

12.338

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# Question

For a real symmetric matrix  $\mathbf{A}$ , which of the following statements is true?

- a) The matrix is always diagonalizable and invertible.
- b) The matrix is always invertible but not necessarily diagonalizable.
- c) The matrix is always diagonalizable but not necessarily invertible.
- d) The matrix is always neither diagonalizable nor invertible.

# finding the properties of matrix $\mathbf{A}$ :

Checking for diagonalizability of matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  given,

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}^T \quad (1)$$

$\therefore$  eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{A}$  are real.

for distinct eigenvalues  $\lambda_i, \lambda_j$  corresponding eigenvectors are  $\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j$ .

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_i = \lambda_i\mathbf{x}_i \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_j = \lambda_j\mathbf{x}_j \quad (2)$$

$$\mathbf{x}_j^\top \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_i = \lambda_i \mathbf{x}_j^\top \mathbf{x}_i \quad (3)$$

$$(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_j)^\top \mathbf{x}_i = \lambda_j \mathbf{x}_j^\top \mathbf{x}_i \quad (4)$$

$$\therefore \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_j = \lambda_j\mathbf{x}_j \quad (5)$$

$$\lambda_j \mathbf{x}_j^\top \mathbf{x}_i = \lambda_i \mathbf{x}_j^\top \mathbf{x}_i \quad (6)$$

$$(\lambda_j - \lambda_i) \mathbf{x}_j^\top \mathbf{x}_i = 0 \quad (7)$$

$$\lambda_i \neq \lambda_j \quad (8)$$

$$\mathbf{x}_j^\top \mathbf{x}_i = 0 \quad (9)$$

$\therefore$  eigenvectors are orthogonal

∴ We can construct an orthogonal matrix with these eigenvectors

$$Q = [\mathbf{x}_1 \ \mathbf{x}_2 \ \mathbf{x}_3 \ \dots \ \mathbf{x}_n] \quad (10)$$

$$Q^T Q = I \quad (11)$$

$$A = QMQ^T \quad (12)$$

Where **M** is diagonal matrix with it's entries as eigen values of matrix A

The eigenvalues are placed in the same order as their corresponding eigenvectors

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix} \quad (13)$$

where  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \cdots \lambda_n$  are eigen values of **A**  
 $\therefore$  **A** is always diagonalizable.

Checking for invertibility of Matrix **A**:

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{M}\mathbf{Q}^T \quad (14)$$

$$|\mathbf{A}| = |\mathbf{Q}||\mathbf{M}||\mathbf{Q}^T| \quad (15)$$

$$|\mathbf{A}| = M_1 M_2 \cdots M_n \quad (16)$$

where  $M_1, M_2, \cdots M_n$  are diagonal entries of Matrix **M**.

**A** is invertible only when

$$\det(\mathbf{A}) \neq 0 \quad (17)$$

that is  $M_1, M_2, M_3 \cdots M_n \neq 0$

that is none of its eigenvalues are zero

if  $\lambda_i = 0$

then  $A$  is non-invertible

$\therefore$  a real symmetric matrix may or may not be invertible.

$\therefore$  Option c is correct.



Example of a real symmetric matrix  $\mathbf{A}$ :

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (18)$$

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}^T \quad (19)$$

$\mathbf{A}$  is symmetric and diagonalizable but not invertible as  $\det(\mathbf{A}) = 0$

# Python Code

```
import numpy as np

# --- Example 1: A real symmetric matrix that IS invertible ---
matrix_A = np.array([
    [3, 1],
    [1, 2]
])
print("## Matrix A ##")
print(matrix_A)
```

```
# Check for symmetry: A == A.transpose()
is_symmetric_A = np.all(matrix_A == matrix_A.T)
print(f"Is symmetric? {is_symmetric_A}")

# Check for invertibility by calculating the determinant
det_A = np.linalg.det(matrix_A)
print(f"Determinant: {det_A:.2f}")
print(f"Is invertible? {det_A != 0}")
```

```
print("-" * 20)

# --- Example 2: A real symmetric matrix that is NOT invertible
# ---
matrix_B = np.array([
    [2, 4],
    [4, 8]
])

print("## Matrix B ##")
print(matrix_B)
```

```
# Check for symmetry
is_symmetric_B = np.all(matrix_B == matrix_B.T)
print(f"Is symmetric? {is_symmetric_B}")

# Check for invertibility
det_B = np.linalg.det(matrix_B)
print(f"Determinant: {det_B:.2f}")
print(f"Is invertible? {det_B != 0}")
```

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdbool.h>

// Define a 2x2 matrix structure
typedef struct {
    double elements[2][2];
} Matrix2x2;

// Function to print a 2x2 matrix
```

```
void printMatrix(Matrix2x2 m) {  
    for (int i = 0; i < 2; i++) {  
        for (int j = 0; j < 2; j++) {  
            printf("%8.2f", m.elements[i][j]);  
        }  
        printf("\n");  
    }  
}  
  
// Function to check if a 2x2 matrix is symmetric  
// A matrix A is symmetric if  $A = A^T$  (its transpose)  
// For a 2x2 matrix, this just means element [0][1] must equal  
// element [1][0]
```

```
bool isSymmetric(Matrix2x2 m) {
    if (m.elements[0][1] == m.elements[1][0]) {
        return true;
    }
    return false;
}

// Function to calculate the determinant of a 2x2 matrix
// For a matrix [[a, b], [c, d]], the determinant is ad - bc
double determinant(Matrix2x2 m) {
    return (m.elements[0][0] * m.elements[1][1]) - (m.elements
        [0][1] * m.elements[1][0]);
}
```



```
int main() {  
    // Example 1: A real symmetric matrix that IS invertible  
    Matrix2x2 matrixA = {  
        {{3.0, 1.0}, {1.0, 2.0}}  
    };  
    printf("## Matrix A ##\n");  
    printMatrix(matrixA);  
    printf("Is symmetric? %s\n", isSymmetric(matrixA) ? "Yes" : "  
        No");  
}
```

```
double detA = determinant(matrixA);
printf("Determinant: %.2f\n", detA);
printf("Is invertible? %s\n\n", (detA != 0) ? "Yes" : "No");
// Example 2: A real symmetric matrix that is NOT invertible
Matrix2x2 matrixB = {
    {{2.0, 4.0}, {4.0, 8.0}}
};
```

```
printf("## Matrix B ##\n");
printMatrix(matrixB);
printf("Is symmetric? %s\n", isSymmetric(matrixB) ? "Yes" : "
    No");
double detB = determinant(matrixB);
printf("Determinant: %.2f\n", detB);
printf("Is invertible? %s\n", (detB != 0) ? "Yes" : "No");
return 0;
}
```

```
import ctypes

# Define a 2x2 matrix structure that is compatible with the C
struct
class Matrix2x2(ctypes.Structure):
    """A C-compatible 2x2 matrix structure."""
    fields = [
        ("elements", (ctypes.c_double * 2) * 2)
    ]
# --- Python functions that operate on the C-like structure ---
```

```
def print_matrix(m: Matrix2x2):  
    """Prints the elements of a Matrix2x2 structure."""  
    for i in range(2):  
        for j in range(2):  
            # Use an f-string for formatted output, similar to  
            # printf  
            print(f"{m.elements[i][j]:8.2f}", end="")  
        print()
```

```
def is_symmetric(m: Matrix2x2) -> bool:
    """
    Checks if a 2x2 matrix is symmetric.
    A matrix A is symmetric if element [0][1] equals element
    [1][0].
    """
    return m.elements[0][1] == m.elements[1][0]
```

```
def determinant(m: Matrix2x2) -> float:
    """
    Calculates the determinant of a 2x2 matrix.
    For a matrix [[a, b], [c, d]], the determinant is ad - bc.
    """
    return (m.elements[0][0] * m.elements[1][1]) - (m.elements
        [0][1] * m.elements[1][0])
```

```
if __name__ == "__main__":
    # Example 1: A real symmetric matrix that IS invertible
    # Instantiate the structure using nested tuples for the 2D
    # array
    matrix_a = Matrix2x2(elements=((3.0, 1.0), (1.0, 2.0)))
    print("## Matrix A ##")
    print_matrix(matrix_a)
    # Use a ternary operator in the f-string to mimic C's output
    print(f"Is symmetric? {'Yes' if is_symmetric(matrix_a) else '
    No'}")
```



```
det_a = determinant(matrix_a)
print(f"Determinant: {det_a:.2f}")
print(f"Is invertible? {'Yes' if det_a != 0 else 'No'}\n")

# Example 2: A real symmetric matrix that is NOT invertible
matrix_b = Matrix2x2(elements=((2.0, 4.0), (4.0, 8.0)))
```

```
print("## Matrix B ##")
print_matrix(matrix_b)
print(f"Is symmetric? {'Yes' if is_symmetric(matrix_b) else 'No'}")

det_b = determinant(matrix_b)
print(f"Determinant: {det_b:.2f}")
print(f"Is invertible? {'Yes' if det_b != 0 else 'No'}")
```