

Main problems of Numerical Linear Algebra

Find eigenvector(s) \mathbf{x} and complex eigenvalue(s) λ

“Standard” eigenvalue problem:

$$\mathbf{Ax} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$$

Generalized eigenvalue problem:

$$\mathbf{Ax} = \lambda\mathbf{Mx}$$

Matlab: `lam = eig(A);`

Examples

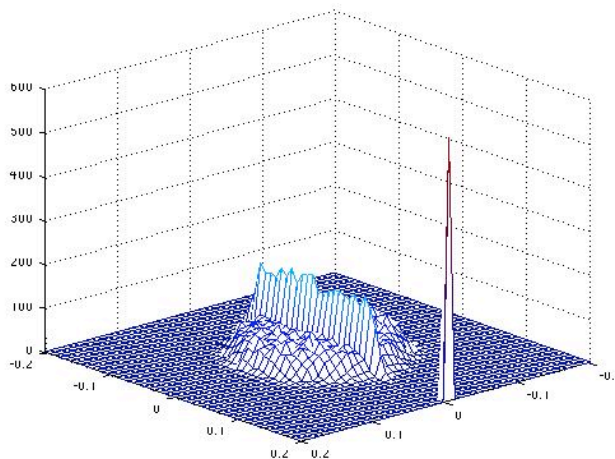
1. The Markov chain equilibrium distribution - Lect 1.

Uncommon that

- the eigenvalue is known
- the eigenvalue with largest absolute value is wanted

Here is a plot of a computational experiment on the distribution of complex eigenvalues to 600 40x40 Markov random matrices, i.e., a 2D histogram of 600 x 40 = 2400 points.

1. the 600 peak at the extreme right (not at the right spot ...)
2. flat distribution around 0 with a radius of ≈ 0.1
3. a ridge of real eigenvalues



I think 1. is easy and can think of a reason for 3., but 2. ?? One would think that since \mathbf{A} has only positive entries the eigenvalues would flock to the right hand plane. *Not so.* You may want to check on Alan Edelman's lectures on random matrices.

While on the subject of guessing eigenvalues, look at the Gershgorin circle theorem (p. 570):

Every eigenvalue is in the union of circles C_i $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$

$$C_i : |\lambda - a_{ii}| \leq \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij}|$$

The G.-circles for a Markov matrix are all centered on the interval $[0, 1]$ and pass through 1, so all contained in the unit circle. But the probable eigenvalues occupy but a minuscule portion of it.

2. Quadratic forms $q(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{K} \mathbf{x}$

Note: Uses only the symmetric part $\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{K} + \mathbf{K}^T)$ so consider \mathbf{K} symmetric.

We will measure the size of \mathbf{x} by its Euclidean norm,

$$\|\mathbf{x}\|_2 = \left(\sum |x_k|^2 \right)^{1/2} = \sqrt{\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x}}$$

and remind you of the triangle inequality, the multiplication by scalar, the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality

$$\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{y} \leq \|\mathbf{x}\|_2 \cdot \|\mathbf{y}\|_2$$

and the definition of the operator norm of a linear operator (matrix!) $\|\mathbf{A}\|_2$, induced by the vector norm

$$\|\mathbf{A}\|_2 = \max \frac{\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\|_2}{\|\mathbf{x}\|_2} = \max \sqrt{\frac{\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}}{\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x}}},$$

and the Rayleigh quotient (p 219)

$$R_{\mathbf{K}}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{K} \mathbf{x} / \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x}$$

The norm shows the maximal magnification possible in the mapping. Let us compute it by finding the max. of the Rayleigh quotient by differentiation:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_k} (\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{K} \mathbf{x}) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x_k} \left(\sum_{i,j} k_{ij} x_i x_j \right) = \sum_{i,j} k_{ij} \left(\underbrace{\frac{\partial x_i}{\partial x_k}}_{=\delta_{ik}} x_j + x_i \underbrace{\frac{\partial x_j}{\partial x_k}}_{=\delta_{jk}} \right) = \\ &= \sum_j k_{kj} x_j + \sum_i k_{ik} x_i = 2 \sum_j k_{kj} x_j = 2(\mathbf{K}\mathbf{x})_k \end{aligned}$$

so $\partial R / \partial x_k = 0$, $k = 1, \dots, n$, if (and only if)

$$2\mathbf{K}\mathbf{x} \cdot (\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x}) - (\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}) \cdot 2\mathbf{x} = 0$$

or

$$\mathbf{K}\mathbf{x} = \underbrace{R_{\mathbf{K}}(\mathbf{x})}_{\lambda} \mathbf{x}$$

Theorem:

If $\mathbf{K}\mathbf{x}^* = \lambda \mathbf{x}^*$, then \mathbf{x}^* is a stationary point of $R_{\mathbf{K}}(\mathbf{x})$ and $\lambda = R_{\mathbf{K}}(\mathbf{x}^*)$, and conversely.

It follows that

$$\|\mathbf{A}\|_2 = \sqrt{\text{largest eigenvalue of } \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}}$$

Note: minimization of quadratic forms with a single quadratic constraint also leads to eigenvalue problems.

3: Linear differential equations with constant coefficients

(S p 53, Ch 2.1, 2.2)

Basics:

Exponentials are eigenfunctions of differential and difference operators with constant coefficients. Usually the independent variable is now time t .

Let $D = d/dt$. Then $D \exp(\lambda t) = \lambda \exp(\lambda t)$, and

$$p(D)e^{\lambda t} = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k D^k (e^{\lambda t}) = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k \lambda^k (e^{\lambda t}) = p(\lambda) e^{\lambda t}$$

The analogue holds for difference operators (p 54 ff), e.g.

$$\Delta u(t_k) = u(t_{k+1}) - u(t_k), t_{k+1} - t_k = h, k = \dots, -1, 0, 1, \dots$$

Then

$$\Delta e^{\lambda t} = e^{\lambda(t+h)} - e^{\lambda t} = \mu e^{\lambda t}, \mu = e^{\lambda h} - 1$$

Note that $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \mu/h = \lambda$

$$p(\Delta)e^{\lambda t} = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k \Delta^k (e^{\lambda t}) = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k \mu^k (e^{\lambda t}) = p(\mu) e^{\lambda t}$$

An example with complex eigenvalues, rigid body rotation in a plane:

The velocity at (x,y) of rotation with angular velocity ω around the origin is

$$(dx/dt, dy/dt) = \omega(-y, x)$$

or

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{u} = \underbrace{\omega \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{A}} \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} x(t) \\ y(t) \end{pmatrix}$$

Look for special solution vectors $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{v} \exp(\lambda t)$, \mathbf{v} some constant vector:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{u}(t) = \lambda e^{\lambda t} \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{A} \mathbf{u} = e^{\lambda t} \mathbf{v} \Leftrightarrow \lambda \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{A} \mathbf{v}$$

The eigenvalues of \mathbf{A} are imaginary, $\pm i\omega$ and the eigenvectors are $(-1, i)^T$ and $(1, i)^T$ so any linear combination

$$\mathbf{u}(t) = a \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ i \end{pmatrix} e^{i\omega t} + b \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{pmatrix} e^{-i\omega t}$$

satisfies the equation. There are enough (2) integration constants to satisfy initial conditions like $\mathbf{u}(0) = (x_0, y_0)$, so this is the general solution. It looks complex, but real initial conditions fix that:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{u}(t) &= \frac{-x_0 - iy_0}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ i \end{pmatrix} e^{i\omega t} + \frac{x_0 - iy_0}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{pmatrix} e^{-i\omega t} = \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \cdot \cos \omega t - y_0 \cdot \sin \omega t \\ x_0 \cdot \sin \omega t + y_0 \cdot \cos \omega t \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \cos \omega t & -\sin \omega t \\ \sin \omega t & \cos \omega t \end{pmatrix}}_{\text{Rotates angle } \omega t} \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ y_0 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

The manipulations become trivial if we use complex variables: $z(t) = x(t) + iy(t)$.
 Then

$$dz/dt = i\omega z \text{ and } z(t) = \exp(i\omega t)z(0)$$

so

$$\text{angle}(z(t)) = \text{angle}(z(0)) + \omega t, |z(t)| = |z(0)|$$

You may want to think about the 3D counterpart, rotation with angular velocity ω around a unit length vector (w_1, w_2, w_3)

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{u}(t) = \omega \mathbf{w} \times \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{A} \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{A} = \omega \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -w_3 & w_2 \\ w_3 & 0 & -w_1 \\ -w_2 & w_1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Compute the eigenvalues of \mathbf{A} ! Hint: One is zero ... compute $\det \mathbf{A}$ to see this.

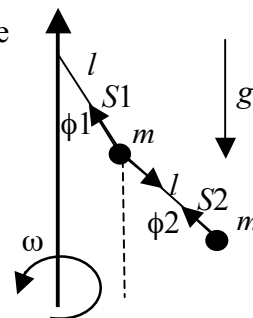
4: Bifurcation ... linearized

(see also S. p 108-109)

Consider a double pendulum. Its motion is constrained by the joints to a plane, rotating around a vertical axis with angular velocity ω . Compute its equilibrium position, assuming it has small angles ϕ_1, ϕ_2 !

The equilibrium equations for the mass points 1 and 2 are

$$\begin{aligned} ml\omega^2 \sin \phi_1 + S_2 \sin \phi_2 &= S_1 \sin \phi_1 \\ S_1 \cos \phi_1 &= S_2 \cos \phi_2 + mg \\ ml\omega^2 (\sin \phi_1 + \sin \phi_2) &= S_2 \sin \phi_2 \\ S_2 \cos \phi_2 &= mg \end{aligned}$$



Eliminate the forces S_i :

$$\begin{aligned} S_1 &= 2mg / \cos \phi_1 \\ S_2 &= mg / \cos \phi_2 \Rightarrow \\ \begin{cases} (\sin \phi_1 + \sin \phi_2) \lambda &= \tan \phi_2 \\ \lambda \sin \phi_1 &= 2 \tan \phi_1 - \tan \phi_2 \end{cases} \\ \lambda &= \frac{\omega^2 l}{g} \end{aligned}$$

Approximate the trig-functions to produce the final linear system:

$$\begin{cases} (\phi_1 + \phi_2) \lambda = \phi_2 \\ \lambda \phi_1 = 2\phi_1 - \phi_2 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \phi_1 \\ \phi_2 \end{pmatrix} = \lambda \begin{pmatrix} \phi_1 \\ \phi_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

which shows that: unless λ is an eigenvalue, there is only the trivial solution: the pendulum hangs straight down. For sufficiently small ω , $\lambda < 2 - \sqrt{2}$, this is the case. The two eigenvectors are $(1, \sqrt{2})$ and $(1, -\sqrt{2})$. Both shapes can be provoked when you twirl a hanging rope. But only the non-linear model tells what happens after the first bifurcation when ω is increased. The story requires that we consider the time-dependent problem, later.

