

Characteristic polynomials, eigenvalues and eigenvectors

TOTAL POINTS 18

1. Given a matrix $\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$, recall that one can calculate its eigenvalues by solving the characteristic polynomial $\lambda^2 - (a+d)\lambda + (ad-bc) = 0$. In this quiz, you will practice calculating and solving the characteristic polynomial to find the eigenvalues of simple matrices.

1 / 1 point

For the matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$, what is the characteristic polynomial, and the solutions to the characteristic polynomial?

- ☐ $\lambda^2 + 3\lambda - 2 = 0$
 $\lambda_1 = -1, \lambda_2 = 2$
- ☐ $\lambda^2 - 3\lambda - 2 = 0$
 $\lambda_1 = 1, \lambda_2 = -2$
- ☒ $\lambda^2 - 3\lambda + 2 = 0$
 $\lambda_1 = 1, \lambda_2 = 2$
- ☐ $\lambda^2 + 3\lambda + 2 = 0$
 $\lambda_1 = -1, \lambda_2 = -2$

✔ Correct

Well done! This matrix has two distinct eigenvalues.

2. Recall that for a matrix A , the eigenvectors of the matrix are vectors for which applying the matrix transformation is the same as scaling by some constant.

1 / 1 point

For $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ as immediately above, select all eigenvectors of this matrix.

☒ $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$

✔ Correct

Well done! Recall that if a vector is an eigenvector of a matrix, then so is any (non-zero) multiple of that vector.

☒ $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$

✔ Correct

Well done! Recall that if a vector is an eigenvector of a matrix, then so is any (non-zero) multiple of that vector.

☒ $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

✔ Correct

Well done! One way to check that a vector is an eigenvector is to simply apply the matrix transformation and see if this is the same as multiplying by a scalar. Another way is to calculate the eigenvector by hand, as in the lecture videos.

☐ $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$

3. For the matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$, what is the characteristic polynomial, and the solutions to the characteristic polynomial?

1 / 1 point

- ☐ $\lambda^2 - 8\lambda - 15 = 0$
 $\lambda_1 = -3, \lambda_2 = 5$
- ☐ $\lambda^2 + 8\lambda + 15 = 0$
 $\lambda_1 = -3, \lambda_2 = -5$
- ☐ $\lambda^2 + 8\lambda - 15 = 0$
 $\lambda_1 = 3, \lambda_2 = -5$
- ☒ $\lambda^2 - 8\lambda + 15 = 0$
 $\lambda_1 = 3, \lambda_2 = 5$

✔ Correct

Well done! This matrix has two distinct eigenvalues.

4. For the matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$ as immediately above, select all eigenvectors of this matrix.

1 / 1 point

☐ $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

☒ $\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

✔ Correct

Well done! One way to check that a vector is an eigenvector is to simply apply the matrix transformation and see if this is the same as multiplying by a scalar. Another way is to calculate the eigenvector by hand, as in the lecture videos.

☒ $\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1/2 \end{bmatrix}$

✔ Correct

Well done! Recall that if a vector is an eigenvector of a matrix, then so is any (non-zero) multiple of that vector.

☒ $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

✔ Correct

Well done! Recall that if a vector is an eigenvector of a matrix, then so is any (non-zero) multiple of that vector.

5. For the matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$ what is the characteristic polynomial, and the solutions to the characteristic polynomial?

1 / 1 point

- ☐ $\lambda^2 + 5\lambda + 4 = 0$
 $\lambda_1 = -1, \lambda_2 = -4$
- ☐ $\lambda^2 - 5\lambda - 4 = 0$
 $\lambda_1 = -1, \lambda_2 = 4$
- ☐ $\lambda^2 + 5\lambda - 4 = 0$
 $\lambda_1 = 1, \lambda_2 = -4$
- ☒ $\lambda^2 - 5\lambda + 4 = 0$
 $\lambda_1 = 1, \lambda_2 = 4$

✔ Correct

Well done! This matrix has two distinct eigenvalues.

6. For the matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$ as immediately above, select all eigenvectors of this matrix.

1 / 1 point

☒ $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

✔ Correct

Well done! One way to check that a vector is an eigenvector is to simply apply the matrix transformation and see if this is the same as multiplying by a scalar. Another way is to calculate the eigenvector by hand, as in the lecture videos.

☐ $\begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$

☒ $\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

✔ Correct

Well done! One way to check that a vector is an eigenvector is to simply apply the matrix transformation and see if this is the same as multiplying by a scalar. Another way is to calculate the eigenvector by hand, as in the lecture videos.

☐ $\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$

7. For the matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & 8 \\ 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$ what is the characteristic polynomial, and the solutions to the characteristic polynomial?

1 / 1 point

- ☐ $\lambda^2 - 25 = 0$
 $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = 5$
- ☒ $\lambda^2 - 25 = 0$
 $\lambda_1 = -5, \lambda_2 = 5$
- ☐ $\lambda^2 + 25 = 0$
 $\lambda_1 = -5, \lambda_2 = 5$
- ☐ $\lambda^2 + 25 = 0$
 $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = -5$

✔ Correct

Well done! This matrix has two distinct eigenvalues.

8. For the matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & 8 \\ 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$ as immediately above, select all eigenvectors of this matrix.

1 / 1 point

☒ $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

✔ Correct

Well done! Recall that if a vector is an eigenvector of a matrix, then so is any (non-zero) multiple of that vector.

☐ $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$

☒ $\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$

✔ Correct

Well done! One way to check that a vector is an eigenvector is to simply apply the matrix transformation and see if this is the same as multiplying by a scalar. Another way is to calculate the eigenvector by hand, as in the lecture videos.

☒ $\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$

✔ Correct

Well done! Recall that if a vector is an eigenvector of a matrix, then so is any (non-zero) multiple of that vector.

9. For the matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 4 \\ -4 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$ what is the characteristic polynomial, and the solutions to the characteristic polynomial?

1 / 1 point

- ☐ $\lambda^2 - 2\lambda + 1 = 0$
No real solutions.
- ☐ $\lambda^2 - 2\lambda + 1 = 0$
 $\lambda_1 = -1, \lambda_2 = 1$
- ☐ $\lambda^2 - 2\lambda + 1 = 0$
 $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = -1$
- ☒ $\lambda^2 - 2\lambda + 1 = 0$
 $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = 1$

✔ Correct

Well done! This matrix has one repeated eigenvalue, which means it may have one or two distinct eigenvectors (which are not scalar multiples of each other).

10. For the matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & -3 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ what is the characteristic polynomial, and the solutions to the characteristic polynomial?

1 / 1 point

- ☐ $\lambda^2 - \lambda + 1 = 0$
No real solutions.
- ☒ $\lambda^2 + \lambda + 1 = 0$
No real solutions.
- ☐ $\lambda^2 - \lambda - 3 = 0$
 $\lambda_1 = \frac{1+\sqrt{13}}{2}, \lambda_2 = \frac{1-\sqrt{13}}{2}$
- ☐ $\lambda^2 + \lambda - 1 = 0$
 $\lambda_1 = \frac{-1+\sqrt{5}}{2}, \lambda_2 = \frac{-1-\sqrt{5}}{2}$

✔ Correct

Well done! This matrix has no real eigenvalues, so any eigenvalues are complex in nature. This is beyond the scope of this course, so we won't delve too deeply on this.