

5.1.1

List the elements of A_4 .

Solution: $A_4 = \{(1), (12)(34), (13)(24), (14)(23), (123), (124), (134), (234), (132), (142), (143), (243)\}$.

5.1.2

Determine all n such that $\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \cdots & n \\ n & \cdots & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in A_n$.

Solution: $\sigma \in A_n \iff 2 \mid \frac{n(n-1)}{2} \iff n \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{4}$.

5.2.3

Prove that all bilinear forms on $F^{n \times 1}$ are in the form $L(X, Y) = Y^t A X$, where $A \in F^{n \times n}$.

Proof: Let $f_1, \dots, f_n \in (F^n)^*$ be the dual basis of e_1, \dots, e_n . Clearly $\mathcal{T}^2(V)$ has a basis $\{f_i \otimes f_j : i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}\}$, so $\dim \mathcal{T}^2(V) = n^2$ (note that if $c_{i,j} = L(e_i, e_j)$, then $L = \sum_{i,j} c_{i,j} f_i \otimes f_j$). Let $L_A : (X, Y) \mapsto Y^t A X$, then $\varphi : F^{n \times n} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}^2(V)$, $A \mapsto L_A$ is linear. Clearly $\text{Ker} \varphi = \{0\}$, so φ is an isomorphism, and all bilinear forms are in the form $L(X, Y) = Y^t A X$.

5.2.4

$L \in \mathcal{T}^2(V)$ is called non-degenerate, if for any $\alpha \in V \setminus \{0\}$, there exists $\beta \in V$ such that $L(\alpha, \beta) \neq 0$. Prove that $L(X, Y) = Y^t A X$ is non-degenerate iff A is invertible.

Proof: L is degenerate iff $\exists X \neq 0 \forall Y, L(X, Y) = 0$, iff $\exists X \neq 0, A X = 0$ iff A is not invertible. Hence L is non-degenerate iff A is invertible.

5.2.5

Prove that the standard symplectic form on F^{2n} is non-degenerate.

Proof: If $\omega_0 = \sum_{i=1}^n f_i \wedge f_{n+i}$ is degenerate, i.e. there exists $\alpha = (a_1, \dots, a_{2n})$ such that for any $\beta = (b_1, \dots, b_{2n})$,

$$\omega_0(\alpha, \beta) = \sum_{i=1}^n (f_i \otimes f_{n+i} - f_{n+i} \otimes f_i)(\alpha, \beta) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i b_{n+i} - a_{n+i} b_i = 0.$$

Hence take $\beta = (0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$ we obtain $\alpha = (0, 0, \dots, 0)$.

5.2.6

Suppose $\dim V < \infty$, L is a non-degenerate bilinear form. For $W \subset V$, define

$W^\perp = \{\alpha \in V : L(\alpha, \beta) = 0, \forall \beta \in W\}$. Prove that W^\perp is a subspace of V , and $\dim W + \dim W^\perp = \dim V$.

Proof: Clearly W^\perp is a subspace. Take a basis $\{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_k\}$ of W and extend it to a basis $\{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_n\}$ of V . Consider $T : V \mapsto F^k$, $\alpha \mapsto (L(\alpha, \beta_1), \dots, L(\alpha, \beta_k))$ then $\text{Ker} T = W^\perp$ and $\text{Im} T = F^k$ since L is non-degenerate. Hence $\dim W^\perp = \dim V - \dim W$.

5.2.7

Prove that if $\text{char} F \neq 2$, then $L \in \Lambda^r(V) \iff L$ is skew-symmetric.

Proof: If $L \in \Lambda^r(V)$ then $L(a_1 + a_2, a_1 + a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n) = 0$ so

$L(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) = -L(a_2, a_1, a_3, \dots, a_n)$. Likewise we obtain $L(\sigma a) = \text{sign}(\sigma)L(a)$ so L is skew-symmetric.

If L is skew-symmetric, then $L(a_1, a_1, a_3, \dots, a_n) = -L(a_1, a_1, a_3, \dots, a_n)$. Since $\text{char} F \neq 2$, $L(a_1, a_1, a_3, \dots, a_n) = 0$, and likewise we obtain $L \in \Lambda^r(V)$.

5.2.8

Suppose $\text{char} F = 2$, show that there is a skew-symmetric but not alternating bilinear form on F^n .

Proof: For odd n , consider $L(x, y) = \langle x, y \rangle$ where $\langle x, y \rangle = \sum_{k=1}^n x_k y_k$ for

$x = (x_1, \dots, x_n), y = (y_1, \dots, y_n)$. Clearly $L(x, y) = L(y, x)$ so L is skew-symmetric. But for $x = (1, 0, \dots, 0)$, $L(x, x) = 1 \neq 0$.