

Matrix maths:

(few preliminaries)

You will learn more in MAXXX.

- If $\det(\vec{A}) \neq 0$, then $\vec{A}\vec{A}^{-1} = \vec{A}^{-1}\vec{A} = \vec{I}$.

where, $\vec{I} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \vdots \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix}$, identity matrix
(all diagonal elements 1, "rest zero")

- $\vec{I}\vec{A} = \vec{A}$; \vec{I} operation leaves \vec{A} unchanged
(Thus, \vec{A}^{-1} undoes the effect of \vec{A}).

- Matrix multiplication is Associative

$$\text{i.e., } \vec{A}(\vec{B}\vec{C}) = (\vec{A}\vec{B})\vec{C}.$$

Example; $\langle g | = (g_1, g_2)$, $|x\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix}$
 $\vec{A} = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$

$$\Rightarrow (\langle g | \vec{A} | x \rangle) = \langle g | (\vec{A} | x \rangle).$$

- Hermitian matrices (useful in QM): $\vec{A} = \vec{A}^\dagger$.
(also called self adjoint matrices)

$$[\vec{A} | x \rangle]^\dagger = ?$$

Example: $\vec{A} = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$, $|x\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix}$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{A}^\dagger = \begin{pmatrix} a^* & c^* \\ b^* & d^* \end{pmatrix}, \langle x | = (|x\rangle)^\dagger = (x_1^* \ x_2^*).$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{A} | x \rangle = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} ax_1 + bx_2 \\ cx_1 + dx_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow (\vec{A} | x \rangle)^\dagger = (ax_1^* + b^*x_2^* \quad c^*x_1^* + d^*x_2^*).$$

$$\langle x | \vec{A}^\dagger = (x_1^* \ x_2^*) \begin{pmatrix} a^* & c^* \\ b^* & d^* \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= (a^* x_1^* + b^* x_2^* \quad c^* x_1^* + d^* x_2^*)$$

$$= (\vec{A} | x \rangle)^\dagger$$

$$\therefore (\vec{A} | x \rangle)^\dagger = \langle x | \vec{A}^\dagger = \langle x | \vec{A} \quad (\text{for Hermitian matrices}).$$

HW. Which of these are Hermitian?

$$(i) \begin{pmatrix} \omega_A^2 & -\frac{\hbar}{m_1} \\ -\frac{\hbar}{m_2} & \omega_B^2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (ii) \begin{pmatrix} \alpha i & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha \end{pmatrix}$$

$$(iii) \begin{pmatrix} -5 & \sqrt{2} \\ -\sqrt{2} & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

In fact a ^{general} 2×2 Hermitian matrix can be written as $\begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ \beta^* & c \end{pmatrix}$

• For Hermitian matrices, $(\vec{A} \vec{B})^\dagger = \vec{B}^\dagger \vec{A}^\dagger$.

proof: Let $|B\rangle = \vec{B} |x\rangle$.

$$\Rightarrow (\vec{A} \vec{B} | x \rangle)^\dagger = (\vec{A} | B \rangle)^\dagger = \langle B | \vec{A}^\dagger = \langle B | \vec{A}$$

$$\text{As } \vec{B} \text{ is Hermitian, } \langle B | \equiv (|B\rangle)^\dagger = (\vec{B} | x \rangle)^\dagger \\ = \langle x | \vec{B}^\dagger = \langle x | \vec{B}.$$

$$\therefore (\vec{A} \vec{B} | x \rangle)^\dagger = \langle B | \vec{A} = \langle x | \vec{B} \vec{A}.$$

$$\Rightarrow (\vec{A} \vec{B})^\dagger = \vec{B} \vec{A}.$$

Recast earlier results in vector space notation

$$\vec{M} \frac{d^2}{dt^2} |x(t)\rangle = -\vec{K} |x(t)\rangle.$$

If $|e_n\rangle$ is one of the eigenvectors.

$$\langle e_n | \vec{M} \frac{d^2}{dt^2} |x(t)\rangle = -\langle e_n | \vec{K} |x(t)\rangle.$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d^2}{dt^2} \left(\langle e_n | \vec{M} |x(t)\rangle \right) = -\langle e_n | \vec{K} |x(t)\rangle.$$

(NOTE! no time dep. of \vec{M} & $\langle e_n |$.)

Define normal coordinates

$$S_n = \langle e_n | \vec{M} |x(t)\rangle.$$

\therefore to claim a result like

$$\ddot{S}_n = -\omega_n^2 S_n,$$

we must have, $\langle e_n | \vec{K} |x(t)\rangle = \omega_n^2 S_n$.

proof :- we had $\vec{M}^{-1} \vec{K} |e_n\rangle = \omega_n^2 |e_n\rangle$.

$$\text{Adjoint: } [\vec{M}^{-1} \vec{K} |e_n\rangle]^\dagger = \omega_n^2 \langle e_n|.$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle e_n | \vec{K} \vec{M}^{-1} = \omega_n^2 \langle e_n|.$$

Take inner product with $\vec{M} |x(t)\rangle$

$$\Rightarrow \langle e_n | \vec{K} \vec{M}^{-1} \vec{M} |x(t)\rangle = \omega_n^2 \langle e_n | \vec{M} |x(t)\rangle.$$

$$\therefore \langle e_n | \hat{K} | \psi(t) \rangle = \omega_n^2 S_n.$$

$\therefore S_n \equiv \langle e_n | \hat{M} | \psi(t) \rangle$ is the normal coordinate.

(For equal masses)

Few results regarding the normalized eigenvectors

- $\langle e_m | e_n \rangle = 0$ if $n \neq m$

(normal modes do not depend on each other; mutually orthogonal).

- $\langle e_n | e_n \rangle = 1$ (normalized).

In a compact form it can be rewritten as,

$$\langle e_m | e_n \rangle = \delta_{mn}$$

where, Kronecker delta δ_{nm} is

$$\delta_{nm} = \begin{cases} 1 & n = m \\ 0 & n \neq m \end{cases}$$

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