

MATH 262 - Homework 7.3

1. Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$.

Find all (real) eigenvalues for A . Then find a basis of each eigenspace, and diagonalize A , if you can. Do not use technology.

First, find the eigenvalues for A .

$$\operatorname{tr}(A) = 0 + 2 = 2$$

$$\det(A) = (0 \cdot 2) - (-1 \cdot 1) = 0 - (-1) = 0 + 1 = 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \det(A - \lambda I_2) \\ &= \lambda^2 - \operatorname{tr}(A)\lambda + \det(A) \\ &= \lambda^2 - 2\lambda + 1 \\ &= (\lambda - 1)^2 \end{aligned}$$

A has one eigenvalue $\lambda_1 = 1$ with a multiplicity of 2. Now, use this eigenvalue to find the eigenspace and its basis.

$$E_1 = \ker(A - I_2) = \ker \begin{bmatrix} \overset{\text{blue}}{-1} & \overset{\text{blue}}{1} \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \operatorname{span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

Because only one linearly independent eigenvector can be found, it's not possible to construct an eigenbasis for A . Thus, A fails to be diagonalizable.