



Cayley-Hamilton theorem

Statement: A square matrix satisfies its own characteristic equation.

We saw that the matrix $\mathbf{M} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$ has characteristic equation $\lambda^2 - 5\lambda + 6 = 0$.

$$\mathbf{M}^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -2 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -2 & 4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 5 \\ -10 & 14 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{and } \mathbf{M}^2 - 5\mathbf{M} + 6\mathbf{I} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 5 \\ -10 & 14 \end{bmatrix} - 5 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -2 & 4 \end{bmatrix} + 6 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} -1-5+6 & 5-5 \\ -10+10 & 14-20+6 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{0}$$

This illustrates Cayley Hamilton Theorem.

Use the Cayley-Hamilton theorem to find \mathbf{M}^6 if $\mathbf{M} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$

Characteristic equation is $\lambda^2 - 5\lambda + 6 = 0$
 $\mathbf{M}^2 - 5\mathbf{M} + 6\mathbf{I} = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{M}^2 = 5\mathbf{M} - 6\mathbf{I}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\Rightarrow \mathbf{M}^4 &= (5\mathbf{M} - 6\mathbf{I})^2 \\ &= 25\mathbf{M}^2 - 60\mathbf{M} + 36\mathbf{I} \\ &= 25(5\mathbf{M} - 6\mathbf{I}) - 60\mathbf{M} + 36\mathbf{I} \\ &= 65\mathbf{M} - 114\mathbf{I}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{M}^6 &= \mathbf{M}^4 \times \mathbf{M}^2 \\ &= (65\mathbf{M} - 114\mathbf{I})(5\mathbf{M} - 6\mathbf{I}) \\ &= 325\mathbf{M}^2 - 960\mathbf{M} + 684\mathbf{I} \\ &= 325(5\mathbf{M} - 6\mathbf{I}) - 960\mathbf{M} + 684\mathbf{I} \\ &= 665\mathbf{M} - 1266\mathbf{I}\end{aligned}$$

$$= 665 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -2 & 4 \end{bmatrix} - 1266 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -601 & 665 \\ -1330 & 1394 \end{bmatrix}$$