

The matrix

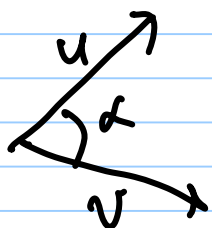
$$Q = \begin{pmatrix} 2/\sqrt{5} & 1/\sqrt{5} \\ -1/\sqrt{5} & 2/\sqrt{5} \end{pmatrix}$$

any two different rows have dot product 0.

has columns which are orthogonal and have length 1. } orthogonal basis.

Two column vectors  $u = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $v = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ \vdots \\ b_n \end{pmatrix}$

have dot product  $u \cdot v = u^T v = v^T u = a_1 b_1 + \dots + a_n b_n$



$$u \cdot u = \|u\|^2$$

$$\cos \alpha = \frac{u \cdot v}{\|u\| \|v\|}$$

$$Q Q^T = Q^T Q = I$$

$$Q = \begin{pmatrix} 2/\sqrt{5} & 1/\sqrt{5} \\ -1/\sqrt{5} & 2/\sqrt{5} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$Q^T Q = \begin{pmatrix} 2/\sqrt{5} & -1/\sqrt{5} \\ 1/\sqrt{5} & 2/\sqrt{5} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2/\sqrt{5} \\ 1/\sqrt{5} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1/\sqrt{5} \\ 2/\sqrt{5} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

In other words, the matrix  $Q$  satisfies

$$Q^{-1} = Q^T$$

Such a matrix is called an orthogonal matrix.

Proposition: If  $Q$  is an orthogonal matrix  $n \times n$   
then for any two column vectors  $u, v$   $n \times 1$

$$(Qu) \cdot (Qv) = u \cdot v$$

Comment:

This means, the linear transformation  $\mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$   
with matrix  $Q$  with respect to the standard  
basis in the domain and codomain preserves  
lengths and angles. Such a linear transformation

is called an isometry. Conversely, an isometry which keeps the origin fixed is a linear transformation given by an orthogonal matrix.

To be realisable by a move "in the real world"  
 $n=3$

we have to have  $\det Q = 1$ .

We always have  $(\det Q)^2 = \det Q \det Q^T =$   
 $\Downarrow = \det QQ^T = \det I = 1$ .

$$\det Q = \pm 1.$$

Proof:

$$(Qu) \cdot (Qv) = (Qu)^T Qv = u^T \underbrace{Q^T Q}_I v =$$

$$= u^T I v = u^T v = u \cdot v. \quad \square$$

---

To summarise: If  $A$  is a symmetrical  
real matrix ( $a_{ij} = a_{ji}$ ) then  $A$  is diagonalizable  
by a <sup>real</sup> orthogonal matrix:

$$Q^{-1} A Q = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix}$$

$Q$  is a real matrix  $Q Q^T = I$

$$Q^{-1} = Q^T.$$

The elements of the orthonormal basis consisting of eigenvectors are called principal axes.

This has applications in geometry, probability and statistics.

---

What to do if the matrix has degenerate eigenvalues

↖ symmetric real

Example: Find principal axes.

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 & 6 \end{pmatrix}.$$

"Cheat": The product of eigenvalues is the determinant.



$$\begin{aligned}
 \det A &= 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 6 + 1 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 + 1 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 - 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 - 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 6 - 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \\
 &= 54 + 4 + 4 - 12 - 6 - 12 = \\
 &= 62 - 30 = 32
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\det(xI - A) = \det \begin{pmatrix} x-3 & 1 & -2 \\ -1 & x-3 & -2 \\ -2 & -2 & x-6 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= (x-3)(x-3)(x-6) - 4 - 4 - 4(x-3) - (x-6) - 4(x-3)$$

$$= x^3 - 12x^2 + 45x - 54 - 8 - 9x + 30 =$$

$$= x^3 - 12x^2 + 36x - 32$$

$$8 - 48 + 72 - 32 = 0$$

$$\boxed{x = 2, 2, 8}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} x^2 - 10x + 16 \\ x-2 \overline{) x^3 - 12x^2 + 36x - 32} \\ \underline{-x^3 + 2x^2} \end{array}$$

$$-10x^2 + 36x - 32$$

$$\underline{10x^2 - 20x}$$

$$16x - 32$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 x - 8 \\
 \hline
 x - 2 \ ) \ x^2 - 10x + 16 \\
 \underline{-x^2 + 2x} \\
 -8x + 16
 \end{array}$$

$$2I - A = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 & -2 \\ -1 & -1 & -2 \\ -2 & -2 & -4 \end{pmatrix} \sim \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 & 6 \end{pmatrix}$$

these vectors  
are not  
orthogonal !!!

Orthogonalising a basis: Gram-Schmidt orthogonalisation process

Orthogonal row echelon form: transpose the vectors so we can work with rows:

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 \\ -2 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \sim \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \sim \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1/2 \\ 0 & 1 & -1/2 \end{pmatrix} \text{ RREF}$$

My approach: keep away from fractions

$$u_1 \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

don't worry about  
length 1 except  
in the end

$$u_1 \cdot u_2 = 1$$

$$u_2 \cdot u_2 = 5$$

replace  $u_1$   
by  $(5u_1 - u_2)$

$$(5u_1 - u_2) \cdot u_2 = 5u_1 \cdot u_2 - u_2 \cdot u_2 = 0$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 10 & -2 & -4 \\ 0 & 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} \leftarrow \text{length} \\ \sqrt{120} \\ \uparrow \\ \sqrt{5} \end{matrix}$$

Normalize and  
transpose back:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 10/\sqrt{120} \\ -2/\sqrt{120} \\ -4/\sqrt{120} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2/\sqrt{5} \\ -1/\sqrt{5} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 & 6 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$\lambda = 4$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 5 & -1 & -2 \\ -1 & +5 & -2 \\ -2 & -2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \sim$$

$$\sim \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 6 & -3 \\ 0 & -6 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \sim \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 6 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \sim \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1/2 \\ 0 & \textcircled{1} & -1/2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$\uparrow$   
2

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{normalize}} \begin{pmatrix} 1/\sqrt{6} \\ 1/\sqrt{6} \\ 2/\sqrt{6} \end{pmatrix}$$

Principal axes:

$$Q = \begin{pmatrix} 10/\sqrt{120} & 0 & 1/\sqrt{6} \\ -2/\sqrt{120} & 2/\sqrt{5} & 1/\sqrt{6} \\ -4/\sqrt{120} & 1/\sqrt{5} & 2/\sqrt{6} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 10/\sqrt{120} \\ -2/\sqrt{120} \\ -4/\sqrt{120} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2/\sqrt{5} \\ -1/\sqrt{5} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1/\sqrt{6} \\ 1/\sqrt{6} \\ 2/\sqrt{6} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$Q^{-1}AQ = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 8 \end{pmatrix} \quad Q^{-1} = Q^T$$

---

(HW:) Find the principal axes of the matrix:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 1 & 3 \\ 1 & 5 & 3 \\ 3 & 3 & 13 \end{pmatrix}.$$