

# EIGENVALUES AND EIGENVECTORS

1. **Definition 3.5 §5.2.3:** An **eigenvector** of an  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  is a nonzero vector  $\vec{v}$  such that  $A\vec{v} = \lambda\vec{v}$ . A scalar  $\lambda$  is called an **eigenvalue** of  $A$  if there exists a nontrivial solution to the equation  $A\vec{x} = \lambda\vec{x}$ . In this case, we say  $\vec{x}$  is an eigenvector associated with eigenvalue  $\lambda$ .

2. Example 1: Let  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 6 \\ 5 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$ .

(a) Show that  $\vec{v} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -5/2 \end{pmatrix}$  is an eigenvector but  $\vec{w} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}$  is not.

\* quick check:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 6 \\ 5 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1+6 \\ 5+2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix} = 7 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$A\vec{v} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 6 \\ 5 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -5/2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3-15 \\ 15-5 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -12 \\ 10 \end{pmatrix} = -4 \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -5/2 \end{pmatrix} = -4\vec{v}$$

$$A\vec{w} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 6 \\ 5 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3-30 \\ 15-10 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -27 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} \stackrel{?}{=} k \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix} \text{ then } \begin{matrix} -27 = k \cdot 3 \\ 5 = k \cdot (-5) \end{matrix}$$

So  $k = -9$  and  $k = -1$ .

(b) Show that 7 is an eigenvalue of  $A$ .

Find  $\vec{v}$  so that  $A\vec{v} = 7\vec{v}$  or  $A\vec{v} = 7 \cdot I_2 \vec{v}$  or  $A\vec{v} - 7I_2 \vec{v} = \vec{0}$   
or  $(A - 7I_2)\vec{v} = \vec{0}$ . Now,  $A - 7I_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 6 \\ 5 & 2 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 7 & 0 \\ 0 & 7 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -6 & 6 \\ 5 & -5 \end{pmatrix}$ .

Solve  $\begin{pmatrix} -6 & 6 \\ 5 & -5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ . So  $-x + y = 0$  OR  $x = y$ .

So  $\vec{v} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$  is an eigenvector w/ associated eigenvalue 7. \*

3. **Definition 3.1.2 §5.2.3:** For  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$ . The set of all eigenvectors associated with eigenvalue  $\lambda$  forms a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and is called the **eigenspace** associated with eigenvalue  $\lambda$ .

How do we know?  
Check closure under + + scalar mult.

4. Example 2: Let  $A = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -2 & 5 \\ 2 & -5 & 5 \\ 2 & -2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$ , a matrix with eigenvalue  $-3$ . Find a basis for the corresponding eigenspace.

Find a basis for all  $\vec{v}$  so that  $A\vec{v} = -3\vec{v}$ . OR Find solution set for

$$(A + 3I_3)\vec{x} = \vec{0}. \text{ Now } A + 3I_3 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -2 & 5 \\ 2 & -5 & 5 \\ 2 & -2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -2 & 5 \\ 2 & -2 & 5 \\ 2 & -2 & 5 \end{pmatrix}.$$

So  $\begin{pmatrix} 2 & -2 & 5 & : & 0 \\ 2 & -2 & 5 & : & 0 \\ 2 & -2 & 5 & : & 0 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{ref}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 5/2 & : & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & : & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & : & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ . So  $x - y + \frac{5}{2}z = 0$  or  $x = y - \frac{5}{2}z$ .



From  $x = y - \frac{5}{2}z$ , we get :

$$\text{Soln. set} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} y - \frac{5}{2}z \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} : y, z \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

$$= \left\{ y \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + z \begin{pmatrix} -5/2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} : y, z \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

$$= \text{span} \left( \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -5/2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \right)$$

↙ A quick check:  $A = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -2 & 5 \\ 2 & -5 & 5 \\ 2 & -2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$

$$A \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -2 & 5 \\ 2 & -5 & 5 \\ 2 & -2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1-2 \\ 2-5 \\ 2-2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ -3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = -3 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \checkmark$$

$$A \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -5/2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -2 & 5 \\ 2 & -5 & 5 \\ 2 & -2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -5/2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{5}{2} + 5 \\ -5 + 5 \\ -5 + 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{15}{2} \\ 0 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} = -3 \begin{pmatrix} -5/2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \checkmark$$

5. **Theorem:** If  $A$  is triangular, then its eigenvalues are the entries on its main diagonal.

6. Example: Construct a  $3 \times 3$  matrix  $A$  with eigenvalues 0,  $-1$ , and 5 and find an eigenvector associated with each eigenvalue.

Pick  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$ .

vector	assoc. e-value
$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$	0
$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$	$-1$
$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$	5

7. **Theorem 3.18 §5.2.3:** Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix with eigenvectors  $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_k$  associated with distinct eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_k$ . Then the set of eigenvectors  $\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_k\}$  is linearly independent. *Why?*

$\vec{v}_1 = c_2 \vec{v}_2 + c_3 \vec{v}_3 + \dots + c_k \vec{v}_k$ , what is  $A\vec{v}_1$ ?  
 8. Question: Does the previous theorem really need the eigenvalues to be distinct? *Yes.  $\vec{v}_1$  and  $2\vec{v}_1$  both have  $\lambda_1$  as e-value.*

9. Question: If  $\vec{v}$  is an eigenvector of matrix  $A$  associated with eigenvalue  $\lambda$ , can you draw any conclusions about eigenvectors and/or eigenvalues for matrix  $A^2$ ?

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

$$A^2\vec{v} = A(A\vec{v}) = A(\lambda\vec{v}) = \lambda(A\vec{v}) = \lambda(\lambda\vec{v}) = \lambda^2\vec{v}.$$

So  $\vec{v}$  is an eigenvector of  $A$  assoc. w/ eigenvalue  $\lambda^2$ .

10. Question: How would you go about finding *all* eigenvalues associated with matrix  $A$ ?

Find all  $\lambda$ , so that  $(A - \lambda I_n)\vec{v} = \vec{0}$  has a non-trivial soln. So we need  $A - \lambda I_n$  to be singular.  
 So we need  $\det(A - \lambda I_n) = 0$ . (!!)