

Books, watches, notes or cell phones are not allowed. The only calculators allowed are the Sharp EL-531**. You must show all your work, the correct answer is worth 1 mark the remaining marks are given for the work.

Question 1. (2 marks) Consider the vectors $\mathbf{u} = (1, 2, -3)$ and $\mathbf{v} = (0, 7, 1)$ where $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}\}$ is a basis for a vector space W . Find the coordinates of the vector $\mathbf{w} = (1, 23, 0)$ relative to \mathcal{B} .

$$\begin{aligned} (\underline{w})_{\mathcal{B}} &= (c_1, c_2) \quad \text{where } \underline{w} = c_1 \underline{u} + c_2 \underline{v} \\ &= (1, 3) \quad \begin{aligned} (1, 23, 0) &= c_1(1, 2, -3) + c_2(0, 7, 1) \\ (1, 23, 0) &= 1(1, 2, -3) + 3(0, 7, 1) \end{aligned} \end{aligned}$$

Question 2. (5 marks) Consider the space $M_{3 \times 3}$ of all square matrices of size 3×3 and the subset W of skew-symmetric matrices:

$$W = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & a & b \\ -a & 0 & c \\ -b & -c & 0 \end{bmatrix}, a, b, c \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

and consider the matrices:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad C = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Determine whether $S = \{A, B, C\}$ is a basis for W and state the dimension of W .

① Does S span W ? Let $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & a & b \\ -a & 0 & c \\ -b & -c & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in W$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & a & b \\ -a & 0 & c \\ -b & -c & 0 \end{bmatrix} = c_1 A + c_2 B + c_3 C$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & a & b \\ -a & 0 & c \\ -b & -c & 0 \end{bmatrix} = c_1 \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + c_2 \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + c_3 \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} a &= c_1 \\ b &= -c_1 + c_2 + c_3 \\ c &= c_3 \end{aligned}$$

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_A \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ c_3 \end{bmatrix}}_c = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}}_b$$

Since $\det A = 1 \neq 0$, the above is consistent $\forall a, b, c$ by the equiv. thm. $\therefore S$ spans W .

Is S linearly independent?

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = c_1 A + c_2 B + c_3 C$$

By \star and $a=b=c=0$ and the fact that $\det A \neq 0$ we only have the trivial solution $c_1=c_2=c_3=0$ by the equiv. thm.

$\therefore S$ is linearly independent.

$\therefore S$ is a basis

$\therefore \dim(W) = 3$

Question 3. (5 marks) Let A be a nonzero 2×2 matrix and write $U = \{X \in \mathcal{M}_{2 \times 2} \mid XA = AX\}$. Show that $\dim(U) \geq 2$. Hint: I and A are in U and prove by contradiction.

Suppose $\dim(U) < 1$ ✖

Case ①: $A = kI$ where $k \in \mathbb{R}$

Then all $X \in \mathcal{M}_{2 \times 2}$ commute with A . i.e. $XA = XkI$
 $= kXI$
 $= kIX$
 $= AX$

∴ $U = \mathcal{M}_{2 \times 2}$ and $\dim(U) = 4$ ↘

Case ②: $\exists k \in \mathbb{R}$ s.t. $A = kI$

$I \in U$ since $IA = AI$ ✖

$A \in U$ since $AA = AA$ ✔

since it is not the trivial subspace the basis β of U has at least one element. and by ✖ it follows that $\beta = \{I, A\}$.

$U = \text{span}(\beta)$

$I = c_1 \beta$ by ✖ } $\Rightarrow \frac{1}{c_1} I = \frac{1}{c_1} A$ ↘
 $A = c_2 \beta$ by ✔ } $\frac{c_2}{c_1} I = A$

∴ $\dim(U) \geq 2$.

Bonus Question.

definition:¹ A group G is a set of elements satisfying the four conditions below, relative to some binary operation.

1. $\exists e \in G \forall g \in G : e \cdot g = g \cdot e = g$. (Identity.)
2. $\forall x, y, z \in G : (x \cdot y) \cdot z = x \cdot (y \cdot z)$. (Associativity.)
3. $\forall x \in G, \exists y \in G x \cdot y = y \cdot x = e$. (Inverse.)
4. $\forall x, y \in G : x \cdot y \in G$. (Closure.)

where e is called the identity.

- a. (2 marks) Show that the identity is unique.
- b. (2 marks) Is a vector space a group?

¹https://web.williams.edu/Mathematics/sjmiller/public_html/mathlab/public_html/handouts/GroupTheoryIntro.tex