

# *Spazi vettoriali e Trasformazioni Lineari*

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# Outline

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- Trasformazioni Lineari in spazi discreti
- Matrici
- Matrici di una trasformazioni e Basi
- Matrici singolari
- Trasposta di una matrice e proiezioni
- Autovalori ed autovettori
- Il teorema spettrale

# Linear Transformation

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A transformation  $T : V_n \rightarrow W_m$  is said to be *linear* **iff**:

$$T(\alpha \underline{x}) = \alpha T(\underline{x})$$

$$T(\underline{x} + \underline{y}) = T(\underline{x}) + T(\underline{y})$$

$$T(\alpha \underline{x} + \beta \underline{y}) = \alpha T(\underline{x}) + \beta T(\underline{y})$$

# Linear Transformation

## Linear Transformation and Basis:

The effect of linear transformation  $T$  from  $V_n$  to  $W_m$  is entirely determined by its effect on the basis  $\{\underline{b}_1, \dots, \underline{b}_n\}$  of the originating space  $V_n$ , thus we need to know for a generic vector  $\underline{x} = \alpha_1 \underline{b}_1 + \dots + \alpha_n \underline{b}_n$ , just the vectors:

$$\underline{b}'_i = T(\underline{b}_i) \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, n \text{ that is}$$
$$\underline{b}'_k = T(\underline{b}_k) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ik} \underline{b}_i$$

as  $T(\underline{x}) = T(\sum_i \alpha_i \underline{b}_i) = \sum_i \alpha_i T(\underline{b}_i)$ .

Notice that the coefficients  $a_{ik} \quad \forall i, k = 1, \dots, n$  form a square matrix  $\mathbf{A}$ .

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## Linear Transformation and Basis:

For a generic vector pair  $\underline{x} = \sum_i x_i \underline{b}_i$  and  $\underline{y} = \sum_i y_i \underline{b}_i$ , such that  $T(\underline{x}) = \underline{y}$ , it follows.

$$\begin{aligned} T(\underline{x}) &= \sum_{k=1}^n x_k T(\underline{b}_k) = \sum_{k=1}^n x_k \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ik} \underline{b}_i = \\ &= \sum_i \left( \sum_k a_{ik} x_k \right) \underline{b}_i \text{ (but also) } = \\ &= \sum_i y_i \underline{b}_i = \underline{y} \end{aligned}$$

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from which we deduce that

$$y_i - \sum_k a_{ik} x_k = 0 \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, n$$

as  $\underline{b}_i$  are all linearly independent.

# *Linear Transformation and Matrices*

The operation  $y_i = \sum_k a_{ik}x_k$  ( $\forall i = 1, \dots, n$ ) suggests a matrix representation with a specific vector by matrix (i.e. row by column) multiplication.



# Linear Transformation and Matrices

The operation  $y_i = \sum_k a_{ik}x_k$  ( $\forall i = 1, \dots, n$ ) suggests a matrix representation with a specific vector by matrix (i.e. row by column) multiplication. First of all the  $a_{ik}$  coefficient define a square matrix  $\mathbf{A}$ :

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \dots & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix}$$

while  $\underline{x}$  and  $\underline{y}$  are as usual column vectors:

$$\underline{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} \quad \underline{y} = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix}$$

## Matrices-Vector multiplications

Moreover, we see that the transformation  $T$  over the vector  $\underline{x}$ , with  $T(\underline{x}) = \underline{y}$ , can be expressed as follows:

$$\begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \dots & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}$$

where the  $i$ th component  $y_i$  of  $\underline{y}$  corresponds to the component-wise multiplication between the  $i$ th row of  $\mathbf{A}$  and the vector  $\underline{x}$ , i.e.  $y_i = \sum_k a_{ik}x_k$ .

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where the  $i$ th component  $y_i$  of  $\underline{y}$  corresponds to the component-wise multiplication between the  $i$ th row of  $\mathbf{A}$  and the vector  $\underline{x}$ , i.e.  $y_i = \sum_k a_{ik}x_k$ . Notice that this also corresponds to an inner product between rows in  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\underline{x}$ , i.e.  $y_i = (\underline{a}_i^T, \underline{x})$ .

This is also written with more synthesis:

$$\underline{y} = \mathbf{A}\underline{x}$$

# Matrices and Linear Transformations

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Matrices  $\mathbf{A}$  thus represent linear transformations between vectors in a space  $V_n$ .

Every  $T$  corresponds to a matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  and viceversa.

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The corresponding matrices  $\mathbf{a}$  follow the same terminology,  $\mathbf{A}^{-1}$  is called the inverse matrix of  $\mathbf{A}$ , and  $\underline{x} = \mathbf{A}^{-1}\underline{y}$ .

When  $\mathbf{A}^{-1}$  exist for  $\mathbf{A}$ , then  $\mathbf{A}$  is *non singular*, otherwise it is called *singular*.

# Matrix operations

*Matrix multiplication by a scalar and sum*

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## Matrix multiplication: $\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{B}$

$$\begin{pmatrix} c_{11} & c_{12} & \dots & c_{1n} \\ c_{21} & c_{22} & \dots & c_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_{n1} & c_{n2} & \dots & c_{nn} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \dots & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} & \dots & b_{1n} \\ b_{21} & b_{22} & \dots & b_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ b_{n1} & b_{n2} & \dots & b_{nn} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$(c_{ij}) = (a_{ik})(b_{kj})$$

where  $c_{ij} = \sum_k a_{ik} b_{kj}$

# Matrix operations and transformations

## Matrix multiplication and transformations

Matrix multiplications are the counterpart of the compositions between linear transformations, i.e.

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{B}\underline{x} = \underline{y} \text{ when } T_A T_B(\underline{x}) = \underline{y}$$

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## Symmetry

Matrix multiplications are clearly non symmetric, i.e.

$$\underline{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{B}\underline{x} \neq \mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}\underline{x} = \underline{y}'$$

and correspondingly

$$\underline{y} = T_A T_B(\underline{x}) \neq T_B T_A(\underline{x}) = \underline{y}'$$

# Matrix operations and transformations

## Zero Matrix

The zero matrix  $\mathbf{0}$  is the neutral elements with respect to the matrix sums, i.e.

$$\forall \mathbf{A}, \quad \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{0} + \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}$$

It corresponds to the unique matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  whereas  $\forall i, k = 1, \dots, n \quad a_{ik} = 0$ .

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For  $n = 3$ ,  $\underline{\mathbf{0}}$  is as follows:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

## Matrix operations: Identity

### Identity Matrix

The identity matrix  $\mathbf{I}$  is the neutral elements with respect to the matrix multiplication, i.e.

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It corresponds to the matrix with all elements in the main diagonal equal to 1, e 0 elsewhere, i.e.:

$$\mathbf{I} = (a_{ik}) = \delta_{ik} = \begin{cases} 1 & i = k \\ 0 & i \neq k \end{cases}$$



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$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Change of Basis

## Change of Basis

Given two alternative basis  $B = \{\underline{b}_1, \dots, \underline{b}_n\}$  and  $B' = \{\underline{b}'_1, \dots, \underline{b}'_n\}$ , such that the square matrix  $\mathbf{C} = (c_{ik})$  describe the change of the basis, i.e.

$$\underline{b}'_k = c_{1k}\underline{b}_1 + c_{2k}\underline{b}_2 + \dots c_{nk}\underline{b}_n \quad \forall k = 1, \dots, n$$

# Matrix and Change of Basis

## Matrix and Change of Basis

The effect of the matrix  $\mathbf{C}$  on a generic vector  $\underline{x}$  allows to compute the change of basis according only to the involved basis  $B$  and  $B'$ . For every

$\underline{x} = \sum_{k=1}^n x_k \underline{b}_k$  such that in the new basis  $B'$ ,  $\underline{x}$  can be expressed by  $\underline{x} = \sum_{k=1}^n x'_k \underline{b}'_k$ , then it follows that:

$$\underline{x} = \sum_{k=1}^n x'_k \underline{b}'_k = \sum_k x'_k \left( \sum_i c_{ik} \underline{b}_i \right) = \sum_{i,k=1}^n x'_k c_{ik} \underline{b}_i$$

from which it follows that:

$$x_i = \sum_{k=1}^n x'_k c_{ik} \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, n$$

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The above condition suggests that  $\mathbf{C}$  is sufficient to describe any change of basis through the matrix vector multiplication operations:

$$\underline{x} = \mathbf{C} \underline{x}'$$

# Matrix and Change of Basis

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The effect of the matrix  $\mathbf{C}$  on a matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  can be seen by studying the case where  $\underline{x}, \underline{y}$  are the expression of two vectors in a base  $B$  while their counterpart on  $B'$  are  $\underline{x}', \underline{y}'$ , respectively. Now if  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$  are such that  $\underline{y} = \mathbf{A}\underline{x}$  and  $\underline{y}' = \mathbf{B}\underline{x}'$ , then it follows that:

$$\begin{aligned}\underline{y} &= \mathbf{C}\underline{y}' = \mathbf{A}\underline{x} = \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{C}\underline{x}') = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{C}\underline{x}' \\ &\text{(this means that)} \\ \underline{y}' &= \mathbf{C}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{C}\underline{x}'\end{aligned}$$

from which it follows that:

$$\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{C}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{C}$$

The transformation of basis  $\mathbf{C}$  is a *similarity transformation* and matrices  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$  are said *similar*.

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# Adjoint Matrix

## Adjoint (Transpose) of a matrix

The adjoint  $\mathbf{A}^*$  of a matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  is the unique matrix such that

$$(\mathbf{A}^T \underline{x}, \underline{y}) = (\underline{x}, \mathbf{A} \underline{y})$$

In case  $\mathbf{A}$  has real values (as always in this course) the adjoint  $\mathbf{A}^*$  is noted as  $\mathbf{A}^T$  and it is called *transpose* of matrix  $\mathbf{A}$ .  $\mathbf{A}^T$  is obtained from  $\mathbf{A}$  by exchanging rows and columns, i.e.

$$\mathbf{A} = (a_{ij}) \implies \mathbf{A}^T = (a_{ji})$$

# Self-adjointness and Idempotence

## Self-Adjoint matrices

A matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  is *self-adjoint* **iff** the following holds:

$$(\mathbf{A}\underline{x}, \underline{y}) = (\underline{x}, \mathbf{A}\underline{y})$$

Note that the above means that when  $\mathbf{A}$  takes only real values, then  $\mathbf{A}$  is *symmetric*, i.e.  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}^T$ . Diagonal matrices are always self-adjoint.



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## Idempotence

A matrix  $\mathbf{E}$  is idempotent **iff** the following holds:

$$\mathbf{E}\mathbf{E}\underline{x} = \mathbf{E}\underline{x} \quad \forall \underline{x}$$

# Projectors

## Projectors

Linear transformations that are

- Idempotent (i.e.  $\mathbf{E}\mathbf{E}\underline{x} = \mathbf{E}\underline{x} \quad \forall \underline{x}$ )
- Self-Adjoint: (i.e.  $(\mathbf{A}\underline{x}, \underline{y}) = (\underline{x}, \mathbf{A}\underline{y})$ )

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are called *projectors*.

## Examples

Some noticeable examples of projectors are already known:

- (Null Matrix) The operator  $\underline{\mathbf{0}}$  is a projector: it maps every vector  $\underline{x}$  in the null vector  $\underline{0}$ .
- (Identity) The operator  $\underline{\mathbf{I}}$  is a projector: it maps every vector  $\underline{x}$  into itself.

Projectors are applications between a vector space  $V_n$  and one of its subspaces: as  $\underline{0}$  and  $\underline{1}$  are part of this subspace it has still the properties of being a vector space.

# Projectors

## 1-dimensional projections

Given a basis  $B = \{\underline{b}_i\}$ , for every  $\underline{b}_i$  a projector  $\mathbf{P}_i$  can be built, that maps any  $\underline{x} = \sum_i x_i \underline{b}_i$  in the subspace generated (or spanned) by  $\underline{b}_i$ , i.e.

$$\mathbf{P}_i \underline{x} = x_i \underline{b}_i$$

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If  $B$  is an orthonormal basis,  $\mathbf{P}_i$  are a collection of orthogonal projectors:

- every vector in the space spanned by  $\underline{b}_i$  will be projected into itself
- every vector orthogonal to  $\underline{b}_i$  will be projected into the null vector,  $\underline{0}$ .
- Every vector  $\underline{x}$  is the sum of a vector  $\underline{x}_i$  in the subspace spanned by  $\underline{b}_i$  and a vector  $\underline{x}^\perp$  in the subspace orthogonal to  $\underline{b}_i$ , i.e.  $\underline{x} = \underline{x}_i + \underline{x}^\perp$ .

# Projectors

## 1-dimensional projections: example

Let  $B = \{\underline{b}_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, n\}$  be an orthonormal basis, and  $\underline{x} = \sum_i x_i \underline{b}_i$  be a normalized vector, i.e.  $\|\underline{x}\| = 1$  (or  $\sum_i |x_i|^2 = 1$ ). It is of course true that, when  $\mathbf{P}_i$  is the projector relative to  $\underline{b}_i$ , then  $\mathbf{P}_i \underline{x} = x_i \underline{b}_i$ . As

$$\begin{aligned}(\underline{x}, \mathbf{P}_i \underline{x}) &= (\underline{x}, \mathbf{P}_i \mathbf{P}_i \underline{x}) && \text{(Idempotence)} \\ &= (\mathbf{P}_i \underline{x}, \mathbf{P}_i \underline{x}) && \text{(Self-adjointness)} \\ &= (x_i \underline{b}_i, x_i \underline{b}_i) \\ &= x_i^2 (\underline{b}_i, \underline{b}_i) = |x_i|^2\end{aligned}$$

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 &= (x_i \underline{b}_i, x_i \underline{b}_i) \\
 &= x_i^2 (\underline{b}_i, \underline{b}_i) = |x_i|^2
 \end{aligned}$$

then the base  $B$  establishes through projectors  $\mathbf{P}_i$ , a probability distribution in the individual spaces spanned by  $\mathbf{P}_i$ .

Selecting a base  $B$  is like *deciding about a specific point of view on the space*, and its ability to represent vectors (as representations for objects)  $\underline{x}$ .

# Projectors and probability distributions

## 1-dimensional projections and probabilities

Notice how it is also true that a given normalized vector  $\underline{x} \in V_n$  determines a probability distribution in different subspaces generated by the  $\mathbf{P}_i$ .

This function depends on  $\underline{x} \in V_n$  and ranges in the set of spaces  $L_i$  of  $V_n$ , as follows:

$$\mu_{\underline{x}}(L_i) = (\mathbf{P}_i \underline{x}, \mathbf{P}_i \underline{x}) = |\mathbf{P}_i \underline{x}|^2$$



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## Properties of $\mu_{\underline{x}}$

- $\mu_{\underline{x}}(\underline{0}) = 0$
- $\mu_{\underline{x}}(V_n) = 1$
- $\mu_{\underline{x}}(L_i \oplus L_j) = \mu_{\underline{x}}(L_i) + \mu_{\underline{x}}(L_j)$ , whenever  $L_i \cap L_j = \emptyset$ .  $L_i \oplus L_j$  is the smallest subspace of  $V_n$  that contains both  $L_i$  and  $L_j$ .

# Eigenvalues and eigenvectors

## Eigenvectors

An **eigenvector**  $\underline{x}$  for a matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  is a non-zero vector for which a scalar  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{R}$  exists such that

$$\mathbf{A}\underline{x} = \lambda\underline{x}$$

The value of the scalar  $\lambda$  is called **eigenvalue of  $\mathbf{A}$  associated to  $\underline{x}$** , and correspond to the scaling factor along the direction of  $\underline{x}$ .

## Example

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \underline{x} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} = 2 \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$\underline{x}$  is an eigenvector of  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\lambda = 2$  is its eigenvalue.

# Eigenvalues, eigenvectors and some properties

## Eigenvalues, eigenvectors: Some Consequences

When a matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  has an eigenvector  $\underline{x}$  it must satisfy the following condition:

$$\mathbf{A}\underline{x} = \lambda\underline{x}$$

We can rewrite the condition  $\mathbf{A}\underline{x} = \lambda\underline{x}$  as

$$(\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I})\underline{x} = \underline{0}$$

where  $\mathbf{I}$  is the Identity matrix.

In order for a non-zero vector  $\underline{x}$  to satisfy this equation,  $\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I}$  *must not be invertible* (see next slide).

The consequence is that the determinant of  $\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I}$  must equal 0. This function is  $p(\lambda) = \det(\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I})$ , called the *characteristic polynomial of  $\mathbf{A}$* . The eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{A}$  are simply the roots of the characteristic polynomial of  $\mathbf{A}$ .

# Eigenvalues, eigenvectors and some properties: Proof

$\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I}$  must not be invertible: Why?

$\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I}$  must not be invertible, as otherwise, if  $\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I}$  has an inverse, and

$$\begin{aligned}(\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I})^{-1}(\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I})\underline{x} &= (\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I})^{-1}\underline{0}x \\ \underline{\mathbf{I}x} &= \underline{0}.\end{aligned}$$

the zero vector is derived. This is not admissible as, by definition,  $\underline{x} \neq \underline{0}$ .

# Eigenvalues and eigenvectors

## An example: computing eigenvalues

Let  $\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -4 \\ -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ . Then

$$p(\lambda) = (2 - \lambda)(-1 - \lambda) - (-4)(-1) = \lambda^2 - \lambda - 6 = (\lambda - 3)(\lambda + 2)$$

The eigenvectors are then the solution of the linear equation system given by  $(\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I})\underline{x} = \underline{0}$ .

Given the first eigenvalue  $\lambda_1 = 3$ ,  $(\mathbf{A} - 3\mathbf{I})\underline{x} = \underline{0}$  gives the following system:

$$\begin{cases} -x_1 - 4x_2 = 0 \\ -x_1 - 4x_2 = 0 \end{cases}$$

This suggests that all vectors of the form  $\alpha \underline{x}_1$  are eigenvectors with  $\underline{x}_1^T = (-4, 1)$ . The span of the vector  $(-4, 1)^T$  is the **eigenspace** corresponding to  $\lambda_1 = 3$ . Correspondingly, the span of the vector  $\underline{x}_2 = (1, 1)^T$  corresponds to the eigenspace of  $\lambda_2 = -2$ .

Notice that  $\underline{x}_1$  and  $\underline{x}_2$  are linearly independent, so they can form a basis.

# Eigenvalues and eigenvectors

## Eigenvectors of Symmetric matrices

A symmetric non singular real-valued matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  is such that  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}^T$ , and on two dimensions, this means that :

$$\begin{aligned} i) \quad & a_{11}, a_{22} \neq 0 \\ ii) \quad & a_{12} = a_{21} = a \end{aligned}$$

In order for  $\mathbf{A}$  to have two real eigenvalues the following must hold:

$$\begin{aligned} p(\lambda) &= (a_{11} - \lambda)(a_{22} - \lambda) - a^2 = \\ &= \lambda^2 - (a_{11} + a_{22})\lambda + a_{11}a_{22} - a^2 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

from which eigenvalues are distinct **iff**:

$$(a_{11} - a_{22})^2 + 4a^2 \geq 0$$

The above inequality is always satisfied, with the 0 case only when  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{I}$ .

# *Eigenvalues and eigenvectors*

## *Eigenvectors and orthogonality*

Whenever a matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  has  $n$  distinct eigenvectors  $\underline{x}_i$  with all real-valued and distinct eigenvalues  $\lambda_i$ , it is called *non-degenerate*.

# Eigenvalues and eigenvectors

## Eigenvectors and orthogonality

Whenever a matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  has  $n$  distinct eigenvectors  $\underline{x}_i$  with all real-valued and distinct eigenvalues  $\lambda_i$ , it is called *non-degenerate*.

A non degenerate matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  has all the eigenvectors mutually orthogonal.

In fact, given two any eigenvectors  $\underline{x}_1 \neq \underline{x}_2$ , with  $\mathbf{A}\underline{x}_i = \lambda_i\underline{x}_i$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ), it follows that

$$\lambda_1(\underline{x}_1, \underline{x}_2) = (\mathbf{A}\underline{x}_1, \underline{x}_2) = (\underline{x}_1, \mathbf{A}\underline{x}_2) = \lambda_2(\underline{x}_1, \underline{x}_2)$$

$$\text{from which it follows that } (\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)(\underline{x}_1, \underline{x}_2) = 0$$

However as  $\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$ , and  $\underline{x}_1, \underline{x}_2$  were arbitrarily chosen, the result is that

$$\forall i, j = 1, \dots, n \quad (\underline{x}_i, \underline{x}_j) = \begin{cases} \|\underline{x}_i\|^2 & i = j \\ 0 & i \neq j \end{cases}$$



# Spectral Theorem

## Spectral theorem

For every self-adjoint matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  on a finite dimensional inner product space  $V_n$ , there correspond real valued numbers  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r$ , and orthonormal projections  $\mathbf{E}_1, \dots, \mathbf{E}_r$ , with  $r \leq n$ , such that:

- (1) all  $\alpha_i$  are *pairwise distinct*
- (2) all  $\mathbf{E}_j$  are not null (i.e.  $\forall j, \mathbf{E}_j \neq \mathbf{0}$ )
- (3)  $\sum_{j=1}^r \mathbf{E}_j = \mathbf{I}$
- (4)  $\mathbf{A} = \sum_{j=1}^r \alpha_j \mathbf{E}_j$

Notice that the set of self-adjoint matrices whenever the underlying field is the set of real numbers consists of the set of symmetric matrices. The spectral theorem suggests that a possible basis where to diagonalize them is always available through their eigenvectors.

**Applications:** document similarity matrices where  $a_{ij} = \text{sim}(d_i, d_j)$ .

# References

## *Vectors, Operations, Norms and Distances*

K. Van Rijesbergen, *The Geometry of Information Retrieval*, CUP Press, 2004. Chapter 4.