

MA3151- MATRICES AND CALCULUS

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Eigenvalue and Eigenvectors

Definition

A matrix eigenvalue problem considers the vector equation

$$AX = \lambda X \quad \dots (1)$$

Here A is given square matrix, λ an unknown scalar, and x an unknown vector. In a matrix eigenvalue problem, the task is to determine λ 's and x 's that satisfy (1). The solutions to (1) are given following names:

The λ 's that (1) are called **eigenvalue of A** and the corresponding nonzero x 's that also satisfy (1) are called **eigenvectors of A**

Applications

Stretching of an elastic membrane

Problem 1

1. An elastic membrane in the x_1, x_2 plane with boundary circle $x_1^2 + x_2^2 = 1$ is stretched so that a point $P : (x_1, x_2)$ goes over into the point $Q : (y_1, y_2)$

given by $y = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{bmatrix} = Ax = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 3 \\ 3 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$;

Find the principal directions. What shape does the boundary circle take under this deformation.

Solution:

[For Video Explanation of this problem, Click Here](#)

We are looking for vectors x such that $y = \lambda x$. Since $y = Ax$, we get, $Ax = \lambda x$,

Therefore we have to find the eigenvalue and the eigenvector for the matrix A. The Characteristic equation of A is $|A - \lambda I| = 0$.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{That is, } & \begin{vmatrix} 5 - \lambda & 3 \\ 3 & 5 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0 \\ \Rightarrow & (5 - \lambda)^2 - 9 = 0 \\ \Rightarrow & (5 - \lambda)^2 = 9 \\ \Rightarrow & 5 - \lambda = \pm 3 \\ \Rightarrow & 5 - \lambda = -3 \text{ or } 5 - \lambda = 3 \\ \Rightarrow & \lambda = 8 \text{ or } \lambda = 2 \end{aligned}$$

therefore the eigenvalues are 2,8.

To find Eigenvector

The eigenvector of A is given by $(A - \lambda I) X = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow & \begin{bmatrix} 5 - \lambda & 3 \\ 3 & 5 - \lambda \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = 0 \\ & (5 - \lambda) x_1 + 3x_2 = 0 \\ & 3x_1 + (5 - \lambda) x_2 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Case (ii). $\lambda_1 = 2$

$$\begin{aligned} 3x_1 + 3x_2 &= 0 \\ 3x_1 + 3x_2 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{We get } x_1 = -x_2 \Rightarrow \frac{x_1}{1} = \frac{x_2}{-1}$$

$$\text{The eigen vectors is } X_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Case (ii). $\lambda_2 = 8$

$$\begin{aligned} -3x_1 + 3x_2 &= 0 \\ 3x_1 - 3x_2 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

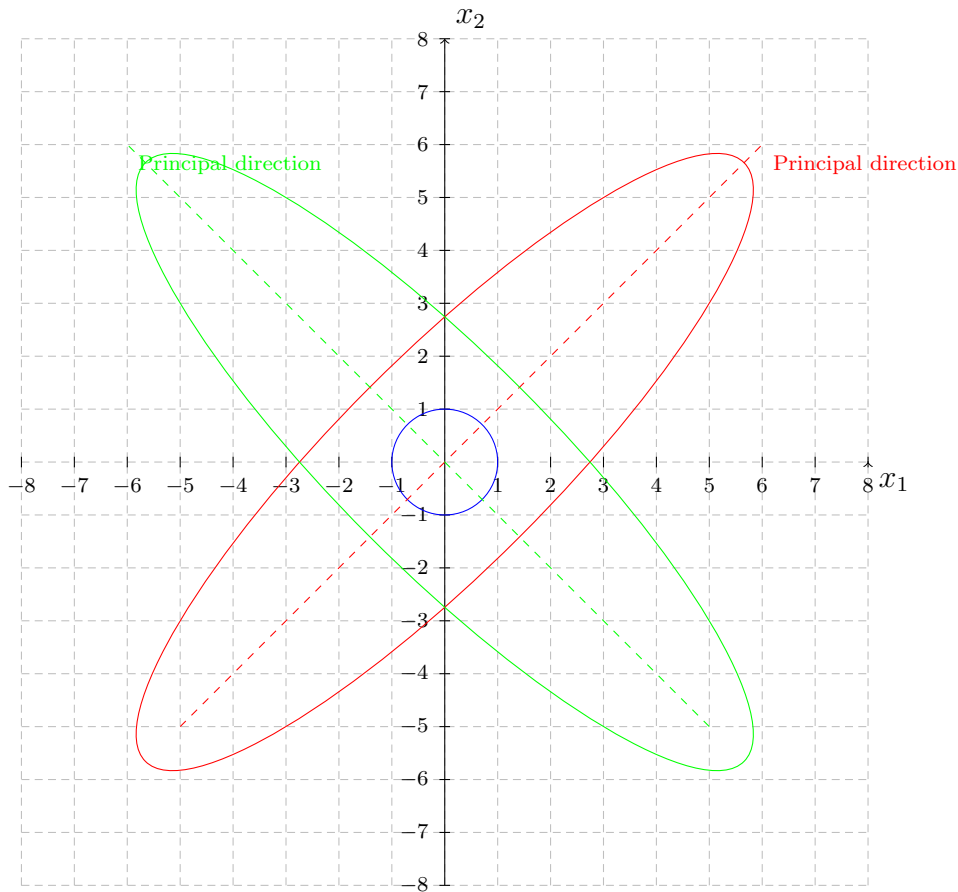
$$\text{We get } x_1 = x_2 \Rightarrow \frac{x_1}{1} = \frac{x_2}{1}$$

$$\text{The eigen vectors is } X_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

When $\lambda_1 = 2$ the eigenvector is $X_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$. This vector make 135 angles with positive x_1 direction.

When $\lambda_2 = 8$ the eigenvector is $X_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$. This vector make 45 angles with positive x_1 direction.

The eigenvalues show that in the principal directions the membrane is stretched by factors 8 and 2 respectively.



Problem 2

2. Given $A = \begin{bmatrix} 3.0 & 1.5 \\ 1.5 & 3.0 \end{bmatrix}$ in a deformation $y = Ax$, find the principal directions and corresponding factors of extension or contraction.

[For Video Explanation of this problem, Click Here](#)

We are looking for vectors x such that $y = \lambda x$. Since $y = Ax$, we get, $Ax = \lambda x$,

Therefore we have to find the eigenvalue and the eigenvector for the matrix A. The Characteristic equation of A is $|A - \lambda I| = 0$.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{That is, } & \begin{vmatrix} 3 - \lambda & 1.5 \\ 1.5 & 3 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0 \\ \Rightarrow & (3 - \lambda)^2 - 2.25 = 0 \\ \Rightarrow & (3 - \lambda)^2 = 2.25 \\ \Rightarrow & 3 - \lambda = \pm 1.5 \\ \Rightarrow & 3 - \lambda = -1.5 \text{ or } 3 - \lambda = 1.5 \\ \Rightarrow & \lambda = 4.5 \text{ or } \lambda = 1.5 \end{aligned}$$

therefore the eigenvalues are 1.5, 4.5.

To find Eigenvector

The eigenvector of A is given by $(A - \lambda I)X = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow & \begin{bmatrix} 3 - \lambda & 1.5 \\ 1.5 & 3 - \lambda \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = 0 \\ & (3 - \lambda)x_1 + 1.5x_2 = 0 \\ & 1.5x_1 + (3 - \lambda)x_2 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Case (ii). $\lambda_1 = 1.5$

$$\begin{aligned} 1.5x_1 + 1.5x_2 &= 0 \\ 1.5x_1 + 1.5x_2 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{We get } x_1 = -x_2 \Rightarrow \frac{x_1}{1} = \frac{x_2}{-1}$$

$$\text{The eigenvectors is } X_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Case (ii). $\lambda_2 = 4.5$

$$\begin{aligned} -1.5x_1 + 1.5x_2 &= 0 \\ 1.5x_1 - 1.5x_2 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

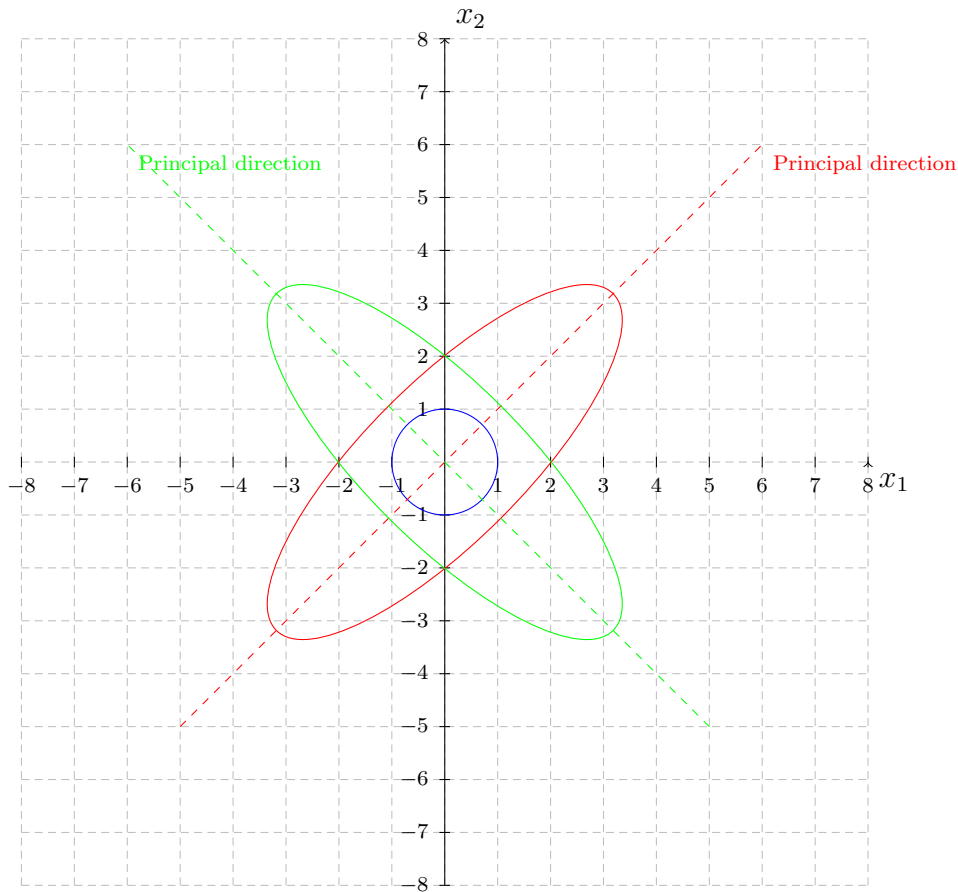
$$\text{We get } x_1 = x_2 \Rightarrow \frac{x_1}{1} = \frac{x_2}{1}$$

$$\text{The eigen vectors is } X_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

When $\lambda_1 = 1.5$ the eigenvector is $X_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$. This vector make 135 angles with positive x_1 direction.

When $\lambda_2 = 8$ the eigenvector is $X_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$. This vector make 45 angles with positive x_1 direction.

The eigenvalues show that in the principal directions the membrane is stretched by factors 4.5 and 1.5 respectively.



Problem 3

3. Given $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2.0 & 0.4 \\ 0.4 & 2.0 \end{bmatrix}$ in a deformation $y = Ax$, find the principal directions and corresponding factors of extension or contraction.

Solution: We are looking for vectors x such that $y = \lambda x$. Since $y = Ax$, we

get, $Ax = \lambda x$,

Therefore we have to find the eigenvalue and the eigenvector for the matrix

A. The Characteristic equation of A is $|A - \lambda I| = 0$.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{That is, } & \begin{vmatrix} 2 - \lambda & 0.4 \\ 0.4 & 2 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0 \\ \Rightarrow & (2 - \lambda)^2 - 0.16 = 0 \\ \Rightarrow & (2 - \lambda)^2 = 0.16 \\ \Rightarrow & 2 - \lambda = \pm 0.4 \\ \Rightarrow & 2 - \lambda = -0.4 \text{ or } 2 - \lambda = 0.4 \\ \Rightarrow & \lambda = 2.4 \text{ or } \lambda = 1.6\end{aligned}$$

therefore the eigenvalues are 1.6, 2.4.

To find Eigenvector

The eigenvector of A is given by $(A - \lambda I)X = 0$

$$\begin{aligned}\Rightarrow & \begin{bmatrix} 2 - \lambda & 0.4 \\ 0.4 & 2 - \lambda \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = 0 \\ & (2 - \lambda)x_1 + 0.4x_2 = 0 \\ & 0.4x_1 + (2 - \lambda)x_2 = 0\end{aligned}$$

Case (ii). $\lambda_1 = 1.6$

$$\begin{aligned}0.4x_1 + 0.4x_2 &= 0 \\ 0.4x_1 + 0.4x_2 &= 0\end{aligned}$$

We get $x_1 = -x_2 \Rightarrow \frac{x_1}{1} = \frac{x_2}{-1}$

The eigenvectors is $X_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$

Case (ii). $\lambda_2 = 2.4$

$$\begin{aligned}-1.5x_1 + 1.5x_2 &= 0 \\ 1.5x_1 - 1.5x_2 &= 0\end{aligned}$$

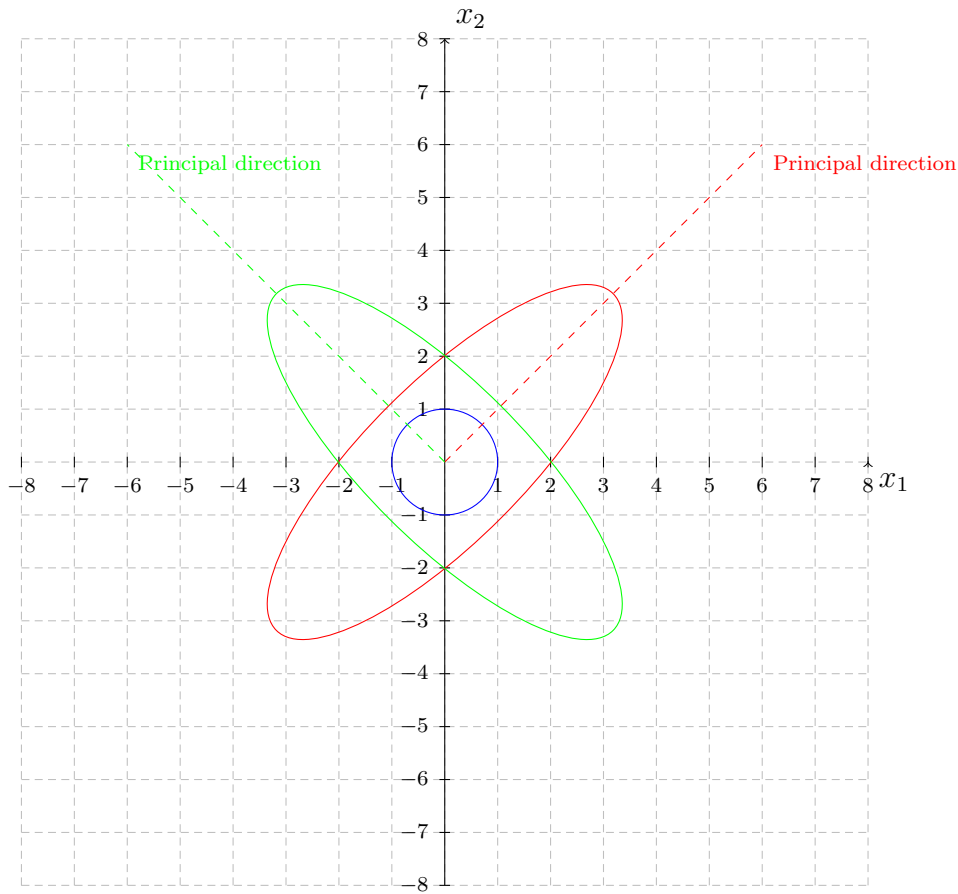
We get $x_1 = x_2 \Rightarrow \frac{x_1}{1} = \frac{x_2}{1}$

The eigen vectors is $X_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

When $\lambda_1 = 1.5$ the eigenvector is $X_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$. This vector make 135 angles with positive x_1 direction.

When $\lambda_2 = 4.5$ the eigenvector is $X_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$. This vector make 45 angles with positive x_1 direction.

The eigenvalues show that in the principal directions the membrane is stretched by factors 4.5 and 1.5 respectively.



Problem 4

4. Given $A = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & \sqrt{6} \\ \sqrt{6} & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ in a deformation $y = Ax$, find the principal directions and corresponding factors of extension or contraction.

Solution: We are looking for vectors x such that $y = \lambda x$. Since $y = Ax$, we get, $Ax = \lambda x$,
Therefore we have to find the eigenvalue and the eigenvector for the matrix A. The Characteristic equation of A is $|A - \lambda I| = 0$.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{That is, } & \begin{vmatrix} 7 - \lambda & \sqrt{6} \\ \sqrt{6} & 2 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0 \\ \Rightarrow & (7 - \lambda)(2 - \lambda) - (\sqrt{6})^2 = 0 \\ \Rightarrow & 14 - 7\lambda - 2\lambda + \lambda^2 - 6 = 0 \\ \Rightarrow & \lambda^2 - 9\lambda + 8 = 0 \\ \Rightarrow & (\lambda - 1)(\lambda - 8) = 0 \\ \Rightarrow & \lambda = 1 \text{ or } \lambda = 8\end{aligned}$$

therefore the eigenvalues are 1,8.

To find Eigenvector

The eigenvector of A is given by $(A - \lambda I)X = 0$

$$\begin{aligned}\Rightarrow & \begin{bmatrix} 7 - \lambda & \sqrt{6} \\ \sqrt{6} & 2 - \lambda \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = 0 \\ & (7 - \lambda)x_1 + \sqrt{6}x_2 = 0 \\ & \sqrt{6}x_1 + (2 - \lambda)x_2 = 0\end{aligned}$$

Case (i). $\lambda_1 = 1$

$$\begin{aligned}6x_1 + \sqrt{6}x_2 &= 0 \\ \sqrt{6}x_1 + x_2 &= 0\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{We get } 6x_1 = -\sqrt{6}x_2 \Rightarrow \frac{x_1}{-\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}} = \frac{x_2}{1}$$

$$\text{The eigenvectors is } X_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

This vector make angle with positive x_1 direction is

$$\begin{aligned}\tan^{-1}\left(\frac{x_2}{x_1}\right) &= \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{-\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}}\right) \\ &= -\tan^{-1}\sqrt{6} \\ &= 180 - \tan^{-1}\sqrt{6} = 112.2\end{aligned}$$

This vector make 112.2 angles with positive x_1 direction.

Case (ii). $\lambda_2 = 8$

$$\begin{aligned} -x_1 + \sqrt{6}x_2 &= 0 \\ \sqrt{6}x_1 - 6x_2 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

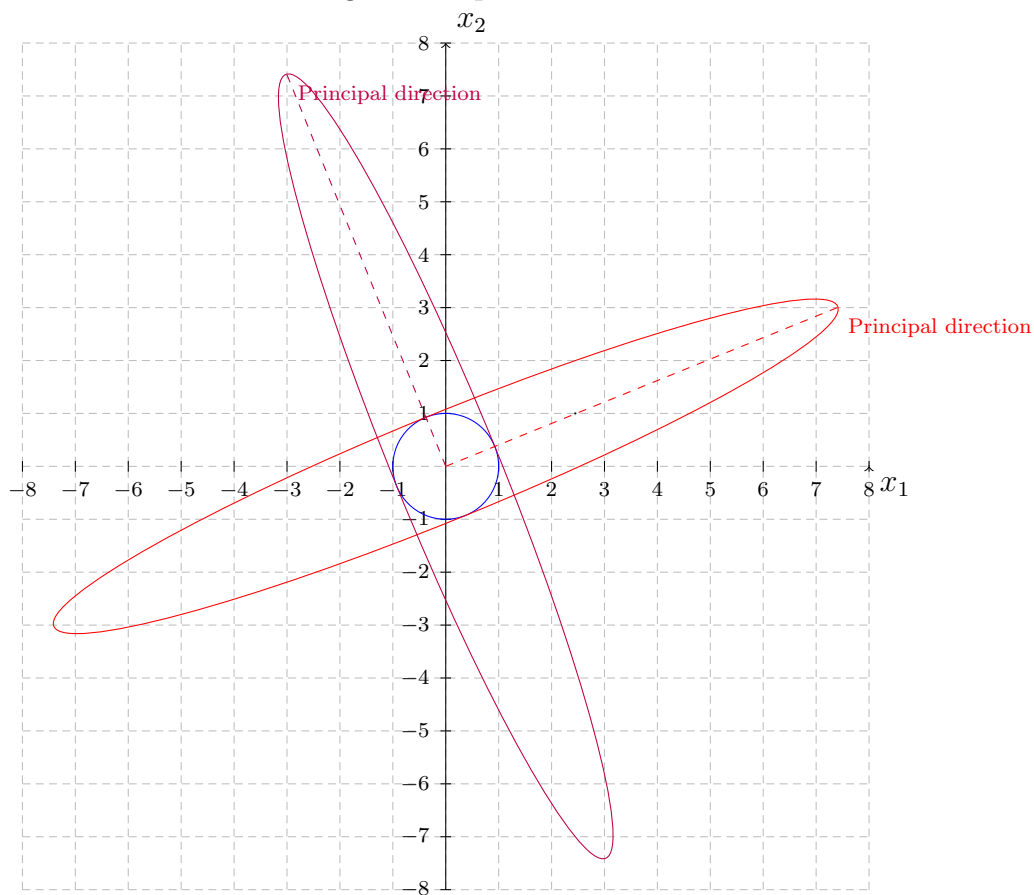
We get $x_1 = \sqrt{6}x_2 \Rightarrow \frac{x_1}{1} = \frac{x_2}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}}$

The eigenvectors is $X_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \end{bmatrix}$.

This vector make angle with positive x_1 direction is

$$\begin{aligned} \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{x_2}{x_1} \right) &= \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}}{1} \right) \\ &= \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \right) \\ &= 180 - \tan^{-1} \sqrt{6} = 22.2 \end{aligned}$$

This vector make 22.2 angles with positive x_1 direction.



Problem 5

5. Given $A = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 2 \\ 2 & 13 \end{bmatrix}$ in a deformation $y = Ax$, find the principal directions and corresponding factors of extension or contraction.

Solution: We are looking for vectors x such that $y = \lambda x$. Since $y = Ax$, we get, $Ax = \lambda x$,

Therefore we have to find the eigenvalue and the eigenvector for the matrix A . The Characteristic equation of A is $|A - \lambda I| = 0$.

$$\begin{aligned}
& \text{That is, } \begin{vmatrix} 5-\lambda & 2 \\ 2 & 13-\lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0 \\
\Rightarrow & (5-\lambda)(13-\lambda) - (2)^2 = 0 \\
\Rightarrow & 65 - 5\lambda - 13\lambda + \lambda^2 - 4 = 0 \\
\Rightarrow & \lambda^2 - 18\lambda + 61 = 0 \\
\Rightarrow & \lambda = \frac{18 \pm \sqrt{324 - 244}}{2} \\
\Rightarrow & \lambda = \frac{18 \pm \sqrt{80}}{2} \\
\Rightarrow & \lambda = \frac{18 \pm 4\sqrt{5}}{2} \\
\Rightarrow & \lambda = 9 \pm 2\sqrt{5}
\end{aligned}$$

therefore the eigenvalues are $9 - 2\sqrt{5}, 9 + 2\sqrt{5}$.

To find Eigenvector

The eigenvector of A is given by $(A - \lambda I)X = 0$

$$\begin{aligned}
\Rightarrow & \begin{bmatrix} 5-\lambda & 2 \\ 2 & 13-\lambda \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = 0 \\
& (5-\lambda)x_1 + 2x_2 = 0 \\
& 2x_1 + (13-\lambda)x_2 = 0
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \underline{\text{Case (i). } \lambda_1 = 9 - 2\sqrt{5}} \\
& (-4 + 2\sqrt{5})x_1 + 2x_2 = 0 \\
& 2x_1 + (4 + 2\sqrt{5})x_2 = 0
\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{We get } (-4 + 2\sqrt{5})x_1 = -2x_2 \Rightarrow \frac{x_1}{1} = \frac{x_2}{-4.24}$$

$$\text{The eigenvectors is } X_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -4.24 \end{bmatrix}$$

This vector make angle with positive x_1 direction is

$$\begin{aligned}
\tan^{-1} \left(\frac{x_2}{x_1} \right) &= \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{-4.24}{1} \right) \\
&= -\tan^{-1} 4.24 \\
&= 180 - \tan^{-1} 4.24 = 103.3
\end{aligned}$$

This vector make 166.7 angles with positive x_1 direction.

Case (ii). $\lambda_2 = 9 + 2\sqrt{5}$

$$\left(-4 - 2\sqrt{5}\right)x_1 + 2x_2 = 0$$

$$2x_1 + \left(-4 - 2\sqrt{5}\right)x_2 = 0$$

We get $\left(-4 - 2\sqrt{5}\right)x_1 = -2x_2 \Rightarrow \frac{x_1}{1} = \frac{x_2}{0.24}$

The eigenvectors is $X_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0.24 \end{bmatrix}$.

This vector make angle with positive x_1 direction is

$$\begin{aligned} \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{x_2}{x_1}\right) &= \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{0.24}{1}\right) \\ &= \tan^{-1} 0.24 \\ &= 13.5 \end{aligned}$$

This vector make 13.5 angles with positive x_1 direction.