

## MATH 304 MIDTERM EXAM 2 SAMPLE PROBLEMS

Note: problems marked with asterisque (\*) have multiple questions asked. An actual examination problem will only ask one of these questions.

**Level: EASY**

1. Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ . Find  $A^2 - 3A + 2I_2$ .

**Solution.** By direct calculation, the result is  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ .

2. Is the following statement true? Justify your answer with clear explanation.

“If  $A$  and  $B$  are  $m \times n$  matrices with  $m \neq n$ , then  $AB^T$  and  $A^T B$  are both well-defined matrix products.”

**Solution.** Yes. For the product of matrices to be well-defined the number of columns of the first factor must equal the number of rows of the second factor.

3. Let  $A$  be a  $2 \times 2$  matrix. Solve for  $A$  from the following matrix equation.

$$5A - 4I_{2 \times 2} = 0_{2 \times 2}.$$

**Solution.**  $A = \frac{1}{5}(4I_{2 \times 2} + 0_{2 \times 2}) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{4}{5} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{4}{5} \end{bmatrix}$ .

4. Is  $S = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid 5z - 1 = x + 2y \right\}$  a vector space, under the usual addition and scalar multiplication operations?

**Solution.** No. Any of these explanations will suffice:

• Not closed under the addition:  $\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \in S$ , but

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \notin S$$

- Not closed under the scalar multiplication::  $\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \in S$ , but

$$(-1) \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \notin S$$

- Does not contain the zero vector, which would have to be  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$

5. Suppose  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  is a linear map satisfying  $T(\vec{u}_1) = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$  and

$$T(\vec{u}_2) = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}. \text{ Find } T(2\vec{u}_1 - \vec{u}_2).$$

**Solution.**  $T(2\vec{u}_1 - \vec{u}_2) = 2 \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$

6. Suppose  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  is a linear map satisfying  $T(\vec{u}_1) = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$  and

$$T(\vec{u}_2) = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}. \text{ Is there a vector } \vec{w} \in \mathbb{R}^2 \text{ such that } T(\vec{w}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}?$$

**Solution.** No.  $T(\vec{w}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \notin \mathbb{R}^3$ .

7. Find the standard matrix  $A$  for the transformation  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  that rotates every vector counterclockwise by  $\frac{\pi}{2}$  radians, then doubles the magnitude.

**Solution.**  $T \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = 2 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$ .  $T \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 2 \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ . So the matrix is  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -2 \\ 2 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ .

8. Let  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ . Determine if the vector  $\mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

is in the span of the set of vectors  $\{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}\}$ .

**Solution.** The vector  $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{u}$ , is a linear combination of the vectors in the set  $\{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}\}$ , so  $\mathbf{w}$  is in  $\text{Span}(\{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}\})$ .

9. Do the vectors  $\mathbf{v}_1 = \mathbf{e}_1 + \mathbf{e}_2$ ,  $\mathbf{v}_2 = \mathbf{e}_1 + \mathbf{e}_3$ ,  $\mathbf{v}_3 = \mathbf{e}_2 + \mathbf{e}_3$  span all of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ?

**Solution.**

Performing row reduction, one gets  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ . So the

rank of the matrix is 3, thus the column space must equal the entire  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . (**Note:** There are many other ways to finish the argument, once the RREF is obtained. Talk to your instructor to check if your reasoning is correct.)

10. Let  $V$  be the set of vectors  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^2$  where the sum of the components of  $\mathbf{v}$  equals 2. Show that  $V$  is not a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

**Solution.** The set  $V$  can not be a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^2$  for many different reasons. One such reason is because the zero vector of  $\mathbb{R}^2 \notin V$ . **Note:** Come to office hours to see if you can explain some of the other reasons!

11. Which of the following sets of vectors are linearly independent in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ ?

$$A = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}, \quad B = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\},$$

$$C = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}, \quad D = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

**Solution.** Not linearly independent:  $A$  is not linearly independent because it contains the  $\mathbf{0}$  vectors.  $D$  is not linearly independent, because the dimension of  $\mathbb{R}^2$  is 2, so 3 vectors can never be linearly independent.

Linearly independent:  $B$  is linearly independent because a single non-zero vector is always linearly independent.  $C$  is linearly independent because the two vectors are not multiples of one another.

12. If two vectors  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2 \in V$  are multiples of one another, can they be linearly independent? Explain.

**Solution.** No. If  $\mathbf{v}_1 = c\mathbf{v}_2$ , then  $\mathbf{v}_1 - c\mathbf{v}_2$  is a dependence relation.

13. Are the vectors

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 7 \\ 5 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

linearly independent in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ ?

**Solution.** Yes. When we put these vectors into a matrix:  $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 7 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  we

get a pivot in each column. Therefore these vectors are linearly independent. (The row of zeros does not affect the answer to this problem. What it tells us is that these 3 vectors cannot span  $\mathbb{R}^4$ .)

14. What is the dimension of the space  $P_3$  of polynomials of degree up to 3?

**Solution.** The dimension is 4: one possible basis is  $\{1, x, x^2, x^3\}$ .

15. Find the coordinates of the vector  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$  in the basis  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ .

**Solution.**

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \end{array} \right]$$

So  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = 2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + (-1) \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , therefore the coordinates are  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$ .

16. Construct a linearly independent collection of vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  that is not a basis of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

**Solution.** Any two vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  that are not multiples of each other will be linearly independent, but not a basis: any basis of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  must have three

elements.

17. Consider an augmented matrix  $A$  of a homogeneous linear system in a row reduced echelon form. Suppose that there are 3 leading variables. Then, what is the dimension of the column space of  $A$ ?

**Solution.** The dimension of the column space of  $A$  should be 3. In fact, one can get a basis of the column space by taking the columns of  $A$  that correspond to the pivot columns in its *RREF*.

18. Find the dimension of the range space of a linear map  $T_A$  given by the matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

**Solution.** Since the range space of  $T_A$  is equal to the column space of  $A$ , it is enough to find a basis of the column space and its size. One possible basis  $\mathcal{B}$  consists of 1st, 2nd and 3rd column vectors of  $A$ . Note that  $\mathcal{B}$  is linearly independent, since every vector in  $\mathcal{B}$  cannot be represented by a linear combination of the other two vectors. We also have that  $\mathcal{B}$  spans the column space of  $A$ , since  $\text{span}(\mathcal{B})$  contains the 4th column vector of  $A$ . Therefore,  $\mathcal{B}$  is a basis of the column space, and we can conclude that the column rank is 3.

(Alternatively, one can row-reduce  $A$  to an echelon form).

19. Determine whether the linear map  $T_A$  defined by a matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ is a monomorphism (injective linear map).}$$

**Solution.** By row reduction, we can check that the nullity of  $A$  is 1. This means that  $\ker(T_A) \neq \{\vec{0}\}$ , which implies that  $T_A$  is not a monomorphism.

$$20^*. \text{ Given } \vec{u}, \vec{v} \in \mathbb{R}^3 \text{ that span the subspace } S = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \mid x, y \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . Is the following set a basis of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ?

$$(a) \left\{ \vec{u}, \vec{v}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 5 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

$$(b) \left\{ \vec{u} + \vec{v}, \vec{v}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

$$(c) \left\{ 2\vec{u}, 3\vec{v}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

$$(d) \{ \vec{u} - \vec{v}, \vec{u} + \vec{v} \}$$

**Solution.**

(a) Yes. The third vector is not in  $S$ , so the vectors must span the whole  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . There are three of them, so it is a basis.

(b) No. All three vectors are in  $S$ , so they do not span  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

(c) No. A basis of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  must have three vectors, not four.

(d) No. A basis of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  must have three vectors, not two.

**Level: MEDIUM**

$$21. \text{ Find } (A + B)^t A \text{ if } A^t A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } A^t B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Hint.** What is the formula for the transpose of the product of two matrices?

$$\textbf{Solution.} (A + B)^t A = (A^t + B^t)A = A^t A + B^t A = A^t A + (A^t B)^t = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 5 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 9 \end{pmatrix}.$$

22. Give an example of two matrices  $A$  and  $B$  such that  $AB$  is a zero

matrix and  $BA$  is undefined.

**Hint.** What is an easiest way to get all zeros in the product of matrices?

**Solution.** Take, for example,  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $B = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ .

23. Find  $(3A + I_2)B$  if  $AB = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$ , where  $A$  is a  $2 \times 2$  matrix and  $B = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 1 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$ .

**Hint.** What is  $I_2$ ?

**Solution.**  $(3A + I_2)B = 3(AB) + I_2B = 3(AB) + B$ . Plugging in the given matrices, we get  $3 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 1 & 5 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 4 \\ 10 & 11 \end{pmatrix}$ .

24. Is  $S = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} \mid xy = 0 \right\}$  a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ ?

**Hint.** Check the conditions for a subset to be a subspace.

**Solution.** No. For example,  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  are both in  $S$ , but their sum,  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , is not in  $S$ .

25. Suppose  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  satisfies

$$T \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } T \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

What is the matrix  $A$  so that  $T(\mathbf{x}) = A\mathbf{x}$  for all  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ ?

**Hint.** What is  $T \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ ?

**Solution.** Since  $T$  is linear, we have that  $T \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = T \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - T \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

Thus,  $T \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ . The matrix  $A$  has columns  $T(\mathbf{e}_1)$  and  $T(\mathbf{e}_2)$ , so we have  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ .

26. Is the map  $f : M_{2 \times 2} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  with  $f \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$  linear?

**Hint.** What is  $f(A+B)$  for two **matrices**  $A$  and  $B$ ?

**Solution.** Yes, it is, because matrix multiplication is distributive. Suppose  $A$  and  $B$  are two matrices, and  $t$  is a constant.

First we check that  $f(A+B) = f(A) + f(B)$ .  $f(A+B) = (A+B) \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = A \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + B \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = f(A) + f(B)$ .

Then we check that  $f(cA) = cf(A)$ :  $f(cA) = (cA) \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = c \left( A \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \right) = cf(A)$ .

Therefore,  $f$  is a linear map.

27. Determine if the set  $H$  of all matrices of the form  $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & d \end{pmatrix}$  is a subspace of  $\mathcal{M}_{2 \times 2}$ , the vector space of all  $2 \times 2$  matrices with real number entries.

**Hint.** Express  $H$  as a span of some set of matrices in  $\mathcal{M}_{2 \times 2}$ .

**Solution.**  $H = \text{span} \left( \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right)$ .

Therefore  $H$  is a subspace of  $\mathcal{M}_{2 \times 2}$ .

(Alternatively, one can check the conditions for a subset to be a subspace).

28. Determine if the set of all polynomials  $p(t)$  of degree at most  $n$  satisfying  $p(1) = 0$  is a subspace of  $\mathbb{P}_n$ .



**Hint.** Check the conditions for a subset to be a subspace.

**Solution.** Yes, it is a subspace.

1) Zero polynomial is in this subset.

2) If a polynomial  $p(t)$  is in this subset, then any multiple of it also is:  
 $(cp)(1) = cp(1) = c \cdot 0 = 0$ .

3) If  $p(t)$  and  $q(t)$  are in this subset, then so is their sum:  $(p + q)(1) = p(1) + q(1) = 0 + 0 = 0$ .

29. Give an example of a vector in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  that is not in  $\text{Span}\left\{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}\right\}$ .

**Hint.** You can try to express an arbitrary vector in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  as a linear combination of the given two vectors.

**Solution.**

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 1 & a \\ 1 & 0 & b \\ 0 & 1 & c \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 1 & a \\ 0 & -1 & b-a \\ 0 & 1 & c \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 1 & a \\ 0 & -1 & b-a \\ 0 & 0 & c+b-a \end{array} \right]$$

So if  $c + b - a \neq 0$  the system is inconsistent, and the vector  $\begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}$  is not

in the span. In particular, we can take  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ .

(Alternatively, one can choose a vector more or less randomly and check that it is not in the span).

30. Let  $S = \{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$  be the set of three non-zero vectors from  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . Suppose that  $S$  is linearly dependent. Then, what are all possible geometric shapes of  $\text{span}(S)$ ?

**Hint.** The dimension of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  is three.

**Solution.** The span  $\text{span}(S)$  cannot be a point, since all vectors in  $S$  are

non-zero. It cannot be  $\mathbb{R}^3$  either: Suppose otherwise. Then the span should be 3-dimensional. We can always find a basis  $\mathcal{B}$  of  $\text{span}(S) = \mathbb{R}^3$  as a subset of  $S$ , which must be  $S$ . But this leads to a contradiction, since  $S$  is linearly independent.

The span  $\text{span}(S)$  can be a line (by setting  $v_1 = v_2 = v_3$ ) or a plane (for example, by choosing  $v_1 = (1, 0, 0)^t$ ,  $v_2 = (0, 1, 0)^t$  and  $v_3 = (1, 1, 0)^t$ ).

31. Find a vector  $v$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  such that  $\{(1, 0, -1)^t, (0, -1, 1)^t, v\}$  is linearly independent.

**Hint.** It might be helpful to use a dot product.

**Solution.** We denote the set  $\{(1, 0, -1)^t, (0, -1, 1)^t\}$  by  $S$ . We claim that  $v = (1, 1, 1)^t$  makes the desired result. Note that for every vector  $w \in \text{span}(S)$ , we have  $w \cdot v = 0$  by the linearity of dot product. By this, we can conclude that  $v \notin \text{span}(S)$  since  $v$  is a non-zero vector. We also have that  $S$  is linearly independent, since the two vectors are not multiples of each other. By these two conclusions, we can derive that the set  $S \cup \{v\}$  is linearly independent.

(Alternatively, one can realize that this problem is similar to Problem 29 and solve it using the methods from the solution to Problem 29).

32. A linear transformation  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  is such that

$$T \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 12 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix}, \quad T \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 10 \end{pmatrix}$$

Find the standard matrix of  $T$ .

**Hint.** The columns of the standard matrix are  $T\vec{e}_1$  and  $T\vec{e}_2$ .

**Solution.**  $T \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2}T \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$ .

$T \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = T \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} - T \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$ .

So  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 5 & -3 \end{pmatrix}$ .

33. Consider the linear transformation  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  that rotates each vector counterclockwise by  $\frac{\pi}{4}$  radians. Let  $A$  be its standard matrix. Show that the columns of  $A$  form a basis of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

**Hint.** Find  $A$  and solve  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$

**Solution.**  $A = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix}$ .

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

So the columns are linearly independent, and since there are two of them they form a basis of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

(Alternatively, one can note that the columns are not multiples of each other because they are obtained by rotation of two vectors that are not multiples of each other.)

34. Let  $A$  be the coefficient matrix for a system of 3 homogeneous equations in 3 variables. If the system has infinitely many solutions, what are the possible dimensions of the space spanned by the columns of  $A$ ?

**Hint.** Recall the Rank-Nullity Theorem.

**Solution.** Rank-Nullity Theorem for the matrix  $A$  implies that  $rk(A) + nullity(A) = 3$ . Because the system has infinitely many solutions, the nullity of the matrix is at least 1. By the Rank-Nullity Theorem,  $rk(A) \leq 3 - 1 = 2$ . So  $rk(A)$ , which is the dimension of the Column Space of  $A$  can only be 0, 1, or 2. It is not hard to construct example for each of these possibilities:

$$rk\left(\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}\right) = 0, \quad rk\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}\right) = 1, \quad rk\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}\right) = 2$$

(Instead of formally using the Rank-Nullity Theorem, one can also consider the number of pivot and free variables in the RREF of the system).

35. Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$ . Find a basis for the column space of  $A$ .

**Hint.** Find a set of linearly independent columns of  $A$ .

**Solution.**  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ . The pivots indicate the loca-

tion of the independent columns of  $A$ . The vectors  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  form a basis for  $\text{Col}(A)$ .

36. Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 4 & 6 \\ 0 & 6 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$ . Find a basis for the null space of  $A$ .

**Hint.** Find the general solution to the homogeneous system  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ .

**Solution.**  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 4 & 6 \\ 0 & 6 & 9 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ . The parametric form of the

general solution is  $\mathbf{x} = s \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ , for  $s, t \in \mathbb{R}$ . The vectors

$\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  form a basis for  $\text{Nul}(A)$ .

37. Let  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^4$  be the linear transformation with the following action on the standard basis vectors:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{e}_1 &\mapsto \mathbf{e}_2 + 2\mathbf{e}_3 - 3\mathbf{e}_4 \\ \mathbf{e}_2 &\mapsto 3\mathbf{e}_1 - 2\mathbf{e}_2 + \mathbf{e}_3 \end{aligned}$$

Find the kernel of  $T$ .

**Hint.** The kernel of  $T$  is also the null space of the standard matrix for  $T$ .

**Solution.** 
$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 \\ 1 & -2 \\ 2 & 1 \\ -3 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$
 Since there is a pivot in every

column,  $T$  is injective. The only vector in  $\text{Ker}(T)$  is  $\mathbf{0}$ .

38\*. Let  $M_{2 \times 2}$  be the vector space of all  $2 \times 2$  matrices. Define  $T : M_{2 \times 2} \rightarrow M_{2 \times 2}$  by  $T(A) = A + A^T$ .

- (a) Show that  $T$  is a linear transformation.  
 (b) Let  $B$  be in  $M_{2 \times 2}$  such that  $B = B^T$ . Find an  $A$  such that  $T(A) = B$ .  
 (c) Show that the range of  $T$  is the set of  $B$  such that  $B = B^T$ .  
 (d) Describe the kernel of  $T$ .

**Hints.** a) Check the conditions for a transformation to be linear.

b,c,d) Write down  $T$  explicitly for an arbitrary matrix  $A$ .

**Solution.** a) 
$$T \left( \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} \\ b_{21} & b_{22} \end{bmatrix} \right) = T \left( \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} + b_{11} & a_{12} + b_{12} \\ a_{21} + b_{21} & a_{22} + b_{22} \end{bmatrix} \right) =$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} + b_{11} & a_{12} + b_{12} \\ a_{21} + b_{21} & a_{22} + b_{22} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} + b_{11} & a_{21} + b_{21} \\ a_{12} + b_{12} & a_{22} + b_{22} \end{bmatrix} = \dots = T \left( \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} \right) +$$

$$T \left( \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} \\ b_{21} & b_{22} \end{bmatrix} \right).$$

The scalar multiple portion works as expected as well.

b) If  $B = B^T$ , then  $T(B) = B + B^T = B + B = 2B$ . Choose  $A = 0.5B$  so that  $T(A) = 0.5T(B) = (0.5)(2)B = B$ .

c) Let  $B$  be in the range of  $T$ . Then  $B = T(A)$  for some  $A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix}$  in  $M_{2 \times 2}$ . We can calculate  $B = T \left( \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} + a_{11} & a_{12} + a_{21} \\ a_{12} + a_{21} & a_{22} + a_{22} \end{bmatrix}$ . Now it is easy to see that  $B^T$  is equal to  $B$ .

d) 
$$T \left( \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} + a_{11} & a_{12} + a_{21} \\ a_{12} + a_{21} & a_{22} + a_{22} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
 means,  $a_{11} = 0 = a_{22}$  and  $a_{12} = -a_{21}$ . So the kernel is the set of matrices of the form 
$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & a_{12} \\ -a_{12} & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

**Level: HARD**

39. Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ . Find a matrix  $B$  such that  $AB = I_2$  or show that such a  $B$  does not exist.

**Hint.** Because  $A$  is  $2 \times 3$ ,  $B$  must a  $3 \times 2$  for the product to be  $2 \times 2$ . Use arbitrary values for the entries in  $B$  and then solve for them.

**Solution.** Let  $B = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_4 \\ x_2 & x_5 \\ x_3 & x_6 \end{bmatrix}$  so that  $AB = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_4 \\ x_2 & x_5 \\ x_3 & x_6 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 + 2x_2 + 3x_3 & x_4 + 2x_5 + 3x_6 \\ 3x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3 & 3x_4 + 2x_5 + x_6 \end{bmatrix}$ .

If  $AB = I_2$ , then  $\begin{bmatrix} x_1 + 2x_2 + 3x_3 & x_4 + 2x_5 + 3x_6 \\ 3x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3 & 3x_4 + 2x_5 + x_6 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  can be thought of as a system of 4 equations in 6 unknowns. The augmented matrix

for this system is  $\left[ \begin{array}{cccccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 0 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 & 2 & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right] \sim \left[ \begin{array}{cccccc|c} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -0.5 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.75 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0.5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & -0.25 \end{array} \right]$ .

There are 4 pivots and 2 free variables,  $x_3 = s$  and  $x_6 = t$ . The parametric

form of the solution space is  $\begin{bmatrix} -0.5 \\ 0.75 \\ 0 \\ 0.5 \\ -0.25 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + s \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ . Since we only

need to provide one such matrix, we can choose the parameters  $s = t = 0$ .

Then  $B = \begin{bmatrix} -0.5 & 0.5 \\ 0.75 & -0.25 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ .

40. Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ . Find a matrix  $B$  such that  $BA = I_3$  or show that such a  $B$  does not exist.

**Hint.** Because  $A$  is  $2 \times 3$ ,  $B$  must be a  $3 \times 2$  for the product to be  $3 \times 3$ . Use arbitrary values for the entries in  $B$  and then solve for them.

**Solution.** Again we need  $B$  to be  $3 \times 2$ . This time  $BA = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_4 \\ x_2 & x_5 \\ x_3 & x_6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} =$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 + 3x_4 & 2x_1 + 2x_4 & 3x_1 + x_4 \\ x_2 + 3x_5 & 2x_2 + 2x_5 & 3x_2 + x_5 \\ x_3 + 3x_6 & 2x_3 + 2x_6 & 3x_3 + x_6 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}. \text{ After it is set up,}$$

this will lead to an inconsistent system with 9 equations and 6 unknowns. Hence there is no such matrix  $B$  that has the property  $BA = I_3$ .

**Note:** This is not the only solution. Ask your instructor for a “better”, more conceptual, solution!

41. Let  $A$  and  $B$  be two  $2 \times 2$  matrix such that  $AB = 0$ . Explain why there is a vector  $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$  such that  $B\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$

**Hint.** When  $B$  is not the zero matrix try to find a nonzero vector in the column space of  $B$  that  $A$  can be applied to.

**Solution.** If  $B$  is the zero matrix, then for every  $\mathbf{x}$  we have  $B\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ . It is also possible that  $B$  is not the zero matrix. In that case then we can think of  $B$  as the standard matrix for some transformation. At least one of the standard basis vectors will be mapped to a non-zero vector,  $B\mathbf{e} = \mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$ . Now consider  $B\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = BA(B\mathbf{e}) = B(AB)\mathbf{e} = B\mathbf{0}\mathbf{e} = \mathbf{0}$ .

**Note:** This is not the only solution. If you think that you found a different one, check with your instructor to see if your argument is correct.

42. Let  $R_\theta : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  be the linear map which rotates a vector counter-clockwise by the angle  $\theta$  with respect to the origin. And let  $S : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  be the linear map which reflects a vector with respect to the line  $x_1 = x_2$ . Find the standard matrix  $A$  of  $S \circ R_\theta$ .

**Hint.** Composition of linear maps corresponds to multiplication of standard matrices.

**Solution.** The columns of the standard matrix of a linear map  $R_\theta$  are

$R_\theta(\vec{e}_1)$  and  $R_\theta(\vec{e}_2)$ . So the standard matrix of  $R_\theta$  is  $\begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$ . Likewise, the matrix of  $S$  is  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ . So the matrix of  $S \circ R_\theta$  is

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sin \theta & \cos \theta \\ \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \end{bmatrix}$$

43. Find all subspaces of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  that contain vectors  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$ .

**Hint.** Span of the vectors is the smallest subspace that contains the vectors.

**Solution.** The two vectors are linearly independent, so their span is a plane. One can easily see that it is a plane  $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 0$ . Any strictly bigger subspace that contains these vectors must have dimension strictly greater than 2. So it must be the whole space  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

44. If the columns of a  $3 \times 3$  matrix  $A$  span  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , do the rows of  $A$  have to span  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ? Justify your answer.

**Hint.** What is the relation between  $rk(A)$  and  $rk(A^t)$ ?

**Solution.** Recall that  $rk(A) = rk(A^t)$ , that is the dimension of the row space of  $A$  must equal the dimension of the column space of  $A$ , so it is 3. Thus the rows of  $A$  must span  $\mathbb{R}^3$  because any smaller span would have smaller dimension.

(Alternatively, one can argue that the RREF of  $A$  is the identity matrix).

**Note.** The difficulty in this problem is in the correct justification, not in finding the answer. Depending on what was covered in your section and what your instructor accepts as a correct argument, this problem may be Medium or even Easy difficulty level for your section.

45. Consider the set of all matrices  $A \in M_{2 \times 2}$  such that  $A^2 = 0$ . Is this a subspace of  $M_{2 \times 2}$ ? Justify your answer.



**Hint.** Find a non-zero matrix  $A$  such that  $A^2 = 0$ .

**Solution.** This is not a subspace:  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  are in the set, but their sum is not.

46. Recall that for every homogeneous linear system given by a row reduced echelon form, the solution set is

$$\{x_1v_1 + x_2v_2 + \cdots + x_kv_k : \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

where  $x_1, \dots, x_k$  are free variables. Show that  $S = \{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$  is linearly independent.

**Hint.** Just consider the coordinates corresponding to free variables.

**Solution.** Suppose that  $t_1v_1 + t_2v_2 + \cdots + t_kv_k = 0$ . We need to show that  $t_1 = \cdots = t_k = 0$ . Denote  $t_1v_1 + t_2v_2 + \cdots + t_kv_k$  by  $w$ . Also, let us assume that a free variable  $x_i$  appears at  $j_i$ th coordinate.

Fix an arbitrary  $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$  and consider the  $j_i$ th coordinate of  $w$ . It must be

$$t_1 \cdot 0 + \cdots + t_i \cdot 1 + \cdots + t_k \cdot 0$$

which is equal to  $t_i$ . By the assumption, we have  $t_i = 0$ . Since this holds for every  $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$  we can conclude that  $S$  is linearly independent.

47. Consider the subspace  $S$  of  $M_{2 \times 2}(\mathbb{R})$  spanned by the set of all  $2 \times 2$  matrices in RREF. Construct a basis of  $M_{2 \times 2}(\mathbb{R})$  that extends a basis of  $S$ .

**Hint.** Find all possible RREF  $2 \times 2$  matrices.

**Solution.** Based on which columns are pivot, all possible RREF are the following:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & a \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

One can show that these matrices span the space of all matrices of the form  $\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & d \end{bmatrix}$ .

So one possible basis of  $M_{2 \times 2}(\mathbb{R})$  that extends a basis of  $S$  is the following:

$$\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

Here the first three matrices form a basis of  $S$ .

48. Suppose  $\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \vec{v}_3, \vec{v}_4, \vec{v}_5\}$  is a linearly independent set in  $\mathcal{P}_4$ . Each  $v_i$  is a polynomial in  $t$ . We know that  $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2$ , and  $\vec{v}_3$  belong to  $\mathcal{P}_2$ . What are all the possibilities for the degrees of  $\vec{v}_4$  and  $\vec{v}_5$  if  $\deg(\vec{v}_4) \leq \deg(\vec{v}_5)$ ?

**Hint.** Can all five linearly independent polynomials lie in  $\mathcal{P}_3$ ?

**Solution.** Because  $\dim(\mathcal{P}_3) = 4$ , it cannot contain all five linearly independent polynomials. So the largest degree, which is  $\deg(\vec{v}_5)$  must be 4. Also,  $\deg(\vec{v}_4)$  cannot be less than 3, because this would give four linearly independent polynomials  $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \vec{v}_3, \vec{v}_4$  in a three-dimensional space  $\mathcal{P}_2$ . So  $\deg(\vec{v}_4)$  can only be 3 or 4. Both of these are possible: we can have, for example, the following polynomials:  $\{1, t, t^2, t^3, t^4\}$  or  $\{1, t, t^2, t^3 + t^4, t^4\}$ .

49. Suppose  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^2$  and  $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \mathbf{b}_2\}$  is a basis for  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . Suppose the coordinate vector for  $\mathbf{v}$  with respect to  $\mathcal{B}$  is  $\mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$ . What is the coordinate vector for  $\mathbf{v}$  with respect to a new basis  $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \mathbf{b}_1 + 2\mathbf{b}_2\}$ ?

**Hint.** Recall the definition of the coordinate vector in the language of linear combinations.

**Solution.** We need to find constants  $x$  and  $y$  so that  $\mathbf{v} = x\mathbf{b}_1 + y(\mathbf{b}_1 + 2\mathbf{b}_2)$ . Distributing and rearranging, we get  $\mathbf{v} = (x + y)\mathbf{b}_1 + 2y\mathbf{b}_2$ . Since  $\mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$ , we know that  $\mathbf{v} = 2\mathbf{b}_1 + 4\mathbf{b}_2$ . Because  $\mathcal{B}$  is a basis, these are the only coefficients that work, so  $x + y = 2, 2y = 4$ . We solve this system to see that  $x = 0$  and  $y = 2$ . Thus,  $\mathbf{v}_{\mathcal{C}} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ .

Alternatively, one can express the vector  $\mathbf{b}_2$  in terms of the new basis:  $\mathbf{b}_2 = \frac{1}{2}((\mathbf{b}_1 + 2\mathbf{b}_2) - \mathbf{b}_1)$ . Then

$$\mathbf{v} = 2\mathbf{b}_1 + 4\mathbf{b}_2 = 2\mathbf{b}_1 + 2((\mathbf{b}_1 + 2\mathbf{b}_2) - \mathbf{b}_1) = 2(\mathbf{b}_1 + 2\mathbf{b}_2)$$

50. Find a basis of the subspace  $V = \{p(t) \mid p(2) = 0\}$  of  $\mathcal{P}_2$ .

**Hint.** Can you find a pair of linearly independent polynomials in this set?

**Solution.** We know that  $p(t) = t - 2$  and  $q(t) = (t - 2)^2$  are both in  $V$ . Moreover, they are linearly independent, since if  $a(t - 2) + b(t - 2)^2 = 0$ , then  $a = b = 0$ . Because  $V$  is not the whole three-dimensional space  $\mathcal{P}_2$ ,  $\dim(V) \leq 2$ . Since these two polynomials are linearly independent, they must form a basis. So we can take  $\mathcal{B} = \{t - 2, (t - 2)^2\}$ .

Alternatively, one can identify  $\mathcal{P}_2$  with the  $\mathbb{R}^3$  by looking at the coefficients of the polynomials and find a basis of  $V$  as a plane in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . Make sure to rewrite your answer in terms of polynomials.

51. Consider a linear map  $F : M_{2 \times 2} \rightarrow M_{2 \times 2}$  defined as  $F(X) = X - X^t$ . Find a basis of the Kernel of  $F$ .

**Hint.** Describe the Kernel of  $F$ .

**Solution.**  $\text{Ker}(F) = \{X \in M_{2 \times 2} \mid X - X^t = 0\} = \{X \in M_{2 \times 2} \mid X^t = X\}$ . So it is the space of symmetric matrices, that is matrices of the form  $\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ b & d \end{bmatrix}$ , where  $a, b, d \in \mathbb{R}$ . Clearly, the following is a basis of this space.

$$\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

52. Consider a linear map  $F : M_{2 \times 2} \rightarrow M_{2 \times 2}$  defined as  $F(X) = X - X^t$ . Find a basis of the Range of  $F$ .

**Hint.** Write down  $F(X)$  for an arbitrary matrix  $X$ .

**Solution.**  $F\left(\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & b - c \\ c - b & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ . So  $\left\{\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}\right\}$  is a basis of  $\text{Range}(F)$ .

53. For every  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  consider a linear function  $F_a : P_2 \rightarrow P_2$  given by the

formula

$$(F_a(p))(x) = xp'(x) - a \cdot p(x)$$

(the polynomials in  $P_2$  are in the variable  $x$  and the derivative is with respect to  $x$ ).

Find all values of  $a$  for which  $F_a$  is not injective.

**Hint.** Write down  $(F_a(p))(x)$  for an arbitrary quadratic polynomial  $p(x)$ .

**Solution.** For  $p(x) = c_0 + c_1x + c_2x^2$ ,

$$(F_a(p))(x) = -ac_0 + (1 - a)c_1x + (2 - a)c_2x^2$$

For  $a \neq 0, 1, 2$  the Kernel of  $F_a$  is clearly  $\{0\}$ , so the map is injective. For  $a = 0$ , the Kernel contains  $\{1\}$ , for  $a = 1$  it contains  $x$ , and for  $a = 2$  it contains  $x^2$ . So  $F_a$  is not injective for  $a$  equal to 0, 1, or 2.

54. Suppose  $A$  is a  $3 \times 3$  matrix such that  $A^2 = 0$ . What are all possible values of  $rk(A)$ ?

**Hint.** Consider the Range and the Kernel of the linear transformation defined by  $A$ .

**Solution.** Because  $A^2 = 0$ , for every  $\vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3$  we have

$$A(A\vec{x}) = (A \cdot A)\vec{x} = \vec{0}$$

So  $A\vec{y} = \vec{0}$  for every  $\vec{y}$  of the form  $A\vec{x}$ . In other words, Column Space of  $A$  is a subspace of the Null Space of  $A$ . This implies that  $rk(A) \leq nullity(A)$ . By the Rank-Nullity Theorem,  $nullity(A) = 3 - rk(A)$ , so  $rk(A)$  can only be 0 or 1. Both values of rank are possible:  $A$  can be one of the following two matrices:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$