Solutions to Self-Quiz I

a. True. If A is invertible and if $A\mathbf{x} = 1\cdot\mathbf{x}$ for some nonzero $\mathbf{x}$, then left-multiply by A^{-1} to obtain $\mathbf{x} = A^{-1}\mathbf{x}$, which may be rewritten as $A^{-1}\mathbf{x} = 1\cdot\mathbf{x}$. Since $\mathbf{x}$ is nonzero, this shows 1 is an eigenvalue of A^{-1}.

b. False. If A is row equivalent to the identity matrix, then A is invertible. The matrix in Example 4 of Section 5.3 shows that an invertible matrix need not be diagonalizable. Also, see Exercise 31 in Section 5.3.

c. True. If A contains a row or column of zeros, then A is not row equivalent to the identity matrix and thus is not invertible. By the Invertible Matrix Theorem (as stated in Section 5.2), 0 is an eigenvalue of A.

d. False. Consider a diagonal matrix D whose eigenvalues are 1 and 3, that is, its diagonal entries are 1 and 3. Then D^2 is a diagonal matrix whose eigenvalues (diagonal entries) are 1 and 9. In general, the eigenvalues of A^2 are the *squares* of the eigenvalues of A.

e. True. Suppose a nonzero vector $\mathbf{x}$ satisfies $A\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$, then

$$A^2\mathbf{x} = A(A\mathbf{x}) = A(\lambda\mathbf{x}) = \lambda A\mathbf{x} = \lambda^2\mathbf{x}$$

This shows that $\mathbf{x}$ is also an eigenvector for A^2

f. True. Suppose a nonzero vector $\mathbf{x}$ satisfies $A\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$, then left-multiply by A^{-1} to obtain $\mathbf{x} = A^{-1}(\lambda\mathbf{x}) = \lambda A^{-1}\mathbf{x}$. Since A is invertible, the eigenvalue λ is not zero. So $\lambda^{-1}\mathbf{x} = A^{-1}\mathbf{x}$, which shows that $\mathbf{x}$ is also an eigenvector of A^{-1}.

g. False. Zero is an eigenvalue of each singular square matrix.

h. True. By definition, an eigenvector must be nonzero.

i. False. Let $\mathbf{v}$ be an eigenvector for A. Then $\mathbf{v}$ and $2\mathbf{v}$ are distinct eigenvectors for the same eigenvalue (because the eigenspace is a subspace), but $\mathbf{v}$ and $2\mathbf{v}$ are linearly dependent.

j. True. This follows from Theorem 4 in Section 5.2

k. False. Let A be the 3×3 matrix in Example 3 of Section 5.3. Then A is similar to a diagonal matrix D. The eigenvectors of D are the columns of I_3, but the eigenvectors of A are entirely different.

l. False. Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$. Then $\mathbf{e}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{e}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ are eigenvectors of A, but $\mathbf{e}_1 + \mathbf{e}_2$ is not. (Actually, it can be shown that if two eigenvectors of A correspond to distinct eigenvalues, then their sum cannot be an eigenvector.)

m. False. *All* the diagonal entries of an upper triangular matrix are the eigenvalues of the matrix (Theorem 1 in Section 5.1). A diagonal entry may be zero.

n. True. Matrices A and A^T have the same characteristic polynomial, because $\det(A^T - \lambda I) = \det(A - \lambda I)^T = \det(A - \lambda I)$, by the determinant transpose property.

o. False. Counterexample: Let A be the 5×5 identity matrix.

p. True. For example, let A be the matrix that rotates vectors through $\pi/2$ radians about the origin. Then $A\mathbf{x}$ is not a multiple of $\mathbf{x}$ when $\mathbf{x}$ is nonzero.

q. False. If A is a diagonal matrix with 0 on the diagonal, then the columns of A are not linearly independent.

r. True. If $A\mathbf{x} = \lambda_1\mathbf{x}$ and $A\mathbf{x} = \lambda_2\mathbf{x}$, then $\lambda_1\mathbf{x} = \lambda_2\mathbf{x}$ and $(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$. If $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$, then λ_1 must equal λ_2.

s. False. Let A be a singular matrix that is diagonalizable. (For instance, let A be a diagonal matrix with 0 on the diagonal.) Then, by Theorem 8 in Section 5.4, the transformation $\mathbf{x} \mapsto A\mathbf{x}$ is represented by a diagonal matrix relative to a coordinate system determined by eigenvectors of A.

t. True. By definition of matrix multiplication,

$$A = AI = A[\mathbf{e}_1 \quad \mathbf{e}_2 \quad \cdots \quad \mathbf{e}_n] = [A\mathbf{e}_1 \quad A\mathbf{e}_2 \quad \cdots \quad A\mathbf{e}_n]$$

If $A\mathbf{e}_j = d_j\mathbf{e}_j$ for $j = 1,\ldots,n$, then A is a diagonal matrix with diagonal entries $d_1,\ldots,d_n$.

u. True. If $B = PDP^{-1}$, where D is a diagonal matrix, and if $A = QBQ^{-1}$, then $A = Q(PDP^{-1})Q^{-1} = (QP)D(PQ)^{-1}$, which shows that A is diagonalizable.

v. True. Since B is invertible, AB is similar to $B(AB)B^{-1}$, which equals BA.

w. False. Having n linearly independent eigenvectors makes an $n \times n$ matrix diagonalizable (by the Diagonalization Theorem 5 in Section 5.3), but not necessarily invertible. One of the eigenvalues of the matrix could be zero.

x. True. If A is diagonalizable, then by the Diagonalization Theorem, A has n linearly independent eigenvectors $\mathbf{v}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_n$ in $\mathbf{R}^n$. By the Basis Theorem, $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$ spans $\mathbf{R}^n$. This means that each vector in $\mathbf{R}^n$ can be written as a linear combination of $\mathbf{v}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_n$.