

# Properties of Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

## Section 4.2 (Hartman)

**Properties:**

Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  invertible matrix. The following are true:

1. If  $A$  is triangular, then the diagonal elements of  $A$  are the eigenvalues of  $A$ .

**Example #1:** Find eigenvalues of  $B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 & 4 \\ 0 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ .

$$\det(B - \lambda I) = \begin{vmatrix} 1-\lambda & -2 & 4 \\ 0 & 2-\lambda & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & -1-\lambda \end{vmatrix} = (1-\lambda)(2-\lambda)(-1-\lambda) = 0$$

$$\lambda = -1, 2$$

2. The product of the eigenvalues of  $A$  is equal to  $\det(A)$ .
3. If  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $A$  with eigenvector  $\vec{x}$ , then  $\frac{1}{\lambda}$  is an eigenvalue of  $A^{-1}$  with eigenvector  $\vec{x}$ .

*Proof:* Consider an invertible matrix  $A$  with eigenvalue  $\lambda$  and eigenvector  $\vec{x}$ . Then, by definition,

$$A\vec{x} = \lambda\vec{x}.$$

Multiply both sides by  $A^{-1}$ . Then;

$$A^{-1}A\vec{x} = A^{-1}\lambda\vec{x}$$

$$I\vec{x} = \lambda A^{-1}\vec{x}$$

$$\frac{1}{\lambda}\vec{x} = A^{-1}\vec{x}$$

4. If  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $A$  then  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $A^T$ .

*Proof:* Recall  $(A + B)^T = A^T + B^T$  and  $\det(A) = \det(A^T)$ .

Using the characteristic polynomial of  $A^T$ , we have

$$\det(A^T - \lambda I) = \det(A^T - \lambda I^T) = \det(A - \lambda I)^T = \det(A - \lambda I)$$

The characteristic polynomial of  $A^T$  is the same as that for  $A$ . Therefore they have the same eigenvalues.