

Assignment 1: Problem Set 1
 Department of Applied Mathematics, University of Colorado at Boulder
 10.00am { 1.00pm, August 17, 2010

Problem 1: Set $\mathcal{Z} = [-1, 1]$ and define for $\mathcal{Z} \ni (x)$ the operator \mathcal{L} via

$$[\mathcal{L}f](x) = -x^2(1-x^2)f'(x).$$

Set

$$\mathcal{Z} = \{f \in C^1(\mathcal{Z}) : \mathcal{L}f = 0\}.$$

(a) Find a function $f \in \mathcal{Z}$ such that $[\mathcal{L}f](x) = x^2$.

(b) Show that \mathcal{Z} is a linear subspace of $C^1(\mathcal{Z})$.

(c) For a function $f \in \mathcal{Z}$, give an explicit formula for a function $g \in \mathcal{Z}$ such that $fg = 1$. (Your formula may involve unevaluated integrals, and/or sums of unevaluated integrals.)

(d) Describe the topological closure $\overline{\mathcal{Z}}$ of \mathcal{Z} in $C(\mathcal{Z})$. (For any $f \in \overline{\mathcal{Z}}$, the equation $\mathcal{L}f = 0$ has a solution $g \in \mathcal{Z}$ when the differential operator \mathcal{L} is defined in a "weak" sense.)

Hint for Problem 1: Define for $n = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$ the functions $f_n \in \mathcal{Z}$ via

$$(1) \quad f_n(x) = \sqrt{\frac{2^n + 1}{2}} \frac{1}{2^n n!} \left(-\frac{x}{2}\right)^n (x^2 - 1)^n.$$

You may use that

$$(2) \quad \int_{-1}^1 f_n(x) f_m(x) dx = \delta_{nm},$$

and that $\{f_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$ is an orthonormal basis for \mathcal{Z} .

Problem 2: Specify which of the following statements are true. No justification necessary.

(a) The set of even functions is dense in $C([-1, 1])$.

(b) The set of polynomials is dense in $C([-1, 1])$.

(c) The set of simple functions is dense in $C(\mathcal{Z})$. (Recall that a *simple function* is a function of the form $f = \sum_{j=1}^J c_j \chi_{S_j}$ where J is a finite integer, c_j is a scalar, and S_j is a measurable subset of \mathcal{Z} .)

(d) The set of bounded continuous functions is dense in $C^1(\mathcal{Z})$.

(e) The set \mathcal{Z} is dense in $C([-1, 1])$.

(f) The space $C^p(\mathcal{Z})$ is separable for all p such that $1 \leq p < \infty$.

(g) The space $C^p(\mathbb{N})$ is separable for all p such that $1 \leq p < \infty$.

(h) The space $C([-1, 1])$ is separable.

