

# 12.378

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## Question:

The eigenvalues of the matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 6 & 1 \\ -2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

are

(a) (3, 6)

(b) (1, -2)

(c) (5, 4)

(d) (1, 6)

## Solution

According to the Cayley-Hamilton theorem,  $\det(\mathbf{A} - \lambda \mathbf{I}) = 0$ .

$$\det(\mathbf{A} - \lambda \mathbf{I}) = \det \begin{pmatrix} 6 - \lambda & 1 \\ -2 & 3 - \lambda \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.1)$$

$$= (6 - \lambda)(3 - \lambda) - (1)(-2) \quad (0.2)$$

$$= 18 - 6\lambda - 3\lambda + \lambda^2 + 2 \quad (0.3)$$

$$= \lambda^2 - 9\lambda + 20 = 0 \quad (0.4)$$

$$= (\lambda - 5)(\lambda - 4) = 0 \quad (0.5)$$

Thus, the eigenvalues are  $\lambda_1 = 5$  and  $\lambda_2 = 4$ . This corresponds to option (c).