

Let  $T$  be the linear transformation from  $\mathbb{R}^3$  to  $\mathbb{R}^3$  given by multiplication by a  $3 \times 3$  matrix  $A$ . We will see in Chapter 5 that the linear transformation is a rotation of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  about some line through the origin (the axis of rotation), if and only if  $A$  satisfies the following two conditions:

- (i)  $A^T A = I$  (in other words, the transpose of  $A$  is equal to the inverse of  $A$ ) and
- (ii)  $\det(A) = 1$ .

1. Show that the following two are matrices of rotations (check conditions (i) and (ii) above):

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ 0 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix}$$

2. Consider a rotation given by some matrix  $A$ . Explain why any vector in the axis line of the rotation must be an eigenvector of  $A$  with eigenvalue 1.
3. Find a non-zero vector spanning the axis line of each of the two rotations given by the matrices  $A$  and  $B$  above. *Note: For the axis line of  $B$ , you will probably need to use the identity  $(\sqrt{2} + 1)(\sqrt{2} - 1) = 1$ .*