

MATH 304

Linear Algebra

Lecture 35:

Complex eigenvalues and eigenvectors.

Normal matrices.

Complex numbers

\mathbb{C} : complex numbers.

Complex number: $z = x + iy,$

where $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ and $i^2 = -1$.

$i = \sqrt{-1}$: imaginary unit

Alternative notation: $z = x + yi$.

x = real part of z ,

iy = imaginary part of z

$y = 0 \implies z = x$ (real number)

$x = 0 \implies z = iy$ (purely imaginary number)

We add, subtract, and multiply complex numbers as polynomials in i (but keep in mind that $i^2 = -1$).

If $z_1 = x_1 + iy_1$ and $z_2 = x_2 + iy_2$, then

$$z_1 + z_2 = (x_1 + x_2) + i(y_1 + y_2),$$

$$z_1 - z_2 = (x_1 - x_2) + i(y_1 - y_2),$$

$$z_1 z_2 = (x_1 x_2 - y_1 y_2) + i(x_1 y_2 + x_2 y_1).$$

Given $z = x + iy$, the **complex conjugate** of z is $\bar{z} = x - iy$. The **modulus** of z is $|z| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$.

$$z\bar{z} = (x + iy)(x - iy) = x^2 - (iy)^2 = x^2 + y^2 = |z|^2.$$

$$z^{-1} = \frac{\bar{z}}{|z|^2}, \quad (x + iy)^{-1} = \frac{x - iy}{x^2 + y^2}.$$

Complex exponentials

Definition. For any $z \in \mathbb{C}$ let

$$e^z = 1 + z + \frac{z^2}{2!} + \cdots + \frac{z^n}{n!} + \cdots$$

Remark. A sequence of complex numbers $z_1 = x_1 + iy_1$, $z_2 = x_2 + iy_2$, \dots converges to $z = x + iy$ if $x_n \rightarrow x$ and $y_n \rightarrow y$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Theorem 1 If $z = x + iy$, $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$, then

$$e^z = e^x(\cos y + i \sin y).$$

In particular, $e^{i\phi} = \cos \phi + i \sin \phi$, $\phi \in \mathbb{R}$.

Theorem 2 $e^{z+w} = e^z \cdot e^w$ for all $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$.

Proposition $e^{i\phi} = \cos \phi + i \sin \phi$ for all $\phi \in \mathbb{R}$.

Proof:
$$e^{i\phi} = 1 + i\phi + \frac{(i\phi)^2}{2!} + \dots + \frac{(i\phi)^n}{n!} + \dots$$

The sequence $1, i, i^2, i^3, \dots, i^n, \dots$ is periodic:

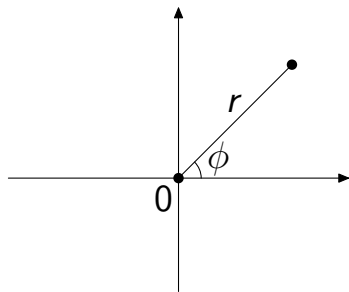
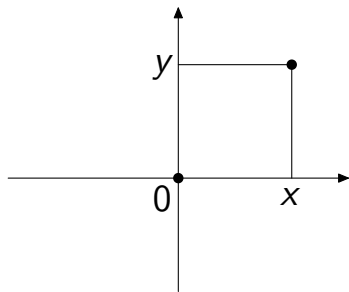
$$\underbrace{1, i, -1, -i, 1, i, -1, -i, \dots}$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} e^{i\phi} &= 1 - \frac{\phi^2}{2!} + \frac{\phi^4}{4!} - \dots + (-1)^k \frac{\phi^{2k}}{(2k)!} + \dots \\ &+ i \left(\phi - \frac{\phi^3}{3!} + \frac{\phi^5}{5!} - \dots + (-1)^k \frac{\phi^{2k+1}}{(2k+1)!} + \dots \right) \\ &= \cos \phi + i \sin \phi. \end{aligned}$$

Geometric representation

Any complex number $z = x + iy$ is represented by the vector/point $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$.



$$x = r \cos \phi, \quad y = r \sin \phi \implies z = r(\cos \phi + i \sin \phi) = re^{i\phi}$$

If $z_1 = r_1 e^{i\phi_1}$ and $z_2 = r_2 e^{i\phi_2}$, then

$$z_1 z_2 = r_1 r_2 e^{i(\phi_1 + \phi_2)}, \quad z_1 / z_2 = (r_1 / r_2) e^{i(\phi_1 - \phi_2)}.$$

Fundamental Theorem of Algebra

Any polynomial of degree $n \geq 1$, with complex coefficients, has exactly n roots (counting with multiplicities).

Equivalently, if

$$p(z) = a_n z^n + a_{n-1} z^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1 z + a_0,$$

where $a_i \in \mathbb{C}$ and $a_n \neq 0$, then there exist complex numbers z_1, z_2, \dots, z_n such that

$$p(z) = a_n (z - z_1)(z - z_2) \cdots (z - z_n).$$

Complex eigenvalues and eigenvectors

Example. $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$. $\det(A - \lambda I) = \lambda^2 + 1$.

Characteristic roots: $\lambda_1 = i$ and $\lambda_2 = -i$.

Associated eigenvectors: $\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -i \end{pmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{pmatrix}$.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -i \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} i \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = i \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -i \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -i \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = -i \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{pmatrix}.$$

$\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2$ is a basis of eigenvectors. *In which space?*

Complexification

Instead of the real vector space \mathbb{R}^2 , we consider a *complex vector space* \mathbb{C}^2 (all complex numbers are admissible as scalars).

The linear operator $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$, $f(\mathbf{x}) = A\mathbf{x}$ is extended to a *complex linear operator* $F : \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2$, $F(\mathbf{x}) = A\mathbf{x}$.

The vectors $\mathbf{v}_1 = (1, -i)$ and $\mathbf{v}_2 = (1, i)$ form a basis for \mathbb{C}^2 .

\mathbb{C}^2 is also a real vector space (of real dimension 4). The standard real basis for \mathbb{C}^2 is $\mathbf{e}_1 = (1, 0)$, $\mathbf{e}_2 = (0, 1)$, $i\mathbf{e}_1 = (i, 0)$, $i\mathbf{e}_2 = (0, i)$. The matrix of the operator F with respect to this basis has block structure $\begin{pmatrix} A & O \\ O & A \end{pmatrix}$.

Dot product of complex vectors

Dot product of real vectors

$$\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n), \mathbf{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n:$$

$$\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{y} = x_1y_1 + x_2y_2 + \dots + x_ny_n.$$

Dot product of complex vectors

$$\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n), \mathbf{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_n) \in \mathbb{C}^n:$$

$$\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{y} = x_1\bar{y}_1 + x_2\bar{y}_2 + \dots + x_n\bar{y}_n.$$

If $z = r + it$ ($t, s \in \mathbb{R}$) then $\bar{z} = r - it$,
 $z\bar{z} = r^2 + t^2 = |z|^2$.

Hence $\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{x} = |x_1|^2 + |x_2|^2 + \dots + |x_n|^2 \geq 0$.

Also, $\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{x} = 0$ if and only if $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$.

The norm is defined by $\|\mathbf{x}\| = \sqrt{\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{x}}$.

Normal matrices

Definition. An $n \times n$ matrix A is called

- **symmetric** if $A^T = A$;
- **orthogonal** if $AA^T = A^T A = I$, i.e., $A^T = A^{-1}$;
- **normal** if $AA^T = A^T A$.

Theorem Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix with real entries. Then

- (a) A is normal \iff there exists an orthonormal basis for \mathbb{C}^n consisting of eigenvectors of A ;
- (b) A is symmetric \iff there exists an orthonormal basis for \mathbb{R}^n consisting of eigenvectors of A .

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

- A is symmetric.
- A has three eigenvalues: 0, 1, and 2.
- Associated eigenvectors are $\mathbf{v}_1 = (-1, 0, 1)$, $\mathbf{v}_2 = (0, 1, 0)$, and $\mathbf{v}_3 = (1, 0, 1)$, respectively.
- Vectors $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\mathbf{v}_1$, \mathbf{v}_2 , $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\mathbf{v}_3$ form an orthonormal basis for \mathbb{R}^3 .

Theorem Suppose A is a normal matrix. Then for any $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^n$ and $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ one has

$$A\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x} \iff A^T\mathbf{x} = \bar{\lambda}\mathbf{x}.$$

Thus any normal matrix A shares with A^T all real eigenvalues and the corresponding eigenvectors.

Also, $A\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x} \iff A\bar{\mathbf{x}} = \bar{\lambda}\bar{\mathbf{x}}$ for any matrix A with real entries.

Corollary All eigenvalues λ of a symmetric matrix are real ($\bar{\lambda} = \lambda$). All eigenvalues λ of an orthogonal matrix satisfy $\bar{\lambda} = \lambda^{-1} \iff |\lambda| = 1$.