow \lambda = 3 \pm 5i.$

Eigenspaces

$\lambda = 3 + 5i:$ $A - \lambda I = \begin{bmatrix} -5i & 5 \\ -5 & -5i \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{2 \times 2 \text{ trick}} \text{basic eigenvector} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 5i \end{bmatrix} \text{ or } \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix}.$

$\lambda = 3 - 5i:$ Eigenvector = conjugate of one for $3 + 5i:$ $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -i \end{bmatrix}.$

Summary of eigenvalue/vector pairs: $\boxed{\begin{array}{l} \lambda = 3 + 5i \quad 3 - 5i \\ \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -i \end{bmatrix} \end{array}}.$

Check: $A \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 5 \\ -5 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 + 5i \\ -5 + 3i \end{bmatrix} = (3 + 5i) \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix} \quad \blacksquare$

(The other pair is similar.)

Problem 4. (*Diagonal matrices*) Same instructions as Problem 2.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Solution: Eigenvalues are diagonal entries. Eigenvectors are corresponding standard basis vectors.

For A: $\boxed{\begin{array}{l} \lambda = 2, \quad 3 \\ \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{array}}$ For B: $\boxed{\begin{array}{l} \lambda = 2, \quad 3, \quad 4 \\ \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{array}}$

Checking this is easy.

Problem 5. (Repeated λ) Same instructions as Problem 2.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad C = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Why is B called 'defective'?

Solution: A is diagonal, so

$$\boxed{\begin{array}{l} \lambda = 2, \quad 2 \\ \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{array}}$$

B is triangular, so eigenvalues = diagonal entries: 2, 2.

Eigenspace for $\lambda = 2$.

$$B - 2I = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{basis of Null}(B - 2I) \text{ is } \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (\text{one dimensional}).$$

F P
1 0

Summary

$$\boxed{\begin{array}{l} \lambda = 2, 2 \\ \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{array}} \quad (2 \text{ eigenvalues, only 1 independent eigenvector.})$$

This is called defective because there aren't the expected number of independent eigenvectors.

C is triangular, so eigenvalues = diagonal entries: 2, 3, 2.

Eigenspaces:

$$\lambda = 2: \quad C - 2I = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{swap } R_1, R_2} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{Basic eigenvectors: } \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

F P F
1 0 0
0 -2 1

$$\lambda = 3: \quad C - 3I = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{RREF}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{Basic eigenvector: } \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

P F P
0 1 0

Summary

$$\boxed{\begin{array}{l} \lambda = 2, 2, \quad 3 \\ \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{array}}.$$

MIT OpenCourseWare

<https://ocw.mit.edu>

ES.1803 Differential Equations

Spring 2024

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <https://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.