

(1) We are familiar with the formula:

$$1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}, \text{ a polynomial has degree 2.}$$

Please derive a formula for the sum: $1^3 + 2^3 + 3^3 + \dots + n^3 = f(n)$ in details.

(Hint: $f(n)$ is a polynomial of degree 4) (20%)

(2) Let M_{22} be the vector space of all 2×2 matrices, P_2 be the vector space of all real

polynomials with degree ≤ 2 , and R^2 be the 2-dimensional Euclidean vector space.

Define $S: M_{22} \rightarrow P_2$ by $S(A) = (3c-d)x^2 + (b+2c)x + (a-c)$, where $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$.

Define $T: P_2 \rightarrow R^2$ by $T(a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2) = (a_0 - a_1, 2a_1 + a_2)$.

Please give the formula for $T \circ S: M_{22} \rightarrow R^2$. (20%)

(3) Show that A is diagonalizable by finding a matrix S such that $S^{-1}AS = D$, where D

is a diagonal matrix, and $A = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -6 \\ 3 & -4 \end{bmatrix}$. (20%)

(4) Let X and Y be independent random variables each geometrically distributed with

parameter p . Find $P(\min(X, Y) = X) = P(Y \geq X)$. (20%)

(5) Suppose n balls are distributed into n boxes so that all of the n^n possible

arrangements are equally likely. Compute the probability that only box 1 is empty. (20%)