

Review Sheet
Math 2250-4
November 5, 2001

Our exam covers chapters 4-5 of the text.

Only scientific calculators will be allowed on the exam. But you can expect to be working with Maple output, in ways consistent with the practice exam below and the homework problems you have worked.

Chapter 4:

At most 40% of the exam will deal directly with this material....but much of Chapter 5 uses these concepts, so beware.

Know Definitions:

(a) **Vector Space:** A collection of objects which can be added and scalar multiplied, so that the usual arithmetic properties (Page 240) hold. You do not need to memorize all eight of these properties. The key point is that not only is \mathbb{R}^n a vector space, but also certain subsets of it are, and so are spaces made out of functions...because functions can be added and scalar multiplied (page 265.)

(b) **Subspace:** a subset of a vector space which is itself of vector space....to check whether a subset is actually a subspace you only have to show that sums and scalar multiples of subset elements are also in the subset (Theorem 1 page 242.) Examples of important subspaces are the set of homogeneous solutions to a matrix equation (which I called the nullspace of the matrix and which the book calls the solution space, page 243), the span of a collection of vectors (page 248), AND the set of homogenous solutions to a linear differential equation (section 5.2).

(c) A **linear combination** of a set of vectors $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$ is any expression $c_1*v_1 + c_2*v_2 + \dots + c_n*v_n$. (page 246)

(d) The **span** of a set of vectors $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$ is the collection of all linear combinations. (page 248)

(e) A collection $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$ is **linearly dependent** if and only if some linear combination (with not all c_i 's = 0) adds up to the zero vector.

(f) A collection $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ is **linearly independent** if and only if the only linear combination of them which adds up to zero is the one in which all coefficients $c_i=0$. (page 249)

(g) A **basis** for a vector space (or subspace) is a set of vectors $\{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$ which span the space and which are linearly independent. (page 255.)

(h) The **dimension** of a vector space is the number of elements in any basis.

Know Facts:

(a) If the dimension of a vector space is n , then no collection of fewer than n vectors can span and every collection with more than n elements is dependent.

(b) n vectors in \mathbb{R}^n are a basis if and only if the square matrix in which they are the columns is non-singular. So you can use \det or $rref$ as a test for basis in this case.

(c) Basically all linear independence and span questions in \mathbb{R}^n can be answered using $rref$. (see below.)

(d) You can toss dependent vectors out of a collection without changing the span. In this manner you can take a spanning set and turn it into a basis.

Do computations:

(a) Be able to check whether vectors are independent or dependent, e.g. problems page 254. Know

how to use rref to check for dependencies.

(b) Be able to find bases for the solution space to homogeneous equations, e.g. problems page 262

Chapter 5:

At least 60% of the exam will cover this material, and at least 30% of it will be from sections 5.4 and 5.5. (Answering questions from 5.4 and 5.5 almost always uses 5.1-5.3 material implicitly.)

5.1-5.3, 5.5 General theory:

Linear differential equation (page 287.)

principle of superposition (e.g. Theorem 1 page 287, also leads to the fact that the general solution y to the inhomogeneous equation is $y_p + y_h$, where y_p is a particular solution, and y_h is the general solution to the homogeneous equation. (Theorem 5 page 296.) Also leads to a method for getting particular solutions which are sums of particular solutions for pieces of the right hand side.)

homogeneous ($L(y)=0$). Solution space is an n -dimensional vector space. Know how to find it for constant coefficients, using exponentials and the resulting **characteristic equation** and **Euler formula** if necessary (section 5.3 and problems). What to do with repeated roots. The Wronskian test for linear independence will not be on the exam, although you should know it, and understand why it works.

inhomogeneous ($L(y)=f$). Know how to find particular solutions by the method of undetermined coefficients. Variation of parameters will not be on the exam. (Section 5.5 and problems)

initial value problem, existence and uniqueness. Know how to solve initial value problems by finding y_p , and y_h , and then finding values of constants in y_h to match initial conditions.

5.4 and 5.6: Mechanical vibrations and forced oscillations:

x_h (homogeneous solutions) cases:

undamped (simple harmonic motion)

going from $A*\cos(\omega t) + B*\sin(\omega t)$ to $C*\cos(\omega t - a)$. (The ABC triangle, amplitude and phase.)
derivation of spring equation from Newton's and Hooke's Laws.

damped.

under-damped, over-damped, critically damped. Know how to recognize, and different forms of the solution.

forced oscillations:

undamped:

resonance, and when it arises. form of solution, as follows from general theory above.

beating will not be on the exam, but it is important.

damped:

general solution is sum of **steady state periodic**, with **transient**. How to find each piece, and express in the amplitude- phase form.

practical resonance. will occur if damping is small and driving frequency is near natural frequency.