

Matrices – Eigenvectors: Exercises (with Sol'ns)

(38 pages; 4/6/26)

(1) Find $\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}^3$, using eigenvectors.

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Solution

To find the eigenvalues of $M = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$:

[We want a non-zero solution of $\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \lambda \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$;

ie of $(M - \lambda I) \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = 0$; for there to be more than one solution
(ie a non-zero solution, as well as the zero solution), $|M - \lambda I| = 0$;
ie $\begin{vmatrix} 2 - \lambda & 1 \\ 2 & 3 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0$]

The characteristic equation is $\begin{vmatrix} 2 - \lambda & 1 \\ 2 & 3 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0$,

so that $(2 - \lambda)(3 - \lambda) - 2 = 0$ and $\lambda^2 - 5\lambda + 4 = 0$

$\Rightarrow (\lambda - 1)(\lambda - 4) = 0$

Thus the eigenvalues are $\lambda = 1$ and 4

The eigenvectors satisfy $\begin{pmatrix} 2 - \lambda & 1 \\ 2 & 3 - \lambda \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$

For $\lambda = 1$: $x + y = 0$; $2x + 2y = 0$

[as a check, these equations should be equivalent, and so producing more than one solution]

Thus an eigenvector for $\lambda = 1$ is $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$.

For $\lambda = 4$: $-2x + y = 0$; $2x - y = 0$

Thus an eigenvector for $\lambda = 4$ is $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$.

[Note: any multiples of these eigenvectors are also solutions, and so there is an infinite number of solutions]

Let $S = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$ and $D = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$

Then $MS = SD$

[considering the columns of S separately, and noting that

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ and so } \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = 4 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}; \text{ thus}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = 4 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ and similarly for the 1st column}]$$

and hence $M = SDS^{-1}$

so that $M^3 = (SDS^{-1})(SDS^{-1})(SDS^{-1}) = SD^3S^{-1}$

$$= \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 64 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 64 \\ -1 & 128 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 66 & 63 \\ 126 & 129 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 22 & 21 \\ 42 & 43 \end{pmatrix}$$

[we would obviously expect to have only integers in the answer, being a power of M]

Check: $\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}^3 = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 6 & 5 \\ 10 & 11 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} =$
 $\begin{pmatrix} 22 & 21 \\ 42 & 43 \end{pmatrix}$

(2) If matrices M & N (both square, of the same order) share an eigenvector, what can be said about the eigenvectors and eigenvalues of MN and NM ?

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Solution

Let $M\underline{x} = \lambda\underline{x}$ and $N\underline{x} = \mu\underline{x}$

Then $(MN)\underline{x} = M(N\underline{x}) = M(\mu\underline{x}) = \mu(M\underline{x}) = \mu\lambda\underline{x}$

Thus MN , and similarly NM , also have this same eigenvector, and the associated eigenvalue is the product of the corresponding eigenvalues for M & N .

(3) Given that the eigenvalues of $\begin{pmatrix} 3 & -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$ are 4, 4 and 1,

establish the geometrical significance of the eigenvectors.

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Solution

First of all, the eigenvector associated with the eigenvalue of 1 will be a line of invariant points (through the Origin) [All eigenvectors are invariant lines through the Origin, and are lines of invariant points when the eigenvalue is 1.]

[When there are repeated eigenvalues, there will either be an invariant plane or an invariant line. When there aren't repeated eigenvalues, there can only be an invariant line. See "Matrices - notes".]

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3-4 & -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 3-4 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 3-4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

giving $-x - y + z = 0$ (3 times)

This is the equation of a plane; ie the invariant plane of the transformation (all points map to another point in the plane.)

(4)(i) Show that the eigenvalues of the matrix $\begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$ are 1 (repeated) and 2 (for example, by using row or column operations), and investigate the geometrical significance of the eigenvectors.

(ii) Construct another matrix with the same eigenvalues, and hence establish that the geometrical result in (i) does not hold in general.

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(ii) Construct another matrix with the same eigenvalues, and hence establish that the geometrical result in (i) does not hold in general.

Solution

The characteristic equation for the matrix is

$$\begin{vmatrix} 2 - \lambda & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & -\lambda & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 2 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0,$$

As the eigenvalues have been given, we could (if only for practice at manipulating determinants) look for row or column operations that produce the required factorisation.

For example, replacing column 2 with column 2 + column 3:

$$\begin{vmatrix} 2 - \lambda & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 - \lambda & 1 \\ 1 & 1 - \lambda & 2 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0,$$

$$\text{so that } (1 - \lambda) \begin{vmatrix} 2 - \lambda & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

[Note that, if two 0s can be created in a row or column, then a factor can be taken out; whilst the presence of one 0 means that any common factor of the other two elements in the row or column can be taken out. For example, if two rows (or columns) of the matrix share two corresponding elements, then it will be possible to create two 0s, by subtracting one row from the other.]

As the 2nd and 3rd rows share two corresponding elements, we can replace row 3 with row 3 – row 2, to give:

$$(1 - \lambda) \begin{vmatrix} 2 - \lambda & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0,$$

and so $(1 - \lambda)(1 - \lambda)(2 - \lambda)$, expanding by the 3rd row.

Thus the eigenvalues are 1 (repeated) and 2.

To find the eigenvectors:

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

so that we have the plane $x - y + z = 0$

Thus any point in this plane will be mapped to itself (as the eigenvalue is 1); ie it is a plane of invariant points.

The plane can also be presented in the form $\underline{r} = \alpha \underline{a} + \beta \underline{b}$, where $\underline{a}$ & $\underline{b}$ are any two independent vectors in the plane.

$$\text{For example, } \underline{r} = \alpha \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \beta \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Thus $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ & $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ are two eigenvectors of the transformation (though they are not unique).

$$\lambda = 2 \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

so that $-y + z = 0$, $x - 2y + z = 0$ & $x - y = 0$

Then let $x = \mu$ (for example), so that $y = \mu$ & $z = \mu$,

and we have the eigenvector $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$, which just represents the usual invariant line through the Origin.

(ii) We want the characteristic equation to be

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

$$\text{leading to } \lambda^3 - 4\lambda^2 + 5\lambda - 2 = 0 \quad (1)$$

We could then set up a suitably general characteristic equation

$$\text{such as } \begin{vmatrix} a - \lambda & 0 & c \\ 1 & -\lambda & 0 \\ 1 & b & -\lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0 \quad (2)$$

and equate coefficients with (1).

$$\text{Thus (2) becomes } (a - \lambda)\lambda^2 + c(b + \lambda) = 0 \quad (3)$$

[A bit of experimentation is necessary in arriving at the determinant in (2), in order that (3) is sufficiently general.]

Then, equating the coefficients in (1) & (3) gives:

$$a = 4, c = -5 \text{ \& } b = -\frac{2}{5}$$

$$\text{so that (2) becomes } \begin{vmatrix} 4 - \lambda & 0 & -5 \\ 1 & -\lambda & 0 \\ 1 & -\frac{2}{5} & -\lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

[It is probably worth checking that this produces the required eigenvalues of 1 and 2.]

The eigenvectors corresponding to $\lambda = 1$ are then found from:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 & -5 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & -\frac{2}{5} & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

so that $3x - 5z = 0$, $x - y = 0$ & $x - \frac{2y}{5} - z = 0$

Then let $x = \mu$, so that $y = \mu$ & $z = \frac{3\mu}{5}$

Thus an eigenvector is $\begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 5 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$, and we don't have the plane that was found in (i); only a line of invariant points (through the Origin).

[The (advanced) theory behind this is based on the following theorem: "The geometric multiplicity of an eigenvalue does not exceed its algebraic multiplicity." The algebraic multiplicity is the number of times that the eigenvalue appears as a root of the characteristic equation. The geometric multiplicity is the dimension of the line or plane relating to the eigenvalue: so an invariant line means a geometric multiplicity of 1, whilst an invariant plane means a geometric multiplicity of 2. So, by this theorem, there have to be repeated eigenvalues in order for there to be an invariant plane, but if there are repeated eigenvalues it doesn't follow that there will be an invariant plane.]

(5) For a 3×3 matrix M , show that

(i) the product of the eigenvalues of M equals $\det M$

(ii) the sum of the eigenvalues equals the sum of the elements on the leading diagonal of M (from top left to bottom right; this sum is called the trace of M , or $\text{tr}M$)

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Solution

(i) The eigenvalues of M are the roots of $f(\lambda) = \det(M - \lambda I) = 0$, considered as a cubic equation in λ .

$f(\lambda)$ can be written as $g(\lambda) = -(\lambda - \lambda_1)(\lambda - \lambda_2)(\lambda - \lambda_3)$

(as the determinant will contain the term $-\lambda^3$)

Then we note that $f(0) = \det M$ & $g(0) = \lambda_1 \lambda_2 \lambda_3$, so that the constant term of $f(\lambda) = g(\lambda)$ is $\det M = \lambda_1 \lambda_2 \lambda_3$.

(ii) $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3 = -\frac{b}{a}$, where a & b are the coefficients of λ^3 & λ^2

$$\text{in } \det(M - \lambda I) = \begin{vmatrix} c - \lambda & f & i \\ d & g - \lambda & j \\ e & h & k - \lambda \end{vmatrix}$$

The only terms involving λ^2 are contained in

$(c - \lambda)(g - \lambda)(k - \lambda)$, and $b = c + g + k$

Then, as $a = -1$, $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3 = c + g + k$; ie $\text{tr}M$.

(6)(i) If $\underline{s}_1, \underline{s}_2$ & $\underline{s}_3$ are eigenvectors corresponding to distinct eigenvalues λ_1, λ_2 & λ_3 of a 3×3 matrix M , prove that $\underline{s}_1, \underline{s}_2$ & $\underline{s}_3$ cannot be coplanar.

(ii) Deduce that a 3×3 matrix with distinct eigenvalues can always be diagonalised.

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(ii) Deduce that a 3×3 matrix with distinct eigenvalues can always be diagonalised.

Solution

(i) Suppose that $\underline{s}_1, \underline{s}_2$ & $\underline{s}_3$ are in fact coplanar, so that

$$\underline{s}_3 = a\underline{s}_1 + b\underline{s}_2, \text{ where } a \text{ \& } b \text{ are not both zero} \quad (1)$$

(by definition, eigenvectors are non-zero)

$$\text{Then } M\underline{s}_3 = aM\underline{s}_1 + bM\underline{s}_2 \text{ and hence } \lambda_3\underline{s}_3 = a\lambda_1\underline{s}_1 + b\lambda_2\underline{s}_2$$

$$\text{Also, from (1), } \lambda_3\underline{s}_3 = a\lambda_3\underline{s}_1 + b\lambda_3\underline{s}_2,$$

$$\text{so that } a\lambda_1\underline{s}_1 + b\lambda_2\underline{s}_2 = a\lambda_3\underline{s}_1 + b\lambda_3\underline{s}_2$$

$$\text{and hence } a(\lambda_1 - \lambda_3)\underline{s}_1 = b(\lambda_3 - \lambda_2)\underline{s}_2$$

But $\lambda_1 - \lambda_3$ & $\lambda_3 - \lambda_2$ are non-zero, and $\underline{s}_1$ & $\underline{s}_2$ are not parallel (as otherwise they would have the same eigenvalues), so that it must be the case that $a = b$, which contradicts (1).

Thus $\underline{s}_1, \underline{s}_2$ & $\underline{s}_3$ cannot be coplanar.

(ii) From (i), as $\underline{s}_1, \underline{s}_2$ & $\underline{s}_3$ are not coplanar, the volume of the parallelepiped with sides $\underline{s}_1, \underline{s}_2$ & $\underline{s}_3$ is non-zero; ie

$\underline{s}_1 \cdot (\underline{s}_2 \times \underline{s}_3) \neq 0$, so that $|\underline{s}_1, \underline{s}_2, \underline{s}_3| \neq 0$, which means that the matrix $(\underline{s}_1, \underline{s}_2, \underline{s}_3)$ has an inverse, and hence M can be diagonalised.

[Note that if there are repeated eigenvalues, then at least two of the columns of $(\underline{s}_1, \underline{s}_2, \underline{s}_3)$ will be identical, making

$$|\underline{s}_1, \underline{s}_2, \underline{s}_3| = 0.]$$

(7) Matrices A & B are said to be 'similar' if $B = PAP^{-1}$ for some matrix P (A need not be diagonal).

Prove that similar matrices have the same characteristic equation, and hence the same eigenvalues.

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Solution

Let the characteristic equation of A be $\sum a_r \lambda^r = 0$, so that $\sum a_r A^r = 0$. Then $P(\sum a_r A^r) = 0$, so that $\sum Pa_r A^r = 0$.

Then $(\sum Pa_r A^r)P^{-1} = 0$, and hence $\sum Pa_r A^r P^{-1} = 0$, so that $\sum a_r PA^r P^{-1} = 0$.

As $B^r = (PAP^{-1})(PAP^{-1}) \dots = PA^r P^{-1}$, it follows that $\sum a_r B^r = 0$, and thus B has the same characteristic equation as A .

(8) Symmetric matrices are always diagonalisable. Prove that this is the case for 2×2 symmetric matrices.

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Solution

Consider $M = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ b & c \end{pmatrix}$, with characteristic equation

$$\begin{vmatrix} a - \lambda & b \\ b & c - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (a - \lambda)(c - \lambda) - b^2 = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \lambda^2 - (a + c)\lambda + ac - b^2 = 0$$

The discriminant is $(a + c)^2 - 4(ac - b^2) = (a - c)^2 + 4b^2$,

which is always positive, assuming that a, b & c are not all zero.

So there will be 2 distinct eigenvalues, and hence 2 linearly independent eigenvectors. Thus M is diagonalisable.

(9) Prove that if M is orthogonally diagonalisable, then M is symmetric.

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Solution

If M is orthogonally diagonalisable, then $M = PDP^{-1}$, where $P^{-1} = P^T$.

$$\text{Then } M^T = (PDP^{-1})^T = (P^{-1})^T D^T P^T = PDP^{-1} = M,$$

so that M is symmetric.

(10) Show that 2×2 matrices representing rotations are not diagonalisable.

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Solution

A matrix representing a rotation can be expressed in the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} \cos\theta & -\sin\theta \\ \sin\theta & \cos\theta \end{pmatrix}$$

The characteristic equation for this matrix is

$$\begin{vmatrix} \cos\theta - \lambda & -\sin\theta \\ \sin\theta & \cos\theta - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (\cos\theta - \lambda)^2 + \sin^2\theta = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \lambda^2 - 2\cos\theta.\lambda + 1 = 0$$

The discriminant is $4\cos^2\theta - 4$, which is negative for positive θ .

Thus there are no eigenvalues, and hence the matrix cannot be diagonalised.

(11) For the matrix $M = \begin{pmatrix} a & c \\ b & d \end{pmatrix}$ with eigenvalues λ_1 & λ_2 , prove that $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 = a + d$, and also that $\lambda_1 \lambda_2 = |M|$

[this can be extended to 3×3 matrices]

(11) For the matrix $M = \begin{pmatrix} a & c \\ b & d \end{pmatrix}$ with eigenvalues λ_1 & λ_2 , prove that $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 = a + d$, and also that $\lambda_1\lambda_2 = |M|$

Solution

The characteristic equation is $\begin{vmatrix} a - \lambda & c \\ b & d - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0$, so that

$$(a - \lambda)(d - \lambda) - bc = 0 \text{ and } \lambda^2 - (a + d)\lambda + ad - bc = 0$$

and the roots λ_1 & λ_2 satisfy $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 = a + d$ and $\lambda_1\lambda_2 = ad - bc$, as required.

(12) The populations of sparrows (x) and sparrowhawks (y) in a particular area satisfy the following differential equations:

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = 0.1x - 2y \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{dy}{dt} = 0.1x + y$$

(where time is measured in years),

and initially there are 50 sparrows and 4 sparrowhawks.

The equations can be written as $\begin{pmatrix} \frac{dx}{dt} \\ \frac{dy}{dt} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.1 & -2 \\ 0.1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \quad (*)$

(i) Express $\begin{pmatrix} 0.1 & -2 \\ 0.1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ in the form PDP^{-1} , where D is a diagonal matrix.

(ii) Show that (*) can be rewritten as $\begin{pmatrix} \frac{du}{dt} \\ \frac{dv}{dt} \end{pmatrix} = D \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix}$

(iii) Show that $u = Ae^{0.6t}$ and $v = Be^{0.5t}$, where A and B are arbitrary constants, and hence solve the original differential equations.

(iv) What happens to the two populations?

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Solution

(i) The columns of P will be the eigenvectors of the matrix, and the non-zero elements of D will be the eigenvalues.

The eigenvalues satisfy
$$\begin{pmatrix} 0.1 & -2 \\ 0.1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \lambda \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$$

and the characteristic equation is $(0.1 - \lambda)(1 - \lambda) - 0.1(-2) = 0$,

so that $\lambda^2 - 1.1\lambda + 0.3 = 0$

$$\Rightarrow (\lambda - 0.6)(\lambda - 0.5) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda = 0.6 \text{ or } 0.5$$

When $\lambda = 0.6$,

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0.1 & -2 \\ 0.1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = 0.6 \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow 0.1x - 2y = 0.6x \Rightarrow y = -0.25x$$

When $\lambda = 0.5$,

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0.1 & -2 \\ 0.1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = 0.5 \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow 0.1x - 2y = 0.5x \Rightarrow y = -0.2x$$

$$\text{So } P = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 5 \\ -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } D = \begin{pmatrix} 0.6 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Then } P^{-1} = \frac{1}{1} \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -5 \\ 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{and } \begin{pmatrix} 0.1 & -2 \\ 0.1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 5 \\ -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0.6 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -5 \\ 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$(ii) \begin{pmatrix} \frac{dx}{dt} \\ \frac{dy}{dt} \end{pmatrix} = P D P^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow P^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{dx}{dt} \\ \frac{dy}{dt} \end{pmatrix} = D P^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \quad (**)$$

$$\text{Let } \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix} = P^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -5 \\ 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -x - 5y \\ x + 4y \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Then } \begin{pmatrix} \frac{du}{dt} \\ \frac{dv}{dt} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{dx}{dt} - 5\frac{dy}{dt} \\ \frac{dx}{dt} + 4\frac{dy}{dt} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -5 \\ 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{dx}{dt} \\ \frac{dy}{dt} \end{pmatrix} = P^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{dx}{dt} \\ \frac{dy}{dt} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{so that } \begin{pmatrix} \frac{du}{dt} \\ \frac{dv}{dt} \end{pmatrix} = D \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix}, \text{ from } (**)$$

$$(iii) \begin{pmatrix} \frac{du}{dt} \\ \frac{dv}{dt} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.6 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \frac{du}{dt} = 0.6u \quad \& \quad \frac{dv}{dt} = 0.5v$$

$$\Rightarrow \int \frac{1}{u} du = 0.6 \int dt \Rightarrow \ln|u| = 0.6t + C$$

$$\Rightarrow u = Ae^{0.6t}, \text{ and similarly } v = Be^{0.5t}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix} = P^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = P \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 5 \\ -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} Ae^{0.6t} \\ Be^{0.5t} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{so that } x = 4Ae^{0.6t} + 5Be^{0.5t} \text{ and } y = -Ae^{0.6t} - Be^{0.5t}$$

Applying the initial conditions,

$$50 = 4A + 5B \text{ and } 4 = -A - B$$

$$\Rightarrow 50 = 4A + 5(-A - 4) \Rightarrow 70 = -A \text{ and } B = 66$$

$$\text{So } x = 330e^{0.5t} - 280e^{0.6t} \text{ and } y = 70e^{0.6t} - 66e^{0.5t}$$

(iv) The sparrows become extinct when $x = 0$

$$\Rightarrow 330e^{0.5t} = 280e^{0.6t} \Rightarrow \frac{33}{28} = e^{0.1t}$$

$$\Rightarrow t = 10 \ln \left(\frac{33}{28} \right) = 1.643 \text{ years; ie by the time 20 months have elapsed}$$

$$(y = 0 \Rightarrow 70e^{0.6t} = 66e^{0.5t} \Rightarrow \frac{66}{70} = e^{0.1t} \Rightarrow t = 10 \ln \left(\frac{66}{70} \right) < 0, \text{ which can be rejected})$$

(13) For a reflection in the line $y = x$:

(i) Find the transformation matrix.

(ii) Use eigenvectors to find the invariant lines through the Origin.

(iii) By drawing a diagram, are there any invariant lines that don't pass through the Origin?

(iv) Are there any lines of invariant points?

(13) For a reflection in the line $y = x$:

(i) Find the transformation matrix.

(ii) Use eigenvectors to find the invariant lines through the Origin.

(iii) By drawing a diagram, are there any invariant lines that don't pass through the Origin?

(iv) Are there any lines of invariant points?

Solution

(i) $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ & $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$, so matrix is $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

(ii) Characteristic equation is $\begin{vmatrix} 0 - \lambda & 1 \\ 1 & 0 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda^2 - 1 = 0 \Rightarrow \lambda = \pm 1$$

[Check: trace of $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = 0 + 0 = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2$ & $\begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = -1 = \lambda_1 \lambda_2$]

For $\lambda = 1$:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 - 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 - 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

so that $-x + y = 0$, giving an eigenvector of $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

For $\lambda = -1$:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 + 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 + 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

so that $x + y = 0$, giving an eigenvector of $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$

Thus the invariant lines through the Origin are $y = x$ & $y = -x$

(iii) Any line parallel to $y = -x$ is an invariant line. So any line of the form $y = -x + c$, where $c \neq 0$, is an invariant line that doesn't pass through the Origin.

(iv) Invariant points satisfy $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$ and are therefore multiples of the eigenvector with eigenvalue 1.

So $y = x$ is the (only) line of invariant points.

(14) Consider the transformation represented by $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

(i) What type of transformation is this?

(ii) Use eigenvectors to find the invariant lines through the Origin.

(iii) What can be said about the line $y = 0$?

(iv) What can be said about the line $y = c$, where $c \neq 0$

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Solution

(i) A shear in the x -direction [as $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ is unchanged and $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ moves parallel to the x -axis]; the image of a point not on the x -axis would also need to be specified, in order to define the shear fully.

$$(ii)\&(iii) \begin{vmatrix} 1-\lambda & 2 \\ 0 & 1-\lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0 \Rightarrow (1-\lambda)^2 = 0 \Rightarrow \lambda = 1$$

To find the associated eigenvector: $\begin{pmatrix} 1-1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1-1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$,

so that $2y = 0$; ie the eigenvector is $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$, which means that $y = 0$ is an invariant line, and also a line of invariant points (as $\lambda = 1$)

(iv) As the transformation is a shear, lines parallel to the line of invariant points will be invariant lines.

Note: General invariant lines can be obtained by finding solutions

$$\text{to } \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ mx + c \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x' \\ mx' + c \end{pmatrix}$$

(15) Consider the transformation represented by the matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 6 \end{pmatrix}$$

- (i) Write down the eigenvalues, without forming the characteristic equation.
- (ii) Find the invariant lines passing through the Origin.
- (iii) Show that all points in the plane are transformed to points on a specific line (to be found).
- (iv) Find the line whose points are transformed to (1,3).
- (v) State the line whose points are transformed to the Origin.

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Solution

$$(i) \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 = 1 + 6 = 7 \text{ \& } \lambda_1 \lambda_2 = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 6 \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

$$\text{Hence } \lambda_1 = 0 \text{ \& } \lambda_2 = 7$$

(ii) **For $\lambda = 0$:**

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1-0 & 2 \\ 3 & 6-0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

so that $x + 2y = 0$, giving an eigenvector of $\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$

For $\lambda = 7$:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1-7 & 2 \\ 3 & 6-7 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

so that $-6x + 2y = 0$, giving an eigenvector of $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$

Thus the invariant lines through the Origin are

$$y = -\frac{1}{2}x \text{ \& } y = 3x$$

(iii) [As $\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 6 \end{vmatrix} = 0$, the area scale factor of the transformation is 0, which means that all shapes collapse to points on a particular line]

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 6 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} p \\ q \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow p + 2q = u$$

$$\text{and } 3p + 6q = v$$

so that $v = 3u$; equation of line is $y = 3x$ (ie one of the eigenvectors, and invariant lines)

$$\text{(iv)} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 6 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} p \\ q \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow p + 2q = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow q = \frac{1}{2}(1 - p)$$

$$\text{ie equation is } y = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{x}{2}$$

(v) The other eigenvector, $y = -\frac{1}{2}x$ has an eigenvalue of 0, and so all its points are transformed to the Origin $\left[\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow 0 \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}\right]$