

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

**Problem 1:** Set  $X = [-1, 1]$  and define for  $\mathcal{Z}(\cdot)$  the operator via

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

Set

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

- Find a function  $f \in C^1(X)$  such that  $[\mathcal{Z}f](x) = x^2$ .
- Show that  $\mathcal{Z} = \emptyset$ .
- For a function  $g \in C^1(X)$ , give an explicit formula for a function  $f \in C^1(X)$  such that  $\mathcal{Z}f = g$ . (Your formula may involve unevaluated integrals, and/or sums of unevaluated integrals.)
- Describe the topological closure  $\overline{\mathcal{Z}}$  of  $\mathcal{Z}$  in  $C^1(X)$ . (For any  $f \in \overline{\mathcal{Z}}$ , the equation  $\mathcal{Z}f = g$  has a solution  $f \in C^1(X)$  when the differential operator  $\mathcal{Z}$  is defined in a "weak" sense.)

**Hint for Problem 1:** Define for  $n = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$  the functions  $f_n$  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  $L^2(X)$ .

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

- The set of even functions is dense in  $C([ -1, 1])$ .
- The set of polynomials is dense in  $C([ -1, 1])$ .
- The set of simple functions is dense in  $L^1(X)$ . (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  $X$ .)
- The set of bounded continuous functions is dense in  $L^1(X)$ .
- The set  $C([ -1, 1])$  is dense in  $C([ -1, 1])$ .
- The space  $C^p(X)$  is separable for all  $p$  such that  $1 \leq p < \infty$ .
- The space  $C^p(\mathbb{N})$  is separable for all  $p$  such that  $1 \leq p < \infty$ .
- The space  $C([ -1, 1])$  is separable.

