

**THEOREM** If  $A$  and  $B$  are  $n \times n$  matrices, which are similar, then they have the same characteristic equation and hence the same eigenvalues.

**PROOF** Let  $A$  and  $B$  be similar  $n \times n$  matrices. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 B &= \text{_____} \text{ for some invertible matrix } P \\
 B - \lambda I &= P^{-1}AP - \lambda I \\
 &= P^{-1}AP - \lambda \text{_____} \quad \text{since } I = P^{-1}P \\
 &= P^{-1}AP - P^{-1}\lambda P \quad \text{since scalars } \text{_____} \text{ with matrices} \\
 &= P^{-1} \text{_____} \quad \text{by factoring out } P^{-1} \\
 &= P^{-1}(A - \lambda I)P \quad \text{by factoring out } P
 \end{aligned}$$

Take the determinant of both sides:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \det(B - \lambda I) &= \det [P^{-1}(A - \lambda I)P] \\
 &= \text{_____} \quad \text{by properties of determinants (Theorem 6, Sec 3.2)} \\
 &= \det(P^{-1}) \det(P) \det(A - \lambda I) \quad \text{since determinants are } \text{_____}, \text{ they commute} \\
 &= \text{_____} \quad \text{by properties of determinants (Theorem 6, Sec 3.2)} \\
 &= \det(I) \det(A - \lambda I) \\
 &= \text{_____}
 \end{aligned}$$

i.e.  $\det(B - \lambda I) = \det(A - \lambda I)$

Therefore,  $A$  and  $B$  have the same characteristic polynomial and hence, the same eigenvalues. ■

1. Determine whether the following statement is true or false. If it is true, prove it. If it is false, give a counter-example.

TRUE OR FALSE: If  $A$  and  $B$  are row equivalent, then they have the same eigenvalues.

[Hint: Consider matrices whose eigenvalues are really easy to find.]

If a matrix  $A$  is similar to a matrix with a simple form (e.g. a diagonal matrix), then it can help with many computations.

EX: Given the diagonal matrix  $D = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$ , compute  $D^3 = DDD$ . Show all your work.

**2.** Based on the last example, complete the following statement:

Let  $D$  be a diagonal  $n \times n$  matrix, i.e.  $D = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & a_{22} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & & \ddots & & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix}$ . Then  $D^k = \begin{bmatrix} & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \end{bmatrix}$ .

THEOREM Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix that is similar to a diagonal matrix  $D$ . Then  $A^k = PD^kP^{-1}$ .  
 [Proof on next page.]

EX: Given  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 2 \\ -3 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $D = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$ , and  $P = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ 1 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$ ,

(a). Verify that  $A$  and  $D$  are similar by showing that  $AP = PD$  and verify that  $P$  is invertible.

(b). Use the theorem to compute  $A^5$

(c). After finding  $P^{-1}$  and easily computing  $D^5$ , you only needed to do 2 matrix multiplications ( $P \textcircled{1} D^5 \textcircled{2} P^{-1}$ ) instead of 4 if computing  $A^5$  directly without the theorem ( $A \textcircled{1} A \textcircled{2} A \textcircled{3} A \textcircled{4} A$ ).

If you computed  $A^{100}$  directly you would perform \_\_\_\_\_ matrix multiplications, but using the theorem you would still only use \_\_\_\_\_. Can you see the computational advantage? (rhetorical)

PROOF Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix that is similar to a diagonal matrix  $D$ .

That is, \_\_\_\_\_ for some invertible matrix  $P$ .

[Show  $A^k = PD^kP^{-1}$ .]

**Basis** ( $k = 2$ ):

$$\begin{aligned} A^2 &= AA \\ &= \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \\ &= (PD)(P^{-1}P)(DP^{-1}) \\ &= \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \\ &= (PD)(DP^{-1}) \\ &= \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \\ &= PD^2P^{-1} \quad \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

**Induction:** Assume true for  $k = n$  (i.e. \_\_\_\_\_).

[Show true for  $k = n + 1$ .]

$$\begin{aligned} A^{n+1} &= A^n A \\ &= \underline{\hspace{2cm}} (PDP^{-1}) \quad \text{by the induction assumption.} \\ &= (PD^n)(P^{-1}P)(DP^{-1}) \\ &= \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \\ &= PD^n DP^{-1} \\ &= \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \end{aligned}$$

Thus, it is true for  $k = n + 1$ .

Therefore, by induction it is true for all  $k$  \_\_\_\_\_. [Note: It is true for  $k = 1$  by the definition of similarity.] ■

DEF An  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  is said to be **diagonalizable** if there exists an invertible matrix  $P$  and a diagonal matrix  $D$  such that  $A = PDP^{-1}$ .

But how do we actually diagonalize a matrix  $A$ ? i.e. How do we find the matrices  $P$  and  $D$ ? (rhetorical)

**THEOREM The Diagonalization Theorem**

An  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  is diagonalizable if and only if  $A$  has  $n$  linearly independent eigenvectors.

**PROOF** Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix.

$\implies$ : Let  $A$  be \_\_\_\_\_ . [Show that  $A$  has  $n$  linearly independent eigenvectors.]

Then \_\_\_\_\_ for a diagonal matrix  $D$  and an  $n \times n$  matrix  $P$ .

$\Rightarrow AP = PD$  by matrix multiplication and simplification.

Since  $A$  and  $D$  are \_\_\_\_\_ , the they have the same eigenvalues.

Hence the diagonal entries of  $D$  are the \_\_\_\_\_ of  $A$ .

i.e.  $D = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix}$

Let  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n$  be the \_\_\_\_\_ of  $P$ . That is  $P = [\mathbf{v}_1 \ \mathbf{v}_2 \ \dots \ \mathbf{v}_n]$ .

Then  $AP = A[\mathbf{v}_1 \ \mathbf{v}_2 \ \dots \ \mathbf{v}_n] = [_____]$ .

And \_\_\_\_\_ =  $[\mathbf{v}_1 \ \mathbf{v}_2 \ \dots \ \mathbf{v}_n] \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} = [\lambda_1\mathbf{v}_1 \ \lambda_2\mathbf{v}_2 \ \dots \ \lambda_n\mathbf{v}_n]$

Since these two products are equal (i.e.  $AP = PD$ ), we have  $A\mathbf{v}_1 = \lambda_1\mathbf{v}_1, A\mathbf{v}_2 = \lambda_2\mathbf{v}_2, \dots, A\mathbf{v}_n = \lambda_n\mathbf{v}_n$ . (\*)

[Before we can claim that these vectors are eigenvectors of  $A$ , we must show that they are \_\_\_\_\_ .]

Since  $P$  is \_\_\_\_\_ , the Invertible Matrix Theorem says that the columns  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n$  form a \_\_\_\_\_ set.

Then all the vectors  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n$  are nonzero, otherwise they would be \_\_\_\_\_ .

Therefore, by (\*),  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n$  are  $n$  \_\_\_\_\_ of  $A$ , which are linearly independent .

$\impliedby$ : Let  $A$  have  $n$  linearly independent eigenvectors. [Show that \_\_\_\_\_ ]

**Finish later as homework.**

The previous proof shows us how to find  $P$  and  $D$  and thus diagonalize  $A$ . Complete the following corollary based on your work from the proof of the Diagonalization Theorem.

COROLLARY A matrix  $A$  is similar to a diagonal matrix  $D$  (i.e.  $A = PDP^{-1}$ ) if and only if the columns of  $P$  are  $n$  linearly independent \_\_\_\_\_ of  $A$ . Furthermore, the diagonal entries of  $D$  are the \_\_\_\_\_ of  $A$  corresponding, *respectively*, to the eigenvectors in  $P$ .

EX: Given that  $A$  is factored into the form  $PDP^{-1}$  below, use the corollary above to determine the eigenvalues of  $A$  and a basis for each eigenspace without performing any work.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 1/2 & 0 \\ 1/2 & -1/2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$