

# Linear Algebra

## Seminar 10: Eigenvalues and eigenvectors

(make sure you can write on the board)

**Problem 1. (3 pts)** Find all the eigenvalues of the following matrices by **inspection**:

$$(a) \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{3}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (b) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ -2 & 4 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (c) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 4 & 3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (d) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (e) \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 4 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Hint: Look for constant row/column sums, diagonal entries with zeros in the corresponding row or column otherwise, use eigenvalue sum/product rules, try subtracting  $\lambda I$  for “tempting” candidates for  $\lambda$  etc

**Problem 2. (3 pts)** For the matrix  $A$  in each part below, find the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of  $A$ ,  $A^2$ ,  $A^{100}$ ,  $A^{-1}$  and  $e^{tA}$ :

$$(a) \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (b) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 5 & 3 \\ -4 & -6 & -4 \end{pmatrix}$$

**Problem 3. (3 pts)** For each of the following matrices  $A$ , find  $P$  so that  $P^{-1}AP$  is in the Jordan form (ie, either diagonal or a Jordan block), and write this Jordan form:

$$(a) \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (b) \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 5 & -2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (c) \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -3 \\ 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (d) \begin{pmatrix} 4 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Hint: You do not have to calculate  $P^{-1}AP$  explicitly!

**Problem 4. (3 pts)** Show that the matrix

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

has  $\lambda = 3$  as an eigenvalue of multiplicity 3 with two corresponding eigenvectors  $\mathbf{v}_1$  and  $\mathbf{v}_2$ . Find the generalized eigenvector  $\mathbf{v}_3$  such that  $A\mathbf{v}_3 = 3\mathbf{v}_3 + \mathbf{v}_2$ , then form the matrix  $P = (\mathbf{v}_1 \ \mathbf{v}_2 \ \mathbf{v}_3)$  and show that  $P^{-1}AP$  has a Jordan form.

**Problem 5. (4 pts)**

- (a) With the matrix  $A$  of Problem 4, solve the difference equation  $\mathbf{x}_{n+1} = A\mathbf{x}$  subject to the initial condition  $\mathbf{x}_0 = (1 \ 1 \ 1)^\top$ ;
- (b) Assume that  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  are vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $\mathbf{u}^\top \mathbf{v} \neq 0$ . Find the eigenvalues and the eigenvectors of the matrix  $\mathbf{u}\mathbf{v}^\top$ .
- (c) Show that  $\det(I + \mathbf{u}\mathbf{v}^\top) = 1 + \mathbf{u}^\top \mathbf{v}$

**Problem 6. (4 pts)**

- (a) With the matrix  $A$  of Problem 4, solve the differential equation  $\mathbf{x}'(t) = A\mathbf{x}$  subject to the initial condition  $\mathbf{x}(0) = (1 \ 1 \ 1)^\top$
- (b) Assume that  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  are vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $\mathbf{u}^\top \mathbf{v} = 0$ . Find the eigenvalues and the eigenvectors of the matrix  $\mathbf{u}\mathbf{v}^\top$ .
- (c) Show that if  $A$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix of rank 1, then there is a number  $k$  such that  $A^2 = kA$ .

## Extra problems

(to be discussed if time permits)

**Problem 7.** (a) Prove that for any square matrices  $A$  and  $B$  of size  $n$  the eigenvalues of  $AB$  and  $BA$  are the same.

(b) Show that for any  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$  and  $n \times m$  matrix  $B$  the nonzero eigenvalues of  $AB$  and  $BA$  are the same.

**Problem 8.** (a) Prove that if  $\lambda^2$  is an eigenvalue of a matrix  $A^2$ , then  $\lambda$  or/and  $-\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $A$ .

(b) A matrix  $A$  is called the *involution* if  $A^2 = I$ . Find all eigenvalues of  $A$  and explain why  $A$  is diagonalizable.

**Problem 9.** Let  $B$  be a square matrix of size  $n$  with 1's on the skew diagonal and zeros otherwise. Show that  $B$  is an involution (see the previous problem). Then explain why  $B$  is diagonalizable and find a matrix  $P$  s.t.  $P^{-1}BP$  is diagonal

**Problem 10.** Find the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of the following linear transformations:

(a)  $X \mapsto X^\top$  in the space  $M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{R})$  of square matrices of size  $n$  with real entries;

Hint: show that every  $X$  can be written as a sum of a symmetric  $X_{\text{sym}}$  and antisymmetric  $X_{\text{asym}}$  matrices

(b)  $f \mapsto f'$  in the space  $\mathcal{P}_n$  of polynomials of degree at most  $n$ ;

(c)  $f \mapsto xf'(x)$  in the space  $\mathcal{P}_n$ ;

(d)  $f \mapsto \frac{1}{x} \int_0^x f(t) dt$  in the space  $\mathcal{P}_n$ ;

Hint: in (b)–(d), find the matrices of the transformations in the standard basis

