

# Extra Credit Lecture

## Chapter 5 Eigenvalues, Eigenvectors & Invariant Subspaces

### 5.1 Invariant Subspaces

#### 5.2 Definition

Suppose  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ . A subspace  $U$  of  $V$  is called invariant under  $T$  if  $u \in U$  implies  $Tu \in U$ .

#### 5.3 Example

•  $\{0\}$ : If  $u \in \{0\}$ , then  $u = 0$ . So we have  $Tu = T(0)$   
 $= 0$   
 $\in \{0\}$

So  $\{0\}$  is invariant under  $T$ .

•  $V$ : If  $u \in V$ , then  $Tu \in V$ , so  $V$  is invariant under  $T$ .

•  $\text{null } T$ : If  $u \in \text{null } T$ , then  $Tu = 0$ , so we have  $T(Tu) = T(0)$   
 $= 0$

So  $Tu \in \text{null } T$ , and so  $\text{null } T$  is invariant under  $T$ .

•  $\text{range } T$ : If  $u \in \text{range } T$ , then  $u = Tv$  for some  $v \in V$ .

So we have  $Tu = T(Tv)$ . Since  $Tv \in V$ , we get  $Tu \in \text{range } T$ . So

$\text{range } T$  is invariant under  $T$ .

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## Eigenvalues & Eigenvectors

#### 5.5 Definition

Suppose  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ . A scalar  $\lambda \in F$  is called an eigenvalue of  $T$  if

there exists  $v \in V$  such that  $v \neq 0$  and  $Tv = \lambda v$ .

Such a vector  $v \in V$  is called an eigenvector of  $T$  corresponding to the eigenvalue  $\lambda$ .

### 5.6 Equivalent conditions to be an eigenvalue

Suppose  $V$  is finite dimensional,  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ , and  $\lambda \in F$ . Then the following are equivalent:

- a)  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$
- b)  $T - \lambda I$  is not injective
- c)  $T - \lambda I$  is not surjective
- d)  $T - \lambda I$  is not invertible

**Proof:**

(a) is equivalent to (b) ((a) implies (b), & (b) implies (a))

The equation  $Tv = \lambda v$  is equivalent to the equation  $(T - \lambda I)v = 0$

$Tv = \lambda v$  iff  $Tv - \lambda v = 0$  iff  $Tv - \lambda Iv = 0$  iff  $(T - \lambda I)(v) = 0$ ,  $v \neq 0$  so,  $(T - \lambda I)$  not injective.

(b) (c) (d) are equivalent to each other

By 3.64 of Axler, the following are equivalent:

- 1)  $T - \lambda I$  is not invertible
- 2)  $T - \lambda I$  is not injective
- 3)  $T - \lambda I$  is not surjective

### 5.7 Definition

Suppose  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  &  $\lambda \in F$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$ . A vector  $v \in V$  is called an eigenvector of  $T$  corresponding to  $\lambda$  if  $v \neq 0$  &  $Tv = \lambda v$

### 5.8 Example

Define  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{C}^2)$  by  $T(w, z) = (-z, w)$

Find the eigenvalues & eigenvectors of  $T$

Solution:

Let  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  satisfy  $T(w, z) = \lambda(w, z)$

Since  $T(w, z) = (-z, w)$ , we obtain  $(-z, w) = \lambda(w, z)$   
 $= (\lambda w, \lambda z)$

From  $(-z, w) = (\lambda w, \lambda z)$  we get a system of equations,  
 $-z = \lambda w$  and  $w = \lambda z$

Substitute  $w = \lambda z$  into  $-z = \lambda w$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} -z &= \lambda w \\ &= \lambda(\lambda z) \\ &= \lambda^2 z \end{aligned}$$

If  $z = 0$ , then  $w = 0$ , &  $(w, z) = (0, 0)$ . If  $(w, z)$  is an eigenvector of  $T$ , then  $z \neq 0$  so  $-z = \lambda^2 z$  implies  $-1 = \lambda^2$  or  $\lambda = i, \lambda = -i$

So  $i, -i$  are our eigenvalues of  $T$

$$\lambda = i$$

$$\lambda = -i$$

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

$$T(w, z) = -i(w, z)$$

$$(-z, w) = (i w, i z)$$

$$(-z, w) = (-i w, -i z)$$

$$\text{So } -z = i w$$

$$\text{So } -z = -i w$$

$$w = i z$$

$$w = -i z$$

Therefore,

Therefore,

$$(w, z) = (w, -i w)$$

$$(w, z) = (w, i w)$$

is an eigenvector of  $T$  for ~~all~~

is an eigenvector of  $T$  corresponding

all  $w \in \mathbb{C}$ , corresponding to  $\lambda = i$

to  $\lambda = -i$  for all  $w \in \mathbb{C}$

Alternate method: Find  $M(T) = M(T, \text{standard basis of } \mathbb{C}^2, \text{standard basis of } \mathbb{C}^2)$

Find  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{C}$  that satisfy  $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} w \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -z \\ w \end{pmatrix}$

$$\begin{pmatrix} aw + bz \\ cw + dz \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -z \\ w \end{pmatrix}$$

$$a=0, b=-1, c=1, d=0$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0w + (-1)z \\ 1w + 0z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -z \\ w \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{So } M(T) = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow M(T) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$M(T - \lambda I) = M(T) - \lambda M(I)$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} - \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -\lambda & -1 \\ 1 & -\lambda \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\det(M(T - \lambda I)) = 0$$

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} -\lambda & -1 \\ 1 & -\lambda \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$\lambda^2 + 1 = 0$$

$$\lambda = i \quad \lambda = -i$$

$$M(T - iI)(w, z) = (0, 0)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -i & -1 \\ 1 & -i \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} w \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$-iw - z = 0$$

$$w + iz = 0$$

$$-z = iw \quad w = -iz$$

$$(w, z) = (w, iw)$$

$$M(T - (-i)I)(w, z) = (0, 0)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} i & -1 \\ 1 & i \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} w \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$iw - z = 0$$

$$w + iz = 0$$

$$z = iw \quad w = -iz$$

$$(w, z) = (w, iw)$$

5.10 Linearly independent eigenvectors

Let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ . Suppose  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m$  are distinct eigenvalues of  $T$  &  $v_1, \dots, v_m$  are the corresponding eigenvectors. Then  $v_1, \dots, v_m$  is linearly independent.

Proof:

Suppose by contradiction that  $v_1, \dots, v_m$  is linearly dependant.  
By the Linear Dependence Lemma (2.2) of Axler, there exists the smallest positive integer  $k \in \{1, \dots, m\}$  such that  $v_k \in \text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_{k-1})$ .

So there exist  $a_1, \dots, a_{k-1} \in \mathbb{F}$  such that  $v_k = a_1 v_1 + \dots + a_{k-1} v_{k-1}$ .

So we have  $Tv_k = T(a_1 v_1 + \dots + a_{k-1} v_{k-1})$

$$= a_1 T v_1 + \dots + a_{k-1} T v_{k-1}$$

$$(\star) = a_1 (\lambda_1 v_1) + \dots + a_{k-1} (\lambda_{k-1} v_{k-1})$$

Multiply by  $\lambda_k$  both sides of  $v_k = a_1 v_1 + \dots + a_{k-1} v_{k-1}$  to write  $v_k$

$$Tv_k = \lambda_k v_k = a_1 \lambda_k v_1 + \dots + a_{k-1} \lambda_k v_{k-1} = \star$$

because  $v_k$  is an eigenvector of  $T$

$$\text{So we get } 0 = \overset{\circledast}{Tv_k} - \star$$

$$= (a_1 \lambda_1 v_1 + \dots + a_{k-1} \lambda_{k-1} v_{k-1}) - (a_1 \lambda_k v_1 + \dots + a_{k-1} \lambda_k v_{k-1})$$

$$= a_1 (\lambda_1 - \lambda_k) v_1 + \dots + a_{k-1} (\lambda_{k-1} - \lambda_k) v_{k-1}$$

Since  $k$  is the smallest positive integer for which  $v_k \in \text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_{k-1})$  it follows that  $v_1, \dots, v_{k-1}$  is linearly independent. So we get

$$a_1 (\lambda_1 - \lambda_k) = 0, \dots, a_{k-1} (\lambda_{k-1} - \lambda_k) = 0$$

But  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m$  are distinct, so  $a_1 = 0, \dots, a_{k-1} = 0$

So each  $v_k$  is zero, which contradicts our hypothesis that  $v_k$  is an eigenvector. So  $v_1, \dots, v_m$  is linearly independent.  $\square$