

Quiz 10

NOTE: Answers without proper justification will receive NO credit

Problem 1. (5 points) Find the eigenvalues and the eigenvectors for the matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$.

We compute the characteristic polynomial:

$$\begin{aligned} P_A(t) &= \det(A - tI_2) = \det \begin{pmatrix} 1-t & -1 \\ 1 & 3-t \end{pmatrix} = (1-t)(3-t) + 1 \\ &= t^2 - 4t + 3 + 1 = t^2 - 4t + 4 = (t-2)^2 \end{aligned}$$

So $\lambda = 2$ is the unique eigenvalue of A .

The eigenvectors are the solutions to:

$$\tilde{A} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{for } \tilde{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} - 2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Use Gauss-Jordan elimination:

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_1 \rightarrow R_1 + R_2} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{so } x_1 + x_2 = 0,$$

$$\boxed{x_1 = -x_2}$$

The eigenvectors are $\underline{x} = \begin{bmatrix} -x_2 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = x_2 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ for any x_2 in \mathbb{R}

We conclude: $\boxed{E_2 = \text{Span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}}$