

Learning Objective

- Determine if a scalar is an eigenvalue of a matrix
- Determine if a vector is an eigenvector of a matrix
- Understand how to find eigenvectors corresponding to a given eigenvalue
- Understand how to find a basis for an eigenspace corresponding to an eigenvalue
- Understand how to find the eigenvalues of a triangular matrix

Eigenvectors and Eigenvalues

**Definition:** Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix.

An \_\_\_\_\_ of  $A$  is a **nonzero** vector  $\mathbf{x}$  such that  $A\mathbf{x} = \text{_____}$  for some scalar \_\_\_\_\_.

A scalar  $\lambda$  is called an \_\_\_\_\_ of  $A$  if there is a **nontrivial** solution  $\mathbf{x}$  of the equation  $A\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$ ; such an  $\mathbf{x}$  is called an \_\_\_\_\_ corresponding to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Remark:**  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of an  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  if and only if the equation \_\_\_\_\_ has a nontrivial solution. The set of all solutions to this equation is called the \_\_\_\_\_ of  $A$  corresponding to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Theorem 5.1:** The eigenvalues of a triangular matrix are the entries on its \_\_\_\_\_.

**Theorem 5.2** If  $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_r$  are eigenvectors that correspond to distinct eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_r$  of an  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$ , then the set  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_r\}$  is \_\_\_\_\_.