

## To review for the midterm

- Review your notes, the text, the homework problems, and the suggested exercises in the schedule.
- Do all true false questions in the text. The exam **will** include a significant T/F section.
- Below is a list of topics for the exam and a sampling of questions from past exams. Review these also.
- **VERY IMPORTANT.** These are just questions from old exams for your **practice**. The questions on our exam may not be similar.

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## Vector Spaces and Subspaces

- The axioms of vector spaces and fields.
- The vector space  $\mathbb{F}^n$  associated to a field  $\mathbb{F}$
- Proving and disproving that a set with two given operations is a vector space.
- The definition of a subspace.
- Proving or disproving that a subset of a vector space is a subspace.
- The sum, direct sum and intersection of subspaces.

## Example Problems from old exams

- (1) Let  $V = \{(a, b) \mid a, b \in \mathbb{R}\}$  Define scalar multiplication  $\square$  and vector addition  $\boxplus$  as follows:  
For  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\lambda \square (a, b) = (-\lambda b, \lambda a)$  and  $(a_1, b_1) \boxplus (a_2, b_2) = (a_1 - a_2, b_1 + b_2)$  Prove that  $V$  is not a real vector space with these operations.
- (2) Let  $V$  be a vector space over a field  $F$ , and let  $T : V \rightarrow V$  be a linear transformation. Let  $W = \{x \in V \mid T(x) = x\}$ . Show that  $W$  is a subspace of  $V$ .
- (3) Let  $V$  the space of all functions  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , and let  $W$  be the set of all functions  $f$  such that  $f(1) = -f(2)$ . Show that  $W$  is a subspace of  $V$ .
- (4) Let  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  be a linear transformation. Let  $W$  be the set of all  $v \in \mathbb{R}^2$  such that  $T(v) = (1, 1, 1)$ . Is  $W$  a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ ? Explain your answer carefully.
- (5) Let  $V = M_{2 \times 2}(\mathbb{R})$  and  $W_1 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & a \end{pmatrix} \mid a, b, c \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$  and  $W_2 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & a \\ -a & b \end{pmatrix} \mid a, b \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$ . Determine a basis for and the dimension of the subspaces  $W_1$ ,  $W_2$ ,  $W_1 \cap W_2$ , and  $W_1 + W_2$ .

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## Spanning, independence, bases, and dimension

- The span of a set of vectors as a subspace, and determining if a given vector belongs to a span.
- Showing that a set of vectors is linearly independent or dependent. Finding linearly independent subsets.
- Showing that a set of vectors is a basis for a vector space.
- Identifying the dimensions of the most common vector spaces.
- The uniqueness of the representation of a vector as a linear combination of vectors in a chosen basis.
- The relation between linearly independent sets, spanning sets and bases.
- Finding a basis for a subspace.

- (1) Suppose that  $\{u, v\}$  is a basis for a vector space  $V$ . Show that  $\{u + v, u + 2v\}$  is also a basis for  $V$ .
- (2) Let  $V$  be a vector space and let  $T : V \rightarrow V$  be a linear transformation.
- (a) Suppose that  $\{v_1, v_2\}$  is dependent. Show that  $\{T(v_1), T(v_2)\}$  must also be dependent.
- (b) True or false and explain: Suppose that  $\{v_1, v_2\}$  is independent. Then  $\{T(v_1), T(v_2)\}$  must also be independent.
- (3) Let  $F$  be a field, and let  $W$  be the subspace of  $F^n$  defined as

$$W = \{(a_1, \dots, a_n) \mid a_1 + \dots + a_n = 0\}.$$

Find the dimension of  $W$ , making sure to justify your work.

- (4) Let  $V$  be a vector space of dimension  $n \geq 2$ . Let  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  be subspaces of  $V$  such that  $W_1 \neq V, W_2 \neq V$ , and  $W_1 \neq W_2$ . Show that  $\dim(W_1 \cap W_2) \leq \dim(V) - 2$ .
- (5) Suppose  $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  is a linearly independent set in vector space  $V$  and  $w \in V$ . Prove that if  $\{v_1 + w, \dots, v_n + w\}$  is linearly dependent, then  $w \in \text{span}\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ .

### Linear Transformations

- Showing a transformation is linear.
  - Identifying nullspace and range.
  - Using the dimension (rank-nullity) theorem.
- (1) Suppose  $T : V \rightarrow V$  is a linear transformation and that  $\dim(V) = 3$ . Give an example using a specific  $V$  and  $T$  such that  $R(T) = N(T)$ , or explain why this is not possible.
- (2) Suppose  $T : \mathbb{R}^5 \rightarrow P_5(\mathbb{R})$  is a linear map. Suppose there exists  $x \in \mathbb{R}^5$  such that  $x \neq \mathbf{0}$  and  $T(x) = \mathbf{0}$ . Can  $T$  be onto? If yes, give an example of such a  $T$  and corresponding non-zero  $x$ . If not, justify why not.
- (3) Let  $T : M_{2 \times 2}(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  be given by  $T(A) = (a_{11} - a_{22}, -2a_{22} - a_{12})$ .
- (a) Show that  $T$  is linear.
- (b) Find bases for the nullspace of  $T$  and for the range of  $T$ .
- (4) (a) Give an example of vector spaces  $V$  and  $W$  and a linear map  $T : V \rightarrow W$  such that  $T$  is one-to-one but not onto.
- (b) Give an example of vector spaces  $V$  and  $W$  and a linear map  $T : V \rightarrow W$  such that  $T$  is onto but not one-to-one. Page
- (5) Let  $V = P_2(\mathbb{R})$  and  $W = P_3(\mathbb{R})$ , and define  $T : V \rightarrow W$  by  $T(f(x)) = xf(x) + f'(x)$ . Show that  $T$  is a linear transformation.