

Application Activities - Module G Part 3 - Class Day 27

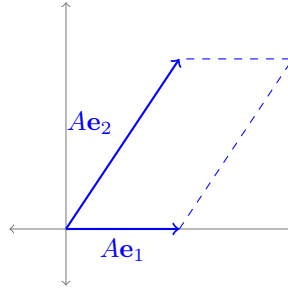
Activity 27.1 Suppose the matrix M is invertable, so there exists M^{-1} with $MM^{-1} = I$. It follows that $\det(M)\det(M^{-1}) = \det(I)$.

What is the only number that $\det(M)$ cannot equal?

- (a) -1 (b) 0 (c) 1 (d) $\frac{1}{\det(M^{-1})}$

Fact 27.2 Since $\det(M^{-1}) = \frac{1}{\det(M)}$ for every invertable matrix M , a square matrix M is invertable if and only if $\det(M) \neq 0$.

Observation 27.3 Consider the linear transformation $A : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ given by the matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$



It is easy to see geometrically that

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

It is less obvious (but easily verified by computation) that

$$A \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = 3 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Definition 27.4 Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$. An **eigenvector** is a vector $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $A\mathbf{x}$ is parallel to \mathbf{x} . In other words, $A\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$ for some scalar λ . We call this λ an **eigenvalue** of A .

Observation 27.5 Since $\lambda\mathbf{x} = \lambda(I\mathbf{x})$, we can find the eigenvalues and eigenvectors satisfying $A\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$ by inspecting $(A - \lambda I)\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$.

- Since we already know that $(A - \lambda I)\mathbf{0} = \mathbf{0}$ for any value of λ , we are more interested in finding values of λ such that $A - \lambda I$ has a nontrivial kernel.
- Thus $\text{RREF}(A - \lambda I)$ must have a non-pivot column, and therefore $A - \lambda I$ cannot be invertable.
- Since $A - \lambda I$ cannot be invertable, our eigenvalues must satisfy $\det(A - \lambda I) = 0$.

Definition 27.6 Computing $\det(A - \lambda I)$ results in the **characteristic polynomial** of A .

For example, when $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$, we have

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

Thus the characteristic polynomial of A is

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} 1 - \lambda & 2 \\ 3 & 4 - \lambda \end{bmatrix} = (1 - \lambda)(4 - \lambda) - 6 = \lambda^2 - 5\lambda - 2$$

Activity 27.7 Complete the following computation of the characteristic polynomial $A - \lambda I$ for $A = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & -2 & 1 \\ 17 & -5 & 5 \\ -4 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} 6 - \lambda & -2 & 1 \\ 17 & -5 - \lambda & 5 \\ -4 & 2 & 1 - \lambda \end{bmatrix} &= (6 - \lambda) \det \begin{bmatrix} ? & ? & ? \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} - 2 \det \begin{bmatrix} ? & ? & ? \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \det \begin{bmatrix} ? & ? & ? \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= (6 - \lambda) \det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ ? & ? & ? \\ ? & ? & ? \end{bmatrix} + 2 \det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ ? & ? & ? \\ ? & ? & ? \end{bmatrix} - \det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ ? & ? & ? \\ ? & ? & ? \end{bmatrix} \\ &= (6 - \lambda) \det \begin{bmatrix} ? & ? \\ ? & ? \end{bmatrix} + 2 \det \begin{bmatrix} ? & ? \\ ? & ? \end{bmatrix} - \det \begin{bmatrix} ? & ? \\ ? & ? \end{bmatrix} \\ &= (6 - \lambda)((-5 - \lambda)(1 - \lambda) - 10) + 2(17(1 - \lambda) + 20) - (-4(-5 - \lambda) - 34) \end{aligned}$$

Activity 27.8 Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$.

Part 1: Compute $\det \begin{bmatrix} 2 - \lambda & 2 \\ 0 & 3 - \lambda \end{bmatrix}$ to determine the characteristic polynomial of A .

Part 2: Find the roots of the characteristic polynomial to determine the eigenvalues of A .

Part 3: Compute the kernel of the transformation given by

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

to determine all the eigenvectors associated to the eigenvalue 2.

Part 4: Compute the kernel of the transformation given by $A - 3I$ to determine all the eigenvectors associated to the eigenvalue 3.

Definition 27.9 The kernel of the transformation given by $A - \lambda I$ contains all the eigenvectors associated with λ . Since kernel is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n , we call this kernel the **eigenspace** associated with the eigenvalue λ .

Activity 27.10 Find all the eigenvalues and associated eigenspaces for the matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 8 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$.

Part 1: Compute $\det(A - \lambda I)$ to determine the characteristic polynomial of A .

Part 2: Find the roots of the characteristic polynomial $(3 - \lambda)(\lambda^2 - 4\lambda - 12)$ to determine the eigenvalues of A .

Part 3: Compute the kernels of $A - \lambda I$ for each eigenvalue $\lambda \in \{-2, 3, 6\}$ to determine the respective eigenspaces.
