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## multiplicity of eigenvalue

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Entry type	Definition
Classification	msc 15A18
Defines	geometric multiplicity
Defines	algebraic multiplicity

Suppose  $V$  is a finite dimensional vector space over a field  $\mathbb{F}$ , and suppose  $L: V \rightarrow V$  is a linear map. Suppose also that  $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$  is an eigenvalue of  $L$ , that is,  $\det(L - \lambda I) = 0$ .

The *algebraic multiplicity*, denoted by  $A_\lambda(L)$ , of  $\lambda$  is the multiplicity of the root  $\lambda$  to the polynomial  $\det(L - \lambda I) = 0$ . The *geometric multiplicity* of  $\lambda$ , denoted by  $G_\lambda(L)$ , is the dimension of  $\ker(L - \lambda I)$ , the eigenspace of  $\lambda$ .