

Lecture #17: Square Roots and Exponentials

Definition - A is called positive semidefinite if A is Hermitian and for all $\vec{v} \in \mathbb{C}^n$:

$$\vec{v}^* A \vec{v} = \langle A \vec{v}, \vec{v} \rangle \geq 0$$

A is called positive definite if $\langle A \vec{v}, \vec{v} \rangle = 0 \iff \vec{v} = 0$.

Theorem - If $A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$ is positive definite then the mapping $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_A$ defined by

$$\langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle_A = \langle A \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle$$

is an inner product.

Theorem - Let A be positive semidefinite with diagonalization

$$A = U \Delta U^*$$

Then $\sqrt{A} = U \Delta^{1/2} U^*$

proof:

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{A} \sqrt{A} &= U \Delta^{1/2} U^* U \Delta^{1/2} U^* \\ &= U \Delta^{1/2} \Delta^{1/2} U^* \\ &= U \Delta U^* \end{aligned}$$

Definition - If $A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$ then

$$\exp(A) = I + A + \frac{1}{2!} A^2 + \frac{1}{3!} A^3 + \dots$$

Theorem - If A is diagonalizable in the form

$$A = U \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} U^*$$

then

$$\exp(A) = U \begin{bmatrix} e^{\lambda_1} & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & e^{\lambda_n} \end{bmatrix} U^*$$

proof:

$$\begin{aligned} \exp(A) &= I + A + \frac{1}{2!} A^2 + \frac{1}{3!} A^3 + \dots \\ &= I + U \Lambda U^* + \frac{1}{2!} U \Lambda^2 U^* + \frac{1}{3!} U \Lambda^3 U^* + \dots \\ &= U (I + \Lambda + \frac{1}{2!} \Lambda^2 + \frac{1}{3!} \Lambda^3 + \dots) U^* \\ &= U \begin{bmatrix} 1 + \lambda_1 + \frac{1}{2!} \lambda_1^2 + \dots & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & 1 + \lambda_n + \frac{1}{2!} \lambda_n^2 + \dots \end{bmatrix} U^* \\ &= U \begin{bmatrix} e^{\lambda_1} & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & e^{\lambda_n} \end{bmatrix} U^* \end{aligned}$$

Example:

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

$$\text{Tr}(A) = 4 = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2$$

$$\det(A) = 5 = \lambda_1 \lambda_2$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda_1 = 4 - \lambda_2$$

$$5 = (4 - \lambda_2) \lambda_2$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda_2^2 - 4\lambda_2 + 5 = 0$$

$$\lambda_2 = 2 \pm i$$

The eigenvectors are

$$\vec{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -i \end{bmatrix}, \vec{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix}$$

Consequently,

$$\exp(A) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -i & i \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} e^{2+i} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{2-i} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -i & i \end{bmatrix}^{-1}$$

$$= \frac{e^2}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -i & i \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} e^i & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-i} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & i \\ 1 & -i \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{e^2}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -i & i \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos(1) + i\sin(1) & 0 \\ 0 & \cos(1) - i\sin(1) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & i \\ 1 & -i \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} e^2 \cos(1) & -e^2 \sin(1) \\ e^2 \sin(1) & e^2 \cos(1) \end{bmatrix}$$

Polar Form - Let $A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$. There exists unitary matrices $R, Q \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$ such that

$$A = Q \sqrt{A^* A}$$

$$A = \sqrt{A A^*} R$$

proof:

Let A have the SVD, $A = U \Sigma V^*$. Therefore,

$$A^* A = V \Sigma^2 V^* \Rightarrow \sqrt{A^* A} = V \Sigma V^*$$

$$A A^* = U \Sigma^2 U^* \Rightarrow \sqrt{A A^*} = U \Sigma U^*$$

Now,

$$A = U \Sigma V^* = \underbrace{U V^*}_Q \underbrace{V \Sigma V^*}_{\sqrt{A^* A}}$$

$$A = U \Sigma V^* = \underbrace{U \Sigma U^*}_{\sqrt{A A^*}} \underbrace{U V^*}_R$$

Example:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Find SVD!

$$\ker(A) = \text{span} \{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{v}_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, r_2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{v}_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, A\vec{v}_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = 2 \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Therefore, $r_1 = 2$, $\vec{v}_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$. Finally, by orthonormality $\vec{v}_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$.

Consequently,

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix}, \Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, V = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow A = U \Sigma V^* \\ = U V^* V \Sigma V^*$$

$$U V^* = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$V \Sigma V^* = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{2}{\sqrt{2}} \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A = Q \sqrt{A^* A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Theorem - If U is unitary, then $U = e^{iH}$ for some Hermitian matrix H .

proof:

Since U is unitarily diagonalizable with eigenvalues $|\lambda_j| = 1$ there exists $\theta_j \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\lambda_j = e^{i\theta_j}$. Therefore,

$$U = R \Lambda R^*$$

$$= R \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} R^*$$

$$= R \begin{bmatrix} e^{i\theta_1} & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & e^{i\theta_n} \end{bmatrix} R^*$$

$$= \exp \left(i R \begin{bmatrix} \theta_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \theta_n \end{bmatrix} R^* \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow H = R \begin{bmatrix} \theta_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \theta_n \end{bmatrix} R^* \leftarrow \text{Hermitian matrix.}$$

Theorem - Let $A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$, then there exists Hermitian matrices H_1, H_2 such that

$$A = e^{iH_1} \sqrt{A^* A} = \sqrt{A A^*} e^{iH_2}.$$

proof

Follows from polar decomposition.

Example:

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

$$\ker(A) = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} \\ -1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}, r_2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}, A\vec{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2/\sqrt{2} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \sqrt{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \sqrt{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Therefore,

$$\vec{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, r_1 = \sqrt{2} \text{ and thus by orthogonality } \vec{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Consequently,

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, V = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & -1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}, \Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Now,

$$\begin{aligned} A &= U \Sigma V^* \\ &= U V^* V \Sigma V^* \\ &= Q \sqrt{A^* A} \end{aligned}$$

$$\lambda_1 = 1$$

$$Q - I = \begin{bmatrix} (1-\sqrt{2})/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & (-1-\sqrt{2})/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$\Rightarrow$ The eigenvector

$$\text{is } \vec{w}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1+\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} Q &= U V^* \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & -1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Tr}(Q) = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 = 0$$

$$\text{Det}(Q) = -1 = \lambda_1 \cdot \lambda_2$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda_1 = 1, \lambda_2 = -1$$

$$\lambda_1 = -1$$

$$Q + I = \begin{bmatrix} (1+\sqrt{2})/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & (-1+\sqrt{2})/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$\Rightarrow$ The eigenvector is

$$\vec{w}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1-\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned}
 Q &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1+\sqrt{2} & 1-\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{4}(2-\sqrt{2}) & \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{2} \\ \frac{1}{4}(2+\sqrt{2}) & -\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1+\sqrt{2} & 1-\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} e^0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\pi} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{4}(2-\sqrt{2}) & \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{2} \\ \frac{1}{4}(2+\sqrt{2}) & -\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= \exp\left(i \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1+\sqrt{2} & 1-\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \pi \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{4}(2-\sqrt{2}) & \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{2} \\ \frac{1}{4}(2+\sqrt{2}) & -\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}\right) \\
 &= \exp\left(\frac{i}{4} \begin{bmatrix} (2+\sqrt{2})\pi & -\sqrt{2}\pi \\ -\sqrt{2}\pi & (2-\sqrt{2})\pi \end{bmatrix}\right)
 \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore,

$$\begin{aligned}
 A^*A &= V \Sigma^2 V^* \\
 &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix} \\
 \Rightarrow \sqrt{A^*A} &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

Consequently,

$$A = e^{iH} \sqrt{A^*A}$$

$$= \exp\left(\frac{i}{4} \begin{bmatrix} (2+\sqrt{2})\pi & -\sqrt{2}\pi \\ -\sqrt{2}\pi & (2-\sqrt{2})\pi \end{bmatrix}\right) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$