

Math 217 – Final Exam  
Winter 2018  
Solutions

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_

Question	Points	Score
1	10	
2	15	
3	14	
4	12	
5	14	
6	12	
7	11	
8	12	
Total:	100	

1. (10 points) Write complete, precise definitions for, or precise mathematical characterizations of, each of the following (*italicized*) terms.

(a) A *subspace* of the vector space  $V$

**Solution:** A *subspace* of the vector space  $V$  is a nonempty subset  $W$  of  $V$  that contains  $\vec{0}$  and is closed under vector addition and scalar multiplication, meaning that for all  $\vec{v}, \vec{w} \in W$  and  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ , we have  $\vec{v} + \vec{w} \in W$  and  $c\vec{v} \in W$ .

(b) The finite list of vectors  $(\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n)$  in the vector space  $V$  is *linearly independent*

**Solution:** The finite list of vectors  $(\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n)$  in the vector space  $V$  is *linearly independent* if for all scalars  $c_1, \dots, c_n \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $\sum_{i=1}^n c_i \vec{v}_i = \vec{0}$  then  $c_i = 0$  for each integer  $i$  such that  $1 \leq i \leq n$ .

(c) The *image* of the linear transformation  $T : V \rightarrow W$  from the vector space  $V$  to the vector space  $W$

**Solution:** The *image* of the linear transformation  $T : V \rightarrow W$  from the vector space  $V$  to the vector space  $W$  is the set  $\text{im}(T) = \{T(\vec{v}) : \vec{v} \in V\}$ .

(d) The *geometric multiplicity* of an eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of a linear transformation  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$

**Solution:** The *geometric multiplicity* of an eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of a linear transformation  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is the dimension of the eigenspace associated to  $\lambda$ .

2. State whether each statement is True or False and provide a short proof of your claim.

- (a) (3 points) There exists a  $3 \times 5$  matrix of rank 4.

**Solution:** FALSE. Let  $A$  be a  $3 \times 5$  matrix. Then  $\text{im}(A) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3$ , so  $\text{rank}(A) = \dim(\text{im}(A)) \leq 3$ . Thus there is no  $3 \times 5$  matrix of rank 4.

- (b) (3 points) For every  $10 \times 10$  matrix  $A$ , if  $A$  is diagonalizable then so is  $A + 7I_{10}$ .

**Solution:** TRUE. Let  $A$  be a  $10 \times 10$  diagonalizable matrix, say  $A = PDP^{-1}$  where  $P$  is an invertible matrix and  $D$  is a diagonal matrix. Then

$$P^{-1}(A + 7I_{10})P = P^{-1}AP + P^{-1}7I_{10}P = D + 7P^{-1}P = D + 7I_{10}.$$

Since  $D + 7I_{10}$  is diagonal, we see that  $A + 7I_{10}$  is diagonalizable.

- (c) (3 points) There exists a symmetric  $2 \times 2$  matrix  $A$  with eigenvalues 3 and  $-2$ , and with corresponding eigenvectors  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , respectively.

**Solution:** FALSE. Let  $A$  be a symmetric  $2 \times 2$  matrix with eigenvalues 3 and  $-2$ , say with corresponding eigenvectors  $\vec{v}$  and  $\vec{w}$ , respectively. Then

$$3(\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w}) = A\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w} = (A\vec{v})^T \vec{w} = (\vec{v}^T A^T) \vec{w} = \vec{v}^T (A\vec{w}) = \vec{v}^T (-2\vec{w}) = -2(\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w}),$$

which shows that  $\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w} = 0$ . Since  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 4 \neq 0$ , it follows that there is no symmetric  $2 \times 2$  matrix  $A$  with the stated eigenvalues and eigenvectors.

**Solution:** FALSE. Suppose  $A$  is a  $2 \times 2$  matrix with eigenvectors  $\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\vec{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , corresponding to eigenvalues 3 and  $-2$ , respectively. Then the only eigenvectors of  $A$  are nonzero scalar multiples of  $\vec{v}$  and  $\vec{w}$ , which implies that  $A$  does not admit an orthonormal eigenbasis since  $\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w} = 4 \neq 0$ . Therefore  $A$  cannot be symmetric by the Spectral Theorem.

(Problem 2, Continued).

- (d) (3 points) For any  $n \times m$  matrix  $A$ , there is an orthonormal basis of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  consisting of eigenvectors of  $AA^T$ .

**Solution:** TRUE. Let  $A$  be an  $n \times m$  matrix, so  $AA^T$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix. Note that  $AA^T$  is symmetric, since  $(AA^T)^T = (A^T)^T A^T = AA^T$ . Thus  $AA^T$  is orthogonally diagonalizable by the Spectral Theorem, meaning that there exists an orthonormal basis of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  consisting of eigenvectors of  $AA^T$ .

- (e) (3 points) For any vector space  $V$  and linear transformation  $T : V \rightarrow V$ , if  $\vec{v}$  and  $\vec{w}$  are eigenvectors of  $T$ , then  $\vec{v} + \vec{w}$  is also an eigenvector of  $T$ .

**Solution:** FALSE. For a counterexample, let  $V = \mathbb{R}^2$ , and let  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  be the linear transformation defined by

$$T(\vec{v}) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \vec{v} \quad \text{for all } \vec{v} \in \mathbb{R}^2.$$

Then  $T(\vec{e}_1) = \vec{e}_1$  and  $T(\vec{e}_2) = 2\vec{e}_2$ , so both  $\vec{e}_1$  and  $\vec{e}_2$  are eigenvectors of  $T$ , but  $T(\vec{e}_1 + \vec{e}_2) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$  is not a multiple of  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , so  $\vec{e}_1 + \vec{e}_2$  is not an eigenvector of  $T$ .

3. Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3}$  be a non-invertible matrix such that  $A \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \in \ker(A + I_3)$ .

(a) (4 points) Find all the eigenvalues of  $A$ , along with their algebraic multiplicities.

**Solution:** Since  $A$  is not invertible, we know that 0 is an eigenvalue of  $A$ .

Since  $A \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ , we know that 2 is an eigenvalue of  $A$ . And finally, since

$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \in \ker(A + I_3)$ , we know that  $-1$  is an eigenvalue of  $A$ . Thus  $A$  has three distinct eigenvalues, namely 0, 2, and  $-1$ , and since  $A$  is  $3 \times 3$  it follows that each eigenvalue has algebraic (and geometric) multiplicity 1.

(b) (3 points) Is  $A$  diagonalizable? Justify your answer.

**Solution:** Yes,  $A$  is diagonalizable. Since  $1 \leq \text{gemu}(\lambda) \leq \text{almu}(\lambda)$  for every eigenvalue  $\lambda$ , from part (a) we see that  $\text{gemu}(\lambda) = 1$  for each eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of  $A$ , and thus the sum of the geometric multiplicities of the eigenvalues of  $A$  is 3. Since  $A$  is  $3 \times 3$ , this implies that there is an eigenbasis of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  for  $A$ , which means that  $A$  is diagonalizable.

(Another way to see that the sum of the geometric multiplicities of  $A$  is 3 is to note that  $A$  has three *distinct* eigenvalues.)

(c) (3 points) Compute  $A^2 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$ .

**Solution:**  $A^2 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} = A^2 \left( 2 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \right) = 2A^2 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + A^2 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = 8 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + (-1)^2 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 8 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 9 \\ 11 \end{bmatrix}.$

(d) (4 points) Assuming that  $\vec{e}_1 \in \ker(A)$ , find  $A$ . (You may leave your answer as an unsimplified expression for  $A$ , if you wish).

**Solution:**  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 7/2 & -3/2 \\ 0 & 9/2 & -5/2 \end{bmatrix}.$

4. Let  $V$  be the plane in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  spanned by the vectors  $\vec{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\vec{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ . Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3}$  be the standard matrix of the orthogonal projection onto  $V$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

- (a) (4 points) Find an orthonormal basis  $(\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2)$  of  $V$ .

**Solution:** Let  $\vec{w}_1 = \vec{v}_1$  and

$$\vec{w}_2 = \vec{v}_2 - \frac{\vec{v}_2 \cdot \vec{v}_1}{\vec{v}_1 \cdot \vec{v}_1} \vec{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} - \frac{2}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Then an orthonormal basis of  $V$  is

$$\mathcal{U} = (\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2) = \left( \frac{\vec{w}_1}{\|\vec{w}_1\|}, \frac{\vec{w}_2}{\|\vec{w}_2\|} \right) = \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \right).$$

- (b) (3 points) Let  $B$  and  $C$  be the  $3 \times 2$  matrices  $B = [\vec{v}_1 \ \vec{v}_2]$  and  $C = [\vec{u}_1 \ \vec{u}_2]$ , where  $\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2$  are as in part (a). Of the twelve matrices below, circle those that equal  $A$ .

$$\begin{array}{cccccc} B^T B & B B^T & B^T (B^T B)^{-1} B & B (B^T B)^{-1} B^T & B^T (B B^T)^{-1} B & B (B B^T)^{-1} B^T \\ C^T C & C C^T & C^T (C^T C)^{-1} C & C (C^T C)^{-1} C^T & C^T (C C^T)^{-1} C & C (C C^T)^{-1} C^T \end{array}$$

**Solution:** The three matrices  $B(B^T B)^{-1} B^T$ ,  $C C^T$ , and  $C(C^T C)^{-1} C^T$  equal  $A$ .

- (c) (5 points) If possible, find an orthogonal matrix  $Q$  and a diagonal matrix  $D$  such that  $Q^T A Q = D$ . If this is not possible, explain why.

**Solution:** Using the notation from part (a), let  $\vec{w}_3 = \vec{w}_1 \times \vec{w}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , so that  $\vec{w}_3$  is orthogonal to both  $\vec{w}_1$  and  $\vec{w}_2$ . Then we let  $\vec{u}_3 = \frac{\vec{w}_3}{\|\vec{w}_3\|}$  and

$$Q = [\vec{u}_1 \ \vec{u}_2 \ \vec{u}_3] = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & \frac{-1}{\sqrt{6}} \\ 0 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{-1}{\sqrt{3}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{so that} \quad D = Q^T A Q = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

is diagonal.

5. Let  $V$  be the vector space of  $2 \times 2$  upper triangular matrices, and let  $T : V \rightarrow V$  be the linear map defined by  $T(A) = MAM$ , where  $M = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ . Note that  $M = M^{-1}$ .

- (a) (4 points) Find the  $\mathcal{E}$ -matrix  $[T]_{\mathcal{E}}$  of  $T$ , where  $\mathcal{E} = \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right)$ .

**Solution:** Write  $\mathcal{E} = (E_{11}, E_{12}, E_{22}) = \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right)$ . Then

$$T(E_{11}) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad T(E_{12}) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad T(E_{22}) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

so

$$[T]_{\mathcal{E}} = \begin{bmatrix} | & | & | \\ [T(E_{11})]_{\mathcal{E}} & [T(E_{12})]_{\mathcal{E}} & [T(E_{22})]_{\mathcal{E}} \\ | & | & | \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- (b) (3 points) Is  $T$  invertible? Justify your answer.

**Solution:** Yes,  $T$  is invertible, since  $\det T = \det [T]_{\mathcal{E}} = -1 \neq 0$ .

**Solution:** Yes,  $T$  is invertible, since  $\text{rank}(T) = \text{rank}([T]_{\mathcal{E}}) = 3 = \dim(V)$ .

**Solution:** Yes,  $T$  is invertible, since  $M^2 = I_2$ , so  $T^2(A) = M^2AM^2 = A$  for all  $A \in V$ , which shows that  $T$  is its own inverse.

- (c) (3 points) Find an eigenvector of  $T$  corresponding to the eigenvalue  $\lambda = 1$ .

**Solution:** Note that  $T(M) = MMM = M$ , so  $M$  is an eigenvector of  $T$  corresponding to the eigenvalue 1.

- (d) (4 points) Is  $T$  diagonalizable? Justify your answer.

**Solution:** The characteristic polynomial of  $T$  is

$$\det(xI_V - T) = \det(xI_3 - [T]_{\mathcal{E}}) = \det \begin{bmatrix} x-1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & x+1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & x-1 \end{bmatrix} = (x-1)^2(x+1).$$

We know that  $T$  is diagonalizable if the sum of the geometric multiplicities of its eigenvalues is  $\dim(V) = 3$ . We have  $\text{gemu}(-1) = \text{almu}(-1) = 1$ , so to show

that  $T$  is diagonalizable it will suffice to show that  $\text{ge}_T(1) = 2$ . Note that  $T(I_2) = MI_2M = MM = I_2$ , so that both  $M$  and  $I_2$  are eigenvectors of  $T$  corresponding to the eigenvalue 1. Since  $M$  and  $I_2$  are linearly independent, we see that  $\text{ge}_T(1) = 2$ , so  $T$  is indeed diagonalizable.



6. Let  $B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & a \\ 0 & 0 & b \\ -4 & 2 & c \end{bmatrix}$  be a  $3 \times 3$  matrix whose third column is unknown. (Note: the additional assumptions stated below do NOT carry over from one part to the next).

(a) (4 points) Assuming that  $B$  is invertible, find the first column of  $B^{-1}$ .

**Solution:** To find (the first column of)  $B^{-1}$ , we row reduce  $[B \mid I_3]$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & a & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & b & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -4 & 2 & c & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & a & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & b & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & c+4a & 4 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & a & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{c+4a}{2} & 2 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & b & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Note that the additional row operations that are required to transform  $B$  into  $I_3$  will not alter the fourth column of the last matrix given above, so the first column of  $B^{-1}$  is  $[1 \ 2 \ 0]^\top$ .

- (b) (4 points) Assuming that  $\det B = 12$ , determine as many of the values  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  as possible. In your answer, clearly indicate which of these values, if any, cannot be determined from the assumption that  $\det B = 12$ .

**Solution:** Using either the definition of determinant or Laplace expansions, we see that  $\det B = -2b$ . Therefore  $b = -6$ , but  $\det B$  does not depend on  $a$  or  $c$  so we cannot determine these values from the assumption that  $\det B = 12$ .

- (c) (4 points) Assuming that the linear system  $B\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$  is inconsistent, find a least-squares solution of it.

**Solution:** Let  $\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ , and assume that  $B\vec{x} = \vec{v}$  is inconsistent. This implies that  $\text{rank}(B) = 2$ . Since the first two columns of  $B$  are linearly independent, this means that the third column of  $B$  must be a linear combination of the first two, so  $\text{im}(B) = \text{Span}(B\vec{e}_1, B\vec{e}_2)$ , which is the  $xz$ -plane. The least-squares solutions of  $B\vec{x} = \vec{v}$  are the solutions of the consistent linear system  $B\vec{x} = \text{proj}_{\text{im } B}(\vec{v})$ , ie,

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & a \\ 0 & 0 & b \\ -4 & 2 & c \end{bmatrix} \vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Solving this linear system gives  $\vec{x}^* = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  as a least-squares solution of  $B\vec{x} = \vec{v}$ .

7. Let  $Q \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3}$  be an orthogonal  $3 \times 3$  matrix.

(a) (4 points) Prove that for all  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $Q$  then  $|\lambda| = 1$ .

**Solution:** Let  $Q \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3}$  be an orthogonal matrix, and let  $T_Q : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  be the associated linear transformation. Then  $T_Q$  is an orthogonal transformation, so it preserves length, meaning that  $\|Q\vec{v}\| = \|\vec{v}\|$  for all  $\vec{v} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ . Now let  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  be an eigenvalue of  $Q$ , with associated eigenvector  $\vec{v} \neq \vec{0}$ . Then

$$\|\vec{v}\| = \|Q\vec{v}\| = \|\lambda\vec{v}\| = |\lambda|\|\vec{v}\|,$$

which implies  $|\lambda| = 1$  since  $\vec{v} \neq \vec{0}$ .

(b) (7 points) Prove that if  $\det Q = 1$ , then there is a nonzero vector  $\vec{v} \in \mathbb{R}^3$  such that  $Q\vec{v} = \vec{v}$ .

**Solution:** Let  $Q \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3}$  be an orthogonal matrix with determinant 1. Suppose first that  $Q$  has no nonreal complex eigenvalues. Then by part (a), all three eigenvalues of  $Q$  are  $\pm 1$ . Since  $\det Q$  is the product of the three eigenvalues of  $Q$ , but  $(-1)^3 = -1 \neq 1$ , at least one of the eigenvalues of  $Q$  must be 1, which means there is nonzero  $\vec{v} \in \mathbb{R}^3$  such that  $Q\vec{v} = \vec{v}$ .

To complete the proof, suppose now that  $Q$  has some nonreal complex eigenvalues. Since the characteristic polynomial of  $Q$  is cubic, and thus has at least one real root, we know that  $Q$  has at least one real eigenvalue, say  $\lambda$ . Then since nonreal complex eigenvalues of matrices with real entries come in conjugate pairs, we know that the other two eigenvalues of  $Q$  have the form  $a \pm bi \in \mathbb{C}$ , where  $b \neq 0$ . Then

$$1 = \det Q = \lambda(a + bi)(a - bi) = \lambda(a^2 + b^2).$$

Since  $|\lambda| = 1$  by part (a) and since  $a^2 + b^2$  is a positive real number, we know that in fact  $a^2 + b^2 = 1$  and thus also  $\lambda = 1$ , so again we find that there is nonzero  $\vec{v} \in \mathbb{R}^3$  such that  $Q\vec{v} = \vec{v}$ .

8. Let  $V$  and  $W$  be vector spaces, and let  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be a linear transformation. Recall that for any  $X \subseteq V$ , we define  $T[X] = \{T(\vec{x}) : \vec{x} \in X\}$ .

- (a) (6 points) Suppose that  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  are subspaces of  $V$  that contain  $\ker(T)$ . Prove that if  $T[V_1] = T[V_2]$ , then  $V_1 = V_2$ .

**Solution:** Let  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  be subspaces of  $V$  that contain  $\ker(T)$ , and suppose that  $T[V_1] = T[V_2]$ . Let  $\vec{v} \in V_1$ , so  $T(\vec{v}) \in T[V_1] = T[V_2]$ . Choose  $\vec{w} \in V_2$  such that  $T(\vec{w}) = T(\vec{v})$ . Then  $T(\vec{w} - \vec{v}) = T(\vec{w}) - T(\vec{v}) = \vec{0}$ , so  $\vec{w} - \vec{v} \in \ker(T) \subseteq V_2$ . Thus  $\vec{v} = \vec{w} - (\vec{w} - \vec{v}) \in V_2$ . This shows  $V_1 \subseteq V_2$ , and the reverse inclusion follows by a similar argument. Explicitly, since  $T[V_1] = T[V_2]$ , for any  $\vec{w} \in V_2$  we can choose  $\vec{v} \in V_1$  such that  $T(\vec{w}) = T(\vec{v})$ , which means  $\vec{w} - \vec{v} \in \ker(T) \subseteq V_1$  and therefore  $\vec{w} = \vec{v} + (\vec{w} - \vec{v}) \in V_1$ .

- (b) (6 points) Prove that  $T$  is injective if and only if for all subspaces  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  of  $V$ , if  $T[V_1] = T[V_2]$  then  $V_1 = V_2$ .

**Solution:** For the forward direction, suppose  $T$  is injective, so  $\ker(T) = \{\vec{0}\}$ . Then since every subspace of  $V$  contains  $\vec{0}$ , for any subspaces  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  of  $V$  we have  $\ker(T) \subseteq V_1$  and  $\ker(T) \subseteq V_2$ , so the fact that  $T[V_1] = T[V_2]$  implies  $V_1 = V_2$  follows from part (a).

For the backward direction, we prove the contrapositive. Suppose  $T$  is *not* injective, so  $\ker(T) \neq \{\vec{0}\}$ . Then  $\ker(T)$  and  $\{\vec{0}\}$  are subspaces of  $V$  such that  $T[\ker(T)] = T[\{\vec{0}\}] = \{\vec{0}\}$  even though  $\ker(T) \neq \{\vec{0}\}$ .