

ILAS-ED Seminar

Zoom ID 929 2504 4372 Meeting, September 27, 2022

(Matrix) Zeros of polynomials

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Mathematics learning

Mathematics learning



Mathematics learning

from intuitive observations and intuitive insights



Mathematics learning

from intuitive observations and intuitive insights



to abstract notions and understanding

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Geometry

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Arithmetic

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analogy, generalization

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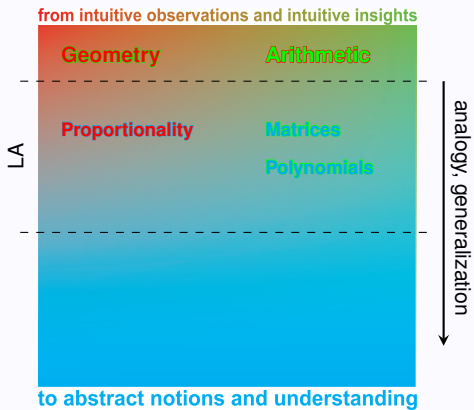
Polynomials

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... from intuition to abstraction geometry-algebra sample ...

<https://www.geogebra.org/m/vguhxyzj>

Matrix zeros of polynomials

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D. Kobal, *Matrix zeros of polynomials*, The Mathematical Gazette, Cambridge University Press, Vol. 104, March 2020, p. 27 - 35.

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Presented also at the *Linear algebra education minisymposia*, ILAS 2022, Galway, Ireland, June 2022.

Introduction

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- The concepts of polynomials and matrices generalize the elementary arithmetic of numbers.

Introduction

- Our elementary exploration of polynomials and matrices offers an interesting matrix analogue to the concept of a zero of a polynomial.

Introduction

- The discussion offers an opportunity for better comprehension of the fundamental concepts of polynomials and matrices.

Introduction

- As an application we are lead to the meaningful questions of linear algebra and to an easy proof of otherwise advanced Cayley - Hamilton theorem.

The arithmetic of matrices and polynomials

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- $p(x) = x^2 - 3x + 2, M = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & -2 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 2 & 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow p(M) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -2 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$

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Remark 1

For a polynomial matrix $M(x)$ and matrix A , it makes no sense to talk about $M(A)$.

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- Could anything be said about matrix zeros of a given polynomial?

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- Calculating $(D - I)(D - 2I)$ gives a nice intuitive understanding of the 'block matrix multiplication. (These observations will be valuable later, when we learn about eigenvalues.)

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 - considering D and P as above, we have a pattern to find many 'matrix zeros,'
 - this pattern is well-hidden within obtained 'matrix zeros' (by free choice of the invertible matrix P , the obtained matrix M looks quite arbitrary).

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The number m is a zero of the polynomial $p(x)$ if and only if $p(x) = r(x) \cdot (x - m)$ for some polynomial $r(x)$.

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$$= r(x) \cdot (x - m)$$

$$p(x) = p(m) + r(x) \cdot (x - m) = r(x) \cdot (x - m)$$



What could be a sensible analogue of Theorem 1 for matrices?

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The matrix M is a matrix zero of the polynomial $p(x)$ if and only if

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for some polynomial matrix $R(x)$, where I is the identity matrix.

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$$(x^2 - 3x + 2) \cdot I = \begin{bmatrix} & & \\ & & \\ & & \end{bmatrix} \cdot (xI - N)$$

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$$(x^2 - 3x + 2) \cdot I = \begin{bmatrix} x & 2 & -2 \\ 1 & x-1 & -1 \\ 2 & 2 & x-4 \end{bmatrix} \cdot (xI - N)$$

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Full understanding of Cayley-Hamilton theorem is hard ..., but every student to whom we consider 'worthy' to introduce the 'characteristic polynomial', should understand, that in this 'equation' we have a ' $n \times n$ ' matrix on the left and a number '0' on the right.

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 - With Cayley-Hamilton theorem the statement is refined in the form of proving the existence of such a polynomial of much smaller degree.

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- This equality requires an understanding of the Laplace expansion, which is usually done for matrices with constant entries. It is a straightforward argument that analogous statements hold if elements of the matrix are polynomials.

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- To understand characteristic polynomial, one must understand *determinant*.
- To understand *determinant*, one must understand 'row and column Laplace expansion', which is also an algorithm for obtaining the matrix inverse, if it exists:

$$\det(M) \cdot I = \text{adj}(M) \cdot M. \quad (3)$$

- If M is any matrix, then $xI - M$ is a rather simple polynomial matrix. Putting $xI - M$ into the equation 3, we get

$$\det(xI - M) \cdot I = \text{adj}(xI - M) \cdot (xI - M).$$

- This equality requires an understanding of the Laplace expansion, which is usually done for matrices with constant entries. It is a straightforward argument that analogous statements hold if elements of the matrix are polynomials.
- Cayley-Hamilton theorem is a trivial consequence of our theorem.

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