

Your PRINTED NAME indicates you read Chapter 1 and §2.1, 2.2 of the notes: _____.

Assume R is a commutative ring with identity throughout this homework. Also, $\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, \dots\}$.

Problem 1 Consider the system of equations in $\mathbb{Z}_7$:

$$\begin{aligned} x + 2y &= 1 \\ -2x + 7y &= 2 \end{aligned}$$

Find the solution set by writing this system as $Av = b$ and then multiplying by A^{-1} to obtain $v = A^{-1}b$. *Hint: you ought to be able to calculate A^{-1} as we did in lecture*

Problem 2 Consider the system of equations in $\mathbb{Z}_{17}$:

$$\begin{aligned} x + 4y &= a \\ -2x + 7y &= b \end{aligned}$$

Find the solution set through row-reduction or another technique. In the following cases:

(a.) $a = 1, b = 2$

(b.) $a = b = 0$.

Problem 3 Suppose $a_i, b_i, c \in R$ for $i \in \mathbb{N}$. Prove $\sum_{i=1}^n (ca_i + b_i) = c \sum_{i=1}^n a_i + \sum_{i=1}^n b_i$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Problem 4 Prove Theorem 1.3.11.1; prove matrix multiplication is associative for matrices over R .

Problem 5 Let A, B be matrices over R of the same size and let $c \in R$. Prove $(cA + B)^T = cA^T + B^T$.

Problem 6 The trace is defined by $tr(A) = \sum_{i=1}^n A_{ii}$ for $A \in R^{n \times n}$. Prove that:

(a.) $tr(cA + B) = ctr(A) + tr(B)$ for $c \in R$ and $A, B \in R^{n \times n}$

(b.) $tr(AB) = tr(BA)$ for $A \in R^{m \times n}$ and $B \in R^{n \times m}$.

Problem 7 A diagonal matrix $D = \text{diag}(a_1, \dots, a_n)$ can be written as $D = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i E_{ii}$. Give a proof

my mathematical induction that $D^k = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i^k E_{ii}$ for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$.

Hint: I would like for you to use the formulas developed for E_{ij} in Chapter 1 to aid in this proof. Please do not just quote Proposition 1.4.20, however, perhaps the proof I give there will be helpful

Problem 8 Find all $n \times n$ square matrices over R which commute with **all** other square matrices.

Problem 9 Friedberg, Insel and Spence 5th edition, §1.2#19, page 16.

(check with my book to make sure you're doing the right problem)

Problem 10 Let $W = \{(x, y) \mid x + y \geq 0\}$. Prove or disprove that W is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^2$.

Problem 11 Let $W = \{(x_2 - x_4, x_2, x_4, x_4) \mid x_2, x_4 \in \mathbb{Q}\}$. Prove or disprove that W is a subspace of $\mathbb{Q}^4$.

Problem 12 A square matrix is said to be **antisymmetric** if $A^T = -A$. Let W be the set of all antisymmetric $n \times n$ matrices over a field $\mathbb{F}$. Show $W \leq \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$.

Problem 13 Let $W = \{f(t) \in \mathbb{R}[t] \mid f''(3) = 1\}$. Prove or disprove that W is a subspace of real polynomials in t .

Problem 14 Friedberg, Insel and Spence 5th edition, §1.3#12, page 21.

(check with my book to make sure you're doing the right problem)

Problem 15 Friedberg, Insel and Spence 5th edition, §1.3#13, page 21.

(check with my book to make sure you're doing the right problem)

Problem 16 Friedberg, Insel and Spence 5th edition, §1.3#15, page 22.

(check with my book to make sure you're doing the right problem)

MATH 321: MISSION 1 SOLUTION

P1 Solve $\begin{matrix} x + 2y = 1 \\ -2x + 7y = 2 \end{matrix}$ in $\mathbb{Z}_7$ by multiplication by inverse.

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ -2 & 7 \end{bmatrix}}_A \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}}_v = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}}_b$$

$$A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ -2 & 7 \end{bmatrix}^{-1}$$

$$= (7+4)^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 7 & -2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= 4^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 7 & -2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$4 \cdot 2 = 8 = 1$$

$$\therefore \underline{4^{-1} = 2}$$

$$= 2 \begin{bmatrix} 7 & -2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 14 & -4 \\ 4 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \underline{\underline{\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 \\ 4 & 2 \end{bmatrix}}}$$

$v = A^{-1}b$ thus,

$$v = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 \\ 4 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \therefore \boxed{(x, y) = (6, 1)}$$

P2

$$\begin{array}{rcl} x + 5y & = & a \\ -2x + 7y & = & b \end{array} \quad \text{over } \mathbb{Z}_{17}$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 5 & a \\ -2 & 7 & b \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{r_2 + 2r_1} \left[\begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 5 & a \\ 0 & 17 & b + 2a \end{array} \right] = \left[\begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 5 & a \\ 0 & 0 & b + 2a \end{array} \right]$$

(a.) solve for $a=1, b=2$

Notice $b + 2a = 2 + 2 = 4 \neq 0$ thus the given system is inconsistent by the row-reduction above. That is, solution set $= \emptyset$.

(b.) $a = b = 0$

$$\text{rref} \left[\begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 5 & 0 \\ -2 & 7 & 0 \end{array} \right] = \left[\begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\text{Solution Set} = \{ (x, y) \in \mathbb{Z}_{17}^2 \mid x + 5y = 0 \}$$

$$= \{ (-5y, y) \mid y \in \mathbb{Z}_{17} \}$$

$$= \text{span}_{\mathbb{Z}_{17}} \{ (-5, 1) \}$$

$$= \text{span}_{\mathbb{Z}_{17}} \{ (12, 1) \},$$

$$\#(\text{Solution Set}) = 17$$

$$= \{ (0, 0), (12, 1), (7, 2), \dots, \}$$

[P3] Suppose $a_i, b_i, c \in R$ for $i \in \mathbb{N}$.

Let $\mathcal{P}_n$ be the claim $\sum_{i=1}^n (ca_i + b_i) = c \sum_{i=1}^n a_i + \sum_{i=1}^n b_i$.

Observe $\mathcal{P}_1$ is true since

$$\sum_{i=1}^1 ca_i + b_i = ca_1 + b_1 = c \sum_{i=1}^1 a_i + \sum_{i=1}^1 b_i.$$

Suppose $\mathcal{P}_n$ is true for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Consider,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} (ca_i + b_i) &= ca_{n+1} + b_{n+1} + \sum_{i=1}^n (ca_i + b_i) \quad \text{by def}^n \text{ of } \Sigma \\ &= ca_{n+1} + b_{n+1} + c \sum_{i=1}^n a_i + \sum_{i=1}^n b_i \quad \text{by Induction hypothesis} \\ &= c \left(a_{n+1} + \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \right) + b_{n+1} + \sum_{i=1}^n b_i \quad \text{arithmetic in } R \\ &= c \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} a_i + \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} b_i \quad \text{def}^n \text{ of } \Sigma \end{aligned}$$

Hence $\mathcal{P}_{n+1}$ is true and we conclude that

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (ca_i + b_i) = c \sum_{i=1}^n a_i + \sum_{i=1}^n b_i \quad \text{for all } n \in \mathbb{N}$$

by proof by mathematical induction.

[P4] Let $A \in R^{m \times n}$, $X \in R^{n \times p}$, $Z \in R^{p \times q}$. Consider,

$$\begin{aligned}
 ((AX)Z)_{ij} &= \sum_{k=1}^p (AX)_{ik} Z_{kj} && : \text{def}^n \text{ of matrix mult.} \\
 &= \sum_{k=1}^p \left(\sum_{l=1}^n A_{il} X_{lk} \right) Z_{kj} && : \text{def}^n \text{ of mat. mult.} \\
 &= \sum_{k=1}^p \sum_{l=1}^n (A_{il} X_{lk}) Z_{kj} && : \text{property of } \sum \text{ (distributivity)} \\
 &= \sum_{k=1}^p \sum_{l=1}^n A_{il} (X_{lk} Z_{kj}) && : \text{associativity of } R\text{-mult.} \\
 &= \sum_{l=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^p A_{il} (X_{lk} Z_{kj}) && : \sum \text{'s commute} \\
 &= \sum_{l=1}^n A_{il} \left(\sum_{k=1}^p X_{lk} Z_{kj} \right) && : A_{il} \text{ constant w.r.t. } \sum_k \\
 &= \sum_{l=1}^n A_{il} (XZ)_{lj} && : \text{def}^n \text{ of mat. mult.} \\
 &= (A(XZ))_{ij} && : \text{def}^n \text{ of matrix mult.}
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus $(AX)Z = A(XZ)$ as the above calculation holds for all $1 \leq i \leq m$ and $1 \leq j \leq q$. //

[P5] Suppose $A, B \in R^{n \times n}$ and $c \in R$,

$$((cA + B)^T)_{ij} = (cA + B)_{ji} \quad : \text{def}^n \text{ of transpose}$$

$$= (cA)_{ji} + B_{ji} \quad : \text{def}^n \text{ of matrix add.}$$

$$= cA_{ji} + B_{ji} \quad : \text{def}^n \text{ of scalar mult.}$$

$$= ((cA)^T)_{ij} + (B^T)_{ij} \quad : \text{def}^n \text{ of transpose}$$

$$= (cA^T + B^T)_{ij} \quad : \text{def}^n \text{ of matrix add.}$$

Thus $(cA + B)^T = cA^T + B^T$ as the above holds $\forall i, j$.

[P6] Let $\text{trace}(A) = \text{tr}(A) = \sum_{i=1}^n A_{ii}$ for $A \in R^{n \times n}$.

(a.) Let $A, B \in R^{n \times n}$ and $c \in R$,

$$\text{tr}(cA + B) = \sum_{i=1}^n (cA + B)_{ii} \quad : \text{def}^n \text{ of tr.}$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n cA_{ii} + B_{ii} \quad : \text{def}^n \text{ of matrix add and scalar mult.}$$

$$= c \sum_{i=1}^n A_{ii} + \sum_{i=1}^n B_{ii} \quad : \text{properties of } \Sigma$$

$$= \underline{c \text{tr}(A) + \text{tr}(B)}, \quad : \text{def}^n \text{ of tr.}$$

(b.) Let $A \in R^{n \times n}$ and $B \in R^{n \times m}$ then,

$$\text{tr}(AB) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m (AB)_{ii} \quad : \text{def}^n \text{ of tr.}$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m A_{ij} B_{ji} \quad : \text{def}^n \text{ of mat. mult.}$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^m \sum_{i=1}^n B_{ji} A_{ij} \quad : \text{mult. in } R \text{ commutes, and } \Sigma \text{'s commute}$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^m (BA)_{jj} = \underline{\text{tr}(BA)} \quad \text{((again using def}^n \text{ of tr and mat. mult.)}$$

P7 Claim: If $D = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i E_{ii}$ then $D^k = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i^k E_{ii}$
for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$.

Observe the claim is true for $k=1$ since $D^1 = D$ & $a_i^1 = a_i$
thus $D^1 = D = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i E_{ii} = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i^1 E_{ii}$.

Suppose inductively the claim is true for $k \in \mathbb{N}$.
Consider

$$\begin{aligned} D^{k+1} &= D D^k && : \text{def}^n \text{ of matrix power} \\ &= \left(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i E_{ii} \right) \left(\sum_{j=1}^n a_j^k E_{jj} \right) && : \text{by induction hypothesis.}^* \\ &= \sum_{i,j=1}^n a_i a_j^k E_{ii} E_{jj} && : \text{properties of } \sum \\ &= \sum_{i,j=1}^n a_i a_j^k \delta_{ij} E_{ij} && : \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{property of } E_{ij} \\ E_{ij} E_{kl} = \delta_{jk} E_{il} \end{array} \right) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n a_i a_i^k E_{ii} && : \delta_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & i=j \\ 0 & i \neq j \end{cases} \\ & && \text{collapses } \sum \text{ to single term.} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n a_i^{k+1} E_{ii} \end{aligned}$$

Thus the claim is true for $k+1$ and we conclude
the claim holds for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$ by P.M.I.

*: can't use $\sum_i$ since we already used it. I
had to introduce $\sum_j$ to avoid confusing the $\sum$'s.

P8 Find all $n \times n$ square matrices over R which commute with all other square matrices.

Let us call the desired set $Z(R^{n \times n})$ then

$A \in Z(R^{n \times n})$ means $AB = BA \quad \forall B \in R^{n \times n}$

The most convenient choice to gain information concerning A is $B = E_{ij}$. Recall

$$A = \sum_{k,l} A_{kl} E_{kl} \quad \text{thus}$$

$$AB = \sum_{k,l} A_{kl} E_{kl} E_{ij} = \sum_{k,l} A_{kl} \delta_{li} E_{kj}$$

$$BA = E_{ij} \sum_{k,l} A_{kl} E_{kl} = \sum_{k,l} A_{kl} E_{ij} E_{kl} = \sum_{k,l} A_{kl} \delta_{jk} E_{il}$$

Next, I'll look at the r, s component of AB vs BA

$$(AB)_{rs} = \sum_{k,l} A_{kl} \delta_{li} \underbrace{(E_{kj})_{rs}}_{\delta_{kr} \delta_{js}} = \sum_{k,l} A_{kl} \delta_{li} \delta_{kr} \delta_{js}$$

$$(BA)_{rs} = \sum_{k,l} A_{kl} \delta_{jk} (E_{il})_{rs} = \sum_{k,l} A_{kl} \delta_{jk} \delta_{ir} \delta_{ls}$$

But, $(AB)_{rs} = (BA)_{rs}$.

(1.) If $r=s$ then $\sum_{k,l} A_{kl} \delta_{li} \delta_{kr} \delta_{jr} = \sum_{k,l} A_{kl} \delta_{jk} \delta_{ir} \delta_{lr}$

Thus, $A_{ri} \delta_{jr} = A_{jr} \delta_{ir}$ $\star$

Hence if $j \neq r$ we have $\delta_{jr} = 0$ and so $0 = A_{jr} \delta_{ir}$
and if $i = r$ we obtain $A_{jr} \cdot 1 = A_{jr} = 0$ for $j \neq r$.

P8 continued (nothing happens on this page, ship ahead for interesting case 2)

We have show $A_{jr} = 0$ for $j \neq r$. It remains to determine conditions on the diagonal entries. Return to $\star$ once more and suppose $j = r$

$$A_{ri} \delta_{rr} = A_{rr} \delta_{ir}$$

$$A_{ri} = A_{rr} \delta_{ir}$$

Well, $i \neq r$ gives $0 = A_{rr}(0)$ thus $0 = 0$. Great.

However, if $i = r$ then $A_{rr} = A_{rr} \delta_{rr} = A_{rr}$. Yep.

I guess $\star$ has told us all it's secrets. Moving on,

(2.) If $r \neq s$ (for $(AB)_{rs} = (BA)_{rs}$). Study,

$$\sum_{k,l} A_{kl} \delta_{li} \delta_{kr} \delta_{js} = \sum_{k,l} A_{kl} \delta_{jk} \delta_{ir} \delta_{ls}$$

i, j, r, s are free indices, (we consider $r \neq s$)

I'll put $i = j = r$ for specificity,

$$\sum_{k,l} A_{kl} \delta_{lr} \delta_{kr} \delta_{rs} = \sum_{k,l} A_{kl} \delta_{rk} \delta_{rr} \delta_{ls}$$

$$0 = A_{rs} \text{ (for } r \neq s)$$

Yes, we know this already. Continuing

P8 continued

(2.) If $r \neq s$ for $(AB)_{rs} = (BA)_{rs}$ then

$$\sum_{k,l} A_{kl} \delta_{li} \delta_{kr} \delta_{js} = \sum_{k,l} A_{kl} \delta_{jk} \delta_{lr} \delta_{is}$$

Consider $i = r$,

$$\sum_{k,l} A_{kl} \delta_{lr} \delta_{kr} \delta_{js} = \sum_{k,l} A_{kl} \delta_{jk} \delta_{rr} \delta_{ls}$$

$$A_{rr} \delta_{js} = A_{js}$$

If $j = s$ then $A_{rr} \delta_{ss} = A_{ss} \Rightarrow \underline{A_{rr} = A_{ss}}$
for $r \neq s$.

We find $A = \text{diag}(A_{11}, A_{22}, \dots, A_{nn}) = A_{11} I$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore Z(R^{n \times n}) &= \{ c I \mid c \in R \} \\ &= \text{span}_R(I). \end{aligned}$$

P9 §1.2 #19

Let $V = \{(a_1, a_2) \mid a_1, a_2 \in \mathbb{R}\}$ for

$(a_1, a_2), (b_1, b_2) \in V$ and $c \in \mathbb{R}$ define addition as usual $(a_1, a_2) + (b_1, b_2) = (a_1 + b_1, a_2 + b_2)$ and

$$c(a_1, a_2) = \begin{cases} (0, 0) & \text{for } c = 0 \\ (ca_1, \frac{1}{c}a_2) & \text{for } c \neq 0 \end{cases}$$

is V a vector space over $\mathbb{R}$ with the operations defined above?

Almost. So, no, V not a vector space.

Using the Axioms in my Lecture Notes we may affirm all Axioms hold except A8

$$(c_1 + c_2) \cdot a \neq c_1 \cdot a + c_2 \cdot a$$

For example (and in counter-examplig" this is all that is needed, and what is expected)

$$(1 + 2) \cdot (3, 4) = 3 \cdot (3, 4) = (3 \cdot 3, \frac{1}{3} \cdot 4) = (9, \frac{4}{3})$$

$$\begin{aligned} 1 \cdot (3, 4) + 2 \cdot (3, 4) &= (3, 4) + (2 \cdot 3, \frac{1}{2} \cdot 4) \\ &= (3, 4) + (6, 2) \\ &= (9, 8) \neq (9, \frac{4}{3}). \end{aligned}$$

Hence V is not a vector space.

$$\left((c_1 + c_2) \cdot a = ((c_1 + c_2)a_1, \frac{1}{c_1 + c_2} \cdot a_2) \quad \text{the issue is } \frac{1}{c_1 + c_2} \neq \frac{1}{c_1} + \frac{1}{c_2} \right)$$

$$\boxed{P10} \quad W = \{(x, y) \mid x + y \geq 0\}$$

Notice $(1, 2) \in W$ since $1 + 2 = 3 \geq 0$. However,

$$-1 \cdot (1, 2) = (-1, -2) \notin W \text{ since } -1 - 2 = -3 \not\geq 0$$

Thus $W \neq \mathbb{R}^2$ since it is not closed under scalar multiplication.

Remark: obviously my solⁿ to P10 is far from unique.

$$\boxed{P11} \quad W = \{(x_2 - x_4, x_2, x_4, x_4) \mid x_2, x_4 \in \mathbb{Q}\}$$

$$= \{x_2(1, 1, 0, 0) + x_4(-1, 0, 1, 1) \mid x_2, x_4 \in \mathbb{Q}\}$$

$$= \text{span}_{\mathbb{Q}} \{(1, 1, 0, 0), (-1, 0, 1, 1)\} \leq \mathbb{Q}^4$$

as we proved $\text{span}(S) \leq V$ whenever $S \subseteq V$.

$$\boxed{P12} \quad \text{Let } W = \{A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n} \mid A^T = -A\} \text{ show } W \leq \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$$

Observe $W \subseteq \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$ and $0^T = -0 = 0$ thus $W \neq \emptyset$.

Let $A, B \in W$ and let $c \in \mathbb{F}$. Consider,

$$\begin{aligned} (cA + B)^T &= cA^T + B^T && \text{: property of transpose} \\ &= c(-A) + (-B) && \text{: since } A, B \in W \\ &= -(cA + B) \end{aligned}$$

Thus $cA + B \in W$ and thus $cA, A + B \in W$ and we conclude $W \leq \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$ by subspace test. //

P13 Let $W = \{ f(t) \in \mathbb{R}[t] \mid f''(3) = 1 \}$

Observe $z(t) = 0 \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}$ has $z''(3) = 0 \neq 1$

thus $0 \notin W$ hence $W \neq \mathbb{R}[t]$.

W not a subspace.

P14 § 1.3 #12, p. 21

Let $W = \{ A \in \mathbb{F}^{m \times n} \mid A_{ij} = 0 \text{ for } i > j \}$ this forces all entries below diagonal to be zero, it makes A upper- Δ

Clearly $W \subseteq \mathbb{F}^{m \times n}$ and $O_{ij} = 0 \quad \forall i, j$ defines the zero matrix and we note $O \in W \neq \emptyset$.

Suppose $c \in \mathbb{F}$ and $A, B \in W$ then for $i > j$,

$$\begin{aligned} (cA + B)_{ij} &= cA_{ij} + B_{ij} && \text{: defⁿ of matrix add. and scalar mult.} \\ &= c(0) + 0 && \text{: since } A, B \in W \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Thus $cA, A+B \in W$ and we conclude $W \subseteq \mathbb{F}^{m \times n}$ by the subspace test. //

P15 §1.3 #13 page 21

Let $S \neq \emptyset$ and suppose $\mathbb{F}$ is a field. Let $s_0 \in S$ and define $W = \{f \in \mathcal{F}(S, \mathbb{F}) \mid f(s_0) = 0\}$.

Observe the zero function $z(x) = 0 \quad \forall x \in S$ has $z(s_0) = 0$ thus $z \in W \neq \emptyset$. Suppose

$f, g \in W$ and $c \in \mathbb{F}$. Consider,

$$\begin{aligned}(cf + g)(s_0) &= cf(s_0) + g(s_0) && \text{: defn of add \& scalar mult. in } W \\ &= c(0) + 0 && \text{: since } f, g \in W \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

thus $cf, f+g \in W$ and we conclude $W \leq \mathcal{F}(S, \mathbb{F})$ by the subspace test.

P16 §1.3 #15. Let $W = \{f \in \mathcal{F}(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}) \mid f'(x) \text{ exists } \forall x \in \mathbb{R}\}$

and $C(\mathbb{R})$ is the set of continuous functions on $\mathbb{R}$.

By Caratheodory, for $f \in W$ and $a \in \mathbb{R}$ there exists $\phi_a(x)$ continuous at $x=a$ such that $f(x) = f(a) + \phi_a(x)(x-a)$

$$\text{then } \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(a) + \phi_a(x)(x-a)] = f(a) + f'(a)(a-a) = f(a).$$

Thus f continuous at $x=a$ for any $a \in \mathbb{R} \therefore f \in C(\mathbb{R})$

and I've shown $W \subseteq C(\mathbb{R})$. Notice $f(x) = c$ is differentiable

for any $c \in \mathbb{R}$ thus $W \neq \emptyset$ (just to be different ☺)

Let $f, g \in W$ and $c \in \mathbb{R}$ then by calculus I,

$$(cf + g)'(x) = cf'(x) + g'(x) \therefore cf, f+g \in W$$

$\Rightarrow W \leq C(\mathbb{R})$ by subspace test. //