

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE  
MATHEMATICS SOCIETY

PAST YEAR PAPER SOLUTIONS  
with credits to Lau Tze Siong

**MA2101 Linear Algebra II**  
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## SECTION A

### Question 1

(a)  $W$  is not a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  since  $(0, 0, 0) \notin W$ .

(b) **Non-empty Subset**

For any  $\mathbf{w} \in W$ ,  $\mathbf{w} \in M_{22}(\mathbb{R}) = V$ . Hence  $W \subseteq V$ . Also  $\mathbf{0} \in W$ .

**Closure under Linear Combination.**

For any  $\begin{pmatrix} a_1 & a_1 + b_1 \\ a_1 - b_1 & b_1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} a_2 & a_2 + b_2 \\ a_2 - b_2 & b_2 \end{pmatrix} \in W$ , and  $r \in \mathbb{R}$ , we have,

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & a_1 + b_1 \\ a_1 - b_1 & b_1 \end{pmatrix} + r \begin{pmatrix} a_2 & a_2 + b_2 \\ a_2 - b_2 & b_2 \end{pmatrix} &= \begin{pmatrix} a_1 + ra_2 & a_1 + b_1 + ra_2 + rb_2 \\ a_1 - b_1 + ra_2 - rb_2 & b_1 + rb_2 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} a_1 + ra_2 & (a_1 + a_2) + r(b_1 + b_2) \\ (a_1 + a_2) - r(b_1 + b_2) & b_1 + rb_2 \end{pmatrix} \\ &\in W. \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $W$  is a vector subspace of  $V$ .

### Question 2

(a) (i) Since

$$\begin{aligned} p_1(x) + 2p_2(x) - p_3(x) &= 1 + x^3 + 2(x + 2x^3) - (x^2 - 3x^3) \\ &= 1 + 2x - x^2 + 8x^3, \end{aligned}$$

$q_1(x)$  can be expressed as a linear combination of  $p_1(x), p_2(x), p_3(x)$ . Therefore  $q_1(x) \in W$ .

(ii) Claim:  $q_2(x) \notin \text{span}(\{p_1(x), p_2(x), p_3(x)\})$

Proof:

Suppose there exist  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $ap_1(x) + bp_2(x) + cp_3(x) = q_2(x)$ . By comparing the coefficients of  $x^0$  and  $x^2$ , we have  $a = 0 = c$ . Hence  $q_2(x) = b(x + 2x^3)$  for some  $b \in \mathbb{R}$ , which is a contradiction.

(b) Let  $ap_1(x) + bp_2(x) + cp_3(x) = 0$  where  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}$ . By comparing coefficients of  $x^0, x$  and  $x^2$ , we have  $a = b = c = 0$ . Hence  $\{p_1(x), p_2(x), p_3(x)\}$  is a linearly independent set.

Since  $\text{span}(\{p_1(x), p_2(x), p_3(x)\}) = W$  and  $\{p_1(x), p_2(x), p_3(x)\}$  is a linearly independent set,  $\{p_1(x), p_2(x), p_3(x)\}$  is a basis for  $W$ .

(c) Since  $\dim(W) = 3$ , we have  $\dim(U) = 1$ . Let  $U = \text{span}(\{q_2(x)\})$ . Since  $q_2(x) \notin W$ , we have  $U \cap W = \{0_{P_3(\mathbb{R})}\}$ . Hence  $U \oplus W = P_3(\mathbb{R})$ .

**Question 3**

(a) Since  $T_1(1) = 1 + 2x^2$ ,  $T_1(x) = x + x^2$  and  $T_1(x^2) = x + 2x^2$ , we have

$$[T_1]_{\mathcal{B}_1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Since  $T_2(1) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $T_2(x) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $T_2(x^2) = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$ , we have

$$[T_2]_{\mathcal{B}_2, \mathcal{B}_1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} [T_2 \circ T_1]_{\mathcal{B}_2, \mathcal{B}_1} &= [T_2]_{\mathcal{B}_2, \mathcal{B}_1} [T_1]_{\mathcal{B}_1} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 2 & 4 \\ 7 & 4 & 7 \\ 7 & 4 & 7 \\ 5 & 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

(b) Hence

$$T_2 \circ T_1(a + bx + cx^2) = \begin{pmatrix} 5a + 2b + 4c & 7a + 4b + 7c \\ 7a + 4b + 7c & 5a + 2b + 4c \end{pmatrix}.$$

(c) Since  $\det([T_1]_{\mathcal{B}_1}) = 1 \neq 0$ ,  $T_1$  is invertible. This give us

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right) \rightarrow \left( \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 & -1 & 1 \end{array} \right).$$

Hence

$$[T_1^{-1}]_{\mathcal{B}_1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 2 & -1 \\ -2 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

(d) For  $x \in \ker(T_2)$ ,

$$x = \begin{pmatrix} a_0 + 2a_2 & a_0 + a_1 + 3a_2 \\ a_0 + a_1 + 3a_2 & a_0 + 2a_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Hence we arrive at the following set of equations,

$$\begin{aligned} a_0 + 0a_1 + 2a_2 &= 0; \\ a_0 + 1a_1 + 3a_2 &= 0; \\ a_0 + 1a_1 + 3a_2 &= 0; \\ a_0 + 0a_1 + 2a_2 &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Solving them, we have

$$\begin{aligned} a_0 &= -2t \\ a_1 &= -t \\ a_2 &= t. \end{aligned}$$

Hence a basis for  $\ker(T_2)$  is  $\{2 + x - x^2\}$ .

- (e) Since  $T_1$  is invertible,  $\text{null}(T_1) = 0$ . Hence, by Rank-Nullity Theorem,  $\text{rank}(T_1) = 3$ .  
Since  $\text{null}(T_2) = 1$ , by Rank-Nullity Theorem,  $\text{rank}(T_2) = 2$ .

- (f) No.

Consider  $T_1^{-1}(2 + x - x^2) \in P_2(\mathbb{R}) \setminus \{0\}$ . Since  $T_2 \circ T_1(T_1^{-1}(2 + x - x^2)) = T_2(2 + x - x^2) = 0$ , we have  $T_1^{-1}(2 + x - x^2) \in \ker(T_2 \circ T_1)$ , i.e.  $T_2 \circ T_1$  is not injective. Hence  $T_2 \circ T_1$  is singular.

#### Question 4

- (i)  $\dim(V) = \deg(c_T(x)) = \deg(x^3(x-1)^4) = 7$ .

- (ii) The possible Jordan Canonical Forms are,

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

- (iii) For either of the above Jordan Canonical Form, we may label the ordered basis that produce them, as  $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3, \mathbf{v}_4, \mathbf{v}_5, \mathbf{v}_6, \mathbf{v}_7\}$ . Notice that  $T(\mathbf{v}_3) = \mathbf{v}_2 \neq 0$ .  
We can also see that  $T^2(\mathbf{v}_3) = T(\mathbf{v}_2) = 0$ , and we are done.

## SECTION B

#### Question 5

- (a) (i) Applying the GramSchmidt Orthogonalisation process. We get

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{u}_1 &= F_1 \\ \mathbf{u}_2 &= F_2 - \frac{\langle F_1, F_2 \rangle}{\langle F_1, F_1 \rangle} F_1 = F_2 - \frac{3}{2} F_1 \\ \mathbf{u}_3 &= F_3 - \frac{\langle F_1, F_3 \rangle}{\langle F_1, F_1 \rangle} F_1 - \frac{\langle F_2 - \frac{3}{2} F_1, F_3 \rangle}{\langle F_2 - \frac{3}{2} F_1, F_2 - \frac{3}{2} F_1 \rangle} (F_2 - \frac{3}{2} F_1) \\ &= F_3 - 3F_1 + 2(F_2 - \frac{3}{2} F_1) \\ &= F_3 - 6F_1 + 2F_2. \end{aligned}$$

Normalising  $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{u}_3\}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{v}_1 &= \frac{\mathbf{u}_1}{\sqrt{\langle \mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_1 \rangle}} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} \\ \mathbf{v}_2 &= \frac{\mathbf{u}_2}{\sqrt{\langle \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{u}_2 \rangle}} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} \\ \mathbf{v}_3 &= \frac{\mathbf{u}_3}{\sqrt{\langle \mathbf{u}_3, \mathbf{u}_3 \rangle}} = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{2}{\sqrt{10}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{10}} \\ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{10}} & \frac{2}{\sqrt{10}} \end{pmatrix}.\end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3\}$  is an orthonormal basis for  $W$ .

(ii) Since  $\dim V = 4$  and  $\dim W = 3$ ,  $\dim W^\perp = 1$ .

(iii) We have,

$$\begin{aligned}Q &= D - \langle \mathbf{v}_1, D \rangle \mathbf{v}_1 - \langle \mathbf{v}_2, D \rangle \mathbf{v}_2 - \langle D, \mathbf{v}_3 \rangle \mathbf{v}_3 \\ &= D - \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{v}_1 + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{v}_2 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{10}} \mathbf{v}_3 \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 0.2 & 0.4 \\ -0.4 & -0.2 \end{pmatrix},\end{aligned}$$

and thus

$$\begin{aligned}P &= D - Q \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} -0.2 & 0.6 \\ 0.4 & 0.2 \end{pmatrix}.\end{aligned}$$

(b) Since  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$  is an orthonormal basis for  $V$ , we can express  $\mathbf{w}$  as  $\mathbf{w} = \sum_{j=1}^n \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{v}_j \rangle \mathbf{v}_j$ .

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w} \rangle &= \left\langle \mathbf{u}, \sum_{j=1}^n \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{v}_j \rangle \mathbf{v}_j \right\rangle \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^n \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{v}_j \rangle \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}_j \rangle.\end{aligned}$$

### Question 6

(a) (i) We have

$$[T]_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{pmatrix} -3 & 1 & -1 \\ -7 & 5 & -1 \\ -6 & 6 & -2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Hence the characteristic equation of  $T$  is

$$\det(xI - [T]_{\mathcal{B}}) = (x - 4)(x + 2)^2.$$

Since

$$([T]_{\mathcal{B}} - 4)([T]_{\mathcal{B}} + 2) = \begin{pmatrix} 6 & -6 & 6 \\ 6 & -6 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \neq \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

the minimal polynomial of  $T$ ,  $m_T(x) = (x - 4)(x + 2)^2$ . Hence  $T$  is not diagonalisable.

- (ii) Since  $c_T(x) = (x - 4)(x + 2)^2$  and  $m_T(x) = (x - 4)(x + 2)^2$ , the Jordan Canonical Form for  $T$  is

$$\begin{pmatrix} 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- (b) Let  $\mathcal{B} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$  be a ordered basis for  $M_{22}(\mathbb{R})$ .

Hence  $[T]_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{pmatrix} A & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & A \end{pmatrix}$ . Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} c_T(x) = \det(xI_4 - [T]_{\mathcal{B}}) &= \det \begin{pmatrix} xI_2 - A & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & xI_2 - A \end{pmatrix} \\ &= (\det(xI_2 - A))^2 \\ &= (c_A(x))^2 \end{aligned}$$

Hence if  $c_T(x) = 0$ , we have  $(c_A(x))^2 = 0$  which implies that  $c_A(x) = 0$ .

Also if  $c_A(x) = 0$ , then  $c_T(x) = (c_A(x))^2 = 0$ . Therefore  $T$  and  $A$  share the same eigenvalues.

### Question 7

- (i) For  $\mathbf{v} \in \ker(T)$ ,  $T(\mathbf{v}) = 0_V$ . Hence  $ST(\mathbf{v}) = S(0_V) = 0_V$ . Therefore  $\mathbf{v} \in \ker(ST)$ .  
Hence we have  $\ker(T) \subseteq \ker(ST)$ .
- (ii) For  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{R}(ST)$ ,  $\mathbf{v} = ST(\mathbf{w})$  for some  $\mathbf{w} \in V$ . Hence  $\mathbf{v} = S(T(\mathbf{w})) \in \mathcal{R}(S)$ .  
Therefore  $\mathcal{R}(ST) \subseteq \mathcal{R}(S)$ .
- (iii) From the previous parts we have  $n_T \leq n_{ST}$  and  $\text{rank}(ST) \leq \text{rank}(S)$ .  
Hence, by Rank Nullity Theorem, we have  $n_S \leq n_{ST}$ . This give us  $\max(n_T, n_S) \leq n_{ST}$ .
- Notice that  $\text{rank}(ST) = \text{rank}(S|_{\mathcal{R}(T)})$ . By considering the linear operator  $S|_{\mathcal{R}(T)} : \mathcal{R}(T) \rightarrow V$ , we have  $\text{rank}(ST) = \dim(\mathcal{R}(T)) - \dim(\mathcal{R}(T) \cap \ker(S)) \geq \text{rank}(T) - n_S$ .  
Hence, by Rank-Nullity Theorem,  $n_{ST} = \dim V - \text{rank}(ST) \leq \dim V - \text{rank}(T) + n_S = n_T + n_S$ .
- Therefore we have  $\max(n_S, n_T) \leq n_{ST} \leq n_T + n_S$ .