Quiz 15 Solution GSI: Lionel Levine 3/30/05

1. Determine if the matrix

$$A = \left(\begin{array}{rrrr} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}\right)$$

is diagonalizable, and if it is, find an invertible matrix S and a diagonal matrix D such that $A = SDS^{-1}$.

The characteristic polynomial of A is

$$\det \left(\begin{array}{ccc} t-1 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & t & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & t \end{array} \right) = t^2(t-1),$$

so the eigenvalues are 0 and 1. The eigenspaces are

$$W_{0} = NS \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix};$$
$$W_{1} = NS \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$
A basis for W_{0} is $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$, $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$; and a basis for W_{1} is $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$. So A is diagonalizable and

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \qquad D = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$