

# 1 Section 5.A Exercises

Exercises with solutions from Section 5.A of [LADR].

**Exercise 5.A.1.** Suppose  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  and  $U$  is a subspace of  $V$ .

- (a) Prove that if  $U \subset \text{null } T$ , then  $U$  is invariant under  $T$ .
- (b) Prove that if  $\text{range } T \subset U$ , then  $U$  is invariant under  $T$ .

*Solution.* (a) Suppose  $u \in U \subseteq \text{null } T$ . Then  $Tu = 0 \in U$  and thus  $U$  is invariant under  $T$ .

- (b) Suppose  $u \in U$ . Then  $Tu \in \text{range } T \subseteq U$  and thus  $U$  is invariant under  $T$ .

**Exercise 5.A.2.** Suppose  $S, T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  are such that  $ST = TS$ . Prove that  $\text{null } S$  is invariant under  $T$ .

*Solution.* Suppose  $u \in \text{null } S$ . Then

$$S(Tu) = T(Su) = T(0) = 0,$$

so that  $Tu \in \text{null } S$  and thus  $\text{null } S$  is invariant under  $T$ .

**Exercise 5.A.3.** Suppose  $S, T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  are such that  $ST = TS$ . Prove that  $\text{range } S$  is invariant under  $T$ .

*Solution.* Suppose  $Su \in \text{range } S$  for some  $u \in V$ . Then

$$T(Su) = S(Tu) \in \text{range } S$$

and thus  $\text{range } S$  is invariant under  $T$ .

**Exercise 5.A.4.** Suppose  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  and  $U_1, \dots, U_m$  are subspaces of  $V$  invariant under  $T$ . Prove that  $U_1 + \dots + U_m$  is invariant under  $T$ .

*Solution.* Suppose  $u_1 + \dots + u_m \in U_1 + \dots + U_m$ , where each  $u_j \in U_j$ . Then

$$T(u_1 + \dots + u_m) = Tu_1 + \dots + Tu_m,$$

which belongs to  $U_1 + \dots + U_m$  since each  $Tu_j \in U_j$ . Thus  $U_1 + \dots + U_m$  is invariant under  $T$ .

**Exercise 5.A.5.** Suppose  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ . Prove that the intersection of every collection of subspaces of  $V$  invariant under  $T$  is invariant under  $T$ .

**Solution.** Let  $\mathcal{U}$  be a collection of subspaces of  $V$  invariant under  $T$  and let  $W = \bigcap_{U \in \mathcal{U}} U$ . Suppose  $w \in W$ . For each  $U \in \mathcal{U}$ , we have  $w \in U$ ; since each  $U$  is invariant under  $T$ , it follows that  $Tw$  belongs to each  $U$ . Thus  $Tw \in W$  and we see that  $W$  is invariant under  $T$ .

**Exercise 5.A.6.** Prove or give a counterexample: if  $V$  is finite-dimensional and  $U$  is a subspace of  $V$  that is invariant under every operator on  $V$ , then  $U = \{0\}$  or  $U = V$ .

**Solution.** This is true. It will suffice to show that if  $U \neq \{0\}$ , then  $U = V$ . Suppose therefore that there exists some  $v_1 \in U$  with  $v_1 \neq 0$ . We can then extend this to a basis  $v_1, \dots, v_m$  of  $V$ . For each  $1 \leq j \leq m$ , define an operator  $T_j : V \rightarrow V$  by  $T_j v_1 = v_j$  and  $T_j v_i = 0$  for  $i \neq 1$ . Then by assumption  $U$  is invariant under  $T_j$ , so we must have  $T_j v_1 = v_j \in U$ . Thus  $U$  contains the basis  $v_1, \dots, v_m$  of  $V$  and hence  $U = V$ .

**Exercise 5.A.7.** Suppose  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{R}^2)$  is defined by  $T(x, y) = (-3y, x)$ . Find the eigenvalues of  $T$ .

**Solution.** We can observe that  $T$  is a counterclockwise rotation by  $90^\circ$  about the origin followed by a dilation of the  $x$ -axis by a factor of 3. A similar argument to Example 5.8 (a) then shows that  $T$  has no eigenvalues.

Alternatively, for  $\lambda \in \mathbf{R}$  we can try to solve the equation  $T(x, y) = (-3y, x) = (\lambda x, \lambda y)$ . Substituting  $x = \lambda y$  into  $-3y = \lambda x$  gives us  $-3y = \lambda^2 y$ . Since  $y = 0$  implies that  $x = 0$ , and eigenvectors are non-zero, we may assume that  $y \neq 0$  and thus obtain the equation  $\lambda^2 + 3 = 0$ . Since this has no real solutions, we see that  $T$  has no eigenvalues.

**Exercise 5.A.8.** Define  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{F}^2)$  by

$$T(w, z) = (z, w).$$

Find all eigenvalues and eigenvectors of  $T$ .

**Solution.**  $T$  is a reflection in the line  $z = w$ . An appeal to our geometric intuition suggests that 1 is an eigenvalue with corresponding eigenvector  $(1, 1)$  and that  $-1$  is an eigenvalue with corresponding eigenvector  $(-1, 1)$ . To see this algebraically, suppose  $\lambda \in \mathbf{F}$  and  $(w, z) \neq (0, 0)$  are such that  $T(w, z) = (z, w) = (\lambda w, \lambda z)$ . Substituting  $z = \lambda w$  into  $w = \lambda z$  gives us  $w = \lambda^2 w$ . Since  $w = 0$  implies that  $z = 0$ , and eigenvectors are non-zero, we may assume that  $w \neq 0$  and thus obtain the equation  $\lambda^2 - 1 = 0$ , which has solutions  $\lambda = \pm 1$ . These are both eigenvalues, since

$$T(1, 1) = (1, 1) \quad \text{and} \quad T(-1, 1) = (1, -1) = -(-1, 1).$$

Since  $\dim \mathbf{F}^2 = 2$ , 5.10 implies that there are no other eigenvectors of  $T$  linearly independent from these two. We may conclude that the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of  $T$  are:

| eigenvalue | corresponding eigenvectors                       |
|------------|--|
| 1          | $(z, z)$ for $z \in \mathbf{F} \setminus \{0\}$  |
| -1         | $(-z, z)$ for $z \in \mathbf{F} \setminus \{0\}$ |

**Exercise 5.A.9.** Define  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{F}^3)$  by

$$T(z_1, z_2, z_3) = (2z_2, 0, 5z_3).$$

Find all eigenvalues and eigenvectors of  $T$ .

*Solution.*  $T$  can be thought of as the composition of the following transformations:

1. a projection onto the  $z_2z_3$ -plane;
2. a clockwise rotation of  $90^\circ$  around the  $z_3$ -axis; after the projection onto the  $z_2z_3$ -plane, this is equivalent to a reflection in the plane  $z_1 = z_2$ ;
3. a dilation of the  $z_1$ -axis by a factor of 2;
4. a dilation of the  $z_3$ -axis by a factor of 5.

In other words,  $T$  maps  $(z_1, z_2, z_3) \in \mathbf{F}^3$  like so:

$$(z_1, z_2, z_3) \mapsto (0, z_2, z_3) \mapsto (z_2, 0, z_3) \mapsto (2z_2, 0, z_3) \mapsto (2z_2, 0, 5z_3).$$

An appeal to our geometric intuition suggests that 5 is an eigenvalue with corresponding eigenvector  $(0, 0, 1)$  and that 0 is an eigenvalue with corresponding eigenvector  $(1, 0, 0)$ . To prove this, suppose that  $\lambda \in \mathbf{F}$  and  $(z_1, z_2, z_3) \neq (0, 0, 0)$  are such that

$$T(z_1, z_2, z_3) = (2z_2, 0, 5z_3) = (\lambda z_1, \lambda z_2, \lambda z_3).$$

If  $\lambda \neq 0$ , then the equation  $\lambda z_2 = 0$  implies that  $z_2 = 0$  and thus the equation  $2z_2 = \lambda z_1$  implies that  $z_1 = 0$ . Since eigenvectors are non-zero, it must be the case that  $z_3 \neq 0$  and so the equation  $5z_3 = \lambda z_3$  gives us  $\lambda = 5$ . So the only possible eigenvalues are 0 and 5, which are indeed eigenvalues since

$$T(0, 0, 1) = (0, 0, 5) = 5(0, 0, 1) \quad \text{and} \quad T(1, 0, 0) = (0, 0, 0) = 0(1, 0, 0).$$

We claim that there are no other eigenvectors of  $T$  linearly independent from these two. First, we consider the eigenvalue 5. As we just showed, any eigenvector corresponding to this eigenvalue must satisfy  $z_1 = z_2 = 0$  and thus each such eigenvector is a scalar multiple of  $(0, 0, 1)$ . Next, we consider the eigenvalue 0; this is equivalent to considering the nullspace of  $T$ . It is straightforward to verify that  $(1, 0, 0)$  is a basis for  $\text{null } T$  and so we may conclude that the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of  $T$  are:

| eigenvalue | corresponding eigenvectors                         |
|------------|--|
| 5          | $(0, 0, z)$ for $z \in \mathbf{F} \setminus \{0\}$ |
| 0          | $(z, 0, 0)$ for $z \in \mathbf{F} \setminus \{0\}$ |

**Exercise 5.A.10.** Define  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{F}^n)$  by

$$T(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n) = (x_1, 2x_2, 3x_3, \dots, nx_n).$$

(a) Find all eigenvalues and eigenvectors of  $T$ .

(b) Find all invariant subspaces of  $T$ .

*Solution.* (a) Letting  $e_j$  be the  $j^{\text{th}}$  standard basis vector of  $\mathbf{F}^n$ , we notice that for each  $1 \leq j \leq n$

$$Te_j = je_j.$$

Thus  $j$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$  with corresponding eigenvector  $e_j$ . By 5.10 and 5.13, we can be sure that these are all of the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of  $T$ , i.e.

| eigenvalue | corresponding eigenvectors                                |
|------------|---|
| 1          | $(z, 0, \dots, 0)$ for $z \in \mathbf{F} \setminus \{0\}$ |
| 2          | $(0, z, \dots, 0)$ for $z \in \mathbf{F} \setminus \{0\}$ |
| $\vdots$   | $\vdots$  |
| $n$        | $(0, 0, \dots, z)$ for $z \in \mathbf{F} \setminus \{0\}$ |

(b) First, let us prove some useful results.

**Lemma 1.** Suppose  $T : V \rightarrow V$  is a linear operator and  $U$  is a subspace of  $V$  invariant under  $T$ . If  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$  are distinct eigenvalues of  $T$  with corresponding eigenvectors  $v_1, \dots, v_k$ , then

$$v_1 + \dots + v_k \in U \iff v_j \in U \text{ for each } 1 \leq j \leq k.$$

*Proof.* We will prove this by induction on  $k$ . The base case  $k = 1$  is clear, so suppose the result is true for some  $k$  and suppose we have distinct eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{k+1}$  of  $T$  with corresponding eigenvectors  $v_1, \dots, v_{k+1}$ . If  $v_j \in U$  for each  $1 \leq j \leq k+1$ , then  $v_1 + \dots + v_{k+1} \in U$  since  $U$  is a subspace of  $V$ . Suppose that  $v := v_1 + \dots + v_{k+1} \in U$ . Since  $U$  is invariant under  $T$  we have

$$Tv = \lambda_1 v_1 + \dots + \lambda_{k+1} v_{k+1} \in U.$$

This gives us

$$Tv - \lambda_{k+1}v = (\lambda_1 - \lambda_{k+1})v_1 + \cdots + (\lambda_k - \lambda_{k+1})v_k \in U.$$

By assumption, the eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{k+1}$  are distinct and so for each  $1 \leq j \leq k$  we have  $\lambda_j - \lambda_{k+1} \neq 0$ . It follows that each  $(\lambda_j - \lambda_{k+1})v_j$  is an eigenvector of  $T$  corresponding to the eigenvalue  $\lambda_j$ . Our induction hypothesis then guarantees that each  $(\lambda_j - \lambda_{k+1})v_j$  belongs to the subspace  $U$  and thus each  $v_j$  belongs to  $U$ , which gives us

$$v_{k+1} = v - (v_1 + \cdots + v_k) \in U.$$

This completes the induction step and the proof.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.** Suppose  $T : V \rightarrow V$  is a linear operator with  $\dim V = n$  and  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  are distinct eigenvalues of  $T$  with corresponding eigenvectors  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , so that

$$V = E_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus E_n,$$

where  $E_j = \text{span}(v_j)$ . If  $U$  is a subspace of  $V$  invariant under  $T$ , then

$$U = (U \cap E_1) \oplus \cdots \oplus (U \cap E_n).$$

*Proof.* Since  $V = E_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus E_n$ , for any  $u \in U$  we have  $u = e_1 + \cdots + e_n$ , where each  $e_j \in E_j$ . If any  $e_j = 0$  then certainly  $e_j \in U$ ; otherwise,  $e_j$  is an eigenvector of  $T$  corresponding to the eigenvalue  $\lambda_j$  and so Lemma 1 implies that the non-zero  $e_j$ 's belong to  $U$  also. It follows that  $u \in (U \cap E_1) + \cdots + (U \cap E_n)$  and hence that

$$U = (U \cap E_1) + \cdots + (U \cap E_n).$$

The directness of this sum follows immediately from the directness of the sum  $V = E_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus E_n$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 1.** Suppose  $T : V \rightarrow V$  is a linear operator with  $\dim V = n$  and  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  are distinct eigenvalues of  $T$  with corresponding eigenvectors  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , so that

$$V = E_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus E_n,$$

where  $E_j = \text{span}(v_j)$ . Then the subspaces of  $V$  which are invariant under  $T$  are precisely those of the form

$$E_{j_1, \dots, j_k} := E_{j_1} \oplus \cdots \oplus E_{j_k} = \text{span}(v_{j_1}, \dots, v_{j_k}),$$

where  $1 \leq j_1 < \cdots < j_k \leq n$  are positive integers and  $0 \leq k \leq n$ ; when  $k = 0$  define  $E_0 := \{0\}$ .

*Proof.* It is straightforward to verify that each  $E_{j_1, \dots, j_k}$  is indeed a subspace of  $V$  invariant under  $T$ . To see that each such subspace is of this form, let  $U$  be a subspace of  $V$  invariant under  $T$ . By Lemma 2, we have

$$U = (U \cap E_1) \oplus \cdots \oplus (U \cap E_n).$$

For each  $j$ , since  $\dim E_j = 1$ , we can either have  $U \cap E_j = \{0\}$  or  $U \cap E_j = E_j$ . If each  $U \cap E_j = \{0\}$ , then  $U = \{0\} = E_0$ . Otherwise, let  $1 \leq j_1 < \cdots < j_k \leq n$  be those indices for which  $U \cap E_j = E_j$ . Then  $U$  is nothing but  $E_{j_1, \dots, j_k}$ .  $\square$

Now let us return to the exercise. As we showed in part (a), the eigenvalues of  $T$  are  $1, 2, 3, \dots, n$  with corresponding eigenvectors  $e_1, e_2, e_3, \dots, e_n$ , where  $e_j$  is the  $j^{\text{th}}$  standard basis vector of  $\mathbf{F}^n$ . We can now appeal to Theorem 1 above to obtain all subspaces of  $\mathbf{F}^n$  invariant under  $T$ .

**Exercise 5.A.11.** Define  $T : \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{R}) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{R})$  by  $Tp = p'$ . Find all eigenvalues and eigenvectors of  $T$ .

*Solution.* We notice that for  $p_0(x) = 1$ ,

$$Tp_0 = 0 = 0p_0.$$

Thus 0 is an eigenvalue of  $T$  with corresponding eigenvector  $p_0(x) = 1$ . Moreover, the only polynomials whose derivative is zero are the constant polynomials.

Suppose  $p \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{R})$  satisfies  $\deg p \geq 1$ . If  $\lambda \neq 0$ , then  $\deg(\lambda p) = \deg p$ , whereas  $\deg p' = \deg p - 1$ . Thus we cannot have  $Tp = p' = \lambda p$  and we may conclude that the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of  $T$  are:

| eigenvalue | corresponding eigenvectors              |
|------------|---|
| 0          | $\alpha \in \mathbf{F} \setminus \{0\}$ |

**Exercise 5.A.12.** Define  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{P}_4(\mathbf{R}))$  by

$$(Tp)(x) = xp'(x)$$

for all  $x \in \mathbf{R}$ . Find all eigenvalues and eigenvectors of  $T$ .

*Solution.* Letting  $p_j \in \mathcal{P}_4(\mathbf{R})$  be given by  $p_j(x) = x^j$  for  $0 \leq j \leq 4$ , we notice that

$$(Tp_j)(x) = jx^j = jp_j(x).$$

By 5.10 and 5.13, we may conclude that the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of  $T$  are:

| eigenvalue | corresponding eigenvectors                               |
|------------|--|
| 0          | $\alpha p_0$ for $\alpha \in \mathbf{F} \setminus \{0\}$ |
| 1          | $\alpha p_1$ for $\alpha \in \mathbf{F} \setminus \{0\}$ |
| 2          | $\alpha p_2$ for $\alpha \in \mathbf{F} \setminus \{0\}$ |
| 3          | $\alpha p_3$ for $\alpha \in \mathbf{F} \setminus \{0\}$ |
| 4          | $\alpha p_4$ for $\alpha \in \mathbf{F} \setminus \{0\}$ |

**Exercise 5.A.13.** Suppose  $V$  is finite-dimensional,  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ , and  $\lambda \in \mathbf{F}$ . Prove that there exists  $\alpha \in \mathbf{F}$  such that  $|\alpha - \lambda| < \frac{1}{1000}$  and  $T - \alpha I$  is invertible.

*Solution.* Seeking a contradiction, suppose that for all  $\alpha \in \mathbf{F}$  such that  $|\alpha - \lambda| < \frac{1}{1000}$ , the operator  $T - \alpha I$  is not invertible. By 5.6 each such  $\alpha$ , of which there are infinitely many, must be an eigenvalue of  $T$ ; but this contradicts 5.13, which says that since  $V$  is finite-dimensional,  $T$  can have at most  $\dim V$  eigenvalues.

**Exercise 5.A.14.** Suppose  $V = U \oplus W$ , where  $U$  and  $W$  are nonzero subspaces of  $V$ . Define  $P \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  by  $P(u + w) = u$  for  $u \in U$  and  $w \in W$ . Find all eigenvalues and eigenvectors of  $P$ .

*Solution.* We notice that  $Pu = u$  for any  $u \in U$ . Since  $U \neq \{0\}$ , it follows that 1 is an eigenvalue of  $P$  with corresponding eigenvectors  $u \in U \setminus \{0\}$ . Similarly, we notice that  $Pw = 0$  for any  $w \in W$ . Since  $W \neq \{0\}$ , it follows that 0 is an eigenvalue of  $P$  with corresponding eigenvectors  $w \in W \setminus \{0\}$ .

We claim that 1 and 0 are the only eigenvalues of  $P$ . To see this, suppose  $\lambda \in \mathbf{F}$  and  $u + w \neq 0$  are such that

$$P(u + w) = u = \lambda u + \lambda w \iff (1 - \lambda)u = \lambda w \in U \cap W.$$

Since the sum  $V = U \oplus W$  is direct, we have  $U \cap W = \{0\}$ . It follows that  $(1 - \lambda)u = \lambda w = 0$ . If  $\lambda \neq 1$  and  $\lambda \neq 0$ , then this equation can only be satisfied by  $u = w = 0$ ; but then  $u + w = 0$  is not an eigenvector.

Now we claim that the only eigenvectors corresponding to the eigenvalue 1 are those of the form  $u \in U \setminus \{0\}$ . Indeed, if  $v \neq 0$  satisfies  $v \notin U$ , then we must have  $v = u + w$  with  $w \neq 0$ . It follows that  $Pv = P(u + w) = u \neq u + w$  since  $w$  is non-zero.

Similarly, the only eigenvectors corresponding to the eigenvalue 0 are those of the form  $w \in W \setminus \{0\}$ ; it is straightforward to verify that the nullspace of  $P$  is exactly  $W$ . We may conclude that the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of  $T$  are:

| eigenvalue | corresponding eigenvectors |
|------------|----------------------------|
| 1          | $u \in U \setminus \{0\}$  |
| 0          | $w \in W \setminus \{0\}$  |

**Exercise 5.A.15.** Suppose  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ . Suppose  $S \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  is invertible.

- (a) Prove that  $T$  and  $S^{-1}TS$  have the same eigenvalues.
- (b) What is the relationship between the eigenvectors of  $T$  and the eigenvectors of  $S^{-1}TS$ ?

*Solution.* (a) Suppose  $\lambda \in \mathbf{F}$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$  with a corresponding eigenvector  $v \in V$ . Since  $S$  is surjective, there is a  $u \in V$  such that  $v = Su$ . Since  $v \neq 0$ , it must be the case that  $u \neq 0$ . Furthermore,

$$Tv = \lambda v \iff (TS)(u) = \lambda Su \iff (S^{-1}TS)(u) = \lambda u.$$

Thus  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $S^{-1}TS$  with a corresponding eigenvector  $u$ .

Similarly, suppose  $\lambda \in \mathbf{F}$  is an eigenvalue of  $S^{-1}TS$  with a corresponding eigenvector  $u \in V$ . Since  $S^{-1}$  is surjective, there is a  $v \in V$  such that  $u = S^{-1}v$ . Since  $u \neq 0$ , it must be the case that  $v \neq 0$ . Furthermore,

$$(S^{-1}TS)(u) = \lambda u \iff (S^{-1}T)(v) = \lambda S^{-1}v \iff Tv = \lambda v.$$

Thus  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$  with a corresponding eigenvector  $v$ .

- (b) Let  $\lambda$  be an eigenvalue of  $T$ ; as we showed in part (a), this is the case if and only if  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $S^{-1}TS$ . Define

$$\begin{aligned} E(T; \lambda) &= \{v \in V : v \neq 0 \text{ and } Tv = \lambda v\}, \\ E(S^{-1}TS; \lambda) &= \{u \in V : u \neq 0 \text{ and } (S^{-1}TS)u = \lambda u\}. \end{aligned}$$

Then by part (a), we have

$$E(S^{-1}TS; \lambda) = \{S^{-1}v : v \in E(T; \lambda)\} \quad \text{and} \quad E(T; \lambda) = \{Su : u \in E(S^{-1}TS; \lambda)\}.$$

**Exercise 5.A.16.** Suppose  $V$  is a complex vector space,  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ , and the matrix of  $T$  with respect to some basis of  $V$  contains only real entries. Show that if  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$ , then so is  $\bar{\lambda}$ .

*Solution.* Let  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  be a basis of  $V$  such that the matrix of  $T$  with respect to this basis contains only real entries, i.e. if this matrix has entries  $A_{i,j}$ , then each  $A_{i,j} \in \mathbf{R}$ . Suppose that  $\lambda \in \mathbf{C}$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$  with a corresponding eigenvector  $x = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i v_i \in V$ , so that

$$Tx = \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \sum_{j=1}^n x_j A_{i,j} \right) v_i = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda x_i v_i = \lambda x.$$



By unique representation, for each  $1 \leq i \leq n$  we then have

$$\sum_{j=1}^n x_j A_{i,j} = \lambda x_i \iff \overline{\sum_{j=1}^n x_j A_{i,j}} = \overline{\lambda x_i} \iff \sum_{j=1}^n \overline{x_j} A_{i,j} = \overline{\lambda x_i},$$

where we have used that  $\overline{A_{i,j}} = A_{i,j}$  since each  $A_{i,j} \in \mathbf{R}$ . Define  $\bar{x} = \sum_{i=1}^n \overline{x_i} v_i$  and note that  $\bar{x} \neq 0$  since  $x \neq 0$ . Furthermore,

$$T\bar{x} = \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \sum_{j=1}^n \overline{x_j} A_{i,j} \right) v_i = \sum_{i=1}^n \overline{\lambda x_i} v_i = \bar{\lambda} \bar{x},$$

demonstrating that  $\bar{\lambda}$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$  with a corresponding eigenvector  $\bar{x}$ .

**Exercise 5.A.17.** Give an example of an operator  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{R}^4)$  such that  $T$  has no (real) eigenvalues.

*Solution.* Define  $T : \mathbf{R}^4 \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^4$  by  $T(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = (x_2, x_3, x_4, -x_1)$  and suppose  $\lambda$  is such that

$$T(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = (x_2, x_3, x_4, -x_1) = \lambda(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4).$$

We then have

$$-x_1 = \lambda x_4 = \lambda^2 x_3 = \lambda^3 x_2 = \lambda^4 x_1.$$

Since

$$x_1 = 0 \implies x_2 = 0 \implies x_3 = 0 \implies x_4 = 0$$

and we are looking for eigenvectors, we may assume that  $x_1 \neq 0$  and arrive at the equation  $\lambda^4 + 1 = 0$ , which has no real solutions. It follows that  $T$  has no real eigenvalues.

**Exercise 5.A.18.** Show that the operator  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{C}^\infty)$  defined by

$$T(z_1, z_2, \dots) = (0, z_1, z_2, \dots)$$

has no eigenvalues.

*Solution.* We are looking for solutions to the equation

$$(0, z_1, z_2, \dots) = (\lambda z_1, \lambda z_2, \lambda z_3, \dots).$$

where  $(z_1, z_2, \dots) \neq 0$  and  $\lambda \in \mathbf{C}$ . If  $\lambda = 0$ , then  $z_1 = z_2 = \dots = 0$  and so we may assume that  $\lambda \neq 0$ . From the equation  $0 = \lambda z_1$  we can then deduce that  $z_1 = 0$ , which in turn gives us the equation  $0 = \lambda z_2$ , which similarly implies that  $z_2 = 0$ , and so on. Since both assumptions  $\lambda = 0$  and  $\lambda \neq 0$  imply that  $(z_1, z_2, \dots) = 0$ , we may conclude that  $T$  has no eigenvalues.

**Exercise 5.A.19.** Suppose  $n$  is a positive integer and  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{F}^n)$  is defined by

$$T(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (x_1 + \dots + x_n, \dots, x_1 + \dots + x_n);$$

in other words,  $T$  is the operator whose matrix (with respect to the standard basis) consists of all 1's. Find all eigenvalues and eigenvectors of  $T$ .

*Solution.* If  $n = 1$  then  $T$  is the identity operator on  $\mathbf{F}$ , whose only eigenvalue is 1 with corresponding eigenvectors  $x \in \mathbf{F} \setminus \{0\}$ .

Suppose  $n \geq 2$  and let  $e_1, \dots, e_n$  be the standard basis of  $\mathbf{F}^n$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{null } T &= \{(-(x_2 + \dots + x_n), x_2, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbf{F}^n : x_2, \dots, x_n \in \mathbf{F}\} \\ &= \text{span}(e_2 - e_1, e_3 - e_1, \dots, e_n - e_1), \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{range } T = \text{span}(e_1 + \dots + e_n) = \text{span}((1, 1, \dots, 1)).$$

Thus 0 is an eigenvalue of  $T$  with corresponding eigenvectors  $x \in \text{null } T \setminus \{0\}$  and  $n$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$  with corresponding eigenvectors  $x \in \text{span}(e_1 + \dots + e_n) \setminus \{0\}$ , since

$$T(1, 1, \dots, 1) = (n, n, \dots, n) = n(1, 1, \dots, 1).$$

We claim that these are the only eigenvalues of  $T$ . Indeed, if  $x \neq 0$  and  $\lambda \neq 0$  are such that  $Tx = \lambda x$ , then since  $\text{range } T = \text{span}((1, \dots, 1))$ , there must exist some  $\alpha \in \mathbf{F}$  such that

$$Tx = \lambda x = \alpha(1, \dots, 1) \implies x = \lambda^{-1}\alpha(1, \dots, 1).$$

Thus the eigenvector  $x$ , which corresponds to the eigenvalue  $\lambda$ , and the eigenvector  $(1, \dots, 1)$ , which corresponds to the eigenvalue  $n$ , are linearly dependent. By the contrapositive of 5.10, it must be the case that  $\lambda = n$ .

Since  $\dim \text{null } T + \dim \text{range } T = \dim V$ , 5.10 allows us to conclude that

| eigenvalue | corresponding eigenvectors  |
|------------|---|
| 0          | $x \in \text{null } T \setminus \{0\}$                            |
| $n$        | $\alpha(1, \dots, 1)$ for $\alpha \in \mathbf{F} \setminus \{0\}$ |

**Exercise 5.A.20.** Find all eigenvalues and eigenvectors of the backward shift operator  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{F}^\infty)$  defined by

$$T(z_1, z_2, z_3, \dots) = (z_2, z_3, \dots).$$

*Solution.* Observe that for any  $\lambda \in \mathbf{F}$ , we have  $(1, \lambda, \lambda^2, \lambda^3, \dots) \neq 0$  and

$$T(1, \lambda, \lambda^2, \lambda^3, \dots) = (\lambda, \lambda^2, \lambda^3, \lambda^4, \dots) = \lambda(1, \lambda, \lambda^2, \lambda^3, \dots).$$

It follows that each  $\lambda \in \mathbf{F}$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$  with a corresponding eigenvector  $(1, \lambda, \lambda^2, \lambda^3, \dots)$ .

Fix  $\lambda \in \mathbf{F}$ . We claim that if  $z = (z_1, z_2, z_3, \dots)$  is an eigenvector of  $T$  corresponding to  $\lambda$ , then  $z = \alpha v$ , where  $\alpha \in \mathbf{F} \setminus \{0\}$  and  $v = (1, \lambda, \lambda^2, \lambda^3, \dots)$ . Indeed,

$$Tz = (z_2, z_3, z_4, \dots) = (\lambda z_1, \lambda z_2, \lambda z_3, \dots) = \lambda z$$

implies that  $z_2 = \lambda z_1$ , which gives  $z_3 = \lambda z_2 = \lambda^2 z_1$ , and so on. In general,  $z_n = \lambda^{n-1} z_1$  for each positive integer  $n$ , i.e.

$$z = (z_1, \lambda z_1, \lambda^2 z_1, \dots) = z_1(1, \lambda, \lambda^2, \dots) = z_1 v.$$

Note that we must have  $z_1 \neq 0$  since  $z$  is an eigenvector of  $T$ . We may conclude that

| eigenvalue               | corresponding eigenvectors   |
|--------------------------|--|
| $\lambda \in \mathbf{F}$ | $\alpha(1, \lambda, \lambda^2, \dots)$ for $\alpha \in \mathbf{F} \setminus \{0\}$ |

**Exercise 5.A.21.** Suppose  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  is invertible.

- (a) Suppose  $\lambda \in \mathbf{F}$  with  $\lambda \neq 0$ . Prove that  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$  if and only if  $\frac{1}{\lambda}$  is an eigenvalue of  $T^{-1}$ .
- (b) Prove that  $T$  and  $T^{-1}$  have the same eigenvectors.

*Solution.* (a) For  $\lambda \neq 0$  and  $v \neq 0$ , we have

$$Tv = \lambda v \iff v = \lambda T^{-1}v \iff \lambda^{-1}v = T^{-1}v.$$

- (b) See part (a).

**Exercise 5.A.22.** Suppose  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  and there exist nonzero vectors  $v$  and  $w$  in  $V$  such that

$$Tv = 3w \quad \text{and} \quad Tw = 3v.$$

Prove that 3 or  $-3$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$ .

*Solution.* Applying  $T$  to both sides of the equation  $Tv = 3w$  shows that  $T^2v = 9v$  or equivalently that  $(T^2 - 9I)(v) = 0$ . Since  $v \neq 0$ , this demonstrates that the operator  $T^2 - 9I = (T - 3I)(T + 3I)$  is not injective. It must then be the case that at least one of the operators  $T - 3I$  and  $T + 3I$  is not injective and thus 3 or  $-3$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$ .

**Exercise 5.A.23.** Suppose  $V$  is finite-dimensional and  $S, T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ . Prove that  $ST$  and  $TS$  have the same eigenvalues.

*Solution.* Suppose that 0 is an eigenvalue of  $ST$ . It must then be the case that  $ST$  is not invertible (5.6), hence  $TS$  is not invertible (Exercise 3.D.9; here we use that  $V$  is finite-dimensional), and hence 0 is an eigenvalue of  $TS$  (5.6 again). By symmetry, we see that 0 is an eigenvalue of  $ST$  if and only if 0 is an eigenvalue of  $TS$ .

Let us now consider non-zero eigenvalues. Suppose that  $\lambda \neq 0$  and  $v \neq 0$  are such that  $(ST)(v) = \lambda v$ . Note that we must have  $Tv \neq 0$ , otherwise this equation becomes  $0 = \lambda v$ , which cannot be the case if  $\lambda \neq 0$  and  $v \neq 0$ . Applying  $T$  to both sides of the equation  $(ST)(v) = \lambda v$  gives us  $(TS)(Tv) = \lambda(Tv)$  and thus  $\lambda$  is also an eigenvalue of  $TS$  with a corresponding eigenvector  $Tv$ . By symmetry, we see that  $\lambda \neq 0$  is an eigenvalue of  $ST$  if and only if  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $TS$ .

**Exercise 5.A.24.** Suppose  $A$  is an  $n$ -by- $n$  matrix with entries in  $\mathbf{F}$ . Define  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{F}^n)$  by  $Tx = Ax$ , where elements of  $\mathbf{F}^n$  are thought of as  $n$ -by-1 column vectors.

- (a) Suppose the sum of the entries in each row of  $A$  equals 1. Prove that 1 is an eigenvalue of  $T$ .
- (b) Suppose the sum of the entries in each column of  $A$  equals 1. Prove that 1 is an eigenvalue of  $T$ .

*Solution.* (a) Let  $A_{i,j}$  be the entries of  $A$ ; our assumption is that  $\sum_{j=1}^n A_{i,j} = 1$  for each  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Observe that

$$T(1, \dots, 1) = \begin{pmatrix} A_{1,1} & \cdots & A_{1,n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ A_{n,1} & \cdots & A_{n,n} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sum_{j=1}^n A_{1,j} \\ \vdots \\ \sum_{j=1}^n A_{n,j} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Thus 1 is an eigenvalue of  $T$  with a corresponding eigenvector  $(1, \dots, 1)$ .

- (b) Let  $e_1, \dots, e_n$  be the standard basis of  $\mathbf{F}^n$  and let  $\psi : \mathbf{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{F}$  be the linear functional given by  $\psi(e_j) = 1$ . Clearly, the matrix of  $T$  with respect to the standard basis of  $\mathbf{F}^n$  is  $A$ . It follows that

$$(\psi(T - I))(e_j) = \psi \left( \left( \sum_{i=1}^n A_{i,j} e_i \right) - e_j \right) = \left( \sum_{i=1}^n A_{i,j} \right) - 1 = 0,$$

where we have used our assumption that the sum of the entries in each column of  $A$  equals 1. So  $\psi \circ (T - I) : \mathbf{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{F}$  is the zero map; if the operator  $T - I$  were invertible then it would have to be the case that  $\psi$  was zero. Since  $\psi$  is non-zero, we see that  $T - I$  is not invertible and hence 1 is an eigenvalue of  $T$  (5.6).

**Exercise 5.A.25.** Suppose  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  and  $u, v$  are eigenvectors of  $T$  such that  $u + v$  is also an eigenvector of  $T$ . Prove that  $u$  and  $v$  are eigenvectors of  $T$  corresponding to the same eigenvalue.

*Solution.* Suppose  $u, v$ , and  $u + v$  are eigenvectors corresponding to the eigenvalues  $\lambda, \mu$ , and  $\gamma$  respectively. Since the list  $u, v, u + v$  is linearly dependent, the contrapositive of 5.10 shows that the eigenvalues  $\lambda, \mu$ , and  $\gamma$  must not be distinct, i.e. at least two of them are equal. In fact, all three must be equal: if  $\lambda = \mu$  then

$$\lambda(u + v) = \lambda u + \lambda v = \lambda u + \mu v = Tu + Tv = T(u + v) = \gamma(u + v)$$

and thus  $\lambda = \mu = \gamma$  since  $u + v \neq 0$ ; if  $\lambda = \gamma$  then

$$\lambda u + \lambda v = \lambda(u + v) = \gamma(u + v) = T(u + v) = Tu + Tv = \lambda u + \mu v \implies \lambda v = \mu v,$$

and thus  $\lambda = \mu = \gamma$  since  $v \neq 0$ ; similarly,  $\mu = \gamma$  implies  $\lambda = \mu = \gamma$ .

**Exercise 5.A.26.** Suppose  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  is such that every nonzero vector in  $V$  is an eigenvector of  $T$ . Prove that  $T$  is a scalar multiple of the identity operator.

*Solution.* The case where  $V = \{0\}$  is easily handled, so assume that  $V \neq \{0\}$ . Fix some non-zero  $u \in V$ ; by assumption we have  $Tu = \lambda u$  for some  $\lambda \in \mathbf{F}$ . Suppose  $v \in V$  is non-zero. If  $u + v \neq 0$ , then by assumption  $v$  and  $u + v$  are both eigenvectors of  $T$ , so [Exercise 5.A.25](#) implies that  $u$  and  $v$  are eigenvectors corresponding the same eigenvalue  $\lambda$ , so that  $Tv = \lambda v$ . If  $v = -u$ , then  $Tv = -Tu = -\lambda u = \lambda v$ . Thus we have  $Tv = \lambda v$  for all  $v \in V$ , i.e.  $T = \lambda I$ .

**Exercise 5.A.27.** Suppose  $V$  is finite-dimensional and  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  is such that every subspace of  $V$  with dimension  $\dim V - 1$  is invariant under  $T$ . Prove that  $T$  is a scalar multiple of the identity operator.

*Solution.* If  $V = \{0\}$ , then  $T = 0I$ . If  $\dim V = 1$ , then  $V = \text{span}(v)$  for some  $v \neq 0$ . It follows that  $Tv = \lambda v$  for some  $\lambda \in \mathbf{F}$  and thus  $T = \lambda I$ .

Suppose that  $\dim V = n \geq 2$ . Let  $v_1 \in V$  be non-zero and extend this to a basis  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n$  of  $V$ . For each  $2 \leq j \leq n$ , let  $U_j$  be the span of the vectors  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n$  except for  $v_j$ , so that

$$U_2 = \text{span}(v_1, v_3, \dots, v_n), \quad U_3 = \text{span}(v_1, v_2, v_4, \dots, v_n), \quad \text{etc.}$$

For each  $2 \leq j \leq n$ , the subspace  $U_j$  has dimension  $n - 1$  and so by assumption is invariant under  $T$ . Since  $v_1$  belongs to  $U_j$ , we then have  $Tv_1 \in U_j$ . Thus

$$Tv_1 = A_{j,1}v_1 + A_{j,2}v_2 + \dots + A_{j,j-1}v_{j-1} + 0v_j + A_{j,j+1}v_{j+1} + \dots + A_{j,n}v_n$$

for some scalars  $A_{j,1}, \dots, A_{j,j-1}, A_{j,j+1}, \dots, A_{j,n}$ . We can put these scalars in a matrix:

$$\begin{pmatrix} A_{2,1} & 0 & A_{2,3} & \cdots & A_{2,n-2} & A_{2,n-1} & A_{2,n} \\ A_{3,1} & A_{3,2} & 0 & \cdots & A_{3,n-2} & A_{3,n-1} & A_{3,n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ A_{n-1,1} & A_{n-1,2} & A_{n-1,3} & \cdots & A_{n-1,n-2} & 0 & A_{n-1,n} \\ A_{n,1} & A_{n,2} & A_{n,3} & \cdots & A_{n,n-2} & A_{n,n-1} & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Each row of this matrix represents the coefficients with respect to the basis  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  of the same vector  $Tv_1$  and thus by unique representation, the entries in a given column must be equal, i.e. this matrix is nothing but

$$\begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \lambda & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \lambda & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \lambda & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $\lambda = A_{2,1}$ . Thus  $Tv_1 = \lambda v_1$ , demonstrating that  $v_1$  is an eigenvector of  $T$  corresponding to the eigenvalue  $\lambda$ . Since  $v_1$  was arbitrary, we have shown that each non-zero vector in  $V$  is an eigenvector of  $T$  and so [Exercise 5.A.26](#) allows us to conclude that  $T$  is a scalar multiple of the identity operator.

**Exercise 5.A.28.** Suppose  $V$  is finite-dimensional with  $\dim V \geq 3$  and  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  is such that every 2-dimensional subspace of  $V$  is invariant under  $T$ . Prove that  $T$  is a scalar multiple of the identity operator.

*Solution.* The proof is similar to [Exercise 5.A.27](#). Suppose  $\dim V = n \geq 3$ . Let  $v_1 \in V$  be non-zero and extend this to a basis  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n$  of  $V$ . For each  $2 \leq j \leq n$ , let  $U_j = \text{span}(v_1, v_j)$ ; each  $U_j$  is 2-dimensional and hence by assumption is invariant under  $T$ . Since  $v_1 \in U_j$ , we then have  $Tv_1 \in U_j$  and thus

$$Tv_1 = A_{j,1}v_1 + 0v_2 + \cdots + 0v_{j-1} + A_{j,j}v_j + 0v_{j+1} + \cdots + 0v_n$$

for some scalars  $A_{j,1}$  and  $A_{j,j}$ . We can put these scalars in a matrix:

$$\begin{pmatrix} A_{2,1} & A_{2,2} & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ A_{3,1} & 0 & A_{3,3} & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ A_{n-1,1} & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & A_{n-1,n-1} & 0 \\ A_{n,1} & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & A_{n,n} \end{pmatrix}.$$

(Note that this matrix has at least 2 rows since  $n \geq 3$ .) Each row of this matrix represents the coefficients with respect to the basis  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  of the same vector  $Tv_1$  and thus by unique representation, the entries in a given column must be equal, i.e. this matrix is nothing but

$$\begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \lambda & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \lambda & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \lambda & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $\lambda = A_{2,1}$ . Thus  $Tv_1 = \lambda v_1$ , demonstrating that  $v_1$  is an eigenvector of  $T$  corresponding to the eigenvalue  $\lambda$ . Since  $v_1$  was arbitrary, we have shown that each non-zero vector in  $V$  is an eigenvector of  $T$  and so [Exercise 5.A.26](#) allows us to conclude that  $T$  is a scalar multiple of the identity operator.

**Exercise 5.A.29.** Suppose  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  and  $\dim \text{range } T = k$ . Prove that  $T$  has at most  $k + 1$  distinct eigenvalues.

*Solution.* Suppose  $T$  has  $n$  distinct eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  with corresponding eigenvectors  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , so that

$$Tv_1 = \lambda_1 v_1, \dots, Tv_n = \lambda_n v_n \in \text{range } T.$$

The list  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  is linearly independent (5.10) and thus the list  $\lambda_1 v_1, \dots, \lambda_n v_n$  is also linearly independent, provided each eigenvalue  $\lambda_j$  is non-zero; if some eigenvalue  $\lambda_j = 0$  (since the eigenvalues are distinct there can be at most one such  $\lambda_j$ ), we can discard  $\lambda_j v_j$  from the list and be left with a linearly independent list of  $n - 1$  vectors. In either case, there are at least  $n - 1$  linearly independent vectors in  $\text{range } T$  and thus  $\dim \text{range } T \geq n - 1$ .

If  $T$  has  $n \geq k + 2$  distinct eigenvalues, then by the previous discussion we must have  $\dim \text{range } T \geq k + 1$ . Thus  $\dim \text{range } T = k$  implies that  $T$  has at most  $k + 1$  distinct eigenvalues.

**Exercise 5.A.30.** Suppose  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{R}^3)$  and  $-4, 5$ , and  $\sqrt{7}$  are eigenvalues of  $T$ . Prove that there exists  $x \in \mathbf{R}^3$  such that  $Tx - 9x = (-4, 5, \sqrt{7})$ .

*Solution.*  $T$  has  $3 = \dim \mathbf{R}^3$  eigenvalues  $-4, 5$ , and  $\sqrt{7}$ ; it follows that  $9$  cannot be an eigenvalue of  $T$  (5.13) and hence the operator  $T - 9I$  is invertible (5.6). The desired  $x \in \mathbf{R}^3$  is then  $(T - 9I)^{-1}(-4, 5, \sqrt{7})$ .

**Exercise 5.A.31.** Suppose  $V$  is finite-dimensional and  $v_1, \dots, v_m$  is a list of vectors in  $V$ . Prove that  $v_1, \dots, v_m$  is linearly independent if and only if there exists  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  such that  $v_1, \dots, v_m$  are eigenvectors of  $T$  corresponding to distinct eigenvalues.

**Solution.** Suppose  $v_1, \dots, v_m$  is linearly independent. Extend this to a basis  $v_1, \dots, v_m, w_1, \dots, w_n$  for  $V$  and define a linear operator  $T : V \rightarrow V$  by

$$Tv_1 = v_1, Tv_2 = 2v_2, \dots, Tv_m = mv_m, \text{ and } Tw_1 = \dots = Tw_n = 0.$$

Then  $T$  is such that  $v_1, \dots, v_m$  are eigenvectors of  $T$  corresponding to distinct eigenvalues.

The converse implication is the content of 5.10.

**Exercise 5.A.32.** Suppose  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  is a list of distinct real numbers. Prove that the list  $e^{\lambda_1 x}, \dots, e^{\lambda_n x}$  is linearly independent in the vector space of real-valued functions on  $\mathbf{R}$ .

*Hint:* Let  $V = \text{span}(e^{\lambda_1 x}, \dots, e^{\lambda_n x})$ , and define an operator  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  by  $Tf = f'$ . Find eigenvalues and eigenvectors of  $T$ .

**Solution.** Following the hint, let  $V = \text{span}(e^{\lambda_1 x}, \dots, e^{\lambda_n x})$ , and define an operator  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  by  $Tf = f'$ . Then for each  $1 \leq j \leq n$ ,

$$T(e^{\lambda_j x}) = (e^{\lambda_j x})' = \lambda_j e^{\lambda_j x}.$$

This demonstrates two things: that  $T$  really is an operator, i.e.  $T$  maps  $V$  into  $V$ , and also that  $\lambda_j$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$  with corresponding eigenvector  $e^{\lambda_j x}$ . Since the eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  are given as distinct, the corresponding eigenvectors  $e^{\lambda_1 x}, \dots, e^{\lambda_n x}$  are linearly independent (5.10).

**Exercise 5.A.33.** Suppose  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ . Prove that  $T/(\text{range } T) = 0$ .

**Solution.** The operator  $T/\text{range } T : V/\text{range } T \rightarrow V/\text{range } T$  is defined by

$$(T/\text{range } T)(v + \text{range } T) = Tv + \text{range } T.$$

Certainly  $Tv \in \text{range } T$  for any  $v \in V$ , so  $Tv + \text{range } T = 0$  by 3.85 and we see that  $T/\text{range } T$  is the zero map.

**Exercise 5.A.34.** Suppose  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ . Prove that  $T/(\text{null } T)$  is injective if and only if  $(\text{null } T) \cap (\text{range } T) = \{0\}$ .

**Solution.** Suppose that  $\text{null } T \cap \text{range } T = \{0\}$  and suppose that  $v \in V$  is such that

$$(T/\text{null } T)(v + \text{null } T) = Tv + \text{null } T = 0,$$

which is the case if and only if  $Tv \in \text{null } T$ . Hence  $Tv \in \text{range } T \cap \text{null } T$  and so by assumption we have  $Tv = 0$ . It follows that  $v \in \text{null } T$ , which gives us  $v + \text{null } T = 0$ , and we see that  $T/\text{null } T$  has trivial nullspace and so must be injective.



Suppose that  $\text{null } T \cap \text{range } T \neq \{0\}$ , i.e. there exists some  $v \in \text{null } T \cap \text{range } T$  such that  $v \neq 0$ . Then  $v = Tu$  for some  $u \in V$ ; it must be the case that  $u \notin \text{null } T$  since  $v \neq 0$ . Thus

$$(T/\text{null } T)(u + \text{null } T) = Tu + \text{null } T = v + \text{null } T = 0,$$

where we have used that  $v \in \text{null } T$ . Since  $u \notin \text{null } T$ , we have  $u + \text{null } T \neq 0$ , hence  $T/\text{null } T$  has non-trivial nullspace, and hence  $T/\text{null } T$  is not injective.

**Exercise 5.A.35.** Suppose  $V$  is finite-dimensional,  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ , and  $U$  is invariant under  $T$ . Prove that each eigenvalue of  $T/U$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$ .

[The exercise below asks you to verify that the hypothesis that  $V$  is finite-dimensional is needed for the exercise above.]

*Solution.* Suppose  $\lambda \in \mathbf{F}$  is an eigenvalue of  $T/U$ , i.e. there exists a non-zero  $v + U \in V/U$  such that

$$(T/U)(v + U) = Tv + U = \lambda(v + U) = \lambda v + U.$$

Note that if  $u \in U$ , then since  $U$  is invariant under  $T$  we have  $(T - \lambda I)(u) = Tu + \lambda u \in U$ , i.e.  $U$  is also invariant under the operator  $T - \lambda I : V \rightarrow V$ . We can then consider the restriction operator  $(T - \lambda I)|_U : U \rightarrow U$ . There are two cases.

**Case 1.** Suppose that  $(T - \lambda I)|_U$  fails to be surjective. By 3.69, it must be the case that  $(T - \lambda I)|_U$  is not injective (here we use that  $V$ , and hence  $U$ , is finite-dimensional) and thus there exists some  $u \neq 0$  such that  $(T - \lambda I)|_U(u) = 0$ , or equivalently  $Tu = \lambda u$ . Hence  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$ .

**Case 2.** Suppose that  $(T - \lambda I)|_U$  is surjective. Since  $Tv + U = \lambda v + U$ , we have  $Tv = \lambda v + u$  for some  $u \in U$ . The surjectivity of  $(T - \lambda I)|_U$  implies that there exists some  $u' \in U$  satisfying

$$(T - \lambda I)|_U(u') = Tu' - \lambda u' = -u.$$

Observe that

$$T(v + u') = Tv + Tu' = \lambda v + u + Tu' = \lambda v + \lambda u' = \lambda(v + u').$$

Furthermore, since  $v + U$  is non-zero we must have  $v \notin U$  and hence  $v + u' \neq 0$ . Thus  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$ .

**Exercise 5.A.36.** Give an example of a vector space  $V$ , an operator  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ , and a subspace  $U$  of  $V$  that is invariant under  $T$  such that  $T/U$  has an eigenvalue that is not an eigenvalue of  $T$ .

---

*Solution.* Consider the forward-shift operator  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{C}^\infty)$  defined by

$$T(z_1, z_2, z_3, \dots) = (0, z_1, z_2, z_3, \dots).$$

As we showed in [Exercise 5.A.18](#),  $T$  has no eigenvalues. Let

$$U = \text{range } T = \{(0, z_2, z_3, z_4, \dots) \in \mathbf{C}^\infty : z_j \in \mathbf{C}\}.$$

Then  $U$  is invariant under  $T$  and  $T/U = 0$  by [Exercise 5.A.33](#). Since  $U \neq \mathbf{C}^\infty$ , the quotient space  $\mathbf{C}^\infty/U$  is not the trivial vector space and hence contains some non-zero vector  $z + U$ . Since  $T/U = 0$ , it follows that 0 is an eigenvalue of  $T/U$  with corresponding eigenvector  $z + U$ .

---

[\[LADR\]](#) Axler, S. (2015) *Linear Algebra Done Right*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.