

1. Suppose  $A$  and  $B$  are invertible matrices in  $M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{R})$ . Prove that  $\det(ABA^{-1}B^{-1}) = 1$ . (5 points) Ex:29

For any invertible matrix  $C$ , we have

$$\det(C) \cdot \det(C^{-1}) = 1 \text{ since } \det(C) \cdot \det(C^{-1}) \\ = \det(C \cdot C^{-1}) = \det(I_n) = 1. \text{ Now}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \det(ABA^{-1}B^{-1}) &= \det(A)\det(B)\det(A^{-1})\det(B^{-1}) \\ &= \underbrace{\det(A)\det(A^{-1})}_{=1} \underbrace{\det(B)\det(B^{-1})}_{=1} \\ &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

as required.

2. Consider the parallelepiped  $P$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  determined by the three vectors  $v_1 = (2, 0, 3)$ ,  $v_2 = (0, 1, 2)$ , and  $v_3 = (0, 1, 0)$ . Compute the *unsigned* volume of  $P$ . (3 points)

$$\text{Set } A = \begin{pmatrix} | & | & | \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 \\ | & | & | \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 3 & 2 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \text{ Then } \det(A)$$

$$= 2 \cdot \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = 2 \cdot (-2) = -4.$$

Hence the unsigned volume of  $P$  is  $|\det(A)| = 4$ .



3. Let  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$ .

(a) Compute the characteristic polynomial of  $A$ . (2 points)

$$f(t) = \det(A - tI) = \det \begin{pmatrix} 3-t & 1 \\ 1 & 3-t \end{pmatrix} = (3-t)^2 - 1 \\ = t^2 - 6t + 9 - 1 = t^2 - 6t + 8$$

(b) Find all the eigenvalues of  $A$ . Hint: They are all integers. (2 points)

$$f(t) = t^2 - 6t + 8 = (t-2)(t-4) \Rightarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{The eigenvalues of} \\ A \text{ (= roots of } f(t)) \\ \text{are 2 and 4.} \end{array}$$

(c) For each eigenvalue compute the corresponding eigenspace. (2 points)

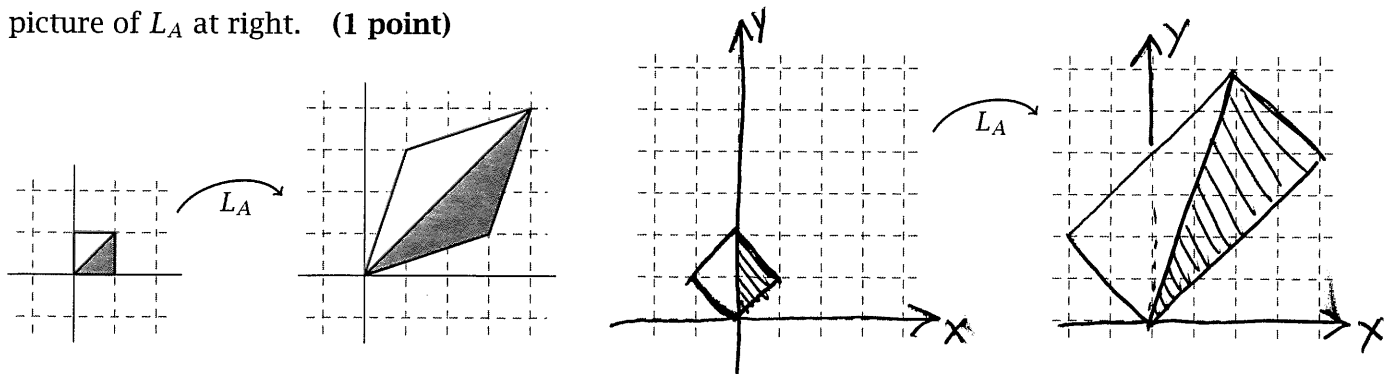
$$\lambda = 2: E_2 = \mathcal{N}(A - 2 \cdot I) = \mathcal{N} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \mathcal{N} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ = \text{span} \left\{ \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}}_{v_2} \right\} = \{ (t, -t) \mid t \in \mathbb{R} \}$$

$$\lambda = 4: E_4 = \mathcal{N}(A - 4 \cdot I) = \mathcal{N} \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \\ = \text{span} \left\{ \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}}_{v_4} \right\} = \{ (t, t) \mid t \in \mathbb{R} \}$$

(d) Now diagonalize  $A$ , giving both a diagonal matrix  $D$  and an invertible matrix  $Q$  so that  $D = Q^{-1}AQ$ . (3 points)

$$\text{Take } Q = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ v_2 & v_4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ in which case } D = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

(e) At left is our usual visualization of  $L_A: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ . Use your answer in (a) to draw a more informative picture of  $L_A$  at right. (1 point)



4. A matrix  $A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{R})$  is called idempotent if  $A^2 = A$ . Prove that the only possible eigenvalues for an idempotent matrix  $A$  are 0 and 1. (6 points) Ex:29

Suppose  $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is an eigenvector of  $A$  with eigenvalue  $\lambda$ , that is,  $Av = \lambda v$  with  $v \neq 0$ .  
Then  $A^2 v = A(Av) = A(\lambda v) = \lambda(Av) = \lambda(\lambda v) = \lambda^2 v$ .

As  $A^2 = A$ , we also have  $A^2 v = Av = \lambda v$ .

Combining, get  $\lambda^2 v = \lambda v \Rightarrow \lambda(\lambda - 1)v = 0$

As  $v$  is an eigenvector, it is not 0, and so we must have  $\lambda(\lambda - 1) = 0 \Rightarrow \lambda = 0$  or  $1$ .

5. Suppose the only the eigenvalues of  $B \in M_{5 \times 5}(\mathbb{C})$  are 5 and 7 where  $\dim(E_5) = \dim(E_7) = 2$ . Determine whether  $B$  is diagonalizable and prove your answer. (6 points)

~~As~~ As our field is  $\mathbb{C}$ , we know that the char poly of  $B$ , call it  $f(t)$ , splits completely.

Hence  $f(t) = (5-t)^a (7-t)^b$ . As degree

$f = 5$ , have  $a + b = 5$  and so the ~~alg~~ algebraic multiplicity of one the eigenvalues is ~~2~~ at least ~~3~~ 3. Since both eigenvalues have geometric multiplicity 2, there is a mismatch between the alg. and geom mult for some eigenvalue and so  $B$  is not diagonalizable.



6. On these true/false and short answer questions you **do not need to justify your answers.**  
(1 point each)

Ex:29

(a) A square matrix is diagonalizable if and only if its characteristic polynomial splits completely and it has distinct eigenvalues.

True  False

(b) There exists a transition matrix where 2 is an eigenvalue.

True  False

(c) Consider  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with its usual inner product. If  $v \in \mathbb{R}^3$  satisfies  $\langle v, e_i \rangle = 0$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3$  then  $v = 0$ .

True False

(d) The formula  $\langle x, y \rangle = 2x_1y_1 + 3x_2y_2$  defines an inner product on  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

True False

(e) Give a matrix  $C$  in  $M_{3 \times 3}(\mathbb{R})$  such that  $C \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$ .

Take  $C$  to be the elementary matrix cor. to  $R_2 \leftrightarrow R_1$ :  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

(f) Give a basis for  $P_2(\mathbb{C})$  as a vector space over  $\mathbb{C}$ .

$\{1, x, x^2\}$

(g) Give a basis for  $P_2(\mathbb{C})$  as a vector space over  $\mathbb{R}$ .

$\{1, i, x, ix, x^2, ix^2\}$

(h) The island of Madagascar is home to almost all of the worlds lemurs, a family of primitive non-ape primates. Divide Madagascar into 2 regions, the North and the South, along the Mania river. Suppose that in any given year,  $1/3$  of the lemurs living in the North move to the South, and  $1/6$  of those in the South move to the North. Give the transition matrix for the corresponding Markov chain.

$$\begin{matrix} N & & \\ & \begin{pmatrix} 2/3 & 1/6 \\ 1/3 & 5/6 \end{pmatrix} & \\ S & & \\ & & \begin{matrix} N & S \end{matrix} \end{matrix}$$



**Extra Credit.** Suppose  $T$  is a linear operator on a finite-dimensional vector space  $V$ . If  $\beta$  is a basis for  $V$ , define the polynomial  $f_\beta(t)$  to be the characteristic polynomial of the matrix  $[T]_\beta$ . Prove that  $f_\beta(t)$  does not depend on the choice of  $\beta$ , that is,  $f_\beta(t) = f_\gamma(t)$  for all bases  $\gamma$  of  $V$ . (3 points) Ex:29

Note that  $[T]_\beta$  and  $[T]_\gamma$  are similar  $n \times n$  matrices as  $[T]_\gamma = [I_V]_\beta^\gamma [T]_\beta [I_V]_\gamma^\beta$  and  $[I_V]_\beta^\gamma = ([I_V]_\gamma^\beta)^{-1}$ . By a homework problem, we know similar matrices have the same characteristic polynomial, and so  $f_\beta = f_\gamma$  as needed.

