

1. Question: Determinants (*elementary*)

1.1. What are the determinants of the following matrices

$$A = [4] \quad \text{and} \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 5 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} ?$$

1.2. Compute the determinants of

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 5 & 0 \\ 2 & 4 & -1 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & 1 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 0 & 3 & 2 & 7 & 1 & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 4 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 5 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} .$$

1.3. Use a cofactor expansion across the third row to compute $\det(A)$, where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 5 & 0 \\ 2 & 4 & -1 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

1.4. Compute $\det(A)$, where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -7 & 8 & 9 & -6 \\ 0 & 2 & -5 & 7 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 4 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Solution:

1.1. Per definition, $|A| = 4$. Furthermore,

$$|B| = (3 \cdot 2) - (1 \cdot 5) = 1 .$$

1.2. $\det A = a_{11} \det A_{11} - a_{12} \det A_{12} + a_{13} \det A_{13}$:

$$\begin{aligned} \det A &= 1 \cdot \det \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -1 \\ -2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} - 5 \cdot \det \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + 0 \cdot \det \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= 1(0 - 2) - 5(0 - 0) + 0(-4 - 0) = -2 . \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, since B is an upper triangular matrix,

$$\det(B) = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 3 = 18 .$$

1.3. Compute

$$\begin{aligned} \det A &= a_{31}C_{31} + a_{32}C_{32} + a_{33}C_{33} \\ &= (-1)^{3+1}a_{31} \det A_{31} + (-1)^{3+2}a_{32} \det A_{32} + (-1)^{3+3}a_{33} \det A_{33} \\ &= 0 \begin{vmatrix} 5 & 0 \\ 4 & -1 \end{vmatrix} - (-2) \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & -1 \end{vmatrix} + 0 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 5 \\ 2 & 4 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= 0 + 2(-1) + 0 = -2 \end{aligned}$$

1.4. The cofactor expansion down the first column of A has all terms equal to zero except the first. Thus

$$\det A = 3 \cdot \begin{vmatrix} 2 & -5 & 7 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 4 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & 0 \end{vmatrix} + 0 \cdot C_{21} + 0 \cdot C_{31} + 0 \cdot C_{41} + 0 \cdot C_{51}$$

Henceforth we will omit the zero terms in the cofactor expansion. Next, expand this 4×4 determinant down the first column, in order to take advantage of the zeros there. We have

$$\det A = 3 \cdot 2 \cdot \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 5 & 0 \\ 2 & 4 & -1 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 \end{vmatrix}$$

This 3×3 determinant was computed in **1.2/1.3** and found to equal -2 .
 Hence $\det A = 3 \cdot 2 \cdot (-2) = -12$.

2. Question: Eigenspaces

2.1. Name all eigenvalues and corresponding eigenspaces of the identity matrix \mathbf{I}_n in $\mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}_{>0}$.
(elementary)

2.2. Compute all eigenvalues and corresponding eigenspaces of the following matrices: *(basic)*

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & -6 & -2 \\ 5 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

2.3. Consider a vector $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $n \in \mathbb{N}_{>0}$. Name all eigenvectors and corresponding eigenspaces of vv^\top .
(basic)

Solution:

2.1. Of course, for any vector $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$, we have that $\mathbf{I}_n v = v$. Since this immediately implies that $\mathbf{I}_n v = 1v$, so the only eigenvalue is $\lambda = 1$, with all vectors in \mathbb{R}^n corresponding to it. Therefore, the eigenspace is $E_1 = \mathbb{R}^n$.

2.2. For matrix A :

Step 0: Characteristic Polynomial. From our definition of the eigenvector $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$ and eigenvalue λ of \mathbf{A} , there will be a vector such that $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$, i.e., $(\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I})\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$. Since $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$, this requires that the kernel (null space) of $\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I}$ contains more elements than just $\mathbf{0}$. This means that $\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I}$ is not invertible and therefore $\det(\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I}) = 0$. Hence, we need to compute the roots of the characteristic polynomial to find the eigenvalues.

Step 1: Eigenvalues. The characteristic polynomial is

$$\begin{aligned} p_{\mathbf{A}}(\lambda) &= \det(\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I}) \\ &= \det\left(\begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda \end{bmatrix}\right) = \begin{vmatrix} 4 - \lambda & 2 \\ 1 & 3 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} \\ &= (4 - \lambda)(3 - \lambda) - 2 \cdot 1 \end{aligned}$$

We factorize the characteristic polynomial and obtain

$$p(\lambda) = (4 - \lambda)(3 - \lambda) - 2 \cdot 1 = 10 - 7\lambda + \lambda^2 = (2 - \lambda)(5 - \lambda)$$

giving the roots $\lambda_1 = 2$ and $\lambda_2 = 5$.

Steps 2,3: Eigenvectors and Eigenspaces. We find the eigenvectors that correspond to these eigenvalues by looking at vectors \mathbf{x} such that

$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 - \lambda & 2 \\ 1 & 3 - \lambda \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$$

For $\lambda = 5$ we obtain

$$\begin{bmatrix} 4-5 & 2 \\ 1 & 3-5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 2 \\ 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{0}.$$

We solve this homogeneous system and obtain a solution space

$$E_5 = \text{span} \left[\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right]$$

This eigenspace is one-dimensional as it possesses a single basis vector. Analogously, we find the eigenvector for $\lambda = 2$ by solving the homogeneous system of equations

$$\begin{bmatrix} 4-2 & 2 \\ 1 & 3-2 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}.$$

This means any vector $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$, where $x_2 = -x_1$, such as $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$, is an eigenvector with eigenvalue 2. The corresponding eigenspace is given as

$$E_2 = \text{span} \left[\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \right]$$

For matrix B :

Step 1: We can rewrite the characteristic polynomial as follows

$$\begin{aligned} p_B(\lambda) &= \det(B - \lambda I) \stackrel{!}{=} 0 \\ \implies \begin{vmatrix} \lambda - 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & \lambda + 6 & 2 \\ -5 & 0 & \lambda \end{vmatrix} &\stackrel{!}{=} 0 \\ \implies (\lambda - 4)((\lambda + 6)(\lambda) - 0) - 1(0 - (-5)(\lambda + 6)) &\stackrel{!}{=} 0 \\ \implies (\lambda - 4)((\lambda + 6)(\lambda)) - 5(\lambda + 6) &\stackrel{!}{=} 0 \\ \implies (\lambda + 6)(\lambda(\lambda - 4) - 5) = (\lambda + 6)(\lambda^2 - 4\lambda - 5) &\stackrel{!}{=} 0 \\ \implies (\lambda + 6)(\lambda - 5)(\lambda + 1) &\stackrel{!}{=} 0 \end{aligned}$$

From which it immediately follows that the eigenvalues are

$$\lambda_1 = -6, \quad \lambda_2 = 5, \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_3 = -1.$$

Step 2: Eigenvectors.

For $\lambda_1 = -6$, we get

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 4 - (-6) & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & -6 - (-6) & -2 & 0 \\ 5 & 0 & 0 - (-6) & 0 \end{array} \right] \sim \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

Solving this gives us the corresponding eigenvector $v_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ (other values than 1 are of course correct, too!)

For $\lambda_2 = 5$, we get

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 4 - 5 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & -6 - 5 & -2 & 0 \\ 5 & 0 & 0 - 5 & 0 \end{array} \right] \sim \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{3}{11} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

Solving this gives us the corresponding eigenvector $v_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -\frac{3}{11} \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

For $\lambda_3 = -1$, we get

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 4 - (-1) & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & -6 - (-1) & -2 & 0 \\ 5 & 0 & 0 - (-1) & 0 \end{array} \right] \sim \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & \frac{1}{5} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{1}{25} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

Solving this gives us the corresponding eigenvector $v_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{5} \\ -\frac{9}{25} \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

Step 3: Lastly, we get the following eigenspaces from step 2:

$$E_{-6} = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}, \quad E_5 = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -\frac{3}{11} \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}, \quad \text{and} \quad E_{-1} = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{5} \\ -\frac{9}{25} \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}.$$

2.3. Consider another vector $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$. First, note that both $(vv^\top)x$ and $v(v^\top x)$ are vectors in \mathbb{R}^n . More specifically, for any $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ we have

$$[(vv^\top)x]_i = \sum_{j=1}^n (v_i v_j) x_j = v_i \sum_{j=1}^n (v_j x_j) = [v(v^\top x)]_i$$

So it immediately follows that

$$(vv^\top)x = v(v^\top x) \stackrel{(v^\top x) \text{ is a scalar}}{=} (v^\top x)v.$$

Therefore, the matrix has the following two eigenvalues with corresponding eigenspaces:

- $v^\top v$ with $E_{v^\top v} = \text{span}(v)$ (this follows immediately from setting $x = v$)
- 0 with $E_0 = \ker(v^\top)$, i.e. all vectors $p \in \mathbb{R}^n$ so that $v^\top p = 0$.

3. Question: Conceptual questions (*basic*)

For some questions in this exercise, you will need the following: *The determinant of a square matrix is equal to the product of its eigenvalues, while the trace is equal to the sum of its eigenvalues.* (For a proof, see page 3 of <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/mathsllearning/ua/media/120/eval-magic-tricks-handout.pdf>)

3.1. Prove that a square matrix A is invertible if and only if it has no eigenvalues of value 0.

3.2. If an invertible matrix A has eigenvalues $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ then what are the eigenvalues of A^{-1} ? What about $A + I$? What about A^\top ? What about A^2 ? What about A^3 ? Answer the same question for eigenvectors.

3.3. Is it possible to determine the eigenvalues of the following matrices?

- A , a 2×2 matrix with $\det(A) = -2$ and $\text{tr}(A) = 0$.
- B , a 3×3 matrix with $\det(A) = -2$ and $\text{tr}(A) = 0$.

3.4. Prove that if matrices A and B are similar then they have identical eigenvalues.

3.5. Prove the following statement: *Similar matrices are always equivalent. However, equivalent matrices are not necessarily similar.*

Solution:

- 3.1.** If there is an eigenvalue of 0 then $0 = \det(A - \lambda I) = \det(A - 0) = \det(A)$ so A is not invertible. If A is not invertible read the equalities in the opposite order and A has an eigenvalue of value 0.
- 3.2.** A^{-1} will have reciprocal eigenvalues $\frac{1}{\lambda_1}, \dots, \frac{1}{\lambda_n}$ with the same eigenvectors as A . (note this is well defined since none of these are zero from the previous problem). To see this if λ is an eigenvalue of A with eigenvector \vec{v} then

$$A\vec{v} = \lambda\vec{v} \implies A^{-1}A\vec{v} = A^{-1}\lambda\vec{v} \implies \vec{v} = \lambda A^{-1}\vec{v} \implies \frac{1}{\lambda}\vec{v} = A^{-1}\vec{v}$$

which shows \vec{v} is an eigenvector of A^{-1} with eigenvalue $\frac{1}{\lambda}$. A^T has the same eigenvalues as A . Once again if λ is an eigenvalue of A then

$$\det(A - \lambda I) = 0 \implies \det(A - \lambda I)^T = 0 \implies \det(A^T - \lambda I^T) = 0 \implies \det(A^T - \lambda I) = 0$$

which shows that λ is an eigenvalue of A^T . The eigenvector will be different though in general. $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ has eigenvector $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ while $A^T = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ has eigenvector $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$. A^n for a whole number $n \geq 1$ has the same eigenvalues which are the n^{th} power of those of A and the same eigenvectors as A . Let \vec{v} be an eigenvector of A with eigenvalue λ . This means that $A\vec{v} = \lambda\vec{v}$. As a result

$$A^n\vec{v} = A^{n-1}A\vec{v} = A^{n-1}\lambda\vec{v} = \lambda A^{n-2}A\vec{v} = \lambda A^{n-2}\lambda\vec{v} = \dots = \lambda^n\vec{v}$$

$A + I$ has the same eigenvectors as A but with eigenvalues $\lambda + 1$. If \vec{v} is an eigenvector of A then $A\vec{v} = \lambda\vec{v}$ so

$$(A + I)\vec{v} = A\vec{v} + I\vec{v} = \lambda\vec{v} + \vec{v} = (\lambda + 1)\vec{v}$$

so \vec{v} is an eigenvector with eigenvalue $\lambda + 1$.

- 3.3.** (i) We know that $\det(A) = \lambda_1\lambda_2 = -2$ and $\text{tr}(A) = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 = 0$. From the second we have $\lambda_1 = -\lambda_2$ which in the first gives

$$-\lambda_2^2 = -2 \implies \lambda_2 = \sqrt{2}$$

which then forces $\lambda_1 = -\sqrt{2}$.

- (ii) We can set this up similar to the previous problem, but we would have an extra variable λ_3 that would be "free" so we are going to have infinitely many solutions. $\lambda_1 = -2, \lambda_2 = 1, \lambda_3 = 1$ is one and $\lambda_1 = 1, \lambda_2 = 1, \lambda_3 = -2$ is another.

- 3.4.** Suppose that λ is an eigenvalue of A . Then it follows that (i) $\det(A - \lambda I) = 0$.

Because B is similar to A there is an invertible matrix V such that $V^{-1}AV = B$. Multiply (i) on the left by $\det(V^{-1})$ and on the right by $\det(V)$.

$$\begin{aligned} \det(V^{-1}) \det(A - \lambda I) \det(V) &= 0 \\ \det(V^{-1}AV - \lambda V^{-1}IV) &= 0 \\ \det(B - \lambda I) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

so that λ is an eigenvalue of B . As a result we see that every eigenvalue of A is an eigenvalue of B . The reverse is also true because of the symmetry of the statement.

- 3.5.** For matrices A and B to be equivalent we need to find invertible matrices P, Q so that $A = P^{-1}BQ$. But since A and B are similar, there is an invertible matrix S such that $A = S^{-1}BS$. So we can just

take $P, Q = S$.

Hoever, equivalent matrices are not necessarily similar, which we can prove by counterexample:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

are equivalent since they are achievable from each other by row operations. However, they are not similar since they have different determinants and thus different eigenvalues.

4. Question: Matrix decomposition (*basic*)

In this question, you may use the following: A square matrix is called **orthogonal**, if its columns are

- orthonormal to each other (i.e. the product of any two columns is 0)
- of unit length (have length 1).

For an orthogonal matrix $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, it holds that $\mathbf{A}^{-1} = \mathbf{A}^\top$.

4.1. Compute the eigendecomposition of $\mathbf{A} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -2 \\ -2 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$.

4.2. Another popular matrix decomposition is the Cholesky decomposition. It says that any symmetric matrix $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ with only strictly positive eigenvalues may be decomposed as follows:

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{L}\mathbf{L}^\top = \begin{pmatrix} l_{11} & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ l_{n1} & \dots & l_{nn} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} l_{11} & \dots & l_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & l_{nn} \end{pmatrix}.$$

For the following decomposition of a 3×3 matrix, write all l_{ij} s, in terms of the a_{ij} s, $i, j = 1, 2, 3$.

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{21} & a_{31} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{32} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{L}\mathbf{L}^\top = \begin{bmatrix} l_{11} & 0 & 0 \\ l_{21} & l_{22} & 0 \\ l_{31} & l_{32} & l_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} l_{11} & l_{21} & l_{31} \\ 0 & l_{22} & l_{32} \\ 0 & 0 & l_{33} \end{bmatrix}.$$

4.3. Write out the matrix decompositions for matrices A and B from 2.2 (and check whether the decomposition truly results in A and B if you want to practice matrix multiplication).

Solution:

4.1.

Step 1: Find the eigenvalues of \mathbf{A} :

The characteristic polynomial of \mathbf{A} is

$$\begin{aligned} \det(\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I}) &= \det \left(\begin{bmatrix} \frac{5}{2} - \lambda & -1 \\ -1 & \frac{5}{2} - \lambda \end{bmatrix} \right) \\ &= \left(\frac{5}{2} - \lambda \right)^2 - 1 = \lambda^2 - 5\lambda + \frac{21}{4} = \left(\lambda - \frac{7}{2} \right) \left(\lambda - \frac{3}{2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the eigenvalues of \mathbf{A} are $\lambda_1 = \frac{7}{2}$ and $\lambda_2 = \frac{3}{2}$ (the roots of the characteristic polynomial)

Step 2: Find n linearly independent eigenvectors of \mathbf{A} .

the associated (normalized) eigenvectors are obtained via

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{p}_1 = \frac{7}{2}\mathbf{p}_1, \quad \mathbf{A}\mathbf{p}_2 = \frac{3}{2}\mathbf{p}_2.$$

This yields

$$\mathbf{p}_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{p}_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Clearly, the eigenvectors $\mathbf{p}_1, \mathbf{p}_2$ are linearly independent (and, thereby, form a basis of \mathbb{R}^2). ✓

Steps 3,4: Construct the matrix \mathbf{P} to diagonalize \mathbf{A} . We collect the eigenvectors of \mathbf{A} in \mathbf{P} so that

$$\mathbf{P} = [\mathbf{p}_1, \mathbf{p}_2] = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

We then obtain

$$\mathbf{P}^{-1} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{7}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{3}{2} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{D}.$$

Equivalently, we get (exploiting that $\mathbf{P}^{-1} = \mathbf{P}^\top$ since the eigenvectors \mathbf{p}_1 and \mathbf{p}_2 in this example form an orthonormal basis)

$$\underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -2 \\ -2 & 5 \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{A}} = \underbrace{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{P}} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \frac{7}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{3}{2} \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{D}} \underbrace{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{P}^{-1}}.$$

4.2. Multiplying out the right-hand side yields

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} l_{11}^2 & l_{21}l_{11} & l_{31}l_{11} \\ l_{21}l_{11} & l_{21}^2 + l_{22}^2 & l_{31}l_{21} + l_{32}l_{22} \\ l_{31}l_{11} & l_{31}l_{21} + l_{32}l_{22} & l_{31}^2 + l_{32}^2 + l_{33}^2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Clearly, there is a simple pattern in the diagonal elements l_{ii} :

$$l_{11} = \sqrt{a_{11}}, \quad l_{22} = \sqrt{a_{22} - l_{21}^2}, \quad l_{33} = \sqrt{a_{33} - (l_{31}^2 + l_{32}^2)}.$$

Similarly for the elements below the diagonal (l_{ij} , where $i > j$), there is also a repeating pattern:

$$l_{21} = \frac{1}{l_{11}} a_{21}, \quad l_{31} = \frac{1}{l_{11}} a_{31}, \quad l_{32} = \frac{1}{l_{22}} (a_{32} - l_{31}l_{21}).$$

Thus, we constructed the Cholesky decomposition for any symmetric, positive definite 3×3 matrix. The key realization is that we can backward calculate what the components l_{ij} for the L should be, given the values a_{ij} for \mathbf{A} and previously computed values of l_{ij} .

If you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to contact me via E-mail at hannah.kuempel@stat.uni-muenchen.de!!

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