

Find all eigenvalues for each of the following matrices. For each eigenvalue, find a basis for the corresponding eigenspace.

1. $A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ -1 & -2 \end{pmatrix}$

The characteristic polynomial of A is

$$\det(A - \lambda I) = \begin{vmatrix} 2 - \lambda & 4 \\ -1 & -2 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = \lambda^2,$$

so the only eigenvalue is 0. The eigenspace is the null space of A , for which a basis consists of the single vector $\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$.

2. $B = \begin{pmatrix} 7 & -12 \\ 4 & -7 \end{pmatrix}$

The characteristic polynomial of B is

$$\det(B - \lambda I) = \begin{vmatrix} 7 - \lambda & -12 \\ 4 & -7 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = \lambda^2 - 49 + 48 = (\lambda + 1)(\lambda - 1),$$

so the eigenvalues of B are 1 and -1 . The eigenspace for the eigenvalue 1 is the null space of the matrix

$$B - I = \begin{pmatrix} 6 & -12 \\ 4 & -8 \end{pmatrix}$$

for which a basis is given by the single vector $\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$. The eigenspace for -1 is the null space of the matrix

$$B + I = \begin{pmatrix} 8 & -12 \\ 4 & -6 \end{pmatrix}$$

for which a basis is given by the single vector $\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$.