

5.6.4

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Question:

If $\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -2 \\ 4 & -2 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{I} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$, find k so that $\mathbf{A}^2 = k\mathbf{A} - 2\mathbf{I}$.

Solution:

The characteristic equation for a matrix \mathbf{A} is $f(\lambda) = \mathbf{A} - \lambda \mathbf{I} = 0$

$$\mathbf{A} - \lambda \mathbf{I} = \begin{vmatrix} 3 - \lambda & -2 \\ 4 & -2 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0 \quad (0.1)$$

Upon expanding we get $\lambda^2 - \lambda + 2 = 0$

$$\lambda^2 = \lambda - 2 \quad (0.2)$$

Using the Cayley-Hamilton theorem $f(\lambda) = f(\mathbf{A}) = 0$

$$\mathbf{A}^2 = \mathbf{A} - 2\mathbf{I} \quad (0.3)$$

Value of k=1