

Chapter 5: Eigenvalues, Eigenvectors, and Invariant Subspaces

Linear Algebra Done Right, by Sheldon Axler

A: Invariant Subspaces

Problem 1

Suppose $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ and U is a subspace of V .

- (a) Prove that if $U \subseteq \text{null } T$, then U is invariant under T .
- (b) Prove that if $\text{range } T \subseteq U$, then U is invariant under T .

Proof. (a) Suppose $u \in U$. Since $U \subseteq \text{null } T$, we must have $Tu = 0$. And since $0 \in U$, this implies $Tu \in U$, and so U is indeed invariant under T .

- (b) Suppose $u \in U$. Since $Tu \in \text{range } T$ (by definition of $\text{range } T$) and $\text{range } T \subseteq U$, we have $Tu \in U$. Thus U is invariant under T . \square

Problem 3

Suppose $S, T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ are such that $ST = TS$. Prove that $\text{range } S$ is invariant under T .

Proof. Suppose $w \in \text{range } S$. Then there exists $v \in V$ such that

$$Sv = w.$$

It follows

$$Tw = TSv = STv,$$

and thus $Tw \in \text{range } S$, so that $\text{range } S$ is indeed invariant under T . \square

Problem 5

Suppose $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$. Prove that the intersection of every collection of subspaces of V invariant under T is invariant under T .

Proof. Let \mathfrak{U} be a collection of subspaces of V invariant under T , and let

$$W = \bigcap_{U \in \mathfrak{U}} U.$$

By Problem 11 of Section 1.C, W is a subspace of V . Assume $u \in W$. Then $u \in U$ for every $U \in \mathfrak{U}$. Since each such U is invariant under T , we have $Tu \in U$ for all $U \in \mathfrak{U}$ as well. This implies $Tu \in W$, and hence W is invariant under T also, as desired. \square

Problem 7

Suppose $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{R}^2)$ is defined by $T(x, y) = (-3y, x)$. Find the eigenvalues of T .

Proof. Suppose $T(x, y) = \lambda(x, y)$, where $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ is nonzero and $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$. Then

$$-3y = \lambda x \quad (1)$$

$$x = \lambda y. \quad (2)$$

Substituting the value for x given by the Equation 2 into Equation 1 gives

$$-3y = \lambda^2 y.$$

Now, y cannot be 0, for otherwise $x = 0$ (by Equation 2), contrary to our assumption that (x, y) is nonzero. Hence $-3 = \lambda^2$. Thus, if $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}$, T has two eigenvalues: $\lambda = \pm\sqrt{3}i$. If $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}$, T has no eigenvalues. \square

Problem 9

Define $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{F}^3)$ by

$$T(z_1, z_2, z_3) = (2z_2, 0, 5z_3).$$

Proof. Suppose $T(z_1, z_2, z_3) = \lambda(z_1, z_2, z_3)$, where $(z_1, z_2, z_3) \in \mathbb{F}^3$ is nonzero and $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$. Then

$$2z_2 = \lambda z_1 \quad (3)$$

$$0 = \lambda z_2 \quad (4)$$

$$5z_3 = \lambda z_3. \quad (5)$$

First notice that $\lambda = 0$ satisfies the above equations if either z_1 or z_3 is nonzero, and thus 0 is an eigenvalue with corresponding eigenvectors

$$\{(s, 0, t) \mid s, t \in \mathbb{F}, s \text{ and } t \text{ are not both } 0\}.$$

If $\lambda \neq 0$, then we must have $z_2 = 0$ by Equation 4, and hence $z_1 = 0$ by Equation 3. Since $(z_1, z_2, z_3) \neq (0, 0, 0)$, we conclude z_3 must be nonzero. Thus Equation 5 implies $\lambda = 5$ is the only other eigenvalue with corresponding eigenvectors

$$\{(0, 0, t) \mid t \in \mathbb{F} - \{0\}\},$$

and we're done. \square

Problem 11

Define $T : \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R})$ by $Tp = p'$. Find all eigenvalues and eigenvectors of T .

Proof. Let $p \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R})$ be nonzero and suppose $Tp = \lambda p$ for some $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$. Note that $\deg p$ must be 0, for otherwise, since $\deg p = \deg(Tp) = \deg p'$, we have a contradiction. Thus the only eigenvalue of T is $\lambda = 0$, and the corresponding eigenvectors are the constant, nonzero polynomials in $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R})$. \square

Problem 13

Suppose V is finite-dimensional, $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$, and $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$. Prove that there exists $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}$ such that $|\alpha - \lambda| < \frac{1}{1000}$ and $T - \alpha I$ is invertible.

Proof. Suppose not. Then for any $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}$ such that $|\alpha - \lambda| < \frac{1}{1000}$, $T - \alpha I$ is not invertible. But then, by Theorem 5.6, α is an eigenvalue of T . This is a contradiction, since there are infinitely many such α , but T can have at most $\dim V$ eigenvalues by Theorem 5.13. \square

Problem 15

Suppose $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$. Suppose $S \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ is invertible.

- (a) Prove that T and $S^{-1}TS$ have the same eigenvalues.
- (b) What is the relationship between the eigenvectors of T and the eigenvectors of $S^{-1}TS$?

Proof. (a) Suppose $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$ is an eigenvalue of $S^{-1}TS$. Then there exists a nonzero $v \in V$ such that $(S^{-1}TS)v = \lambda v$. This equation is true if and only if $TSv = \lambda(Sv)$, which is in turn true if and only if $Tw = \lambda w$, where $w = Sv$. Note that since S is invertible, $w \neq 0$. Thus T and $S^{-1}TS$ indeed have the same eigenvalues.

- (b) As shown in the proof of (a), $v \in V$ is an eigenvector of $S^{-1}TS$ if and only if Sv is an eigenvector of T . \square

Problem 17

Give an example of an operator $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{R}^4)$ such that T has no (real) eigenvalues.

Proof. Consider the following operator

$$\begin{aligned} T : \mathbb{R}^4 &\rightarrow \mathbb{R}^4 \\ (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) &\mapsto (-x_4, x_1, x_2, x_3). \end{aligned}$$

We claim T has no real eigenvalues. To see this, suppose $T(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = \lambda(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$ for some $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ and nonzero $(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) \in \mathbb{R}^4$. It follows

$$(-x_4, x_1, x_2, x_3) = \lambda(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4),$$

and hence

$$-x_4 = \lambda x_1 \tag{6}$$

$$x_1 = \lambda x_2 \tag{7}$$

$$x_2 = \lambda x_3 \tag{8}$$

$$x_3 = \lambda x_4. \tag{9}$$

This implies $-x_4 = \lambda^4 x_4$. Notice λ cannot be 0, for otherwise (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) is the zero vector, a contradiction. Hence we must have $x_4 = 0$. But then Equation 6 implies $x_1 = 0$, which in turn implies $x_2 = 0$ by Equation 7, and which thus implies $x_3 = 0$ by Equation 8. But now we have that (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) is the zero vector, another contradiction. So we conclude T indeed has no real eigenvalues, as claimed. \square

Problem 19

Suppose n is a positive integer and $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{F}^n)$ is defined by

$$T(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (x_1 + \dots + x_n, \dots, x_1 + \dots + x_n);$$

in other words, T is the operator whose matrix (with respect to the standard basis) consists of all 1's. Find all eigenvalues and eigenvectors of T .

Proof. Suppose $T(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \lambda(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ for some $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$ and some nonzero $(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{F}^n$. Then

$$(x_1 + \dots + x_n, \dots, x_1 + \dots + x_n) = \lambda(x_1, \dots, x_n).$$

It follows

$$x_1 + \dots + x_n = \lambda x_1$$

$$\vdots$$

$$x_1 + \dots + x_n = \lambda x_n.$$

Thus, our first eigenvalue is $\lambda = 0$ with corresponding eigenvectors

$$\{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{F}^n - \{0\} \mid x_1 + \dots + x_n = 0\}.$$

Next, if $\lambda \neq 0$, notice the equations above imply $\lambda x_1 = \cdots = \lambda x_n$, and thus $x_1 = \cdots = x_n$. Denote the common value of the x_k 's by y . Then any of the above equations is now equivalent to $ny = \lambda y$. Thus our second eigenvalue is $\lambda = n$ with corresponding eigenvectors

$$\{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{F}^n - \{0\} \mid x_1 = \cdots = x_n\},$$

and we're done. \square

Problem 21

Suppose $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ is invertible.

- (a) Suppose $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$ with $\lambda \neq 0$. Prove that λ is an eigenvalue of T if and only if $\frac{1}{\lambda}$ is an eigenvalue of T^{-1} .
- (b) Prove that T and T^{-1} have the same eigenvectors.

Proof. (a) By definition, $\lambda \neq 0$ is an eigenvalue of T if and only if there exists $v \in V - \{0\}$ such that $Tv = \lambda v$. Since T is invertible, this is true if and only if $v = T^{-1}(\lambda v)$, which is itself true if and only if (after simplification) $(\frac{1}{\lambda})v = T^{-1}v$. Thus λ is an eigenvalue of T if and only if $\frac{1}{\lambda}$ is an eigenvalue of T^{-1} , as was to be shown.

- (b) First notice that $\lambda = 0$ cannot be an eigenvalue of T or T^{-1} since they are both injective. Now, suppose v is an eigenvector of T corresponding to $\lambda \neq 0$. By the proof of (a), v is an eigenvector of T^{-1} corresponding to $\frac{1}{\lambda}$. Thus all eigenvectors of T are eigenvectors of T^{-1} . Now, reversing the roles of T and T^{-1} and applying the same argument yields the reverse inclusion, completing the proof. \square

Problem 23

Suppose V is finite-dimensional and $S, T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$. Prove that ST and TS have the same eigenvalues.

Proof. Let $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$ be an eigenvalue of ST and $v \in V - \{0\}$ be a corresponding eigenvector, so that $STv = \lambda v$. First, if $Tv \neq 0$, it follows

$$\begin{aligned} TS(Tv) &= T(STv) \\ &= T(\lambda v) \\ &= \lambda(Tv), \end{aligned}$$

so that λ is an eigenvalue of TS . Next, if $Tv = 0$, then we must have $\lambda = 0$ (since $STv = \lambda v$). Moreover, T is not invertible (since $v \neq 0$). Thus TS is not invertible (by Problem 9 of Chapter 3.D). Since TS is not invertible, there exists a nonzero $w \in V$ such that $TSw = 0$, and hence $\lambda = 0$ is an eigenvalue of TS as

well.

Since λ is an eigenvalue of TS in both cases, we conclude that every eigenvalue of ST is also an eigenvalue of TS . Reversing the roles of S and T and applying the same argument yields the reverse inclusion, completing the proof. \square

Problem 25

Suppose $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ and u, v are eigenvectors of T such that $u + v$ is also an eigenvector of T . Prove that u and v are eigenvectors of T corresponding to the same eigenvalue.

Proof. Suppose λ_1 is the eigenvalue associated to u , λ_2 is the eigenvalue associated to v , and λ_3 is the eigenvalue associated to $u + v$, so that

$$Tu = \lambda_1 u \quad (10)$$

$$Tv = \lambda_2 v \quad (11)$$

$$T(u + v) = \lambda_3(u + v). \quad (12)$$

It follows that

$$Tu + Tv = \lambda_1 u + \lambda_2 v,$$

and hence, by Equation 12, we have

$$\lambda_3 u + \lambda_3 v = \lambda_1 u + \lambda_2 v.$$

Thus

$$(\lambda_1 - \lambda_3)u + (\lambda_2 - \lambda_3)v = 0.$$

Since u and v are both eigenvectors of T , they are linearly independent. Thus $\lambda_1 = \lambda_3$ and $\lambda_2 = \lambda_3$, and hence $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = \lambda_3$, showing that u and v indeed correspond to the same eigenvalue. \square

Problem 26

Suppose $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ is such that every nonzero vector in V is an eigenvector of T . Prove that T is a scalar multiple of the identity operator.

Proof. By hypothesis, for all $v \in V$ there exists $\lambda_v \in \mathbb{F}$ such that $Tv = \lambda_v v$ (where λ_0 can be any nonzero element of \mathbb{F} , since $T0 = 0$). We claim λ_v is independent of the choice of v for $v \in V - \{0\}$, hence $Tv = \lambda v$ for all $v \in V$ (including $v = 0$) and some $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$, and thus $T = \lambda I$.

So suppose $w, z \in V - \{0\}$ are arbitrary. We want to show $\lambda_w = \lambda_z$. If w and

z are linearly dependent, then there exists $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}$ such that $w = \alpha z$. It follows

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_w w &= Tw \\ &= T(\alpha z) \\ &= \alpha Tz \\ &= \alpha \lambda_z z \\ &= \lambda_z(\alpha z) \\ &= \lambda_z w.\end{aligned}$$

Since $w \neq 0$, this implies $\lambda_w = \lambda_z$. Next suppose w and z are linearly independent. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_{w+z}(w+z) &= T(w+z) \\ &= Tw + Tz \\ &= \lambda_w w + \lambda_z z,\end{aligned}$$

and hence

$$(\lambda_{w+z} - \lambda_w)w + (\lambda_{w+z} - \lambda_z)z = 0.$$

Since w and z are assumed to be linearly independent, we have $\lambda_{w+z} = \lambda_w$ and $\lambda_{w+z} = \lambda_z$, and hence again we have $\lambda_w = \lambda_z$, completing the proof. \square

Problem 27

Suppose V is finite-dimensional and $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ is such that every subspace of V with dimension $\dim V - 1$ is invariant under T . Prove that T is a scalar multiple of the identity operator.

Proof. Suppose not. Then by the contrapositive of Problem 26, there exists some nonzero $v \in V$ which is not an eigenvector of T . Thus the list v, Tv is linearly independent, and, assuming $\dim V = n$, we may extend it to some basis $v, Tv, u_1, \dots, u_{n-2}$ of V . Let $U = \text{span}(v, u_1, \dots, u_{n-2})$. Since $\dim U = \dim V - 1$, U must be invariant under T . But this is a contradiction, since $Tv \notin U$. Thus T must be a scalar multiple of the identity operator, as desired. \square

Problem 29

Suppose $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ and $\dim \text{range } T = k$. Prove that T has at most $k + 1$ distinct eigenvalues.

Proof. Suppose $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m$ are distinct eigenvalues of T , and let v_1, \dots, v_m be corresponding eigenvectors. For $k \in \{1, \dots, m\}$, if $\lambda_k \neq 0$, then

$$T\left(\frac{1}{\lambda_k}v_k\right) = v_k.$$

Since at most one of the $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m$ can be 0, at least $m - 1$ of our eigenvectors are in $\text{range } T$. Thus, since lists of distinct eigenvectors are linearly independent by Theorem 5.10, we have

$$m - 1 \leq \dim \text{range } T = k,$$

which implies $m \leq k + 1$, as desired. \square

Problem 31

Suppose V is finite-dimensional and v_1, \dots, v_m is a list of vectors in V . Prove that v_1, \dots, v_m is linearly independent if and only if there exists $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ such that v_1, \dots, v_m are eigenvectors of T corresponding to distinct eigenvalues.

Proof. (\Leftarrow) If $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ is such that v_1, \dots, v_m are eigenvectors of T corresponding to distinct eigenvalues, then v_1, \dots, v_m is linearly independent by Theorem 5.10.

(\Rightarrow) Suppose v_1, \dots, v_m is a linearly independent list of vectors in V . Define $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ by $Tv_k = kv_k$ for $k = 1, \dots, m$. The existence (and uniqueness) of T is guaranteed by Theorem 3.5, and clearly v_1, \dots, v_m are eigenvectors of T corresponding to distinct eigenvalues. \square

Problem 33

Suppose $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$. Prove that $T/(\text{range } T) = 0$.

Proof. Let $v + \text{range } T \in V/(\text{range } T)$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} (T/(\text{range } T))(v + \text{range } T) &= Tv + \text{range } T \\ &= 0 + \text{range } T. \end{aligned}$$

Thus $T/(\text{range } T)$ is indeed the zero map, as was to be shown. \square

Problem 35

Suppose V is finite-dimensional, $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$, and U is invariant under T . Prove that each eigenvalue of T/U is an eigenvalue of T .

Proof. Suppose $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$ is an eigenvalue of T/U . Then there exists some nonzero $v + U \in V/U$ such that

$$(T/U)(v + U) = \lambda(v + U),$$

which implies

$$Tv + U = \lambda v + U,$$

and hence $Tv - \lambda v \in U$. If λ is an eigenvalue of $T|_U$, we're done. So suppose not. Then, since V is finite-dimensional, Theorem 5.6 tells us $T|_U - \lambda I : U \rightarrow U$ is invertible. Hence there exists some $u \in U$ such that $(T|_U - \lambda I)(u) = Tv - \lambda v$, and thus

$$Tu - \lambda u = Tv - \lambda v.$$

Simplifying, we have $T(u - v) = \lambda(u - v)$. Since $v \notin U$ by assumption, this implies $u - v \neq 0$ and hence λ is an eigenvalue of T , completing the proof. \square

B: Eigenvectors and Upper-Triangular Matrices

Problem 1

Suppose $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ and there exists a positive integer n such that $T^n = 0$.

(a) Prove that $I - T$ is invertible and that

$$(I - T)^{-1} = I + T + \cdots + T^{n-1}.$$

(b) Explain how you would guess the formula above.

Proof. (a) We will show that $S := I + T + \cdots + T^{n-1}$ is both a left and right inverse of $I - T$. Suppose $v \in V$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} (I - T)Sv &= (I - T)(v + Tv + \cdots + T^{n-1}v) \\ &= (v + Tv + \cdots + T^{n-1}v) - T(v + Tv + \cdots + T^{n-1}v) \\ &= v + (Tv + \cdots + T^{n-1}v - Tv - T^2v - \cdots - T^{n-1}v) + T^n v \\ &= v \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} S(I - T)v &= (v + Tv + \cdots + T^{n-1}v)(I - T) \\ &= (v + Tv + \cdots + T^{n-1}v) - (Tv + T^2v + \cdots + T^n v) \\ &= v + (Tv + \cdots + T^{n-1}v - Tv - T^2v - \cdots - T^{n-1}v) + T^n v \\ &= v. \end{aligned}$$

Thus $I - T$ is indeed invertible, and S is its inverse.

(b) Recall the power series expansion for $(1 - x)^{-1}$ when $|x| < 1$:

$$(1 - x)^{-1} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^k.$$

Substituting T for x and supposing $T^k = 0$ for $k \geq n$, we have the formula from (a). \square

Problem 3

Suppose $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ and $T^2 = I$ and -1 is not an eigenvalue of T . Prove that $T = I$.

Proof. Since -1 is not an eigenvalue of T , Theorem 5.6 implies $T+I$ is invertible. Hence for all $w \in V$, there exists $v \in V$ such that $(T+I)v = w$. Thus

$$Tv + v = w. \quad (13)$$

Since $T^2 = I$, applying T to both sides yields

$$v + Tv = Tw. \quad (14)$$

Combining Equations 13 and 14, we see $Tw = w$. Therefore it must be that $T = I$, as was to be shown. \square

Problem 4

Suppose $P \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ and $P^2 = P$. Prove that $V = \text{null } P \oplus \text{range } P$.

Proof. First notice $0 = P^2 - P = P(P-I)$, hence $(P-I)v \in \text{null } P$ for all $v \in V$. Next notice we can write $v = Pv - (P-I)v$. Since of course $Pv \in \text{range } P$, this yields

$$V = \text{null } P + \text{range } P.$$

To see this sum is direct, suppose $w \in \text{null } P \cap \text{range } P$. Then $Pw = 0$ (since $w \in \text{null } P$) and there exists $u \in V$ such that $w = Pu$ (since $w \in \text{range } P$). Combining these two equations with the hypothesis that $P^2 = P$, we now have

$$w = Pu = P^2u = P(Pu) = Pw = 0,$$

and thus the sum is indeed direct, as desired. \square

Problem 5

Suppose $S, T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ and S is invertible. Suppose $p \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{F})$ is a polynomial. Prove that

$$p(STS^{-1}) = Sp(T)S^{-1}.$$

Proof. For $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, notice

$$(STS^{-1})^k = ST^k S^{-1}.$$

Since $p \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{F})$, there exist $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ and $\alpha_0, \dots, \alpha_n \in \mathbb{F}$ such that

$$p(z) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 z + \dots + \alpha_n z^n.$$

It follows

$$p(T) = \alpha_0 I + \alpha_1 T + \dots + \alpha_n T^n,$$

and hence

$$Sp(T) = \alpha_0 S + \alpha_1 ST + \dots + \alpha_n ST^n,$$

and thus we have

$$Sp(T)S^{-1} = \alpha_0 I + \alpha_1 STS^{-1} + \dots + \alpha_n ST^n S^{-1} = p(STS^{-1}),$$

as was to be shown. \square

Problem 7

Suppose $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$. Prove that 9 is an eigenvalue of T^2 if and only if 3 or -3 is an eigenvalue of T .

Proof. (\Leftarrow) Suppose 3 or -3 is an eigenvalue of T . Then there exists a nonzero $v \in V$ such that either

$$Tv = 3v \quad \text{or} \quad Tv = -3v.$$

In the former case, we have $T^2v = 3Tv = 9v$, and in the latter we have $T^2v = -3Tv = 9v$. In both cases, 9 is an eigenvalue of T^2 .

(\Rightarrow) If 9 is an eigenvalue of T^2 , then there exists a nonzero $w \in V$ such that $T^2w = 9w$. Hence $T^2 - 9I$ is not invertible, whereby $(T - 3I)(T + 3I)$ is not invertible. Thus, by Problem 9 of Section 3.D, either $T - 3I$ or $T + 3I$ is not invertible. This implies either 3 or -3 is an eigenvalue of T , as desired. \square

Problem 9

Suppose V is finite-dimensional, $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$, and $v \in V$ with $v \neq 0$. Let p be a nonzero polynomial of smallest degree such that $p(T)v = 0$. Prove that every zero of p is an eigenvalue of T .

Proof. Suppose $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$ is a zero of p . Then there exists $q \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{F})$ with $\deg q = \deg p - 1$ such that

$$p(X) = (X - \lambda)q(X).$$

Then, since $p(T)v = 0$ by hypothesis, we have

$$(T - \lambda I)q(T)v = 0.$$

Since $\deg q < \deg p$, $q(T)v \neq 0$, and hence λ is indeed an eigenvalue of T . \square

Problem 11

Suppose $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}$, $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$, $p \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{C})$ is a nonconstant polynomial, and $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$. Prove that α is an eigenvalue of $p(T)$ if and only if $\alpha = p(\lambda)$ for some eigenvalue λ of T .

Proof. (\Rightarrow) Suppose α is an eigenvalue of $p(T)$. Then $p(T) - \alpha I$ is not injective. By the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra, there exist $c, \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m \in \mathbb{C}$ such that

$$p(z) - \alpha = c(z - \lambda_1) \dots (z - \lambda_m).$$

If $c = 0$, then $p(z) = \alpha$ and p is constant, a contradiction. So we must have $c \neq 0$. By the above equation, we have

$$p(T) - \alpha I = c(T - \lambda_1 I) \dots (T - \lambda_m I).$$

Since $p(T) - \alpha I$ is not injective, there exists $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ such that $T - \lambda_j I$ is not injective. In other words, λ_j is an eigenvalue of T . Moreover, notice $p(\lambda_j) - \alpha = 0$, and hence $\alpha = p(\lambda_j)$, as desired.

(\Leftarrow) Suppose $\alpha = p(\lambda)$ for some eigenvalue λ of T . Let $v \in V - \{0\}$ be a corresponding eigenvector, and let $\alpha_0, \dots, \alpha_n \in \mathbb{C}$ be such that

$$p(z) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 z + \dots + \alpha_n z^n.$$

Notice $T^k v = \lambda^k v$ for any $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$. It follows

$$\alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \lambda + \dots + \alpha_n \lambda^n = \alpha,$$

and hence

$$\begin{aligned} p(T)v &= \alpha_0 v + \alpha_1 T v + \dots + \alpha_n T^n v \\ &= \alpha_0 v + \alpha_1 \lambda v + \dots + \alpha_n \lambda^n v \\ &= (\alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \lambda + \dots + \alpha_n \lambda^n) v \\ &= \alpha v. \end{aligned}$$

Thus α is an eigenvalue of $p(T)$, completing the proof. \square

Problem 13

Suppose W is a complex vector space and $T \in \mathcal{L}(W)$ has no eigenvalues. Prove that every subspace of W invariant under T is either $\{0\}$ or infinite-dimensional.

Proof. Suppose $U \subseteq W$ is invariant under T . If $U = \{0\}$ the result holds, so suppose otherwise. Now, if U were finite-dimensional, then $T|_U$ would have an eigenvalue by Theorem 5.21. Thus T would have an eigenvalue as well, a contradiction. So U must be infinite-dimensional. \square

Problem 14

Give an example of an operator whose matrix with respect to some basis contains only 0's on the diagonal, but the operator is invertible.

Proof. Consider the operator

$$\begin{aligned} T : \mathbb{R}^2 &\rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 \\ (x, y) &\mapsto (y, x). \end{aligned}$$

With respect to the standard basis, we have

$$\mathcal{M}(T) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Clearly T is invertible (it's its own inverse), but its matrix with respect to the standard basis has only 0's on the diagonal. \square

Problem 15

Give an example of an operator whose matrix with respect to some basis contains only nonzero numbers on the diagonal, but the operator is not invertible.

Proof. Consider the operator

$$\begin{aligned} T : \mathbb{R}^2 &\rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 \\ (x, y) &\mapsto (x + y, x + y). \end{aligned}$$

With respect to the standard basis, we have

$$\mathcal{M}(T) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Notice that T is not invertible, since $T(0, 0) = (0, 0) = T(-1, 1)$, and yet its matrix with respect to the standard basis has only nonzero numbers on the diagonal. Combining this result with Problem 14, we see that Theorem 5.30 fails without the hypothesis that an upper-triangular matrix is under consideration. \square

Problem 17

Rewrite the proof of 5.21 using the linear map that sends $p \in \mathcal{P}_{n^2}(\mathbb{C})$ to $p(T) \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ (and use 3.23).

Proof. We will show that every operator on a finite-dimensional, nonzero, complex vector space has an eigenvalue. Suppose V is a complex vector space with dimension $n > 0$ and $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$. Consider the linear map

$$\begin{aligned} M : \mathcal{P}_{n^2}(\mathbb{C}) &\rightarrow \mathcal{L}(V) \\ p &\mapsto p(T). \end{aligned}$$

Since $\dim(\mathcal{P}_{n^2}(\mathbb{C})) = n^2 + 1$ but $\dim(\mathcal{L}(V)) = n^2$, M is not injective by Theorem 3.23. Thus there exists a nonzero $p \in \mathcal{P}_{n^2}(\mathbb{C})$ such that $Mp = p(T) = 0$. By the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra, p has a factorization

$$p(z) = c(z - \lambda_1) \cdots (z - \lambda_m),$$

where c is a nonzero complex number, each λ_j is in \mathbb{C} , and the equation holds for all $z \in \mathbb{C}$. Now choose any $v \in V - \{0\}$. It follows

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= p(T)v \\ &= c(T - \lambda_1 I) \cdots (T - \lambda_m I)v. \end{aligned}$$

Since $v \neq 0$, $T - \lambda_j$ is not injective for at least one j . In other words, T has an eigenvalue. \square

Problem 19

Suppose V is finite-dimensional with $\dim V > 1$ and $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$. Prove that

$$\{p(T) \mid p \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{F})\} \neq \mathcal{L}(V).$$

Proof. Let $\mathcal{U} = \{p(T) \mid p \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{F})\}$, and suppose by way of contradiction that $\mathcal{U} = \mathcal{L}(V)$. Let $p \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{F})$, and let $\alpha_0, \dots, \alpha_n \in \mathbb{F}$ be such that $p(z) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 z + \cdots + \alpha_n z^n$ for all $z \in \mathbb{F}$. Notice

$$\begin{aligned} Tp(T) &= T(\alpha_0 I + \alpha_1 T + \cdots + \alpha_n T^n) \\ &= \alpha_0 T + \alpha_1 T^2 + \cdots + \alpha_n T^{n+1} \\ &= (\alpha_0 I + \alpha_1 T + \cdots + \alpha_n T^n) T \\ &= p(T)T, \end{aligned}$$

so that T commutes with all elements of \mathcal{U} . By Problem 16 of Chapter 3.D, this implies $T = \lambda I$ for some $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$. It follows

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{U} &= \{p(T) \mid p \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{F})\} \\ &= \{p(\lambda I) \mid p \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{F})\} \\ &= \{\alpha_0 I + \alpha_1 (\lambda I) + \cdots + \alpha_n (\lambda I)^n \mid \alpha_0, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \in \mathbb{F} \text{ and } n \in \mathbb{Z}^+\} \\ &= \{p(\lambda)I \mid p \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{F})\} \\ &= \{\alpha I \mid \alpha \in \mathbb{F}\}, \end{aligned}$$

and thus $\dim \mathcal{U} = 1$. Since $\dim \mathcal{L}(V) = (\dim V)^2$ and $\dim V > 1$ by hypothesis, we have $\dim \mathcal{L}(V) > 1$, a contradiction. Thus our assumption that $\mathcal{U} = \mathcal{L}(V)$ must be false, as was to be shown. \square

C: Eigenspaces and Diagonal Matrices

Problem 1

Suppose $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ is diagonalizable. Prove that $V = \text{null } T \oplus \text{range } T$.

Proof. By Theorem 5.41, there exists a basis v_1, \dots, v_n of V consisting of eigenvectors of T . Let $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n \in \mathbb{F}$ be corresponding eigenvalues, respectively. Let m denote the number of eigenvalues λ_j such that $\lambda_j = 0$. After relabeling, we may assume $\lambda_j = 0$ for $j = 1, \dots, m$ and $\lambda_j \neq 0$ for $j = m+1, \dots, n$. It follows

$$V = \text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_m) \oplus \text{span}(v_{m+1}, \dots, v_n).$$

Note that if $m = 0$, the left hand term in the direct sum becomes the span of the empty list, which is defined to be $\{0\}$. We claim $\text{null } T = \text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_m)$ and $\text{range } T = \text{span}(v_{m+1}, \dots, v_n)$, which provides the desired result.

First we prove $\text{null } T = \text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_m)$. This result is trivially true if $m = 0$, so suppose otherwise. Since each of v_1, \dots, v_m is an eigenvector corresponding to 0, we have $v_1, \dots, v_m \in E(0, T)$, and hence $\text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_m) \subseteq E(0, T) = \text{null } T$. For the reverse inclusion, suppose $v \in \text{null } T$. Let $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \in \mathbb{F}$ be such that $v = \alpha_1 v_1 + \dots + \alpha_n v_n$. It follows

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= Tv \\ &= \alpha_1 T v_1 + \dots + \alpha_n T v_n \\ &= \alpha_{m+1} T v_{m+1} + \dots + \alpha_n T v_n \\ &= (\alpha_{m+1} \lambda_{m+1}) v_{m+1} + \dots + (\alpha_n \lambda_n) v_n. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\lambda_{m+1}, \dots, \lambda_n$ are all nonzero, the linear independence of v_{m+1}, \dots, v_n implies $\alpha_{m+1} = \dots = \alpha_n = 0$. Thus $v = \alpha_1 v_1 + \dots + \alpha_m v_m$, and indeed $v \in \text{span}\{v_1, \dots, v_m\}$. We conclude $\text{null } T = \text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_m)$.

Now we prove $\text{range } T = \text{span}(v_{m+1}, \dots, v_n)$. Clearly we have $v_{m+1}, \dots, v_n \in \text{range } T$, since $T(v_k/\lambda_k) = v_k$ for $k = m+1, \dots, n$, and hence $\text{span}(v_{m+1}, \dots, v_n) \subseteq \text{range } T$. For the reverse inclusion, suppose $w \in \text{range } T$. Then there exists $z \in V$ such that $Tz = w$. Let $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_n \in \mathbb{F}$ be such that $z = \beta_1 v_1 + \dots + \beta_n v_n$. It follows

$$\begin{aligned} w &= Tz \\ &= \beta_1 T v_1 + \dots + \beta_n T v_n \\ &= (\beta_{m+1} \lambda_{m+1}) v_{m+1} + \dots + (\beta_n \lambda_n) v_n. \end{aligned}$$

Thus $w \in \text{span}(v_{m+1}, \dots, v_n)$, and we conclude $\text{range } T = \text{span}(v_{m+1}, \dots, v_n)$, completing the proof of our claim. \square

Problem 3

Suppose V is finite-dimensional and $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$. Prove that the following are equivalent:

- (a) $V = \text{null } T \oplus \text{range } T$.
- (b) $V = \text{null } T + \text{range } T$.
- (c) $\text{null } T \cap \text{range } T = \{0\}$.

Proof. Let $N = \text{null } T$ and $R = \text{range } T$.

(a \Rightarrow b) If $V = N \oplus R$, then $V = N + R$ by the definition of direct sum.

(b \Rightarrow c) Suppose $V = N + R$. By Theorem 2.43, we know

$$\dim(N + R) = \dim N + \dim R - \dim(N \cap R), \quad (15)$$

and by hypothesis, the LHS of Equation 15 equals $\dim V$. Hence we have

$$\dim V = \dim N + \dim R - \dim(N \cap R). \quad (16)$$

Now, by the Fundamental Theorem of Linear Maps, we have

$$\dim V = \dim N + \dim R. \quad (17)$$

Combining Equations 16 and 17 yields $\dim(N \cap R) = 0$, and hence $N \cap R = \{0\}$.

(c \Rightarrow a) Suppose $N \cap R = \{0\}$. Again by Theorem 2.43, we have

$$\dim(N + R) = \dim N + \dim R - \dim(N \cap R).$$

By hypothesis, $\dim(N \cap R) = 0$. Thus

$$\dim(N + R) = \dim N + \dim R. \quad (18)$$

By another application of the Fundamental Theorem of Linear Maps, the RHS of Equation 18 equals $\dim V$. Hence we have $\dim V = \dim(N + R)$, and therefore $V = N + R$. Since $N \cap R = \{0\}$ by hypothesis, this sum is direct. \square

Problem 5

Suppose V is a finite-dimensional complex vector space and $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$. Prove that T is diagonalizable if and only if

$$V = \text{null}(T - \lambda I) \oplus \text{range}(T - \lambda I)$$

for every $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$.

Proof. (\Rightarrow) Suppose T is diagonalizable. Then there exists a basis such that $\mathcal{M}(T)$ is diagonal. Letting $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$, it follows

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{M}(T - \lambda I) &= \mathcal{M}(T) - \lambda \mathcal{M}(I) \\ &= \mathcal{M}(T) - \lambda I,\end{aligned}$$

where we abuse notation and use I to denote both the identity operator on V and the identity matrix in $\mathbb{F}^{\dim V, \dim V}$. Since λI is diagonal, so too is $\mathcal{M}(T) - \lambda I$, and hence $T - \lambda I$ is diagonalizable. The desired result now follows by Problem 1.

(\Leftarrow) Conversely, suppose

$$V = \text{null}(T - \lambda I) \oplus \text{range}(T - \lambda I)$$

for every $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$. We induct on $n = \dim V$. If $n = 1$, the result clearly holds, since every matrix in $\mathbb{F}^{1,1}$ is diagonal. Now assume $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ and that the assertion holds for all vector spaces of dimension $k < n$. Let $\lambda_1 \in \mathbb{C}$ be an eigenvalue of T (such an eigenvalue must exist by Theorem 5.21). By hypothesis, we have

$$V = E(\lambda_1, T) \oplus \text{range}(T - \lambda_1 I). \quad (19)$$

Let $R = \text{range}(T - \lambda_1 I)$. We claim

$$R = \text{null}(T|_R - \lambda I) \oplus \text{range}(T|_R - \lambda I)$$

for all $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$. By Problem 3c, it suffices to show $\text{null}(T|_R - \lambda I) \cap \text{range}(T|_R - \lambda I) = \{0\}$. Notice

$$\text{null}(T|_R - \lambda I) \subseteq \text{null}(T - \lambda I) \quad \text{and} \quad \text{range}(T|_R - \lambda I) \subseteq \text{range}(T - \lambda I).$$

It follows

$$\text{null}(T|_R - \lambda I) \cap \text{range}(T|_R - \lambda I) \subseteq \text{null}(T - \lambda I) \cap \text{range}(T - \lambda I) = \{0\},$$

proving our claim. Now, let v_1, \dots, v_k be a basis of $E(\lambda_1, T)$. Since $T|_R$ is diagonalizable, R has a basis of eigenvectors by Theorem 5.41. Call them v_{k+1}, \dots, v_n . By Equation 19, the list v_1, \dots, v_n is a basis of V consisting of eigenvectors of T . By another application of Theorem 5.41, this implies T is diagonalizable, as desired. \square

Problem 7

Suppose $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ has a diagonal matrix A with respect to some basis of V and that $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$. Prove that λ appears on the diagonal of A precisely $\dim E(\lambda, T)$ times.

Proof. Let $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m \in \mathbb{F}$ be the distinct eigenvalues of T , let v_1, \dots, v_n be a basis consisting of eigenvectors of T (such a basis is guaranteed by Theorem 5.41), and let $A = \mathcal{M}(T)$ with respect to this basis. Denote by s_k the number of our basis vectors contained in $E(\lambda_k, T)$ for $k \in \{1, \dots, m\}$, so that the eigenvalue λ_k appears on the diagonal of A exactly s_k times. We will show $s_k = \dim E(\lambda_k, T)$.

Since any subset of the basis contained in $E(\lambda_k, T)$ is of course linearly independent, we first note $s_k \leq \dim E(\lambda_k, T)$. So we have

$$\begin{aligned} s_1 + \dots + s_m &\leq \dim E(\lambda_1, T) + \dots + \dim E(\lambda_m, T) \\ &= n. \end{aligned}$$

Since $E(\lambda_i, T) \cap E(\lambda_j, T) = \{0\}$ for $i \neq j$, each element of our basis is contained in at most one $E(\lambda_k, T)$. Hence the LHS of the equation above equals n as well, and the inequality is in fact an equality. This implies

$$s_1 - \dim(E_1, T) = (\dim E(\lambda_2, T) - s_2) + \dots + (\dim E(\lambda_m, T) - s_m).$$

Each term in parentheses on the RHS is nonnegative, and hence $s_1 - \dim(E_1, T) \geq 0$, which implies $s_1 \geq \dim(E_1, T)$. Since we've already shown $s_1 \leq \dim(E_1, T)$, we conclude $s_1 = \dim(E_1, T)$. An analogous argument shows $s_\ell = \dim E(\lambda_\ell, T)$ for all $\ell \in \{2, \dots, m\}$.

Therefore, if $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ is an eigenvalue of T , then λ indeed appears on the diagonal of A precisely $\dim E(\lambda, T)$ times. And if λ is not an eigenvalue of T , then it appears on the diagonal zero times, which also equals $\dim E(\lambda, T)$. In both cases, the desired result holds, completing the proof. \square

Problem 9

Suppose $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ is invertible. Prove that $E(\lambda, T) = E(\frac{1}{\lambda}, T^{-1})$ for every $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$ with $\lambda \neq 0$.

Proof. Let $\lambda \in \mathbb{F} - \{0\}$, and suppose $v \in E(\lambda, T)$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} Tv = \lambda v &\implies v = T^{-1}(\lambda v) \\ &\implies \frac{1}{\lambda}v = T^{-1}v \\ &\implies v \in E\left(\frac{1}{\lambda}, T^{-1}\right), \end{aligned}$$

and thus $E(\lambda, T) \subseteq E(\frac{1}{\lambda}, T^{-1})$. Conversely, suppose $w \in E(\frac{1}{\lambda}, T^{-1})$. It follows

$$\begin{aligned} T^{-1}w = \frac{1}{\lambda}w &\implies w = T\left(\frac{1}{\lambda}w\right) \\ &\implies \lambda w = Tw \\ &\implies w \in E(\lambda, T), \end{aligned}$$

and so $E(\frac{1}{\lambda}, T^{-1}) \subseteq E(\lambda, T)$. Therefore, we conclude $E(\lambda, T) = E(\frac{1}{\lambda}, T^{-1})$, as was to be shown. \square

Problem 11

Verify the assertion in Example 5.40.

Proof. Define $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{R}^2)$ by

$$T(x, y) = (41x + 7y, -20x + 74y).$$

Example 5.40 asserts that T is diagonalizable, because the matrix of T with respect to the basis $(1, 4), (7, 5)$ is

$$\begin{bmatrix} 69 & 0 \\ 0 & 46 \end{bmatrix}.$$

To see this, first notice

$$\begin{aligned} T(1, 4) &= (69, 276) \\ &= 69 \cdot (1, 4) + 0 \cdot (7, 5), \end{aligned}$$

and so the first column of the matrix is correct. Next notice

$$\begin{aligned} T(7, 5) &= (322, 230) \\ &= 0 \cdot (1, 4) + 46 \cdot (7, 5), \end{aligned}$$

and so the second column of the matrix is correct as well. \square

Problem 12

Suppose $R, T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{F}^3)$ each have 2, 6, 7 as eigenvalues. Prove that there exists an invertible operator $S \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{F}^3)$ such that $R = S^{-1}TS$.

Proof. Since R and T each have 3 eigenvalues and $\dim \mathbb{F}^3 = 3$, they are both diagonalizable by Theorem 5.44. Letting $\lambda_1 = 2, \lambda_2 = 6$, and $\lambda_3 = 7$, there exist (again by Theorem 5.44) bases v_1, v_2, v_3 and w_1, w_2, w_3 of \mathbb{F}^3 such that

$$Rv_k = \lambda_k v_k \quad \text{and} \quad Tw_k = \lambda_k w_k$$

for $k = 1, 2, 3$. Define the operator $S \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{F}^3)$ by its behavior on the v_k 's

$$Sv_k = w_k.$$

Since S takes one basis to another basis, it's invertible. Now notice

$$\begin{aligned} S^{-1}TSv_k &= S^{-1}Tw_k \\ &= S^{-1}(\lambda_k w_k) \\ &= \lambda_k S^{-1}w_k \\ &= \lambda_k v_k \\ &= Rv_k, \end{aligned}$$

and thus $R = S^{-1}TS$, as desired. \square

Problem 13

Find $R, T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{F}^4)$ such that R and T each have 2, 6, 7 as eigenvalues, R and T have no other eigenvalues, and there does not exist an invertible operator $S \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{F}^4)$ such that $R = S^{-1}TS$.

Proof. For $x = (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) \in \mathbb{F}^4$, define $R, T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{F}^4)$ by

$$Rx = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad Tx = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix}.$$

By Theorem 5.32, R and T each have precisely 2, 6, 7 as eigenvalues and no others. We claim T is diagonalizable, and we will use this fact to derive a contradiction from which the result will follow. To see this, first notice

$$T - 2I = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Since $T - 2I$ is in echelon form and has three pivots, $\dim \text{range}(T - 2I) = 3$, and thus $\dim E(2, T) = \dim \text{null}(T - 2I) = 1$. Similarly, we have

$$T - 6I = \begin{bmatrix} -4 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -4 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

so that $T - 6I$ has three pivots as well and hence $\dim E(6, T) = 1$. Lastly, notice

$$T - 7I = \begin{bmatrix} -5 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -5 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

and $T - 7I$ also has three pivots and so $\dim E(7, T) = 1$. Since $\dim E(2, T) + \dim E(6, T) + \dim E(7, T) < \dim \mathbb{F}^4$, T is not diagonalizable by Theorem 5.41.

Now, by way of contradiction, suppose there exists an invertible $S \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{F}^4)$ such that $R = S^{-1}TS$. Then the list Se_1, \dots, Se_4 is a basis of \mathbb{F}^4 . Notice

$$\begin{aligned} T(Se_1) &= S(Re_1) \\ &= S(2e_1) \\ &= 2Se_1, \end{aligned}$$

and similarly we have

$$T(Se_2) = 2Se_2, \quad T(Se_3) = 6Se_3, \quad \text{and} \quad T(Se_4) = 7Se_4.$$

Thus $\mathcal{M}(T, (Se_1, \dots, Se_4))$ is diagonal, a contradiction. Therefore, no such S exists, and R and T are operators of the desired form. \square

Problem 15

Suppose $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{C}^3)$ is such that 6 and 7 are eigenvalues of T . Furthermore, suppose T does not have a diagonal matrix with respect to any basis of \mathbb{C}^3 . Prove that there exists $(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{C}^3$ such that $T(x, y, z) = (17 + 8x, \sqrt{5} + 8y, 2\pi + 8z)$.

Proof. By hypothesis, T is not diagonalizable. Hence by Theorem 5.44, 6 and 7 are the only eigenvalues of T . In particular, 8 is not an eigenvalue. Thus

$$\dim E(8, T) = \dim \text{null}(T - 8I) = 0,$$

and hence $T - 8I$ is surjective. So there exists $(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{C}^3$ such that $(T - 8I)(x, y, z) = (17, \sqrt{5}, 2\pi)$. It follows

$$\begin{aligned} T(x, y, z) &= (17, \sqrt{5}, 2\pi) + 8(x, y, z) \\ &= (17 + 8x, \sqrt{5} + 8y, 2\pi + 8z), \end{aligned}$$

as was to be shown. \square