Math 24: Winter 2021
Lecture 21

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Let's Get Started

1. We should be recording.
2. Remember, it is more comfortable for me if you turn on your video so that I feel like I am talking to real people.
3. We will be skipping §5.3 and playing in §5.4 for a bit. Then on to §6.1.
4. But first, are there any questions from last time?

Polynomials

Definition

A polynomial $p(\lambda) \in \mathrm{P}(\mathbf{F})$ splits over $\mathbf{F}$ if there are scalars $c, a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbf{F}$ such that

$$p(\lambda) = c(\lambda - a_1)\cdots(\lambda - a_n)$$

Theorem

Suppose that V is a finite-dimensional vector space over $\mathbf{F}$ and that $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ is diagonalizable. Then the characteristic polynomial of T splits over $\mathbf{F}$.

Theorem on Multiplicity

Definition

Suppose that V is a finite-dimensional vector space and $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$. If λ_0 is an eigenvalue for T, then the multiplicity of λ_0 is the largest positive integer k such that $(\lambda - \lambda_0)^k$ is a factor of the characteristic polynomial $p(\lambda)$ of T. We use the same terminology for the eigenvalues of a matrix.

Theorem

Suppose that V is a finite-dimensional vector space and $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$. If λ is an eigenvalue of T of multiplicity m, then

$$1 \leq \dim(E_\lambda) \leq m$$

where E_λ is the λ-eigenspace for T.

Diagonalizability

Theorem

Suppose that V is a finite-dimensional vector space over $\mathbf{F}$ and $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ is a linear operator whose characteristic polynomial splits over $\mathbf{F}$. Let $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$ be the distinct eigenvalues of T with multiplicities $m_1, \dots, m_k$, respectively.

1. *Then T is diagonalizable if and only if $\dim(E_{\lambda_i}) = m_i$ for $1 \leq i \leq k$.*
2. *If T is diagonalizable and β_i is a basis for E_{λ_i} for $1 \leq i \leq k$, then $\beta = \beta_1 \cup \cdots \cup \beta_k$ is a basis for V of eigenvectors for T.*

Invariant Subspaces

Definition

Let T be a linear operator on a vector space V. A subspace W of V is called a T-invariant subspace, or just invariant, if $v \in W$ implies $T(v) \in W$. Alternatively, $T(W) \subset W$.

Example (Low Hanging Fruit)

1. $W = \{0_V\}$.
2. $W = V$.
3. $W = \mathrm{R}(T)$.
4. $W = \mathrm{N}(T)$.
5. $W = E_\lambda$ for any eigenvalue λ for T.

Solution

These are all relatively easy to check and I hope you will do so.

Example

Example

Define $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{R}^3)$ by $T(x, y, z) = (x + y, y + z, z + x)$ and let $W = \{ (x, y, z) \in \mathbf{R}^3 : x + y + z = 0 \}$. Then if $(a, b, c) \in W$, $T(a, b, c) = (a + b, b + c, c + a)$ and

$$(a + b) + (b + c) + (c + a) = 2(a + b + c) = 0.$$

That is $T(a, b, c) \in W$ and W is an invariant subspace.

Cyclic Subspaces

Definition

Suppose $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ and $v \in V$. Then

$$W = \text{Span}\{\, v, T(v), T^2(v), \dots \,\}$$

is called the *T-cyclic subspace* of V generated by v.

Remark

It is a homework exercise to verify that the T-cyclic subspace W generated by v is T-invariant and is contained in any invariant subspace that contains v.

Example

Example

Let $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{R}^3)$ be given by $T(x, y, z) = (x + y, y + z, z + x)$ as before. Let $v = (1, -1, 0)$. Then $T(v) = (0, -1, 1)$, $T^2(v) = (-1, 0, 1)$, $T^3(v) = (-1, 1, 0) = -v$. Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} W &= \operatorname{Span}\{\, v, T(v), T^2(v), \dots \,\} \\ &= \operatorname{Span}\{\, (1, -1, 0), (0, -1, 1), (-1, 0, 1) \,\} \\ &= \operatorname{Span}\{\, (1, -1, 0), (0, -1, 1) \,\} \\ &= \{\, (x, y, z) \in \mathbf{R}^3 : x + y + z = 0 \,\} \end{aligned}$$

Return

Break Time

Time for a break. Questions?

Restrictions

Remark

Suppose that $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ and that W is a T-invariant subspace of V. Then we can define $T_W : W \to W$ by $T_W(v) = T(v)$ for all $v \in W$. It is a straightforward exercise to see that T_W is linear.

Definition

If $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ and if W is a T-invariant subspace of V, then the operator $T_W \in \mathcal{L}(W)$ defined above is called the restriction of T to W.

Remark

Note that since the restriction T_W is itself a bonafide linear operator, it has its own characteristic polynomial, eigenvalues, and eigenvectors. Our next result examines how these are related to those for T.

Theorem

Suppose that $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ for a finite-dimensional vector space V and that W is a T-invariant subspace of V. Then the characteristic polynomial $p_W(\lambda)$ of T_W divides the characteristic polynomial $p(\lambda)$ of T.

Proof.

Let $\gamma = \{ v_1, \dots, v_k \}$ be an ordered basis for W. Let $\beta = \{ v_1, \dots, v_k, v_{k+1}, \dots, v_n \}$ be an extension of γ to an ordered basis of V. Let

$$A = [T]_\beta = \big[[T(v_1)]_\beta \ \cdots \ [T(v_k)]_\beta \ [T(v_{k+1})]_\beta \ \cdots \ [T(v_n)]_\beta \big].$$

Proof

Proof Continued.

Since $T(v_i) \in W$ for $1 \leq i \leq k$, the corresponding coordinate vector $[T(v_i)]_\beta$ is of the form $(\underbrace{a_1, \dots, a_k}_{[T_W(v_i)]_\gamma}, \underbrace{0, \cdots, 0}_{n-k})$. Hence

$$[T]_\beta = \begin{pmatrix} [T_W]_\gamma & B \\ O & C \end{pmatrix}.$$

Hence, using our cute lemma from last lecture,

$$\begin{aligned} p(\lambda) &= \det([T]_\beta - \lambda I_n) = \det \begin{pmatrix} [T_W]_\gamma - \lambda I_k & B \\ O & C - \lambda I_{n-k} \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \det\bigl([T]_\beta - \lambda I_n\bigr) \det\bigl(C - \lambda I_{n-k}\bigr) \\ &= p_W(\lambda) g(\lambda) \end{aligned}$$

where $p_W(\lambda)$ is the characteristic polynomial of T_W and $g(\lambda)$ is a polynomial. Thus $p_W(\lambda)$ divides $p(\lambda)$ as claimed. □

Cyclic Subspaces

Theorem

Suppose that $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ *for a finite-dimensional vector space* V*. Suppose that* $v \in V$ *is nonzero and let* $W = \operatorname{Span}\{\, v, T(v), \dots \}$ *be the* T*-cyclic subspace generated by* v*. Let* $k = \dim(W)$*.*

1. $\beta = \{\, v, T(v), \dots, T^{k-1}(v) \,\}$ *is an ordered basis for* W*.*
2. *If*
$$a_0 v + a_1 T(v) + \cdots a_{k-1} T^{k-1}(v) + T^k(v) = 0_V,$$
then the characteristic polynomial of T_W *is*
$$p_W(\lambda) = (-1)^k \big(a_0 + a_1\lambda + \cdots a_{k-1}\lambda^{k-1} + \lambda^k.\big)$$

Proof

Proof.

Since $v \neq 0_V$, $\{v\}$ is linearly independent. Hence there is a largest $j \geq 1$ such that $\beta = \{\, v, T(v), \dots, T^{j-1}(v)\,\}$ is linearly independent. (We interpret $T^0 = I_V$.) Such a j exists because V is finite dimensional. Let $Z = \operatorname{Span}(\beta)$. Note that β is a basis for Z. We must have $T^j(v) \in Z$—otherwise $\beta \cup \{\, T^j(v)\}$ would be linearly independent. I claim that Z is T-invariant. Let $w \in Z$. Then there are scalars a_i such that $w = a_0 v + a_1 T(v) + \cdots a_{j-1} T^{j-1}(v)$. But then

$$T(w) = a_0 T(v) + \cdots + a_{j-2} T^{j-1}(v) + a_{j-1} T^j(v).$$

Since $T^j(v) \in Z = \operatorname{Span}(\beta)$, so it $T(w)$. This proves the claim. Since $v \in Z$ and Z is T-invariant, it follows from homework that $W \subset Z$. But we clearly have $Z \subset W$. Hence $W = Z$ and $\dim(W) = j$. Thus $j = k$ and we have proved item (1).

Proof

Proof Continued.

(2) Let $\beta = \{ v, T(v), \dots, T^{k-1}(v) \}$ be our ordered basis from the first part of the proof. Since $T^k(v) \in W$, there are unique scalars such that

$$a_0 v + a_1 T(v) + \cdots + a_{k-1} T^{k-1}(v) + T^k(v) = 0_V.$$

Then

$$[T_W]_\beta = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & -a_0 \\ 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & -a_1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 & -a_{k-1} \end{pmatrix}.$$

You get to use induction to calculate that the characteristic polynomial of T_W is

$$p_W(\lambda) = (-1)^k (a_0 + \cdots + a_{k-1}\lambda^{k-1} + \lambda^k).$$

□

Example

Example

As in our earlier ▸ example, let $T(x,y,z) = (x+y, y+z, z+x)$ and let W be the cyclic subspace generated by $v = (1,-1,0)$. Then $\dim(W) = 2$ and

$$v - T(v) + T^2(v) = (1,-1,0) - (0,-1,1) + (-1,0,1) = 0_{\mathbf{R}^3}.$$

By the theorem, $p_W(\lambda) = (-1)^2(1 - \lambda + \lambda^2)$.

But $\beta = \{\, (1,-1,0), (0,-1,1) \,\}$ is a basis for W and

$$[T_W]_\beta = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Thus we also can compute that

$$p_W(\lambda) = \det\begin{pmatrix} -\lambda & -1 \\ 1 & 1-\lambda \end{pmatrix} = \lambda^2 - \lambda + 1.$$

Break Time

Time for a break and questions.

Remark

Suppose that V is a vector space over $\mathbf{F}$ and $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$. Then if $p \in \mathrm{P}(\mathbf{F})$ is given by $p(t) = a_0 + a_1 t + \cdots + a_n t^n$, then we get a new operator $p(T) \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ by letting

$$p(T) = a_0 I_V + a_1 T + \cdots + a_n T^n.$$

Note the appearance of I_V in the "constant term". As before, we can think of this as T^0. For example, if $p(t) = t^2 - 1$, then $p(T) = T^2 - I_V$ and $p(T)(v) = T^2(v) - v$. Of course, we can play the same game with matrices $A \in M_{n\times n}(\mathbf{F})$. Then $p(A) = A^2 - I_n$. For example, if $p(t) = t - \lambda$, then the characteristic polynomial of A is $\det(p(A)) = \det(A - \lambda I_n)$.

Killing T

Remark

If $\dim(V) = n$, then $\dim(\mathcal{L}(V)) = n^2$. Therefore the set $\{ I_V, T, T^2, \dots, T^{n^2} \}$ is linearly dependent and there are scalars $a_0, \dots, a_{n^2}$ such that

$$a_0 I_V + a_1 T + \cdots + a_{n^2} T^{n^2} = T_0$$

Thus if we let $p \in P_{n^2}(\mathbf{F})$ be given by $p(t) = a_0 + a_1 t + \cdots + a_{n^2} t^{n^2}$, then

$$p(T) = T_0!$$

Of course, if $A \in M_{n\times n}(\mathbf{F})$, we can do the analogous thing and find $p \in P_{n^2}(\mathbf{F})$ such that $p(A)$ is the zero matrix. We now have the tools to show that we can do the same thing with a polynomial of degree n! In fact, we will show that the characteristic polynomial always does the job.

Cayley-Hamilton Theorem

Theorem (Cayley-Hamilton Theorem)

Suppose that V is a finite-dimensional vector space and that $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$. If $p(\lambda)$ is the characteristic polynomial of T, then $p(T) = T_0$.

Remark

I the language of the text, we way that T "satisfies" its characteristic polynomial.

Proof

Proof.

It will suffice to show that $p(T)(v) = 0$ for all $v \in V$. Since $p(T)$ is a linear operator, this is automatic if $v = 0_V$, so we assume $v \neq 0$. We let W be the T-cyclic subspace generated by v and suppose that $\dim(W) = k$. Then as in the proof of our theorem, there are constants a_i such that

$$a_0 v + a_1 T(v) + \cdots + a_{k-1} T^{k-1}(v) + T^k(v) = 0_V.$$

Then we proved that the characteristic polynomial of T_W is

$$p_W(\lambda) = (-1)^k (a_0 + a_1 \lambda + \cdots + a_{k-1} \lambda^{k-1} + \lambda^k).$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} p_W(T)(v) &= (-1)^k \big(a_0 v + a_1 T(v) + \cdots + a_{k-1} T^{k-1}(v) + T^k(v) \big) \\ &= 0_V. \end{aligned}$$

Proof

Proof Continued.

We also proved that $p_W(\lambda)$ divides $p(\lambda)$ so that $p(\lambda) = g(\lambda)p_W(\lambda)$ for some $g \in P_n(\mathbf{F})$. But then,

$$p(T)(v) = g(T)p_W(T)(v) = g(T)\big(p_W(T)(v)\big) = g(T)(0_V) = 0_V.$$

This completes the proof of the theorem. □

Corollary

If $A \in M_{n\times n}(\mathbf{F})$ and $p(\lambda)$ is the characteristic polynomial of A, then $p(A) = O$.

Sketch of the Proof.

By the theorem, $p(L_A) = T_0$. Consider $[p(L_A)]_\sigma$ where σ is the standard basis. □

Example

Let $A = \left(\begin{smallmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{smallmatrix}\right)$. Then its characteristic polynomial is $p(\lambda) = \lambda^2 - 5\lambda - 2$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} p(A) &= \left(\begin{smallmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{smallmatrix}\right)^2 - 5\left(\begin{smallmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{smallmatrix}\right) - 2\left(\begin{smallmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{smallmatrix}\right) \\ &= \left(\begin{smallmatrix} 7 & 10 \\ 15 & 22 \end{smallmatrix}\right) - \left(\begin{smallmatrix} 5 & 10 \\ 15 & 20 \end{smallmatrix}\right) - \left(\begin{smallmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{smallmatrix}\right) \\ &= \left(\begin{smallmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{smallmatrix}\right) \end{aligned}$$

as per the theorem.

Enough

1. That is enough for today.