

[gex52] Matrix operations XIII: eigenvectors of transition matrix

Transition matrices as used in Markov chain processes are, in general, asymmetric and have non-negative elements. The elements of each row must add up to unity. This has consequences for eigenvalues and eigenvectors. Here we consider the matrix,

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} \\ \frac{1}{7} & \frac{2}{7} & \frac{4}{7} \end{pmatrix}.$$

- (a) Use the command `N[Eigenvalues[]]` to determine the three eigenvalues of \mathbf{P} . Verify that one eigenvalue is equal to 1 as must be the case for all transition matrices.
- (b) Apply the command `N[Eigenvectors[]]` to the matrix \mathbf{P} and its transpose to determine the (non-normalized) right eigenvectors and left eigenvectors.
- (c) Verify that the right eigenvector associated with the unit eigenvalue has identical elements as must be the case.
- (d) Normalize the left eigenvector associated with the unit eigenvalue by the sum of its elements. Then they represent the probabilities of a stationary state for the stochastic process in question.
- (e) Verify that for the other two left eigenvectors the elements add up to zero.
- (f) Demonstrate that each left eigenvector is orthogonal to two right eigenvectors and vice versa. They form a bi-orthogonal set.

Create a Mathematica notebook to carry out these tasks.

Solution: