

## Cayley-Hamilton theorem

Theorem: For any matrix  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{K}^{n \times n}$  with characteristic polynomial  $p_{\mathbf{A}}(t) = (-1)^n t^n + a_{n-1} t^{n-1} + \dots + a_2 t^2 + a_1 t + a_0$  it holds that:  
 $p_{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{A}) = (-1)^n \mathbf{A}^n + a_{n-1} \mathbf{A}^{n-1} + \dots + a_2 \mathbf{A}^2 + a_1 \mathbf{A} + a_0 \mathbf{I}_n = \mathbf{0}_n$

Here  $\mathbf{0}_n$  is the zero square matrix of order  $n$ .

Example:

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 3 & -1 & 3 \\ 1 & -2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad p_{\mathbf{A}}(t) = -t^3 + 2t^2 + t - 2$$

$$\begin{aligned} p_{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{A}) &= - \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 3 & -1 & 3 \\ 1 & -2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}^3 + 2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 3 & -1 & 3 \\ 1 & -2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}^2 + \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 3 & -1 & 3 \\ 1 & -2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} - 2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \\ &= - \begin{pmatrix} 13 & 2 & 12 \\ 9 & -1 & 9 \\ -5 & -2 & -4 \end{pmatrix} + 2 \begin{pmatrix} 7 & 0 & 6 \\ 3 & 1 & 3 \\ -3 & 0 & -2 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 3 & -1 & 3 \\ 1 & -2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} - 2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

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Proof: We use the fact that  $\mathbf{M} \cdot \text{adj}(\mathbf{M}) = \det(\mathbf{M}) \mathbf{I}_n$  for  $\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{A} - t \mathbf{I}_n$ .

Entries of  $\text{adj}(\mathbf{A} - t \mathbf{I}_n)$  are determinants of its submatrices, i.e.

polynomials in  $t$  of degree at most  $n - 1$ . Hence we can write:

$$\text{adj}(\mathbf{A} - t \mathbf{I}_n) = t^{n-1} \mathbf{B}_{n-1} + \dots + t \mathbf{B}_1 + \mathbf{B}_0 \text{ for } \mathbf{B}_{n-1}, \dots, \mathbf{B}_0 \in \mathbb{K}^{n \times n}$$

Example:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{adj}(\mathbf{A} - t \mathbf{I}_3) &= \text{adj} \begin{pmatrix} 1-t & 2 & 0 \\ 3 & -1-t & 3 \\ 1 & -2 & 2-t \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} t^2 - t + 4 & 2t - 4 & 6 \\ 3t - 3 & t^2 - 3t + 2 & 3t - 3 \\ t - 5 & -2t + 4 & t^2 - 7 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= t^2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 2 & 0 \\ 3 & -3 & 3 \\ 1 & -2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 4 & -4 & 6 \\ -3 & 2 & -3 \\ -5 & 4 & -7 \end{pmatrix} = t^2 \mathbf{B}_2 + t \mathbf{B}_1 + \mathbf{B}_0 \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now we got: } (\mathbf{A} - t \mathbf{I}_n)(t^{n-1} \mathbf{B}_{n-1} + \dots + t \mathbf{B}_1 + \mathbf{B}_0) &= p_{\mathbf{A}}(t) \mathbf{I}_n \\ &= (-1)^n t^n \mathbf{I}_n + a_{n-1} t^{n-1} \mathbf{I}_n + \dots + a_2 t^2 \mathbf{I}_n + a_1 t \mathbf{I}_n + a_0 \mathbf{I}_n \end{aligned}$$

Example:

$$\begin{aligned} &\begin{pmatrix} 1-t & 2 & 0 \\ 3 & -1-t & 3 \\ 1 & -2 & 2-t \end{pmatrix} \left( t^2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 2 & 0 \\ 3 & -3 & 3 \\ 1 & -2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 4 & -4 & 6 \\ -3 & 2 & -3 \\ -5 & 4 & -7 \end{pmatrix} \right) \\ &= (-t^3 + 2t^2 + t - 2) \mathbf{I}_3 = -t^3 \mathbf{I}_3 + 2t^2 \mathbf{I}_3 + t \mathbf{I}_3 - 2 \mathbf{I}_3 \end{aligned}$$

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Now we got:  $(\mathbf{A} - t \mathbf{I}_n)(t^{n-1} \mathbf{B}_{n-1} + \dots + t \mathbf{B}_1 + \mathbf{B}_0) = p_{\mathbf{A}}(t) \mathbf{I}_n =$

$$= (-1)^n t^n \mathbf{I}_n + a_{n-1} t^{n-1} \mathbf{I}_n + \dots + a_2 t^2 \mathbf{I}_n + a_1 t \mathbf{I}_n + a_0 \mathbf{I}_n$$

$$\text{coefficients by } t^n: \quad -\mathbf{B}_{n-1} = (-1)^n \mathbf{I}_n \quad \cdot \mathbf{A}^n \text{ from the left}$$

$$\text{coefficients by } t^i: \quad \mathbf{A} \mathbf{B}_i - \mathbf{B}_{i-1} = a_i \mathbf{I}_n \quad \cdot \mathbf{A}^i \text{ from the left}$$

$$\text{coefficients by } t^0: \quad \mathbf{A} \mathbf{B}_0 = a_0 \mathbf{I}_n \quad \text{leave as is and } \sum \text{ all}$$

The left side:

$$-\mathbf{A}^n \mathbf{B}_{n-1} + \mathbf{A}^{n-1} (\mathbf{A} \mathbf{B}_{n-1} - \mathbf{B}_{n-2}) + \dots + \mathbf{A} (\mathbf{A} \mathbf{B}_1 - \mathbf{B}_0) + \mathbf{A} \mathbf{B}_0 = \mathbf{0}_n$$

$$\text{The right side: } (-1)^n \mathbf{A}^n + a_{n-1} \mathbf{A}^{n-1} + \dots + a_2 \mathbf{A}^2 + a_1 \mathbf{A} + a_0 \mathbf{I}_n = p_{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{A})$$