

Vectors Q5 (3/7/23)

Given that the line $\underline{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$ can also be written as $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$, find μ in terms of λ

Solution

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} &= \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + 2 \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + (2 + \mu) \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Thus $2 + \mu = -\lambda$, and so $\mu = -\lambda - 2$