

**THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**  
**Department of Mathematics**  
**MATH2040A/B (First Term, 2018-19)**  
**Linear Algebra II**  
**Solution to Homework 3**

**Sec. 1.6**

Q4 Sol: No, they don't generate  $P_3(R)$ . What we need to do is to find a polynomial in  $P_3(R)$  but not in  $\text{span}\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$ , where  $v_1 = x^3 - 2x^2 + 1, v_2 = 4x^2 - x + 3, v_3 = 3x - 2$ .

Let  $u = v_1 + v_2 + v_3 + 1$ , it is obvious that  $u \in P_3(R)$ . We will show that  $u \notin \text{span}\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$ .

If  $u \in \text{span}\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$ , we have that  $v_1 + v_2 + v_3 + 1 = av_1 + bv_2 + cv_3$ .

Comparing the coefficient of  $x^3$ , we have  $a = 1$ .

Since  $a = 1$ , minus  $v_1$  at the both side and comparing the coefficient of  $x^2$ , we have  $b = 1$ .

Since  $a = 1$  and  $b = 1$ , minus  $v_1 + v_2$  at the both side and comparing the coefficient of  $x$ , we have  $c = 1$ .

Thus we have  $v_1 + v_2 + v_3 + 1 = v_1 + v_2 + v_3$ , contradiction arises! So  $u \notin \text{span}\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$ .

Q11 Sol: **Claim 1:**  $\{u + v, au\}$  is a basis for  $V$ .

Indeed, suppose  $c_1, c_2$  are scalars such that  $c_1(u + v) + c_2(au) = \vec{0}$ . Then

$$(c_1 + c_2a)u + c_1v = \vec{0}$$

and by linear independence of  $\{u, v\}$ ,  $c_1 + c_2a = c_1 = 0$ . As  $a \neq 0$ , on solving, we get  $c_1 = c_2 = 0$ . It implies that  $\{u + v, au\}$  is linearly independent.

Because  $\{u, v\}$  is a basis for  $V$ ,  $V$  is of dimension 2 and by Corollary 2 in Sec. 1.6,  $\{u + v, au\}$  is a basis for  $V$ .

(**Alternatively**, as  $V = \text{span}\{u, v\}$ ,  $\forall w \in V$ ,  $\exists$  scalars  $c_1, c_2$  such that

$$w = c_1u + c_2v = c_2(u + v) + a^{-1}(c_1 - c_2)(au) \quad (\because a \neq 0).$$

Hence,  $V = \text{span}\{u + v, au\}$ .

To conclude, since  $\{u + v, au\}$  spans  $V$  and is linearly independent, it is a basis for  $V$ .)

**Claim 2:**  $\{au, bv\}$  is a basis for  $V$ .

Indeed, suppose  $c_1, c_2$  are scalars such that  $c_1(au) + c_2(bv) = \vec{0}$ . By linear independence of  $\{u, v\}$ ,  $c_1a = c_2b = 0$ . As  $a \neq 0$  and  $b \neq 0$ ,  $c_1 = c_2 = 0$ . It implies that  $\{au, bv\}$  is linearly independent.

Because  $\{u, v\}$  is a basis for  $V$ ,  $V$  is of dimension 2 and by Corollary 2 in Sec. 1.6,  $\{au, bv\}$  is a basis for  $V$ .

(**Alternatively**, as  $V = \text{span}\{u, v\}$ ,  $\forall w \in V$ ,  $\exists$  scalars  $c_1, c_2$  such that

$$w = c_1u + c_2v = (a^{-1}c_1)(au) + (b^{-1}c_2)(bv) \quad (\because a \neq 0 \text{ and } b \neq 0).$$

Hence,  $V = \text{span}\{au, bv\}$ .

To conclude, since  $\{au, bv\}$  spans  $V$  and is linearly independent, it is a basis for  $V$ .)

Q12 Sol: Suppose  $a, b, c$  are scalars such that  $a(u + v + w) + b(v + w) + cw = \vec{0}$ . Then

$$au + (a + b)v + (a + b + c)w = \vec{0}.$$

By linear independence of  $\{u, v, w\}$ ,  $a = a + b = a + b + c = 0$ . Then,  $a = b = c = 0$ . Therefore,  $\{u + v + w, v + w, w\}$  is linearly independent.

Because  $\{u, v, w\}$  is a basis for  $V$ ,  $V$  is of dimension 3 and by Corollary 2 in Sec. 1.6,  $\{u + v + w, v + w, w\}$  is a basis for  $V$ .

(**Alternatively**, as  $V = \text{span}\{u, v, w\}$ ,  $\forall x \in V$ ,  $\exists$  scalars  $a, b, c$  such that

$$x = au + bv + cw = a(u + v + w) + (b - a)(v + w) + (c - b - a)w.$$

Thus,  $V = \text{span}\{u + v + w, v + w, w\}$ .

Finally, as  $\{u + v + w, v + w, w\}$  spans  $V$  and is linearly independent, it is a basis for  $V$ .)

Q14 Sol: We only need to find the basis for them.

Let  $B_1 = \{(0, 1, 0, 0, 0), (0, 0, 0, 0, 1), (1, 0, 1, 0, 0), (1, 0, 0, 1, 0)\}$ , we will show that  $B_1$  is a basis of  $W_1$ .

It is obvious that  $B_1$  is linearly independent and  $B_1$  is a subset of  $W_1$ . Then we show that  $B_1$  generates  $W_1$ .

$\forall v \in W_1$ , we denote  $v$  by  $(a_3 + a_4, a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5)$ . Then we have  $v = a_2(0, 1, 0, 0, 0) + a_5(0, 0, 0, 0, 1) + a_3(1, 0, 1, 0, 0) + a_4(1, 0, 0, 1, 0) \in \text{span}(B_1)$

So  $B_1$  is a basis of  $W_1$  and the dimension of  $W_1$  is 4.

Let  $B_2 = \{(0, 1, 1, 1, 0), (1, 0, 0, 0, -1)\}$ , we will show that  $B_2$  is a basis of  $W_2$ .

It is obvious that  $B_2$  is linearly independent and  $B_2$  is a subset of  $W_2$ . Then we show that  $B_2$  generates  $W_2$ .

$\forall v \in W_2$ , we denote  $v$  by  $(a_1, a_2, a_2, a_2, -a_1)$ . Then we have  $v = a_2(0, 1, 1, 1, 0) + a_1(1, 0, 0, 0, -1) \in \text{span}(B_2)$

So  $B_2$  is a basis of  $W_2$  and the dimension of  $W_2$  is 2.

Q15 Sol:  $\forall i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ , denote by  $E^{ij}$  the  $n \times n$  matrix in which the only nonzero entry is a 1 in the  $i$ th row and  $j$ th column.

**Method 1:** Choose  $l \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ .  $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  with  $i \neq l$ , define  $H^i = E^{ii} - E^{ll}$ .

It is clear that the set

$$B = \{E^{ij} : i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}, i \neq j\} \cup \{H^i : i \in \{1, \dots, n\}, i \neq l\}$$

is a subset of  $W$ . We claim that it is indeed a basis for  $W$ .

Suppose  $A \in W$ . Then  $\exists$  scalars  $a_{ij}$ 's for  $i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  such that  $A = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} E^{ij}$ . As  $A$  has trace zero, i.e.  $\sum_{i=1}^n a_{ii} = 0$ , or equivalently,  $a_{ll} = -\sum_{i=1, i \neq l}^n a_{ii}$ . Then

$$A = \sum_{\substack{1 \leq i, j \leq n \\ i \neq j}} a_{ij} E^{ij} + \sum_{k=1, k \neq l}^{n-1} a_{kk} H^k.$$

It implies that  $B$  spans  $W$ .

Suppose  $a_{ij}$ 's for  $i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  with  $i \neq j$  and  $b_1, \dots, b_{l-1}, b_{l+1}, \dots, b_n$  are scalars such that

$$\sum_{\substack{1 \leq i, j \leq n \\ i \neq j}} a_{ij} E^{ij} + \sum_{k=1, k \neq l}^n b_k H^k = 0.$$

By comparing entries of matrices on both sides, we have  $a_{ij} = 0 \forall i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  with  $i \neq j$ , and  $b_k = 0 \forall k \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  with  $k \neq l$ . Thus,  $B$  is linearly independent.

All in all, we see that  $B$  is a basis for  $W$ . Hence,

$$\dim W = n(n-1) + (n-1) = n^2 - 1.$$

**Method 2:**  $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ , define  $H^i = E^{ii} - E^{i+1, i+1}$ .

It is clear that the set

$$B = \{E^{ij} : i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}, i \neq j\} \cup \{H^i : i \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}\}$$

is a subset of  $W$ . We claim that it is indeed a basis for  $W$ .

Suppose  $A \in W$ . Then  $\exists$  scalars  $a_{ij}$ 's for  $i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  such that  $A = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} E^{ij}$ .

We want to find scalars  $b_1, \dots, b_{n-1}$  such that

$$\sum_{i=1}^n a_{ii} E^{ii} = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} b_k H^k = b_1 E^{11} + (b_2 - b_1) E^{22} + \dots + (b_{n-1} - b_{n-2}) E^{n-1, n-1} - b_{n-1} E^{nn}.$$

As  $A$  has trace zero, i.e.  $\sum_{i=1}^n a_{ii} = 0$ , we can solve the above equation to get  $b_k = \sum_{i=1}^k a_{ii}$  for any  $k \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ , whence

$$A = \sum_{\substack{1 \leq i, j \leq n \\ i \neq j}} a_{ij} E^{ij} + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \left( \sum_{i=1}^k a_{ii} \right) H^k.$$

It implies that  $B$  spans  $W$ .

Suppose  $a_{ij}$ 's for  $i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  with  $i \neq j$  and  $b_1, \dots, b_{n-1}$  are scalars such that

$$\sum_{\substack{1 \leq i, j \leq n \\ i \neq j}} a_{ij} E^{ij} + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} b_k H^k = 0.$$

By comparing entries of matrices on both sides, we have  $a_{ij} = 0 \forall i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  with  $i \neq j$ , and

$$b_1 = b_2 - b_1 = \dots = b_{n-1} - b_{n-2} = -b_{n-1} = 0,$$

whence  $b_k = 0 \forall k \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ . Thus,  $B$  is linearly independent.

All in all, we see that  $B$  is a basis for  $W$ . Hence,

$$\dim W = n(n-1) + (n-1) = n^2 - 1.$$

Q20 Sol:

(a)Proof: If  $n = 0$ , the proof is trivial.

If  $n > 0$ ,  $S$  must contain a vector  $v_1$ , s.t.  $v_1$  is not the 0 vector. If not,  $S = \{0\}$  then  $S$  can not generate  $V$ . Contradiction arises!

Let  $S_1 = v_1$ , then we construct  $S_p$  from  $S_{p-1}, \forall p \geq 2$ :

If  $S$  is not the subset of  $\text{span}\{S_{p-1}\}$ , we assume  $v_p \in S$  but  $v_p \notin \text{span}\{S_{p-1}\}$ . Let  $S_p = S_{p-1} \cup \{v_p\}$ .

If  $S$  is the subset of  $\text{span}\{S_{p-1}\}$ , we stop this scheme.

**Claim 1:**For the constructed  $S_k, \forall k \in \mathbb{Z}^+, S_k$  is linearly independent.

when  $k = 1$ , the claim holds since  $S_1 = \{v_1\}$  and  $v_1 \neq 0$ .

We assume the claim holds when  $k \leq q - 1$ , so when  $k = q$ , we have  $S_q = S_{q-1} \cup \{v_q\}$ ,  $S_{q-1}$  is linearly independent and  $v_q \notin \text{span}\{S_{q-1}\}$ .

So by theorem 1.7, we have  $S_q$  is linearly independent. Thus the claim also holds when  $k = q$ .

Therefore the claim holds for  $\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  by induction.

**Claim 2:** We can not get the set  $S_k, k \geq n + 1$ .

If the claim 2 doesn't hold, there is a set  $S_{n+1}$  such that  $S_{n+1}$  is linearly independent and it contains  $n + 1$  vector.

So the dimension of  $\text{span}\{S_{n+1}\}$  is  $n + 1$ . And  $\text{span}\{S_{n+1}\}$  is the subspace of  $V$  because  $S_{n+1} \subset S \subset V$ . However, the dimension of  $V$  is  $n$  which is small than the dimension of its subspace. That is impossible. So the claim 2 holds.

From claim 2, we assume that the constructing scheme stops at  $S_k$ , i.e.  $S$  is the subset of  $\text{span}\{S_k\}$ . So  $V = \text{span}\{S\} \subset \text{span}\{S_k\}$ . Thus  $V = \text{span}\{S_k\}$  since  $S_k \subset V$ .

Since  $V = \text{span}\{S_k\}$  and  $S_k$  is linearly independent, so  $S_k$  is a subset of  $S$  that is a basis of  $V$ .

(b)Proof: If  $S$  only contains  $k$  vectors,  $k \leq n - 1$ .

From (a), we can find a subset of  $S$  that is a basis of  $V$ . We denote it by  $U$ . Then the dimension of  $V$  is not larger than  $n - 1$  since  $U$  is a basis of  $V$  and  $U$  contains  $n - 1$  vector at most. Contradiction arises!

Thus  $S$  contains at least  $n$  vectors.

Q23 Sol: i. We claim that  $v \in W_1$  is a necessary and sufficient conditions such that

$$\dim(W_1) = \dim(W_2).$$

Note that as  $\{v_1, \dots, v_k\} \subset \{v_1, \dots, v_k, v\}$ ,  $W_1 \subset W_2$  (by a lemma in Lecture Note 3).  
( $\Rightarrow$ ) Suppose  $v \in W_1$ . Clearly,  $v_i \in \text{span}(\{v_1, \dots, v_k\}) = W_1 \forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ . Then  $\{v_1, \dots, v_k, v\} \subset \text{span}(\{v_1, \dots, v_k\})$  and thus (by the same lemma in Lecture Note 3)

$$W_2 = \text{span}\{v_1, \dots, v_k, v\} \subset \text{span}(\text{span}(\{v_1, \dots, v_k\})) = \text{span}(\{v_1, \dots, v_k\}) = W_1$$

Therefore,  $W_1 = W_2$  and thus  $\dim W_1 = \dim W_2$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Suppose  $\dim W_1 = \dim W_2$ . Because  $W_1 \subset W_2$  and  $\dim W_1 = \dim W_2$ ,  $W_1 = W_2$  (by a theorem in Lecture Note 3). Thus,  $v \in \{v_1, \dots, v_k, v\} \subset W_2 = W_1$ .

ii. We claim that in case  $\dim(W_1) \neq \dim(W_2)$ ,  $\dim(W_2) = \dim(W_1) + 1$ .

We first treat the special case when  $\{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$  is a basis for  $W_1$ . Then  $\dim(W_1) = k$ . Now, it suffices to show that  $\{v_1, \dots, v_k, v\}$  is a basis for  $W_2$ , implying  $\dim(W_2) = k + 1$ .

By definition,  $\{v_1, \dots, v_k, v\}$  spans  $W_2$ . Suppose  $c_0, \dots, c_k$  are scalars such that

$$c_0v + c_1v_1 + \dots + c_kv_k = \vec{0}.$$

Then  $c_0v = -\sum_{i=1}^k c_iv_i \in W_1$ . By the hypothesis that  $\dim(W_1) \neq \dim(W_2)$  and (a),  $v \notin W_1$ . As  $W_1$  is a vector space,  $c_0v \in W_1$  only if  $c_0 = 0$ , whence  $\sum_{i=1}^k c_iv_i = \vec{0}$ . By linear independence of  $\{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$ ,  $c_1 = \dots = c_k = 0$ . Therefore,  $\{v_1, \dots, v_k, v\}$  is linearly independent. Hence,  $\{v_1, \dots, v_k, v\}$  is a basis for  $W_2$ .

Now we go to the general case when  $v_1, \dots, v_k$  are arbitrary vectors of  $W_1$ . Choose any basis  $\{v'_1, \dots, v'_{k'}\}$  for  $W_1$ . Then  $W_1 = \text{span}(\{v'_1, \dots, v'_{k'}\})$ . We want to show that  $W_2 = \text{span}\{v'_1, \dots, v'_{k'}, v\}$  so that we can apply the argument in the special case by replacing  $v_1, \dots, v_k$  by  $v'_1, \dots, v'_{k'}$ .

Since  $v_1, \dots, v_k \in W_1 = \text{span}\{v'_1, \dots, v'_{k'}\}$ ,  $\{v_1, \dots, v_k, v\} \subset \text{span}\{v'_1, \dots, v'_{k'}, v\}$  and hence  $W_2 \subset \text{span}(\{v'_1, \dots, v'_{k'}, v\})$ . Similarly, because  $v'_1, \dots, v'_{k'} \in W_1 = \text{span}\{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$ ,  $\{v'_1, \dots, v'_{k'}, v\} \subset \text{span}\{v_1, \dots, v_k, v\}$  and hence  $\text{span}(\{v'_1, \dots, v'_{k'}, v\}) \subset W_2$ . We are done.

Q24 Sol: Let  $S = \{f^{(k)}(x)\}, k = 0, 1, \dots, n$ . We show that S is linearly independent. Since  $f(x)$  is a polynomial of degree  $n$ , thus  $f^{(k)}(x)$  is a polynomial of degree  $n - k$ .

Assume that  $\sum_{k=0}^n a_k f^{(k)}(x) = 0$ , we show that  $a_k = 0, k = 0, 1, \dots, n$  thus S is linearly independent.

When  $k = 0$ , comparing the coefficient of  $x^n$ , we have  $a_0 = 0$ .

We assume that  $a_k = 0$  holds when  $k \leq p - 1$ . The when  $k = p$ , we have

$$\sum_{k=p}^n a_k f^{(k)}(x) = 0$$

Comparing the coefficient of  $x^{n-p}$ , we have  $a_p = 0$  since the degree of  $f^{(k)}(x)$  is  $n - p - 1$  at most when  $k \geq p + 1$ .

Thus  $a_k = 0$  also holds when  $k = p$ .

Therefore  $a_k$  must be equal to 0 by induction,  $k = 0, 1, \dots, n$ .

So S is linearly independent and contains  $n + 1$  vectors.

Since the dimension of  $P_n(\mathbb{R})$  is  $n+1$ , we get that S is a basis of  $P_n(\mathbb{R})$  by corollary 2(b).

The assertion of Q24 is true by the definition of basis.

Q26 Sol: Let  $V = \{f \in P_n(\mathbb{R}) : f(a) = 0\}$ .

**Method 1:**  $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ , define  $g_i \in P_n(\mathbb{R})$  by  $g_i(x) = x^i - a^i$ . We claim that  $\{g_1, \dots, g_n\}$  is a basis for  $V$  and therefore the dimension of  $V$  is  $n$ .

First, notice that  $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ ,  $g_i(a) = a^i - a^i = 0$  and hence  $g_i \in V$ .

Second, suppose  $c_1, \dots, c_n \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $c_1g_1 + \dots + c_ng_n = 0$ . Then

$$c_nx^n + \dots + c_1x - (c_na^n + \dots + c_1a) = 0.$$

By comparing coefficients, we get  $c_1 = \dots = c_n = 0$ .  $\{g_1, \dots, g_n\}$  is linearly independent.

Third, fix  $f \in V$ .  $\exists c_0, \dots, c_n \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $f(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n c_ix^i$ . Then  $\sum_{i=0}^n c_ia^i = 0$ , or

equivalently,  $c_0 = -\sum_{i=1}^n c_i a^i$ . We have

$$f(x) = c_n x^n + \cdots + c_1 x + c_0 = c_n g_1(x) + \cdots + c_1 g_1(x).$$

Thus,  $\text{span}(\{g_1, \dots, g_n\}) = V$ .

Eventually, we see that  $\{g_1, \dots, g_n\}$  is a basis for  $V$  and  $\dim V = n$ .

**Method 2:**  $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ , define  $g_i \in \mathbb{P}_n(\mathbb{R})$  by  $g_i(x) = (x - a)^i$ . We claim that  $\{g_1, \dots, g_n\}$  is a basis for  $V$  and therefore the dimension of  $V$  is  $n$ .

First, notice that  $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ ,  $g_i(a) = (x - a)^i = 0$  and hence  $g_i \in V$ .

Second, suppose  $c_1, \dots, c_n \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $c_1 g_1 + \cdots + c_n g_n = 0$ . Putting  $y = x - a$ , the equality becomes  $c_n y^n + \cdots + c_1 y = 0$ , which yields  $c_n = \cdots = c_1$ .  $\{g_1, \dots, g_n\}$  is linearly independent.

Third, fix  $f \in V$ . Define  $h(x) = f(x + a) \in \mathbb{P}_n(\mathbb{R})$ . Then  $\exists c_0, \dots, c_n \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $h(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n c_i x^i$ . Note that  $c_0 = h(0) = f(a) = 0$ . Then

$$f(x) = h(x - a) = \sum_{i=1}^n c_i g_i(x).$$

Thus,  $\text{span}(\{g_1, \dots, g_n\}) = V$ .

Eventually, we see that  $\{g_1, \dots, g_n\}$  is a basis for  $V$  and  $\dim V = n$ .

**Method 3:**  $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ , define  $g_i \in \mathbb{P}_n(\mathbb{R})$  by  $g_i(x) = (x - a)x^{i-1}$ . We claim that  $\{g_1, \dots, g_n\}$  is a basis for  $V$  and therefore the dimension of  $V$  is  $n$ .

First, notice that  $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ ,  $g_i(a) = (a - a)a^{i-1} = 0$  and hence  $g_i \in V$ .

Second, suppose  $c_1, \dots, c_n \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $c_1 g_1 + \cdots + c_n g_n = 0$ . Then

$$c_n x^n + (c_{n-1} - ac_n)x^{n-1} + (c_{n-2} - ac_{n-1})x^{n-2} + \cdots + (c_1 - ac_2)x - ac_1 = 0.$$

So  $c_n = c_{n-1} - ac_n = c_{n-2} - ac_{n-1} = \cdots = c_1 - ac_2 = -ac_1 = 0$ . On solving, we get  $c_1 = \cdots = c_n = 0$ .  $\{g_1, \dots, g_n\}$  is linearly independent.

Third, fix  $f \in V$ . Since  $f(a) = 0$ , by Factor Theorem,  $\exists g \in \mathbb{P}_{n-1}(\mathbb{R})$  such that  $f(x) = (x - a)g(x)$ . Then  $\exists c_1, \dots, c_n \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $g(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n c_i x^{i-1}$ , whence  $f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n c_i g_i(x) \in \text{span}(\{g_1, \dots, g_n\})$ . Thus,  $\text{span}(\{g_1, \dots, g_n\}) = V$ .

Eventually, we see that  $\{g_1, \dots, g_n\}$  is a basis for  $V$  and  $\dim V = n$ .

**Method 4\*:** (This is an approach to prove the statement assuming that we have already learnt knowledges in Sec. 2.1 - 2.4.)

Define  $T : \mathbb{P}_{n-1}(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_n(\mathbb{R})$  by  $g(x) \mapsto (x - a)g(x)$ .  $T$  is in fact a map from  $\mathbb{P}_{n-1}(\mathbb{R})$  to  $V$  since  $\forall g \in \mathbb{P}_{n-1}(\mathbb{R})$ ,  $T(g)(a) = (a - a)g(a) = 0$ .  $\forall f, g \in \mathbb{P}_{n-1}(\mathbb{R})$ ,  $\forall c \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} T(f + g)(x) &= (x - a)(f + g)(x) = (x - a)f(x) + (x - a)g(x) = T(f)(x) + T(g)(x), \\ T(cf)(x) &= (x - a)(cf)(x) = c(x - a)f(x) = cT(f)(x). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $T : \mathbb{P}_{n-1}(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow V$  is a linear transformation.

If  $g(x) \in \mathbb{P}_{n-1}(\mathbb{R})$  and  $(x - a)g(x) = T(g)(x) = 0$ , then clearly  $g(x) = 0$ . Hence,  $\mathbf{N}(T) = \{0\}$ . By Theorem 2.4 in Sec. 2.1,  $T$  is one-to-one.  $\forall f(x) \in V$ , by Factor Theorem  $\exists g(x) \in \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R})$  such that  $f(x) = (x - a)g(x)$  and by comparing degrees, we know

that  $g(x) \in \mathbb{P}_{n-1}(\mathbb{R})$ , whence  $f = T(g)$ . Therefore,  $T$  is also onto. As  $T$  is one-to-one and onto, it is invertible.

Finally, by a lemma in Sec. 2.4 (see page 101),  $\dim V = \dim \mathbb{P}_{n-1}(\mathbb{R}) = n$ .

**Method 5\*:** (This is an approach to prove the statement assuming that we have already learnt knowledges in Sec. 2.1, especially properties of null spaces)

Define  $T : \mathbb{P}_n(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by  $f \mapsto f(a)$ . Note that  $\forall f, g \in \mathbb{P}_n(\mathbb{R}), \forall c \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} T(f + g) &= (f + g)(a) = f(a) + g(a) = T(f) + T(g), \\ T(cf) &= cf(a) = cT(f). \end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $T$  is a linear transformation from  $\mathbb{P}_n(\mathbb{R})$  to  $\mathbb{R}$ . Now we see that the null space  $\mathbf{N}(T)$  of  $T$  is equal to  $V$ . On the other hand,  $\forall c \in \mathbb{R}, T(f_c) = f_c(a) = c$ , where  $f_c \in \mathbb{P}_n(\mathbb{R})$  is the constant polynomial with constant term  $c$ . Therefore, the range  $\mathbf{R}(T)$  of  $T$  is equal to  $\mathbb{R}$ . Now we apply Dimension Theorem (Theorem 2.3 in Sec. 2.1):

$$\begin{aligned} \text{nullity}(T) + \text{rank}(T) &= \dim \mathbb{P}_n(\mathbb{R}), \\ \therefore \dim V + \dim \mathbb{R} &= \dim \mathbb{P}_n(\mathbb{R}), \\ \therefore \dim V &= \dim \mathbb{P}_n(\mathbb{R}) - \dim \mathbb{R} = (n + 1) - 1 = n. \end{aligned}$$

Q31 Sol: (a) As  $W_1 \cap W_2 \subset W_2$ ,  $\dim(W_1 \cap W_2) \leq \dim(W_2) = n$  by Theorem 1.11, Sec 1.6.

(b) We assume  $S_1 = \{v_1, \dots, v_m\}$  is a basis of  $W_1$  and  $S_2 = \{u_1, \dots, u_n\}$  is a basis of  $W_2$ . It is obvious that  $S = S_1 \cup S_2$  generates  $W_1 + W_2$ .

By theorem 1.9, we get a subset  $S'$  of  $S$  such that  $S'$  is a basis of  $W_1 + W_2$ .

$S'$  contains  $m + n$  vectors at most since  $S = S_1 \cup S_2$  contains  $m + n$  vectors at most. Therefore,  $\dim(W_1 + W_2) \leq m + n$ .