

Math 1512, **First Exam Practice Problem Set**

1. Definitions and statements of results:

- (a) Define what it means for a set S of vectors in a linear space V to *span* V .
- (b) State the Cauchy-Schwartz inequality for vectors x, y in a Euclidean space V , including the condition stating when equality holds.

2. Let x_1, \dots, x_n be positive real numbers. Define the *arithmetic mean* of x_1, \dots, x_n to be

$$AM(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \frac{x_1 + \dots + x_n}{n},$$

and define the *harmonic mean* of x_1, \dots, x_n to be

$$HM(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \frac{n}{\frac{1}{x_1} + \dots + \frac{1}{x_n}}.$$

Use the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality to show that $HM(x_1, \dots, x_n) \leq AM(x_1, \dots, x_n)$, with equality if and only if $x_1 = \dots = x_n$.

3. Find a unit vector u orthogonal to $v = (1, -3, 2)$ and parallel to the plane $x + 5y - z = 1$. Find the volume of the parallelepiped based on u, v , and the unit normal vector of the given plane.

4. Use Cramer's rule to solve

$$\begin{cases} x + 2y + 3z = 5 \\ 2x - y + 4z = 11 \\ -y + z = 3 \end{cases}$$

5. Determine whether or not S is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^3 in the following examples:

- (a) $S = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : x = y = z\}$
- (b) $S = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : y = 2x \text{ and } z = 3x\}$

6. Let P_n denote the linear space of all real polynomials of degree at most n . Determine whether or not S is a subspace of P_n in the following examples:

- (a) $S = \{f \in P_n : f(1) = 0\}$
- (b) $S = \{f \in P_n : f(x) \geq 0 \text{ for all } x\}$

7. Let P_2 be the linear space of all polynomials of degree at most 2.

- (a) Is $t^2 - 1$ in the subspace of P_2 spanned by $\{1 + t, 1 - t, t^2 + 2\}$?
- (b) Show that the polynomials $f_1 = 1, f_2 = t - 1, f_3 = (t - 1)^2$ form a basis for P_2 .
- (c) Find the coordinates of $2t^2 - 5t + 6$ relative to the ordered basis (f_1, f_2, f_3) for P_2 .

8. Let $V = C(0, 1)$ be the linear space of all continuous functions on the interval $[0, 1]$, and define an inner product on V by setting

$$\langle f, g \rangle = \int_0^1 t^2 f(t)g(t)dx.$$

With respect to this inner product:

- (a) What are the norms of the functions $f(x) = \pi$ and $g(x) = x$?
 - (b) What is the cosine of the angle between the functions $f(x) = \pi$ and $g(x) = x$?
9. Let V be the subspace of \mathbb{R}^3 spanned by the vectors $x_1 = (1, 0, 1)$ and $x_2 = (-1, 1, 2)$.
- (a) Find the coordinates (= components) of the vector $v = (0, 1, 3)$ with respect to the ordered basis (x_1, x_2) for V .
 - (b) Use the Gram-Schmidt procedure to find an orthogonal basis for V .
10. Let V be a finite-dimensional Euclidean space, let W be a subspace of V , and let W^\perp be the orthogonal complement of W .
- (a) Prove that every vector $x \in V$ can be written *uniquely* as $x = y + z$ with $y \in W$ and $z \in W^\perp$.
 - (b) Prove that $\|x\|^2 = \|y\|^2 + \|z\|^2$.
 - (c) Prove that $\dim(W) + \dim(W^\perp) = \dim(V)$. [**Hint:** If $Y = \{y_1, \dots, y_k\}$ is an orthogonal basis for W and $Z = \{z_1, \dots, z_l\}$ is an orthogonal basis for W^\perp , show that $Y \cup Z = \{y_1, \dots, y_k, z_1, \dots, z_l\}$ is an orthogonal basis for V .]