

# The Spectral Theorem

Let  $M$  be a sym.  $n \times n$  matrix. Then there is a basis  $v_1, \dots, v_n \in \mathbb{R}^n$  for  $\mathbb{R}^n$  s.t.  
 $Mv_i = \lambda_i \cdot v_i$  for all  $i=1, \dots, n$ .

Proof: the Rayleigh Quotient  $\frac{x^t M x}{x^t x}$

Since  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is homog. we assume  $\|x\| = 1$ .

$S = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \|x\| = 1\}$  is a compact set.

thus, the max. value of  $x^t M x$  is attained for some  $x \in S$ .

if the thm is true, we can write  $x = \sum \alpha_i v_i$  for evects  $v_1, \dots, v_n$

$$\underline{x^t M x} = \langle \sum \alpha_i v_i, \sum \alpha_i \lambda_i v_i \rangle = \underbrace{\sum \alpha_i^2 \lambda_i}_{\uparrow} = \lambda_1 \quad \uparrow \text{largest}$$

$\Rightarrow$  the value of the Rayleigh Quotient is  $\lambda_1$ .

Look at  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \frac{x^t M x}{x^t x} \quad \nabla f = 0$  at maximum.

$$\nabla f = \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_2}, \dots \right)$$

$$\nabla \underbrace{\frac{x^t x}{\sum x_i^2}}_{\uparrow} = (2x_1, 2x_2, 2x_3, \dots) = 2x$$

$$\nabla x^t M x = 2 M x$$

$$\nabla \left( \frac{f}{g} \right)' = \pm \frac{f'_2 - g f'}{g^2} +$$

$$\nabla \frac{x^t M x}{x^t x} = \frac{2 M x \cdot x^t x - 2 x \cdot x^t M x}{(x^t x)^2} = 0$$

$$Mx \cdot \underbrace{x^t x}_{=1} = x^t Mx$$

$$Mx = x \cdot \underbrace{\frac{x^t Mx}{x^t x}}_{\in \mathbb{R}} \quad (*)$$

$x$ , the maximizer, satis  $(*)$  so it is an eigenvector!

We already saw that  $\frac{x^t Mx}{x^t x} = \lambda$  is the ~~max~~ largest e.v.

Lets call this maximizer  $v_1$ .

$$v_1^\perp = \{ y \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \langle y, v_1 \rangle = 0 \}$$

$$\forall x \in v_1^\perp, \quad \langle v_1, My \rangle \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ M \text{ is sym.}}}{=} \langle Mv_1, y \rangle = \langle \lambda v_1, y \rangle = \lambda \langle v_1, y \rangle$$

$$\lambda_1 = \max_{\substack{x \neq 0 \\ \|x\|=1}} \frac{x^t Mx}{x^t x}$$

$$\lambda_2 = \max_{\substack{x \neq 0 \\ \|x\|=1 \\ x \in v_1^\perp}} \frac{x^t Mx}{x^t x} \quad \text{let } v_2 \text{ be a maximizer.}$$

( $v_1$  denotes the maximizer from the prev step)

$\vdots$   
 $\lambda_n$

We keep going and get a sequence of <sup>eigen</sup>vectors  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n$

□

**Theorem 2.0.1** (Courant-Fischer Theorem). Let  $M$  be a symmetric matrix with eigenvalues  $\mu_1 \geq \mu_2 \geq \dots \geq \mu_n$ . Then,

$$\mu_k = \max_{\substack{S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n \\ \dim(S)=k}} \min_{\substack{x \in S \\ x \neq 0}} \frac{x^T M x}{x^T x} = \min_{\substack{T \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n \\ \dim(T)=n-k+1}} \max_{\substack{x \in T \\ x \neq 0}} \frac{x^T M x}{x^T x},$$

where the maximization and minimization are over subspaces  $S$  and  $T$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

Proof: We know  $M$  has eigenvectors  $v_1, \dots, v_n$

choose  $S = \text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_k)$ .

$$\min_{x \in S} \frac{x^T M x}{x^T x} = \frac{\sum \alpha_i^2 \mu_i}{\sum \alpha_i^2} = \mu_k \quad x = \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i v_i$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad \geq \mu_k$$

We next show that  $\min_{\substack{x \in S \\ x \neq 0}} \frac{x^T M x}{x^T x} \leq \mu_k$  for all  $S$  ( $k$ -dim spaces).

Let  $T = \text{span}(v_k, v_{k+1}, \dots, v_n)$   $\dim T = n - k + 1$

$$\dim T \cap S \geq 1$$

$$\min_{\substack{x \in S \\ x \neq 0}} \frac{x^T M x}{x^T x} \leq \min_{\substack{x \in S \cap T \\ x \neq 0}} \frac{x^T M x}{x^T x} \leq \max_{x \in T} \frac{x^T M x}{x^T x} = \mu_k$$

□

# Graphs & their matrices

The graph Laplacian

$$L = \underbrace{D}_{\substack{\text{degrees} \\ \text{on} \\ \text{diagonal}}} - \underbrace{A}_{\text{adjacency}}$$

$d \cdot I$  for a  $d$ -reg graph

claim:  $x^t L x = \sum_{\{i,j\} \in E} (x_i - x_j)^2$

Proof: 
$$\sum_{i,j \in E} (x_i - x_j)^2 = d \cdot \sum_{i \in V} x_i^2 - \sum_{\substack{i \neq j \\ ij \in E}} x_i x_j$$
$$= d \cdot x^t I x - \underbrace{x^t A x}_{\sum_{i,j} A_{ij} x_i x_j}$$

$$= x^t (dI - A) x = x^t L x. \quad \square$$

Eigenvalues of  $L$  : (focus on  $d$ -reg graphs).

if  $v$  is an eigenvector of  $A$   $Av = \underline{\lambda} v$   
 $\Rightarrow v \quad \dots \quad L$

$$dI \cdot v = d \cdot v$$

$$Lv = (dI - A)v = d \cdot v - \lambda \cdot v = \underbrace{(d - \lambda)} \cdot v$$

if  $A$  has e.v.  $d = \lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n$

$L$

$$0 = d - \lambda_1 \leq d - \lambda_2 \leq \dots \leq d - \lambda_n$$

Def: A sym matrix is called positive semi-definite if all ev's are non-negative. PSD

$\Rightarrow$  Laplacian is PSD.

## Cheeger - Alon - Milman Inequality

Let  $G$  be a  $d$ -reg graph, let  $1 = \lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \dots$  be the normalized eigenvals.

$$\frac{1 - \lambda_2}{2} \leq \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{edge} \\ \text{expansion}}}{h} \leq \sqrt{2(1 - \lambda_2)}$$

$h$  = "the edge expansion"  
Cheeger constant  
isoperimetric constant

$$= \min_{\substack{\emptyset \neq S \subset V \\ |S| \leq \frac{n}{2}}} \frac{|\partial S|}{|S|d}$$

$$E(S, \bar{S}) = \{e = \{u, v\} \mid u \in S, v \notin S\}$$

$$\phi = \text{sparsity} = \min_{\emptyset \neq S \subset V} \frac{|\partial S|}{|S| \cdot |\bar{S}|} \cdot \frac{n}{d} \leq \min_S \frac{|\partial S|}{|S| \cdot d} \cdot \frac{2n}{|\bar{S}|} = 2h.$$

$$\frac{G}{\text{complete}} = \frac{\frac{E_G(S, \bar{S})}{\frac{1}{2}dn} \quad \# / E(G)}{\frac{E_K(S, \bar{S})}{\frac{1}{2}n \cdot n} \quad \# / E(K)}$$

We will see

$$1 - \lambda_2 \leq \underset{\uparrow}{\phi} \leq 2h$$

immediate since  $|\bar{S}| \geq n/2$ .

We saw  $\sum_{\{i,j\} \in E} (x_i - x_j)^2 = x^t L x$

choose  $x = \frac{1}{|S|} \mathbf{1}_S - s \mathbf{1}_{\bar{S}}$  for  $S \subset V$   $x^t L x = |E(S, \bar{S})|$ .

where  $s = \frac{|S|}{|V|} = \frac{|S|}{n}$   $x(i) = \begin{cases} 1-s & i \in S \\ -s & i \notin S \end{cases}$

$$\begin{aligned} x^t x &= \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 = \sum_{i \in S} (1-s)^2 + \sum_{i \notin S} (-s)^2 \\ &= n \cdot s \cdot (1-s)^2 + n(1-s) \cdot s^2 = n \cdot s \cdot (1-s) \cdot [1-s + s] = ns(1-s). \end{aligned}$$

$$ns(1-s) = |S| \cdot \frac{|\bar{S}|}{n}$$

Write  $\tilde{L} = \frac{1}{d} \cdot L = I - \frac{1}{d} \cdot A$ .

$$1 - \tilde{\lambda}_2 = \lambda_2(\tilde{L}) = \min_{\substack{x \neq 0 \\ x \perp \vec{1} \\ x \in \mathbb{R}^n}} \frac{x^t \tilde{L} x}{x^t x} \leq \min_{\substack{\emptyset \neq S \subset V \\ x = \frac{1}{|S|} \mathbf{1}_S - \frac{|S|}{n} \mathbf{1}_{\bar{S}}}} \frac{E(S, \bar{S}) \cdot \frac{1}{d}}{|S| \cdot |\bar{S}| \cdot \frac{1}{n}} = \phi$$

↑  
relaxation

↑  
natural / comb  
question

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{second smallest} & & \text{second largest} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mu_{n-1}(\tilde{L}) & = & 1 - \lambda_2(\tilde{A}) \end{array}$$