



Topic: 1.5 – CAYLEY HAMILTON THEOREM

Cayley - Hamilton Theorem:

Every square matrix satisfies its own
Characteristic equation.

Uses of Cayley - Hamilton Theorem:

- To calculate (i) the positive integral powers of A and
- (ii) the inverse of a square matrix A .

Problem:

verify that $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$ satisfies its own characteristic equation and hence find A^{-1} .

Solu:

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

The Char. eqn. of A is $\lambda^2 - S_1\lambda + S_2 = 0$.

where $S_1 = 1 + (-1) = 0$

$S_2 = |A| = -1 - 4 = -5$

The Char. eqn. is $\lambda^2 - 0\lambda - 5 = 0$

[By C-H, Every square matrix satisfies its own char. eqn.]
(ii) $\lambda^2 - 5 = 0$
(*) TO prove: $A^2 - 5I = 0$ ①

$$A^2 = A \times A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$



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$$\begin{aligned} &= \begin{vmatrix} 1+\lambda & 2-2 \\ 2-2 & \lambda+1 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= \begin{vmatrix} 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 \end{vmatrix} \\ A^2 - 5I &= \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix} - 5 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ \therefore \text{The given matrix } A &\text{ satisfies its own char. Equ.} \end{aligned}$$

To find A^4 :

$$\text{consider } A^2 - 5I = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow A^2 = 5I$$

Multiply A^2 on both sides

$$A^4 = A^5(5I)$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 25 & 0 \\ 0 & 25 \end{bmatrix}$$



Find A^{-1} if $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 4 \\ 3 & 2 & -1 \\ 2 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$, using Cayley-Hamilton theorem.

Soln.

The char. eqn. of A is $\lambda^3 - S_1\lambda^2 + S_2\lambda - S_3 = 0$.

where $S_1 = 1 + 2 + 1 = 2$

$$S_2 = \begin{vmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{vmatrix} + \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 4 \\ 2 & -1 \end{vmatrix} + \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 3 & 2 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= (-2+1) + (-4-8) + (2+3)$$

$$= -1 + (-9) + 5$$

$$= -5$$

$$S_3 = |A| = 1(-2+1) + 1(-3+2) + 4(3-4)$$

$$= 1(-1) + 1(-1) + 4(-1)$$

$$= -1 - 1 - 4 = -6$$

\therefore The char. eqn. is $\lambda^3 - 2\lambda^2 - 5\lambda + 6 = 0$.

By Cayley Hamilton theorem,

Every square matrix satisfies its own char. eqn.

$$\therefore A^3 - 2A^2 - 5A + 6I = 0 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

To find A^{-1}

$$\textcircled{1} \times A^{-1} \Rightarrow A^2 - 2A - 5I + 6A^{-1} = 0$$



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$$A^2 - 2A - 5I + 6A^{-1} = 0$$

$$6A^{-1} = -A^2 + 2A + 5I$$

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{6} [-A^2 + 2A + 5I] \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

$$A^2 = A \times A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 4 \\ 3 & 2 & -1 \\ 2 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 4 \\ 3 & 2 & -1 \\ 2 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 1-3+8 & -1-2+4 & 4+1-4 \\ 3+6-2 & -3+4-1 & 12-2+1 \\ 2+3-2 & -2+2-1 & 8-1+1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 1 & 1 \\ 7 & 0 & 11 \\ 3 & -1 & 8 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-A^2 + 2A + 5I = \begin{bmatrix} -6 & -1 & -1 \\ -7 & 0 & -11 \\ -3 & 1 & -8 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -2 & 8 \\ 6 & 4 & -2 \\ 4 & 2 & -2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 & 7 \\ -1 & 9 & -13 \\ 1 & 3 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{From (2)} \Rightarrow A^{-1} = \frac{1}{6} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 & 7 \\ -1 & 9 & -13 \\ 1 & 3 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$



If $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$, find A^n in terms of n .

Solu: Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$.

The char. eqn. of A is $\lambda^2 - s_1\lambda + s_2 = 0$

$$\text{where } s_1 = 1 + 2 = 3$$

$$s_2 = |A| = 2 - 0 = 2$$

$$\therefore \text{The char. eqn. is } \lambda^2 - 3\lambda + 2 = 0$$
$$\Rightarrow (\lambda - 2)(\lambda - 1) = 0$$
$$\lambda = 2, \lambda = 1$$

Hence the Eigenvalues of A are $1, 2$.



To find A^n

When λ^n is divided by $\lambda^2 - 3\lambda + 2$

Let the quotient be $Q(\lambda)$ and remainder be $a\lambda + b$

$$\lambda^n = (\lambda^2 - 3\lambda + 2)Q(\lambda) + a\lambda + b \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

When $\lambda = 1$

$$\Rightarrow 1^n = a + b$$

When $\lambda = 2$

$$\Rightarrow 2^n = 2a + b$$

$$2a + b = 2^n \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

$$a + b = 1^n \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

Solving (2) & (3) we get

$$(2) - (3) \Rightarrow a = 2^n - 1^n$$

$$(2) - 2 \times (3) \Rightarrow b = -2^n + 2(1^n)$$

$$(re) \quad a = 2^n - 1^n$$

Replacing λ by the matrix A in (1), $A^n = (A^2 - 3A + 2I)Q(A) + aA + bI$
[By C-H $A^2 - 3A + 2I = 0$]

$$\Rightarrow A^n = aA + bI$$

$$A^n = (2^n - 1^n) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} + [2(1^n) - 2^n] \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$