

University of Ottawa  
Department of Mathematics and Statistics

MAT 1341D: Introduction to Linear Algebra  
Instructor: Catalin Rada

Test 2

FAMILY NAME (CAPITALS)	_____
FIRST NAME (CAPITALS)	_____
Signature	_____
Student number	_____

Please read these instructions carefully:

- The table below is for the TA. Do not write in it.
- For privacy reasons, this page of the assignment will be detached, and you will only get back the remaining pages. Therefore, **fill in your name on both pages and your student number on this page only.**

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Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Score									
Maximal score	3	3	3	3	5	5	5	2 bonus	27

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FAMILY NAME (CAPITALS) \_\_\_\_\_

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Please read these instructions carefully:

- Read each question carefully, and answer all questions in the space provided after each question. For questions 5, 6, 7, 8 you may use the back of pages if necessary, but be sure to indicate to the marker that you have done so.
- No part marks will be given for questions 1 – 4. However, you must show some work to obtain the point. Simply writing the correct answer will earn you 0.
- Question 8 is a bonus proof question. You can get 2 extra points.
- No books or notes are allowed. **Calculators are not permitted.**

**Good luck! Bonne chance!**

(1) (3 pts) Let  $U$  be a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^7$  which is spanned by 6 vectors. Are the following claims true or false? Answer with  $T$  for “true” or  $F$  for “false”.

(a)  $\dim U \leq 6$ .

My answer: \_\_\_\_\_

(b) Any set of  $\dim U$  vectors in  $U$  is linearly independent.

My answer: \_\_\_\_\_

(c) Every spanning set of  $U$  has at most 6 vectors.

My answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Solution:** (a) = T: Theorem 3(3) in §4.3. (b) = F since there are no specifications about the set; for example, if  $\dim U = 3$  and  $0 \neq X \in U$  then  $\{X, 2X, 3X\}$  is a set of 3 vectors in  $U$  which is not linearly independent. (c) = F: For example, if  $U$  is spanned by  $\{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_6\}$  then  $U$  is also spanned by the set  $\{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_6, Y\}$  of 7 vectors where  $Y$  is any vector in  $U$  which is not contained in  $\{X_1, \dots, X_6\}$ .

(2) (3 pts) Let  $A$  be a  $4 \times 9$  matrix. Are the following claims true or false? Answer with  $T$  for “true” or  $F$  for “false”.

(a) If  $A$  has rank 4, then the columns of  $A^T$  are linearly independent.

My answer: \_\_\_\_\_

(b) If  $A$  has rank 3, the null space of  $A$  is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^6$ .

My answer: \_\_\_\_\_

(c) If  $A$  has rank 4, then every set of 4 columns of  $A$  is linearly independent.

My answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Solution:** (a) = T since the columns of  $A^T$  are the rows of  $A$  and the 4 rows of  $A$  are linearly independent because of  $\text{rank}(A) = 4$ .

(b) = F: The null space is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^9$  (recall that the corresponding linear system  $AX = 0$  has 9 variables); the null space has dimension  $9 - 3 = 6$  but this does not mean that the null space is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^6$ .

(c) = F: For instance  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  is of rank 4 but the set consisting of its first four columns is linearly dependent.

(3) (3 pts) (a) The dimension of the vector space  $\mathbb{M}_{34}$  of  $3 \times 4$ -matrices is

My answer: \_\_\_\_\_

(b) The dimension of the vector space  $\mathbb{P}_5$  of polynomials of degree  $\leq 5$  is

My answer: \_\_\_\_\_

(c) Give a basis of  $\mathbb{M}_{22}$  consisting of non-invertible matrices:

**Solution:**  $\dim \mathbb{M}_{34} = 3 \cdot 4 = 12$ ,  $\dim \mathbb{P}_5 = 6$ . (c) There are many possible answer. For example, the standard basis of  $\mathbb{M}_{22}$  is such a basis:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

(4) (3 pts) Are the following subsets  $U$  subspaces of the indicated vector spaces  $V$ ? Answer with  $Y$  for “yes” or  $N$  for “no”.

(a)  $U = \{f \in V : f(0) = 0 = f(1)\}$  in  $V = \mathbb{F}[0, 3]$ .

My answer: \_\_\_\_\_

(b)  $U = \{A \in V : A^T = A\}$  in  $V = \mathbb{M}_{2,2}$ .

My answer: \_\_\_\_\_

(c)  $U = \{p \in V : p(0) = 0, p(1) = 1\}$  in  $V = \mathbb{P}_3$ .

My answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Solution:** (a)=Y: One verifies the conditions of the subspace test.

(b) = Y: A  $2 \times 2$ -matrix  $A$  lies in  $U$  if and only if  $A$  has the form

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ b & d \end{bmatrix} = a \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + b \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + d \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

where there are no conditions on  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $d$ . Hence  $U$  is the span of the three indicated matrices and is therefore a subspace of  $V$ .

(c)= N since the zero vector of  $\mathbb{P}_3$ , which is the zero polynomial = zero function, does not lie in  $U$ : It does not satisfy  $p(1) = 1$ .

- (5) (5 pts) Find all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $\begin{bmatrix} x+7 & 2 & -3 \\ -4 & x+1 & 3 \\ -3 & 3 & x+1 \end{bmatrix}$  is NOT invertible.

**Solution:** Let  $A$  be the matrix in the problem. If we add row 1 to row 2 we get a matrix, say  $B$ , with the same determinant. Hence

$$\det A = \det B = \det \begin{bmatrix} x+7 & 2 & -3 \\ x+3 & x+3 & 0 \\ -3 & 3 & x+1 \end{bmatrix} = (x+3) \det \begin{bmatrix} x+7 & 2 & -3 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ -3 & 3 & x+1 \end{bmatrix}$$

where in the last step we "pulled out" a factor  $(x+3)$  from the second row. We now subtract column 2 from column 1 (observe that this does not change the determinant) and then expand along the second row:

$$\begin{aligned} (x+3) \det \begin{bmatrix} x+7 & 2 & -3 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ -3 & 3 & x+1 \end{bmatrix} &= (x+3) \det \begin{bmatrix} x+5 & 2 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -6 & 3 & x+1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= (x+3) \det \begin{bmatrix} x+5 & -3 \\ -6 & x+1 \end{bmatrix} = (x+3)((x+5)(x+1) - (-6)(-3)) \\ &= (x+3)(x^2 + 6x - 13) \end{aligned}$$

Instead of the column operation above, we can also calculate the determinant by "brute force": Expanding across the second row (and using properties of determinants) we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \det A &= (x+3)\{1(-1)^{2+1} \det \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 \\ 3 & x+1 \end{bmatrix} + 1(-1)^{2+2} \det \begin{bmatrix} x+7 & -3 \\ -3 & x+1 \end{bmatrix}\} \\ &= (x+3)\{-(2x+2+9) + (x+7)(x+1) - 9\} \\ &= (x+3)\{-2x-2-9+x^2+8x+7-9\} \\ &= (x+3)(x^2+6x-13). \end{aligned}$$

In any case, the result is (of course) the same. We now use the result that the matrix  $A$  is not invertible if and only if  $\det(A) = 0$ . Since the roots of  $x^2 + 6x - 13$  are  $-3 \pm \sqrt{22}$ , the matrix is not invertible when either  $x = -3$ ,  $x = -3 - \sqrt{22}$ , or  $x = -3 + \sqrt{22}$ .

(6) (5 pts) Consider the subspace  $U$  of  $\mathbb{R}^4$  spanned by  $\{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4, v_5\}$  where:

$$v_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -4 \\ 7 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix}, \quad v_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ -4 \\ 5 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad v_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 2 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix}, \quad v_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 4 \\ -3 \\ -6 \end{bmatrix}, \quad v_5 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -2 \\ -7 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Find a basis of  $U$  and give the dimension of  $U$ .

**Solution:** We notice that  $U = \text{Col } A$  where  $A$  is the matrix whose columns are the given 5 vectors:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 & 5 & 3 \\ -4 & -4 & 0 & 4 & -2 \\ 7 & 5 & 2 & -3 & -7 \\ -4 & 1 & -5 & -6 & 6 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The problem is therefore reduced to finding a basis for  $\text{Col } A$ . To do so, we row-reduce:

$$\begin{aligned} & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 & 5 & 3 \\ -4 & -4 & 0 & 4 & -2 \\ 7 & 5 & 2 & -3 & -7 \\ -4 & 1 & -5 & -6 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_2+4R_1, R_3-7R_1, R_4+4R_1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 & 5 & 3 \\ 0 & -12 & 12 & 24 & 10 \\ 0 & 19 & -19 & -38 & -28 \\ 0 & -7 & 7 & 14 & 18 \end{bmatrix} \\ & \xrightarrow{\frac{-1}{12}R_2, \frac{1}{19}R_3, \frac{-1}{7}R_4} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 & 5 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & -2 & -5/6 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & -2 & -28/19 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & -2 & -18/7 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_4-R_2, R_3-R_2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 & 5 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & -2 & -5/6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -53/114 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -73/42 \end{bmatrix} \\ & \xrightarrow{\frac{-42}{73}R_4, \frac{-114}{53}R_3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 & 5 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & -2 & -5/6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_4-R_3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 & 5 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & -2 & -5/6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence Column 1, Column 2 and Column 5 of  $A$  form a basis, and so  $\{v_1, v_2, v_5\}$  is a basis of the subspace spanned by the given 5 vectors.

(7) (5 pts) Show that

$$U = \{p \in \mathbb{P}_2 : p(2) = 0\}$$

is a subspace of  $\mathbb{P}_2$ , find a basis of  $U$  and determine its dimension.

**Solution:** The polynomials  $p$  in  $\mathbb{P}_2$  has the form  $p(x) = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2$  for unique  $a_i \in \mathbb{R}$ . Since  $p(2) = a_0 + 2a_1 + 4a_2$  a polynomial  $p \in \mathbb{P}_2$  lies in  $U$  if and only if  $p$  can be written in the form  $p(x) = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2$  with  $a_0 = -2a_1 - 4a_2$ , i.e.,

$$p(x) = (-2a_1 - 4a_2) + a_1x + a_2x^2 = a_1(x - 1) + a_2(x^2 - 4)$$

for arbitrary  $a_1, a_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ . This equation says that  $U = \text{Span}\{p_1, p_2\}$  where

$$p_1(x) = x - 1 \quad \text{and} \quad p_2(x) = x^2 - 4.$$

In particular,  $U$  is a subspace since it can be written as a span.

Since the polynomials  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  have different degrees, they are linearly independent (seen in class). Therefore  $\{p_1, p_2\}$  is a basis of  $U$  and  $\dim U = 2$ .

My answer for basis: \_\_\_\_\_

My answer for the dimension: \_\_\_\_\_

- (8) (2 bonus points) (a) Give the definition of a basis of an arbitrary vector space  $V$ .  
(b) Find a basis for  $\mathbb{P}_n$  where  $n$  is a positive integer. (Show that your subset of elements of  $\mathbb{P}_n$  is indeed a basis!)

**Solution:** (a) A basis of a vector space  $V$  is a finite subset  $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  of  $V$  which has the following two properties:

- (i)  $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  is linearly independent, and
- (ii)  $\text{Span}\{v_1, \dots, v_n\} = V$ .

(b) A basis is given by  $\{1, x, x^2, \dots, x^n\}$ . The spanning condition is satisfied since any polynomial in  $\mathbb{P}_n$  has the form  $a_0 + a_1x + \dots + a_nx^n = a_01 + a_1x + \dots + a_nx^n$ . Linear independence follows from the definition:

If  $t_01 + t_1x + \dots + t_nx^n = 0$  - the zero polynomial, then  $t_0 = 0, t_1 = 0, \dots, t_n = 0$ .