

# Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

## Questions with Solutions

Examples and questions on the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of square matrices along with their solutions are presented. The properties of the eigenvalues and their corresponding eigenvectors are also discussed and used in solving questions.

### Definition of Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  square matrix. If there exist a non trivial (not all zeroes) column vector  $X$  solution to the matrix equation  $A X = \lambda X$ ; where  $\lambda$  is a scalar, then  $X$  is called the eigenvector of matrix  $A$  and the corresponding value of  $\lambda$  is called the eigenvalue of matrix  $A$ .

Let us rewrite the matrix equation in standard form:

$$AX - \lambda X = 0$$

Let  $I$  be the  $n \times n$  **identity matrix** and substitute  $X$  by  $IX$  in the above equation

$$AX - \lambda IX = 0$$

Rewrite as

$$(A - \lambda I)X = 0$$

The above matrix equation has non trivial solutions if and only if the **determinant** of the matrix  $(A - \lambda I)$  is equal to zero.  $\text{Det } (A - \lambda I) = 0$  is called the **characteristic equation** of  $A$ .

If  $A$  is an  $n$  by  $n$  matrix, when  $(A - \lambda I)$  is expanded, it is a polynomial of degree  $n$  and therefore  $(A - \lambda I)$  is called the **characteristic polynomial** of  $A$ .

## Examples with Solutions on Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

### Example 1

Find all eigenvalues and eigenvectors of matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ 12 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$$

### Solution

We first calculate the eigenvalues and then the eigenvectors.

#### Find Eigenvalues

We substitute  $\lambda$  in the matrix  $A - \lambda I$  as follows

$$A - \lambda I = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ 12 & -3 \end{bmatrix} - \lambda \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 - \lambda & 1 \\ 12 & -3 - \lambda \end{bmatrix}$$

Solve the equation  $\text{Det}(A - \lambda I) = 0$

Calculate the determinant and substitute in the above equation

$$(-2 - \lambda)(-3 - \lambda) - (1)(12) = 0$$

Expand and rewrite as

$$\lambda^2 + 5\lambda - 6 = 0$$

Solve the above quadratic equation to find two eigenvalues

$$\lambda = 1 \text{ and } \lambda = -6$$

Find Eigenvectors

Eigenvectors for  $\lambda = 1$

Substitute  $\lambda$  by 1 in the matrix equation  $(A - \lambda I)X = 0$

$$\left( \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ 12 & -3 \end{bmatrix} - 1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) X = 0$$

Simplify the above

$$\begin{bmatrix} -3 & 1 \\ 12 & -4 \end{bmatrix} X = 0$$

Let  $X = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$  and rewrite the above matrix equation as

$$\begin{bmatrix} -3 & 1 \\ 12 & -4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

Multiply the top equation by 4 and add it to the second equation and rewrite the system of

equations as follows

$$\begin{bmatrix} -3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

A solution for  $x_2$  could be written as  $x_2 = t$  where  $t$  takes all real numbers.

Use the top equation  $-3x_1 + x_2 = 0$

to find  $x_1$  as follows

$$x_1 = \frac{x_2}{3}$$

substitute  $x_2$  by  $t$  to obtain

$$x_1 = \frac{1}{3}t$$

Hence the eigenvector  $X$  corresponding the eigenvalue  $\lambda = 1$  may be written as

$$X = t \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{3} \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, t \in \mathbb{R}$$

Eigenvectors for  $\lambda = -6$

Substitute  $\lambda$  by  $6$  in the matrix equation  $(A - \lambda I)X = 0$

$$\left( \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ 12 & -3 \end{bmatrix} - (-6) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) X = 0$$

which may be simplified to

$$\left( \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 1 \\ 12 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \right) X = 0$$

Subtract 3 times the top row from the second row to obtain

$$\left( \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right) X = 0$$

A solution for  $x_2$  could be written as  $x_2 = t$  where  $t$  takes all real numbers.

Use the top equation  $4x_1 + x_2 = 0$

### Example 2

Find all eigenvalues and eigenvectors of matrix

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

**Solution**

#### Find Eigenvalues

We first find the matrix  $A - \lambda I$ .

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

Write the characteristic equation.

$$\text{Det}(A - \lambda I) = (1 - \lambda)(-\lambda(1 - \lambda)) - 1(2 - 2\lambda) = 0$$

factor and rewrite the equation as

$$(1 - \lambda)(\lambda - 2)(\lambda + 1) = 0$$

which gives 3 solutions

$$\lambda = -1, \lambda = 1, \lambda = 2$$

### Find Eigenvectors

#### Eigenvectors for $\lambda = -1$

Substitute  $\lambda$  by  $-1$  in the matrix equation  $(A - \lambda I)X = 0$  with  $X = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ -2 & 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

Row reduce to echelon form gives

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

The solutions to the above system and are given by

$$x_3 = t, x_2 = -t/2, x_1 = t/2, t \in \mathbb{R}$$

Hence the eigenvector corresponding to the eigenvalue  $\lambda = -2$  is given by

$$X = t \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 \\ -1/2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

### Eigenvectors for $\lambda = 1$

Substitute  $\lambda$  by 1 in the matrix equation  $(A - \lambda I)X = 0$ .

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 \\ -2 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

Row reduce to echelon form gives

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

The solutions to the above system and are given by

$$x_3 = 0, x_2 = t, x_1 = t, t \in \mathbb{R}$$

Hence the eigenvector corresponding to the eigenvalue  $\lambda = 1$  is given by

$$X = t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



Eigenvectors for  $\lambda = 2$

Substitute  $\lambda$  by 1 in the matrix equation  $(A - \lambda I)X = 0$ .

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 \\ -2 & 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

Row reduce to echelon form gives

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & -2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

The solutions to the above system and are given by

$$x_3 = t, x_2 = -t/2, x_1 = -t, t \in \mathbb{R}$$

Hence the eigenvector corresponding to the eigenvalue  $\lambda = 2$  is given by

$$X = t \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1/2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Differential equation with first order and higher degrees than one

Remember that:  $\frac{dy}{dx} - \frac{x}{y} = \frac{x^4}{3y^2}$  is first order first degree

but  $(\frac{dy}{dx})^2 - \frac{x}{y} = \frac{x^4}{3y^2}$  is first order, second degree

Example solve the following D.E

$$xy \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2 + (x+y) \frac{dy}{dx} + 1 = 0$$

Solution: Let  $p = \frac{dy}{dx}$

then  $xy p^2 + (x+y)p + 1 = 0$

لاحظ ان الطرف الايسر قابل للتجزئة

$$(xp+1)(yp+1) = 0$$

وبذلك نحصل على المعادلتين

$$yp+1 = 0 \quad \text{--- ①}$$

$$xp+1 = 0 \quad \text{--- ②}$$

من المعادله رقم 1) كحل عام

$$y' + 1 = 0$$

$$y \frac{dy}{dx} + 1 = 0$$

$$y \frac{dy}{dx} = -1$$

$$y dy = -dx$$

seperable equation

$$\frac{y^2}{2} = -x + c_1$$

$$y^2 = -2(x - c_1) \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

من المعادله رقم 2) كحل عام

$$x' + 1 = 0$$

$$x \frac{dy}{dx} = -1$$

$$x dy = -dx$$

$$dy = \frac{-dx}{x}$$

seperable eq.

$$y = -\ln x + \ln c_2$$

$$y = -\ln(c_2 x) \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

وبذلك يكون الحل العام للمعادله هو كل من العلاقتين (3) و (4) واذا اردنا معرفة الحد التام للمعادله ، عند توفر الشرط الاول ، فيمكننا استخراج من العلاقتين اعلاه ارم من كليهما

(2)

Example 2 Solve the following D.E

$$y^2 \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right)^2 - a^2 + y^2 = 0$$

$a$  is  
constant

Solution :

$$\text{let } p = \frac{dy}{dx}$$

$$y^2 p^2 - a^2 + y^2 = 0$$

$$y^2 p^2 = a^2 - y^2$$

بجذر الطرفين

$$yp = \pm \sqrt{a^2 - y^2}$$

$$yp = + \sqrt{a^2 - y^2}$$

①

$$yp = - \sqrt{a^2 - y^2}$$

②

من المعادله ① نصل على

$$yp = + \sqrt{a^2 - y^2}$$

$$y \frac{dy}{dx} = \sqrt{a^2 - y^2}$$

$$\frac{y dy}{\sqrt{a^2 - y^2}} = dx$$

③

$$y (a^2 - y^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} dy = dx$$

$$-\frac{2}{2} y (a^2 - y^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} dy = dx$$

بالتكامل

$$\frac{-\frac{1}{2} (a^2 - y^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}}{\frac{1}{2}} + C_1 = x$$

$$x = C_1 - \sqrt{a^2 - y^2} \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

ومن المعادله رقم (2) نحصل على

$$x = C_2 + \sqrt{a^2 - y^2} \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

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H-w 1

Solve the following

$$x^2 \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right)^2 - y^2 = 0$$

## Second Order Differential equations

The second order linear nonhomogenous D.E. is written in the general form

$$a \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + b \frac{dy}{dx} + cy = f(x)$$

or

$$a \ddot{y} + b \dot{y} + cy = f(x)$$

where  $a, b, c$  are constant.

$f(x)$  is function of  $x$

If  $f(x) = 0$  then the D.E. is called homogenous.

The complete solution  $y_g = y_c + y_p$

where:  $y_c$  is complementary solution.

$y_p$  is particular solution.

1- Homogenous 2nd order D.E.

$$a \ddot{y} + b \dot{y} + cy = 0$$

$$\text{let } y = e^{mx} \rightarrow \dot{y} = m e^{mx} \rightarrow \ddot{y} = m^2 e^{mx}$$

$$\therefore a(m^2 e^{mx}) + b(m e^{mx}) + c(e^{mx}) = 0$$

$$e^{mx} (am^2 + bm + c) = 0$$

$e^{mx} \neq 0$ , then

$$am^2 + bm + c = 0 \quad (\text{characteristic eq})$$

$$m_{1,2} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

1- If  $m_1 \neq m_2 \Rightarrow y_c = C_1 e^{m_1 x} + C_2 e^{m_2 x}$

2- If  $m_1 = m_2 = m \Rightarrow y_c = C_1 e^{mx} + C_2 x e^{mx}$

3- If  $m_1, m_2 = \text{Imaginary roots } m_{1,2} = \alpha \pm \beta i$   
 $\Rightarrow y_c = e^{\alpha x} [C_1 \cos \beta x + C_2 \sin \beta x]$

Example

Solve  $y'' + 3y' - 4y = 0$

$$m^2 + 3m - 4 = 0$$

$$m_{1,2} = \frac{-3 \pm \sqrt{3^2 + 4 \times 4}}{2} \Rightarrow m_1 = 1$$
$$m_2 = -4$$

$$m_1 \neq m_2$$

$$y_c = C_1 e^{1x} + C_2 e^{-4x}$$

## Second Order Differential equations

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Solve  $y'' + 3y' - 4y = 0$

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$$m_2 = -4$$

$$m_1 \neq m_2$$

$$y_c = C_1 e^{1x} + C_2 e^{-4x}$$

## The Method of Variation of Parameters

There are two main methods to solve equations like

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + P(x)\frac{dy}{dx} + Q(x)y = f(x)$$

where  $P(x)$ ,  $Q(x)$  and  $f(x)$  are functions of  $x$

1- **undetermined Coefficient**: which only works when  $f(x)$  is a polynomial, exponential, sine, cosine or linear combination of those.

2- **Variation of Parameters**: which works on a wide range of functions. In this method the equation

is

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + p\frac{dy}{dx} + qy = f(x)$$

where  $p$  and  $q$  are constants

$f(x)$  is a non-zero function of  $x$ .

The complete solution to such an equation can be found by combining two types of solutions.

a- **Complementary solution** of the homogeneous equation  $\ddot{y} + p\dot{y} + qy = 0$

b- **particular solution** of non-homogeneous equation  $\ddot{y} + p\dot{y} + qy = f(x)$

note:  $f(x)$  could be a single function or sum of two or more functions

Example: Solve the following D.E

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + y = \csc(x)$$

Solution

$$\bar{y} + y = 0$$

$$m^2 + 1 = 0$$

$$m = \pm i$$

$$y_c = C_1 \underbrace{\sin x}_{y_1} + C_2 \underbrace{\cos x}_{y_2}$$

$$W(y_1, y_2) = \begin{vmatrix} \sin x & \cos x \\ \cos x & -\sin x \end{vmatrix} = -\sin^2 x - \cos^2 x = -1$$

$$u_1 = \int \frac{\cos x \cdot \csc x}{-1} dx = - \int \frac{\cos x}{\sin x} dx = -\ln(\sin x)$$

$$u_2 = \int \frac{\sin x \cdot \csc x}{-1} dx = - \int \frac{\sin x}{\sin x} dx = -x$$

$$y_p = (\ln(\sin x) \cdot \sin x) - (x \cdot \cos x)$$

$$y_t = C_1 \sin(x) + C_2 \cos x + (\ln(\sin x) \cdot \sin x) - x \cos x$$

## Cauchy-Euler differential Equations

For second-order Cauchy-Euler D.E. has the form:

$$a_2 x^2 \ddot{y} + a_1 x \dot{y} + a_0 y = f(x)$$

where:

$a_2, a_1, a_0$  are constant (numbers)

$x^2, x$ , are non-constant (variable),  $x > 0$

$f(x)$  is function of  $x$

If  $f(x) = 0$  the equation is homogeneous

or  $f(x) \neq 0$  is non homogeneous

Note: the exponent of  $x$  equal to the number of the derivative.

Solution of homogeneous, second order Cauchy-Euler

$$a_2 x^2 \bar{y}'' + a_1 x \bar{y}' + a_0 y = 0 \quad x > 0$$

Let  $y = x^m$

$$\bar{y}' = m x^{m-1}$$

$$\bar{y}'' = m(m-1) x^{m-2}$$

Sub. in equation above

$$a_2 x^2 (m(m-1) x^{m-2}) + a_1 x (m x^{m-1}) + a_0 x^m = 0$$

$$a_2 (m(m-1) x^m) + a_1 m x^m + a_0 x^m = 0$$

$$x^m [a_2 m(m-1) + a_1 m + a_0] = 0 \quad x > 0$$

$$a_2 m(m-1) + a_1 m + a_0 = 0$$

$$a_2 m^2 - a_2 m + a_1 m + a_0 = 0$$

$$a_2 m^2 + \underbrace{(a_1 - a_2)}_{\text{Constant}} m + a_0 = 0$$

that is quadratic equation called

characteristic equation of homogeneous S. eq.

According to the solution  $m_1$  and  $m_2$

can take three case

## Higher Order Linear D.E.

The general form of non-homogenous linear equation with constant coefficient is

$$a_n y^n + a_{n-1} y^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 \dot{y} + a_0 y = f(x)$$

$$n: 3, 4, \dots, n$$

$a_n, a_{n-1}, a_1$  and  $a_0$  are constant (numbers)

$f(x)$  is function of  $x$ , the solution of this equation solved depended on  $f(x)$  to

- 1- undetermined coefficient method
- 2- Variation of parameters

for non-homogenous linear equation with variable coefficient the general form is

$$a_n x^n y^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} y^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 x \dot{y} + a_0 y = f(x)$$

this equation solved with Cauchy-Euler method

to find  $x_1$  as follows

$$x_1 = -\frac{x_2}{4}$$

substitute  $x_2$  by  $t$  to obtain

$$x_1 = -\frac{1}{4}t$$

Hence the eigenvector  $X$  corresponding the eigenvalue  $\lambda = -6$  may be written as

$$X = t \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{4} \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, t \in \mathbb{R}$$

### Example 2

Find all eigenvalues and eigenvectors of matrix

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

**Solution**

Find Eigenvalues

We first find the matrix  $A - \lambda I$ .

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

Write the characteristic equation.

$$\text{Det}(A - \lambda I) = (1 - \lambda)(-\lambda(1 - \lambda)) - 1(2 - 2\lambda) = 0$$

factor and rewrite the equation as

$$(1 - \lambda)(\lambda - 2)(\lambda + 1) = 0$$

which gives 3 solutions

$$\lambda = -1, \lambda = 1, \lambda = 2$$



### Find Eigenvectors

#### Eigenvectors for $\lambda = -1$

Substitute  $\lambda$  by  $-1$  in the matrix equation  $(A - \lambda I)X = 0$  with  $X = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ -2 & 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

Row reduce to echelon form gives

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

The solutions to the above system and are given by

$$x_3 = t, x_2 = -t/2, x_1 = t/2, t \in \mathbb{R}$$

Hence the eigenvector corresponding to the eigenvalue  $\lambda = -2$  is given by

$$X = t \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 \\ -1/2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

### Eigenvectors for $\lambda = 1$

Substitute  $\lambda$  by 1 in the matrix equation  $(A - \lambda I)X = 0$ .

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 \\ -2 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

Row reduce to echelon form gives

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

The solutions to the above system and are given by

$$x_3 = 0, x_2 = t, x_1 = t, t \in \mathbb{R}$$

Hence the eigenvector corresponding to the eigenvalue  $\lambda = 1$  is given by

$$X = t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

### Eigenvectors for $\lambda = 2$

Substitute  $\lambda$  by 1 in the matrix equation  $(A - \lambda I)X = 0$ .

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 \\ -2 & 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

Row reduce to echelon form gives

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & -2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

The solutions to the above system and are given by

$$x_3 = t, x_2 = -t/2, x_1 = -t, t \in \mathbb{R}$$

Hence the eigenvector corresponding to the eigenvalue  $\lambda = 2$  is given by

$$X = t \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1/2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$