

1. A square matrix  $A$  is nonsingular if  $\det A \neq 0$ ;  
it is singular if  $\det A = 0$ .

2. Because our basic row operations (switching two rows, scaling a row by a nonzero factor, and adding a multiple of one row to another) do not affect whether or not the determinant of the matrix is zero (they, respectively, negate, scale, or do not change the determinant), a matrix  $A$  is nonsingular  $\Leftrightarrow$  its reduced form is nonsingular.

- If  $A$  gives a pivot in every column, then  $A$  reduces to the identity matrix, which is nonsingular because  $\det I = 1 \neq 0$ .

- If not, then the columns of  $A$  are not linearly independent, so one column (any non-pivot column) can be written as a linear combination of the rest; we can then use multilinearity of  $\det$  to show that  $\det A = 0$ , and thus  $A$  is singular.

3. Using the fact that a square matrix  $A$  is nonsingular  $\Leftrightarrow$   $A$  gives a pivot in every row + column:

(a)  $A$  is nonsingular  $\Leftrightarrow$  the L.T.  $A$  is bijective, and thus invertible  
 $(\therefore A$  is singular  $\Leftrightarrow A$  is neither injective nor surjective nor invertible)

(b)  $A$  is nonsingular  $\Leftrightarrow$  the columns of  $A$  form a basis for  $\mathbb{R}^n$   
 $(\therefore A$  is singular  $\Leftrightarrow$  the columns of  $A$  are linearly dependent and do not span  $\mathbb{R}^n$ )

(c)  $A$  is nonsingular  $\Leftrightarrow \ker A = \{\vec{0}\}$  and  $\text{im } A = \mathbb{R}^n$  (bijective!)  
 $(\therefore A$  is singular  $\Leftrightarrow \ker A \neq \{\vec{0}\}$  and  $\text{im } A \neq \mathbb{R}^n$ )

(d)  $A$  is nonsingular  $\Leftrightarrow \text{nullity } A = 0$  and  $\text{rank } A = n$   
 $(\text{SEE PART (c)})$

$(\therefore A$  is singular  $\Leftrightarrow \text{nullity } A \neq 0$  and  $\text{rank } A \neq n$ )

[THE DETERMINANT LETS US DETERMINE A GREAT DEAL ABOUT A SQUARE MATRIX  $A$ !!!]

4. (a) CLAIM: If  $A$  is nonsingular and  $B$  is nonsingular, then  $AB$  is nonsingular.

PROOF: Suppose that  $A$  is nonsingular and  $B$  is nonsingular, i.e.,  $\det A \neq 0$  and  $\det B \neq 0$ . Then  $\det(AB) = \det A \cdot \det B \neq 0$ , so by definition,  $AB$  is nonsingular. ■

(b) CLAIM: If  $AB$  is singular, then  $A$  is singular or  $B$  is singular.

PROOF: (THIS IS JUST THE CONTRAPOSITIVE OF PART (a)) Suppose that  $AB$  is singular, i.e.,  $\det(AB) = 0$ . Then  $0 = \det(AB) = \det A \cdot \det B$ , so  $\det A = 0$  or  $\det B = 0$ , i.e.,  $A$  is singular or  $B$  is singular. ■

(c) CLAIM: If  $A$  is singular or  $B$  is singular, then  $AB$  is singular.

PROOF: • If  $A$  is singular, then  $\det A = 0$ , so  $\det(AB) = \det A \cdot \det B = 0 \cdot \det B = 0$ ; thus, by definition,  $AB$  is singular. ✓  
• Otherwise,  $B$  is singular, i.e.,  $\det B = 0$ , so  $\det(AB) = \det A \cdot \det B = \det A \cdot 0 = 0$ ; thus, by definition,  $AB$  is singular. ✓ ■

[ $A$ :  $n \times n$  MATRIX]

5. THE CHARACTERISTIC POLYNOMIAL OF  $A$  IS  $\det(A - \lambda I)$ .

(COMPUTED JUST AS ANY OTHER DETERMINANT,  
THIS IS A POLYNOMIAL IN THE VARIABLE  $\lambda$ .)

6. THE ROOTS OF THE CHARACTERISTIC POLYNOMIAL OF  $A$  ARE  
THE VALUES  $\lambda$  FOR WHICH  $\det(A - \lambda I) = 0$ ,  
I.E., THE VALUES  $\lambda$  FOR WHICH  $A - \lambda I$  IS SINGULAR,  
I.E., THE VALUES  $\lambda$  FOR WHICH  $N(A - \lambda I) \neq \{\vec{0}\}$ ,  
I.E., THE EIGENVALUES OF  $A$ .

(THUS, WE CAN FIND THE EIGENVALUES OF  $A$  SIMPLY BY SOLVING  
 $\det(A - \lambda I) = 0$  FOR  $\lambda$ .)

• OUR FIELD OF SCALARS TELLS US WHAT ROOTS OF  $\det(A - \lambda I)$   
ARE ALLOWED, AND THUS WHAT EIGENVALUES ARE ALLOWED.

E.G., IF  $\det(A - \lambda I) = \lambda^2 + 1$ , THEN:

- OVER  $\mathbb{R}$ , THERE ARE NO EIGENVALUES
  - OVER  $\mathbb{C}$ , THE VALUES  $\pm i$  ARE EIGENVALUES
  - OVER  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ , THE VALUE 1 IS AN EIGENVALUE
- ⋮  
etc.

7. THE CHARACTERISTIC POLYNOMIAL THUS AFFORDS US THE FOLLOWING  
METHOD FOR DIAGONALIZING AN  $n \times n$  MATRIX  $A$ :

- FIND THE EIGENVALUES OF  $A$  (BY SOLVING  $\det(A - \lambda I) = 0$  FOR  $\lambda$ ).
- FOR EACH EIGENVALUE  $\lambda$ , FIND A BASIS FOR  $N(A - \lambda I)$  TO  
DETERMINE A MAXIMAL COLLECTION OF L.I. EIGENVECTORS  
FOR THE EIGENVALUE  $\lambda$ .
- IF  $n$  EIGENVECTORS ARE OBTAINED, PUT THEM INTO A  
MATRIX  $\Sigma$  AND PUT THE CORRESPONDING EIGENVALUES  
INTO A DIAGONAL MATRIX  $\Lambda$ ; THEN  $A = \Sigma \Lambda \Sigma^{-1}$  BY  
DIRECT COMPUTATION.  
(IF  $n$  EIGENVECTORS ARE NOT OBTAINED, THEN  $A$  IS NOT  
DIAGONALIZABLE.)

\* THIS METHOD CAN BE APPLIED TO ENDOMORPHISMS OF  
FINITE-DIMENSIONAL VECTOR SPACES BY FIRST CHOOSING  
ANY BASIS FOR THE VECTOR SPACE, THEN DIAGONALIZING  
THE RESULTING MATRIX:

$$\left( L: V \rightarrow V \begin{array}{l} \\ \text{BASIS } \mathcal{V} \text{ FOR } V \end{array} \right) \rightsquigarrow [L]_{\mathcal{V}} = A = \Sigma \Lambda \Sigma^{-1},$$

I.E.,  $[\mathcal{V}]^T L [\mathcal{V}] = \Sigma \Lambda \Sigma^{-1}$ ,

$$\text{so } L = ([\mathcal{V}] \Sigma) \Lambda (\Sigma^{-1} [\mathcal{V}]^{-1})$$
$$= ([\mathcal{V}] \Sigma) \Lambda ([\mathcal{V}] \Sigma)^{-1}$$

$\underbrace{\quad}_{\text{L.I. OF THE ORIGINAL BASIS } \mathcal{V}}$

8. (a)  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ : • CHAR. POLY. =  $\det \begin{bmatrix} -\lambda & 1 \\ 1 & -\lambda \end{bmatrix} = \lambda^2 - 1$ ;  
 $0 = \lambda^2 - 1 = (\lambda + 1)(\lambda - 1) \Rightarrow \lambda = -1, 1$   
• EIGENVECTORS FOR  $\lambda = -1$ :  $\begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \rightsquigarrow \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = x_2 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$   
EIGENVALUES OF A  
• EIGENVECTORS FOR  $\lambda = 1$ :  $\begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \\ -1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \rightsquigarrow \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$   
EIGENVECTORS  
 $\downarrow \lambda = -1 \quad \lambda = 1$   
LET  $X = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  AND  $\Lambda = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ ; THEN  $A = X \Lambda X^{-1}$ .

(b)  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 13 & 18 \\ -8 & -11 \end{bmatrix}$ : • CHAR. POLY. =  $\det \begin{bmatrix} 13-\lambda & 18 \\ -8 & -11-\lambda \end{bmatrix} = \dots = \lambda^2 - 2\lambda + 1$   
 $0 = \lambda^2 - 2\lambda + 1 = (\lambda - 1)^2 \Rightarrow \lambda = 1$   
EIGENVALUE OF A  
• EIGENVECTORS FOR  $\lambda = 1$ :  $\begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \\ 12 & 18 \\ -8 & -12 \end{bmatrix} \rightsquigarrow \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = x_2 \begin{bmatrix} -3/2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$   
EIGENVECTOR

\* ONLY ONE EIGENVECTOR FOUND  $\therefore$  NO EIGENBASIS,  
SO A IS NOT DIAGONALIZABLE.

(c)  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 32 & -18 \\ 45 & -25 \end{bmatrix}$ : • CHAR. POLY. =  $\det \begin{bmatrix} 32-\lambda & -18 \\ 45 & -25-\lambda \end{bmatrix} = \dots = \lambda^2 - 7\lambda + 10$   
 $0 = \lambda^2 - 7\lambda + 10 = (\lambda - 2)(\lambda - 5) \Rightarrow \lambda = 2, 5$   
EIGENVALUES OF A  
• EIGENVECTORS FOR  $\lambda = 2$ :  $\begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \\ 30 & -18 \\ 45 & -27 \end{bmatrix} \rightsquigarrow \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 3/5 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$   
EIGENVECTOR  
• EIGENVECTORS FOR  $\lambda = 5$ :  $\begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \\ 27 & -18 \\ 45 & -30 \end{bmatrix} \rightsquigarrow \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 2/3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$   
EIGENVECTOR  
 $\downarrow \lambda = 2 \quad \downarrow \lambda = 5$   
LET  $X = \begin{bmatrix} 3/5 & 2/3 \\ 1/2 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  AND  $\Lambda = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$ ; THEN  $A = X \Lambda X^{-1}$ .

(d)  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -2 & 0 \\ -24 & 8 & 8 \\ 36 & -16 & -10 \end{bmatrix}$ : • CHAR. POLY. =  $\det \begin{bmatrix} 2-\lambda & -2 & 0 \\ -24 & 8-\lambda & 8 \\ 36 & -16 & -10-\lambda \end{bmatrix}$   
 $= \dots = 4\lambda - \lambda^3$   
 $0 = 4\lambda - \lambda^3 = \lambda(4 - \lambda^2) = \lambda(2 + \lambda)(2 - \lambda)$   
 $\Rightarrow \lambda = 0, -2, 2$   
EIGENVALUES OF A  
• EIGENVECTORS FOR  $\lambda = 0$ :  $\begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 \\ 2 & -2 & 0 \\ -24 & 8 & 8 \\ 36 & -16 & -10 \end{bmatrix} \rightsquigarrow \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = x_3 \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$   
EIGENVECTOR  
• EIGENVECTORS FOR  $\lambda = -2$ :  $\begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 \\ 4 & -2 & 0 \\ -24 & 10 & 8 \\ 36 & -16 & -8 \end{bmatrix} \rightsquigarrow \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = x_3 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$   
EIGENVECTOR  
• EIGENVECTORS FOR  $\lambda = 2$ :  $\begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 \\ -24 & 6 & 8 \\ 36 & -16 & -12 \end{bmatrix} \rightsquigarrow \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$   
EIGENVECTOR

$\downarrow \lambda = 0 \quad \downarrow \lambda = -2 \quad \downarrow \lambda = 2$   
LET  $X = \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 2 & 1/3 \\ 1/2 & 4 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  AND  $\Lambda = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ ; THEN  $A = X \Lambda X^{-1}$ .

$$(e) A = \begin{bmatrix} -4 & -3 & 5 & -2 \\ -11 & -8 & 13 & -6 \\ -7 & -5 & 8 & -4 \\ 8 & 6 & -10 & -4 \end{bmatrix}:$$

• CHAR. POLY. =  $\det \begin{bmatrix} -4-\lambda & -3 & 5 & -2 \\ -11 & -8-\lambda & 13 & -6 \\ -7 & -5 & 8-\lambda & -4 \\ 8 & 6 & -10 & -4-\lambda \end{bmatrix} = \dots = \lambda^4 - \lambda^2$

$$0 = \lambda^4 - \lambda^2 = \lambda^2(\lambda^2 - 1) = \lambda^2(\lambda + 1)(\lambda - 1)$$

$$\rightarrow \lambda = 0, -1, 1$$

↓ EIGENVALUES OF A

• EIGENVECTORS FOR  $\lambda=0$ :  $\begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & x_4 \\ -4 & -3 & 5 & -2 \\ -11 & -8 & 13 & -6 \\ -7 & -5 & 8 & -4 \\ 8 & 6 & -10 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \rightsquigarrow \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = x_3 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_4 \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

↓ EIGENVEKTOR

• EIGENVECTORS FOR  $\lambda=-1$ :  $\begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & x_4 \\ -3 & -3 & 5 & -2 \\ -11 & -7 & 13 & -6 \\ -7 & -5 & 9 & -4 \\ 8 & 6 & -10 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \rightsquigarrow \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = x_4 \begin{bmatrix} -1/2 \\ -1 \\ -1/2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

↓ EIGENVEKTOR

• EIGENVECTORS FOR  $\lambda=1$ :  $\begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & x_4 \\ -5 & -3 & 5 & -2 \\ -11 & -9 & 13 & -6 \\ -7 & -5 & 7 & -4 \\ 8 & 6 & -10 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \rightsquigarrow \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = x_4 \begin{bmatrix} -1/2 \\ -3/2 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

↓ EIGENVEKTOR

Let  $X = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -2 & -1/2 & -1/2 \\ 3 & 2 & -1 & -3/2 \\ 1 & 0 & -1/2 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  AND  $\Lambda = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ ;

$$\text{THEN } A = X \Lambda X^{-1}$$