

# EXERCISES ON DETERMINANTS, EIGENVALUES AND EIGENVECTORS

## 1. DETERMINANTS

**Ex. 1.1.** Let  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -4 & -4 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ . (a) Compute  $A^{-1}$ .

(b) Compute  $\det(2A^2B)$ ,  $\det(4A + B)$ ,  $\det(2(A^3B^{-2}))$ .

**Ex. 1.2.** For  $t$  varying in  $\mathbb{R}$  let us consider the matrix  $M_t = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & t \\ t & t+2 & 1 & t+2 \\ t+1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 & t \end{pmatrix}$ .

(a) Compute  $\det M_t$  as a function of  $t$  and find the values of  $t$  such that  $\text{rk}(M_t) = 4$ .

(b) For  $t$  varying in  $\mathbb{R}$ , let  $L_t$  and  $R_t$  be the lines of cartesian equations

$$L_t : \begin{cases} x_1 - x_3 = t \\ tx_1 + (t+2)x_2 + x_3 = t+2 \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad R_t : \begin{cases} (t+1)x_1 + x_3 = 0 \\ x_1 + 2x_3 = t \end{cases}.$$

Find the values of  $t$  such that the lines  $L_t$  and  $R_t$  meet at a point (hint: use (a)).

**Ex. 1.3.** For  $t$  varying in  $\mathbb{R}$  let  $A_t = \begin{pmatrix} t & t & t & -t \\ 1 & 0 & t^2 - t & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ t^3 & t & t & -t \end{pmatrix}$ .

(a) Compute  $\det(A_t)$  and find the values of  $t$  such that  $\text{rk}(A_t) = 4$ .

(b) Find the values of  $t$  such that the system of linear equations having  $A_t$  as augmented matrix has solutions (hint: use (a)) For such values of  $t$  solve the system.

**Ex. 1.4.** Let  $A \in \mathcal{M}_{4,4}$  be a matrix whose rows are  $\begin{pmatrix} A_1 \\ A_2 \\ A_3 \\ A_4 \end{pmatrix}$  and suppose that  $\det A = -3$ . Let  $C \in \mathcal{M}_{4,4}$  be the matrix whose rows are  $\begin{pmatrix} 2A_1 \\ 3A_1 + 4A_2 \\ -2A_1 + 2A_2 + A_4 \\ A_1 + A_2 + 3A_3 \end{pmatrix}$ . Compute  $\det(C)$  and  $\det(\frac{1}{2}C)$ .

## 2. EIGENVALUES AND EIGENVECTORS

**Ex. 2.1.** Let  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 5 & -2 & 5 \\ 4 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$ .

- (a) Find the eigenvalues of  $A$ .  
 (b) Let  $T_A : V_4 \rightarrow V_4$  be the linear transformation defined by  $T_A(X) = AX$ . Is there a basis of  $V_4$  composed by eigenvectors of  $T_A$ ? If the answer is yes, produce explicitly such a basis.  
 (c) Is there a matrix  $C$  such that  $C^{-1}AC$  is a diagonal matrix? If the answer is yes produce explicitly such a matrix.

**Ex. 2.2.** Let  $\mathcal{B} = \{(0, 1, -1), (0, 1, 1), (2, 3, 0)\}$ .

- (a) Prove that  $\mathcal{B}$  is a basis of  $V_3$ .

Now Let  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  and let  $T : V_3 \rightarrow V_3$  be the linear transformation

such that  $m_{\mathcal{B}}^{\mathcal{B}}(T) = A$ .

- (b) Find the eigenvalues of  $T$ .  
 (c) Find a basis of each eigenspace of  $T$ .  
 (d) Is there a basis of  $V_3$  composed of eigenvectors of  $T$ ? If the answer is yes, produce explicitly such a basis.  
 (e) Is there a matrix  $C$  such that  $C^{-1}AC$  is a diagonal matrix? If the answer is yes, produce explicitly such a matrix.

**Ex. 2.3.** Let  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 \\ -1 & -2 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ .

- (a) Find the eigenvalues of  $A$ . (b) Find a basis of each eigenspace of the transformation  $T_A : V_3 \rightarrow V_3$ , where, as usual,  $T_A(X) = AX$ . (c) Let

$v = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ . Compute  $A^{151}v$ .

**Ex. 2.4.** Let  $T : V_3 \rightarrow V_3$  the linear transformation such that:  $T((1, 1, 0)) = (2, 2, 0)$ ,  $T((0, -1, 1)) = (0, -3, 3)$  e  $T((1, 0, -1)) = (0, 1, -1)$ .

- (a) Compute  $\text{rk}(T)$  and a basis of  $\text{Im}(V_3)$ .  
 (b) A basis of  $N(T)$ . (c) Eigenvalues and eigenvectors of  $T$ . (d)  $T((1, 0, 0))$ .

**Ex. 2.5.** Let  $T : V_4 \rightarrow V_4$  be a linear transformation such that:

- (a)  $T((1, 0, -1, 2)) = (2, 0, -2, 4)$ ,  $T((0, 1, 1, 1)) = (0, -5, -5, -5)$ ,  
 $T((1, 2, -1, 0)) = (2, 4, -2, 0)$ ; (b)  $(2, 2, -2, 2)$  and  $(1, 0, 0, 0)$  are eigenvectors of  $T$ ; (c)  $\det T = 100$ .

- (i) Find the eigenvalues of  $T$  and a basis of each eigenspace of  $T$ .  
 (ii) Is there a basis of  $V_4$  composed of eigenvectors of  $T$ ? If the answer is yes, produce explicitly such a basis. (iv) Compute  $\text{Tr}(T)$ .

**Ex. 2.6.** (a) For  $t$  varying in  $\mathbb{R}$ , let  $A_t = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & t+2 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$ . Let  $T_{A_t} : V_3 \rightarrow V_3$  be the linear transformation defined, as usual,  $T_{A_t}(X) = A_t X$ . Find the values of  $t$  such that  $T_{A_t}$  is diagonalizable (that is, there is a basis of  $V_3(\mathbb{R})$  composed by eigenvectors of  $T_{A_t}$ ).

(b) Same question for  $B_t = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & t+2 \\ 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$ .

**Ex. 2.7.** Let  $V = L((1, 0, 1, 1), (0, 0, 1, -1))$ . Let  $R_V : V^4 \rightarrow V^4$  be the reflection with respect to  $V$  and let  $P_{V^\perp} : V^4 \rightarrow V^4$  be the projection of  $V^4$  on  $V^\perp$ . (a) Find the range and the eigenvalues of the linear transformation  $P_{V^\perp} \circ R_V$ . (b) Find a base of each eigenspace of  $P_{V^\perp} \circ R_V$ . Is  $P_{V^\perp} \circ R_V$  diagonalizable? (c) Is  $P_{V^\perp} \circ R_V$  a symmetric linear transformation?

**Ex. 2.8.** For all the matrices  $A$  of the previous exercises, take the diagonalizable ones and compute their 132th power and their  $(-132)$ th power.

**Ex. 2.9.** Let  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 3 & -2 & 1 & 1 \\ -3 & -1 & -4 & -1 \\ -6 & -2 & -2 & -5 \end{pmatrix}$  and let  $v = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 5 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ . (a) Verify

that  $-3$  is an eigenvalue of  $A$ .

(b) Find all eigenvalues of  $A$  (hint: use the previous point). Is  $A$  diagonalizable?

(c) Let  $C \in \mathcal{M}_4$  be an invertible matrix. Find the eigenvalues of the matrix  $C^{34} A ((C^{34})^{-1})$ .

**Ex. 2.10.** Let  $T : V_3 \rightarrow V_3$  be a linear transformation with a double eigenvalue and a simple eigenvalue. Show that there is a basis  $\mathcal{B}$  of  $V_3$  such that the representative matrix  $m_{\mathcal{B}}^{\mathcal{B}}$  is upper triangular.

**Ex. 2.11.** Let  $v = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $w = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ . Find (if any) all matrices  $A \in \mathcal{M}_{3,3}(\mathbb{R})$  such that:  $\text{Tr}(M) = 3$ ,  $Mv = 2v$ ,  $Mw = -w$  and  $A$  has an eigenvector orthogonal both to  $v$  and  $w$ .

**Ex. 2.12.** Let  $T : V^3 \rightarrow V^3$  be the linear transformation such that:  $T((1, 1, 0)) = (2, 2, 0)$ ,  $T((0, -1, 1)) = (0, -3, 3)$  e  $T((1, 0, -1)) = (0, 1, -1)$ .

(a) Compute  $\text{rk}(T)$  and find a basis of  $T(V_3)$ . (b) Find a basis of  $N(T)$ . (c) Find the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of  $T$ . (d) Compute  $T((1, 0, 0))$ .