

Chapter - 5Eigen Values, Eigen Vectors, Orthogonal Matrix and Orthogonal Vectors1. Characteristic Matrix, Characteristic Equation and Characteristic Roots of a Matrix -

Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix and λ be a variable. The matrix $(A - \lambda I)$ is called the characteristic matrix of A and its determinant viz. $|A - \lambda I|$ is known as characteristic function which is a polynomial of degree n in λ . The characteristic function $|A - \lambda I|$ equated to zero gives the characteristic equation of A . The roots of the characteristic equation $|A - \lambda I| = 0$ are called the characteristic roots or latent roots or eigen values of matrix A . The set of the eigen values of A is called the spectrum of A .

If $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$ are the characteristic roots of matrix A . Then

$$|A - \lambda I| = 0 \quad \forall \quad \lambda = \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$$

and the matrix $(A - \lambda I)$ is singular. Therefore there exists a non-zero vector X such that

$$(A - \lambda I)X = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad AX = \lambda X$$

Thus 'Any non-zero vector X is said to be a characteristic vector of a matrix A if there exists a number λ such that $AX = \lambda X$ '. Also then λ is said to be a characteristic root of the matrix A .

corresponding to the characteristic vectors X and vice-versa.

Theorem-1 Every square matrix A satisfies its characteristic equation (Cayley Hamilton th.)

Proof— The theorem states that if

$$|A - \lambda I| = a_0 + a_1 \lambda + a_2 \lambda^2 + \dots + a_n \lambda^n = 0$$

be the characteristic equation of a n -rowed square matrix A , then

$$a_0 I + a_1 A + a_2 A^2 + \dots + a_n A^n = 0$$

To prove the theorem, we know that the elements of $(A - \lambda I)$ are at most of the first degree in λ and elements of $\text{adj}(A - \lambda I)$ are at most of degree $(n-1)$ in λ . Therefore $\text{adj}(A - \lambda I)$ may be written as a matrix polynomial in λ . Suppose

$$\text{adj}(A - \lambda I) = B_0 + B_1 \lambda + B_2 \lambda^2 + \dots + B_{n-1} \lambda^{n-1}$$

where B_0, B_1, \dots, B_{n-1} are $n \times n$ matrices.

Now using the relation $A \text{adj}(A) = |A| I$, we have

$$(A - \lambda I) \text{adj}(A - \lambda I) = |A - \lambda I| I$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{or } (A - \lambda I)(B_0 + B_1 \lambda + \dots + B_{n-1} \lambda^{n-1}) &= (a_0 + a_1 \lambda + \dots + a_n \lambda^n) I \\ &= a_0 I + a_1 I \lambda + a_2 I \lambda^2 + \dots + a_n I \lambda^n \end{aligned}$$

Comparing both sides, we have

$$AB_0 = a_0 I$$

$$AB_1 - B_0 = a_1 I$$

$$AB_2 - B_1 = a_2 I$$

$$\vdots$$
$$- B_{n-1} = a_n I$$

Pre-multiplying these successively with $I, A, A^2, \dots, A^{n-1}$ and adding we get

$$(Ia_0 + Aa_1 + A^2a_2 + \dots + A^{n-1}a_{n-1})I = 0$$

$$\text{or } a_0 I + a_1 A + a_2 A^2 + \dots + a_{n-1} A^{n-1} = 0$$

Proved

Corollary - From the above theorem, we have

$$a_0 I = -a_1 A - a_2 A^2 - \dots - a_{n-1} A^{n-1}$$

$$\text{or } I = -\frac{a_1}{a_0} A - \frac{a_2}{a_0} A^2 - \dots - \frac{a_{n-1}}{a_0} A^{n-1}$$

Pre-multiplying with A^{-1} , we obtain

$$A^{-1} = -\frac{a_1}{a_0} I - \frac{a_2}{a_0} A - \dots - \frac{a_{n-1}}{a_0} A^{n-2}$$

which is the required expression for A^{-1}

Exercise - 1 Find the characteristic equation of the matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

and verify that it is satisfied by A and hence obtain A^{-1} .

Solution - We have the characteristic equation

$$|A - \lambda I| = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{vmatrix} 2-\lambda & -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 2-\lambda & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 2-\lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0 \Rightarrow -\lambda^3 + 6\lambda^2 - 9\lambda + 4 = 0$$

It is now to be verified that

$$-A^3 + 6A^2 - 9A + 4I = 0$$

Now I, A, A^2 and A^3 are the matrices

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 6 & -5 & 5 \\ -5 & 6 & -5 \\ 5 & -5 & 6 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 22 & -21 & 21 \\ -21 & 22 & -21 \\ 21 & -21 & 22 \end{bmatrix}$$

respectively and the verification may easily be computed

Again

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{4} A^2 - \frac{6}{4} A + \frac{9}{4} I = \frac{1}{4} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 3 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \text{ after simplification}$$

Theorem-2 If x is a characteristic vector of a matrix A , then x can't correspond to more than one characteristic values of A .

Proof - Let x be a characteristic vector of a matrix A corresponding to two characteristic values λ_1 and λ_2 . Then

$$Ax = \lambda_1 x \quad \text{and} \quad Ax = \lambda_2 x$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Therefore } \lambda_1 x &= \lambda_2 x \Rightarrow (\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) x = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow (\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) = 0 \quad \because x \neq 0 \\ &\Rightarrow \lambda_1 = \lambda_2 \end{aligned}$$

Theorem-3 If λ is a characteristic root of a non-singular matrix A , then λ^{-1} is a characteristic root of A^{-1} .

Proof - Given λ is a characteristic root of a non-singular matrix A . $\therefore |A| \neq 0$ and

$$\begin{aligned} |A - \lambda I| = 0 &\Rightarrow |A - \lambda A A^{-1}| = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow |A| |I - \lambda A^{-1}| = 0 \Rightarrow |\lambda A^{-1} - I| = 0 \quad \because |A| \neq 0 \\ &\Rightarrow |A^{-1} - \lambda^{-1} I| = 0 \Rightarrow \lambda^{-1} \text{ is a ch root of } A^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

Proved

Theorem-4 Show that the two matrices A and $C^{-1}AC$ have the same characteristic roots

Proof— Let $B = C^{-1}AC$ then

$$\begin{aligned} B - \lambda I &= C^{-1}AC - \lambda I \\ &= C^{-1}AC - C^{-1}C\lambda I \\ &= C^{-1}AC - C^{-1}\lambda IC \\ &= C^{-1}(A - \lambda I)C \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore |B - \lambda I| &= |C^{-1}(A - \lambda I)C| \\ &= |A - \lambda I| |C^{-1}| |C| = |A - \lambda I| |C^{-1}C| \\ &= |A - \lambda I| \end{aligned}$$

Thus the two matrices A and B have the same characteristic functions and hence the same characteristic equations and the same characteristic roots.

Theorem-5 Show that a characteristic vector X corresponding to the characteristic root λ of a matrix A is also a characteristic vector of every matrix $f(A)$ with the corresponding root ~~$f(A)$~~ $f(\lambda)$. $f(\cdot)$ being any scalar polynomial. In general, show that if $g(x) = \frac{f_1(x)}{f_2(x)}$; $|f_2(x)| \neq 0$

then

$$g(\lambda) \text{ is a characteristic root of } g(A) = \frac{f_1(A)}{f_2(A)}$$

Proof— λ is a characteristic root of A
 $\therefore AX = \lambda X$

$$\text{Suppose } f(A) = a_0 I + a_1 A + a_2 A^2 + \dots + a_n A^n$$

$$\text{then } f(A)X = (a_0 I + a_1 A + a_2 A^2 + \dots + a_n A^n)X$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= (a_0 I \lambda + a_1 A \lambda + a_2 A^2 \lambda + \dots + a_n A^n \lambda) \\
 &= a_0 \lambda + a_1 \lambda A + a_2 \lambda^2 A + \dots + a_n \lambda^n A \\
 &= (a_0 + a_1 \lambda + a_2 \lambda^2 + \dots + a_n \lambda^n) A = f(\lambda) A
 \end{aligned}$$

$A I = I A$
 $\Rightarrow A A \lambda = \lambda A A$
 $\Rightarrow A^2 \lambda = \lambda^2 A$
 Similarly, etc.

Hence $f(\lambda)$ is the characteristic root of the matrix $f(A)$ and λ is the corresponding characteristic vector.

In general

$$\begin{aligned}
 g(A) x &= \frac{f_1(A)}{f_2(A)} x = f_1(A) \{f_2(A)\}^{-1} x \\
 &= f_1(A) \{f_2(\lambda)\}^{-1} x \\
 &= \{f_2(\lambda)\}^{-1} f_1(A) x \\
 &= \{f_2(\lambda)\}^{-1} f_1(\lambda) x = g(\lambda) x
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus λ is also a characteristic vector of $g(A)$ with corresponding root $g(\lambda)$.

Theorem-6 If A and B are two square matrices then the matrix AB and BA have the same characteristic roots.

Proof - Let λ be the ch. root of matrix AB . Therefore

$$\begin{aligned}
 AB - \lambda I &= B' B A B - \lambda I \\
 &= B' B A B - B' B \lambda I = B' B A B - B' \lambda I B \\
 &= B' (B A - \lambda I) B
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Rightarrow |AB - \lambda I| &= |B'| |BA - \lambda I| |B| \\
 &= |BA - \lambda I| |B'| |B| = |BA - \lambda I| |B' B| \\
 &= |BA - \lambda I|
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus AB and BA have the same characteristic functions and hence the same characteristic equation and the same characteristic roots.

Theorem-7 The characteristic roots of a Hermitian matrix are all real.

Proof - Let λ be a characteristic root of a Hermitian matrix A so that there exist a vector $x \neq 0$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} Ax &= \lambda x \\ \Rightarrow x^{(H)} Ax &= \lambda x^{(H)} x \\ &= \lambda x^{(H)} I x \\ \Rightarrow \lambda &= \frac{x^{(H)} Ax}{x^{(H)} I x} \end{aligned}$$

Now $x^{(H)} Ax = (x^{(H)} Ax)^{H} \because x^{(H)} Ax$ is scalar

$$\begin{aligned} &= (x^{(H)} Ax)^{H} \\ &= x^{(H)} A^{(H)} x \\ &= x^{(H)} Ax \quad \because A^{(H)} = A \end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow x^{(H)} Ax$ is real.

Similarly, we can show

$$x^{(H)} I x = x^{(H)} I x$$

As $x^{(H)} Ax$ and $x^{(H)} I x$ both are real, therefore λ is real.

Theorem-8 The characteristic roots of a Skew-Hermitian matrix is either zero or a pure imaginary number.

Proof - Let λ be the characteristic root of a Skew-Hermitian matrix A so that there exist a vector $x \neq 0$ such that

$$Ax = \lambda x$$

$$\text{or } (iA)x = (i\lambda)x \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

For skew-hermitian matrix, $-A^{(H)} = A$

Now $(iA)^{(H)} = -iA^{(H)} = iA \Rightarrow iA$ is hermitian

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \text{or } -A^{(H)} = \Lambda \\
 \text{or } -(A') = \Lambda \\
 \text{or } -i(A') = i\Lambda \\
 \text{or } -i\Lambda = (iA) \\
 \text{or } (-iA) = (iA) \\
 \text{or } iA = (iA)
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{l}
 \text{or } iA = i\Lambda \\
 \text{or } (-iA) = (iA) \\
 \text{or } iA = (iA)
 \end{array}$$

As $i\Lambda$ is Hermitian and (i) shows that the characteristic root of $i\Lambda$ is $i\lambda$, therefore according to theorem-7 $i\lambda$ must be real. It will be possible only when $\lambda=0$ or a pure imaginary number.

Corollary - A characteristic root of a real skew symmetric matrix is either zero or pure imaginary because a real skew symmetric matrix is always skew-Hermitian.

Theorem-9 The characteristic roots of a real symmetric matrix are all real.

Proof - If the elements of a Hermitian matrix A are all real then A is a real symmetric matrix. Thus a real symmetric matrix is Hermitian and therefore the result follows by theorem-7.

Theorem-10 Any system of characteristic vectors x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n corresponding respectively to a system of distinct characteristic roots $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$ of a matrix is linearly indep.

Proof - We have $\Lambda x_1 = \lambda_1 x_1, \Lambda x_2 = \lambda_2 x_2, \dots, \Lambda x_n = \lambda_n x_n$

$$\Rightarrow (\Lambda - \lambda_1 I)X_1 = 0, (\Lambda - \lambda_2 I)X_2 = 0, \dots, (\Lambda - \lambda_n I)X_n = 0 \quad (1)$$

Consider any relation

$$a_1 X_1 + a_2 X_2 + \dots + a_n X_n = 0 \quad (2)$$

Pre-multiplying (2) by the matrix

$$L_1 = (\Lambda - \lambda_2 I)(\Lambda - \lambda_3 I) \dots (\Lambda - \lambda_n I) \quad (3)$$

we get

$$L_1(a_1 X_1) + L_1(a_2 X_2) + \dots + L_1(a_n X_n) = 0 \quad (4)$$

Now by (1) and (3)

$$L_1 X_2 = 0, L_1 X_3 = 0, \dots, L_1 X_n = 0 \quad (5)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{and } L_1 X_1 &= (\Lambda - \lambda_2 I)(\Lambda - \lambda_3 I) \dots (\Lambda - \lambda_n I) X_1 \\ &= (\Lambda - \lambda_2 I)(\Lambda - \lambda_3 I) \dots (\Lambda X_1 - \lambda_n X_1) \\ &= (\Lambda - \lambda_2 I)(\Lambda - \lambda_3 I) \dots (\lambda_1 X_1 - \lambda_n X_1) \quad \because \Lambda X_1 = \lambda_1 X_1 \\ &= (\Lambda - \lambda_2 I)(\Lambda - \lambda_3 I) \dots (\lambda_1 - \lambda_n) X_1 \\ &\vdots \\ &= (\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)(\lambda_1 - \lambda_3) \dots (\lambda_1 - \lambda_n) X_1 \quad (6) \end{aligned}$$

Further, using (5) in (4) we get

$$\begin{aligned} L_1(a_1 X_1) &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow a_1 L_1 X_1 &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow a_1 (\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)(\lambda_1 - \lambda_3) \dots (\lambda_1 - \lambda_n) X_1 &= 0, \text{ using (6)} \end{aligned}$$

Now, as λ_1 is distinct from each $\lambda_2, \lambda_3, \dots, \lambda_n$ and $X_1 \neq 0$,

therefore $a_1 = 0$

In general, pre-multiplying (2) by

$$L_i = (\Lambda - \lambda_1 I) \dots (\Lambda - \lambda_{i-1} I)(\Lambda - \lambda_{i+1} I) \dots (\Lambda - \lambda_n I)$$

we may show that $a_i = 0 \quad \forall i = 1, 2, \dots, n$

Thus the system of vectors X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n is linearly independent.

2. Unitary Matrix - A matrix A is said to be unitary if $A^{\text{H}}A = I$

The transformation $X = AY$ is said to be unitary, if A is a unitary matrix.

Obviously a unitary matrix A is non-singular, its inverse A^{-1} being A^{H} . Also, therefore

$$AA^{\text{H}} = I$$

3. Orthogonal Matrix - A matrix A is said to be orthogonal if it is real and $A'A = I$

Clearly every orthogonal matrix is unitary.

The transformation $X = AY$ is said to be orthogonal if A is an orthogonal matrix.

The inverse of an orthogonal matrix A is A' . Therefore, orthogonal matrices are always non-singular.

$$\text{and so. } AA' = I$$

This proves that the transpose of an orthogonal matrix is also orthogonal.

Theorem-11 If A is a unitary matrix then A^{-1} is also a unitary

Proof - Given A is unitary $\therefore AA^{\text{H}} = I$

$$\Rightarrow (AA^{\text{H}})^{-1} = I^{-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow (A^{\text{H}})^{-1}A^{-1} = I$$

$$\Rightarrow (A^{-1})^{\text{H}}A^{-1} = I$$

$$\Rightarrow A^{-1} \text{ is unitary.}$$

Theorem-12 The products of two orthogonal matrices of the same order are orthogonal. Also ^{the} inverse of an orthogonal matrix is orthogonal.

Proof- Let A and B be two orthogonal matrices of the same order so that

$$AA' = I \text{ and } BB' = I$$

Now we have

$$\begin{aligned} (AB)(AB)' &= (AB)(B'A') \\ &= A(BB')A' \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Similarly, } (BA)(BA)' = AIA' = AA' = I$$

Therefore, AB and BA are also orthogonal matrices.

Also $AA' = I$

$$\Rightarrow (AA')^{-1} = I^{-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow (A')^{-1}A' = I$$

$$\Rightarrow (A^{-1})'A' = I$$

$$\Rightarrow A^{-1} \text{ is orthogonal.}$$

Cor- The products of two unitary matrices of the same order are unitary.

Theorem-13 The modulus of each characteristic root of a unitary matrix is unity.

Proof- Let λ be the characteristic root of a unitary matrix A then $Ax = \lambda x$, $x \neq 0$

Taking conjugate transpose of each side, we have

$$x^{(H)} A^{(H)} = \bar{\lambda} x^{(H)}$$

or $X^{(H)} A^{(H)} A X = \bar{\lambda} \lambda X^{(H)} X$

As A is unitary $\therefore A^{(H)} A = I$

Now (1) is

$$X^{(H)} X = \bar{\lambda} \lambda X^{(H)} X$$

$$\Rightarrow \bar{\lambda} \lambda = 1$$

So that the modulus of λ is unity.

(1)

$$\lambda = x + iy$$

$$\bar{\lambda} = x - iy$$

$$\therefore \lambda \bar{\lambda} = x^2 + y^2$$

Also

$$|\lambda| = |\bar{\lambda}| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{\lambda \bar{\lambda}} = \sqrt{1}$$

$$= 1$$

Theorem-14 The modulus of each characteristic root of an orthogonal matrix is unity.

Proof— Let λ be the characteristic root of an orthogonal matrix A so that there exist a characteristic vector $X \neq 0$ such that

$$AX = \lambda X$$

Taking transpose of each sides, we get

$$X' A' = \lambda X'$$

or $X' A' A X = \lambda X' \lambda X$

or $X' I X = \lambda^2 X' X$ $\because A$ is orthogonal

or $X' X = \lambda^2 X' X$

or $(1 - \lambda^2) X' X = 0$

or $(1 - \lambda^2) = 0$ $\because X \neq 0 \Rightarrow X' X \neq 0$

or $\lambda^2 = 1 \Rightarrow \lambda = \pm 1$

$$\Rightarrow |\lambda| = 1$$

Theorem-15 Every orthogonal matrix A can be expressed as $(I+S)(I-S)^{-1}$

by a suitable choice of a real skew symmetric matrix S ,

provided that -1 is not a characteristic root of A .

Proof—

$$A = (I+S)(I-S)^{-1}$$

$$\text{or } A(I-S) = (I+S)$$

$$\text{or } AI - AS = I + S$$

$$\text{or } AI - I = AS + S$$

$$\text{or } A - I = (A+I)S \quad (1)$$

Since -1 is not a characteristic root of A , so -1 will not satisfy the eqn $|A - \lambda I| = 0$
 i.e. $|A+I| \neq 0$

i.e. $(A+I)$ is non-singular

Now (1) gives

$$S = (A+I)^{-1}(A-I)$$

To show that S is a ^{real} skew symmetric, we have to show $S' = -S$ & $\bar{S} = S$.

Consider

$$\begin{aligned} S' &= (A-I)'[(A+I)^{-1}]' \\ &= (A-I)'[(A+I)']^{-1} \\ &= (A'-I)(A'+I)^{-1} \\ &= (A'+I)^{-1}(A'-I) \quad \text{as } (A'-I) \text{ \& } (A'+I) \text{ is commutative} \\ &= (A'+A'A)^{-1}(A'-A'A) \quad \because A \text{ is orthogonal} \\ &= [A'(I+A)]^{-1}[A'(I-A)] \\ &= (I+A)^{-1}(A')^{-1}A'(I-A) \\ &= (I+A)^{-1}(I-A) = -(A+I)^{-1}(A-I) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Now } \bar{S} = \overline{(A+I)^{-1}(A-I)} = \overline{(A+I)^{-1}} \overline{(A-I)} = (A+I)^{-1}(A-I) = S \quad \because A \text{ is orthogonal so its elements will be real}$$

Theorem-16 If S is a real skew symmetric matrix, then

$I-S$ is non-singular and $A = (I+S)(I-S)^{-1}$ is orthogonal.

Proof— Since S is a real skew-symmetric matrix, therefore the characteristic roots of S are either zero or pure imaginary.

i.e. the roots of the equation $|S - \lambda I| = 0$ are either zero or pure imaginary number. Therefore 1 is not a root of the equation $|S - \lambda I| = 0$

So $|S - I| \neq 0$

$\Rightarrow (S - I)$ is non-singular

$\Rightarrow (I - S)$ is non-singular

Now

$$\begin{aligned} A &= (I + S)(I - S)^{-1} \Rightarrow A' = [(I + S)(I - S)^{-1}]' \\ &\Rightarrow A' = [(I - S)^{-1}]' (I + S)' \\ &\Rightarrow A' = [(I - S)^{-1}]' (I + S)' \\ &= (I - S')^{-1} (I + S') \\ &= (I + S)^{-1} (I - S) \quad \because S \text{ is skew symm.} \\ &\quad \quad \quad \therefore -S' = S \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} AA' &= (I + S)(I - S)^{-1} (I + S)^{-1} (I - S) \\ &= (I + S)(I + S)^{-1} (I - S)^{-1} (I - S) \quad \because (I - S)^{-1} \text{ \& } (I + S)^{-1} \\ &= I \cdot I = I \quad \text{are commutative.} \end{aligned}$$

Thus A is orthogonal.

4. Inner Product of Two Vectors - Let X and Y be two complex n -vectors written as column vectors. Suppose

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } Y = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix}$$

then the inner product of X and Y is defined as

$$X \textcircled{=} Y = \bar{x}_1 y_1 + \bar{x}_2 y_2 + \dots + \bar{x}_n y_n$$

where \bar{x}_i is the conjugate complex of the complex number x_i

It may be noted that the inner product of x and y is not the same as that of y and x i.e.

$$x^{(H)}y \neq y^{(H)}x$$

If x and y are real n -vectors written as column vectors then their inner product is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} x^{(H)}y &= x'y = x_1y_1 + x_2y_2 + \dots + x_ny_n \\ &= y'x = y^{(H)}x \end{aligned}$$

Thus in case of real vectors, the inner product of x and y is same as that of y and x .

5. Length of a Vector— Let x be a complex n -vector, then the positive square root of the inner product of x and x i.e. $x^{(H)}x$ is called the length of vector x . The length of a vector x is sometimes also called the norm of the vector x and is denoted by $\|x\|$.

A vector whose length is 1, is called a normal vector or unit vector.

6. Orthogonal Vectors— A vector x is said to be orthogonal to a vector y , if the inner product of x and y is zero i.e. $x^{(H)}y = 0 \Leftrightarrow y^{(H)}x = 0$

i.e. x is orthogonal to y iff y is orthogonal to x . On account of this property of symmetry it will be better to say that two vectors x and y are orthogonal instead of saying one is orthogonal to other.

Theorem-17 Any two characteristic vectors corresponding to two distinct characteristic roots of a Hermitian matrix are orthogonal.

Proof— Let x_1 and x_2 be two characteristic vectors corresponding to two distinct characteristic roots λ_1 and λ_2 of a Hermitian matrix A .

$$\therefore Ax_1 = \lambda_1 x_1 \quad (1)$$

$$\text{and } Ax_2 = \lambda_2 x_2 \quad (2)$$

The roots λ_1 and λ_2 are real (see 16.7)

Now, by using (1) and (2)

$$x_2^{(H)} Ax_1 = \lambda_1 x_2^{(H)} x_1$$

$$x_1^{(H)} Ax_2 = \lambda_2 x_1^{(H)} x_2$$

$$\text{But } (x_2^{(H)} Ax_1)^{(H)} = x_1^{(H)} Ax_2 \quad \text{for } A^{(H)} = A$$

$$\Rightarrow (\lambda_1 x_2^{(H)} x_1)^{(H)} = \lambda_2 x_1^{(H)} x_2$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda_1 x_1^{(H)} x_2 = \lambda_2 x_1^{(H)} x_2$$

$$\Rightarrow (\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) x_1^{(H)} x_2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1^{(H)} x_2 = 0, \text{ as } \lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$$

Thus the vectors x_1 and x_2 are orthogonal.

Theorem-18 Any two characteristic vectors corresponding to two distinct characteristic roots of a real symmetric matrix are orthogonal.

Proof— If the elements of a Hermitian matrix A are all real then A is a real symmetric. Thus a real symmetric matrix is Hermitian and therefore the result follows by previous theorem.

Theorem-19 Any two characteristic vectors, corresponding to two distinct characteristic roots of a unitary matrix are orthogonal.

Proof - Let $AX_1 = \lambda_1 X_1$ (1)

and $AX_2 = \lambda_2 X_2$ (2)

where $\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$

Taking conjugate transpose of (2), we get

$$X_2^{(H)} A^{(H)} = \bar{\lambda}_2 X_2^{(H)}$$

$$\Rightarrow X_2^{(H)} A^{(H)} AX_1 = \bar{\lambda}_2 \lambda_1 X_2^{(H)} X_1$$

$$\Rightarrow X_2^{(H)} X_1 = \bar{\lambda}_2 \lambda_1 X_2^{(H)} X_1, \text{ for } A^{(H)} A = I$$

$$\Rightarrow (1 - \bar{\lambda}_2 \lambda_1) X_2^{(H)} X_1 = 0$$

As A is unitary matrix, the modulus of each of its characteristic roots is unity, so that

$$\bar{\lambda}_2 \lambda_2 = 1$$

Therefore,

$$(1 - \bar{\lambda}_2 \lambda_1) = \bar{\lambda}_2 \lambda_2 - \bar{\lambda}_2 \lambda_1 = \bar{\lambda}_2 (\lambda_2 - \lambda_1) \neq 0$$

$$\therefore X_2^{(H)} X_1 = 0$$

i.e. the vectors X_2 and X_1 are orthogonal.

Theorem-20 Every orthogonal set of non-zero vectors is linearly independent.

Proof - Let $X = \{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n\}$ be an orthogonal set of non-zero complex n -vectors. Then to prove that X is linearly independent.

Let c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n be scalars such that

$$C_1 X_1 + C_2 X_2 + \dots + C_{n_2} X_{n_2} = 0 \quad (1)$$

Let $1 \leq m \leq n_2$, then forming inner product of both sides of (1) with the vector X_m , we get

$$(X_m, C_1 X_1 + C_2 X_2 + \dots + C_{n_2} X_{n_2}) = (X_m, 0)$$

$$\text{or } C_1 (X_m, X_1) + C_2 (X_m, X_2) + \dots + C_{n_2} (X_m, X_{n_2}) = 0 \quad \because (X_m, 0) = 0$$

$$\text{or } C_m (X_m, X_m) = 0 \quad , \because \text{any two distinct vectors of } X \text{ are orthogonal}$$

$$\text{or } C_m = 0 \quad , \text{ since } X_m \neq 0 \Rightarrow (X_m, X_m) \neq 0$$

Thus $C_m = 0$, for $m = 1, 2, \dots, n_2$. In this way the relation (1) implies that $C_1 = 0, C_2 = 0, \dots, C_{n_2} = 0$. Therefore the set of vectors X_1, X_2, \dots, X_{n_2} is linearly independent.

* \rightarrow Exercise-2 Show that the matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & c & -b \\ -c & 0 & a \\ b & -a & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

satisfies Cayley-Hamilton theorem.

Exercise-3 State Cayley-Hamilton theorem. Use it to express $2A^5 - 3A^4 + A^2 - 4I$ as a linear polynomial in A when $A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$

Solⁿ - Cayley Hamilton theorem - Every square matrix satisfies its characteristic equation.

Now let us find the characteristic equation of the matrix A . We have

$$|A - \lambda I| = 0 \Rightarrow \begin{vmatrix} 3-\lambda & 1 \\ -1 & 2-\lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0 \Rightarrow (3-\lambda)(2-\lambda) + 1 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda^2 - 5\lambda + 7 = 0 \quad (1)$$

By Cayley-Hamilton Theorem, the matrix A must satisfy (1). Therefore,

$$A^2 - 5A + 7I = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$\Rightarrow A^2 = 5A - 7I \quad (3)$$

and $A^3 = 5A^2 - 7A$

or $A^3 = 5(5A - 7I) - 7A$

or $A^3 = 18A - 35I \quad (4)$

Now $A^4 = 18A^2 - 35A$
 $= 18(5A - 7I) - 35A$
 $= 55A - 126I \quad (5)$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} 2A^5 - 3A^4 + A^2 - 4I &= 2(55A^2 - 126A) - 3(55A - 126I) \\ &\quad + 5A - 7I - 4I \\ &= 110(5A - 7I) - 252A - 165A + 378I + 5A - 11I \\ &= 550A - 770I - 252A - 165A + 378I + 5A - 11I \\ &= 138A - 403 \end{aligned}$$

which is a linear polynomial in A

Note - Converse of Th¹ is not true, as $x_1 = (1, 2, 3)$ and $(2, 2, 0)$ are linearly independent but not orthogonal.