

# Axler Algebra Notes, Problems and Solutions

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## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Section 3A</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Section 3B</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Section 3C</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Section 3D</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Section 3E</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Section 3F</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Section 5A</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Section 5C</b>	<b>9</b>

## 1 Section 3A

**Problem 3.9.** Give an example a function  $\rho : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  such that:

$$\rho(w + z) = \rho(w) + \rho(z)$$

for all  $w, z \in \mathbb{C}$  but is not linear.

*Proof.* Consider the **complex conjugate** function with  $\rho(x) = \bar{x}$ , where for  $x = a + bi$ , then  $\bar{x} = a - bi$ . Given complex  $x$  and  $y$ , we will have:

$$\begin{aligned}\rho(x + y) &= \rho((a_1 + ib_1) + (a_2 + ib_2)) = \rho((a_1 + a_2) + (b_1 + b_2)i) \\ &= (a_1 + a_2) - (b_1 + b_2)i = (a_1 - b_1i) + (a_2 - b_2i) = \rho(x) + \rho(y)\end{aligned}$$

However, this function is not linear, as given some complex  $c$  with non-zero real and imaginary components, we know that  $c^2$  is also imaginary. We also know that  $\bar{c}c$  is real. Thus:  $\rho(c^2)$  can't be equal to  $c\rho(c) = c\bar{c}$ . Hence, the function is not linear.  $\square$

**Problem 3.12.** If  $V$  is finite-dimensional with  $\dim V > 0$  and  $W$  is infinite-dimensional, prove that  $\mathcal{L}(V, W)$  is infinite-dimensional.

*Proof.* Assume that  $\mathcal{L}(V, W)$  is finite-dimensional. It follows that there exists a basis of the form  $V = (v_1, \dots, v_n)$  that span  $\mathcal{L}(V, W)$ . We also choose a basis  $m_1, \dots, m_k$  for  $V$ , since  $\dim V > 0$ . For each  $w \in W$ , consider the linear map  $f_w$  that takes  $m_1$  to  $w$ , and all other  $m_i$  to 0. Since  $V$  is a basis, we must have:

$$f_w(m_1) = a_1v_1(m_1) + \dots + a_nv_n(m_1) = w$$

for some choice of coefficients. It follows that  $v_1(m_1), \dots, v_n(m_1)$  forms a basis for  $W$ , a contradiction to the fact that  $W$  is infinite-dimensional  $\square$

**Problem 3.14.** Suppose that  $V$  is finite dimensional with  $\dim V \geq 2$ . Prove that there exist  $S, T \in \mathcal{L}(V, V)$  such that  $ST \neq TS$ .

*Proof.* Since linear maps can be explicitly defined as how they map basis vectors we first choose a basis  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  of  $V$ . We define  $S$  to be the operator that sends  $v_1$  to  $v_n$  and  $v_n$  to  $v_1$ , with all other  $v_k$  being sent to themselves, and  $T$  to be the operator that sends  $v_1$  to 0, and all other basis vectors to themselves.

Clearly,  $ST(v_1) = 0$  and  $TS(v_1) = v_n$ . Since  $n \geq 2$ , these vectors are distinct. Thus  $ST \neq TS$ .  $\square$

## 2 Section 3B

**Problem 3.12.** Suppose that  $V$  is finite-dimensional and  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$ . Prove that there exists a subspace  $U$  of  $V$  such that  $U \cap \text{null } T = \{0\}$  and  $\text{range } T = \{Tu : u \in U\}$ .

*Proof.* Let us consider a basis  $B$  of  $\text{null } T$ . We then choose some basis  $B'$  of  $V$ , which, by rank-nullity theorem, will have cardinality greater than or equal to  $B$ . We use  $B$  to extend  $B'$  to a basis  $C$  of  $V$  (which we can do, as each  $B'$  is linearly independent).

Let  $U = \text{span}(C - B')$  (linear combinations of the elements in the new basis that are not in  $B'$ ). We assert that this is the  $U$  that satisfies these conditions.

Firstly, it is clear that  $U$  and  $\text{null } T$  contain the zero vector. In addition, if there were some non-zero vector  $v$  in  $U$  and  $\text{null } T$ , this would imply that there exist coefficients such that:

$$v = a_1u_1 + \dots + a_nu_n = b_1v_1 + \dots + b_mv_m$$

where  $u_i \in U$  and  $v_i \in B'$ . We know that  $U \cup B'$  forms a basis for  $V$ , so the above equation implies that:

$$a_j u_j = b_1 v_1 + \cdots + b_m v_m - a_1 u_1 + \cdots + a_{j-1} v_{j-1} - a_{j+1} v_{j+1} + \cdots + a_n u_n$$

where we know that at least one  $a_i$  (namely  $a_j$ ) is non-zero, and at least one  $b_i$  is non-zero to conclude that the existence of  $v$  violates the linear independence of  $U \cup B'$ .

Clearly,  $\{Tu : u \in U\} \subset \text{range } T$ . In addition, we pick some  $T(x) \in \text{range } T$ . We have:

$$x = a_1 u_1 + \cdots + a_n u_n + b_1 v_1 + \cdots + b_m v_m$$

as  $U \cup B'$  is a basis for  $V$ . We then get:

$$T(x) = T(a_1 u_1 + \cdots + a_n u_n) + T(b_1 v_1 + \cdots + b_m v_m) = T(a_1 u_1 + \cdots + a_n u_n) = T(u)$$

where  $u \in U$ . Thus,  $\text{range } T \subset \{Tu : u \in U\}$ . We have inclusion both ways, so  $\{Tu : u \in U\} = \text{range } T$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$

**Problem 3.19.** Suppose that  $V$  and  $W$  are finite dimensional and  $U$  is a subspace of  $V$ . Prove that there exists  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$  such that  $\text{null } T = U$  if and only if  $\dim U \geq \dim V - \dim W$ .

*Proof.* First, assume that exists such a  $T$ . From rank-nullity theorem, we have:

$$\dim V = \dim \text{range } T + \dim \text{null } T = \dim \text{range } T + \dim U \leq \dim W + \dim U$$

which clearly implies that  $\dim U \geq \dim V - \dim W$ . Conversely, assume that  $\dim U \geq \dim V - \dim W$ . Consider the basis  $u_1, \dots, u_n$  of  $U$ . We extend this to a basis for  $V$  by adding vectors  $v_1, \dots, v_m$ .

We define  $T$  to be the map that takes each  $u_k$  to 0. We define a basis for  $W$ , which we label  $w_1, \dots, w_r$ . We know that  $\dim W \geq \dim V - \dim U$ , which is equal to the number of vectors  $v_k$ . Thus, we are able to assign each  $v_k$  to some vector  $w_s$  of the basis for  $W$ .

We have assigned values to each basis vector of  $V$ , which means that  $T$  is linear. In addition, it is clear that  $\text{null } T = U$ .  $\square$

**Problem 3.26.** Suppose  $D \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}), \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}))$  is such that  $\deg Dp = (\deg p) - 1$  for every non-constant polynomial  $p \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R})$ . Prove that  $D$  is surjective.

*Proof.* Consider some  $p \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R})$  such that the degree of  $p$  is  $n$ . Consider the subset  $\{x^{n+1}, x^n, \dots, x\}$  of  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R})$ . We map each of these terms under  $D$  to get the set  $B = \{D(x^{n+1}), D(x^n), \dots, D(x)\}$ .

The  $k$ -th elements of this list will be a polynomial of degree  $n + 1 - k$ . It is easy to check that such a list is linearly independent: we complete the redundancy-removal procedure, starting at  $D(x)$ , noting that for each  $D(x^k)$ , we cannot write  $D(x^k)$  as a sum of the polynomials  $\{D(x^{k-1}), \dots, D(x)\}$  as  $D(x^k)$  contains a term of degree  $n + 1 - k$ , which none of the other elements posses.

It follows that the elements of  $B$  are linearly independent. Let us consider the subspace  $V_n \subset \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R})$  of all polynomials of degree  $n$ . Clearly, such a space will have degree  $n + 1$ . It is also clear that each element of  $B$  is in  $V_n$ . Thus,  $B$  is a linearly independent list of length  $n + 1$  contained in  $V_n$ . It follows that  $B$  is a basis for  $V_n$ .

Thus, for the  $p$  that we considered initially, we can write:

$$p = c_1 D(x) + \cdots + c_{n+1} D(x^{n+1}) = D(c_1 x + \cdots c_{n+1} x^{n+1})$$

Therefore,  $p$  can be written as the image of some element of  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R})$  and the map  $D$  is surjective.  $\square$

**Problem 3.29.** Suppose  $\phi \in \mathcal{L}(V, \mathbb{F})$ . Suppose that  $u \in V$  is not in  $\text{null } \phi$ . Prove that:

$$V = \text{null } \phi \oplus \{au : a \in \mathbb{F}\}$$

*Proof.* In the case that  $\phi$  is the trivial map, the null space of  $\phi$  is all  $V$  and the theorem is proved.

In the case that  $\phi$  is not the trivial map, we know from rank-nullity theorem that:

$$\dim V = \dim \text{null } \phi + \dim \text{range } \phi$$

However, it is clear that  $\text{range } \phi = \mathbb{F}$ , so  $\dim \text{range } \phi = \dim \mathbb{F} = 1$ . This implies that:

$$\dim V - \dim \text{null } \phi = 1$$

Now, we know that given some  $V$ , and a subspace  $U$  of  $V$ , there exists some  $U'$  such that  $V = U \oplus U'$ . We let  $U = \text{null } \phi$ . Since the sum of these subspaces is direct, it follows that:

$$\dim V = \dim \text{null } \phi + \dim U' \Rightarrow \dim U' = \dim V - \dim \text{null } \phi = 1$$

where we used the equation above. Thus,  $U'$  must be a one-dimensional subspace. All one dimensional subspaces of some vector space  $V$  are all multiples of a single vector,  $u$ . In addition, since the sum of  $U'$  and the null space is direct, this vector cannot be in  $\text{null } \phi$ . Therefore:

$$U' = \{au : a \in \mathbb{F}\}$$

and:

$$V = \text{null } \phi \oplus \{au : a \in \mathbb{F}\}$$

for some  $u \in V$ .

Now, the last thing we have to show is that  $U'$  can be multiples of **any** vector not in the null-space (not just  $u$ ). Given some  $v \in V$ , we will have, from above:

$$v = n + au$$

for some  $n$  in the null space. Given some  $w$  also not in the null space, we choose  $c$  such that  $a\phi(u) - c\phi(w) = 0$ , which we can do as we know that both  $\phi(u)$  and  $\phi(w)$  are non-zero. Thus:

$$n + au = (n + au - cw) + cw = m + cw$$

where  $m$  is in the null space. We prove inclusion the other way in a similar fashion, implying that:

$$\text{null } \phi \oplus = \{au : a \in \mathbb{F}\} = \text{null } \phi \oplus = \{aw : a \in \mathbb{F}\}$$

Therefore, we are able to conclude that:

$$V = \text{null } \phi \oplus \{au : a \in \mathbb{F}\}$$

for **any**  $u$  not in the null space. □

**Problem 3.30.** Suppose  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$  are linear maps from  $V$  to  $\mathbb{F}$  that have the same null space. Show that there exists some  $c \in \mathbb{F}$  such that  $\phi_1 = c\phi_2$ .

*Proof.* Using the previous result, we can write  $V$  as the sum:

$$V = \text{null } \phi_1 \oplus \{au : u \in \mathbb{F}\} = \text{null } \phi_2 \oplus \{au : u \in \mathbb{F}\}$$

Let us pick some  $v \in V$ . We will have  $v = n + au$  where  $n$  is in the null-space of both maps. We will have:

$$\phi_1(v) = \phi_1(n + au) = \phi_1(n) + a\phi_1(u)$$

We then choose some  $c$  such that  $\phi_1(u) = c\phi_2(u)$ , which we can do as both  $\phi_1(u)$  and  $\phi_2(u)$  are non-zero. In addition, we will have:  $\phi_1(n) = \phi_2(n) = 0$ , as both maps have the same null-space. We note that  $c\phi_2(n) = \phi_2(n)$ . Thus, we will have:

$$\phi_1(n) + a\phi_1(u) = c\phi_2(n) + c\phi_2(au) = c\phi_2(n + au) = c\phi_2(v)$$

This completes the proof. □

### 3 Section 3C

**Problem 3.6.** Suppose that  $V$  and  $W$  are finite-dimensional and  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$ . Prove that  $\dim \text{range } T = 1$  if and only if there exists a basis of  $V$  and a basis of  $W$  such that with respect to these bases, all entries of  $\mathcal{M}(T)$  are equal to 1.

*Proof.* Clearly, if there are bases of  $V$  and  $W$  such that  $\mathcal{M}(T)$  has ones in all entries, then each basis vector in the chosen basis will get mapped to the sum of all the chosen basis vectors of  $W$ , which we call  $w$ . It follows that  $\text{range } T = \text{span}(w)$ , implying that the dimension of the range of  $T$  is 1.

Conversely, assume that  $\dim \text{range } T = 1$ . From rank-nullity theorem, it follows that  $\dim \text{null } T = n - 1$ , where  $n$  is the dimension of  $V$ . Since the dimension of the range is 1. There must exist some vector  $v$  of  $V$  such that  $T(v) = w$ , where  $w \neq \mathbf{0}$ . We choose a basis  $w_1, \dots, w_m$  of  $W$ , which means that:

$$w = a_1w_1 + \dots + a_mw_m$$

We let the set  $\{a_1w_1, \dots, a_mw_m\}$  be a basis for  $W$ , and denote the  $k$ -th element of the basis  $w'_k$ . Now, consider some basis  $v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}$  for the null space of  $T$ . The set of vectors  $\{v+v_0, v+v_1, \dots, v+v_{n-1}\}$  (where  $v_0 = \mathbf{0}$ ) will clearly be a basis for  $V$ , as each vector in the  $n$ -element set is linearly independent. We denote the  $k + 1$ -th element of this basis  $v'_k$ .

Now, consider  $T$  acting upon some basis vector:

$$T(v'_k) = T(v) + T(v_0) = w = w'_1 + \dots + w'_m$$

So in the primed bases, each element of  $\mathcal{M}(T)$  is 1, by definition. □

### 4 Section 3D

**Problem 3.17.** Suppose  $V$  is finite-dimensional and  $\mathcal{E}$  is a subspace of  $\mathcal{L}(V)$  such that  $ST \in \mathcal{E}$  and  $TS \in \mathcal{E}$  for all  $S \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  and all  $T \in \mathcal{E}$ . Prove that  $\mathcal{E} = \{\mathbf{0}\}$  or  $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{L}(V)$ .

*Proof.* Clearly,  $\mathcal{E}$  can be the trivial subspace.

Now, consider what happens when we assume that there is some non-zero  $T \in \mathcal{E}$ . It follows that there must exist some  $v \in V$  such that  $T(v) = w_1$ , where  $w_1$  is non-zero. Extending  $w_1$  to a basis for  $V$ , we get the set  $w_1, \dots, w_n$ .

We let  $S_1^k$  be the map that takes  $w_k$  to  $v$  and all other basis elements to 0. We let  $S_2^k$  be the map that takes  $w_1$  to  $w_k$ , and all other basis elements to 0. It follows that the map  $TS_1^k$  takes  $w_k$  to  $w_1$ , and all other basis vectors to 0, and is in  $\mathcal{E}$ . We can then conclude that  $S_2^r TS_1^k$  is also in  $\mathcal{E}$ , and is the map that takes  $w_k$  to  $w_r$ , and all other basis elements to 0.

Clearly, any map from  $V$  to  $V$  can be written as a linear combination of maps of the form  $S_2^r TS_1^k$ . Since  $\mathcal{E}$  is a subspace, all such linear combinations are in  $\mathcal{E}$ . This implies that  $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{L}(V)$ .

It follows that  $\mathcal{E}$  is either trivial, or the whole space  $\mathcal{L}(V)$ . □

## 5 Section 3E

**Problem 3.7.** If  $x, v \in V$  and  $U, W$  are subspaces of  $V$ , such that  $v + U = x + W$ , then  $U = W$

*Proof.* Clearly,  $v \in v + U$ . It follows that  $v = x + w$ , for some  $w \in W$ . We then have  $v - x = w$ , so  $v - x \in W$ .

Now, consider  $u \in U$ . We will have  $v + u = x + w' \Rightarrow u = x - v + w' = w' - (v - x) = w' - w$ , so  $u \in W$ . Proving this each  $w \in W$  is in  $U$  is identical. Thus, we have inclusion both ways, so  $U = W$ .  $\square$

**Problem 3.18.** Suppose that  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$  and  $U$  is a subspace of  $V$ . Let  $\pi$  denote the quotient map from  $V$  onto  $V/U$ . Prove that there exists  $S \in \mathcal{L}(V/U, W)$  such that  $T = S \circ \pi$  if and only if  $U \subset \text{null } T$ .

*Proof.* Assume that there exists  $S$  such that  $T = S \circ \pi$ . Let us pick some  $u \in U$ . We note that  $Tu = (S \circ \pi)(u) = S([u]) = S([0]) = 0$ , so  $U \subset \text{null } T$ .

Assume that  $U \subset \text{null } T$ . Since  $U$  is a subspace of the null space, it follows that for  $u \in U$ , we have  $T(u) = 0$ . Thus, given  $w$  and  $v$  in  $V$  such that  $\pi(w) = \pi(v)$ , we can notice that  $w - v \in U$ , by definition of the quotient space, so

$$T(w - v) = T(w) - T(v) = 0 \Rightarrow T(w) = T(v)$$

Thus, we define  $S$  to be the map that takes  $[v]$  in the quotient space to  $T(v)$  in  $W$ . Such a map is well defined as if  $[v] = [w]$ , then  $S([w]) = T(w) = T(v) = S([v])$ . Clearly, such a map is linear, as:

$$S([w] + [v]) = S([w + v]) = T(w + v) = T(w) + T(v) = S([w]) + S([v])$$

and:

$$\lambda S([w]) = \lambda T(w) = T(\lambda w) = S([\lambda w]) = S(\lambda[w])$$

and the proof is complete.  $\square$

## 6 Section 3F

**Proposition 1.** Let  $U^0$  be the annihilator of  $U$  as a subspace of  $V'$ . It follows that:

$$\dim U^0 + \dim U = \dim V$$

*Proof.* We attempt to prove this in the language of linear functionals.

We know that  $V'$  is the space of functionals from  $V$  to  $\mathbb{F}$ . We know that  $U$  is a subspace of  $V$ , so it follows that we can choose a basis  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  of  $U$ , then extend it to a basis for  $V$  by adding vector  $v_{n+1}, \dots, v_m$ .

Using this basis, we can define the dual basis on  $V'$  of the elements  $\phi_i(v_k)$  for  $v_k$  in the basis of  $V$ .

We define a linear map  $T : V' \rightarrow V'$  which takes the basis element  $\phi_i$  to itself if  $1 \leq i \leq n$  (so the corresponding  $v_i$  is in  $U$ ), and to 0 otherwise.

We assert that  $\text{null } T = U^0$ . Let us pick some  $\phi \in \text{null } T$ . We will have:

$$T(a_1\phi_1 + \dots + a_m\phi_m) = a_1\phi_1 + \dots + a_n\phi_n = 0$$

Since each element of the dual basis is linearly independent, all  $a_k$  must be 0, thus,  $\phi$  is a linear combination of the  $\phi_k$  basis elements for  $k \geq n + 1$ . It follows that  $\phi(u) = 0$  for all  $u \in U$ ,

as  $u$  is a linear combination of exclusively the basis elements  $v_k$  from  $k = 1$  to  $k = n$ . Thus,  $\phi$  is in  $U^0$ .

Now, if  $\phi \in U^0$ , it follows that  $\phi(u) = 0$  for all  $u \in U$ , so we will have:

$$T(\phi) = a_1T(\phi_1) + \cdots + a_mT(\phi_m) = a_1\phi_1 + \cdots + a_n\phi_n$$

Now, given some  $v_k$  for  $k$  between 1 and  $n$ , we will have:

$$(a_1\phi_1 + \cdots + a_n\phi_n)(v_k) = a_k\phi_k(v_k) = a_k = 0$$

so each  $a_k$  is equal to 0, implying that  $T(\phi)$  is the zero map, so  $\phi$  is in the null space. Thus,  $U^0 = \text{null } T$ .

Finally, using the fundamental theorem of linear maps:

$$\dim V' = \dim \text{range}(T) + \dim \text{null}(T) = \dim U' + \dim U^0$$

But we know that  $\dim V' = \dim V$  and  $\dim U' = \dim U$ , so:

$$\dim V = \dim U + \dim U^0$$

□

**Problem 3.36.** Suppose  $U$  is a subspace of  $V$ . Let  $i : U \rightarrow V$  be the inclusion map defined by  $i(u) = u$ . Thus,  $i' \in \mathcal{L}(V', U')$ .

Show that  $\text{null } i' = U^0$

*Proof.* By definition,  $i'(\rho) = i \circ \rho$ . Thus, the null space of  $i'$  will be all  $\rho$  such that  $\rho \circ i$  is the 0 map. Clearly, if  $u \in U$ , then  $i(u) = u$ , so we must then have  $\rho(u) = 0$  for all  $u \in U$ . Thus,  $\rho$  is in  $U^0$ .

Recall that  $U^0$  is the set of all  $\rho$  such that  $\rho(u) = 0$  for all  $u \in U$ . It follows that  $(\rho \circ i)(u) = \rho(u) = 0$  for all  $u \in U$ , so  $\rho$  is in the null space. Thus, the two sets are equal. □

Prove that if  $V$  is finite-dimensional, then  $\text{range } i' = U'$ .

*Proof.*  $\text{range } i'$  is the set of all  $\rho \circ i$ . Clearly, this will be a map from  $U$  to  $\mathbb{F}$ , so it follows that  $\rho \circ i$  is in  $U'$ .

Conversely, consider some  $\rho \in U'$ . We define  $\gamma$  to be the map that takes  $u$  to  $\rho(u)$  if  $u \in U$  and 0 otherwise. Since  $U$  is a subspace, it is easy to verify that such a map is linear. Clearly  $\gamma \circ i$  will be equal to  $\rho$ . Thus,  $\rho$  is in the range of  $i'$ .

It follows that the two sets are equal. □

Prove that if  $V$  is finite dimensional, then  $\tilde{i}'$  is an isomorphism from  $V'/U^0$  onto  $U'$

*Proof.* Recall the definition of the “tilded” operator, which is a map from  $V/(\text{null } T)$  to  $W$  defined by  $\tilde{T}(v + \text{null } T) = Tv$ .

We prove first that  $\tilde{T}$  is an isomorphism from  $V/(\text{null } T)$  to  $\text{range } T$ . First, it is easy to see that such a map is surjective. Now assume that  $\tilde{T}(v + \text{null } T) = T(v) = 0$ . Thus,  $v \in \text{null } T$ , so  $v + \text{null } T = 0 + \text{null } T$ . It follows that  $v + \text{null } T$  is the zero vector of the space. Thus, the null space of  $\tilde{T}$  is trivial, so it is injective.

From the above results,  $U^0 = \text{null } i'$  and  $U' = \text{range } i'$ , so it follows immediately that  $\tilde{i}'$  is an isomorphism. □

**Problem 3.37.** Suppose  $U$  is a subspace of  $V$ . Let  $\pi : V \rightarrow V/U$  be the usual quotient map. Thus,  $\pi' \in \mathcal{L}((V/U)', V')$ .

Show that  $\pi'$  is injective.

*Proof.* Assume that  $\pi'(\rho) = \rho \circ \pi = 0$ . Assume that  $\rho$  is not the 0 map, so there exists some  $v + U$  such that  $\rho(v + U) \neq 0$ . It then follows that  $(\rho \circ \pi)(v) = \rho(v + U) \neq 0$ , so  $\rho \circ \pi$  is not the zero map. Thus,  $\rho$  must be the zero map. It follows that the null space of  $\pi'$  is trivial, so it is injective.  $\square$

Show that  $\text{range}\pi' = U^0$

Pick some  $\rho \circ \pi$  is the range of  $\pi'$ . Let us pick some  $u \in U$ . It follows that:

$$(\rho \circ \pi)(u) = \rho(u + U) = \rho(0 + U) = 0$$

as the zero vector must get mapped to the zero vector. Thus,  $\rho \circ \pi$  is in  $U^0$ .

Conversely, consider some  $\rho$  in  $U^0$ .

## 7 Section 5A

**Proposition 2.** Given a set of  $m$  distinct eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m$ , along with a set of corresponding eigenvectors  $V = \{v_1, \dots, v_m\}$ , the set  $V$  is linearly independent.

*Proof.* We will prove this proposition by induction. Clearly, this will be true in the case of one eigenvalue,  $\lambda$ . Assume that it holds true given  $n$  eigenvalues. We prove it holds true for  $n + 1$ . Consider the set of eigenvalues  $\{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{n+1}\}$  with corresponding eigenvectors  $\{v_1, \dots, v_{n+1}\}$ . Assume that there is a non-trivial linear combination:

$$a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n + a_{n+1}v_{n+1} = 0$$

Note that since eigenvectors are non-zero, for this non-trivial linear combination to be 0, we must have at least two  $a_i$  not equal to 0 otherwise we would have  $a_kv_k = 0$ , for non-zero  $a_k$ , which can't be the case. It follows that at least one  $a_i$  with  $1 \leq i \leq n$  is non-zero.

We define the linear operator  $(T - \lambda_{n+1}I)$ . We then have:

$$(T - \lambda_i I)(a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n + a_{n+1}v_{n+1}) = \sum_{k \neq n+1} a_k(\lambda_k - \lambda_{n+1})v_k = 0$$

But since all eigenvalues are unique, we must have  $\lambda_k - \lambda_{n+1} \neq 0$ . In addition, it least one  $a_i$  in this sum is non-zero. Thus, we have found a non-trivial linear combination of  $n$  eigenvectors that yields the zero vector, a contradiction to the inductive hypothesis.

It follows that the set  $\{v_1, \dots, v_{n+1}\}$  is linearly independent and the proof is complete.  $\square$

**Problem 5.28.** Suppose  $V$  is finite-dimensional with  $\dim V \geq 3$  and  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$  is such that every 2-dimensional subspace of  $V$  is invariant under  $T$ . Prove that  $T$  is a scalar multiple of the identity operator.

*Proof.* Consider some  $v \in V$ . Since the dimension of  $V$  is greater than or equal to 3, we can also choose two other vectors,  $w$  and  $z$  that form a linearly independent set  $\{v, w, z\}$ . We consider the two-dimensional subspaces  $A = \text{span}(v, w)$  and  $B = \text{span}(v, z)$ . We know that  $A$  is invariant, so it follows that  $Tv = av + bw$ , but we know that  $B$  is also invariant, so  $Tv = cv + dz$ . This implies that:

$$(c - a)v + dz - bw = 0$$

and since these vectors are linearly independent, we have  $d = b = 0$ , so it follows that  $v$  is sent to a multiple of itself.

Now, we pick linearly independent  $v$  and  $w$  in  $V$  such that  $Tv = av$  and  $Tw = bw$ . We will have:

$$T(v + w) = c(v + w) = T(v) + T(w) = av + bw$$

so since  $v$  and  $w$  are linearly independent, it follows that  $c = a = b$ , so  $Tv = cv$  and  $Tw = cw$ . Thus,  $T$  is a scalar multiple of the identity map and the proof is complete.  $\square$



**Problem 5.35.** Suppose  $V$  is finite-dimensional,  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ , and  $U$  is invariant under  $T$ . Prove that each eigenvalue of  $T/U$  is an eigenvalue of  $T$ .

*Proof.* Let us assume that we have  $\lambda$  such that there exists  $v+U$  where  $(T/U)(v+U) = T(v)+U = \lambda v+U$ . This implies that  $Tv - \lambda v \in U$ .

Assume that

To do this, it is enough to show that the map  $T - \lambda I$  is not surjective. □

## 8 Section 5C

**Problem 5.5.** Suppose that  $V$  is a finite-dimensional vector space and  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ . Prove that  $T$  is diagonalizable if and only if:

$$V = \text{null}(T - \lambda I) \oplus \text{range}(T - \lambda I)$$

for every  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ .

*Proof.* First, consider the case where  $V = \text{null}(T - \lambda_k I) \oplus \text{range}(T - \lambda_k I)$ . It follows that:

$$V = E(\lambda_1, T) \oplus \cdots \oplus E(\lambda_m, T)$$

Let us pick  $v \in \bigoplus_{i \neq k} E(\lambda_i, T)$  □