

Step-1

Given symmetric is, $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ b & c \end{pmatrix}$

Now,

$$\begin{aligned} A - \lambda I &= \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ b & c \end{pmatrix} - \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} a - \lambda & b \\ b & c - \lambda \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Step-2

The characteristic equation is,

$$\det(A - \lambda I) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{vmatrix} a - \lambda & b \\ b & c - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (a - \lambda)(c - \lambda) - b^2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow ac - (a + c)\lambda + \lambda^2 - b^2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda^2 - (a + c)\lambda + (ac - b^2) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda = \frac{(a + c) \pm \sqrt{(a + c)^2 - 4(ac - b^2)}}{2}$$

$$= \frac{(a + c) \pm \sqrt{(a - c)^2 + 4b^2}}{2}$$

Therefore, the Eigen values are $\lambda_1 = \frac{(a + c) + \sqrt{(a - c)^2 + 4b^2}}{2}$ and $\lambda_2 = \frac{(a + c) - \sqrt{(a - c)^2 + 4b^2}}{2}$.

Step-3

Let

$$\lambda_1 = \frac{(a+c) + \sqrt{(a-c)^2 + 4b^2}}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_2 = \frac{(a+c) - \sqrt{(a-c)^2 + 4b^2}}{2}$$

Given that $a > 0$, $ac > b^2 \Rightarrow c > 0$.

Therefore,

$$a+c > 0, \quad (a-c)^2 + 4b^2 > 0$$

Step-4

Thus $\lambda_1 > 0$

$$ac - b^2 > 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 4ac - 4b^2 > 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (a^2 + c^2 + 2ac) > (a^2 + c^2 - 2ac) + 4b^2$$

$$\Rightarrow (a+c)^2 > (a-c)^2 + 4b^2$$

$$\Rightarrow (a+c) > \sqrt{(a-c)^2 + 4b^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda_2 > 0$$

Thus both the Eigen value of $\det(A - \lambda I) = 0$ are positive

Step-5

Moreover, the product of Eigen values.

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_1 \lambda_2 &= \frac{ac - b^2}{1} \\ &= \boxed{ac - b^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the product of Eigen values is $ac - b^2$.