

These are the questions that you should know the answers to. The knowledge will provide a good preparation for the next text.

1. What is a vector space? Define precisely. Give examples of set S with operations $+$ and \cdot such that S is closed under the operations but fails one of the other axioms of the vector space.
2. Give five different examples of vector spaces.
3. What is the definition of a set of independent vectors? Give examples of one, two and five independent vectors with justification.
4. What is meant by the span of a set of vectors? What is meant by the statement that a set of vectors is a spanning set of a vector space?
5. Give example of a spanning set for a vector space. Give example of a set of five vectors in a vector space V which is not a spanning set for V . Justify your claim.
6. When is a set of vectors said to be a basis of a vector space?
7. Construct an example of a vector space V which has following three examples in it.
 - A set of five vectors which forms a basis of V .
 - A set of five vectors which does not form a basis for V . (These five vectors should be non zero and none of them should be a multiple of another.)
 - A set of five vectors which span V .
 - A set of five vectors which do not span V . (These five vectors should be non zero and none of them should be a multiple of another.)
8. What is meant by the dimension of a vector space?
9. Give three distinct examples of an infinite dimensional space.
10. What is the definition of a linear transformation (homomorphism) of vector spaces?
11. Give three examples of linear transformations between infinite dimensional vector spaces.
12. Give example of a map between two vectors spaces which is a linear transformation. Give example of a map between the same two vector spaces which is not a linear transformation.
13. How do you determine if a linear transformation is injective? Give an example of the process.
14. How do you decide if a linear transformation is surjective? Give an example of the process.
15. What is meant by the Kernel and the Image of a linear transformation? Give at least three examples of linear transformations whose kernels and images are non zero vector spaces.
16. What are the two basic ways of describing a subspace of a vector space? (Answer: As a kernel of a linear transformation or as the image of a linear transformation. In \mathfrak{R}^n this takes on the form of $Nul A$ and $Col A$.) Give examples.
17. Given a subspace of the form $Nul A$ how do you write it as $Col B$ for some B ?
18. Given a subspace of the form $Col B$ how do you write it as $Nul A$ for some A ?
19. What is the fundamental dimension formula in vector spaces which relates the dimension of a vector space V , the dimension of the kernel of a linear transformation of V and the dimension of the image of the same transformation?
20. The fundamental dimension formula is related to the number of pivots in the row echelon form of a matrix. What is this connection?
21. If any independent set of vectors is given in a vector space, it can be enlarged to make a basis for the same vector space. Give an example of this process, where at least two extra vectors are needed.

22. Given any spanning set of a vector space, it can be trimmed down to a basis. Give an example of this process where at least two vectors need to be trimmed.
23. Given a vector space V and an ordered basis $B = (v_1 \ \cdots \ v_n)$ what is the definition of the vector $[v]_B$? What is this vector called? Give example of finding such a vector in a finite dimensional space. Give a similar example in an infinite dimensional space.
24. Given a linear transformation $T : V \rightarrow W$ and ordered bases B of V and C of W how do you find the matrix of the transformation with respect to these given bases? Answer: It is the matrix M whose columns are $[T(v_1)]_C, [T(v_2)]_C, \dots, [T(v_m)]_C$ where $B = (v_1 \ \cdots \ v_m)$. Give examples of such calculations when V is $M_{2,2}(\mathbb{R})$. Same exercise when $V = P_n$ for some n . Corresponding W can be the same as V or different.
25. Given two ordered bases B and C of the same vector space V , how are they related by a matrix? How are the respective coordinates related by the same matrix? Answer: Write $C = BM$. Then $[v]_B = M[v]_C$ for all vectors v . The matrix M is suggestively denoted as P_B^C and its columns are simply the coordinate vectors of members of C with respect to the basis B .
- Give examples of such calculations in \mathbb{R}^n . Do similar examples in other vectors spaces.
26. What is a determinant? For which matrices A is $\det A$ defined?
27. What are the formulas for a 2×2 and a 3×3 determinant?
28. Which determinants have easy evaluations? List as many as possible. For example: A determinant with a zero column, a determinant where one row is a sum of other two, a triangular determinant etc.
29. What is the best way of evaluating a large determinant (by hand)? Practice.
30. How does a determinant help in determining the rank of a matrix?
31. How does one solve linear equations using determinants? (Cramer's Rule.)
32. What is an adjugate (classical adjoint)? How is it related to the inverse?
33. How is a determinant used to decide if a matrix is invertible?
34. What is the relation between $\det AB$ and $\det A$ and $\det B$?
35. What is the connection between a determinant and the area or volume? Give concrete uses in \mathbb{R}^2 and \mathbb{R}^3 respectively.
36. How is a determinant used to write convenient equations for the following geometric objects?
- Equation of a line joining two points in the plane. (It is a 3×3 determinant equated to zero.
 - Equation of a plane through three given points. It is a 4×4 determinant equated to zero.
37. How does the general Laplace expansion work? Give example of evaluating a determinant using expansion by two rows.
38. Devise questions of your own to make the number of questions a prime number. How many more would be needed?