

Math 20F - Homeworks 9 & 10 - Selected answers

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Section 6.1, Problem 19. We did almost exactly this problem as a theorem proved in class.

Section 6.1, Problem 22. Since $\mathbf{u}_j^T \mathbf{u}_i = \delta_{i,j}$, we have

$$A\mathbf{u}_i = \sum_{j=1}^n c_j \mathbf{u}_j \mathbf{u}_j^T \mathbf{u}_i = \sum_{j=1}^n \delta_{i,j} c_j \mathbf{u}_j = c_i \mathbf{u}_i.$$

Hence \mathbf{u}_i is an eigenvector for the eigenvalue c_i .

Section 6.3, Problem 1(a). We did this as an example in class on Wednesday.

Section 6.3, Problem 1(c). $\det(A - \lambda I) = (2 - \lambda)(-4 - \lambda) + 8 = 2\lambda + \lambda^2 = (2 + \lambda)(\lambda)$. The roots of the characteristic polynomial are $\lambda_1 = 1$ and $\lambda_2 = -2$: these are the eigenvalues of A .

Solving $A\mathbf{x} = 0$ for a nontrivial \mathbf{x} , we find that $\mathbf{x}_1 = (4, 1)^T$ is an eigenvector corresponding to the eigenvalue $\lambda_1 = 0$.

Solving $(A + 2I)\mathbf{x} = 0$, we find that $\mathbf{x}_2 = (2, 1)^T$ is an eigenvector corresponding to the eigenvalue $\lambda_2 = -2$.

The eigenvalues are distinct, hence \mathbf{x}_1 and \mathbf{x}_2 are linearly independent. Therefore, A is diagonalizable in the following form:

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1/2 & -1 \\ -1/2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Section 6.3, Problem 3(c). The sixth power of A is equal to

$$A^6 = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 \end{pmatrix}^6 \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1/2 & -1 \\ -1/2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

This can be multiplied out by hand if desired – start by computing the sixth power of the diagonal matrix. This particular case is rather easy since there is only one non-zero eigenvalue. You will find that

$$A^6 = \begin{pmatrix} -64 & 256 \\ -32 & 128 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Section 6.3, Problem 4. The idea behind these problems is as follows. First diagonalize the matrix A as $A = SDS^{-1}$. If the eigenvalues are non-negative, the diagonal matrix D has non-negative entries along the diagonal. A matrix E such that $E^2 = D$ can be formed by letting E be the diagonal matrix whose entries are the square roots of the entries of D . Then, letting $B = SES^{-1}$, we have $B^2 = A$.

Section 6.3, Problem 8(a), 9. I neglected to define “defective” in class Wednesday (although I intended to). Therefore, as I promised, this term will not appear on the final exam. An $n \times n$ matrix that does not have n linearly independent eigenvectors is called *defective*. That is to say, a matrix is diagonalizable if and only if it is not defective.

Section 6.3, Problem 9. If A has one eigenvalue (call it λ_1) of multiplicity 3, then the other eigenvalue (call it λ_2) has multiplicity 1. Now, there is an eigenvector \mathbf{x}_2 for λ_2 of course. Furthermore, since $\text{rank}(A - \lambda_1 I)$ is equal to 1, then the null space of $A - \lambda_1 I$ has dimension 3; therefore, there are three linearly independent eigenvectors for λ_1 . Further, since $\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$ (they are unequal, since otherwise, the eigenvalue would have multiplicity four!), \mathbf{x}_2 is not in the eigenspace of λ_1 . Thus, the four eigenvectors are linearly independent, so A is diagonalizable and A is not defective.