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## ASSIGNMENT 2

MATH 251

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## QUESTION 1

Let  $V := \mathbb{R}^3$ ,  $S = \{(1, 1, 1), (-1, 1, 0), (1, 0, 1), (0, 1, 1)\}$ , and  $I = \{(1, 0, 0), (1, 1, 0)\}$ .

First, to verify that  $S$  is spanning and  $I$  is linearly independent:

**$S$  spanning** Consider  $(a, b, c) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ . This is  $a[(1, 1, 1) - (0, 1, 1)] + b[(1, 1, 1) - (1, 0, 1)] + c[(1, 0, 1) - (1, 1, 1) + (0, 1, 1)]$ . Observe that each combination of vectors associated with  $a, b, c$  is equal to  $(1, 0, 0), (0, 1, 0), (0, 0, 1)$ , respectively.

**$I$  linearly indep.** Suppose  $x(1, 0, 0) + y(1, 1, 0) = (0, 0, 0)$ . Then  $y(1) = 0$ . But then  $x(1) = 0$ .

Let  $S' \subseteq S := \{(-1, 1, 0), (1, 0, 1)\}$ , and consider  $S' \cup I = \{(-1, 1, 0), (1, 0, 1), (1, 0, 0), (1, 1, 0)\}$ . Vectors from  $S' \cup I$  produce the standard basis of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  through linear combinations, and so  $S' \cup I$  is spanning. As proof:

For any  $(a, b, c) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ ,  $(a, b, c) = a(1, 0, 0) + b[(-1, 1, 0) + (1, 0, 0)] + c[(1, 0, 1) - (1, 0, 0)]$ .

## QUESTION 2

Let  $U$  and  $V$  be finite dimensional v.s. over  $\mathbb{F}$ , with bases  $B_U := \{u_1, \dots, u_m\}$  and  $B_V := \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ , respectively. Consider  $U \times V$  and the set

$$B_{U \times V} \subseteq U \times V := \{(u_i, 0), (0, v_i) : u_i \in B_U, v_i \in B_V\}$$

We'll show that this is a basis for  $U \times V$ , which means that  $\dim(U \times V) = \dim(U) + \dim(V)$ , since  $B_{U \times V}$  has exactly  $|B_U| + |B_V|$  elements.

$B_{U \times V}$  is linearly independent. Let  $a_1(u_1, 0) + \dots + a_m(u_m, 0) + b_1(0, v_1) + \dots + b_n(0, v_n) = (0, 0)$ , where  $a_i, b_i \in \mathbb{F}$ . We then have

$$a_1 u_1 + \dots + a_m u_m = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad b_1 v_1 + \dots + b_n v_n = 0$$

But  $B_U$  and  $B_V$  are bases, so they are linearly independent, and we conclude that  $a_i = 0$  and  $b_i = 0 \forall i$ .

$B_{U \times V}$  is spanning for  $U \times V$ . Take an arbitrary  $(u, v)$ , and let  $u = a_1 u_1 + \dots + a_m u_m$  and  $v = b_1 v_1 + \dots + b_n v_n$  be the unique representation of  $u$  and  $v$  in their bases. Then we can write the following

$$(u, v) = a_1(u_1, 0) + \dots + a_m(u_m, 0) + b_1(0, v_1) + \dots + b_n(0, v_n)$$

Thus,  $B_{U \times V}$  is linearly independent and spanning for  $U \times V$ , so it is a basis, and we are done.

If  $u \in B_U$  or  $v \in B_V$ , this combination is  $u = u_i$  or  $v = v_i$  for some  $i$ , and the argument remains the same

## QUESTION 3

Let  $p_i(t)$  be Lagrange polynomials, and note  $p_i(c_j) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } j = i \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

Consider the set  $B = \{p_i(t) : i \in [0, n]\}$ , which has  $n + 1$  elements. Since the standard basis for  $\mathbb{F}[t]_n$ ,  $\{1, t, \dots, t_n\}$ , also has  $n + 1$  elements, if one shows that  $B$  is either spanning or independent for  $\mathbb{F}[t]_n$ , it will be a basis. We'll show that it's independent:

Also note that  $B \subseteq \mathbb{F}[t]_n$ .

c.f. corollary from substitution lemma, Lec. 7

Suppose  $B$  is linearly dependent, and write  $0 = a_0 p_0(t) + \dots + a_n p_n(t)$ , where  $a_i \neq 0$  at least once. This must hold for all  $t \in \mathbb{F}$ , so it especially holds for  $t = c_0$ . Then we conclude that  $0 = a_0$ , as  $p_i(c_0) = 0$  where  $i \neq 0$ , and  $p_0(c_0) = 1$ .

We continue: let  $0 = a_1 p_1(t) + \dots + a_n p_n(t)$ , set  $t = c_1$ , and find  $0 = a_1$ .

One may repeat this process, evaluating for  $t \in \{c_i\}_{i \leq n}$ , each time concluding that  $a_i = 0$ .  $B$  is then linearly independent by contradiction, and is a basis from above.

QUESTION 4

Let  $V$  be finite dimensional,  $W_1, W_2 \subseteq V$  be subspaces. Then  $\dim(W_1 + W_2) = \dim(W_1) + \dim(W_2) - \dim(W_1 \cap W_2)$ .

Let  $B$  be a basis for  $W_1 \cap W_2$ . Then  $B \subseteq W_1$  is linearly independent, so  $\exists B_1$  such that  $B \cup B_1$  is a basis for  $W_1$ . Similarly,  $\exists B_2$  with  $B \cup B_2$  being a basis for  $W_2$ .

$B, B_1$ , and  $B_2$  are mutually disjoint sets. Suppose  $B_1 \cap W_1 \cap W_2 \neq \emptyset$ , and let  $b$  be in this set. Let  $w \in W_1$  have a unique representation containing  $b$ . Then one expresses  $b$  as a further combination of vectors in  $B$ , since  $B$  is a basis for  $W_1 \cap W_2$ . This violates unique representation.  $\nexists$  Similarly, we conclude  $B_2 \cap W_1 \cap W_2 = \emptyset$ .

Thus,  $B_1 \cap B_2 = \emptyset$ , since  $B_1 \subseteq W_1, B_2 \subseteq W_2$ , and neither is contained in the intersection. By definition,  $B_1 \cap B = \emptyset$  and  $B_2 \cap B = \emptyset$  also. We conclude that  $|B \cup B_1 \cup B_2| = |B \cup B_1| + |B \cup B_2| - |B| = \dim(W_1) + \dim(W_2) - \dim(W_1 \cap W_2)$ .

To show that  $B \cup B_1 \cup B_2$  is a basis for  $W_1 + W_2$ , we show it is spanning and linearly independent:

**Spanning** Consider  $w_1 + w_2 \in W_1 + W_2$ . Note the notational trick  $\{B \cup B_1 \cup B_2\} = \{B \cup B_1\} \cup \{B \cup B_2\}$ . Since  $w_1 \in W_1$ , it has a unique representation in  $B \cup B_1$ , and similarly  $w_2$  has a unique representation in  $B \cup B_2$ . Thus,  $w_1 + w_2$  can be written as a combination of vectors in  $B \cup B_1 \cup B_2$ , i.e.  $W_1 + W_2 \subseteq \text{Span}(B \cup B_1 \cup B_2)$ . The converse holds trivially, so  $B \cup B_1 \cup B_2$  is spanning.

**Independence** We claim  $\text{Span}(B_1) \cap \text{Span}(B \cup B_2) = \emptyset$ . We have  $\text{Span}(B \cup B_2) = W_2$ , since  $B \cup B_2$  is a basis. Furthermore,  $\text{Span}(B_1) \subseteq W_1 \setminus (W_1 \cap W_2)$  by the same arguments expressed above: if  $\exists b \in \text{Span}(B_1)$  which is also contained in  $W_1 \cap W_2$ , then it could instead be written as a combination of vectors in  $B$ , violating unique representation in the basis. Thus, our claim holds.

With this in mind, let  $x_i \in B_1, y_i \in B_2, z_i \in B$ . By the disjointedness shown above, we can let these elements be distinct. Suppose  $B \cup B_1 \cup B_2$  is linearly dependent, and write the following for not-all-zero  $\alpha_i \in \mathbb{F}$ :

$$\alpha_1 x_1 + \dots + \alpha_l x_l + \alpha_{l+1} y_{l+1} + \dots + \alpha_m y_m + \alpha_{m+1} z_{m+1} + \dots + \alpha_n z_n = 0$$

Re-ordering, we get:

$$\alpha_{l+1} y_{l+1} + \dots + \alpha_m y_m + \alpha_{m+1} z_{m+1} + \dots + \alpha_n z_n = -\alpha_1 x_1 - \dots - \alpha_l x_l$$

This implies that there exists an element in  $\text{Span}(B_1)$  that is also in  $\text{Span}(B \cup B_2)$ , which is not the case  $\nexists$ .

We can guarantee such a  $w$  exists, since  $B \cup B_1$  is minimally spanning.

Why does this violate unique representation? If  $B \cup B_1$  is a basis for  $W_1$ , then our chosen  $w \in W_1$  can be expressed as a combination containing  $b$ , and a combination not containing  $b$ .

“converse holds trivially”... if  $w \in \text{Span}(B \cup B_1 \cup B_2)$ , then  $w = w_1 + w_2$ , where  $w_1 \in \text{Span}(B \cup B_1) \subseteq W_1, w_2 \in \text{Span}(B_2) \subseteq W_2$ .

There is some subtlety here: what if  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_l$  were zero? Then this would show linear dependence of  $B \cup B_2$ , which contradicts this set being a basis.

## QUESTION 5

**Part (a):** Suppose that  $v_1 + W = v_2 + W$ . Then  $\exists w \in W$  such that  $v_1 = v_2 w$ .

We wish to show that  $(\alpha v_1) + W$  and  $(\alpha v_2) + W$  are equivalent. This holds iff one can write  $\alpha v_1 = \alpha v_2 w$  for some  $w \in W$ . Multiplying by  $\alpha^{-1}$ , this condition is reduced to  $v_1 = v_2 w$ , and this is true from above.

**Part (b):** We know that  $V/W$  is abelian, and have a well-defined notion of scalar multiplication over  $\mathbb{F}$ . Thus, we just check the axioms:

1.  $1_{\mathbb{F}} \bar{v} = \overline{1_{\mathbb{F}} v} = \bar{v}$
2.  $\alpha(\beta \bar{v}) = \alpha(\overline{\beta v}) = \overline{\alpha \beta v} = (\alpha \beta) \bar{v}$
3.  $(\alpha + \beta) \bar{v} = \overline{(\alpha + \beta) v} = \overline{\alpha v + \beta v}$  (v.s. properties of  $V$ )  $= \overline{\alpha v} + \overline{\beta v} = \alpha \bar{v} + \beta \bar{v}$
4.  $\alpha \overline{u + v} = \overline{\alpha(u + v)} = \overline{\alpha u + \alpha v} = \overline{\alpha u} + \overline{\alpha v} = \alpha \bar{u} + \alpha \bar{v}$

**Part (c):** Consider  $\bar{v} \in V/W$ . Since  $v$  has a unique representation in  $B$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{v} &= \overline{\alpha_1 w_1 + \dots + \alpha_k w_k + \beta_1 u_1 + \dots + \beta_m u_m} \\ &= \overline{\alpha_1 w_1} + \dots + \overline{\alpha_k w_k} + \overline{\beta_1 u_1} + \dots + \overline{\beta_m u_m} \\ &= \alpha_1 \bar{w}_1 + \dots + \alpha_k \bar{w}_k + \beta_1 \bar{u}_1 + \dots + \beta_m \bar{u}_m \end{aligned}$$

where  $\alpha_i, \beta_i \in \mathbb{F}$ . However,  $\{w_1, \dots, w_k\} \subseteq W$ , so  $\bar{w}_i = \bar{0}$  in the quotient space  $\forall i \in [1, k]$ . Thus, one can write  $\bar{v} = \beta_1 \bar{u}_1 + \dots + \beta_m \bar{u}_m$  only, so  $\bar{v} \in \text{Span}\{\bar{u}_1, \dots, \bar{u}_m\}$ . Clearly,  $\text{Span}\{\bar{u}_1, \dots, \bar{u}_m\} \subseteq V/W$ , so this set is spanning.

Moreover, this set is independent. Suppose otherwise, and write

$$\bar{0} = \beta_1 \bar{u}_1 + \dots + \beta_m \bar{u}_m = \overline{\beta_1 u_1 + \dots + \beta_m u_m}$$

where not all  $\beta_i = 0$ . This implies that  $\beta_1 u_1 + \dots + \beta_m u_m \in W$ . However, we know this to be false: let  $w \in W$  be this element.  $B$  is minimally spanning, so there exists a  $v \in V$  whose unique representation contains  $w$ . But we claim one can write  $w$  as a combination of vectors in  $\{u_1, \dots, u_m\}$ , so this representation loses uniqueness.

$\implies \beta_i = 0 \forall i$ , and  $\{u_1, \dots, u_m\}$  is a basis for  $V/W$

**Part (d)** From above  $\{u_1, \dots, u_m\}$  is a basis for  $V/W$ , so  $\dim(V/W) = m$ . We know that  $B_W$  is a basis for  $W$  with  $k$  elements, so  $\dim(W) = k$ . Lastly, the basis  $B$  for  $V$  has  $k + m$  elements, so  $\dim(V) = k + m$ .

$\implies \dim(V/W) = \dim(V) - \dim(W)$

□

## QUESTION 6

Let  $V$  be a vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$ , and let  $S \subseteq V$  be a finite spanning set. Then  $\exists$  a basis  $B \subseteq S$  for  $V$ . We'll show by induction. Denote  $|S| = n$ :

$n = 1$ : If  $S$  is a spanning singleton, it is linearly independent, and thus a basis. One handles the case  $S = \{0\}$  separately: if this set is spanning, then  $V = \{0\}$ , and is thus minimally spanning, so  $S$  is a basis.

$n \rightarrow n + 1$ : Let  $|S| = n + 1$ , where  $S$  is spanning for  $V$ . Suppose  $S$  is *not* minimally spanning (otherwise,  $S$  would be a basis, and we are done). Then  $\exists s \in S$  such that  $S \setminus \{s\}$  is still spanning.

Notably,  $|S \setminus \{s\}| = n \xRightarrow{\text{ind. hyp.}} \exists$  a basis  $B \subseteq S$  for  $V$ . □



## QUESTION 7

$$T(-3, 0) = -3T(1, 0) = -3[T(1, -1) + T(0, 1)] = -3[(2, 3) + (0, 0)] = -3(2, 3) = (-6, -9)$$

### QUESTION 8

Let  $B$  and  $C$  be finite, countable, or uncountable. Let  $T_0 : B \rightarrow C$  be a bijection between these bases. We guarantee the existence of a linear transformation  $T : V \rightarrow W$  which extends  $T_0$ . It is left to show that  $T$  is bijective (i.e. is an isomorphism).

*Injective* Let  $T(x) = T(y)$ . Both  $x, y$  have a unique representation in the basis  $B$ . We'll write these as follows, where  $\alpha_i, \beta_i \in \mathbb{F}$ , and  $b_i \in B$ .

$$x = \alpha_1 b_1 + \dots + \alpha_t b_t + \alpha_l b_l + \dots + \alpha_k b_k$$

$$y = \beta_1 b_1 + \dots + \beta_n b_t + \beta_m b_m + \dots + \beta_n b_n$$

Why do we have to be so careful? If  $B, C$  were finite, then we could enumerate all  $b_i$  no problem, but this is not the case.

Notationally, what we have is that  $b_1 \dots b_t$  are (possibly) shared between the representations of  $x$  and  $y$ , while  $b_l, \dots, b_k$  belong exclusively to  $x$  and  $b_m, \dots, b_n$  belong exclusively to  $y$ . This covers all possible cases, and we wish to show that  $b_l = \dots = b_k = b_m = \dots = b_n = \mathbb{0}_V$  and  $\alpha_i = \beta_i$  for  $i \in [1, t]$ .

For the vectors expressed above, let  $i \rightarrow \sigma(i)$  be the bijective mapping such that  $T(b_i) = c_{\sigma(i)}$ , where  $c_{\sigma(i)} \in C$ . Breaking apart  $T(x)$  and  $T(y)$ , we get:

$$\begin{aligned} T(x) &= T(\alpha_1 b_1 + \dots + \alpha_t b_t + \alpha_l b_l + \dots + \alpha_k b_k) \\ &= \alpha_1 T(b_1) + \dots + \alpha_t T(b_t) + \alpha_l T(b_l) + \dots + \alpha_k T(b_k) \\ &= \alpha_1 c_{\sigma(1)} + \dots + \alpha_t c_{\sigma(t)} + \alpha_l c_{\sigma(l)} + \dots + \alpha_k c_{\sigma(k)} \end{aligned}$$

We use  $T$  here, instead of  $T_0$ , as  $T_0 = T$  for  $b_i \in B$ . This is where we also use the fact that  $T_0$ , and thus  $\sigma(i)$ , is bijective.

Similar derivation for  $T(y)$

$$T(y) = \beta_1 c_{\sigma(1)} + \dots + \beta_t c_{\sigma(t)} + \beta_m c_{\sigma(m)} + \dots + \beta_n c_{\sigma(n)}$$

Given that  $T(x) = T(y) \implies T(x) - T(y) = \mathbb{0}_V$ , we write

$$(\alpha_1 - \beta_1) c_{\sigma(1)} + \dots + (\alpha_t - \beta_t) c_{\sigma(t)} + \alpha_l c_{\sigma(l)} + \dots + \alpha_k c_{\sigma(k)} - \beta_m c_{\sigma(m)} - \dots - \beta_n c_{\sigma(n)} = \mathbb{0}_V$$

$C$  is a basis, and thus independent, so all these coefficients must be 0, i.e.  $\alpha_i = \beta_i$  for  $i \in [1, t]$ ,  $\alpha_i = 0$  for  $i \in [l, k]$ , and  $\beta_i = 0$  for  $i \in [m, n]$ . We conclude that  $x = y = \alpha_1 b_1 + \dots + \alpha_t b_t$ .

*Surjective* Consider  $w \in W$ . This has a unique representation in the basis  $C$ , say  $w = \alpha_1 c_1 + \dots + \alpha_n c_n$ . One then has

$$T(\alpha_1 b_{\sigma^{-1}(1)} + \dots + \alpha_n b_{\sigma^{-1}(n)}) = \alpha_1 T(b_{\sigma^{-1}(1)}) + \dots + \alpha_n T(b_{\sigma^{-1}(n)}) = \alpha_1 c_1 + \dots + \alpha_n c_n = w$$

Thus,  $T$  is bijective, and we are done.

## QUESTION 9

We'll construct a basis for  $\ker(T)$ , where  $T : M_n(\mathbb{F}) \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$  sends  $A \rightarrow \text{tr}(A)$ , and  $\text{tr}(A)$  is defined to be  $a_{11} + \dots + a_{nn}$ , the sum of diagonal entries. Note that the  $\ker(\text{tr}(A))$  is just the set of matrices whose diagonal entries sum to zero.

Let  $(a_{ij})$  denote the matrix with a 1 entry at coordinate  $ij$  and 0s elsewhere. Let  $(z_i)$  be the matrix with a 1 entry at position  $ii$ , and a  $-1$  at position  $(i-1)(i-1)$ . Consider the following set of  $n^2 - 1$  elements:

$$B = \underbrace{\{(a_{ij}) : i \neq j\}}_{n^2 - n \text{ elements}} \cup \underbrace{\{(z_i) : i \in [1, n-1]\}}_{n-1 \text{ elements}}$$

Here is a rough enumeration of  $B$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & \color{red}{1} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \color{red}{1} & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \dots \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \color{red}{1} & \cdots & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\cup$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \color{red}{1} & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \color{red}{-1} & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \color{red}{1} & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \color{red}{-1} & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \dots \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & \color{red}{1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & \color{red}{-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

Note that  $B \subseteq \ker(\text{tr}(A))$ , since  $\{(a_{ij}) : i \neq j\} \subseteq B$  can only place 1 in positions  $i \neq j$ , i.e. not on the diagonal.  $\{(z_i) : i \in [1, n-1]\} \subseteq B$  is defined such that the trace of these matrices is always  $1 - 1 + 0 + \dots + 0 = 0$ .

$\beta_{ij}(a_{ij})$  is just the matrix with  $\beta_{ij}$  at position  $ij$ , and 0s elsewhere. Summing over  $i \neq j$  yields a matrix with all non-diagonal elements of  $A$ , and 0s on the diagonal.

Written explicitly, this is:  
 $\beta_1(z_1) + (\beta_1 + \beta_2)(z_2) + \dots$   
 $\dots + (\beta_1 + \dots + \beta_{n-1})(z_{n-1})$

One passes along  $-\beta_i$  to the  $i + 1^{\text{th}}$  diagonal, so one must add back  $\beta_i$  each iteration. This leads to a large negative overflow in the last entry.

**$B$  is spanning:** suppose we have a matrix  $A$  whose diagonal elements add up to 0. Consider only non-diagonal elements, and suppose they have a  $\beta_{ij} \in \mathbb{F}$  entry at position  $ij$ . Then  $\sum_{i \neq j} \beta_{ij}(a_{ij})$  will fill all non-diagonal entries.

As for the diagonal entries, denoted  $\beta_i \in \mathbb{F}$ , we have

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{k=1}^i \beta_k(z_i) = \begin{bmatrix} \beta_1 & & & & \\ & \beta_2 & & & \\ & & \beta_3 & & \\ & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & \beta_{n-1} \\ & & & & & -\beta_1 - \beta_2 - \dots - \beta_{n-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

However, diagonal entries must add to 0, so  $\beta_n = -\beta_1 - \beta_2 - \dots - \beta_{n-1}$ , and so this bottom entry is really  $\beta_n$ , as desired. Combining both sums, we have that any matrix with  $\text{tr}(A) = 0$  can be represented as

$$\sum_{i \neq j} \beta_{ij}(a_{ij}) + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{k=1}^i \beta_k(z_i)$$

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**$B$  is linearly independent:** consider an arbitrary linear combination

$$\star \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \beta_i(z_i) + \sum_{i \neq j} \beta_{ij}(a_{ij}) \quad \beta_{ij}, \beta_i \in \mathbb{F}$$

The first part of this summation yields the matrix

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \beta_i(z_i) = \begin{bmatrix} \beta_1 & & & & \\ -\beta_1 + \beta_2 & & & & \\ & -\beta_2 + \beta_3 & & & \\ & & \ddots & & \\ & & & -\beta_{n-2} + \beta_{n-1} & \\ & & & & -\beta_{n-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

The second part is easier to visualize: all non-diagonal entries will have a single  $\beta_{ij}$  entry corresponding to the  $ij$ -th coordinate. Clearly, setting  $\star$  to the zero matrix will force all non-diagonal entries to be 0 as well, so  $\beta_{ij} = 0$  for  $i \neq j$ .

For the non-diagonal entries, we immediately have that  $\beta_1 = 0$ . But then  $-\beta_1 + \beta_2 = 0$ , so  $\beta_2 = 0$ . Then  $-\beta_2 + \beta_3 = 0 \implies \beta_3 = 0$ , and so on. One deduces that all  $\beta_i = 0$  for  $i \in [1, n-1]$ .

All coefficients are 0, so  $B$  is linearly independent, and is thus a basis. In particular,  $\dim(\ker(T)) = n^2 - 1$ , as  $|B| = n^2 - 1$  from above.

*Extraneous:*  $\text{Im}(\text{tr}(A))$  is precisely  $\mathbb{F}$ , which has dimension 1 ( $\{1\}$  is a basis.)  $\dim(M_n(\mathbb{F})) = n^2$ , so by rank-nullity,  $\dim(\ker(T)) = n^2 - 1$ .