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**Perron-Frobenius  
in classical and max  
linear algebra:  
comparison and analysis**

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# NOTATION

Classical:

$$a, b \in \mathbb{R}_+$$

$$a + b, ab$$

Max:

$$a \oplus b = \max(a, b)$$

$$a \otimes b = ab$$

Both:

$$a \dagger b, a * b$$

$\mathbb{R}_+$  is a semiring under both ops

Commutative semigroups  
with identity under  $+$ ,  $\oplus$   
Distributivity

DIFFERENCE

$$a + b = a \implies b = 0$$

$$a \oplus a = a$$

$$A,B\in \mathbb{R}_+^{m\times n}\\ A+B,AB,$$

$$\begin{aligned}A\oplus B&=\max(A,B)\\C&=A\otimes B\\c_{ij}&=\max_k a_{ik}b_{kj}\end{aligned}$$

$$^{\,4}$$

## SIMILARITIES

### Linearity

$$A * (\alpha x) = \alpha(A * x)$$

$$A * (x \dagger y) = A * x \dagger A * y$$

### Monotonicity

$$x \leq y \implies A * x \leq A * y$$

## Difference: SEPARATION

$$A > 0, x \leq y \implies Ax < Ay$$

$$A > 0, x \leq y \not\implies A \otimes x < A \otimes y$$

Classic

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

Max

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \otimes \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \otimes \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$A$  irreducible  
Wielandt style proof of P-F  
works  
in both classic and max  
yields unique evalue in both  
 $\rho^\dagger(A)$ ,    $\rho(A)$ ,    $\rho^\circ(A)$   
separation implies unique  
evector in classic  
not nec unique in max

**DEFN:**  $A$  reducible:  
for some permutation  
matrix  $P$ ,  $A' = P^T AP$

$$\begin{pmatrix} A'_{11} & A'_{12} \\ 0 & A'_{22} \end{pmatrix}$$

$A'_{11}$  and  $A'_{22}$  nontrivial

irreducible = not reducible  
Assume  $A \neq [0] \in \mathbb{R}^{11}$

## Spectral radius

$$\rho(A) = \max\{|\lambda|; \lambda \in \text{spec}(A)\}$$

CLASSICAL  
PERRON-FROBENIUS  
Perron (1907, 1907)  
Frobenius(1908,1909,1912)

Theorem:  $A \geq 0$  irreducible

1.  $\rho(A)$  is an algebraically simple eigenvalue
2. Its (essentially) unique eigenvector  $u$  is positive.
3.  $u$  is the only nonnegative eigenvector for  $A$

## P-F in MAX(For the max savvy)

Cunningham-Green (1962, 1979),  
Gondrian-Minoux (1977)

**Theorem:**  $A \geq 0$  irreducible.

1. The unique evalue  $\rho^\circ$  is the max cycle mean of the graph of  $A$ .
2. For each crit cpt of this graph there is an ess unique positive evector for  $\rho^\circ$ .
3. These evectors form a basis for the max cone of evcs

**EXAMPLES:**

**Classic**

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 3 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Max**

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \otimes \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = 2 \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

	CLASSIC	MAX
eval	unique	unique
evec	unique	non-uq

Wielandt (1950)  
Analysis of his proof of P-F

$A \geq 0$  positive (irreducible)

$$A \dagger x \leq \lambda x \implies x > 0$$

$$\rho^\dagger(A) := \min\{\lambda : \exists x > 0, A \dagger x \leq \lambda x\}$$

$$\exists u > 0 : A \dagger u \leq \rho u$$

$u$  extremal vec (subevector)

**LEMMA:**  $\rho^\dagger$  is the only possible evalue.

$$A * u \leq \rho^\dagger u, \quad u > 0$$

$$A * v = \sigma v, \quad v > 0$$

$$\rho^\dagger \leq \sigma$$

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma := \min\{\alpha : v \leq \alpha u\} \\ (\gamma = 1) \end{aligned}$$

$$\sigma v = A * v \leq A * u \leq \rho^\dagger u$$

$$v \leq (\rho^\dagger / \sigma) u$$

$$\rho^\dagger \geq \sigma$$

$$\rho^\dagger = \sigma$$

Have faith:  
 $\rho^\dagger$  is an eigenvalue

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \otimes \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \otimes \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Not every extr vec is an evec

$$\rho(A) := \min\{\lambda : \exists x > 0, Ax \leq \lambda x\}$$

$$u > 0 : Au \leq \rho u$$

$u$  extremal

**THEOREM:**  $A > 0$

1.  $u$  extremal  $\implies$   $u$  eigenvector
2. eigenvector and eigenvalue unique

**Proof:**

1.

$$Au \leq \rho u \implies A(Au) < \rho Au$$

**separation!**

$$\exists \sigma < \rho : A(Au) \leq \sigma Au$$

$\implies \Leftarrow$

2.

$$Au = \rho v, \quad Av = \sigma v, \quad u \neq \lambda v$$

$$\alpha =: \min\{\lambda : v \leq \lambda u\}$$
$$(\alpha = 1)$$

$$u \leq v$$

$$\sigma v = Av < Au = \rho u$$

$$\sigma < \rho$$

$$\Rightarrow \Leftarrow$$

$$u = v, \quad \rho = \sigma$$

Extends to irred in class lin

$$A^\sharp = I + A + A^2 + \cdots + A^{n-1} > 0$$

$$A^\sharp A = AA^\sharp$$

$$Au = \lambda u \implies A^\sharp u = \lambda^\sharp u$$

$$Au \leq \rho u \implies AA^\sharp u = A^\sharp Au < \rho A^\sharp u$$

**Wielandt-Perron-Frobenius**

Back to basics

## SIMILARITY

$$\lambda^p \rightarrow 0 \text{ if } \lambda < 1$$

$$\lambda^p = 1 \text{ if } \lambda = 1$$

$$\lambda^p \rightarrow \infty \text{ if } \lambda > 1$$

## DIFFERENCE:

$$1 + \lambda + \lambda^2 + \dots$$

cvges if  $\lambda < 1$

dvges if  $\lambda > 1$

dvges in class if  $\lambda = 1$

cvges in max if  $\lambda = 1$

$$A^p \rightarrow 0 \iff \rho^\dagger(A) < 1$$

$$I \dagger A \dagger A^2 \cdots \text{cvges if } \rho^\dagger(A) < 1$$

$$I \dagger A \dagger A^2 \cdots \text{dvges if } \rho^\dagger(A) > 1$$

$$I \oplus A \oplus A^2 \cdots \text{cvges if } \rho^\circ(A) \leq 1$$

$$I + A + A^2 \cdots \text{dvges if } \rho(A) = 1$$

Z-matrix equations

$A$  irreducible

Classical AND max

$$A * x \dagger b = \lambda x$$

$$(\lambda = 1)$$

$$A * x \dagger b = x$$

$$x = A(A * x \dagger b) \dagger b = A^2 * x \dagger (I \dagger A) * b$$

$$x = A^k * x + (I \dagger A \dagger A^2 \dagger \dots) * b$$

and conversely if cvgce

Ostrowski (1937) Lemma:

$A \in \mathbb{R}_+^{n \times n}$  irreducible

$$\lambda > 0$$

.

$$\longrightarrow A * x \dagger b = \lambda x$$

$\lambda > \rho^\dagger(A)$ ; unique soln  $x^0$

$$x^0 = (I \oplus A/\lambda \oplus (A/\lambda)^2 \oplus \dots) * b$$

$$x^0 = 0 \text{ if } b = 0$$

$$x^0 > 0 \text{ if } b \not\geq 0$$

.

$$\lambda < \rho(A)$$

**no solution**

$$\longrightarrow \quad A * x \dagger b = \rho^\dagger x$$

Classical:

soln iff  $b = 0$

$$Au = \rho u$$

Max:

$$x = x^0 + u$$

$$x^0 = (I \oplus A/\rho^\circ \oplus (A/\rho^\circ)^2 \oplus \dots) * b$$

$$A * u = \rho^\circ u$$

**The operative difference  
when going from irreducible  
to reducible**

## Frobenius trace down method

$$A * x = \lambda x$$

$$A * x \dagger b = \lambda x$$

Frobenius (1912)

Determines all nonneg evec-  
tors

of a reducible nonneg matrix

Carlson (1963), Hershkowitz-  
S (1985)

Determine all solution of

$$Ax + b = \lambda x$$

Repeated application of the irreducible case

Precisely the same arguments work in max alg

Forces consideration of

$$A * x \dagger b = \lambda x$$

Sharp inequus become weak  
inequs

The difference lies in existence  
of sols of

$$Ax + b = \rho(A)x$$

$$A \otimes x \oplus b = \rho^\circ(A)$$

for irred  $A$