EECS 16A Designing Information Devices and Systems I
Fall 2022 Discussion 5B

1. Mechanical Determinants

(a) Compute the determinant of $\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$.

(b) Compute the determinant of $\begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$.

2. Mechanical Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

In each part, find the eigenvalues of the matrix $\mathbf{M}$ and their associated eigenvectors.

(a) $\mathbf{M} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$
Do you observe anything about the eigenvalues and eigenvectors?

(b) $\mathbf{M} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -2 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$

3. Eigenvalues and Special Matrices – Visualization

An eigenvector $\vec{v}$ belonging to a square matrix $\mathbf{A}$ is a nonzero vector that satisfies

$$\mathbf{A}\vec{v} = \lambda\vec{v}$$

where λ is a scalar known as the **eigenvalue** corresponding to eigenvector $\vec{v}$. Rather than mechanically compute the eigenvalues and eigenvectors, answer each part here by reasoning about the matrix at hand.

(a) Does the identity matrix in $\mathbb{R}^n$ have any eigenvalues $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$? What are the corresponding eigenvectors?

(b) Does a diagonal matrix $\begin{bmatrix} d_1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & d_2 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & d_3 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & d_n \end{bmatrix}$ in $\mathbb{R}^n$ have any eigenvalues $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$? What are the corresponding eigenvectors?

(c) Conceptually, does a rotation matrix in $\mathbb{R}^2$ by angle θ have any eigenvalues $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$? For which angles is this the case?

(d) **(PRACTICE)** Now let us mechanically compute the eigenvalues of the rotation matrix in $\mathbb{R}^2$. Does it agree with our findings above? As a refresher, the rotation matrix $\mathbf{R}$ has the following form:

$$\mathbf{R} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\theta) & -\sin(\theta) \\ \sin(\theta) & \cos(\theta) \end{bmatrix}$$

(e) Does the reflection matrix $\mathbf{T}$ across the x-axis in $\mathbb{R}^{2\times 2}$ have any eigenvalues $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$?

$$\mathbf{T} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

(f) If a matrix $\mathbf{M}$ has an eigenvalue $\lambda = 0$, what does this say about its null space? What does this say about the solutions of the system of linear equations $\mathbf{M}\vec{x} = \vec{b}$?

(g) **(Practice)** Does the matrix $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ have any eigenvalues $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$? What are the corresponding eigenvectors?