

**NC STATE UNIVERSITY**

MA 305 Intro Elem Lin Algebra, second mid-semester examination, Mar 27, 2003  
kaltofen@math.ncsu.edu (email)  
<http://www.math.ncsu.edu/kaltofen/courses/LinAlgebra/Spring03/> (URL)  
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919.515.8785 (phone)  
919.515.3798 (fax)

*Your Name:* SOLUTION

For purpose of anonymous grading, please do **not** write your name on the subsequent pages.

This examination consists of 3 problems, which are subdivided into 9 questions, where each question counts for the explicitly given number of points, adding to a total of **44 points**. Please write your answers in the spaces indicated, or below the questions (using the back of the sheets if necessary). You are allowed to consult **two** 8.5in  $\times$  11in sheets with notes and your calculators, but **not** your book or your class notes or laptops. If you get stuck on a problem, it may be advisable to go to another problem and come back to that one later.

You will have **75 minutes** to do this test.

Good luck!

Problem 1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

**Problem 1** (20 points)

(a, 4 pts) Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  and suppose  $\det(A) = 0$ . Is  $A$  singular or non-singular? Please explain.

*A is singular because by definition if  $\det(A)=0$  then  $A$  is singular.*

(b, 4 pts) Compute  $\text{rank}(A)$  if  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 6 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 0 & 4 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\text{rank}(A) = 3$$

(c, 4 pts) Consider  $\mathbb{R}^2$  with  $\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \end{bmatrix} \oplus \begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ y_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 + x_2 \\ y_1 + y_2 \end{bmatrix}$  for addition and  $\alpha \odot \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha^2 x_1 \\ \alpha y_1 \end{bmatrix}$  for scalar multiplication. Is  $\mathbb{R}^2$  with these operations a vector space? Please justify your answer.

*No, the scalar multiplication fails axiom 6.*

$$(a + b) \odot \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (a + b)^2 x_1 \\ (a + b) y_1 \end{bmatrix} \neq \begin{bmatrix} (a^2 + b^2) x_1 \\ (a + b) y_1 \end{bmatrix} = a \odot \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \end{bmatrix} \oplus b \odot \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

(d, 4 pts) Consider the following subset  $S \subset \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}$ :  $S = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & a \\ b & a - b \end{bmatrix} \mid a, b \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$ . With the usual matrix addition and multiplication of matrices by scalars, does  $S$  form a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}$ ? Please justify your answer.

*Yes,  $S$  is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}$ .*

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & a \\ b & a - b \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & c \\ d & c - d \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & a + c \\ b + d & (a + c) - (b + d) \end{bmatrix} \in S$$

$$r \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 0 & a \\ b & a - b \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & ra \\ rb & ra - rb \end{bmatrix} \in S$$

(e, 4 pts) Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 3}$ . Please describe all the possible dimensions of the right null space of  $A$  as a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . Please explain.

*Since  $A$  has rank at most 2, then the right null space of  $A$  has dimension at least 1. So the possible dimensions of the null space are 1, 2, or 3.*

**Problem 2** (12 points): Consider the following  $4 \times 4$  matrix:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & s & 3 & -2 \\ -1 & t & 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

(a, 6pts) By Cramer's rule, please write down two matrices so that the 3,2 entry of  $A^{-1}$  is  $(-1)^i$  times the quotient of their determinants. Also please determine if  $i = 0$  or 1.

$$A_{3,2}^{-1} = \frac{(-1)^{3+2} \det(A \downarrow_{2,3})}{\det(A)} = \frac{(-1) \det \left( \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & s & -2 \\ -1 & t & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right)}{\det \left( \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & s & 3 & -2 \\ -1 & t & 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right)}$$

$i = 1$

(b, 6pts) Please compute the values of these two matrix determinants by minor (also known as cofactor) expansion. Using these determine the 3,2 entry of  $A^{-1}$ .

$$\det \left( \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & s & -2 \\ -1 & t & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = 2 \cdot \det \left( \begin{bmatrix} s & -2 \\ t & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = 2(s + 2t)$$

$$\det \left( \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & s & 3 & -2 \\ -1 & t & 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = 2 \cdot \det \left( \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 0 & 0 \\ s & 3 & -2 \\ t & 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = 2 \cdot 5 \cdot \det \left( \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -2 \\ 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = 10(3+8) = 110$$

$$A_{3,2}^{-1} = \frac{-2(s + 2t)}{110} = \frac{-(s + 2t)}{55}$$

**Problem 3** (12 points): Consider the following vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ :

$$v_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, v_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 0 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}, v_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, v_4 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 3 \\ 6 \\ -8 \end{bmatrix}.$$

(a, 6 pts) Please pare down the list  $v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4$  to form a basis of  $\text{Span}_{\mathbb{R}}(v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4)$ .

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & -1 \\ 2 & 4 & 3 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 6 \\ 3 & 6 & 2 & -8 \end{bmatrix} \implies \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -5 \end{bmatrix} \implies \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Since there are pivots in columns 1, 3 and 4, then  $\{v_1, v_3, v_4\}$  form a basis for the span.

(b, 6 pts) Consider all vectors  $w = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ u \end{bmatrix}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ . Please write down a condition on the real numbers  $x, y, z, u$  such that  $\text{Span}_{\mathbb{R}}(v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4, w) = \mathbb{R}^4$ .

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 & x \\ 2 & 3 & 3 & y \\ 0 & 0 & 6 & z \\ 3 & 2 & -8 & u \end{bmatrix} \implies \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 & x \\ 0 & 1 & 5 & y - 2x \\ 0 & 0 & 6 & z \\ 0 & -1 & -5 & u - 3x \end{bmatrix} \implies \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 & x \\ 0 & 1 & 5 & y - 2x \\ 0 & 0 & 6 & z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & u + y - 5x \end{bmatrix}$$

If  $\{v_1, v_3, v_4, w\}$  are to form a basis of  $\mathbb{R}^4$  then there must be a pivot in each column.  
So  $u + y - 5x \neq 0$  must be true.