

# Characteristic Equation

Matrix Polynomial :- An expression of the form  $F(x) = A_0 + A_1x + A_2x^2 + \dots + A_{m-1}x^{m-1} + A_mx^m$

~~where  $A_0, A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{m-1}, A_m$  are all square matrices of the same order~~  
where  $A_0, A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m$  are all square matrices of the same order is called a matrix polynomial of degree  $m$ , provided  $A_m$  is not a null matrix. For example

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} x + \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} x^2 + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix} x^3$$

is a matrix polynomial of degree 3.

Characteristic Equation :- Let  $A$  be a square matrix of order  $n$  over the field  $F$ , then the polynomial  $A - \lambda I$ , where  $I$  is the unit matrix of order  $n$ , is called the characteristic matrix of  $A$ ,  $\lambda$  being a scalar.

The determinant  $|A - \lambda I|$  which is an ordinary polynomial in  $\lambda$  of  $n$ th degree, with scalar coefficients, is called the characteristic polynomial of  $A$ , the equation

$|A - \lambda I| = 0$  is called the characteristic equation of the matrix  $A$ . The degree of the characteristic equation is the same as the order of the matrix  $A$ .

The roots of the characteristic equation are called the eigen values or characteristic roots of the matrix  $A$ .

[ Caley-Hamilton Theorem : Every square matrix satisfies its own characteristic equation. ] Important.

This theorem states that, if

$$|A - \lambda I| = (-1)^n (\lambda^n + p_1 \lambda^{n-1} + p_2 \lambda^{n-2} + \dots + p_n) = 0 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

be the characteristic equation, then

$$A^n + p_1 A^{n-1} + p_2 A^{n-2} + \dots + p_{n-1} A + p_n I = \underline{\underline{0}} \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

Eigen vector :- Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix over a field  $F$ .

Let  $X$  be a vector which transforms to its multiple  $\lambda X$ , by means of the square matrix  $A$ . i.e.

$$\lambda X = AX \quad \text{where } \lambda \text{ is a scalar.}$$

Then  $AX - \lambda I X = 0$

$$\Rightarrow (A - \lambda I) X = 0. \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

Obviously, for any value of  $\lambda$ , the null vector  $X = 0$  is a solution of (1). A value of  $\lambda$  for which (1) has a solution  $X \neq 0$  is called an eigen value or characteristic value of the matrix  $A$ . The corresponding solution  $X \neq 0$  of (1) are called eigen vectors or characteristic vectors of  $A$  corresponding to the eigen value  $\lambda$ .

Determination of scalar  $\lambda$  and nonzero vector  $X$ , satisfying the equation  $AX = \lambda X$  is known as the eigen value problem.

Ex Verify Cayley-Hamilton theorem for the matrix  $A$ . Express  $A^{-1}$  as a polynomial in  $A$  and then compute  $A^{-1}$ .

i)  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$

ii)  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \text{HW}$

Characteristic eqn

$$|A - \lambda I| = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{vmatrix} 1-\lambda & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2-\lambda & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 2-\lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

$\lambda I = \lambda \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

~~$\Rightarrow 1 \cdot [(2-\lambda)(2-\lambda) - 3] + 0 + 0 = 0$~~   
 ~~$\Rightarrow \lambda^2 - 4\lambda + 9 = 0$~~ , which is the characteristic equation.

Now, we are to show the matrix A satisfies the eq<sup>n</sup> ①.

$$A^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & 7 & 4 \\ 9 & 12 & 7 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\therefore A^2 - 4A + 4I = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & 7 & 4 \\ 9 & 12 & 7 \end{pmatrix} - 4 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1-4+4 & 0-0+0 & 0-0+0 \\ 5-4+0 & 7-8+0 & 4-4+0 \\ 9-8+0 & 12-12+0 & 7-8+0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$* (1-\lambda) \{ (2-\lambda)(2-\lambda) - 3 \} = 0$$

$$\& (1-\lambda)(4 + \lambda^2 - 4\lambda - 3) = 0$$

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

$$\& -\lambda^3 + 4\lambda^2 - \lambda + \lambda^2 - 4\lambda + 1 = 0$$

$$\& -\lambda^3 + 5\lambda^2 - 5\lambda + 1 = 0$$

$$\& \lambda^3 - 5\lambda^2 + 5\lambda - 1 = 0. \quad \dots \text{--- ①}$$

which is the characteristic equation.

$$A^3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & 7 & 4 \\ 9 & 12 & 7 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 20 & 26 & 15 \\ 35 & 45 & 26 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\therefore A^3 - 5A^2 + 5A - I$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 20 & 26 & 15 \\ 35 & 45 & 26 \end{pmatrix} - 5 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & 7 & 4 \\ 9 & 12 & 7 \end{pmatrix} + 5 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1-5+5-1 & 0-0+0-0 & 0-0+0-0 \\ 20-25+5+0 & 26-35+10-1 & 15-20+5+0 \\ 35-45+10-1 & 45-60+15+0 & 26-35+10-1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$\therefore$   $A$  satisfies the characteristic eqn

Now

$$A^3 - 5A^2 + 5A - I = 0$$

$$\otimes A^{-1} (A^3 - 5A^2 + 5A - I) = 0$$

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

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

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & 7 & 4 \\ 9 & 12 & 7 \end{pmatrix} - 5 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix} + 5 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1-5+5 & 0-0+0 & 0-0+0 \\ 5-5+0 & 7-10+5 & 4-5+0 \\ 9-10+0 & 12-15+0 & 7-10+5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$AA^{-1}$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -3 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= I$$

$$\therefore A^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

**HW** Find the characteristic equations of the matrices

i)  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 7 \\ 4 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

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

Show that the equations are satisfied by  $A$  and hence obtain the inverse of the given matrices.

Submit on 7/4/2020 at 6-30 p.m