

This was a 3-hour exam, 12:30–3:30PM. There were 60 points for eight questions. Problem 1 consisted of 11 true–false questions, each worth 1 point. Problems 2–8 had point values 6, 8, 9, 6, 6, 8 and 6.

I think that it was a successful exam: people seemed happy, and there weren't problems that were obviously ambiguous. The only misprint that I know about was in the last problem, where “diagonal” should replace “diagonalizable.” We announced this in the exam room.

1. For each statement below, write *TRUE* or *FALSE* to the left of the statement. You are not required to justify your reasoning:

If A is a square invertible matrix, then A and A^{-1} have the same rank.

If A is an $m \times n$ matrix and if b is in \mathbf{R}^m , there is a unique $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$ for which $\|Ax - b\|$ is smallest.

If A is an $n \times n$ matrix, and if v and w in \mathbf{R}^n satisfy $Av = 2v$, $Aw = 3w$, then $v \cdot w = 0$.

If the dimensions of the null spaces of a matrix and its transpose are equal, then the matrix is square.

If A is a 2×2 matrix, then -1 cannot be an eigenvalue of A^2 .

I liked the linear algebra portion of this course more than the differential equations portion.

If four linearly independent vectors lie in $\text{Span}(\{w_1, \dots, w_t\})$, then t must be at least 4.

If B is invertible, then the column spaces of A and AB are equal.

If A is a matrix, the row spaces of A and $A^T A$ are equal.

If two symmetric $n \times n$ matrices A and B have the same eigenvalues, then $A = B$.

If the characteristic polynomial of A is $(\lambda - 1)(\lambda + 1)(\lambda - 3)^2$, then A is necessarily diagonalizable.

2. Consider the vectors $v_1 = [0, 1, 0, 1, 0]$, $v_2 = [0, 1, 1, 0, 0]$, $v_3 = [0, 1, 0, 1, 1]$ in \mathbf{R}^5 . Find w_1, w_2, w_3 in \mathbf{R}^5 such that $w_i \cdot w_j = 0$ for $i \neq j$ (i and j between 1 and 3), and such that $\text{Span}(\{w_1, \dots, w_i\}) = \text{Span}(\{v_1, \dots, v_i\})$ for $i = 1, 2, 3$.

3. Find $x_1(t)$ and $x_2(t)$ such that

$$x_1'(t) = -2x_1(t) + 2x_2(t) \quad x_2'(t) = +2x_1(t) + x_2(t)$$

and $x_1(0) = -1$, $x_2(0) = 3$.

4. Let A be the matrix $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 3 & 2 \\ 3 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 4 & 2 & 4 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$. Find bases for each of the following: the null space of A ; the row space of A ; the column space of A .

5. The theory of Fourier series implies that there are numbers a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots such that

$$|\sin x| = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} a_m \cos mx$$

for all real numbers x . Find a_0, a_1, a_2 and a_3 . (It may be helpful to recall the formula $\sin A \cos B = \frac{1}{2}[\sin(A+B) + \sin(A-B)]$ from trigonometry.)

6. Find $u(x, t)$ that satisfies the equation $25u_{xx} = u_t$ on the region $0 < x < \pi, t > 0$ as well as the boundary conditions $u(0, t) = u(\pi, t) = 0$ for $t > 0$ and $u(x, 0) = \sin 3x - \sin 4x$ for $0 \leq x \leq \pi$.

7. Suppose that v_1, \dots, v_n are vectors in \mathbf{R}^n and that A is an $n \times n$ matrix. If Av_1, \dots, Av_n form a basis of \mathbf{R}^n , show that v_1, \dots, v_n form a basis of \mathbf{R}^n and that A is invertible.

8. Let $v_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 5 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$, $v_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$, $v_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 9 \\ 8 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}$. Suppose that A is the 3×3 matrix for which $Av_1 = v_1$, $Av_2 = 0$, $Av_3 = 5v_3$. Find an invertible matrix S and a diagonalizable matrix Λ such that $A = S\Lambda S^{-1}$.