

## Section 5.5 Complex Eigenvalues

### Recall – Complex numbers:

a. A complex number is a number written in the form

$$z = a + bi$$

where  $a$  and  $b$  are real numbers and  $i$  is a formal symbol satisfying the relation  $i^2 = -1$ .  $a$  is called the real part of  $z$ , denoted by  $\text{Re } z$ , and  $b$  is the imaginary part of  $z$  denoted by  $\text{Im } z$ .

b. The complex number system, denoted by  $\mathbb{C}$  is the set of all complex numbers, together with the following operations of addition and multiplication

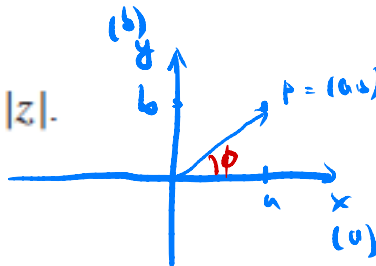
$$\begin{aligned} (a+bi)(c+di) &= ac + adi + bci + bdi^2 \\ &= ac + (ad+bc)i + -1 \cdot bd \quad (a+bi)(c+di) = (ac - bd) + (ad + bc)i \\ &= (ac - bd) + (ad + bc)i \end{aligned}$$

c. The conjugate of  $z = a + bi$  is  $\bar{z} = a - bi$ .

d. The absolute value or modulus of  $z$  is  $|z| = \sqrt{z\bar{z}} = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$ .

e. Properties of conjugates and absolute value:

1.  $\bar{\bar{z}} = z$  if and only if  $z$  is a real number.
2.  $\overline{w + z} = \bar{w} + \bar{z}$ .
3.  $\overline{wz} = \bar{w}\bar{z}$ ; in particular,  $\overline{r\bar{z}} = r\bar{z}$  if  $r$  is a real number.
4.  $z\bar{z} = |z|^2 \geq 0$ .
5.  $|wz| = |w||z|$ .
6.  $|w + z| \leq |w| + |z|$ .



f. Geometric interpretation.

g. Polar coordinates for a nonzero complex number  $z = a + bi$ : let  $\phi$  ( $-\pi < \phi \leq \pi$ ) be the angle between the positive real axis and the point  $(a, b)$ , we call it the argument of  $z$ . Then  $z = |z|(\cos \phi + i \sin \phi)$

$$\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$$

### Real and Imaginary Parts of Vectors:

Let  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^n$ , denote the real part of  $\mathbf{x}$  by  $\text{Re}\mathbf{x}$  and the imaginary part of  $\mathbf{x}$  by  $\text{Im}\mathbf{x}$ .

**Example 1:** Let  $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1+i \\ 2 \\ 3-2i \end{bmatrix}$ , find  $\text{Re}\mathbf{x}$  and  $\text{Im}\mathbf{x}$ .

$$\vec{x} = \begin{pmatrix} 1+i \\ 2+0i \\ 3-2i \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} i \\ 0i \\ -2i \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + i \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$\text{Re}(\vec{x}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$   
 $\text{Im}(\vec{x}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$

$$\overline{\vec{x}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1-i \\ 2 \\ 3+2i \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} i = \begin{pmatrix} 1-i \\ 2 \\ 3+2i \end{pmatrix} \text{ (conjugate of } \vec{x} \text{)}$$

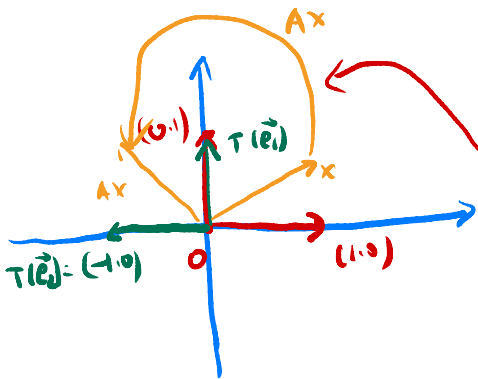
**Example 2:** If  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ , find the complex eigenvalues of  $A$  and corresponding eigenvectors.

Remark: The linear transformation  $\mathbf{x} \mapsto A\mathbf{x}$  on  $\mathbb{R}^2$  rotates the plane counterclockwise through a quarter-turn. Obviously, no nonzero vector is mapped into a multiple of itself, so  $A$  has no eigenvectors in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  and hence no real eigenvalues.

For any linear transformation  $T$ , there exists  $A$  s.t.  $T(\mathbf{x}) = A \cdot \mathbf{x}$

$$A = [T(\vec{e}_1), T(\vec{e}_2)], \quad \vec{e}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad T(\vec{e}_1) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\vec{e}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad T(\vec{e}_2) = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$



if real eigenvalue exists

$$A\mathbf{x} = \lambda \mathbf{x}$$

rotation of  $\mathbf{x}$ 
scaling of  $\mathbf{x}$  by  $\lambda$

⇒ the real eigenvalue does not exist.

Solve  $\det (A - \lambda I) = 0$

$$\det \left( \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} - \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right) = 0$$

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} -\lambda & -1 \\ 1 & -\lambda \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda^2 = -1$$

Replace  $-1$  with  $i^2$  ( $i^2 = -1$ )

$$\lambda^2 = i^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda = \pm i$$

$\lambda = +i$  Find  $x \neq 0$  such that

$$(A - \lambda I) \cdot x = 0$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -i & -1 \\ 1 & -i \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$\begin{cases} -i a - b = 0 & \textcircled{1} \\ a - i b = 0 & \textcircled{2} \end{cases}$$

Since  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $A$ ,

$\Rightarrow$  you can always find a non-zero  $x$  s.t.  $(A - \lambda I)x = 0$

pick up ①  $-ia - b = 0$

$$b = -ia.$$

set  $a = 1, \Rightarrow b = -i$

$\Rightarrow$  basis of eig-space  $\vec{v}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -i \end{pmatrix}$   
eigen vector of  $\lambda = i$

$\lambda = -i. \quad (A - \lambda I)v = 0$

$$\begin{pmatrix} +i & -1 \\ 1 & +i \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$\begin{cases} ai - b = 0 \\ a + ib = 0 \end{cases}$$

$ai = b, \quad \text{set } a = 1, \Rightarrow b = i$

eigen-vector  $\vec{v}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{pmatrix}$



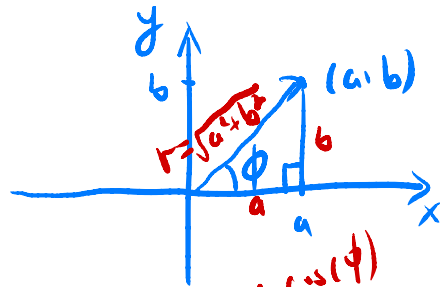
## Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors of a Real Matrix That Acts on $\mathbb{C}^n$ :

Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix with **real entries**. If  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $A$  and  $\mathbf{x}$  is a corresponding eigenvector in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ , then

Suppose  $\lambda$  is a complex eigenvalue of  $A$  with eigen vector  $\mathbf{x}$ .  
 then  $\bar{\lambda}$  is still an eigenvalue & its eigen vector is  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$ .

Remark: When  $A$  is real, its complex eigenvalues occur in conjugate pairs.

Geometric explanation: If  $C = \begin{bmatrix} a & -b \\ b & a \end{bmatrix}$ , where  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$  and both nonzero. Then the eigenvalues of  $C$  are  $\lambda = a \pm bi$ .



If  $r = |\lambda| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$ , then

$$C = r \begin{bmatrix} a/r & -b/r \\ b/r & a/r \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} r & 0 \\ 0 & r \end{bmatrix}}_{r \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}} \cdot \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \cos(\phi) & -\sin(\phi) \\ \sin(\phi) & \cos(\phi) \end{pmatrix}}$$

rotate the vector by an angle  $\phi$   
 scaling by  $r = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$

$$\det(C - \lambda I) = 0$$

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} a - \lambda & -b \\ b & a - \lambda \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$(a - \lambda)^2 = -b^2$$

replace  $-1$  by  $i^2$  ( $i^2 = -1$ )

$$(a - \lambda)^2 = \underbrace{i^2}_{-1} b^2$$

$$a - \lambda = \pm ib$$

$$\lambda = a \pm bi$$

$$\lambda = a + bi$$

$$(C - \lambda I)v = 0$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -bi & -b \\ b & -bi \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$-bix - by = 0$$

$$bx - biy = 0$$

$$-bix = by \Rightarrow -ix = y$$

$$\text{set } x = 1 \Rightarrow y = -i \quad \vec{v} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -i \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\lambda = a - bi \quad \vec{v}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\vec{v}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -i \end{pmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}}_{\text{real}(\vec{v}_1)} + i \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}}_{\text{img}(\vec{v}_1)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{v} &= \text{real}(\vec{v}_1) - \text{img}(\vec{v}_1) \cdot i = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} - i \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{pmatrix} \quad // \end{aligned}$$

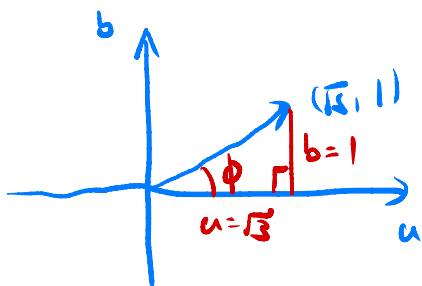


$$a = \sqrt{3}$$

$$b = +1$$

**Example 4:** List the eigenvalues of  $A = \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{3} & -1 \\ 1 & \sqrt{3} \end{bmatrix}$ . Note the transformation  $\mathbf{x} \mapsto A\mathbf{x}$  is the composition of a rotation and a scaling. Give the angle  $\phi$  of the rotation, where  $-\pi < \phi \leq \pi$ , and give the scale factor  $r$ .

eigenvalue:  $a \pm bi = \sqrt{3} \pm i$



$$\tan(\phi) = \frac{b}{a} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$$

$$\phi = \arctan\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right) = \frac{\pi}{6}$$

$$r = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2} = 2$$

**Theorem:** Let  $A$  be a real  $2 \times 2$  matrix with a complex eigenvalue  $\lambda = a - bi$  ( $b \neq 0$ ) and an associated eigenvector  $\mathbf{v}$  in  $\mathbb{C}^2$ . Then

$$A = PCP^{-1}, \text{ where } P = [\operatorname{Re}\mathbf{v} \quad \operatorname{Im}\mathbf{v}] \text{ and } C = \begin{bmatrix} a & -b \\ b & a \end{bmatrix}$$

$A$  is similar to  $C$ .