

1 Eigenvectors of the Rotation Matrix

The orthogonal matrix

$$R_z(\theta) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

corresponds to a rotation around the z -axis by the angle θ .

- (a) Find the eigenvalues of this matrix.
- (b) Find the normalized eigenvectors of this matrix.
- (c) Describe how the eigenvectors do or do not correspond to the vectors which are held constant or “only stretched” by this transformation.