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Theorem 3.5.23 The eigenvectors corresponding to two distinct eigen values of a real symmetric matrix are orthogonal.

Proof: Let  $A$  be a real symmetric matrix. Let  $X_1, X_2$  be two eigenvectors of  $A$  corresponding to two distinct eigen values  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$

$$\text{Then } AX_1 = \lambda_1 X_1 \text{ and } AX_2 = \lambda_2 X_2$$

$$\text{Now } AX_1 = \lambda_1 X_1 \Rightarrow (AX_1)^t = (\lambda_1 X_1)^t = \lambda_1 X_1^t$$

$$\text{as } \lambda_1 \text{ is real. } \Rightarrow X_1^t A = \lambda_1 X_1^t \text{ as } A^t = A.$$

Multiplying by  $X_2$  from the right, we have

$$X_1^t A X_2 = \lambda_1 X_1^t X_2$$

$$\text{or, } X_1^t (\lambda_2 X_2) = \lambda_1 X_1^t X_2$$

$$\text{or, } (\lambda_2 - \lambda_1) X_1^t X_2 = 0$$

As  $\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$ , so  $X_1^t X_2 = 0$ . Since  $X_1 \neq 0$ ,

$X_2 \neq 0$ , it follows that  $X_1$  is orthogonal to  $X_2$ .

Theorem 3.5.24 Each eigen value of a real orthogonal matrix has unit modulus

Proof: Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  real orthogonal matrix. Then  $A^t A = A A^t = I_n$ . The eigen values

of  $A$  are in general, complex numbers, none of which may be purely real. Let  $\lambda$  be

an eigen value of  $A$ . Then  $\det(A - \lambda I_n) = 0$

So,  $\exists$  a non-null solution of the homogeneous system  $(A - \lambda I_n)X = 0$ . That is,  $\det X_1$  is one such solution. Then  $(A - \lambda I_n)X_1 = 0$  or,  $AX_1 = \lambda X_1$ .

Taking transpose of the conjugate, we have

$$\overline{(AX_1)}^t = \overline{(\lambda X_1)}^t$$

$$\text{or, } (\overline{X_1})^t (\overline{A})^t = \overline{\lambda} (\overline{X_1})^t$$

$$\text{or, } (\overline{X_1})^t A^t = \overline{\lambda} (\overline{X_1})^t \text{ since } (\overline{A})^t = A^t$$

Multiplying  $AX_1$  from the right, we have

$$(\overline{X_1})^t A^t (AX_1) = \overline{\lambda} (\overline{X_1})^t (AX_1)$$

$$\text{or, } (\overline{X_1})^t (A^t A) X_1 = \overline{\lambda} (\overline{X_1})^t \lambda X_1$$

$$\text{or, } (\overline{X_1})^t X_1 = \lambda \overline{\lambda} (\overline{X_1})^t X_1 \text{ since } A^t A = I_n$$

$$\text{This implies } (1 - \lambda \overline{\lambda}) (\overline{X_1})^t X_1 = 0$$

$$\text{Since } X_1 \text{ is non-null, } (\overline{X_1})^t X_1 \neq 0,$$

$$\text{it follows that } \lambda \overline{\lambda} = 1 \text{ or, } |\lambda| = 1$$

This proves the theorem.

### Worked Examples

1. If  $\lambda$  be an eigenvalue of a real orthogonal matrix  $A$  then  $\frac{1}{\lambda}$  is an eigen value of  $A$ .

Solution: Let  $A$  be an orthogonal matrix. Then

$$AA^t = A^t A = I_n \text{ and } A \text{ is non-singular.}$$

Since  $A$  is non-singular,  $\lambda \neq 0$ . Since  $\lambda$

$$\text{is an eigen value of } A, \text{ let } (A - \lambda I_n) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \det(A - \lambda A A^t) = 0$$

$$\text{or, } \det A \det(I_n - \lambda A^t) = 0$$

$$\text{or, } \det(I_n - \lambda A^t) = 0 \quad \text{as } \det A \neq 0$$

$$\text{or, } (-1)^n \lambda^n \det(A^t - \frac{1}{\lambda} I_n) = 0$$

$$\text{or, } \det(A^t - \frac{1}{\lambda} I_n) = 0 \quad \text{as } \lambda \neq 0$$

$$\text{or, } \det(A - \frac{1}{\lambda} I_n)^t = 0 \quad \text{as } (A^t - \frac{1}{\lambda} I_n) = (A - \frac{1}{\lambda} I_n)^t$$

$$\text{or, } \det(A - \frac{1}{\lambda} I_n) = 0$$

So,  $\frac{1}{\lambda}$  is an eigen value of  $A$ .

2.  $A$  is a  $3 \times 3$  real matrix having the eigen value  $2, 3, 1$ .  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$  are the eigen vectors of  $A$  corresponding to the eigen values  $2, 3, 1$  respectively. Find the matrix  $A$ .

Solution. Let  $X_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $X_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $X_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

Then  $A X_1 = 2 X_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $A X_2 = 3 X_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$

and  $A X_3 = X_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

Let  $P = (X_1 \ X_2 \ X_3) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

Then  $A P = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 4 & 3 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  As  $X_1, X_2, X_3$  are

eigen vectors corresponding to distinct eigen values  $2, 3, 1$ ,  $\{X_1, X_2, X_3\}$  is linearly independent. Hence  $P$  is non-singular.

$$P^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ So, } A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 4 & 3 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 \\ -2 & 3 & 0 \\ -2 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

3. Let  $S$  be a real skew symmetric matrix of order  $n$ , prove that (i)  $I_n + S$  is non-singular

(ii)  $(I_n + S)^T (I_n - S)$  is orthogonal.

(iii) if  $X$  be an eigen vector of  $S$  with eigen value

$\lambda$  then  $X$  is also an eigen vector of the matrix  $(I_n + S)^T (I_n - S)$  with eigen value  $\frac{1-\lambda}{1+\lambda}$ ,

(iv) if  $\bar{S} = (I_n + S)^T (I_n - S)$  then  $I_n + \bar{S}$  is also non-singular and  $\bar{\bar{S}} = S$

Solution: (i) Since  $S$  is a real skew symmetric matrix, its eigen values are imaginary or zero. Hence  $-1$  is not an eigen value of  $S$ , so  $\det(S - (-1)I_n) \neq 0$

So,  $\det(I_n + S) \neq 0$ . Hence  $I_n + S$  is non-singular.

(ii) Let  $P = (I_n + S)^T (I_n - S)$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } P P^t &= (I_n + S)^T (I_n - S) \left[ (I_n + S)^T (I_n - S) \right]^t \\ &= (I_n + S)^T (I_n - S) (I_n - S)^t (I_n + S)^t \\ &= (I_n + S)^T (I_n - S) (I_n - S)^t (I_n + S)^t \\ &= (I_n + S)^T (I_n - S) (I_n + S) (I_n - S) \quad \text{as } S^t = -S \end{aligned}$$

$$= (I_n + S)^T (I_n + S) (I_n - S) (I_n - S)^t$$

(as  $(I_n + S)(I_n - S) = (I_n - S)(I_n + S)$ )

$= I$  - So,  $P$  is orthogonal.

(iii)  $SX = \lambda X$ . Therefore  $(I_n + S)^T (I_n - S)X =$

$$= (I_n + S)^{-1} (1 - \lambda) X = (1 - \lambda) (I_n + S)^{-1} X$$

Again  $(I_n + S) X = (1 + \lambda) X$

or,  $X = (I_n + S)^{-1} (1 + \lambda) X = (1 + \lambda) (I_n + S)^{-1} X$

So, we have  $\frac{1}{1 + \lambda} X = (I_n + S)^{-1} X$  since  $\lambda + 1 \neq 0$

So,  $(I_n + S)^{-1} (I_n - S) X = (1 - \lambda) \frac{1}{1 + \lambda} X = \frac{1 - \lambda}{1 + \lambda} X$

This proves that  $X$  is an eigen vector of

$(I_n + S)^{-1} (I_n - S)$  with eigen value  $\frac{1 - \lambda}{1 + \lambda}$ .

(iv)  $\bar{S} = (I_n + S)^{-1} (I_n - S)$

$$I_n + \bar{S} = (I_n + S)^{-1} (I_n + S) + (I_n + S)^{-1} (I_n - S)$$

$$= (I_n + S)^{-1} (I_n + S + I_n - S)$$

$$= 2 (I_n + S)^{-1} I_n$$

Therefore,  $(I_n + \bar{S})^{-1} = \frac{1}{2} (I_n + S)$ , proving that

$I_n + \bar{S}$  is non-singular.

Again,  $I_n - \bar{S} = (I_n + S)^{-1} (I_n + S) - (I_n + S)^{-1} (I_n - S)$

$$= (I_n + S)^{-1} (I_n + S - I_n + S)$$

$$= 2 (I_n + S)^{-1} S$$

So,  $\bar{S} = (I_n + \bar{S})^{-1} (I_n - \bar{S}) = (I_n + S) (I_n + S)^{-1} S$   
 $= S$

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