

MA322-007 Mar 24 Worksheet - Eigenvalues and eigenvectors

An **eigenpair** of a matrix  $A$  is a vector  $\vec{v}$  and a number  $c$  so that  $A\vec{v} = c\vec{v}$ . The vector  $\vec{v}$  is called the **eigenvector** and the number  $c$  is called the **eigenvalue**.

Note that only square matrices can have eigenvectors. Why?

Eigenvectors are very handy: they change matrices into numbers.

Let's consider  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\vec{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ .

What is  $A\vec{v}$  in terms of  $\vec{v}$ ?

What is  $A\vec{w}$  in terms of  $\vec{w}$ ?

What is  $A(5\vec{v} + \sqrt{7}\vec{w})$  in terms of  $\vec{v}$  and  $\vec{w}$ ?

What is  $A(x\vec{v} + y\vec{w})$ ? Call it  $b\vec{v} + c\vec{w}$ .

What matrix takes  $\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$  to  $\vec{b} = \begin{bmatrix} b \\ c \end{bmatrix}$ ?

(5.1a) What are the eigenvalues of  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & \sqrt{7} \end{bmatrix}$ ?

(5.1b) What are the eigenvectors of  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & \sqrt{7} \end{bmatrix}$ ?

(5.1c) Give a different matrix with the same eigenvalues:

(5.1d) Give a different matrix with the same eigenvectors:

(5.1e) What are the eigenvalues of  $A^3 + 3A + 5I$ ?