CAAM 336 · DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS

Homework 3 · Solutions

Posted Wednesday 28, January 2015. Due 5pm Wednesday 4, February 2015.

Please write your name and instructor on your homework.

- 1. [20 points: 10 each]
 - (a) Suppose that $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}^2$ is linear. Prove there exists a matrix $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}$ such that f is given by $f(\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{u}$. Hint: Each $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ can be written as $\mathbf{u} = u_1\mathbf{e}_1 + u_2\mathbf{e}_2$, where

$$\mathbf{e}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \qquad \mathbf{e}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Since f is linear, we have $f(\mathbf{u}) = u_1 f(\mathbf{e}_1) + u_2 f(\mathbf{e}_2)$. Your formula for the matrix **A** may include the vectors $f(\mathbf{e}_1)$ and $f(\mathbf{e}_2)$.

(b) Now we want to generalize the result in part (a): Show that if $f: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^m$ is linear, then there exists a matrix $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ such that $f(\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{u}$ for all $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

(Thus any linear function that maps \mathbb{R}^n to \mathbb{R}^m can be written as a matrix-vector product.)

Solution.

(a) Write $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ in the form

$$\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 & u_2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Any matrix $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}$ can be written as

$$\mathbf{A} = \left[\begin{array}{cc} \mathbf{a}_1 & \mathbf{a}_2 \end{array} \right],$$

where $\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2 \in \mathbb{R}^2$ are the columns of \mathbf{A} . Now the matrix-vector product $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{u}$ is a linear combination of the columns of \mathbf{A} :

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_1 & \mathbf{a}_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{bmatrix} = u_1\mathbf{a}_1 + u_2\mathbf{a}_2. \tag{*}$$

We are trying to find a formula for \mathbf{A} (or, equivalently, for \mathbf{a}_1 and \mathbf{a}_2) such that $f(\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{u}$. Using the hint, we have

$$f(\mathbf{u}) = u_1 f(\mathbf{e}_1) + u_2 f(\mathbf{e}_2).$$
 (**)

Comparing (*) and (**) and equating like terms, we see that

$$\mathbf{a}_1 = f(\mathbf{e}_1), \qquad \mathbf{a}_2 = f(\mathbf{e}_2),$$

and hence

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} f(\mathbf{e}_1) & f(\mathbf{e}_2) \end{bmatrix}.$$

(b) We follow the same idea as in part (a). Write $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ as

$$\mathbf{u} = \left[\begin{array}{c} u_1 \\ \vdots \\ u_n \end{array} \right]$$

and $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ by column,

$$\mathbf{A} = \left[\begin{array}{cccc} \mathbf{a}_1 & \mathbf{a}_2 & \cdots & \mathbf{a}_n \end{array} \right],$$

where $\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n \in \mathbb{R}^m$. Equating like terms in

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_1 & \mathbf{a}_2 & \cdots & \mathbf{a}_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ \vdots \\ u_n \end{bmatrix} = u_1\mathbf{a}_1 + u_2\mathbf{a}_2 + \cdots + u_n\mathbf{a}_n$$

and

$$f(\mathbf{u}) = u_1 f(\mathbf{e}_1) + u_2 f(\mathbf{e}_2) + \cdots + u_n f(\mathbf{e}_n),$$

we arrive at

$$\mathbf{A} = \left[\begin{array}{ccc} f(\mathbf{e}_1) & f(\mathbf{e}_2) & \cdots & f(\mathbf{e}_n) \end{array} \right].$$

2. [30 points: 5 each]

Recall that a function $f: \mathcal{V} \to \mathcal{W}$ that maps a vector space \mathcal{V} to a vector space \mathcal{W} is a *linear operator* provided (1) f(u+v) = f(u) + f(v) for all u, v in \mathcal{V} , and (2) $f(\alpha v) = \alpha f(v)$ for all $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ and $v \in \mathcal{V}$.

Demonstrate whether each of the following functions is a linear operator.

(Show that both properties hold, or give an example showing that one of the properties must fail.)

- (a) $f: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^m$, $f(\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{u}$ for a fixed matrix $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$.
- (b) $f: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^m$, $f(\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{b}$ for a fixed matrix $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ and fixed nonzero vector $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m$.
- (c) $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}$, $f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x}$.
- (d) $f: \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \to \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, $f(\mathbf{X}) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{X} + \mathbf{X}\mathbf{B}$ for fixed matrices $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$.
- (e) $L: C^1[0,1] \to C[0,1], Lu = u \frac{du}{dx}$
- (f) $L: C^2[0,1] \to C[0,1], Lu = \frac{\mathrm{d}^2 u}{\mathrm{d}x^2} \sin(x)\frac{\mathrm{d}u}{\mathrm{d}x} + \cos(x)u.$

Solution.

(a) This function is a linear operator. Suppose $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Then

$$f(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v} = f(\mathbf{u}) + f(\mathbf{v}),$$

and

$$f(\alpha \mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{A}(\alpha \mathbf{v}) = \alpha \mathbf{A} \mathbf{v} = \alpha f(\mathbf{v}).$$

(b) This function is not a linear operator (provided $\mathbf{b} \neq \mathbf{0}$). Suppose $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Then

$$f(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) + \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}\mathbf{b} = f(\mathbf{u}) + \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v},$$

which does not equal $f(\mathbf{u}) + f(\mathbf{v})$ when $\mathbf{b} \neq \mathbf{0}$.

[GRADERS: please do not take off points if the solutions fail to note the special case of $\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{0}$.]

(c) This function is not a linear operator. (C_{n}, C_{n}, C_{n})

Suppose
$$\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$$
. Then

$$f(\alpha \mathbf{x}) = (\alpha \mathbf{x})^T (\alpha \mathbf{x}) = \alpha^2 \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x} = \alpha^2 f(\mathbf{x}),$$

and thus if $\alpha \neq \pm 1$, we have $f(\alpha \mathbf{x}) \neq \alpha f(\mathbf{x})$.

(d) This function is a linear operator. Suppose $\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$. Then

$$f(\mathbf{X} + \mathbf{Y}) = \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{X} + \mathbf{Y}) + (\mathbf{X} + \mathbf{Y})\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{X} + \mathbf{X}\mathbf{B} + \mathbf{A}\mathbf{Y} + \mathbf{Y}\mathbf{B} = f(\mathbf{X}) + f(\mathbf{Y}),$$

and if $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$, then

$$f(\alpha \mathbf{X}) = \mathbf{A}(\alpha \mathbf{X}) + (\alpha \mathbf{X})\mathbf{B} = \alpha(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{X} + \mathbf{X}\mathbf{B}) = \alpha f(\mathbf{X}).$$

(e) This function is not a linear operator.

Suppose that
$$u(x) = x$$
. Then

$$Lu = u\frac{du}{dx} = x \cdot 1 = x,$$

yet for any $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ we have

$$L(\alpha u) = (\alpha u) \frac{d(\alpha u)}{dx} = (\alpha x) \cdot \alpha = \alpha^2 x,$$

so if $\alpha \neq \pm 1$, we have $L(\alpha u) \neq \alpha Lu$.

(f) This function is a linear operator. Suppose that $u, v \in C^2[0, 1]$. Then

$$L(u+v) = \frac{d^2(u+v)}{dx^2} - \sin(x)\frac{d(u+v)}{dx} + \cos(x)(u+v)$$

$$= \frac{d^2u}{dx^2} - \sin(x)\frac{du}{dx} + \cos(x)u + \frac{d^2v}{dx^2} - \sin(x)\frac{dv}{dx} + \cos(x)v$$

$$= Lu + Lv,$$

and for any $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$L(\alpha u) = \frac{d^2(\alpha u)}{dx^2} - \sin(x)\frac{d(\alpha u)}{dx} + \cos(x)(\alpha u) = \alpha\left(\frac{d^2 u}{dx^2} - \sin(x)\frac{du}{dx} + \cos(x)u\right) = \alpha L(u).$$

3. [25 points: 5 points for (a), 10 points each for (b)-(c)]

In this problem we'll consider a linear operator mapping to and from a very specific vector space, and use it to explore what an operator inverse can look like.

Consider the V defined as

$$V = \left\{ u(x) = \sum_{j=1}^{N} c_j \sin(j\pi x), \quad c_j \in \mathbb{R} \right\}.$$

In other words, V is the set of all functions that are linear combinations of a finite number of different sine functions. This means that, for each $u \in V$, there is a set of coefficients c_1, \ldots, c_N that is also associated with u.

(a) Show that V is a subspace of the vector space $C_D^2[0,1]$, where

$$C_D^2[0,1] = \{u(x) \in C^2[0,1], \quad u(0) = u(1) = 0\}.$$

(b) Let the operator L be defined as

$$Lu = -\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$$

Show that, for $u \in V$, $Lu \in V$. This shows that L can be viewed as

$$L: V \to V$$

a map from V to V.

(c) We can define the operator $\tilde{L}: V \to V$ as

$$\tilde{L}u = \sum_{j=1}^{N} \frac{c_j}{(j\pi)^2} \sin(j\pi x).$$

Show that both $L\tilde{L}u = u$ and $\tilde{L}Lu = u$ for any $u \in V$.

Since both $L\tilde{L}u = u$ and $\tilde{L}Lu = u$ for any $u \in V$, we can refer to \tilde{L} as the inverse L^{-1} of $L: V \to V$.

Solution.

Let V be defined as

$$V = \left\{ u \in C_D^2[0, 1] : u(x) = \sum_{j=1}^N c_j \sin(j\pi x), \quad c_j \in \mathbb{R} \right\}.$$

(a) Suppose $u(x) \in V$. Then,

$$u(0) = \sum_{j=1}^{N} c_j \sin(0), \qquad u(1) = \sum_{j=1}^{N} c_j \sin(j\pi)$$

Since $\sin(0) = 0$, u(0) = 0. Similarly, since j is an integer in the above expression, $\sin(j\pi 1) = \sin(j\pi) = 0$, since sine evaluated at any multiple of π is zero, and u(1) = 0 as well. Since the sum of sines is a continuous function, any $u(x) \in V$ is also contained in $C_D^2[0,1]$, and V is contained in $C_D^2[0,1]$.

Next, we just need to show that V itself is a vector space. If u(x) and v(x) are in the set of V, then we have the representations

$$u(x) = \sum_{j=1}^{N} d_j \sin(j\pi x), \qquad v(x) = \sum_{j=1}^{N} e_j \sin(j\pi x)$$

for $d_j, e_j \in \mathbb{R}$. We wish to show that, for any $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$, the sum $w(x) = \alpha u(x) + \beta v(x)$ is contained in V as well.

$$w(x) = \alpha u(x) + \beta v(x) = \alpha \sum_{j=1}^{N} d_j \sin(j\pi x) + \beta \sum_{j=1}^{N} e_j \sin(j\pi x)$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^{N} \underbrace{\alpha d_j}_{\tilde{d}_j} \sin(j\pi x) + \sum_{j=1}^{N} \underbrace{\beta e_j}_{\tilde{e}_j} \sin(j\pi x)$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^{N} \underbrace{(\tilde{d}_j + \tilde{e}_j)}_{c_j} \sin(j\pi x)$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^{N} c_j \sin(j\pi x)$$

Therefore $w \in V$, and since V is contained in $C_D^2[0,1]$ as well, V is a subspace of $C_D^2[0,1]$.

(b) The operator L be defined as

$$Lu = -\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}.$$

We are going to show that for all $u \in V$, $Lu \in V$ as well. Let

$$u = \sum_{j=1}^{N} c_j \sin(j\pi x) \in V$$

for $c_j \in \mathbb{R}$. Then

$$Lu = -\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = -\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \left(\sum_{j=1}^N c_j \sin(j\pi x) \right)$$

$$= -\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[\sum_{j=1}^N c_j \frac{\partial(\sin(j\pi x))}{\partial x} \right]$$

$$= -\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[\sum_{j=1}^N c_j (j\pi) \cos(j\pi x) \right]$$

$$= -\sum_{j=1}^N c_j (j\pi) \frac{\partial(\cos(j\pi x))}{\partial x}$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^N c_j (j\pi)^2 \sin(j\pi x).$$

If we define $\tilde{c}_j = c_j(j\pi)^2 \in \mathbb{R}$ then

$$Lu = \sum_{j=1}^{N} \tilde{c}_j \sin(j\pi x)$$

which is also in V for all $\tilde{c}_j \in \mathbb{R}$. This shows that L can be viewed as

$$L: V \to V$$

a map from V to V.

(c) We define the operator $\tilde{L}: V \to V$ as

$$\tilde{L}u = \sum_{j=1}^{N} \frac{c_j}{(j\pi)^2} \sin(j\pi x).$$

We will show that $L\tilde{L}u=u$ and $\tilde{L}Lu=u$ for any $u\in V$. First, let us show $L\tilde{L}u=u$. From part (b) we can deduce that if $u=\sum_{j=1}^N c_j\sin(j\pi x)$

$$Lu = L\left(\sum_{j=1}^{N} c_j \sin(j\pi x)\right) = \sum_{j=1}^{N} c_j (j\pi)^2 \sin(j\pi x)$$

Then

$$L\tilde{L}u = L(\tilde{L}u) = L\left(\sum_{j=1}^{N} \frac{c_j}{(j\pi)^2} \sin(j\pi x)\right)$$
$$= \sum_{j=1}^{N} \frac{c_j(j\pi)^2}{(j\pi)^2} \sin(j\pi x)$$
$$= \sum_{j=1}^{N} c_j \sin(j\pi x)$$
$$= u$$

Now, let us show $\tilde{L}Lu = u$ as well. Remember that from problem if $u = \sum_{j=1}^{N} c_j \sin(j\pi x)$ then $\tilde{L}u$ is given as follows

$$\tilde{L}u = \tilde{L}\left(\sum_{j=1}^{N} c_j \sin(j\pi x)\right) = \sum_{j=1}^{N} \frac{c_j}{(j\pi)^2} \sin(j\pi x)$$

Then, similarly

$$\tilde{L}Lu = \tilde{L}(Lu) = \tilde{L}\left(\sum_{j=1}^{N} c_j (j\pi)^2 \sin(j\pi x)\right)$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^{N} \frac{c_j (j\pi)^2}{(j\pi)^2} \sin(j\pi x)$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^{N} c_j \sin(j\pi x)$$

$$= u$$

Since both $L\tilde{L}u=u$ and $\tilde{L}Lu=u$ for any $u\in V$, we can refer to \tilde{L} as the inverse L^{-1} of $L:V\to V$.

4. [25 points: 5 each]

Determine whether or not each of the following mappings is an inner product on the real vector space \mathcal{V} . If not, show all the properties of the inner product that are violated.

(a)
$$(\cdot,\cdot): \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{V} \to \mathbb{R}$$
 defined by $(u,v) = \int_0^1 u(x)v'(x) dx$ where $\mathcal{V} = C^1[0,1]$.

(b)
$$(\cdot,\cdot): \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{V} \to \mathbb{R}$$
 defined by $(u,v) = \int_0^1 |u(x)| |v(x)| \, dx$ where $\mathcal{V} = C[0,1]$.

(c)
$$(\cdot,\cdot): \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{V} \to \mathbb{R}$$
 defined by $(u,v) = \int_0^1 u(x)v(x)e^{-x} dx$ where $\mathcal{V} = C[0,1]$.

(d)
$$(\cdot,\cdot): \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{V} \to \mathbb{R}$$
 defined by $(u,v) = \int_0^1 (u(x) + v(x)) dx$ where $\mathcal{V} = C[0,1]$.

(e)
$$(\cdot,\cdot): \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{V} \to \mathbb{R}$$
 defined by $(u,v) = \int_{-1}^{1} xu(x)v(x) dx$ where $\mathcal{V} = C[-1,1]$.

Solution.

(a) [5 points] This mapping is not an inner product: it is not symmetric and it is not positive definite. The mapping is not symmetric. For example, if u(x) = 1 and v(x) = x, then

$$(u,v) = \int_0^1 u(x)v'(x) dx = \int_0^1 1 dx = 1,$$

yet

$$(v,u) = \int_0^1 v(x)u'(x) dx = \int_0^1 0 dx = 0.$$

The mapping is also not positive definite. For example, if u(x) = 1, then (u, u) = 0 and if u(x) = 1 - x, then

$$(u,u) = \int_0^1 (1-x)(-1) dx = -1/2.$$

For what it is worth, we note that the mapping is linear in the first argument since

$$(\alpha u + \beta v, w) = \alpha \int_0^1 u(x)w'(x) dx + \beta \int_0^1 v(x)w'(x) dx = \alpha(u, w) + \beta(v, w)$$

for all $u, v, w \in C^1[0, 1]$ and all $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$. It is also linear in the second argument since

$$(u, \alpha v + \beta w) = \alpha \int_0^1 u(x)v'(x) \, dx + \beta \int_0^1 u(x)w'(x) \, dx = \alpha(u, v) + \beta(u, w)$$

for all $u, v, w \in C^1[0, 1]$ and all $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$.

(b) [5 points] This mapping is not an inner product: it is not linear in the first argument. If $u, v, w \in C[0, 1]$ and $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$ then

$$(\alpha u + \beta v, w) = \int_0^1 |\alpha u(x) + \beta v(x)| |w(x)| dx$$

and

$$\alpha(u, w) + \beta(v, w) = \alpha \int_0^1 |u(x)| |w(x)| \, dx + \beta \int_0^1 |v(x)| |w(x)| \, dx.$$

However, if u(x) = 1, v(x) = 0, w(x) = 1, $\alpha = -1$ and $\beta = 0$ then

$$(\alpha u + \beta v, w) = \int_0^1 |-1||1| \, dx = \int_0^1 1 \, dx = 1$$

but

$$\alpha(u, w) + \beta(v, w) = -\int_0^1 |1| |1| dx = -\int_0^1 1 dx = -1$$

and so the mapping is not linear in the first argument.

The mapping is symmetric, as

$$(u,v) = \int_0^1 |u(x)||v(x)| \, dx = \int_0^1 |v(x)||u(x)| \, dx = (v,u)$$

for all $u, v \in C[0, 1]$.

Moreover, the mapping is positive definite as for all $u \in C[0,1]$

$$(u,u) = \int_0^1 |u(x)|^2 dx$$

is the integral of a nonnegative function, and hence is nonnegative and (u, u) = 0 only if u = 0.

(c) [5 points] This mapping is an inner product.

The mapping is symmetric, as

$$(u,v) = \int_0^1 u(x)v(x)e^{-x} dx = \int_0^1 v(x)u(x)e^{-x} dx = (v,u)$$

for all $u, v \in C[0, 1]$.

The mapping is also linear in the first argument since

$$(\alpha u + \beta v, w) = \int_0^1 (\alpha u(x) + \beta v(x))w(x)e^{-x} dx$$
$$= \alpha \int_0^1 u(x)w(x)e^{-x} dx + \beta \int_0^1 v(x)w(x)e^{-x} dx$$
$$= \alpha(u, w) + \beta(v, w)$$

for all $u, v, w \in C[0, 1]$ and all $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$.

The function e^{-x} is positive valued for all $x \in [0, 1]$, so we have that

$$(u,u) = \int_0^1 (u(x))^2 e^{-x} dx$$

is the integral of a nonnegative function, and hence is also nonnegative. If (u, u) = 0 then $(u(x))^2 e^{-x} = 0$ for all $x \in [0, 1]$ and, since $e^{-x} > 0$ for all $x \in [0, 1]$, this means that u(x) = 0 for all $x \in [0, 1]$, i.e., u = 0. Hence, the mapping is positive definite.

(d) [5 points] This mapping is not an inner product: it is not linear in the first argument and it is not positive definite.

If $u, v, w \in C[0, 1]$ and $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$ then

$$(\alpha u + \beta v, w) = \int_0^1 (\alpha u(x) + \beta v(x) + w(x)) dx$$

and

$$\alpha(u, w) + \beta(v, w) = \alpha \int_0^1 (u(x) + w(x)) dx + \beta \int_0^1 (v(x) + w(x)) dx.$$

However, if u(x) = 1, v(x) = 0, w(x) = 1, $\alpha = 2$ and $\beta = 0$ then

$$(\alpha u + \beta v, w) = \int_0^1 (2+1) dx = \int_0^1 3 dx = 3$$

but

$$\alpha(u, w) + \beta(v, w) = 2 \int_0^1 (1+1) \, dx = 2 \int_0^1 2 \, dx = 4$$

and so (\cdot, \cdot) is not linear in the first argument.

The mapping (\cdot,\cdot) is also not positive definite. For example, if u(x)=-1, then

$$(u,u) = \int_0^1 (u(x) + u(x)) dx = \int_0^1 -2 dx = -2 < 0.$$

The mapping is symmetric, as

$$(u,v) = \int_0^1 (u(x) + v(x)) dx = \int_0^1 (v(x) + u(x)) dx = (v,u)$$

for all $u, v \in C[0, 1]$.

(e) [5 points] This mapping is not an inner product: it is not positive definite. If w(x) = 1 for all $x \in [-1, 1]$ then $w \in C[-1, 1]$ and $w \neq 0$ but

$$(w,w) = \int_{-1}^{1} xw(x)w(x) dx = \int_{-1}^{1} x dx = \left[\frac{1}{2}x^{2}\right]_{-1}^{1} = \frac{1}{2}\left(1^{2} - (-1)^{2}\right) = \frac{1}{2}\left(1 - 1\right) = 0$$

and so (\cdot, \cdot) is not positive definite.

The mapping is symmetric, as

$$(u,v) = \int_{-1}^{1} xu(x)v(x) dx = \int_{-1}^{1} xv(x)u(x) dx = (v,u)$$

for all $u, v \in C[-1, 1]$.

The mapping is also linear in the first argument since

$$(\alpha u + \beta v, w) = \int_{-1}^{1} x(\alpha u(x) + \beta v(x))w(x) dx$$
$$= \alpha \int_{-1}^{1} xu(x)w(x) dx + \beta \int_{-1}^{1} xv(x)w(x) dx$$
$$= \alpha(u, w) + \beta(v, w)$$

for all $u, v, w \in C[-1, 1]$ and all $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$.