

*Preparatory exercises should be attempted before coming to the tutorial. Questions labelled with an asterisk are suitable for students aiming for a credit or higher.*

### Important Ideas and Useful Facts:

- (i) A square matrix  $D$  is *diagonal* if all entries off the diagonal are zero. If  $D$  and  $E$  are diagonal then  $DE$  is also diagonal, and its diagonal entries are simply the products of corresponding diagonal entries of  $D$  and  $E$ . Thus the diagonal elements of  $D^n$  are just the  $n$ th powers of the diagonal elements of  $D$ .
- (ii) Let  $M$  be a square  $n \times n$  matrix with eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  and corresponding eigenvectors  $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n$ . Then

$$MP = PD$$

where  $D$  is the diagonal matrix with eigenvalues down the diagonal and  $P$  the matrix with corresponding eigenvectors as columns. If  $P$  is invertible then

$$M = PDP^{-1} \quad \text{and} \quad D = P^{-1}MP.$$

In this case we say that  $M$  is *diagonalisable*.

- (iii) In the preceding discussion, if the eigenvalues are all different then  $P$  is invertible and  $M$  is diagonalisable.
- (iv) If  $M$  is diagonalisable then powers of  $M$  can be found easily by the formula

$$M^n = PD^nP^{-1}.$$

### Preparatory Exercises:

1. Find the eigenvalues and corresponding eigenvectors for the matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ -1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}.$$

2. Write down an invertible matrix  $P$  and a diagonal matrix  $D$  such that

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ -1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} = PDP^{-1}.$$

What is  $P^{-1}$ ? What is  $D^n$  where  $n$  is any positive integer?

3. Evaluate

$$A^n = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ -1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}^n = PD^nP^{-1}$$

for any positive integer  $n$ . Use your answer to find  $A^3$  and  $A^4$ .

### Tutorial Exercises:

4. The matrix  $B = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$  has eigenvalues 2 and 4 with corresponding eigenvectors  $\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  respectively.

(i) Write down an invertible matrix  $P$  and a diagonal matrix  $D$  such that

$$B = PDP^{-1}.$$

(ii) Find a formula for  $B^n$ , and use it to find  $B^3$  and  $B^4$ .

5. The matrix  $C = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  has eigenvalues 0, 1 and 3 with corresponding eigenvectors  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  respectively.

(i) Write down an invertible matrix  $P$  and diagonal matrix  $D$  such that

$$C = PDP^{-1}.$$

(ii) Find a formula for  $C^n$ , and use it to find  $C^4$ .

6. Find eigenvalues and corresponding eigenvectors for  $M = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & 1 \\ -2 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ .

7. Write down an invertible matrix  $P$  and a diagonal matrix  $D$  such that

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & 1 \\ -2 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = PDP^{-1}.$$

8.\* Evaluate

$$M^n = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & 1 \\ -2 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}^n = PD^n P^{-1}$$

for any positive integer  $n$ . Use your answer to find  $M^4$ .

9. (suitable for group discussion) Suppose  $\mathbf{v}_1$  and  $\mathbf{v}_2$  are eigenvectors for a matrix  $M$  corresponding to different eigenvalues  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$ . Explain why  $\mathbf{v}_1$  cannot be a scalar multiple of  $\mathbf{v}_2$ .

10.\* Three vectors  $\mathbf{v}_1$ ,  $\mathbf{v}_2$ ,  $\mathbf{v}_3$  are said to be *linearly independent* if

$$\alpha\mathbf{v}_1 + \beta\mathbf{v}_2 + \gamma\mathbf{v}_3 = \mathbf{0} \quad \implies \quad \alpha = \beta = \gamma = 0,$$

where  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$  are scalars. Explain why three eigenvectors  $\mathbf{v}_1$ ,  $\mathbf{v}_2$ ,  $\mathbf{v}_3$  corresponding to three different eigenvalues  $\lambda_1$ ,  $\lambda_2$ ,  $\lambda_3$  of a matrix  $M$  must be linearly independent.

### Further Exercises:

11. Diagonalise  $M = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  and find  $M^n$  for any positive integer  $n$ .
12. Diagonalise  $M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$  and find  $M^n$  for any positive integer  $n$ .
- 13.\* Prove that  $M = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$  is not diagonalisable.
- 14.\* Consider the matrix  $M = \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 2/5 \\ 1/2 & 3/5 \end{bmatrix}$ , whose entries are positive and the columns add to 1. It is an example of a *regular stochastic* matrix. It is a theorem about regular stochastic matrices  $M$  that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} M^n = [\mathbf{v} \quad \mathbf{v}]$$

where  $\mathbf{v}$  is the unique *steady state vector* of  $M$ , that is,  $\mathbf{v}$  is the unique eigenvector corresponding to eigenvalue 1 whose entries add up to 1. Diagonalise  $M$  and verify this limiting behaviour in this particular example.

- 15.\* The sequence of *Fibonacci numbers* is obtained by writing down 1 twice, and obtaining each successive number by adding the previous two numbers together:

$$1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, 144, \dots$$

If we let  $x_n$  denote the  $n$ th Fibonacci number then

$$x_1 = x_2 = 1, \quad x_n = x_{n-1} + x_{n-2} \quad \text{for } n \geq 3,$$

so that

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_n \\ x_{n-1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_{n-1} \\ x_{n-2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}^{n-2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Diagonalise  $M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  to find a general formula for the  $n$ th Fibonacci number.

### Short Answers:

- eigenvalues 2 and 3 with eigenvectors  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  respectively
- $P = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $D = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $P^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $D^n = \begin{bmatrix} 2^n & 0 \\ 0 & 3^n \end{bmatrix}$
- $A^n = \begin{bmatrix} 2^{n+1} - 3^n & -2^{n+1} + 2(3^n) \\ 2^n - 3^n & -2^n + 2(3^n) \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $A^3 = \begin{bmatrix} -11 & 38 \\ -19 & 46 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $A^4 = \begin{bmatrix} -49 & 130 \\ -65 & 146 \end{bmatrix}$
- $\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\begin{bmatrix} 2^{n-1} + 2(4^{n-1}) & -2^{n-1} + 2(4^{n-1}) \\ -2^{n-1} + 2(4^{n-1}) & 2^{n-1} + 2(4^{n-1}) \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\begin{bmatrix} 36 & 28 \\ 28 & 36 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\begin{bmatrix} 136 & 120 \\ 120 & 136 \end{bmatrix}$

$$5. \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1+3^{n-1} & 3^{n-1} & -1 \\ -1+2(3^{n-1}) & 2(3^{n-1}) & 1 \\ 3^{n-1} & 3^{n-1} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 28 & 27 & -1 \\ 53 & 54 & 1 \\ 27 & 27 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$6. 1, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, 2, \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, -1, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$7. \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 5 & 1 \\ 1 & -3 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$8. \frac{1}{6} \begin{bmatrix} -3 + 5(2^{n+1}) - (-1)^n & -9 + 5(2^{n+1}) - (-1)^n & -12 + 5(2^{n+1}) + 2(-1)^n \\ 3 - 6(2^n) + 3(-1)^n & 9 - 6(2^n) + 3(-1)^n & 12 - 6(2^n) - 6(-1)^n \\ 2^{n+1} - 2(-1)^n & 2^{n+1} - 2(-1)^n & 2^{n+1} + 4(-1)^n \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 26 & 25 & 25 \\ -15 & -14 & -15 \\ 5 & 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

9. Argue by contradiction. Suppose  $\mathbf{v}_1 = \alpha\mathbf{v}_2$  and apply  $M$  to both sides.

10. Suppose  $\alpha\mathbf{v}_1 + \beta\mathbf{v}_2 + \gamma\mathbf{v}_3 = \mathbf{0}$ , apply  $M$  twice and rearrange to deduce that one of the scalars is zero. Reduce to the previous exercise to deduce that the other scalars are zero.

$$11. \begin{bmatrix} 2^n & 2^n - 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad 12. \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2^n - 1 & 2^n - 1 \\ 0 & 2^n & 2^n - 3^n \\ 0 & 0 & 3^n \end{bmatrix}$$

13. Suppose  $P^{-1}MP$  is diagonal where  $P = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$ . Deduce that  $ad - bc = 0$ , contradicting that  $P$  is invertible.

$$14. \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 4/9 \\ 5/9 \end{bmatrix}, M^n = \frac{1}{9} \begin{bmatrix} 4 + 5(1/10)^n & 4 - 4(1/10)^n \\ 5 - 5(1/10)^n & 5 + 4(1/10)^n \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow [\mathbf{v} \quad \mathbf{v}]$$

15. eigenvalues of  $M$  are  $\lambda_1 = \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}$  and  $\lambda_2 = \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2}$ ,

$$M^n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1^{n+1} - \lambda_2^{n+1} & \lambda_1\lambda_2^{n+1} - \lambda_2\lambda_1^{n+1} \\ \lambda_1^n - \lambda_2^n & \lambda_1\lambda_2^n - \lambda_2\lambda_1^n \end{bmatrix},$$

$$x_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \left[ \left( \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^n - \left( \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^n \right]$$