

MATH 121A – MIDTERM REVIEW SESSION

Problem 1: Suppose W_1 and W_2 are subspaces of a vector space V . Show that $W_1 \cup W_2$ is a subspace of V if and only if $W_1 \subseteq W_2$ or $W_2 \subseteq W_1$.

Solution: Union of subspaces

Problem 2: Suppose W and Z are subspaces of a vector space V . We say $V = W \oplus Z$ if $V = W + Z$ and $W \cap Z = \{0\}$. Suppose $V = W \oplus Z$ and suppose $\{w_1, \dots, w_m\}$ is a basis of W and $\{z_1, \dots, z_k\}$ is a basis of Z . Show that $\{w_1, \dots, w_m, z_1, \dots, z_k\}$ is a basis of V .

Solution: Direct Sums

Problem 3: Let $V = C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ (the space of infinitely-differentiable functions from \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{R}), and define $D : V \rightarrow V$ by $D(f) = f'$. Show that $\{D, D^2, D^3\}$ is linearly independent in $\mathcal{L}(V)$.

Solution: Derivative is linearly independent

Problem 4: Suppose V and W are vector spaces with $\dim(V) \geq \dim(W)$, and suppose Z is a subspace of W . Show that there exists a linear transformation $T : V \rightarrow W$ whose range is equal to Z .

Solution: Linear Transformation with a given range

Problem 5: Define $T : P_1(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ by $T(a_0 + a_1x) = (5a_0 + 2a_1, 2a_0 + a_1)$. Find a formula for T^{-1} .

Solution: Calculate T^{-1}