

# DSC 140B

## Representation Learning

Lecture 03 | Part 1

**News**

# News

- ▶ Cheat sheet allowed on quizzes.
- ▶ FinAid survey on Gradescope.
  - ▶ If you're here in person (and participate in the Live Q&A), you don't need to do this.
- ▶ Practice problems now on [dsc140b.com](https://dsc140b.com)

# DSC 140B

## Representation Learning

Lecture 03 | Part 2

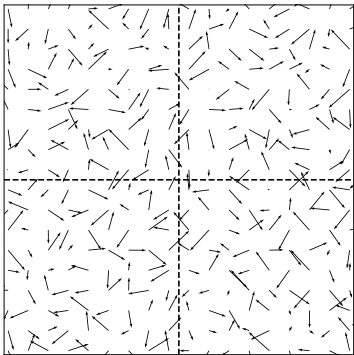
**Functions of a Vector**

# Transformations

- ▶ A **transformation**  $\vec{f}$  is a function that takes in a vector, and returns a vector *of the same dimensionality*.
- ▶ That is,  $\vec{f} : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ .

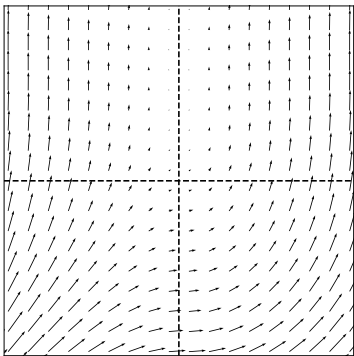
# Arbitrary Transformations

- Arbitrary transformations can be quite complex.



# Arbitrary Transformations

- Arbitrary transformations can be quite complex.



# Linear Transformations

- ▶ Luckily, we often<sup>1</sup> work with simpler, **linear transformations**.
- ▶ A transformation  $f$  is **linear** if:

$$\vec{f}(\alpha\vec{x} + \beta\vec{y}) = \alpha\vec{f}(\vec{x}) + \beta\vec{f}(\vec{y})$$

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<sup>1</sup>Sometimes just to make the math tractable!


## Key Fact

- ▶ Linear functions are determined **entirely** by what they do on the basis vectors.
- ▶ I.e., to tell you what  $f$  does, I only need to tell you  $\vec{f}(\hat{e}^{(1)})$  and  $\vec{f}(\hat{e}^{(2)})$ .
- ▶ This makes the math easy!



# *Linear Algebra*

- ▶ This is the key idea behind **linear** algebra.
- ▶ Linear algebra studies the properties of **linear** transformations.
- ▶ Non-linear transformations are **so complicated** that we can say relatively little about them.

A photograph of a formal garden, likely the gardens of Stourhead in England. The garden features a central, wide, rectangular lawn path that leads from the foreground towards the background. On either side of the path, there are symmetrical, rectangular hedges that form a series of terraces. The hedges are filled with various plants, including tall grasses, shrubs, and small flowers. The background is a dense, lush forest with tall trees and thick foliage. The overall scene is a well-maintained, formal garden with a strong sense of symmetry and order.

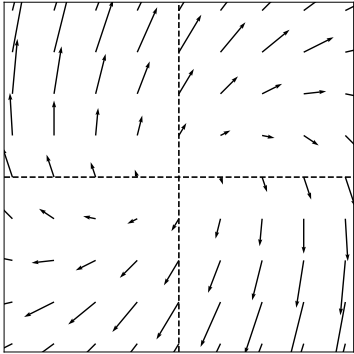
Arbitrary  
Transformations

Linear  
Transformations

A small, stylized logo consisting of a lowercase letter 'b' inside a square frame, located in the bottom left corner of the image.

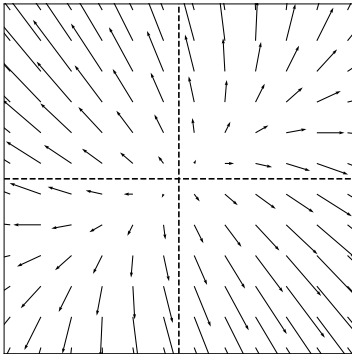
# Example Linear Transformation

►  $\vec{f}(\vec{x}) = (x_1 + 3x_2, -3x_1 + 5x_2)^T$



# Another Example Linear Transformation

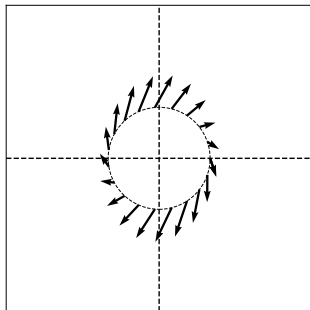
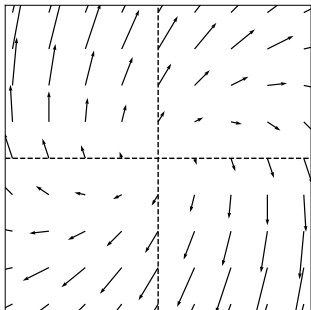
►  $\vec{f}(\vec{x}) = (2x_1 - x_2, -x_1 + 3x_2)^T$

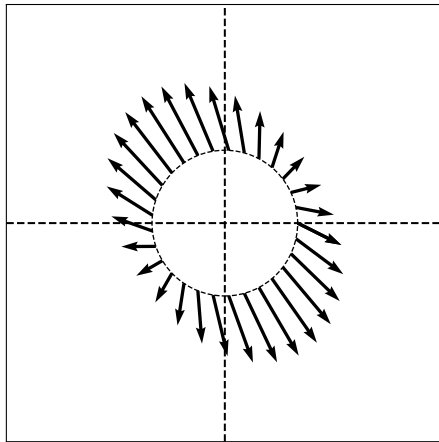
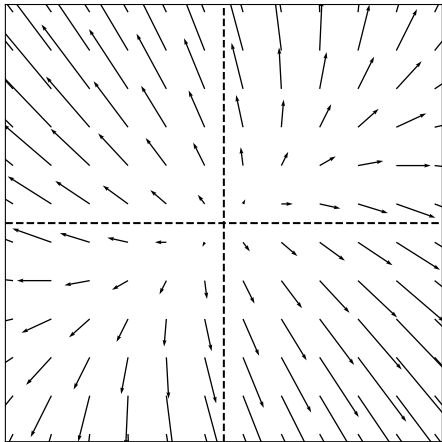


# Note

- Because of linearity, along any given direction  $\vec{f}$  changes only in scale.

$$\vec{f}(\lambda \hat{x}) = \lambda \vec{f}(\hat{x})$$





# Linear Transformations and Bases

- We have been writing transformations in coordinate form. For example:

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{f}(\vec{x}) &= (x_1 + x_2, x_1 - x_2)^T \\ &= (x_1 + x_2)\hat{e}^{(1)} + (x_1 - x_2)\hat{e}^{(2)}\end{aligned}$$

- If we use a different basis, the formula for  $\vec{f}$  **changes**:

$$\begin{aligned}[\vec{f}(\vec{x})]_{\mathcal{U}} &= (?, ?)^T \\ &= [?]\hat{u}^{(1)} + [?]\hat{u}^{(2)}\end{aligned}$$

# Linear Transformations and Bases

- We know that if  $\vec{x} = x_1\hat{e}^{(1)} + x_2\hat{e}^{(2)}$ , then:

$$\vec{f}(\vec{x}) = (x_1 + x_2)\hat{e}^{(1)} + (x_1 - x_2)\hat{e}^{(2)}$$

- Now: if  $\vec{x} = z_1\hat{u}^{(1)} + z_2\hat{u}^{(2)}$ , what is:

$$\vec{f}(\vec{x}) = ?\hat{u}^{(1)} + ?\hat{u}^{(2)}$$



## Key Fact

- If we use linearity:

$$\begin{aligned}f(\vec{x}) &= f(z_1 \hat{u}^{(1)} + z_2 \hat{u}^{(2)}) \\ &= z_1 f(\hat{u}^{(1)}) + z_2 f(\hat{u}^{(2)})\end{aligned}$$

- **Strategy:** to write  $\vec{f}$  in the  $\mathcal{U}$  basis, we just need to know what  $\vec{f}$  does to  $\hat{u}^{(1)}$  and  $\hat{u}^{(2)}$ .

# Example

► Let:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{► } \vec{f}(\vec{x}) &= (x_1 + x_2, x_1 - x_2)^T \\ \text{► } \hat{u}^{(1)} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1, 1)^T \text{ and } \hat{u}^{(2)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-1, 1)^T. \end{aligned}$$

► Then:

$$\vec{f}(\hat{u}^{(1)}) = \vec{f}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^T = (\sqrt{2}, 0)^T = \sqrt{2}\hat{e}^{(1)}$$

$$\vec{f}(\hat{u}^{(2)}) = \vec{f}\left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^T = (0, -\sqrt{2})^T = -\sqrt{2}\hat{e}^{(2)}$$

► **But** we want  $\vec{f}(\hat{u}^{(1)})$  and  $\vec{f}(\hat{u}^{(2)})$  in terms of  $\hat{u}^{(1)}$  and  $\hat{u}^{(2)}$ .

## Example (Cont.)

- ▶ We have:  $f(\hat{u}^{(1)}) = \sqrt{2}\hat{e}^{(1)}$  and  $f(\hat{u}^{(2)}) = -\sqrt{2}\hat{e}^{(2)}$ .
- ▶ To write  $\vec{f}(\hat{u}^{(1)})$  in terms of  $\hat{u}^{(1)}$  and  $\hat{u}^{(2)}$ , compute:

$$\begin{aligned} f(\hat{u}^{(1)}) &= (f(\hat{u}^{(1)}) \cdot \hat{u}^{(1)})\hat{u}^{(1)} + (f(\hat{u}^{(1)}) \cdot \hat{u}^{(2)})\hat{u}^{(2)} \\ &= \\ &= \end{aligned}$$

## Example (Cont.)

- ▶ We have:  $f(\hat{u}^{(1)}) = \sqrt{2}\hat{e}^{(1)}$  and  $f(\hat{u}^{(2)}) = -\sqrt{2}\hat{e}^{(2)}$ .
- ▶ To write  $\vec{f}(\hat{u}^{(1)})$  in terms of  $\hat{u}^{(1)}$  and  $\hat{u}^{(2)}$ , compute:

$$\begin{aligned} f(\hat{u}^{(1)}) &= (f(\hat{u}^{(1)}) \cdot \hat{u}^{(1)})\hat{u}^{(1)} + (f(\hat{u}^{(1)}) \cdot \hat{u}^{(2)})\hat{u}^{(2)} \\ &= \left( (\sqrt{2}, 0) \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1, 1) \right) \hat{u}^{(1)} + \left( (\sqrt{2}, 0) \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-1, 1) \right) \hat{u}^{(2)} \\ &= \end{aligned}$$

## Example (Cont.)

- ▶ We have:  $f(\hat{u}^{(1)}) = \sqrt{2}\hat{e}^{(1)}$  and  $f(\hat{u}^{(2)}) = -\sqrt{2}\hat{e}^{(2)}$ .
- ▶ To write  $\vec{f}(\hat{u}^{(1)})$  in terms of  $\hat{u}^{(1)}$  and  $\hat{u}^{(2)}$ , compute:

$$\begin{aligned} f(\hat{u}^{(1)}) &= (f(\hat{u}^{(1)}) \cdot \hat{u}^{(1)})\hat{u}^{(1)} + (f(\hat{u}^{(1)}) \cdot \hat{u}^{(2)})\hat{u}^{(2)} \\ &= \left( (\sqrt{2}, 0) \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1, 1) \right) \hat{u}^{(1)} + \left( (\sqrt{2}, 0) \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-1, 1) \right) \hat{u}^{(2)} \\ &= (1)\hat{u}^{(1)} + (-1)\hat{u}^{(2)} = \hat{u}^{(1)} - \hat{u}^{(2)} \end{aligned}$$

## Example (Cont.)

- Similarly, for  $\vec{f}(\hat{u}^{(2)})$ :

$$\begin{aligned} f(\hat{u}^{(2)}) &= (f(\hat{u}^{(2)}) \cdot \hat{u}^{(1)})\hat{u}^{(1)} + (f(\hat{u}^{(2)}) \cdot \hat{u}^{(2)})\hat{u}^{(2)} \\ &= \left( (0, -\sqrt{2}) \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1, 1) \right) \hat{u}^{(1)} + \left( (0, -\sqrt{2}) \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-1, 1) \right) \hat{u}^{(2)} \\ &= (-1)\hat{u}^{(1)} + (-1)\hat{u}^{(2)} = -\hat{u}^{(1)} - \hat{u}^{(2)} \end{aligned}$$

# Solution

- Putting it all together:

$$\begin{aligned}f(\vec{X}) &= f(z_1 \hat{u}^{(1)} + z_2 \hat{u}^{(2)}) \\&= z_1 f(\hat{u}^{(1)}) + z_2 f(\hat{u}^{(2)}) \\&= z_1 (\hat{u}^{(1)} - \hat{u}^{(2)}) + z_2 (-\hat{u}^{(1)} - \hat{u}^{(2)}) \\&= (z_1 - z_2) \hat{u}^{(1)} + (-z_1 - z_2) \hat{u}^{(2)}\end{aligned}$$

- Or, in coordinate form:

$$[f(\vec{X})]_{\mathcal{U}} = (z_1 - z_2, -z_1 - z_2)^T$$

# *DSC 140B*

## *Representation Learning*

Lecture 03 | Part 3

**Matrices**



# Matrices?

- ▶ I thought this week was supposed to be about linear algebra... Where are the matrices?

# Matrices?

- ▶ I thought this week was supposed to be about linear algebra... Where are the matrices?
- ▶ What is a matrix, anyways?

# What is a matrix?

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Recall: Linear Transformations

- ▶ A **transformation**  $\vec{f}(\vec{x})$  is a function which takes a vector as input and returns a vector of the same dimensionality.
- ▶ A transformation  $\vec{f}$  is **linear** if

$$\vec{f}(\alpha \vec{u} + \beta \vec{v}) = \alpha \vec{f}(\vec{u}) + \beta \vec{f}(\vec{v})$$

# Recall: Linear Transformations

- ▶ **Key** consequence of **linearity**: to compute  $\vec{f}(\vec{x})$ , only need to know what  $\vec{f}$  does to basis vectors.
- ▶ Example:

$$\vec{x} = 3\hat{e}^{(1)} - 4\hat{e}^{(2)} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\vec{f}(\hat{e}^{(1)}) = -\hat{e}^{(1)} + 3\hat{e}^{(2)}$$

$$\vec{f}(\hat{e}^{(2)}) = 2\hat{e}^{(1)}$$

$$\vec{f}(\vec{x}) =$$

# Matrices

- ▶ **Idea:** Since  $\vec{f}$  is defined by what it does to basis, place  $\vec{f}(\hat{e}^{(1)})$ ,  $\vec{f}(\hat{e}^{(2)})$ , ... into a table as columns
- ▶ This is the **matrix** representing<sup>2</sup>  $\vec{f}$

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{f}(\hat{e}^{(1)}) &= -\hat{e}^{(1)} + 3\hat{e}^{(2)} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \\ \vec{f}(\hat{e}^{(2)}) &= 2\hat{e}^{(1)} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}\end{aligned}\qquad \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 2 \\ 3 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

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<sup>2</sup>with respect to the standard basis  $\hat{e}^{(1)}, \hat{e}^{(2)}$

## Example

Write the matrix representing  $\vec{f}$  with respect to the standard basis, given:

$$\vec{f}(\hat{e}^{(1)}) = (1, 4, 7)^T$$

$$\vec{f}(\hat{e}^{(2)}) = (2, 5, 8)^T$$

$$\vec{f}(\hat{e}^{(3)}) = (3, 6, 9)^T$$

## Exercise

Suppose  $\vec{f}$  has the matrix below:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{pmatrix}$$

Let  $\vec{x} = (-2, 1, 3)^T$ . What is  $\vec{f}(\vec{x})$ ?

- ▶ A)  $(3, 12, 21)^T$
- ▶ B)  $(-2, 1, 3)^T$
- ▶ C)  $(6, 15, 24)^T$
- ▶ D)  $(9, 15, 21)^T$



## Main Idea

A square ( $n \times n$ ) matrix can be interpreted as a compact representation of a linear transformation  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ .

# What is matrix multiplication?

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

## A low-level definition

$$(A\vec{x})_i = \sum_{j=1}^n A_{ij}x_j$$

## A low-level interpretation

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = -2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix} + 1 \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix} + 3 \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ 9 \end{pmatrix}$$

**In general...**

$$\begin{pmatrix} \uparrow & \uparrow & \uparrow \\ \vec{a}^{(1)} & \vec{a}^{(2)} & \vec{a}^{(3)} \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = x_1 \vec{a}^{(1)} + x_2 \vec{a}^{(2)} + x_3 \vec{a}^{(3)}$$

# Matrix Multiplication

$$\vec{x} = x_1 \hat{e}^{(1)} + x_2 \hat{e}^{(2)} + x_3 \hat{e}^{(3)} = (x_1, x_2, x_3)^T$$
$$\vec{f}(\vec{x}) = x_1 \vec{f}(\hat{e}^{(1)}) + x_2 \vec{f}(\hat{e}^{(2)}) + x_3 \vec{f}(\hat{e}^{(3)})$$

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} \uparrow \\ \vec{f}(\hat{e}^{(1)}) \\ \downarrow \end{matrix} & \begin{matrix} \uparrow \\ \vec{f}(\hat{e}^{(2)}) \\ \downarrow \end{matrix} & \begin{matrix} \uparrow \\ \vec{f}(\hat{e}^{(3)}) \\ \downarrow \end{matrix} \end{pmatrix}$$
$$A\vec{x} = \begin{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} \uparrow \\ \vec{f}(\hat{e}^{(1)}) \\ \downarrow \end{matrix} & \begin{matrix} \uparrow \\ \vec{f}(\hat{e}^{(2)}) \\ \downarrow \end{matrix} & \begin{matrix} \uparrow \\ \vec{f}(\hat{e}^{(3)}) \\ \downarrow \end{matrix} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$= x_1 \vec{f}(\hat{e}^{(1)}) + x_2 \vec{f}(\hat{e}^{(2)}) + x_3 \vec{f}(\hat{e}^{(3)})$$

# Matrix Multiplication

- ▶ Matrix  $A$  represents a linear transformation  $\vec{f}$ 
  - ▶ With respect to the standard basis
  - ▶ If we use a different basis, the matrix changes!
- ▶ Matrix multiplication  $A\vec{x}$  **evaluates**  $\vec{f}(\vec{x})$

## **What are they, *really*?**

- ▶ Matrices are sometimes just tables of numbers.
- ▶ But they often have a deeper meaning.



## Main Idea

A square ( $n \times n$ ) matrix can be interpreted as a compact representation of a linear transformation  $\vec{f} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ .

What's more, if  $A$  represents  $\vec{f}$ , then  $A\vec{x} = \vec{f}(\vec{x})$ ; that is, multiplying by  $A$  is the same as evaluating  $\vec{f}$ .

## Example

$$\vec{x} = 3\hat{e}^{(1)} - 4\hat{e}^{(2)} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A =$$

$$\vec{f}(\hat{e}^{(1)}) = -\hat{e}^{(1)} + 3\hat{e}^{(2)}$$

$$\vec{f}(\hat{e}^{(2)}) = 2\hat{e}^{(1)}$$

$$\vec{f}(\vec{x}) =$$

$$A\vec{x} =$$

## Note

- ▶ All of this works because we assumed  $\vec{f}$  is **linear**.
- ▶ If it isn't, evaluating  $\vec{f}$  isn't so simple.

## Note

- ▶ All of this works because we assumed  $\vec{f}$  is **linear**.
- ▶ If it isn't, evaluating  $\vec{f}$  isn't so simple.
- ▶ Linear algebra = simple!

# Matrices in Other Bases

- The matrix of a linear transformation wrt the **standard basis**:

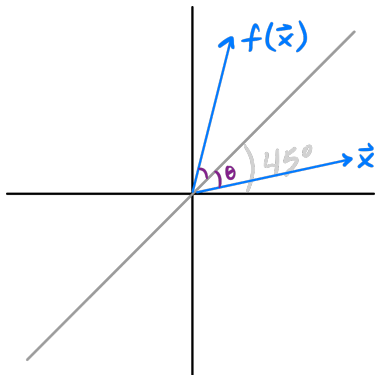
$$\begin{pmatrix} \uparrow & \uparrow & \uparrow & \\ \vec{f}(\hat{e}^{(1)}) & \vec{f}(\hat{e}^{(2)}) & \cdots & \vec{f}(\hat{e}^{(d)}) \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \end{pmatrix}$$

- With respect to basis  $\mathcal{U}$ :

$$\begin{pmatrix} \uparrow & \uparrow & \uparrow & \\ [\vec{f}(\hat{u}^{(1)})]_{\mathcal{U}} & [\vec{f}(\hat{u}^{(2)})]_{\mathcal{U}} & \cdots & [\vec{f}(\hat{u}^{(d)})]_{\mathcal{U}} \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \end{pmatrix}$$

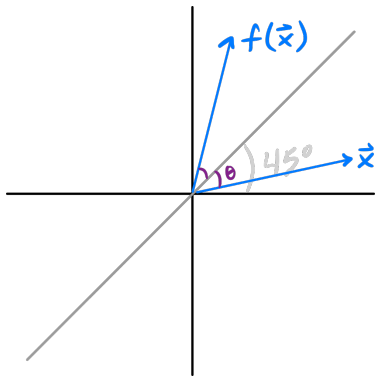
## Example

- Consider the transformation  $\vec{f}$  which “mirrors” a vector over the line of  $45^\circ$ .



- What is its matrix in the standard basis?

## Example



- ▶ Let  $\hat{u}^{(1)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1, 1)^T$
- ▶ Let  $\hat{u}^{(2)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-1, 1)^T$
- ▶ What is  $[\vec{f}(\hat{u}^{(1)})]_{\mathcal{U}}$ ?
- ▶  $[\vec{f}(\hat{u}^{(2)})]_{\mathcal{U}}$ ?
- ▶ What is the matrix?

# *DSC 140B*

## *Representation Learning*

Lecture 03 | Part 4

### **The Spectral Theorem**



# Eigenvectors

- Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix. An **eigenvector** of  $A$  with **eigenvalue**  $\lambda$  is a nonzero vector  $\vec{v}$  such that  $A\vec{v} = \lambda\vec{v}$ .

# Eigenvectors (of Linear Transformations)

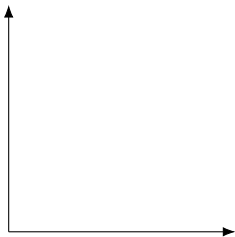
- Let  $\vec{f}$  be a linear transformation. An **eigenvector** of  $\vec{f}$  with **eigenvalue**  $\lambda$  is a nonzero vector  $\vec{v}$  such that  $f(\vec{v}) = \lambda\vec{v}$ .

# Importance

- ▶ We will see why eigenvectors are important in the next part.
- ▶ For now: what are they?

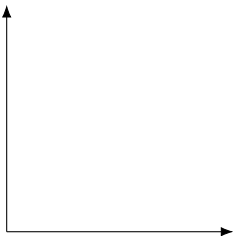
# Geometric Interpretation

- ▶ Recall:  $\vec{v}$  is an eigenvector if  $\vec{f}(\vec{v}) = \lambda\vec{v}$ .
- ▶ Meaning: when  $\vec{f}$  is applied to one of its eigenvectors,  $\vec{f}$  simply scales it.



# Geometric Interpretation

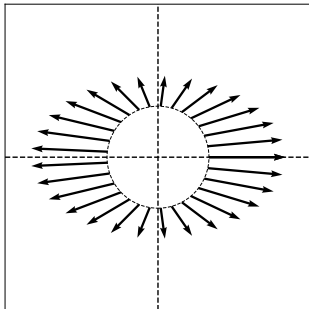
- ▶ The eigenvalue,  $\lambda$ , tells us how much the eigenvector is scaled.
  - ▶ If  $\lambda > 1$ , the eigenvector is stretched.
  - ▶ If  $0 < \lambda < 1$ , the eigenvector is shrunk.
  - ▶ If  $\lambda < 0$ , the eigenvector is flipped and scaled.



## Exercise

Draw as many (linearly independent) eigenvectors as you can:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$



# Finding Eigenvectors

- ▶ We typically compute the eigenvectors of a matrix with a computer.
- ▶ But it can help our understanding to find them “graphically”.

# Procedure

Given a matrix  $A$  (or transformation  $\vec{f}$ ), to find an eigenvector “graphically”.

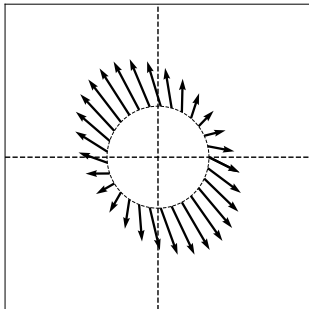
1. Think about (or draw) the output of  $\vec{f}$  for a handful of unit vector inputs.
  - ▶ Linear transformations are continuous so you can “interpolate”.
2. Find place(s) where the input vector and the output vector are parallel.



## Exercise

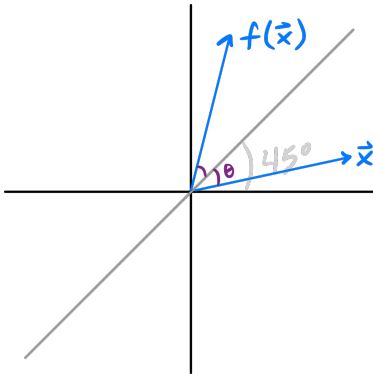
Draw as many (linearly independent) eigenvectors as you can.

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$



## Exercise

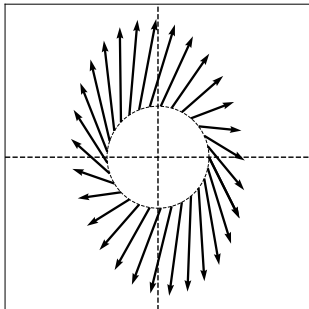
Consider the linear transformation which mirrors its input over the line of  $45^\circ$ . Give two orthogonal eigenvectors of the transformation.



## Exercise

Draw as many (linearly independent) eigenvectors as you can.

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 5 \\ -10 & 12 \end{pmatrix}$$



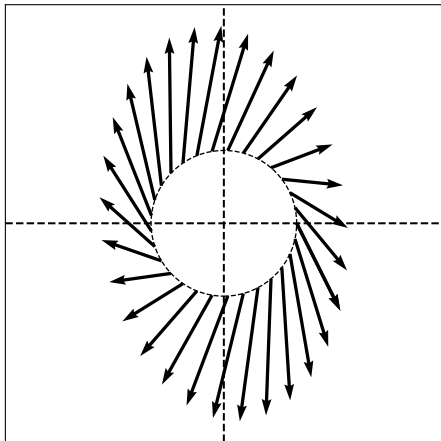
## Caution!

- ▶ Not all matrices have even one eigenvector!<sup>3</sup>
- ▶ When does a matrix have multiple (linearly independent) eigenvectors?

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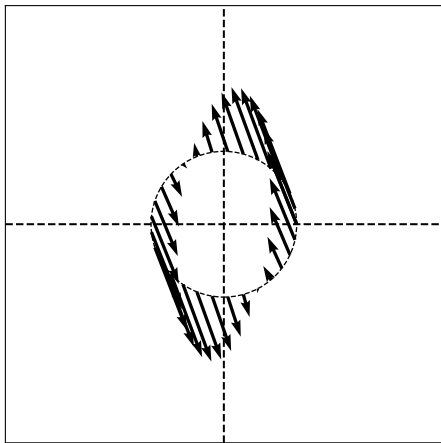
<sup>3</sup>That is, with a *real-valued* eigenvalue.

# Example Linear Transformation



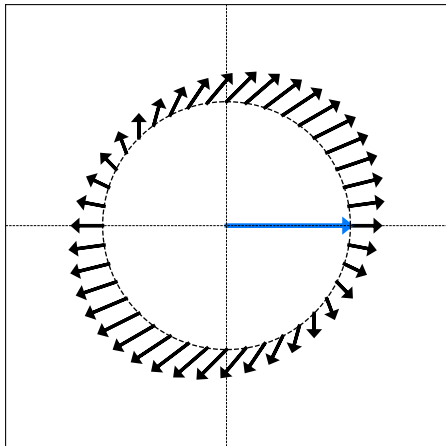
$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 5 \\ -10 & 12 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Example Linear Transformation



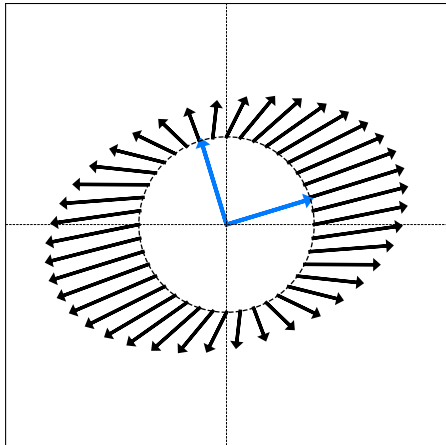
$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Example Linear Transformation



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

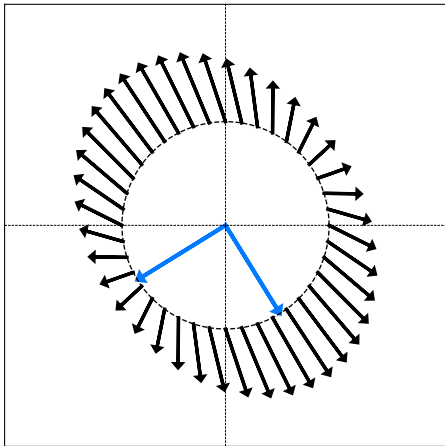
# Example **Symmetric** Linear Transformation



$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

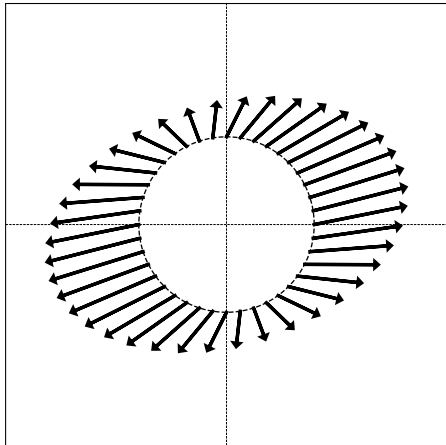


# Example **Symmetric** Linear Transformation



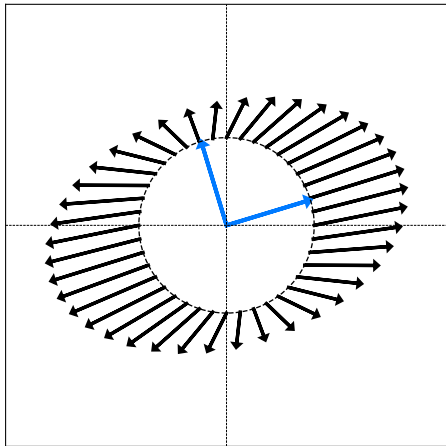
$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Example **Symmetric** Linear Transformation



$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Example **Symmetric** Linear Transformation



$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Observation

- ▶ It seems that there is something special about **symmetric** matrices...

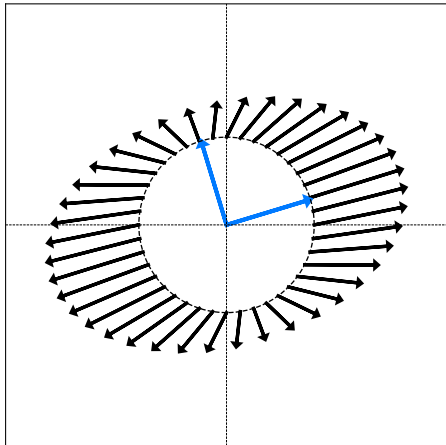
# Symmetric Matrices

- ▶ Recall: a matrix  $A$  is **symmetric** if  $A^T = A$ .

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 4 & 5 \\ 3 & 5 & 6 \end{pmatrix}$$

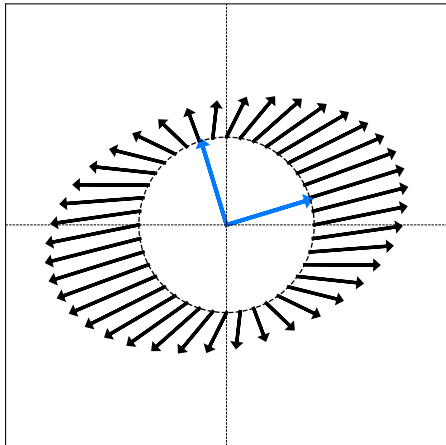
- ▶ A linear transformation  $\vec{f}$  is **symmetric** if its matrix representation is symmetric.

# Observation #1



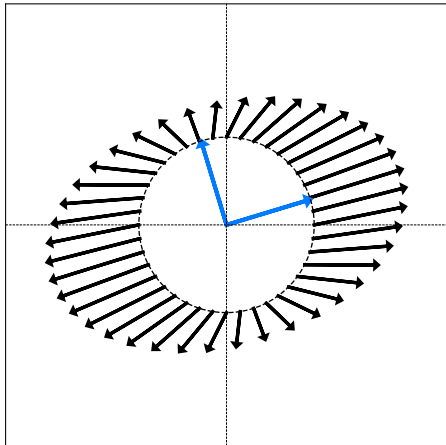
- Symmetric linear transformations have **axes of symmetry**.
  - One for each dimension.

## Observation #2



- The axes of symmetry are **orthogonal** to one another.

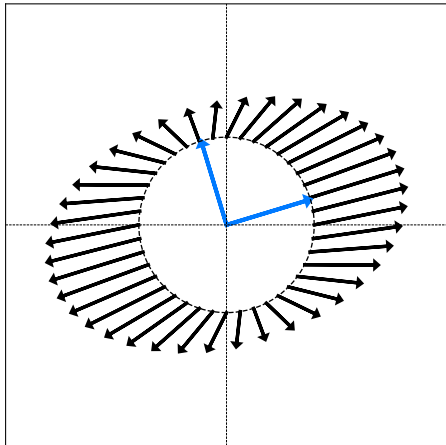
## Observation #3



- ▶ The action of  $\vec{f}$  along an axis of symmetry is simply to **scale** its input.
- ▶ That is, the **eigenvectors** point along the axes of symmetry.



## Observation #4



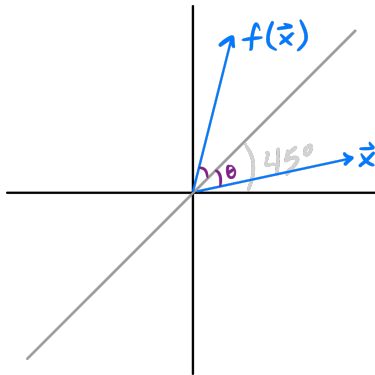
- The size of this scaling can be different for each axis.

## Main Idea

The **eigenvectors** of a symmetric linear transformation (matrix) are its axes of symmetry. The **eigenvalues** describe how much each axis of symmetry is scaled.

## Exercise

Consider the linear transformation which mirrors its input over the line of  $45^\circ$ . Give two orthogonal eigenvectors of the transformation.



## How many?

- ▶ The symmetric  $2 \times 2$  matrices we saw all had 2 orthogonal eigenvectors.
- ▶ Does a  $3 \times 3$  symmetric matrix have 3 orthogonal eigenvectors?
- ▶ What about  $n \times n$  symmetric matrices?

# The Spectral Theorem<sup>4</sup>

## Theorem

Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  **symmetric** matrix. Then you can always find  $n$  eigenvectors of  $A$  which are all mutually orthogonal.

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<sup>4</sup>for symmetric matrices

## Careful!

- ▶ The spectral theorem *does not* say that an  $n \times n$  matrix has  $n$  eigenvectors!

## Exercise

Consider the  $2 \times 2$  identity matrix. How many (unit) eigenvectors does it have?

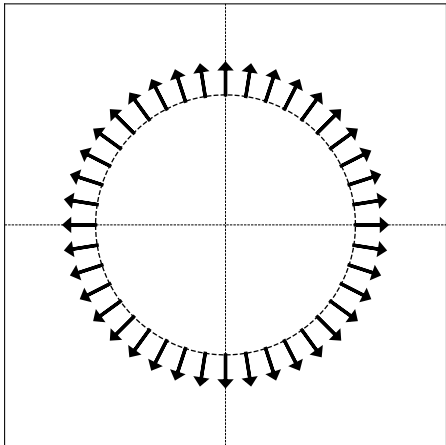
A. 0

B. 1

C. 2

D.  $\infty$

# Solution



- ▶ Infinitely many!
- ▶ *Every* (nonzero) vector is an eigenvector with eigenvalue 1.



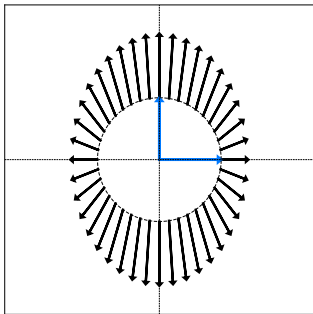
# Solution

- ▶ It would be incorrect to say that the identity matrix has just 2 orthogonal eigenvectors.
- ▶ Instead, the spectral theorem says: “You can find 2 different orthogonal eigenvectors of  $I$ .”
- ▶ There are infinitely-many ways to do this!
  - ▶  $(1, 0)^T$  and  $(0, 1)^T$
  - ▶  $(1/\sqrt{2}, 1/\sqrt{2})^T$  and  $(-1/\sqrt{2}, 1/\sqrt{2})^T$
  - ▶ etc.

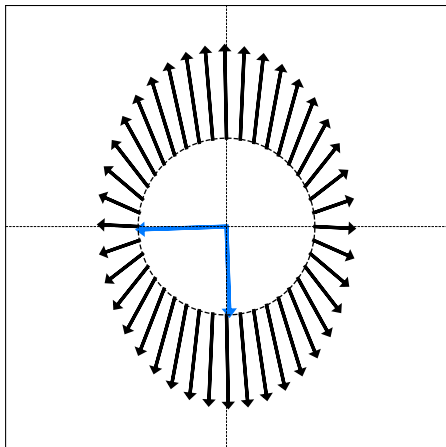
# Diagonal Matrices

- If  $A$  is diagonal, its eigenvectors are simply the standard basis vectors.

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

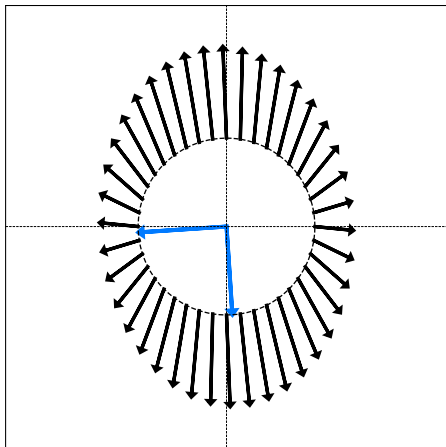


# Off-diagonal elements



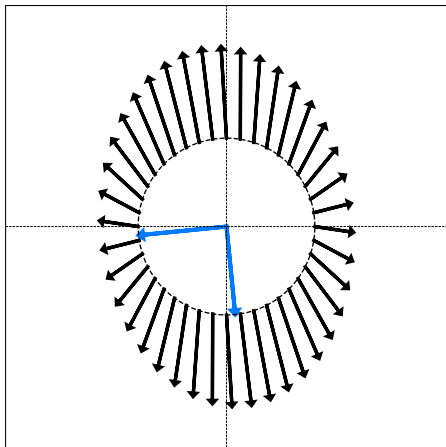
$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -0.1 \\ -0.1 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Off-diagonal elements



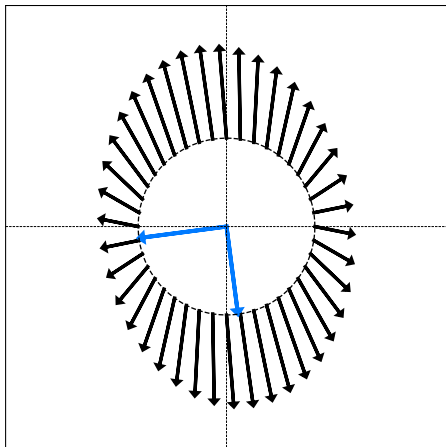
$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -0.2 \\ -0.2 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Off-diagonal elements



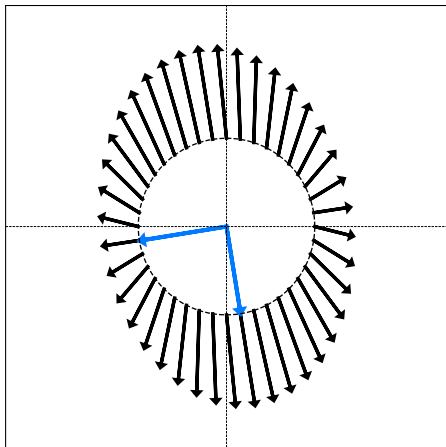
$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -0.3 \\ -0.3 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Off-diagonal elements



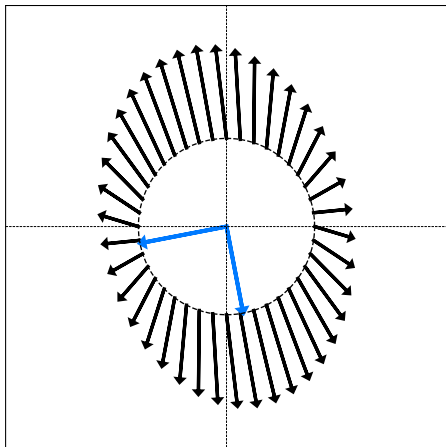
$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -0.4 \\ -0.4 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Off-diagonal elements



$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -0.5 \\ -0.5 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

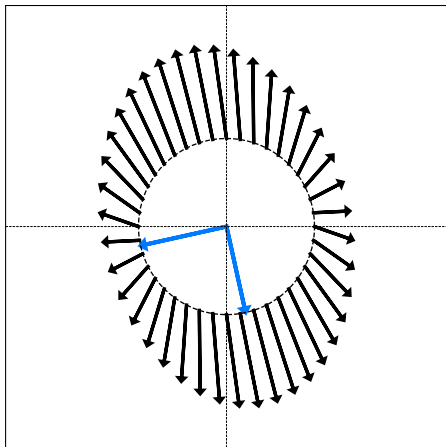
# Off-diagonal elements



$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -0.6 \\ -0.6 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

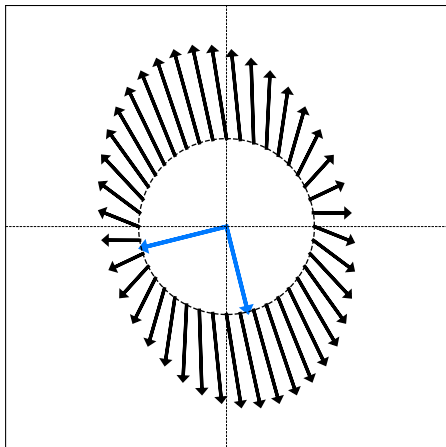


# Off-diagonal elements



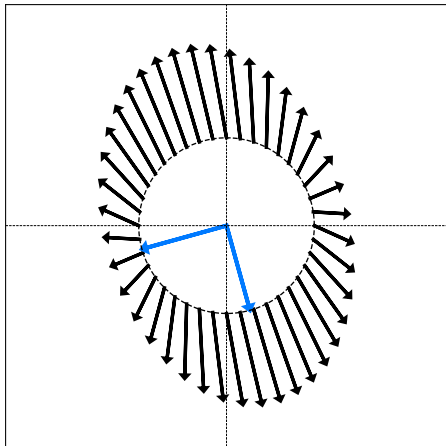
$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -0.7 \\ -0.7 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Off-diagonal elements



$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -0.8 \\ -0.8 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Off-diagonal elements

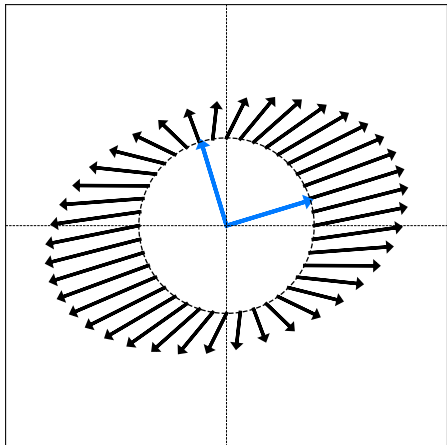


$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -0.9 \\ -0.9 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Non-Diagonal Symmetric Matrices

- ▶ When a symmetric matrix is not diagonal, its eigenvectors are not the standard basis vectors.
- ▶ But they are still orthogonal!

# Computing Eigenvectors



Use `np.linalg.eigh`<sup>a</sup>:

```
>> A = np.array([[2, -1], [-1, 3]])  
>> np.linalg.eigh(A)  
(array([1.38196601, 3.61803399]),  
 array([[ -0.85065081, -0.52573111],  
        [ -0.52573111,  0.85065081]]))
```

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<sup>a</sup>if the input is *symmetric*