

# Finding Eigenvalues of a $2 \times 2$ Matrix

## 1. Definition of Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

Consider the linear transformation of  $n$ -dimensional vectors  $v$  defined by an  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$ ,

$$Av = w$$

or

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & \cdots & A_{1n} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & \cdots & A_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ A_{n1} & A_{n2} & \cdots & A_{nn} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$\lambda$  is the **eigenvalues**, and  $v$  is the **eigenvectors** of the matrix  $A$ , if

$$Av = w = \lambda v$$

E.g. for a  $2 \times 2$  matrix  $A$ ,

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -2 & -3 \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

The two sets of **eigenvalues** and **eigenvectors** of the matrix are:

$$\lambda_1 = -1, \lambda_2 = -2, v_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, v_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (2)$$

## 2. Solution for finding the eigenvalues

Rewritten the function above,

$$\begin{aligned} Av - \lambda v &= (A - \lambda I)v = 0 \\ |A - \lambda I| &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

E.g. for the given matrix  $A$

$$|A - \lambda I| = \left| \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -2 & -3 \end{bmatrix} - \lambda \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right| = \left| \begin{bmatrix} -\lambda & 1 \\ -2 & -3 - \lambda \end{bmatrix} \right| = \lambda^2 + 3\lambda + 2 = 0 \quad (3)$$

According to the function above, we then get  $\lambda_1 = -1$  and  $\lambda_2 = -2$ .

### 3. Solution for finding the eigenvectors

$$(A - \lambda I)v = \begin{bmatrix} -\lambda & 1 \\ -2 & -3 - \lambda \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{bmatrix} = 0 \quad (4)$$

For the first eigenvalue  $\lambda_1 = -1$ , we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -2 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_{1,1} \\ v_{1,2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} v_{1,1} + v_{1,2} \\ -2v_{1,1} - 2v_{1,2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (5)$$

Hence, the first eigenvector  $v_1$  can be  $[1 \ -1]^T$ .

Likewise, we can calculate the second eigenvector  $v_2 = [1 \ -2]^T$  for the second eigenvalue  $\lambda_2 = -2$ .

### Exercise: Calculate the eigenvalues and eigenvectors using Numpy

#### Task:

1. Define the matrix A and convert it to a numpy array
2. Find the eigenvalues and eigenvectors via the function, (values, vectors) = np.linalg.eig(matrix)
3. Print the eigenvalues and eigenvectors one by one. (Format)
4. Plot the Arrows for the two eigenvectors using Matplotlib.pyplot lib

\*Tips: np.linalg.eig() can automatically calculate the results for you.

Print format:

'Eigenvalue: -1, EigenVector: [1.00, -1.00]'

'Eigenvalue: -2, EigenVector: [1.00, -2.00]'

Keep 2 decimal space

Plotting Arrow: import matplotlib.pyplot as plt plt.arrow(start x, start y, offset x, offset y, head width, head length, color)

**Show Solution**

```
In [1]: import numpy as np

A = np.array([[0, 1],[-2, -3]])
e_val, e_vec = np.linalg.eig(A)

▼ for i in range(len(A)):
    print('Eigenvalue:{:.2f}, Eigenvector:[{:.2f}, {:.2f}].format(e_val[i], e_vec[0, i], e_vec[1, i]))

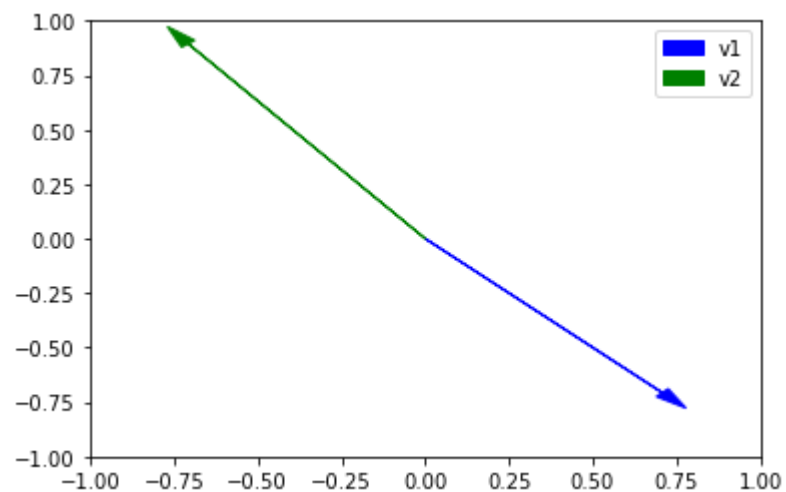
Eigenvalue:-1.00, Eigenvector:[0.71, -0.71]
Eigenvalue:-2.00, Eigenvector:[-0.45, 0.89]
```

```
In [2]: import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

plt.axes()
plt.xlim([-1, 1])
plt.ylim([-1, 1])
arrow1 = plt.arrow(0, 0, e_vec[0, 0], e_vec[1, 0], head_width=0.05, head_length=0.1, color='blue')
arrow2 = plt.arrow(0, 0, e_vec[1, 0], e_vec[1, 1], head_width=0.05, head_length=0.1, color='green')

plt.legend([arrow1, arrow2], ['v1', 'v2'])
```

Out[2]: <matplotlib.legend.Legend at 0x12123bb38>



In [ ]: