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Orthonormal basesLecture 22

A basis  $\{q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n\}$  of a vector subspace  $V$  (real or complex) is an orthonormal basis for  $V$  if (in addition to being a basis)

- $\langle q_i, q_j \rangle = 0$  if  $i \neq j$
- $\langle q_i, q_i \rangle = 1$  for each  $i$ .

alternatively,

$$\langle q_i, q_j \rangle = \delta_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i=j \\ 0 & \text{if } i \neq j. \end{cases}$$

Example: (1)  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  is an orthonormal basis (ONB) for  $\mathbb{R}^2$  (and  $\mathbb{C}^2$ ).

(2)  $\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n\}$ , where  $e_j$  are standard basis vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , is an ONB for  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and also for  $\mathbb{C}^n$ .

(3)  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  is an ONB for  $\mathbb{R}^2$  (and  $\mathbb{C}^2$ ).

(4).  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  is not an ONB!

Let  $\{q_1, \dots, q_n\}$  be an ONB for  $V$ . Then,

For any  $v \in V$ ,  $\exists$  a unique set of scalars  $c_1, \dots, c_n$  s.t.  $v = c_1 q_1 + \dots + c_n q_n$ , and we can find them as follows:

We want  $v = \begin{bmatrix} q_1 & q_2 & \dots & q_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ \vdots \\ c_n \end{bmatrix}$  coefficient vector.

To find  $c$ , we need to solve  $Qc = v \leftarrow$  linear system.

Let's use the fact that  $\{q_1, \dots, q_n\}$  is an ONB.

Claim:  $Q^*Q = I_n$  ( $n \times n$  identity matrix).

Proof:  $Q^*Q = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{q}_1^T \\ \bar{q}_2^T \\ \vdots \\ \bar{q}_n^T \end{bmatrix} [q_1 | q_2 | \dots | q_n]$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \bar{q}_1^T q_1 & \bar{q}_1^T q_2 & \dots & \bar{q}_1^T q_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \bar{q}_n^T q_1 & \bar{q}_n^T q_2 & \dots & \bar{q}_n^T q_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \langle q_1, q_1 \rangle & \dots & \langle q_1, q_n \rangle \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \langle q_n, q_1 \rangle & \dots & \langle q_n, q_n \rangle \end{bmatrix} = I_n$$

Thus, if we want  $Qc = v$ , then necessarily,

$$\frac{Q^*Qc}{I} = Q^*v$$

$$\Leftrightarrow c = Q^*v = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{q}_1^T \\ \bar{q}_2^T \\ \vdots \\ \bar{q}_n^T \end{bmatrix} v = \begin{bmatrix} \langle q_1, v \rangle \\ \langle q_2, v \rangle \\ \vdots \\ \langle q_n, v \rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

Thus,  $c_j = \langle q_j, v \rangle$ !

And  $v = \langle q_1, v \rangle q_1 + \langle q_2, v \rangle q_2 + \dots + \langle q_n, v \rangle q_n$ .  
whenever  $\{q_1, \dots, q_n\}$  is an ONB.

An alternative way of finding the coefficients  $c_j$ :

since  $v = c_1 q_1 + \dots + c_n q_n$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}\langle q_j, v \rangle &= \langle q_j, c_1 q_1 \rangle + \langle q_j, c_2 q_2 \rangle + \dots + \langle q_j, c_n q_n \rangle \\ &= c_1 \langle q_j, q_1 \rangle + c_2 \langle q_j, q_2 \rangle + \dots + c_n \langle q_j, q_n \rangle \\ &= c_j \langle q_j, q_j \rangle = c_j \dots\end{aligned}$$

### Orthogonal and unitary matrices.

A square matrix  $Q$  whose columns form an ONB is

- orthogonal (if all entries are real)
- unitary (if entries are complex).

### Basic properties

① If  $Q$  is unitary (or orthogonal), then

$$Q Q^* = I_n = Q^* Q.$$

Thus,  $Q^{-1} = Q^*$  and  $(Q^*)^{-1} = Q$ .

In the orthogonal case, we can replace  $Q^*$  with  $Q^T$ .

Remark: This implies that  $Q^*$  is unitary iff  $Q$  is unitary, so the rows of a unitary matrix also form an ONB!

②. A matrix is unitary  $\Leftrightarrow \|Qv\|_2 = \|v\|_2 \quad \forall v \in \mathbb{C}^n, \mathbb{R}^n$ .

Proof:  $\Rightarrow$ : Suppose  $Q$  is unitary.

Parseval's identity: Let  $Q = [q_1 \dots q_n]$ , where  $\{q_1, \dots, q_n\}$  is an ONB for  $V$ .

$$\text{Then, } \forall v \in V, \quad \sum_{j=1}^n |\langle q_j, v \rangle|^2 = \|v\|_2^2.$$

## Proof of Parseval's identity:

Let  $v = c_1 q_1 + \dots + c_n q_n$ , where  $q_j = \langle q_j, v \rangle$ .

$$\text{Then, } \|v\|_2^2 = \langle v, v \rangle = \left\langle \sum_{j=1}^n c_j q_j, \sum_{l=1}^n c_l q_l \right\rangle = \langle v, v \rangle$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{l=1}^n \bar{c}_j c_l \underbrace{\langle q_j, q_l \rangle}_{=0 \text{ if } j \neq l}$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^n \underbrace{\bar{c}_j c_j}_{=|c_j|^2} \|q_j\|_2^2 = \sum_{j=1}^n |c_j|^2$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^n |\langle q_j, v \rangle|^2$$

For proof of  $\leq$ , see the notes.

## Chapter IV. Eigenvalues and eigenvectors

Definition: Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  (square) matrix.

A scalar  $\lambda$  (in  $\mathbb{R}$  or  $\mathbb{C}$ ) and a non-zero vector  $v$  (in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  or  $\mathbb{C}^n$ ) are an eigenvalue and an

eigenvector pair for  $A$  if

$$Av = \lambda v.$$

Remarks: (1)  $v \neq \vec{0}$ , but  $\lambda = 0$  is ok! (I.e. when  $v \in N(A)$ , then  $Av = \vec{0} = 0v$ ).

$$(2) Av = \lambda v \Leftrightarrow Av = \lambda I_n v$$

$$\Leftrightarrow Av - \lambda I_n v = \vec{0} \Leftrightarrow (A - \lambda I_n)v = \vec{0}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow v \in N(A - \lambda I_n).$$

Since  $v \neq \vec{0}$ , this means that  $(A - \lambda I_n)$  is singular, i.e.

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

Set:  $p(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I_n)$ . Then  $p(\lambda)$  is a polynomial of degree  $n$ .

We call  $p(\lambda)$  the characteristic polynomial of  $A$ .

Theorem: The roots of  $p(\lambda)$  are eigenvalues of  $A$ !

Proof: We just showed that if  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue, then  $p(\lambda) = 0$ . On the other hand,

If  $p(\lambda) = 0$ , then  $A - \lambda I_n$  is singular  
i.e.  $\exists$  a non-zero vector in  $\mathcal{N}(A - \lambda I_n)$

$$\text{so } (A - \lambda I_n)v = \vec{0}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow Av = \lambda v.$$

How do we find the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of a matrix  $A$ ?

- (1) Find  $p(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I)$
- (2) Find the roots  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$  of  $p(\lambda)$ , possibly complex, possibly ~~repeated~~ repeated. These are the eigenvalues of  $A$ .
- (3) For a given eigenvalue  $\lambda_j$ , the corresponding eigenvector(s):  
any non-zero  $v$  s.t.  $(A - \lambda_j I)v = \vec{0}$

$$\Leftrightarrow v \in \mathcal{N}(A - \lambda_j I)$$

This is a subspace called the eigenspace  $E_{\lambda_j}$ .

The eigenvectors corresponding to  $\lambda_j$  are all vectors in  $E_{\lambda_j}$ .

We usually represent  $E_{\lambda_j}$  by a basis.

Examples: Find the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -6 & -7 \\ 1 & 8 & 5 \\ -1 & -2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Solution:  $p(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I) = \det \begin{bmatrix} 3-\lambda & -6 & -7 \\ 1 & 8-\lambda & 5 \\ -1 & -2 & 1-\lambda \end{bmatrix}$

= after algebraic manipulation =  $-(\lambda-2)(\lambda-4)(\lambda-6)$

$\Rightarrow \lambda_1 = 2, \lambda_2 = 4, \lambda_3 = 6.$

Corresponding eigenvectors:

$\lambda_1 = 2: (A - 2I)v = \vec{0}$

$\Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -6 & -7 \\ 1 & 6 & 5 \\ -1 & -2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} v = \vec{0}$

$\Leftrightarrow v \in \left\{ s \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\} = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\} = E_2$

$\Rightarrow v_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  is an eigenvector corresponding to  $\lambda_1 = 2.$

$\lambda_2 = 4: (A - 4I)v = \vec{0}$

$\Rightarrow E_4 = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$

$\Rightarrow v_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$

$\lambda_3 = 6: \dots v_3 = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$

Note: In this example, we started with a  $3 \times 3$  matrix  $A$ , and obtained 3 distinct eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3$  and eigenvectors  $v_1, v_2, v_3$  that are linearly independent. We say that  $\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$  is an eigenbasis.

Theorem: Let  $A$  be  $n \times n$ . If all  $n$  eigenvalues are distinct, then the corresponding eigenvectors form a basis for  $\mathbb{R}^n$  (or  $\mathbb{C}^n$ ).