

**MATH 54 MIDTERM 2 (PRACTICE 2)**  
**PROFESSOR PAULIN**

**DO NOT TURN OVER UNTIL  
INSTRUCTED TO DO SO.**

**CALCULATORS ARE NOT PERMITTED**

**YOU MAY USE YOUR OWN BLANK  
PAPER FOR ROUGH WORK**

**SO AS NOT TO DISTURB OTHER  
STUDENTS, EVERYONE MUST STAY  
UNTIL THE EXAM IS COMPLETE**

**REMEMBER THIS EXAM IS GRADED BY  
A HUMAN BEING. WRITE YOUR  
SOLUTIONS NEATLY AND  
COHERENTLY, OR THEY RISK NOT  
RECEIVING FULL CREDIT**

**THIS EXAM WILL BE ELECTRONICALLY  
SCANNED. MAKE SURE YOU WRITE ALL  
SOLUTIONS IN THE SPACES PROVIDED.  
YOU MAY WRITE SOLUTIONS ON THE  
BLANK PAGE AT THE BACK BUT BE  
SURE TO CLEARLY LABEL THEM**

Name and Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_

GSI's name: \_\_\_\_\_

**This exam consists of 5 questions. Answer the questions in the spaces provided.**

1. (25 points) (a) Let  $\mathbb{P}_3(\mathbb{R})$  be the vector space of polynomials of degree at most 3 with real coefficients. Calculate the dimension of the subspace

$$U = \text{Span}(1 + x - x^2, 2 + x^2 + x^3, 5 - 2x - x^3, 4 - 3x + x^2 - x^3)$$

**Solution:**

- (b) Is  $U = \mathbb{P}_3(\mathbb{R})$ ? Justify your answer.

**Solution:**

2. (25 points) (a) You are given a linear system with 5 equations in 6 unknowns. If the corresponding homogeneous linear system has a solution set spanned by two linearly independent vectors, is it true that the original linear system is guaranteed to have a solution? If it is not possible, give an explicit example of such a system.

**Solution:**

- (b) What about if we instead assume that the corresponding homogeneous linear system solution set is spanned by one non-zero vector? Justify your answer.

**Solution:**

3. (25 points) Let  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $B = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$ . Find a basis  $C$  such that

$$A_{B,C} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Solution:**

4. (a) Give a precise statement of what it means for a square matrix  $A$  to be diagonalizable.

**Solution:**

- (b) Is the matrix  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$  diagonalizable? Justify your answer.

**Solution:**

5. Let  $W$  be the span of the vectors  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ . Find an orthogonal basis for  $W^\perp$ .

What is the minimum distance between  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $W$ ?

**Solution:**