



LINEAR ALGEBRA

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Diagonalization

- Definition:
- A square matrix A is said to be diagonalizable if it is similar to some diagonal matrix; that is, if there exists an invertible matrix P such that $P^{-1}AP$ is diagonal, the matrix P is said to **diagonalize** to A .

Diagonalised a 2×2 matrix

Diagonalise the the matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -3 \\ -6 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ the eigen values of A are -1 and 8

And eigen vector are $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$ respectively

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 8 \end{pmatrix} \quad P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad P^{-1} = \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$P D P^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 8 \end{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & -3 \\ -6 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = A$$

Diagonalised a 3×3 matrix

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

$$|\lambda I - A| = \begin{vmatrix} \lambda + 1 & 2 & -2 \\ -4 & \lambda - 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 2 & \lambda - 1 \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

$$(\lambda + 1)((\lambda - 3)(\lambda - 1) - 8) - 2(-4(\lambda - 1) - 0) - 2(-8 - 0) = 0$$

$$(\lambda + 1)(\lambda^2 - \lambda - 3\lambda + 3 - 8) + 2(4\lambda - 4) + 16 = 0$$

$$\lambda^3 - 4\lambda^2 - 5\lambda + \lambda^2 - 4\lambda - 5 + 8\lambda + 8 = 0$$

$$\lambda^3 - 7\lambda^2 - 14\lambda + 3 = 0$$

$$(\lambda-1)(\lambda^2 - 2\lambda - 3) = 0$$

$$(\lambda-1)(\lambda+1)(\lambda-3) = 0$$

$$\lambda_1 = 1, \lambda_2 = -1, \lambda_3 = 3$$

$$\lambda_1 = \lambda = 1$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 & -2 \\ -4 & -2 & 4 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 & -2 \\ -4 & -2 & 4 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Gaussian elimination

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

$$x_1 - x_3 = 0$$

$$x_2 = 0$$

$$x_1 = x_3$$

$$x_1 = k$$

$$x_2 = k$$

$$x_3 = 0$$

Example 01 : Finding the Matrix P that Diagonalized a Matrix A

Find the matrix p that diagonalizes $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & -2 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$

Gaussian elimination

SOL:

$$\det(\lambda I - A) = 0$$

$$\left| \lambda \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & -2 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \right| = 0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \lambda & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & -2 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} \lambda & 0 & 2 \\ -1 & \lambda - 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & \lambda - 3 \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

$$(\lambda - 1)(\lambda - 2)^2 = 0$$

$$\lambda_1 = 1, \quad \lambda_2 = 2$$

Now find bases

$$\lambda_1 = 1$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ -1 & 1 - 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 - 3 \end{vmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ -1 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & -2 \end{vmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

If $\lambda = 1$, then (6) becomes


$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ -1 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Solving this system yields (verify)

$$x_1 = -2s, \quad x_2 = s, \quad x_3 = s$$

Thus, the eigenvectors corresponding to $\lambda = 1$ are the nonzero vectors of the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} -2s \\ s \\ s \end{bmatrix} = s \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{so that} \quad \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

is a basis for the eigenspace corresponding to $\lambda = 1$. 

$$(\lambda - 1)(\lambda - 2)^2 = 0$$

and we found the following bases for the eigenspaces:

$$\lambda = 2: \mathbf{p}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{p}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}; \quad \lambda = 1: \mathbf{p}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

There are three basis vectors in total, so the matrix

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

diagonalizes A . As a check, you should verify that

$$P^{-1}AP = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & -2 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \leftarrow$$

In general, there is no preferred order for the columns of P . Since the i th diagonal entry of $P^{-1}AP$ is an eigenvalue for the i th column vector of P , changing the order of the columns of P just changes the order of the eigenvalues on the diagonal of $P^{-1}AP$. Thus, had we written

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

in the preceding example, we would have obtained

$$P^{-1}AP = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

► **EXAMPLE 2 A Matrix That Is Not Diagonalizable**

Show that the following matrix is not diagonalizable:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \\ -3 & 5 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Solution The characteristic polynomial of A is

$$\det(\lambda I - A) = \begin{vmatrix} \lambda - 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & \lambda - 2 & 0 \\ 3 & -5 & \lambda - 2 \end{vmatrix} = (\lambda - 1)(\lambda - 2)^2$$

so the characteristic equation is

$$\begin{bmatrix} -3 & 5 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Solution The characteristic polynomial of A is

$$\det(\lambda I - A) = \begin{vmatrix} \lambda - 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & \lambda - 2 & 0 \\ 3 & -5 & \lambda - 2 \end{vmatrix} = (\lambda - 1)(\lambda - 2)^2$$

so the characteristic equation is

$$(\lambda - 1)(\lambda - 2)^2 = 0$$

and the distinct eigenvalues of A are $\lambda = 1$ and $\lambda = 2$. We leave it for you to show that bases for the eigenspaces are

$$\lambda = 1: \mathbf{p}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{8} \\ -\frac{1}{8} \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}; \quad \lambda = 2: \mathbf{p}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Since A is a 3×3 matrix and there are only two basis vectors in total, A is not diagonalizable.

Exercise Set 5.2

▶ In Exercises 1–4, show that A and B are not similar matrices. ◀

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

2. $A = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -1 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}, B = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 1 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$

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

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

▶ In Exercises 5–8, find a matrix P that diagonalizes A , and check your work by computing $P^{-1}AP$. ◀

5. $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 6 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$

6. $A = \begin{bmatrix} -14 & 12 \\ -20 & 17 \end{bmatrix}$

7. $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$

8. $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$