

Math 20580
Midterm 1
February 12, 2026

Name: _____
Instructor: _____
Section: _____

Calculators are NOT allowed. Do not remove this answer page – you will return the whole exam. You will be allowed 75 minutes to do the test. You may leave earlier if you are finished. There are 8 multiple choice questions worth 7 points each and 4 partial credit questions each worth 11 points. Record your answers by placing an \times through one letter for each problem on this answer sheet.

Sign the pledge. “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this Exam”:

1. a b c d e

2. a b c d e

3. a b c d e

4. a b c d e

5. a b c d e

6. a b c d e

7. a b c d e

8. a b c d e

Multiple Choice.

9.

10.

11.

12.

Total.

Part I: Multiple choice questions (7 points each)

1. Consider the linear system

$$\begin{cases} 3x + 2y = a \\ 5x + 4y = b \end{cases}$$

If (x, y) is a solution, which of the following describes y in terms of a, b ?

- (a) $y = 2a - b$ (b) $y = 6a + 8b$ (c) $y = (-5a + 3b)/2$ (d) $y = 2a + 5b$
(e) y is not determined by a, b

2. Consider the vectors $\vec{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$, $\vec{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$, $\vec{v}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$. Which of the following sets of vectors span \mathbb{R}^2 ?

- (I) $\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2\}$ (II) $\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \vec{v}_3\}$ (III) $\{\vec{v}_2\}$ (IV) $\{\vec{v}_2, \vec{v}_3\}$
(a) III only (b) I and III only (c) I and II only (d) II and IV only
(e) III and IV only

3. Let $T: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ be the linear map given by counterclockwise rotation of the plane about the origin by an angle of 30° (or $\frac{\pi}{6}$ in radians). Let A be the standard matrix of the transformation T . Which of the following matrices is equal to $A^3 = A \cdot A \cdot A$?

(a) $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ (b) $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$ (c) $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ (d) $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ (e) $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$

4. Let \mathcal{P}_3 denote the vector space of polynomials of degree at most 3,

$$\mathcal{P}_3 = \{p(x) = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3\}$$

Which among the following subsets of \mathcal{P}_3 is a subspace?

- I. The polynomials $p(x)$ in \mathcal{P}_3 satisfying $p(0) = 1$.
- II. The polynomials $p(x)$ in \mathcal{P}_3 satisfying $p(1) = 0$.
- III. The polynomials $p(x)$ in \mathcal{P}_3 satisfying $a_1 \geq 1$ and $a_2 \leq 2$.
- IV. The polynomials $p(x)$ in \mathcal{P}_3 that have degree at most two.

- (a) III and IV only (b) IV only (c) I, III, and IV only
(d) II and IV only (e) III only

5. Given the matrices

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ -2 & -3 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

determine $A^{-1}B - AB^T$.

(a) $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ -1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$ (b) $\begin{bmatrix} -3 & 1 \\ 5 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$ (c) $\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ -1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$ (d) $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ (e) $\begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ -6 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

6. Consider the vectors

$$\vec{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \vec{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \vec{v}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1-t \\ 1+t \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

For which value of t does the vector \vec{v}_3 belong to $\text{Span}(\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2)$?

- (a) all $t \leq 2$ (b) $t = 2$ and $t = -1$ (c) $t = -3$ only (d) $t = 0$ only
(e) no value of t

7. Which of the following sets is linearly independent?

$$(I) \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \quad (II) \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \quad (III) \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 8 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \quad (IV) \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

- (a) I, II, III only (b) II and IV only (c) I and II only
(d) III and IV only (e) I, III, IV only

8. Let A be a 8×7 matrix of rank 3. Which of the following is equal to the dimension of the null space of the transpose matrix A^T ?

- (a) 0 (b) 3 (c) 4 (d) 5 (e) 7

Part II: Partial credit questions (11 points each). Show your work.

9. Consider the matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

(a) Find a basis for $\text{Col}(A)$ (the column space of A).

(b) Find a basis for $\text{Row}(A)$ (the row space of A).

(c) Find a basis for $\text{Nul}(A)$ (the null space of A).

10. Find the inverse of the matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

11. Consider the linear transformation $T: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ defined by

$$T \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 + x_2 \\ x_2 + x_3 \end{bmatrix},$$

and the matrix transformation $S(\vec{x}) = A\vec{x}$, where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & -1 \\ 3 & 2 \\ -2 & -2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

(a) Find the standard matrix of T .

(b) Find the standard matrices of the compositions $S \circ T$ and $T \circ S$.

(c) Find a vector \vec{v} in \mathbb{R}^3 with $T(\vec{v}) = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix}$.

12. Consider the bases \mathcal{B} and \mathcal{C} of \mathbb{R}^3 given by

$$\mathcal{B} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 5 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \right\}, \quad \mathcal{C} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

(a) Find the change of coordinate matrix $P_{\mathcal{C} \leftarrow \mathcal{B}}$ from \mathcal{B} to \mathcal{C} (recall that $P_{\mathcal{C} \leftarrow \mathcal{B}}$ is the matrix such that $[\vec{x}]_{\mathcal{C}} = P_{\mathcal{C} \leftarrow \mathcal{B}} \cdot [\vec{x}]_{\mathcal{B}}$ for all vectors \vec{x} in \mathbb{R}^3).

(b) If $\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$, determine the coordinate vectors $[\vec{v}]_{\mathcal{B}}$ and $[\vec{v}]_{\mathcal{C}}$.

