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# Complex Eigenvalues of a Real Matrix Example

Let 
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#### Definition

We define a rotation-scaling matrix as a matrix of the form

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ -b & a \end{bmatrix} \qquad a, b \in \mathbb{R} \qquad a \neq 0 \neq b$$

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## Rotation-Scaling Theorem

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$$B = \begin{bmatrix} Re(\lambda) & Im(\lambda) \\ -Im(\lambda) & Re(\lambda) \end{bmatrix} \qquad C = \begin{bmatrix} Re(\mathbf{v}) & Im(\mathbf{v}) \end{bmatrix}$$

## Rotation-Scaling Theorem Example 2 × 2 Part 1

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Finally, we must compute an eigenvector associated with  $\lambda = 1 + i$ .

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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So,  $(\lambda, \mathbf{v})$  is an eigenpair of A!

We can extend our Rotation-Scaling theorem to larger matrices! This is called the Block Diagonalization

#### Theorem

Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  suppose that for each eigenvalue (real or complex!) the algebraic and geometric multiplicities are equal, then  $A = CBC^{-1}$  where B, C are as follows.

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In other words, if we are in  $\mathbb{R}^{3\times 3}$ , and have  $\lambda_1\in\mathbb{C},\lambda_2\in\mathbb{R}$  as two eigenvalues  $(\lambda_1\notin\mathbb{C})$  of A, with  $\mathbf{v}_1$  and  $\mathbf{v}_2$  as their corresponding eigenvectors

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$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \operatorname{Re} \left( \mathbf{v}_{1} \right) & \operatorname{Im} \left( \mathbf{v}_{1} \right) & \mathbf{v}_{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \operatorname{Re} \left( \lambda_{1} \right) & \operatorname{Im} \left( \lambda_{1} \right) & 0 \\ -\operatorname{Im} \left( \lambda_{1} \right) & \operatorname{Re} \left( \lambda_{1} \right) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

# Complex Eigenvalues of a Real Matrix Example 3 × 3

Let A be given below:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

which has characteristic polynomial  $p(\lambda) = \lambda^3 - 4\lambda^2 + 6\lambda - 4$ . Find a matrix B such that

$$A = CBC^{-1}$$

where C is

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

First, we need to find the roots of  $p(\lambda)$ . By plugging in the values of  $\pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 4$  we will find that  $\lambda = 2$  is an eigenvalue.

Next we would divide out the factor  $\lambda-2$  to get  $\lambda^2-2\lambda+2$ , which we use the quadratic formula to find that  $\lambda=1\pm i$  are the other eigenvalues.

$$A - 2I = \begin{bmatrix} 1 - 2 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 - 2 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 - 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$A-2I = \begin{bmatrix} 1-2 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 2-2 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1-2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_2 = R_2 + R_1} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$A-(1+i)I = egin{bmatrix} 1-(1+i) & 0 & -1 \ 1 & 2-(1+i) & 1 \ 0 & -1 & 1-(1+i) \end{bmatrix}$$

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Now, we find an eigenvector for  $\lambda = 1 + i$ 

$$A - (1+i)I = \begin{bmatrix} 1 - (1+i) & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 - (1+i) & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 - (1+i) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -i & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 1-i & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & -i \end{bmatrix}$$

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So, an eigenvector is  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} i \\ -i \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ 

Next, we see that

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Which are the first 2 columns of C and the last column of C is  $\mathbf{x}$ . This means the block using the real and imaginary components must be in the first two columns of B and the third column corresponds to our real eigenvalue. In other words, since

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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we have that

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$