

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE  
MATHEMATICS SOCIETY

PAST YEAR PAPER SOLUTIONS

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**MA1101R Linear Algebra I**

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**Question 1**

$$(i) \left( \begin{array}{ccccc|c} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{GJE} \left( \begin{array}{ccccc|c} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

A basis for the row space of A is:  $\{(1 \ 0 \ -1 \ 0 \ 0), (0 \ 1 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0), (0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1)\}$ .

A basis for the column space of A is:  $\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$ .

$$(ii) \left( \begin{array}{ccccc|c} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{GJE} \left( \begin{array}{ccccc|c} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

Solve the equation system  $\begin{cases} x_1 - x_3 = 0 \\ x_2 + x_3 = 0 \\ x_5 = 0 \end{cases}$ , we get  $\begin{cases} x_1 = s \\ x_2 = -s \\ x_3 = s \\ x_4 = t \\ x_5 = 0 \end{cases}$  where s,t are arbitrary parameters.

Hence, the homogeneous system  $Ax=0$  has a general solution  $x = s \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$  where s,t

are arbitrary parameters.

Thus a basis for the nullspace of A is  $\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$ .

(iii)  $\text{rank}(A)=3$ ,  $\text{nullity}(A)=2$ ,

$\text{nullity}(A^T)=\text{no of columns of } A^T - \text{rank}(A^T)=\text{no of columns of } A^T - \text{rank}(A)=4 - 3 = 1$ .

(iv) We form a matrix  $K = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  using the vectors in the basis for the nullspace of A. We choose  $(0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0)$ ,  $(0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0)$ ,  $(0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1)$  to extend the basis. These vectors are linearly independent, hence  $\{(1 \ -1 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0), (0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0), (0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0), (0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0), (0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1)\}$  is a basis for  $\mathbb{R}^5$ .

(v) Suppose there is a non-zero vector  $u$  such that  $u$  belongs to the nullspace of  $A$  and the row space of  $A$ .

Hence  $Au=0$ ,  $a_i \cdot u=0$ , where  $a_i$  is the rowvector of  $A$ , for  $i=1,2,\dots,n$ .

And  $u=c_1 \cdot a_1 + c_2 \cdot a_2 + \dots + c_n \cdot a_n$ , where  $c_i$  is constant for  $i=1,2,\dots,n$ .

Hence  $u \cdot u = (\sum c_i \cdot a_i) \cdot u = \sum c_i \cdot (a_i \cdot u) = \sum c_i \cdot 0 = 0$ . But  $u$  is a non-zero vector, therefore  $u \cdot u > 0$ .

So there is no non-zero vector  $u$  such that  $u$  belongs to both the nullspace of  $A$  and the row space of  $A$ .

(vi) Suppose there is a matrix  $B$  such that  $AB$  is invertible. We write  $A = \begin{pmatrix} a_1^T \\ a_2^T \\ a_3^T \\ a_4^T \end{pmatrix}$ ,

then  $A^T = (a_1 \ a_2 \ a_3 \ a_4)$ ,  $B^T A^T = (B^T a_1 \ B^T a_2 \ B^T a_3 \ B^T a_4)$ . Since  $A$  has two identical rows,  $a_3^T = a_4^T$ ,  $B^T A^T$  has two identical columns,  $B^T a_3 = B^T a_4$ . Hence the determinant of  $B^T A^T$  is zero. Hence  $\det(AB) = \det((AB)^T) = \det(B^T A^T) = 0$ .  $AB$  is singular. So it is impossible to find a matrix  $B$  such that  $AB$  is an invertible matrix.

## Question 2

(a)

(i) Since  $A$  is a triangular matrix,  $\lambda_1=1$ ,  $\lambda_2=2$ .

(ii) For  $\lambda_1=1$ ,

$$(\lambda I - A)x = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \left( \begin{array}{cccc|c} 1-1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1-1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1-2 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1-2 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \left( \begin{array}{cccc|c} 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x = t \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ where } t \text{ is an arbitrary parameter.}$$

Hence, a basis for the eigenspace of  $A$  associated with  $\lambda_1=1$  is  $\{(1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0)\}$ .

For  $\lambda_2=2$ ,

$$(\lambda I - A)x = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \left( \begin{array}{cccc|c} 2-1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2-1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2-2 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2-2 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \left( \begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x = t \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ where } t \text{ is an arbitrary parameter.}$$

Hence, a basis for the eigenspace of A associated with  $\lambda_2=2$  is  $\{(0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0)\}$ .

(iii) Since we only have two linearly independent eigenvectors, A is not diagonalizable.

(b)

(i) Since  $B \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ , and  $B \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = -1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$ , B has two linearly independent eigenvectors,  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$ , so B is diagonalizable. So we can write  $B = PDP^{-1}$ , where  $P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $D = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ . Since  $\det(P) \neq 0$ , P is invertible,  $P^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(ii) } B^n &= P D^n P^{-1} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2^n & 0 \\ 0 & -1^n \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{2^n + (-1)^n}{2} & \frac{2^n + (-1)^{n+1}}{2} \\ \frac{2^n + (-1)^{n+1}}{2} & \frac{2^n + (-1)^n}{2} \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{(iii) From (ii) } B^1 = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} \\ \frac{3}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}, \text{ suppose } \mathbf{v} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$$

$$B\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} \\ \frac{3}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \left( \begin{array}{cc|c} -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & 0 \\ \frac{3}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$$

Hence, it is impossible to find a non-zero column vector  $\mathbf{v}$  such that  $B\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}$ .

### Question 3

(a)

(i) The equation

$$c_1(1, 1, 0) + c_2(0, 1, 1) + c_3(0, 0, 1) = (0, 0, 0)$$

give us a linear system

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

we find this linear system has only the trivial solution, so S is linearly independent. And  $|S| = \dim(\mathbb{R}^3) = 3$ , so S is a basis for  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

The equation

$$c_1(1, 0, 1) + c_2(0, 1, 1) + c_3(0, 1, 0) = (0, 0, 0)$$

give us a linear system

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{GJE} \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

we find this linear system has only the trivial solution, so T is linearly independent. And  $|T| = \dim(\mathbb{R}^3) = 3$ , so T is a basis for  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

$$(ii) \text{ By } \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c|c|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{GJE} \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c|c|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & -1 \end{array} \right)$$

so  $P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$  is the transition matrix from T to S.

(iii) Since  $(w)_T = (1, 2, -1)$ ,  $w = 1(1, 0, 1) + 2(0, 1, 1) + (-1)(0, 1, 0) = (1, 1, 3)$ .

$$\text{Since } [w]_S = P[w]_T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, (w)_S = (1, 0, 3).$$

(iv) Yes, let  $v = (1, 1, 1)$ ,  $(v)_T = (1, 0, 1) = (v)_S$ .

(b)

(i) True

Suppose  $\dim(U \cap V) = 0$ , let  $S = \{s_1, s_2\}$ ,  $T = \{t_1, t_2, t_3\}$  be bases of U and V. Since  $U \cap V = \{0\}$ ,  $s_1, s_2$  are not linear combinations of  $t_1, t_2, t_3$ . Hence  $K = \{s_1, s_2, t_1, t_2, t_3\}$  is linearly independent. However  $|K| = 5 > \dim(\mathbb{R}^4)$ , so K is linearly dependent. This is a contradiction.

(ii) True

Since  $U \cap V$  is a subspace of U, then  $\dim(U \cap V) \leq \dim(U) = 2$ , and since U is not a subset of V,  $U \cap V \neq U$ ,  $\dim(U \cap V) < \dim(U) = 2$ , and  $\dim(U \cap V) \geq 1$ , so  $\dim(U \cap V) = 1$ .

#### Question 4

(a)

$$(i) \left( \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{GJE} \left( \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right)$$

the last column of a row-echelon form of the augmented matrix is a pivot column, so  $Ax=b$  is an inconsistent system.

(ii)  $A^T Ax = A^T b$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} x = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \begin{pmatrix} 0.5 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

(iii) Let  $T = \{(1, 1, 0), (-1, 1, 1)\}$ , since  $T$  is linearly independent and  $(1 \ 1 \ 0) \cdot (-1 \ 1 \ 1) = 0$ , so  $T$  is an orthogonal basis for the column space of  $A$ , the projection  $p$  of  $b$  onto the column space of  $A$  is  $p = \frac{b \cdot t_1}{\|t_1\|^2} t_1 + \frac{b \cdot t_2}{\|t_2\|^2} t_2 = (0.5, 0.5, 0)$ .

(iv) Let  $n = b - p = \begin{pmatrix} -0.5 \\ 0.5 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$ , then  $n$  is orthogonal to column space of  $A$ ,

and  $T \cup \{n\} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -0.5 \\ 0.5 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$  is an orthogonal basis for  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . And by normalizing

the vectors, an orthonormal basis  $S$  for  $\mathbb{R}^3$  is  $S = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \frac{-1}{\sqrt{3}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \frac{-1}{\sqrt{6}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \\ \frac{-2}{\sqrt{6}} \end{pmatrix} \right\}$ .

(v)  $(b)_S = (b \cdot s_1, b \cdot s_2, b \cdot s_3) = (\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, 0, \frac{3}{\sqrt{6}})$ .

(b) Let  $A = (a_1 \ a_2 \ \dots \ a_n)$ ,  $n = b - p$  is orthogonal to the column space of  $A$ , so  $a_1 \cdot n = 0, a_2 \cdot n = 0, \dots, a_n \cdot n = 0$ . That is

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_1^T \\ a_2^T \\ \vdots \\ a_n^T \end{pmatrix} n = 0$$

Hence  $A^T n = 0$ ,  $n = b - p$  is a solution of  $A^T x = 0$ .

### Question 5

$$(i) \ T \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = T \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} - T \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$T \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = T \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} - T \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

(ii) The standard matrix  $A$  for  $T$  is

$$A = (T(e_1) \ T(e_2) \ T(e_3)) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

(iii) The kernel of  $T$  is the nullspace of  $A$ ,

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{GJE} \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\text{Hence, } \ker(T) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} t \\ 2t \\ t \end{pmatrix} \mid t \in \mathbb{R} \right\} = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}.$$

(iv) True

We reduce A to  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 \end{pmatrix}$

so the dimension of  $R(T)$ ,  $\text{rank}(T)=\text{rank}(A)=2$ .

Since  $R(T)$  is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^2$  and  $\dim(R(T))=\dim(\mathbb{R}^2)=2$ ,  $R(T)=\mathbb{R}^2$ . Hence, every vector in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  is an image under  $T$ .

(v) The formula of  $S \circ T$  is

$$S \circ T \left( \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} \right) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -y + 2z \\ -y + 2z \\ -y + 2z \end{pmatrix}$$

(vi) Since  $S \circ T(v)=v$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -y + 2z \\ -y + 2z \\ -y + 2z \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} x + y - 2z \\ 2y - 2z \\ y - z \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{0}$$

$$v \in \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} t \\ t \\ t \end{pmatrix} \mid t \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

$$(vii) \text{ Since } T \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x - y + z \\ -x + z \end{pmatrix}$$

Let  $x - y + z = -x + z$ , we get  $-2x + y + 0z = 0$ , hence  $-2x + y + 0z = 0$  is the equation of the plane in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  that is transformed to the line  $x - y = 0$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  under  $T$ .