# The Gershgorin Circle Theorem

Zack Cramer

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Fact: Almost every  $n \times n$  matrix with complex entries is diagonalizable.

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(ii) 
$$\lambda_1 \leq \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i,j=1}^n a_{i,j} \leq \lambda_n.$$

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#### Corollary

If  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$  is positive semi-definite, then every principle submatrix must have non-negative determinant.



Russian man approximates eigenvalues using this weird old trick. Mathematicians HATE HIM!!!

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Let A be an  $n \times n$  matrix with entries in  $\mathbb{C}$ . The eigenvalues of A belong to the union of its Gershgorin disks.

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$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 3 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$$





## Corollary

Let  $A = (a_{i,j})$  be an  $n \times n$  complex matrix. If

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eq i} |\mathsf{a}_{i,j}| < |\mathsf{a}_{i,i}|$$

for all i, then A is invertible.



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$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -4i & 2/3 & 1 & i/2 & 1/3 & -1/2 \\ 1 & -3 & 0 & 1/2 & 0 & -1/2 \\ 3/5 & 2i & 8 & 1 & -1 & i \\ i/3 & 1 & 0 & 13/2 & -2/3 & 2 \\ 3 & -2 & 1/2 & 0 & 9i & 3i/2 \\ -1 & 5i/4 & 1 & -1/4 & 0 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

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#### The disks did not detect the invertibility of A!

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- (2) More generally, we could have used the disks from  $SAS^{-1}$  to approximate the eigenvalues of A.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & -3 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -5 & -1 \\ -1/2 & 0 & -1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

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Row radii

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In particular, this means that each disk *does* contain exactly one eigenvalue when the disks are disjoint.

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- (ii) the eigenvalues vary *continuously* while always remaining in the disks.

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Since the disks of  $A_t$  that inflate to  $D_{i_1}, D_{i_2}, \ldots, D_{i_k}$  never intersect the remaining disks, the k eigenvalues in these disks never have a chance to leave!

# But seeing is believing, am I right??

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -8 & 0 & -2 \\ 1 & 5 & -1 \\ 3/2 & -1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

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The sets  $K_{i,i}$  are called **Brauer's ovals of Cassini**.

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If 
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, then  $|z - a_{i,i}| |z - a_{j,j}| \le R_i R_j$ . If  $R_i R_j = 0$  then  $z = a_{i,i}$  or  $z = a_{j,j}$ .

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- (i) The union of the ovals of Cassini contains the eigenvalues of A.
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#### Proof.

If 
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Hence  $|z - a_{i,i}| \leq R_i$  or  $|z - a_{j,j}| \leq R_j$ .

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## Gerschgorin Disks and Brauer's ovals of Cassini



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Press the 'Plot' button to produce a plot for the displayed 3x3 matrix. You can edit the values in the matrix by hand, or generate new random values by pressing the button. Press on the plot labels to show or hide corresponding plot elements.

3	i	1	
-1	4+5i	2	
2	1	-1	
Plot	Random entries		

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$



$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \qquad \begin{array}{c} & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & & \\$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \qquad \xrightarrow{1}_{0}$$
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

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-

Remarkably, considering more than two rows at a time doesn't work!

$$K_{i,j,k} := \{ z \in \mathbb{C} : |z - a_{i,i}| | z - a_{j,j}| | z - a_{k,k}| \le R_i R_j R_k \}$$

$$\mathcal{K}_{i,j,k} := \{ z \in \mathbb{C} : |z - a_{i,i}| | z - a_{j,j} | | z - a_{k,k} | \le R_i R_j R_k \}$$

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

$$\mathcal{K}_{i,j,k} := \{ z \in \mathbb{C} : |z - a_{i,i}| | z - a_{j,j} | | z - a_{k,k} | \le R_i R_j R_k \}$$



$$K_{i,j,k} := \{ z \in \mathbb{C} : |z - a_{i,i}| | z - a_{j,j} | | z - a_{k,k} | \le R_i R_j R_k \}$$



## Final remarks:

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• A slight improvement on the Gershgorin theorem can be used to show that *all* matrices of the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & & & \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ & & & & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}_{n \times n}$$

are invertible.

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are invertible.

• Versions of Gershgorin's theorem hold for partitioned matrices and for matrices of operators.

## Thank you!

