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Linear Algebra I exam 2004 solutions.  
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This is a core course. All questions are bookwork;  
only the details are intended to be unseen.

SECTION A

1. (a)  $AB = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 10 \\ 2 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$

2 marks

(b)  $AB = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

2 marks

(c)  $A^2 =$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x & x^2 \\ x^3 & x^4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x & x^2 \\ x^3 & x^4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x^2 + x^5 & x^3 + x^6 \\ x^4 + x^7 & x^5 + x^8 \end{pmatrix}$$

3 marks

2. (a)  $\det A = 3^3 \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 27 \times \left( (0+6+0) - (8+1+0) \right)$   
 $= -27 \times 3 = -81$

3 marks

(b)  $A^{-1} = \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^{-1} = \frac{1}{3} \times \frac{-1}{3} \times \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 5 & -4 \\ -1 & -4 & 2 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix}^T$   
 $= -\frac{1}{9} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 \\ 5 & -4 & 2 \\ -4 & 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$

4 marks

Check:  $-\frac{1}{9} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 \\ 5 & -4 & 2 \\ -4 & 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \times 3 \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$   
 $= -\frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} -3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

optional!

2

3. The rank of a matrix is the maximum number of linearly independent rows or columns. 3 marks

(a) rank  $A = 2$  because  $R_3 = R_1 + R_2$   
 and  $aR_1 + bR_2 = 0 \Rightarrow 0a + 1b = 0, 1a + 1b = 0$   
 $\Rightarrow a = b = 0$ , so  $R_1$  &  $R_2$  are linearly indep. 2 marks

(b) rank  $B = 2$  because  $R_2 = R_1 + R_3$   
 (also  $R_1 = R_2 + R_3$  and  $R_3 = R_1 + R_2$  over  $\mathbb{F}_2$ )  
 and  $R_1$  &  $R_2$  are linearly indep. as in (a). 2 marks

4. A set of vectors  $\{v_i\}$  is linearly independent if  $\sum k_i v_i = 0$  for scalars  $k_i \Rightarrow k_i = 0 \forall i$ . 3 marks

By inspection  $(3, 2, 3) = 3(1, 1, 1) + (0, -1, 0)$   
 and  $(1, 0, 1) = (1, 1, 1) + (0, -1, 0)$   
 so take  $T = \{(1, 1, 1), (0, -1, 0)\}$  2 marks  
 and  $U = \{(1, 1, 1), (0, -1, 0), (1, 0, 0)\}$   
 since  $a(1, 1, 1) + b(0, -1, 0) + c(1, 0, 0) = 0$   
 $\Rightarrow a + c = 0, a - b = 0, a = 0 \Rightarrow a = b = c = 0$ . 2 marks

5. The span of a set of vectors  $\{v_i\}$  is the set of all vectors of the form  $v = \sum k_i v_i$  for any scalars  $k_i$ . 3 marks

$v \in \langle v_i \rangle$  if we can solve  $v = \sum k_i v_i$  for the scalars  $k_i$ . Consider  
 $(1, 2, 3, 4) = a(1, 0, 0, 0) + b(1, 1, 0, 0) + c(0, 1, 1, 1)$   
 $\Rightarrow 1 = a + b, 2 = b + c, 3 = c, 4 = c.$   
 This has no solutions, so  $(1, 2, 3, 4) \notin \text{span } S$ . 4 marks

6. An ordered basis for a vector space is an ordered list of linearly independent vectors that span the space. 3 marks

Let  $(1, 2, 3) = x(0, 1, 1) + y(1, 0, 1) + z(1, 1, 0)$   
 $\Rightarrow 1 = y + z, 2 = x + z, 3 = x + y$   
 i.e.  $1 = x - y$   
 Hence  $4 = 2x \Rightarrow x = 2, 2 = 2y \Rightarrow y = 1$   
 so  $z = 1 - y = 0$   
 i.e.  $(1, 2, 3) = 2(0, 1, 1) + 1(1, 0, 1) + 0(1, 1, 0)$   
 and its coordinate vector is  $(2, 1, 0)$ . 4 marks

4

7. A map  $\alpha: U \rightarrow V$  is linear if  
 $\alpha(au + bv) = a\alpha(u) + b\alpha(v)$   
 $\forall u, v \in U$  and all scalars  $a, b$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha(1, 0, 0) &= (1, 0) = 1(1, 0) + 0(0, 1) \\ \alpha(0, 1, 0) &= (2, 0) = 2(1, 0) + 0(0, 1) \\ \alpha(0, 0, 1) &= (0, 3) = 0(1, 0) + 3(0, 1)\end{aligned}$$

3 marks

Hence the matrix of  $\alpha$  is  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$

4 marks

8. Let  $\langle u, v \rangle$  denote the inner product of two vectors  $u$  and  $v$ .

Two vectors  $u, v$  are orthogonal if  $\langle u, v \rangle = 0$

They are orthonormal if  $\langle u, v \rangle = 0$ , and  $\langle u, u \rangle = \langle v, v \rangle = 1$ .

3 marks

$$\langle u, v \rangle = 2 - 2 + 0 = 0.$$

Therefore  $u$  and  $v$  are orthogonal.

$$\hat{u} = \frac{u}{\|u\|} = \frac{(1, 2, 3)}{\sqrt{1+4+9}} = \frac{(1, 2, 3)}{\sqrt{14}}$$

$$\text{Let } w = \hat{v} = \frac{(2, -1, 0)}{\sqrt{4+1}} = \frac{(2, -1, 0)}{\sqrt{5}}$$

Then  $\hat{u}$  and  $w$  are orthonormal.

4 marks

SECTION B

- i. (a)  $U$  is a vector subspace of  $V$  if  $0 \in U$  and  $au + bv \in U \quad \forall u, v \in U$  and all scalars  $a, b$ . 3 marks

(i)  $U$  is a vector subspace of  $V$  because  $(0,0) \in U$  since  $0 + 2 \cdot 0 = 0$

Let  $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2) \in U$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 + 2y_1 = 0, \quad x_2 + 2y_2 = 0$$

$$\text{Then } a(x_1, y_1) + b(x_2, y_2) = (ax_1 + bx_2, ay_1 + by_2) \in U \text{ since } a(x_1 + 2y_1) + b(x_2 + 2y_2) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (ax_1 + bx_2) + 2(ay_1 + by_2) = 0.$$

5 marks

(ii) Let  $u = (1, 1) \in U, v = (-1, 1) \in U$

Then  $u + v = (0, 2) \notin U$  since  $|0| \neq 2$ .

Hence  $U$  is not a vector subspace of  $V$ .

3 marks

(b)(i)  $S + T$  is the set of all sums of a vector in  $S$  and a vector in  $T$ .

2 marks

(ii)  $S + T = T$  since  $S \subseteq T$

2 marks

(iii) Let  $S' = \langle (1, 0) \rangle, T = \langle (0, 1) \rangle$ .

Then  $S' \cup T = \{ (x, y) \mid xy = 0 \}$  is not a vector subspace because  $(1, 0), (0, 1) \in S' \cup T$  but  $(1, 0) + (0, 1) = (1, 1) \notin S' \cup T$  since  $xy \neq 0$ .

2 marks

(iv) A basis is a linearly independent set by defn.

2 marks

(v)  $\{ (1, 0), (0, 1), (1, 1) \}$  is a spanning set for  $\mathbb{R}^2$  that is not a basis (since it is not lin. ind.).

2 marks

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2. (a)  $\alpha$  is "onto" if  $\forall v \in V \exists u \in U$  s.t.  $\alpha(u) = v$ .  
 $\alpha$  is "one-to-one" if  $\forall u, v \in U, \alpha(u) = \alpha(v) \Rightarrow u = v$ .  
 $\alpha$  is an isomorphism if it is onto and one-to-one.  
3 marks

(b) (i) Let  $u \in U$ . Then  $\alpha(0) = \alpha(u - u)$   
 $= \alpha(u) - \alpha(u) = 0$ . Hence  $0 \in \ker(\alpha)$ .  
Let  $u, v \in \ker(\alpha) \Rightarrow \alpha(u) = \alpha(v) = 0$ .  
Then  $\alpha(au + bv) = a\alpha(u) + b\alpha(v) = 0$   
 $\Rightarrow au + bv \in \ker(\alpha) \forall$  scalars  $a, b$ .  
Hence  $\ker(\alpha)$  is a vector subspace of  $U$ .  
3 marks

(ii)  $\alpha(u) = \alpha(v), u, v \in U, \Leftrightarrow \alpha(u - v) = 0$   
 $\Leftrightarrow u - v \in \ker(\alpha)$   
If  $\ker(\alpha) = \{0\}$  then  $u - v = 0 \forall u, v$   
 $\Leftrightarrow u = v \forall u, v$  then  $\ker(\alpha) = \{0\}$ .  
Hence,  $\alpha$  one-to-one iff  $\ker(\alpha) = \{0\}$ .  
3 marks

(iii) Let  $\alpha(u_1) = v_1, \alpha(u_2) = v_2$ . Then  $v_1, v_2 \in \text{im}(\alpha)$ . Also  $\alpha(au_1 + bu_2) = av_1 + bv_2 \in \text{im}(\alpha)$ . Hence  $av_1 + bv_2 \in \text{im}(\alpha) \forall v_1, v_2 \in \text{im}(\alpha)$  and scalars  $a, b$ .  
Moreover  $\alpha(0) = 0$  from (i)  $\Rightarrow 0 \in \text{im}(\alpha)$ .  
Hence  $\text{im}(\alpha)$  is a vector subspace of  $V$ .  
3 marks

(c) The inverse map  $\alpha^{-1}$  is a map such that  
 $\alpha^{-1}(\alpha(u)) = u \forall u \in U$  and  $\alpha(\alpha^{-1}(v)) = v$   
 $\forall v \in V$ .  
2 marks

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Let  $u, v \in U$ ,  $a, b$  scalars.

$$\text{Then } \alpha(au + bv) = a\alpha(u) + b\alpha(v) \quad (*)$$

$$\text{Let } u' = \alpha(u), \quad v' = \alpha(v)$$

$$\text{Then } u = \alpha^{-1}(u'), \quad v = \alpha^{-1}(v')$$

Substituting in  $(*)$  gives

$$\alpha(a\alpha^{-1}(u') + b\alpha^{-1}(v')) = au' + bv'$$

and applying  $\alpha^{-1}$  gives

$$a\alpha^{-1}(u') + b\alpha^{-1}(v') = \alpha^{-1}(au' + bv')$$

This holds  $\forall u', v' \in V$  since  $\alpha$  is onto.

Hence  $\alpha^{-1}$  is linear.

4 marks

$$(d) \ker(\alpha) : \left. \begin{array}{l} x + z = 0 \\ x + y = 0 \\ y + z = 0 \end{array} \right\}$$

$$x = 0 \Rightarrow z = 0 \quad \& \quad y = 0.$$

$$x = 1 \Rightarrow z = 1 \quad \& \quad y = 1.$$

$$\text{Hence } \ker(\alpha) = \langle (1, 1, 1) \rangle.$$

2 marks

$$\text{im}(\alpha) : \left. \begin{array}{l} \alpha(1, 0, 0) = (1, 1, 0) \\ \alpha(0, 1, 0) = (0, 1, 1) \\ \alpha(0, 0, 1) = (1, 0, 1) \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\text{But } (1, 1, 0) + (0, 1, 1) = (1, 0, 1) \text{ in } \mathbb{F}_2$$

$$\text{Hence } \text{im}(\alpha) = \langle (1, 1, 0), (0, 1, 1) \rangle.$$

2 marks

(This satisfies the dimension theorem!)

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3. (a) Let  $\alpha(u_i) = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ji} v_j$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, m$

Then  $A = (\alpha, B, b)$  is the matrix whose elements are  $a_{ji}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, m$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, n$ . 2 marks

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha(1, 0, 0, 0) &= (1, 0) = 1(1, 0) + 0(0, 1) \\ \alpha(0, 1, 0, 0) &= (1, 1) = 1(1, 0) + 1(0, 1) \\ \alpha(0, 0, 1, 0) &= (1, 1) = 1(1, 0) + 1(0, 1) \\ \alpha(0, 0, 0, 1) &= (0, 1) = 0(1, 0) + 1(0, 1)\end{aligned}$$
 4 marks

Hence  $A = (\alpha, B, b) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  2 marks

(b)  $B'$  &  $b'$  must respect the kernel & image respectively of  $\alpha$ .

$$\ker \alpha : \begin{cases} x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 0 \\ x_2 + x_3 + x_4 = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 = x_4 = -(x_2 + x_3). \text{ Let } x_2 = a, x_3 = b.$$

The general vector in  $\ker \alpha$  is

$$(-a-b, a, b, -a-b) = a(-1, 1, 0, -1) + b(-1, 0, 1, -1)$$

$$\text{Hence } \ker \alpha = \langle (-1, 1, 0, -1), (-1, 0, 1, -1) \rangle$$

which is a basis.

4 marks

Extend this basis (forwards) to a basis for  $\mathbb{R}^4$  as

$$B' = (1, 0, 0, 0), (0, 0, 0, 1), (-1, 1, 0, -1), (-1, 0, 1, -1)$$

(Adding the first two vectors to the last two gives the standard basis, hence  $B'$  is a basis.) 3 marks



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$\text{im } \alpha$ : Mapping The standard basis gives  
 $\text{im } \alpha = \langle (1,0), (1,1), (0,1) \rangle$   
 $= \langle (1,0), (0,1) \rangle (= \mathbb{R}^2)$ ,  
which is a basis both for  $\text{im } \alpha$  and for  $\mathbb{R}^2$   
Hence  $b' = (1,0), (0,1)$ .

3 marks

The rows of  $A$  are clearly linearly independent, therefore  $\text{rank } A = 2$ .

But  $r = \text{rank } A$ , so  $r = 2$ . 2 marks

Therefore  $A' = (\alpha, B', b') = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ .  
2 marks

Check (optional):

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \alpha(1,0,0,0) &= (1,0) \\ \alpha(0,0,0,1) &= (0,1) \\ \alpha(-1,1,0,-1) &= (0,0) \\ \alpha(-1,0,1,-1) &= (0,0) \end{aligned} \right\} \Rightarrow A' = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

4. (a) If  $\exists$  a <sup>nonzero</sup> vector  $x \in \mathbb{K}^n$  and a scalar  $\lambda \in \mathbb{K}$  such that  $Ax = \lambda x$  then  $x$  is an eigenvector of  $A$  and  $\lambda$  is the corresponding eigenvalue. 2 marks

(i) The characteristic equation of  $A$  is

$$\begin{vmatrix} 2-\lambda & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & -\lambda & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -3-\lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

$$\text{i.e. } (2-\lambda)(-\lambda)(-3-\lambda) - 3(-3-\lambda) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (\lambda+3)(\lambda^2 - 2\lambda - 3) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (\lambda+3)(\lambda+1)(\lambda-3) = 0$$

Hence the eigenvalues are  $\lambda = \pm 3, -1$ . 2 marks

$$\begin{array}{l} \lambda = +3 \\ \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & -3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -6 & 0 \end{array} \right) \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \end{array} \Rightarrow x_1 = x_2, x_3 = 0$$

$$\text{i.e. } \underline{x} = (1, 1, 0).$$

2 marks

$$\begin{array}{l} \lambda = -3 \\ \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 5 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \end{array} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} 5x_1 + x_2 = 0 \\ x_1 + x_2 = 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow x_1 = x_2 = 0$$

$$\underline{x} = (0, 0, 1)$$

2 marks

$$\begin{array}{l} \lambda = -1 \\ \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & 0 \end{array} \right) \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \end{array} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} 3x_1 + x_2 = 0 \\ x_3 = 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow x_2 = -3x_1$$

$$\underline{x} = (1, -3, 0)$$

2 marks

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(ii) Hence  $X = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\Lambda = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & & 0 \\ & -3 & \\ 0 & & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ .

(b) (i) Let  $x_i, i = 1, \dots, k+1$ , be eigenvectors of a matrix  $A$  with corresponding distinct eigenvalues  $\lambda_i$ , and suppose that  $x_i, i = 1, \dots, k$ , are linearly independent. [1]

Consider  $\sum_{i=1}^{k+1} k_i x_i = 0$  (\*) [1]

Premultiply (\*) by  $A$  to give  $\sum_{i=1}^{k+1} k_i \lambda_i x_i = 0$  [1]

and multiply (\*) by  $\lambda_{k+1}$  to give  $\sum_{i=1}^{k+1} k_i \lambda_{k+1} x_i = 0$  [1]

Subtract to give  $\sum_{i=1}^k k_i (\lambda_i - \lambda_{k+1}) x_i = 0$  [1]

Linear independence of  $x_i, i = 1, \dots, k$ , implies that  $k_i (\lambda_i - \lambda_{k+1}) = 0, i = 1, \dots, k$ , and hence  $k_i = 0, i = 1, \dots, k$ , since the  $\lambda_i$  are all distinct.

Substituting in (\*) gives  $k_{k+1} x_{k+1} = 0$  and hence  $k_{k+1} = 0$  since  $x_{k+1}$  is an eigenvector. [2]

Therefore  $k_i = 0, i = 1, \dots, k+1$ , in (\*), so  $x_i, i = 1, \dots, k+1$ , are linearly independent. [1]

A single eigenvector is necessarily linearly independent. Therefore, by induction on the number of linearly independent eigenvectors, all the eigenvectors with distinct eigenvalues are linearly independent. [2]