

Mthe 237
Lecture 31 (part 2)
Nov. 21, 2017

Topic: Matrix exponential of a
general real linear map

It is an (unfortunate?) fact that not every matrix can be diagonalized.

A basic example is

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

The characteristic polynomial of A is $(z-1)^2$, so A has a single eigenvalue $\lambda=1$ of algebraic multiplicity 2.

However,

$$\begin{aligned} \ker(A-I) &= \ker \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} : \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \\ &= \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} : y=0 \right\} \\ &= \text{span} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

is only one-dimensional.

We cannot find two linearly independent eigenvectors for A , and so no change of basis will make A a diagonal matrix.

Fortunately, there is a nice form that every matrix can be brought to by a change of basis, and it is nearly diagonal.

Theorem. [Existence of Jordan Canonical Form]

For any real (or complex) linear map $A: V \rightarrow V$, there is a basis of V with respect to which A takes the form

$$[A] = \begin{pmatrix} J_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & J_2 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & & J_n \end{pmatrix},$$

where

$$J_k = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_k & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_k & 1 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_k & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & \lambda_k & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & \lambda_k \end{pmatrix}$$

is called a Jordan block

J_k has λ_k 's on the diagonal and 1's above the diagonal (and 0's elsewhere)

λ_k is one of the eigenvalues of A

If $p_A(z) = (z - \lambda_1)^{m_1} \dots (z - \lambda_r)^{m_r}$

then the number of λ_k 's on the diagonal of $\begin{pmatrix} J_1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & J_n \end{pmatrix}$ is equal to m_k

Up to reordering the blocks, the Jordan Canonical Form of a matrix is unique.

Examples of Jordan canonical forms:

2x2:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \boxed{\lambda_1} & 0 \\ 0 & \boxed{\lambda_2} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{\lambda_1} & 0 \\ 0 & \boxed{\lambda_1} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{\lambda_1} & 1 \\ 0 & \boxed{\lambda_1} \end{pmatrix}$$

2 Jordan blocks
 $P_A(z) = (z - \lambda_1)(z - \lambda_2)$

2 Jordan blocks
 $P_A(z) = (z - \lambda_1)^2$

1 Jordan block
 $P_A(z) = (z - \lambda_1)^2$

3x3:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \boxed{\lambda_1} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \boxed{\lambda_2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \boxed{\lambda_3} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{\lambda_1} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \boxed{\lambda_1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \boxed{\lambda_2} \end{pmatrix}$$

3 Jordan blocks
 $P_A(z) = (z - \lambda_1)(z - \lambda_2)(z - \lambda_3)$

3 Jordan blocks
 $P_A(z) = (z - \lambda_1)^2(z - \lambda_2)$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_1 \end{pmatrix},$$

3 Jordan blocks

$$p_A(z) = (z - \lambda_1)^3$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

2 Jordan blocks

$$p_A(z) = (z - \lambda_1)^2 (z - \lambda_2)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_1 \end{pmatrix},$$

2 Jordan blocks

$$p_A(z) = (z - \lambda_1)^3$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

1 Jordan block

$$p_A(z) = (z - \lambda_1)^3$$

Any 2×2 and 3×3 matrix can be brought to one and only one of these forms by a change of basis.

Once we know how to find the matrix exponential of a matrix in Jordan Canonical Form, we'll reduce the problem of computing $\exp(A)$ to that of finding a basis that puts a matrix into Jordan Canonical Form.

Because

$$\begin{pmatrix} J_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & J_2 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & J_n \end{pmatrix}^p = \begin{pmatrix} J_1^p & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & J_2^p & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & J_n^p \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{array}{l} p \in \mathbb{N} \\ \text{"} \\ \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\} \end{array}$$

we have

$$\exp \left(\begin{pmatrix} J_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & J_2 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & J_n \end{pmatrix} \right) = \begin{pmatrix} \exp(J_1) & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \exp(J_2) & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \exp(J_n) \end{pmatrix}$$

So the problem is reduced to computing

$$\exp(J) \quad \text{for} \quad J = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & \lambda \end{pmatrix}$$

We have

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & \lambda \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

↑
Scalar multiple of the identity, so commutes with every matrix

$$\exp(J) = \exp \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & \lambda \end{pmatrix} \exp \left(\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right)$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} e^\lambda & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & e^\lambda & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^\lambda & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & e^\lambda \end{pmatrix} \exp \left(\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right)$$

Reduced to computing this.

$$\exp(A) = I + A + \frac{A^2}{2!} + \frac{A^3}{3!} + \dots$$

Fortunately, powers of matrices of the last type follow a simple pattern.

With each additional power, the 1's jump "one diagonal up".

Let's illustrate this with 4×4 matrices.

$$\text{Let } N = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

How does N act on the underlying basis, that we'll denote by

$$\underline{e}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \underline{e}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \underline{e}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \underline{e}_4 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} ?$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned}
 N \underline{e}_1 &= \underline{0} \\
 N \underline{e}_2 &= \underline{e}_1 \\
 N \underline{e}_3 &= \underline{e}_2 \\
 N \underline{e}_4 &= \underline{e}_3
 \end{aligned} \right\} N \text{ reduces the indices of the} \\
 \text{basis elements by one}$$

$$0 \leftarrow \underline{e}_1 \leftarrow \underline{e}_2 \leftarrow \underline{e}_3 \leftarrow \underline{e}_4$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned}
 N^2 \underline{e}_1 &= N(N \underline{e}_1) = N \underline{0} = \underline{0}, \\
 N^2 \underline{e}_2 &= N(N \underline{e}_2) = N \underline{e}_1 = \underline{0}, \\
 N^2 \underline{e}_3 &= N(N \underline{e}_3) = N \underline{e}_2 = \underline{e}_1, \\
 N^2 \underline{e}_4 &= N(N \underline{e}_4) = N \underline{e}_3 = \underline{e}_2.
 \end{aligned}$$

So N^2 reduces the indices by two, and is represented by the matrix

$$N^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Now,

$$\left. \begin{aligned}
 N^3 \underline{e}_1 &= N(N^2 \underline{e}_1) = N \underline{0} = \underline{0}, \\
 N^3 \underline{e}_2 &= N(N^2 \underline{e}_2) = N \underline{0} = \underline{0}, \\
 N^3 \underline{e}_3 &= N(N^2 \underline{e}_3) = N \underline{e}_1 = \underline{0}, \\
 N^3 \underline{e}_4 &= N(N^2 \underline{e}_4) = N \underline{e}_2 = \underline{e}_1.
 \end{aligned} \right\} N^3 \text{ reduces} \\
 \text{indices by} \\
 \text{three}$$

$$N^3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Finally, } N^4 \underline{e}_1 = N(N^3 \underline{e}_1) = N \underline{0} = \underline{0},$$

$$N^4 \underline{e}_2 = N(N^3 \underline{e}_2) = N \underline{0} = \underline{0},$$

$$N^4 \underline{e}_3 = N(N^3 \underline{e}_3) = N \underline{0} = \underline{0},$$

$$N^4 \underline{e}_4 = N(N^3 \underline{e}_4) = N \underline{e}_1 = \underline{0}.$$

$$N^4 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

and it follows that $N^m = 0$ for $m \geq 4$.

$$\text{Therefore, } \exp(N) = I + N + \frac{N^2}{2!} + \frac{N^3}{3!} + \underbrace{\frac{N^4}{4!} + \dots}_{=0}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2!} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2!} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{3!} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & \frac{1}{2!} & \frac{1}{3!} \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & \frac{1}{2!} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$\exp\left(\begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda \end{pmatrix}\right) = \begin{pmatrix} e^\lambda & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^\lambda & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^\lambda & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & e^\lambda \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{3!} \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} e^\lambda & e^\lambda & \frac{e^\lambda}{2!} & \frac{e^\lambda}{3!} \\ 0 & e^\lambda & e^\lambda & \frac{e^\lambda}{2!} \\ 0 & 0 & e^\lambda & e^\lambda \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & e^\lambda \end{pmatrix}$$

The computation for a 3×3 Jordan block is completely analogous, and we have

$$\exp\left(\begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & \lambda \end{pmatrix}\right) = e^\lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & \frac{1}{2!} & \dots & \frac{1}{(j-2)!} & \frac{1}{(j-1)!} \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & \dots & \frac{1}{(j-3)!} & \frac{1}{(j-2)!} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \dots & \frac{1}{(j-4)!} & \frac{1}{(j-3)!} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

MATRIX EXPONENTIAL VIA THE JORDAN CANONICAL FORM

Theorem For any matrix A , there exists a real invertible matrix Q so that

$$Q^{-1} A Q = \begin{pmatrix} J_1 & & & & 0 \\ & \dots & & & \\ & & J_m & & \\ 0 & & & K_1 & \\ & & & & \dots \\ & & & & & K_n \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{where}$$

For each $1 \leq k \leq m$, $J_k = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_k & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_k & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_k & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & \lambda_k \end{pmatrix}$

is a Jordan block corresponding to one of the real eigenvalues λ_k of A

For each $1 \leq k \leq n$, $K_k = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_k & \omega_k & & & \\ -\omega_k & \sigma_k & & & \\ \dots & \dots & & & \\ & & & \sigma_k & \omega_k \\ & & & -\omega_k & \sigma_k \\ \dots & \dots & & \dots & \dots \end{pmatrix}$

$\left. \begin{matrix} \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \dots & \sigma_k & \omega_k \\ \dots & -\omega_k & \sigma_k \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \end{matrix} \right\}$

is a Jordan block corresponding to one of the complex eigenvalues $\lambda_k = \sigma_k + i\omega_k$ of A

We have

$$\exp(A) = Q \begin{pmatrix} \exp(J_1) & & & & 0 \\ & \ddots & & & \\ & & \exp(J_m) & & \\ & & & \exp(k_1) & \\ 0 & & & & \ddots \\ & & & & & \exp(k_n) \end{pmatrix} Q^{-1}$$

If J_n is an $n \times n$ matrix,

$$\exp(J_n) = e^{\lambda_n} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & \frac{1}{2!} & \dots & \frac{1}{(n-2)!} & \frac{1}{(n-1)!} \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & \dots & \frac{1}{(n-3)!} & \frac{1}{(n-2)!} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \dots & \frac{1}{(n-4)!} & \frac{1}{(n-3)!} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

If K_k is a $(2s) \times (2s)$ matrix,

$$\exp(K_k) =$$

$$e^{\sigma_k} \left(\begin{array}{cc|cc} \cos(\omega_k) & \sin(\omega_k) & \cos(\omega_k) & \sin(\omega_k) \\ -\sin(\omega_k) & \cos(\omega_k) & -\sin(\omega_k) & \cos(\omega_k) \\ \hline & & \cos(\omega_k) & \sin(\omega_k) \\ & & -\sin(\omega_k) & \cos(\omega_k) \\ \hline & & & \vdots \\ & & \cos(\omega_k) & \sin(\omega_k) \\ & & -\sin(\omega_k) & \cos(\omega_k) \end{array} \right) \left(\begin{array}{cc} \frac{\cos(\omega_k)}{(s-1)!} & \frac{\sin(\omega_k)}{(s-1)!} \\ \frac{\sin(\omega_k)}{(s-1)!} & \frac{\cos(\omega_k)}{(s-1)!} \\ \hline \frac{\cos(\omega_k)}{(s-2)!} & \frac{\sin(\omega_k)}{(s-2)!} \\ \frac{\sin(\omega_k)}{(s-2)!} & \frac{\cos(\omega_k)}{(s-2)!} \\ \hline \vdots \\ \frac{\cos(\omega_k)}{(s-1)!} & \frac{\sin(\omega_k)}{(s-1)!} \\ \frac{\sin(\omega_k)}{(s-1)!} & \frac{\cos(\omega_k)}{(s-1)!} \end{array} \right)$$