

Consider the symmetric matrix

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

1. Compute the eigenvalues of  $A$ , and, for each distinct eigenvalue  $\lambda$ , find a basis for the corresponding eigenspace  $V_\lambda$ .
2. For each pair  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  of distinct eigenvalues, compute the dot products of the basis vectors for  $V_\lambda$  with the basis vectors for  $V_\mu$ . What do you notice?
3. Normalize each eigenvector to be a unit vector, and let  $Q$  be the matrix whose columns are the unit eigenvectors. Given your observation from (2), what kind of matrix is  $Q$ ?
4. Given (3), how can you find  $Q^{-1}$  quickly (e.g. without using the Gauss-Jordan method)? What are the implications for diagonalizing  $A$ ?