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Consider the case where  $n = 1$ . Even without any assumptions, a  $1 \times 1$  matrix always has  $[1]$  as its eigenvector. Hence the statement holds.

Now consider the case where  $n = 2$ . Assume that  $A$  and  $B$  are Hermitian matrices such that  $AB - BA$  is singular. Then  $AB - BA$  has a  $0$  as one of its eigenvalues. However, note that

$$\text{tr}(AB - BA) = \text{tr}(AB) - \text{tr}(BA) = 0$$

where  $\text{tr}(AB - BA)$  should be the sum of the two eigenvalues of  $AB - BA$ . Therefore the only eigenvalue of  $AB - BA$  is  $0$ , with algebraic multiplicity  $2$ . It follows that  $AB - BA = O$ , that is,  $AB = BA$  always. Now let  $\lambda$  be a eigenvalue of  $A$ , and let  $W_\lambda$  be the eigenspace of  $A$  corresponding to  $\lambda$ . Then for any  $v_\lambda \in W_\lambda$ , we have

$$A(Bv_\lambda) = B(Av_\lambda) = B(\lambda v_\lambda) = \lambda(Bv_\lambda)$$

so  $W_\lambda$  is a  $B$ -invariant subspace of  $\mathbb{C}^2$ . Thus considering  $B|_{W_\lambda} : W_\lambda \rightarrow W_\lambda$ , there must exist an eigenvector  $w \in W_\lambda$  of  $B|_{W_\lambda}$ , which also becomes an eigenvector of  $B$ . Here, from  $w \in W_\lambda$ ,  $w$  is also an eigenvector of  $A$  with eigenvalue  $\lambda$ . Therefore  $A$  and  $B$  have a common eigenvector, namely  $w$ . Hence the statement holds.

On the other hand, suppose  $n \geq 3$ . Let  $A$  and  $B$  to be

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & n \end{bmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

then by simple calculation we have

$$AB - BA = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 & -2 & \cdots & -(n-1) \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ n-1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

so  $AB - BA$  is clearly singular. However the eigenvectors of  $A$  are the standard basis vectors  $\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n\}$  while for any  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  we can see by some simple calculation that  $Be_i$  is never a multiple of  $e_i$ . This shows that an eigenvector of  $A$  cannot also be an eigenvector of  $B$ , that is,  $A$  and  $B$  cannot have a common eigenvector.

Therefore the only positive integers such that the statement

$$AB - BA \text{ singular} \Rightarrow A \text{ and } B \text{ have a common eigenvector}$$

for  $n \times n$  Hermitian matrices  $A$  and  $B$  holds are  $1$  and  $2$ .