

Q1 Ex: $A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -5 & 3 & 2 & -3 \\ 5 & -7 & 3 & 1 & 1 \\ 6 & -6 & 2 & -1 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$

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$$\left| \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} - \lambda \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right| = (1-\lambda)(2-\lambda)$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} 3-\lambda & -5 & 3 \\ 5 & -7-\lambda & 3 \\ 6 & -6 & 2-\lambda \end{vmatrix} = 3 \begin{vmatrix} 5 & -(7+\lambda) \\ 6 & -6 \end{vmatrix} - 3 \begin{vmatrix} 3-\lambda & -5 \\ 6 & -6 \end{vmatrix} + (2-\lambda) \begin{vmatrix} 3-\lambda & -5 \\ 5 & -(7+\lambda) \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= 3[-30 + 6(7+\lambda)] - 3[-6(3-\lambda) + 30] + (2-\lambda)[(3-\lambda)(7+\lambda) + 25]$$

$$= 3[12 + 6\lambda] - 3[12 + 6\lambda] + (2-\lambda)[\lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 4]$$

$$= (2-\lambda)(\lambda+2)^2, \quad P(\lambda) = (1-\lambda)(2-\lambda)^2(2+\lambda)^2$$

eigenvalues: $\lambda = 2, -2, 1$

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$\lambda = 1$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} 2 & -5 & 3 & 2 & -3 \\ 5 & -8 & 3 & 1 & 1 \\ 6 & -6 & 1 & -1 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} 1 & 2 & -2 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & -9 & 7 & 6 & 0 \\ 0 & -18 & 13 & 11 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} 1 & 2 & -2 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 9 & -7 & -6 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 9 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & -2/9 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1/9 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}$$

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} -2/9 \\ 1/9 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{9} \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 9 \\ -9 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

check:

$$\begin{aligned} -4 - 5 + 27 - 18 &= 0 \\ -10 - 8 + 27 - 9 &= 0 \\ -12 - 6 + 9 + 9 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

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R3
 $\lambda = 2$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} 1 & -5 & 3 & 2 & -3 \\ 5 & -9 & 3 & 1 & 1 \\ 6 & -6 & 0 & -1 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} 1 & -5 & 3 & 0 & 3 \\ 5 & -9 & 3 & 0 & 4 \\ 6 & -6 & 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 16 & -12 & 0 & -11 \\ 0 & 8 & -6 & 0 & -5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 8 & -6 & 0 & -5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}$$

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$$X = \begin{pmatrix} -3/4 \\ -3/4 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = -\frac{1}{4} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

check:

$$\begin{aligned} 32 - 15 + 12 &= 0 \\ 15 - 27 + 12 &= 0 \\ 18 - 18 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} 1 & 0 & -3/4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -3/4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}$$

12.4
 $\lambda = -2$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc|c} 5 & -5 & 3 & 2 & -3 & 0 \\ 5 & -5 & 3 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 6 & -6 & 4 & -1 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc|c} 5 & -5 & 3 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & -5 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 6 & -6 & 4 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc|c} 5 & -5 & 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & -5 & 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 6 & -6 & 4 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc|c} 1 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}$$

$x = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ✓

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$$\begin{array}{ccccc} 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}$$

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eigenvector eigenvalue pairs

$$\lambda = 1, \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 9 \\ -9 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \lambda = 2, x = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \lambda = -2, x = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

A is not diagonalizable.

(130)

Definition: Given $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ the characteristic polynomial for A is given by

$$p(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I)$$

$p(\lambda)$ is a polynomial of degree n .

Two step process for finding eigenvector eigenvalue pairs

- (1) Solve the degree n polynomial equation $p(\lambda) = 0$.

$$p(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I) = 0.$$

The roots of p are the eigenvalues of A .

There are n such roots counting multiplicity $\{\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n\}$

- (2) Solve the homogeneous equation $(A - \lambda_i I)x = 0$ for the eigenvectors of A associated with the eigenvalue λ_i , $i = 1, \dots, n$.

$$(131) \quad A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$|A - \lambda I| = \begin{vmatrix} -\lambda & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1-\lambda & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & 1-\lambda \end{vmatrix} = (1-\lambda)(-1)^{3+3} \begin{vmatrix} -\lambda & -1 \\ 0 & 1-\lambda \end{vmatrix} \\ = -\lambda(1-\lambda)^2, \lambda = 0, 1, 1$$

$$\lambda = 0, x = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\lambda = 1 \quad \begin{array}{ccc|c} -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \end{array}$$

$$x = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

(132)

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -10 & 6 \\ 6 & 11 & -6 \\ 5 & 8 & -4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{matrix} 8 \\ +8 \\ -22 \end{matrix}$$

$$|A - \lambda I| = \begin{vmatrix} 5-\lambda & -10 & 6 \\ 6 & 11-\lambda & -6 \\ 5 & 8 & -4-\lambda \end{vmatrix} = 6(-1)^{3+1} \begin{vmatrix} 6 & 11-\lambda \\ 5 & 8 \end{vmatrix} + 6 \begin{vmatrix} -(5-\lambda) & -10 \\ 5 & 8 \end{vmatrix} - (4+\lambda) \begin{vmatrix} -(5-\lambda) & -10 \\ 6 & 11-\lambda \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= 6[48 - 5(11-\lambda)] + 6[50 - 8(5+\lambda)] - (4+\lambda)[60 - (5+\lambda)(11-\lambda)]$$

$$= 6[3 - 3\lambda] - (4+\lambda)[60 - 55 - 6\lambda + \lambda^2]$$

$$= 18(1-\lambda) - (4+\lambda)(\lambda^2 - 6\lambda + 5)$$

$$= 18 - 18\lambda - [\lambda^3 - 6\lambda^2 + 5\lambda + 4\lambda^2 - 24\lambda + 20]$$

$$= -\lambda^3 + 2\lambda^2 + \lambda - 2$$

$$\lambda = 1, 2, -1$$

$$0 = \lambda^3 - 2\lambda^2 - \lambda + 2 = (\lambda-1)(\lambda-2)(\lambda+1)$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \lambda^3 - 2\lambda^2 - \lambda + 2 \\ \lambda^3 - \lambda^2 \\ \hline 0 - \lambda^2 - \lambda + 2 \\ -\lambda^2 + \lambda \\ \hline 0 - 2\lambda + 2 \\ -2\lambda + 2 \\ \hline 0 \end{array}$$

$$\lambda = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{1+8}}{2} = \frac{1 \pm 3}{2}$$

$$= 2, -1$$

(133)

If λ is an eigenvalue of $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$
of multiplicity k , then $\dim(\text{Nul}(A - \lambda I)) \leq k$.
 $\downarrow$
algebraic

ex: $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$, $|A - \lambda I| = \begin{vmatrix} 1-\lambda & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1-\lambda & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1-\lambda \end{vmatrix} = (1-\lambda)^3$

solve $(A - I)x = 0$

$$\begin{array}{ccc|c} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}$$

$x = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ is the only solution

(134) The Unity, Theorem Version 8

Let $S = \{a^1, a^2, \dots, a^n\} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $A = [a^1 \dots a^n]$ $T_A x = Ax$

T F A E

(a) $\text{Span } S = \mathbb{R}^n$

(b) S is linearly independent

(c) $Ax = b$ has a unique solution for all $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$

(m) $\text{Nul}(A) = \{0\}$

(n) $\lambda = 0$ is not an eigenvalue of A

(d) T_A is onto

(e) T_A is one to one

(f) A is invertible

(g) $\ker(T) = \{0\}$

(h) S is a basis for $\mathbb{R}^n$

(i) $\text{col}(A) = \text{Ran}(A) = \mathbb{R}^n$

(j) $\text{row}(A) = \text{Ran}(A^T) = \mathbb{R}^n$

(k) $\det(A) \neq 0$

(m) $\lambda = 0$

(135) 6.2 Diagonalization :

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^n, D = \text{Diag}[X] = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \ddots & & \\ 0 & 0 & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & x_n \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow x_i \text{ is an eigenvalue of } D \text{ with eigenvector } e_i$$

Defn: We say that $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is diagonalizable if

There exists $P \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that P is invertible and $A = P \text{Diag}(x) P^{-1}$

The vector x contains the eigenvalues of A .
Observation: Suppose $A = P \text{Diag}(x) P^{-1}$.

$$P = [p^1 \ p^2 \ \dots \ p^n], \text{ then } P^{-1}P = [g_i^T \ p_j] = I$$

$$P^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} g_1^T \\ \vdots \\ g_n^T \end{bmatrix} \quad g_i^T p_j = \begin{cases} 1 & i=j \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow P^{-1} p_j = e_j$$

$$\Rightarrow A p_j = P \text{Diag}(x) P^{-1} p_j = P \text{Diag}(x) e_j = x_j P e_j = x_j p_j$$

$\Rightarrow p_j$ is the eigenvector associated with eigenvalue x_j

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ex: $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$

$$|A - \lambda I| = \begin{vmatrix} -\lambda & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & -\lambda & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 2-\lambda \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= -\lambda \begin{vmatrix} -\lambda & 1 \\ -1 & 2-\lambda \end{vmatrix} - 1 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 2-\lambda \end{vmatrix} + \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -\lambda & 1 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= -\lambda [-\lambda(2-\lambda) + 1] - [2-\lambda-1] + [1-\lambda] \\ &= -\lambda [-2\lambda + \lambda^2 + 1] \\ &= -\lambda [\lambda^2 - 2\lambda + 1] = -\lambda (\lambda - 1)^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\lambda = 0, 1, 1$$

$$\lambda = 0 \quad \begin{array}{ccc|c} 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 2 & 0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}$$

$$x = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

check

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\lambda = 1 \quad \begin{array}{ccc|c} -1 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & 0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}$$

$$x = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

(137)

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

check

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

$$\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} -1 & 1 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ \hline 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ \hline 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 & 1 & -2 \\ \hline 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & -1 & 2 \end{array}$$

$$P \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} P^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = A$$

(138)

Theorem: $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is diagonalizable $\iff$
eigenvectors form a basis for $\mathbb{R}^n$.

Pf: $\Rightarrow A = P \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} P^{-1}$, set $P = [p^1 p^2 \dots p^n]$, $[P^{-1}]^T = [g^1 g^2 \dots g^n]$

$$\Rightarrow I_n = P^{-1}P = \begin{bmatrix} (g^1)^T \\ (g^2)^T \\ \vdots \\ (g^n)^T \end{bmatrix} [p^1 p^2 \dots p^n] = \begin{bmatrix} (g^1)^T p^1 & (g^1)^T p^2 & \dots & (g^1)^T p^n \\ (g^2)^T p^1 & (g^2)^T p^2 & \dots & (g^2)^T p^n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ (g^n)^T p^1 & (g^n)^T p^2 & \dots & (g^n)^T p^n \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow (g^i)^T p^j = \begin{cases} 0 & i \neq j \\ 1 & i = j \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow P^{-1} p^j = e_j \text{ the } j^{\text{th}} \text{ unit coordinate vector} \Rightarrow A p^j = P \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} P^{-1} p^j = P \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} e_j$$

$$\Rightarrow p^j \text{ is an eigenvector of } A \text{ with eigenvalue } \lambda_j. \quad = \lambda_j P e_j = \lambda_j p^j$$

$$\begin{aligned} (\Leftarrow) \text{ Write } P &= [p^1 \dots p^n] \Rightarrow P^{-1} A P = P^{-1} [A p^1 \dots A p^n] = P^{-1} [\lambda_1 p^1 \lambda_2 p^2 \dots \lambda_n p^n] \\ &= [\lambda_1 P^{-1} p^1 \dots \lambda_n P^{-1} p^n] = P^{-1} P \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow A = P \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} P^{-1}$$

(139) Th: If $\{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k\}$ is a set of distinct
eigenvalues of A , then the associated
set of eigenvectors $\{u^1, u^2, \dots, u^k\}$
are linearly independent.

pf: Supp false $\Rightarrow$ wlog $u^1 = \alpha_2 u^2 + \dots + \alpha_k u^k$, not all $\alpha_i = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda_1 u^1 = A u^1 = \alpha_2 \lambda_2 u^2 + \dots + \alpha_k \lambda_k u^k$$

$$\Rightarrow u^1 = \alpha_2 \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} u^2 + \dots + \alpha_k \frac{\lambda_k}{\lambda_1} u^k$$

$$\Rightarrow 0 = \beta_2 u^2 + \dots + \beta_k u^k, \quad \beta_i = \alpha_i \frac{\lambda_i}{\lambda_1}$$

$$\Rightarrow u^2 = \hat{\beta}_2 u^3 + \dots + \hat{\beta}_k u^k$$

$$u^i = \delta_i u^k \quad i=1, \dots, k$$

$$\Rightarrow u^{k-1} = \gamma u^k$$

$\Rightarrow$

~~X~~

(140) Th: $A \in \mathbb{R}^n$ eigenvalues $\lambda = \{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n\} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$

Then A is diagonalizable $\Leftrightarrow \dim(\text{Nul}(A - \lambda_i I)) = k_i$

where $k_i = \text{multiplicity of } \lambda_i$

in $p(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I)$.

Cor: If $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ has n distinct eigenvalues, then A is diagonalizable.