

1.0 General Notation

- \mathbb{R} - real numbers
- \mathbb{C} - complex numbers
- \mathbb{N} - natural numbers (1, 2, 3, ...)
- \mathbb{Z} - integers (...; -2, 1, 0, 1, 2, ...)
- \mathbb{Q} - rational numbers ($\frac{3}{4}$, $-\frac{2}{7}$, etc.)
- $x \in \mathbb{R}$ "x is an element of \mathbb{R} " or "x is in the set \mathbb{R} "
- Set Notation:

• $\{ \underbrace{x \in \mathbb{Z}}_{\text{type of elements}} \mid \underbrace{x \geq 1}_{\text{conditions}} \} = \mathbb{N}$
 "such that"

• $\{ x \in \mathbb{R} \mid x = \frac{n}{m} \text{ for some } n \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ and } m \in \mathbb{N} \} = \mathbb{Q}$

• $A \subset B$ "the set A is contained in the set B" or "the set A is a subset of the set B"

• $\mathbb{N} \subset \mathbb{Z} \subset \mathbb{Q} \subset \mathbb{R} \subset \mathbb{C}$

• $\mathbb{R} \subset \mathbb{R}$, $\mathbb{Q} \subsetneq \mathbb{R}$ " \mathbb{Q} is contained in but not equal to \mathbb{R} " (strict subset).

1.1 Vector Spaces

Def. A vector space V is a collection of objects (called vectors) equipped with operations of addition and scalar multiplication such that the following vector space axioms hold:

- 1. Commutativity: $\vec{v} + \vec{w} = \vec{w} + \vec{v}$ for all $\vec{v}, \vec{w} \in V$
- 2. Associativity: $(\vec{u} + \vec{v}) + \vec{w} = \vec{u} + (\vec{v} + \vec{w})$ for all $\vec{u}, \vec{v}, \vec{w} \in V$
- 3. Zero vector: there exists a special vector, denoted by $\vec{0}$ such that $\vec{v} + \vec{0} = \vec{v}$ for all $\vec{v} \in V$. It is called the zero vector;
- 4. Additive Inverse: for every vector $\vec{v} \in V$ there exists a vector $\vec{w} \in V$ such that $\vec{v} + \vec{w} = \vec{0}$. This vector is called the additive inverse of \vec{v} and is usually denoted $-\vec{v}$;
- 5. Multiplicative Identity: $1\vec{v} = \vec{v}$ for all $\vec{v} \in V$;
- 6. Multiplicative associativity: $(\alpha\beta)\vec{v} = \alpha(\beta\vec{v})$ for all $\vec{v} \in V$ and all scalars α, β ;
- 7. distributive laws: $\alpha(\vec{u} + \vec{v}) = \alpha\vec{u} + \alpha\vec{v}$ for all $\vec{u}, \vec{v} \in V$ and scalars α ;
- 8. $(\alpha + \beta)\vec{v} = \alpha\vec{v} + \beta\vec{v}$ for all $\vec{v} \in V$ and all scalars α, β .

• Vectors can potentially be very abstract objects (we'll see some examples soon), whereas "scalars" is just a fancy term for numbers. Sometimes we will mean the

real numbers \mathbb{R} and sometimes we'll mean the complex numbers \mathbb{C} . We call V a real vector space in the former case, and a complex vector space in the latter case.

If we do not specify \mathbb{R} or \mathbb{C} or we write \mathbb{F} then the statement holds for both. (It may even hold for any "field" \mathbb{F} , but we'll focus on \mathbb{R} and \mathbb{C} in this course).

It is important to distinguish between vectors and scalars. So vectors will always be decorated with an arrow: \vec{v} (or will be bold when typed). Scalars will usually be Greek letters ($\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \dots$) while vectors will be roman letters (u, v, w, \dots).

Remark The above axioms should be (at least vaguely) familiar from algebra/arithmetic, where they apply to just numbers rather than vectors and scalars. Consequently you should not need memorize the axioms (and in particular I will not ask you to do so), but you do need to remember what operations apply to what objects. For example, you can add vectors, and multiply a vector by a scalar, but you cannot multiply two vectors. $\vec{u} \vec{v}$

Examples

① $V = \mathbb{R}$ is a real vector space where the vectors are just real numbers and so are the scalars, so all the axioms trivially hold. Similarly $V = \mathbb{C}$ is a complex vector space. We can also make it a real vector space, since a real number times a complex number is still a complex number.

① For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $n \geq 2$ let \mathbb{R}^n denote the columns with n entries from \mathbb{R} :

$$\vec{v} = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{pmatrix}$$

Then \mathbb{R}^n is a vector space entry-wise operations:

$$\begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 + w_1 \\ v_2 + w_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n + w_n \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^n \quad \alpha \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha v_1 \\ \alpha v_2 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha v_n \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

addition scalar multiplication

let's check a few axioms:

Commutativity: $\begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 + w_1 \\ v_2 + w_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n + w_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} w_1 + v_1 \\ w_2 + v_2 \\ \vdots \\ w_n + v_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{pmatrix}$

since addition in \mathbb{R} is commutative

Zero vector: we claim $\vec{0} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$. Indeed

$$\begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} v_1+0 \\ v_2+0 \\ \vdots \\ v_n+0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{pmatrix}.$$

Multiplicative Associativity:

$$(\alpha\beta) \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} (\alpha\beta)v_1 \\ (\alpha\beta)v_2 \\ \vdots \\ (\alpha\beta)v_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(\beta v_1) \\ \alpha(\beta v_2) \\ \vdots \\ \alpha(\beta v_n) \end{pmatrix} = \alpha \begin{pmatrix} \beta v_1 \\ \beta v_2 \\ \vdots \\ \beta v_n \end{pmatrix} = \alpha \left(\beta \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{pmatrix} \right).$$

\mathbb{C}^n is defined similarly but with complex entries, and it is a complex vector space.

2) For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, let \mathbb{P}_n denote the collection of polynomials of degree at most n :
$$p(t) = a_n t^n + a_{n-1} t^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 t + a_0 \in \mathbb{P}_n$$

Note that the coefficients a_i are allowed to be zero.

Addition and scalar multiplication are given by:

$$(a_n t^n + \dots + a_1 t + a_0) + (b_n t^n + \dots + b_1 t + b_0) = (a_n + b_n) t^n + \dots + (a_1 + b_1) t + (a_0 + b_0)$$
$$\alpha(a_n t^n + \dots + a_1 t + a_0) = (\alpha a_n) t^n + \dots + (\alpha a_1) t + (\alpha a_0)$$

If we consider only real coefficients, then \mathbb{P}_n is a real vector space. If we allow complex coefficients, then it is a complex vector space.

What is $\vec{0}$ here? $p(t) = 0t^n + \dots + 0t + 0 = 0$.

What is the additive inverse of $p(t) = 3t^3 - t^2 + 4it + 1.2$? $-p(t) = -3t^3 + t^2 - 4it - 1.2$?

3) (Netflix)

List genres of movies: g_1, g_2, \dots, g_N .

Consider the vector space

$$V = \mathbb{R}^N$$

with the usual operations of scalar mult. and addition.

For a Netflix user, define $x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_N \end{bmatrix} \in V$ for each $i=1, \dots, N$ by:

$$x_i = \begin{pmatrix} \text{(# of movies of genre } g_i \text{ they have finished watching)} \\ \text{-(# of movies in genre } g_i \text{ they started but didn't finish)} \end{pmatrix}$$

Heuristically: x_i is positive if they like movies in genre g_i .
Netflix will use this data to recommend movies to you

Addition $x+y$ corresponds to user x and user y sharing an account.

Rem It is implicit in the definition of a vector space V that it is "closed" under the addition and scalar multiplication operations. That is:

① For any $\vec{v}, \vec{w} \in V$ we must have that $\vec{v} + \vec{w}$ is also in V .

② For any $\vec{v} \in V$ and any scalar α , we must have that $\alpha\vec{v}$ is also in V .

In particular, this means that if a set V fails to be closed under either of these operations, then it is not a vector space.

EX Let

$$V = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid x^2 + y^2 = z^2 \right\}$$

with addition and scalar multiplication defined as for \mathbb{R}^3 . Then V is not a vector space because it is not closed under addition. Indeed,

$$\vec{v} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{w} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

are both in V , but $\vec{v} + \vec{w} = (1, 1, 2)^T$ is not since $1^2 + 1^2 \neq 2^2$. □

Theorem 1.1 For every vector space V , the zero vector $\vec{0}$ is unique.

Proof Suppose $\vec{0}$ and $\vec{0}'$ both satisfy the zero vector axiom:

$$\vec{v} + \vec{0} = \vec{v} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{v} + \vec{0}' = \vec{v} \quad \text{for all } \vec{v} \in V.$$

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{0}' &= \vec{0}' + \vec{0} && \text{(first equation)} \\ &= \vec{0} + \vec{0}' && \text{(commutativity)} \\ &= \vec{0} && \text{(second equation)} \end{aligned}$$
 □

Thm 1.2 Let V be a vector space. For any $\vec{v} \in V$, $0\vec{v} = \vec{0}$.

Proof Fix $\vec{v} \in V$. First observe

$$\vec{v} = 1\vec{v} = (1+0)\vec{v} = 1\vec{v} + 0\vec{v} = \vec{v} + 0\vec{v}$$

So $\vec{v} = \vec{v} + 0\vec{v}$. But then adding $-\vec{v}$ to each side we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{v} + (-\vec{v}) &= \vec{v} + 0\vec{v} + (-\vec{v}) \\ \vec{0} &= \vec{v} + (-\vec{v}) + 0\vec{v} \\ \vec{0} &= \vec{0} + 0\vec{v} \\ \vec{0} &= 0\vec{v} \end{aligned}$$

as claimed. □

Matrix Notation

An $m \times n$ matrix is a rectangular array with m rows and n columns. Elements in the array are called entries and can be real or complex numbers.

Ex

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 4.3 \\ 16 & -0.3 \end{pmatrix} \text{ is } 3 \times 2 \quad (2+i \quad e^{ni} \quad 1) \text{ is } 1 \times 3$$

□

• $M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{R})$: $m \times n$ matrices with real entries

$M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{C})$: $m \times n$ matrices with complex entries

$M_{m \times n}$ refers to both. Using entrywise addition and scalar mult. (like \mathbb{R}^n and \mathbb{C}^n)

$M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{R})$ is a real vector space and $M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{C})$ is a complex vector space.

• For $A \in M_{m \times n}$, we write $(A)_{jk}$ for the entry of A in row j and column k , with $j=1, \dots, m$ and $k=1, \dots, n$.

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 3 \\ 2 & 0 \\ 5 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (A)_{21} = 2 \quad (A)_{23} = \text{DNE} \\ (A)_{32} = -2$$

We may also use lower-case letters to denote entries: $a_{jk} = (A)_{jk}$. In this case

we could define A by writing

$$A = (a_{jk})_{\substack{j=1, \dots, m \\ k=1, \dots, n}} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \dots & a_{mn} \end{pmatrix}$$

Def For a matrix $A \in M_{m \times n}$, its transpose, denoted A^T , is the $n \times m$ matrix satisfying $(A^T)_{jk} = (A)_{kj}$ for $j=1, \dots, n$ and $k=1, \dots, m$.

Taking the transpose of a matrix turns its rows into columns (and vice-versa)

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 \\ 2 & 5 \\ 3 & 6 \end{pmatrix} \quad A^T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$B = (1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4) \quad B^T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

• Note that \mathbb{F}^n is the same as $M_{n \times 1}(\mathbb{F})$. So we can take the transpose of a vector:

$$\begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{pmatrix}^T = (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n) \leftarrow \text{row vector}$$

Also $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)^T = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} \leftarrow \text{column vector} \in \mathbb{F}^n$. Since this saves space, we will frequently write elements of \mathbb{F}^n as the transpose of a row vector.

1.2 Linear combinations, bases

Let's make use of our two operations: addition and scalar multiplication

Def Let $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p \in V$ be a collection of vectors. A linear combination of $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p$ is a sum of the form

$$\alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \alpha_2 \vec{v}_2 + \dots + \alpha_p \vec{v}_p \quad \left(= \sum_{k=1}^p \alpha_k \vec{v}_k \right)$$

where $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_p$ are scalars. We call the linear combination trivial if $\alpha_1 = \dots = \alpha_p = 0$ (in which case the above is $\vec{0}$), and otherwise it is non-trivial. The set of all linear combinations of $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p$

$$\text{span}\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p\} := \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^p \alpha_k \vec{v}_k : \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_p \text{ scalars} \right\}$$

is called the span of $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p$. □

Note that since a vector space V is closed under addition and scalar multiplication, any linear combination of $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p$ will be some vector in V . Consequently $\text{span}\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p\} \subset V$.

EX For $V = \mathbb{F}^n$ (recall \mathbb{F} can be either \mathbb{R} or \mathbb{C}), consider the vectors:

$$\vec{e}_1 := \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \vec{e}_2 := \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \dots, \quad \vec{e}_n := \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Then $\text{span}\{\vec{e}_1, \dots, \vec{e}_n\} = \mathbb{F}^n$. Indeed, for any $\vec{v} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)^T \in \mathbb{F}^n$ we have

$$\vec{v} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \dots + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} = x_1 \vec{e}_1 + x_2 \vec{e}_2 + \dots + x_n \vec{e}_n \in \text{span}\{\vec{e}_1, \dots, \vec{e}_n\}.$$

So $\mathbb{F}^n \subset \text{span}\{\vec{e}_1, \dots, \vec{e}_n\}$ and the reverse inclusion is immediate. Also note that the above linear combination is the only way to obtain \vec{v} : if $\vec{v} = y_1 \vec{e}_1 + \dots + y_n \vec{e}_n$ for some scalars y_1, \dots, y_n then

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} = \vec{v} = y_1 \vec{e}_1 + \dots + y_n \vec{e}_n = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix},$$

and therefore $x_i = y_i$ for $i=1, \dots, n$. So x_1, \dots, x_n is the unique choice of scalars that gives \vec{v} .

We also claim

$$\text{span}\{\vec{e}_2, \dots, \vec{e}_n\} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} : x_2, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{F} \right\}$$

Indeed, for scalars a_2, \dots, a_n we have

$$a_2 \vec{e}_2 + \dots + a_n \vec{e}_n = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ a_2 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{pmatrix}$$

and for $\vec{v} = (0, x_2, \dots, x_n)^T$ we have $\vec{v} = x_2 \vec{e}_2 + \dots + x_n \vec{e}_n \in \text{span}\{\vec{e}_2, \dots, \vec{e}_n\}$. □

In this section, we are interested in answering the following questions for a fixed collection of vectors $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p \in V$:

- ① Can every vector in V be written as a linear combination of $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p$?
- ② For a vector $\vec{v} \in V$ that is a linear combination of $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p$, is there a unique linear combination that gives \vec{v} ? (i.e. is there only one choice of scalars $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_p$ so that $\sum \alpha_i \vec{v}_i = \vec{v}$?)

When the answer to both of these questions is "Yes" — such as in the first part of the previous example — we have a "basis". However, it can be that only one or even neither of these questions has an affirmative answer: for $\vec{e}_2, \dots, \vec{e}_n$ as in the previous example the answer to ① is "No" while the answer to ② is "Yes" (Exercise check this). Thus we must investigate these questions independently, and we will start with ① when we note an answer of "Yes" is equivalent to $\text{span}\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p\} = V$.

Def A system of vectors $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p \in V$ is called a spanning (or generating) system if $\text{span}\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p\} = V$. That is, every vector of V can be written as a linear combination of $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p$. In this case we also say the system spans V . □

EX ① $\vec{e}_1, \dots, \vec{e}_n \in \mathbb{F}^n$ as in the example above span \mathbb{F}^n , while $\vec{e}_2, \dots, \vec{e}_n$ do not.

② Let \mathbb{P}_2 be the space of polynomials of degree at most 2, and define

$$\vec{v}_1 := t^2 - t, \quad \vec{v}_2 := t - 1, \quad \vec{v}_3 := 1$$

Then $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \vec{v}_3$ is a spanning system: for $p(t) = a_2 t^2 + a_1 t + a_0$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} p(t) &= a_2(t^2 - t) + (a_1 + a_2)t + a_0 \\ &= a_2 \vec{v}_1 + (a_1 + a_2)(t - 1) + (a_0 + a_1 + a_2) \cdot 1 \\ &= a_2 \vec{v}_1 + (a_1 + a_2) \vec{v}_2 + (a_0 + a_1 + a_2) \vec{v}_3 \in \text{span}\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \vec{v}_3\}. \end{aligned}$$

③ If $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p \in V$ span V , then for any additional vectors $\vec{v}_{p+1}, \dots, \vec{v}_r \in V$, the system $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p, \vec{v}_{p+1}, \dots, \vec{v}_r$ spans V . Indeed, for scalars $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_p$ observe that

$$\alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_p \vec{v}_p = \alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_p \vec{v}_p + 0 \cdot \vec{v}_{p+1} + \dots + 0 \cdot \vec{v}_r \in \text{span}\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p, \vec{v}_{p+1}, \dots, \vec{v}_r\}.$$

Hence

$$V = \text{span}\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p\} \subset \text{span}\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p, \vec{v}_{p+1}, \dots, \vec{v}_r\} \subset V,$$

which implies $\text{span}\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p, \vec{v}_{p+1}, \dots, \vec{v}_r\} = V$. □

In Chapter 2 we will develop methods for determining if a system of vectors in \mathbb{F}^n is a spanning system. For now, we turn towards ② above.

Theorem 1.3 Let $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p \in V$ be a system of vectors in a vector space V . Then every $\vec{v} \in \text{span}\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p\}$ can be written as a unique linear combination of $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p$ if and only if whenever

$$\alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_p \vec{v}_p = \vec{0}$$

for some scalars $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_p$ one has $\alpha_1 = \dots = \alpha_p = 0$.

Proof (\Rightarrow): Observe that

$$\vec{0} = 0 \cdot \vec{v}_1 + \dots + 0 \cdot \vec{v}_p \in \text{span}\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p\}.$$

By assumption this is the unique linear combination that gives $\vec{0}$, and so whenever

$$\alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_p \vec{v}_p = \vec{0}$$

we must have $\alpha_1 = \dots = \alpha_p$.

(\Leftarrow): We will proceed by contrapositive, so assume there exists $\vec{v} \in \text{span}\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p\}$ that cannot be written uniquely as a linear combination of $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p$. That is, there exists scalars $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_p, \beta_1, \dots, \beta_p$ such that $\alpha_j \neq \beta_j$ for at least one $1 \leq j \leq p$ and

$$\alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_p \vec{v}_p = \vec{v} = \beta_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \beta_p \vec{v}_p.$$

Subtracting the right side from the left side gives

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{0} &= (\alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_p \vec{v}_p) - (\beta_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \beta_p \vec{v}_p) \\ &= (\alpha_1 - \beta_1) \vec{v}_1 + \dots + (\alpha_p - \beta_p) \vec{v}_p, \end{aligned}$$

and the coefficients $\alpha_j - \beta_j$ above are not all zero since $\alpha_j \neq \beta_j$ for at least one $1 \leq j \leq p$. \square

Remark Note that the previous theorem implies that as soon as $\vec{0}$ can be written uniquely as a linear combination of $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p$, then so can every \vec{v} in their span. \square

Thus we see that the answer to 2 above is "Yes" precisely when the only linear combination of $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p$ that gives $\vec{0}$ is the trivial linear combination. In light of this we make the following definition.

Def A system of vectors $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p \in V$ is called linearly independent if whenever

$$\alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_p \vec{v}_p = \vec{0}$$

for some scalars $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_p$ then one has $\alpha_1 = \dots = \alpha_p = 0$. We say the system is linearly dependent if it is not linearly independent; that is, if

$$\alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_p \vec{v}_p = \vec{0}$$

for some scalars $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_p$ which are not all zero. \square

Ex ① $\vec{e}_1, \dots, \vec{e}_n \in \mathbb{F}^n$ from the first example in this section are linearly independent since we showed any $\vec{v} \in \mathbb{F}^n = \text{span}\{\vec{e}_1, \dots, \vec{e}_n\}$ can be written uniquely as a linear combination of $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n$.

- ② Let V be the set of functions $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with operations
 $(f+g)(x) = f(x) + g(x)$ $(\alpha f)(x) = \alpha f(x)$
 Then V is a real vector space whose zero vector is given by the zero function: $f_0(x) = 0 \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}$ (Exercise check the axioms).

We claim

$f_1(x) := 2$ $f_2(x) := x^2(x-1)$ $f_3(x) := 1 - e^x$
 are linearly independent in V . Indeed, suppose there are scalars d_1, d_2, d_3 such that

$$\alpha_1 f_1(x) + \alpha_2 f_2(x) + \alpha_3 f_3(x) = f_0(x)$$

$$\alpha_1 (2) + \alpha_2 (x^2(x-1)) + \alpha_3 (1 - e^x) = 0$$

Then plugging in $x=0$ gives

$$\alpha_1 (2) + \alpha_2 (0) + \alpha_3 (0) = 0 \Rightarrow \alpha_1 = 0.$$

Thus $\alpha_2 (x^2(x-1)) + \alpha_3 (1 - e^x) = 0$ and plugging in $x=1$ gives

$$\alpha_2 (0) + \alpha_3 (1 - e) = 0 \Rightarrow \alpha_3 = 0.$$

Thus $\alpha_3 (x^2(x-1)) = 0$ and plugging in any $x \notin \{0, 1\}$ gives $\alpha_2 = 0$. So $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \alpha_3 = 0$, and hence $f_1(x), f_2(x), f_3(x)$ are linearly independent.

- ③ If $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p \in V$ are linearly independent, then any subsystem of vectors $\vec{v}_{j_1}, \dots, \vec{v}_{j_k}$ with $1 \leq j_1 < \dots < j_k \leq p$ is linearly independent. See Exercise 2 on Homework 2. □

Proposition 1.4 A system of vectors $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p \in V$ is linearly dependent if and only if one the vectors \vec{v}_k can be written as a linear combination of the others:

$$\vec{v}_k = \beta_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \beta_{k-1} \vec{v}_{k-1} + \beta_{k+1} \vec{v}_{k+1} + \dots + \beta_p \vec{v}_p$$

for some scalars β_j , $j=1, \dots, k-1, k+1, \dots, p$.

Proof (\Rightarrow) Assume $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p$ are linearly dependent so that

$$\alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_p \vec{v}_p = 0$$

for scalars $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_p$ which are not all zero. Let $1 \leq k \leq p$ be such that $\alpha_k \neq 0$. Then adding $-\alpha_k \vec{v}_k$ to both sides and dividing by $-\alpha_k (\neq 0)$ yields

$$\frac{-\alpha_1}{\alpha_k} \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \frac{-\alpha_{k-1}}{\alpha_k} \vec{v}_{k-1} + \frac{-\alpha_{k+1}}{\alpha_k} \vec{v}_{k+1} + \dots + \frac{-\alpha_p}{\alpha_k} \vec{v}_p = \vec{v}_k$$

So we take $\beta_j := \frac{-\alpha_j}{\alpha_k}$ for $j=1, \dots, k-1, k+1, \dots, p$.

(\Leftarrow) Suppose

$$\vec{v}_k = \beta_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \beta_{k-1} \vec{v}_{k-1} + \beta_{k+1} \vec{v}_{k+1} + \dots + \beta_p \vec{v}_p.$$

for some scalars β_j . Then subtracting \vec{v}_k from each side yields:

$$\vec{0} = \beta_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \beta_{k-1} \vec{v}_{k-1} + (-1) \vec{v}_k + \beta_{k+1} \vec{v}_{k+1} + \dots + \beta_p \vec{v}_p.$$

Since the coefficients are not all zero ($-1 \neq 0$ for example), $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p$ are linearly dependent. □

EX If $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p \in V$ are linearly dependent, then for any additional vectors $\vec{v}_{p+1}, \dots, \vec{v}_r \in V$ the system $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p, \vec{v}_{p+1}, \dots, \vec{v}_r$ is linearly dependent. Indeed, the linear dependence of $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p$ and the previous proposition imply

$$\vec{v}_k = \beta_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \beta_{k-1} \vec{v}_{k-1} + \beta_{k+1} \vec{v}_{k+1} + \dots + \beta_p \vec{v}_p$$

for some $1 \leq k \leq p$ and sum scalars. Hence

$$\vec{v}_k = \beta_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \beta_{k-1} \vec{v}_{k-1} + \beta_{k+1} \vec{v}_{k+1} + \dots + \beta_p \vec{v}_p + 0 \vec{v}_{p+1} + \dots + 0 \vec{v}_r$$

and so $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p, \vec{v}_{p+1}, \dots, \vec{v}_r$ are linearly dependent by the previous proposition. □

Def A system $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p \in V$ is called a basis if it is linearly independent and spans V . □

EX ① In the first example of this section, we showed

$$\vec{e}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \vec{e}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \dots, \quad \vec{e}_n = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{F}^n$$

was a basis. It is known as the standard basis for \mathbb{F}^n . Also recall that $\vec{e}_2, \dots, \vec{e}_n$ do not span \mathbb{F}^n and hence is not a basis.

② Consider

$$\vec{v}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \vec{v}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{F}^2$$

Then \vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2 is a basis. Indeed, if $\alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \alpha_2 \vec{v}_2 = \vec{0}$ then

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \alpha_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \alpha_2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 \\ \alpha_1 - \alpha_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

so we obtain the system of equations

$$\begin{cases} \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 = 0 \\ \alpha_1 - \alpha_2 = 0 \end{cases}$$

Adding the two equations gives $2\alpha_1 = 0$ or $\alpha_1 = 0$, and the second equation implies $\alpha_2 = \alpha_1 = 0$. Thus \vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2 are linearly independent. To see that they span \mathbb{F}^2 , fix an arbitrary $\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{F}^2$. We must find scalars β_1, β_2 so that

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \beta_1 \vec{v}_1 + \beta_2 \vec{v}_2 = \beta_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \beta_2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \beta_1 + \beta_2 \\ \beta_1 - \beta_2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Thus we must solve the following system of equations:

$$\begin{cases} \beta_1 + \beta_2 = x \\ \beta_1 - \beta_2 = y \end{cases}$$

Adding the two equations gives $2\beta_1 = x + y$ or $\beta_1 = \frac{x+y}{2}$. Then the second equation gives $\beta_2 = \beta_1 - y = \frac{x-y}{2}$. Hence

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) \vec{v}_1 + \left(\frac{x-y}{2}\right) \vec{v}_2 \in \text{span}\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2\}$$

Since $\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{F}^2$ was arbitrary, we see that \vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2 span \mathbb{F}^2 and hence is a basis.

Note that this basis is different from \vec{e}_1, \vec{e}_2 , and so a vector space may have more than one basis.

② In \mathbb{P}_n ,

$$p_0(t) = 1, p_1(t) = t, \dots, p_n(t) = t^n$$

is a basis (Exercise check this), which we call the standard basis for \mathbb{P}_n . \square

The next proposition says the answers to questions ① and ② are both "yes" if and only if we have a basis.

Proposition 1.5 A system of vectors $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p \in V$ is a basis if and only if for every $\vec{v} \in V$ there exists a unique set of scalars $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_p$ such that

$$\vec{v} = \alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_p \vec{v}_p.$$

Proof (\Rightarrow) Suppose $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p$ is a basis, and let $\vec{v} \in V$. Since $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p$ span V then there exist scalars $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_p$ such that

$$\vec{v} = \alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_p \vec{v}_p.$$

Since $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p$ are linearly independent, Theorem 1.3 implies the scalars are unique.

(\Leftarrow) The existence of the scalars for all $\vec{v} \in V$ implies $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p$ is a spanning system. The uniqueness of the scalars implies, by Theorem 1.3, that it is a linearly independent system. Hence $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p$ is a basis. \square

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Def The unique scalars $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_p$ in the previous proposition are called the coordinates of \vec{v} with respect to the basis $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p$. \square

Remark

If $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p$ is a basis in a vector space V , then every \vec{v} is uniquely determined by its coordinates with respect to this basis. Hence if

$$\vec{v} = \alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_p \vec{v}_p,$$

then we can recover \vec{v} so long as we remember the column vector $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_p)^T \in \mathbb{F}^p$. Also, this isn't just a convenient way to remember \vec{v} , it also respects addition and scalar multiplication:

$$\vec{v} + \vec{w} = \left(\sum_{k=1}^p \alpha_k \vec{v}_k \right) + \left(\sum_{k=1}^p \beta_k \vec{v}_k \right) = \sum_{k=1}^p (\alpha_k + \beta_k) \vec{v}_k \iff \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_p \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \beta_p \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 + \beta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_p + \beta_p \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\beta \vec{v} = \beta \sum_{k=1}^p \alpha_k \vec{v}_k = \sum_{k=1}^p (\beta \alpha_k) \vec{v}_k \iff \beta \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_p \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \beta \alpha_1 \\ \vdots \\ \beta \alpha_p \end{pmatrix}$$

This is the power of a basis: it allows us to take a

potentially very abstract vector space and replace it with something much more familiar (FP). \square

Proposition 1.6 Any finite spanning system contains a basis.

Proof Suppose $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p \in V$ are a spanning system in a vector space V . If it is linearly independent, then it is a basis and we are done. Otherwise it is linearly dependent, and so by Proposition 1.4 there exists $1 \leq k \leq p$ such that

$$\vec{v}_k = \beta_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \beta_{k-1} \vec{v}_{k-1} + \beta_{k+1} \vec{v}_{k+1} + \dots + \beta_p \vec{v}_p.$$

Without loss of generality, we may assume $k=p$. Observe that we can use the above formula to rewrite any linear combination of $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p$ as a linear combination of $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_{p-1}$:

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_p \vec{v}_p &= \alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_{p-1} \vec{v}_{p-1} + \alpha_p \left(\sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \beta_k \vec{v}_k \right) \\ &= (\alpha_1 + \beta_p) \vec{v}_1 + \dots + (\alpha_{p-1} + \beta_p) \vec{v}_{p-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$V = \text{span} \{ \vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p \} \subset \text{span} \{ \vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_{p-1} \} \subset V,$$

which implies $\text{span} \{ \vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_{p-1} \} = V$. So $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_{p-1}$ is a strictly smaller spanning system. If it is linearly independent, then it is a basis and we are done.

Otherwise we iterate the above argument until we either obtain a basis or reduce down to a single vector \vec{v}_1 which spans V . Since a system consisting of a single vector is always linearly independent (Exercise), even in this case we have obtained a basis. Note that in all cases the resulting basis is a subset of $\{ \vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p \}$. \square

1.3 Linear Transformations and Matrix-vector multiplication

- A "transformation" T from a set X to a set Y is a rule that for each input $x \in X$ assigns an output $y \in Y$, which we denote $T(x) = y$. We write

$$T: X \rightarrow Y$$

domain
target space/codomain

Synonyms: transform, mapping, map, operation, or function.

- If the sets X, Y have more structure, then so can T .

Def Let V, W be vector spaces (over the same field \mathbb{F}). A transformation

$T: V \rightarrow W$ is called linear if "for all"

1. $T(\vec{u} + \vec{v}) = T(\vec{u}) + T(\vec{v}) \quad \forall \vec{u}, \vec{v} \in V$

2. $T(\alpha \vec{v}) = \alpha T(\vec{v})$ for all $\vec{v} \in V$ and all scalars $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}$.

Note that we can combine properties 1. and 2. into a single, equivalent statement:

$$T(\alpha \vec{u} + \beta \vec{v}) = \alpha T(\vec{u}) + \beta T(\vec{v}) \quad \forall \vec{u}, \vec{v} \in V \text{ and } \forall \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{F}.$$

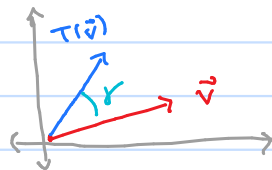
Ex ① Let $V = \mathbb{P}_n, W = \mathbb{P}_{n-1}$ and define $T: \mathbb{P}_n \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{n-1}$ by $T(p) = p'$. That is,

$$T(\alpha_n t^n + \dots + \alpha_1 t + \alpha_0) = n \alpha_n t^{n-1} + \dots + \alpha_1$$

Since $(p+q)' = p' + q'$ and $(\alpha p)' = \alpha p'$, T is linear.

② Let $V = W = \mathbb{R}^2$ and fix $\gamma \in [0, 2\pi)$. Define $T: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ by setting $T(\vec{v})$

to be the vector one obtains after rotating the plane counterclockwise by γ radians.

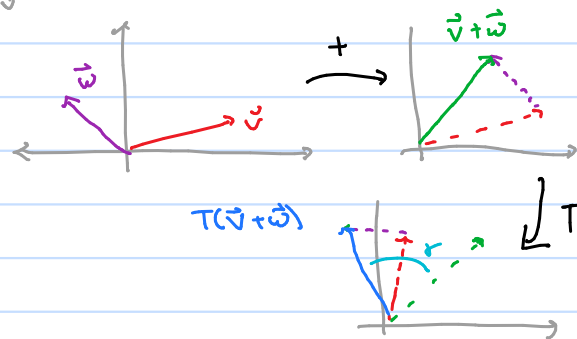


Recall that addition in \mathbb{R}^2 is visually equivalent to concatenating vectors and forming a triangle.

Since rotating the plane preserves the internal angles of the triangle, we see that T satisfies

Property 1. Property 2 is also easily checked,

so T is a linear transformation.



③ Let $V = \{f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\}$ and $W = \mathbb{R}$. Define $T: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by $T(f) = f(2)$.

Then for $f, g \in V$ and $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$

$$T(\alpha f + \beta g) = (\alpha f + \beta g)(2) = \alpha(f(2)) + \beta(g(2)) = \alpha T(f) + \beta T(g)$$

So T is a linear transformation.

④ Let $V=W=\mathbb{R}$.

Claim: Any linear transformation $T: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is given by

$$T(x) = ax \quad \text{where } a = T(1).$$

Indeed, $x \in \mathbb{R}$ is both a vector in V and a scalar in \mathbb{R} : $\vec{x} = x \vec{1}$ vectors scalars

So because T is linear and satisfies Property 2, we have:

$$T(x) = T(x\vec{1}) = xT(\vec{1}) = xa = ax.$$

as claimed.

Similarly, any linear transformation $T: \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is determined by multiplication by a scalar $a \in \mathbb{C}$. □

Linear Transformations $\mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^m$

Let $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$. We will generalize the claim in the last example to higher dimensions and show any linear transformation $\mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^m$ is given by multiplication by a matrix (rather than a scalar).

Let $T: \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^m$ be a linear transformation.

Claim 1 To compute $T(\vec{x})$ for any $\vec{x} \in \mathbb{F}^n$, it suffices to know $T(\vec{e}_1), \dots, T(\vec{e}_n)$ for the standard basis $\vec{e}_1, \dots, \vec{e}_n$ of \mathbb{F}^n .

Indeed, suppose $\vec{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)^T$. Then

$$\vec{x} = x_1\vec{e}_1 + x_2\vec{e}_2 + \dots + x_n\vec{e}_n$$

So using the linearity of T we have:

$$\begin{aligned} T(\vec{x}) &= T(x_1\vec{e}_1 + \dots + x_n\vec{e}_n) \\ &= T(x_1\vec{e}_1) + \dots + T(x_n\vec{e}_n) \\ &= x_1T(\vec{e}_1) + \dots + x_nT(\vec{e}_n) \end{aligned}$$

Thus if

$$\vec{a}_1 := T(\vec{e}_1) \quad \vec{a}_2 := T(\vec{e}_2) \quad \dots \quad \vec{a}_n := T(\vec{e}_n)$$

Then $T(\vec{x})$ is the linear comb. $\sum_{j=1}^n x_j \vec{a}_j$. □

Let's examine this further. Define a matrix $A \in M_{m \times n}$ by

$$A = (\vec{a}_1 \quad \vec{a}_2 \quad \dots \quad \vec{a}_n)$$

Label the entries $A = (a_{ij})_{i=1, j=1}^m$, so that

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \dots & a_{mn} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{a}_j = \begin{pmatrix} a_{1j} \\ a_{2j} \\ \vdots \\ a_{mj} \end{pmatrix}$$

Recall that multiplication by matrices is defined by a "row by column" rule: If $A\vec{x} = \vec{y}$ for $A \in M_{m \times n}$, $\vec{x} \in \mathbb{F}^n$, and $\vec{y} \in \mathbb{F}^m$, then the k th entry of \vec{y} is the dot product of the k th row of A and the column vector \vec{x} :

$$y_k = (A)_{k1}x_1 + (A)_{k2}x_2 + \dots + (A)_{kn}x_n = \sum_{j=1}^n (A)_{kj}x_j \quad \left(\left(\begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ \underline{A} \\ \vdots \end{array} \right) \left(\begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ \underline{x} \\ \vdots \end{array} \right) = \left(\begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ \underline{y} \\ \vdots \end{array} \right)_k \right)$$

Claim 2. With $T: \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^m$ and A as before, $T(\vec{x}) = A\vec{x}$.

Indeed, we have already seen that

$$T(\vec{x}) = x_1 \vec{a}_1 + x_2 \vec{a}_2 + \dots + x_n \vec{a}_n$$

Expanding the vectors:

$$\begin{aligned} &= x_1 \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} \\ a_{21} \\ \vdots \\ a_{m1} \end{pmatrix} + x_2 \begin{pmatrix} a_{12} \\ a_{22} \\ \vdots \\ a_{m2} \end{pmatrix} + \dots + x_n \begin{pmatrix} a_{1n} \\ a_{2n} \\ \vdots \\ a_{mn} \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} x_1 a_{11} + x_2 a_{12} + \dots + x_n a_{1n} \\ x_1 a_{21} + x_2 a_{22} + \dots + x_n a_{2n} \\ \vdots \\ x_1 a_{m1} + x_2 a_{m2} + \dots + x_n a_{mn} \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \sum_{j=1}^n a_{1j} x_j \\ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{2j} x_j \\ \vdots \\ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{mj} x_j \end{pmatrix} = A\vec{x}. \end{aligned}$$

□

- Thus any linear transformation $T: \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^m$ can be represented as multiplication by the matrix $A \in M_{m \times n}$ whose columns are $T(\vec{e}_j)$. Pay careful attention to 'n' vs 'm' in this representation.
- We will denote the matrix A by $[T]$ or even just T if there is no room for confusion, so we can write $T\vec{v}$ for $T(\vec{v})$.

Rem In claim 1, we did not need to use the standard basis $\vec{e}_1, \dots, \vec{e}_n$. All we needed was to be able to write \vec{x} as a linear comb. of $\vec{e}_1, \dots, \vec{e}_n$ (which is easy). Thus we could have used any basis for \mathbb{F}^n or even any spanning generating set. This is even true for arbitrary vector spaces.

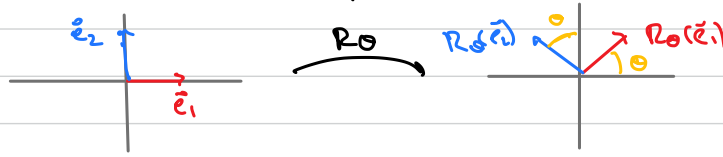
Prop 1.7 A linear transformation $T: V \rightarrow W$ is completely determined by its output on a spanning generating set (in particular by its output on a basis).

Proof Exercise. □

Ex For $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$, let $R_\theta: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ be the linear transformation that rotates the plane counterclockwise by θ radians. Let's compute $[R_\theta]$. Recall from above that

$$[R_\theta] = (R_\theta(\vec{e}_1) \quad R_\theta(\vec{e}_2))$$

So it suffices to compute these two vectors. Observe



So

we

$$R_\theta(\vec{e}_1) = (\cos \theta, \sin \theta)^T$$

$$R_\theta(\vec{e}_2) = (\cos(\theta + \frac{\pi}{2}), \sin(\theta + \frac{\pi}{2}))^T = (-\sin \theta, \cos \theta)^T$$

Hence

$$[R_\theta] = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}$$



1.4 Linear transformations as a vector space

Let us explore what operations we can perform on linear transformations themselves.

Suppose $S, T: V \rightarrow W$ are linear transformations. Then for any $\vec{v} \in V$ we can add $S(\vec{v}) + T(\vec{v})$. Denote $(S+T)(\vec{v}) = S(\vec{v}) + T(\vec{v})$, then this defines a new trans. $S+T: V \rightarrow W$. Is it linear? For $\vec{v}, \vec{w} \in V$ and scalars α, β we have

$$\begin{aligned}(S+T)(\alpha\vec{v} + \beta\vec{w}) &= S(\alpha\vec{v} + \beta\vec{w}) + T(\alpha\vec{v} + \beta\vec{w}) \\ &= \alpha S(\vec{v}) + \beta S(\vec{w}) + \alpha T(\vec{v}) + \beta T(\vec{w}) \\ &= \alpha [S(\vec{v}) + T(\vec{v})] + \beta [S(\vec{w}) + T(\vec{w})] \\ &= \alpha (S+T)(\vec{v}) + \beta (S+T)(\vec{w})\end{aligned}$$

So $S+T$ is also linear.

For $T: V \rightarrow W$ a lin. trans. and α a scalar define a trans. $\alpha T: V \rightarrow W$ by

$$(\alpha T)(\vec{v}) = \alpha T(\vec{v}) \quad \vec{v} \in V.$$

One can show αT is also linear (Exercise).

Let $L(V, W)$ denote the collection of linear transformations from a vector space V to a vector space W . We have shown above that it admits operations of addition and scalar multiplication. Moreover, one can check that these axioms satisfy the vector space axioms. For example:

• Zero vector: let $\vec{0}_W$ be the zero vector in W . Then $0: V \rightarrow W$ defined by

$$0(\vec{v}) = \vec{0}_W \quad \vec{v} \in V$$

is the zero "vector" in $L(V, W)$. Indeed, it is linear:

$$0(\alpha\vec{v} + \beta\vec{w}) = \vec{0}_W = \vec{0}_W + \vec{0}_W \stackrel{HW1}{=} \alpha\vec{0}_W + \beta\vec{0}_W = \alpha 0(\vec{v}) + \beta 0(\vec{w}).$$

So $0 \in L(V, W)$. And for any $T \in L(V, W)$ we have $T+0 = T$ since

$$(T+0)(\vec{v}) = T(\vec{v}) + 0(\vec{v}) = T(\vec{v}) + \vec{0}_W = T(\vec{v})$$

for all $\vec{v} \in V$.

(Exercise: check the remaining axioms).

Thus $L(V, W)$ is itself a vector space.



Ex For $V = \mathbb{F}^n$ and $W = \mathbb{F}^m$, $L(\mathbb{F}^n, \mathbb{F}^m)$ is a vector space. On the other hand, we know every $T \in L(\mathbb{F}^n, \mathbb{F}^m)$ can be represented as matrix multiplication by $[T]$. Moreover, the operations on $L(\mathbb{F}^n, \mathbb{F}^m)$ match those on $M_{m \times n}$:

$$[S+T] = [S] + [T]$$

$$[\alpha T] = \alpha [T]$$

So $L(\mathbb{F}^n, \mathbb{F}^m) = M_{m \times n}$. □

Rem what about the other operation we have for $M_{m \times n}$: multiplication? It turns out this corresponds to composition of linear trans, as we will see in the next section.

1.5 Composition of linear transformations (and matrix multiplication)

For two matrices A, B recall how their product is defined:

Then entry $(AB)_{jk}$ is given by the dot product of the j th row of A and the k th column of B :

$$(AB)_{jk} = \sum_{\ell} (A)_{j\ell} (B)_{\ell k} \quad j \left(\overline{A} \right) \left(\overline{B} \right) = \overline{AB}$$

Warning

AB only makes sense if # columns of A = # rows of B
That is

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M_{m \times n} & & M_{n \times r} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ A & & B \end{array}$$

Composition of Linear Transformations

Suppose $T_1: \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^m$ and $T_2: \mathbb{F}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^n$. Then we define $T_1 \circ T_2: \mathbb{F}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^m$
by

$$(T_1 \circ T_2)(\vec{v}) = T_1(\underbrace{T_2(\vec{v})}_{\in \mathbb{F}^n}) \quad \vec{v} \in \mathbb{F}^r$$

note order

Claim $[T_1 \circ T_2] = [T_1][T_2]$ ← matrix product

Proof: Define $T = T_1 \circ T_2$ and let $A = [T_1]$, $B = [T_2]$. Recall that $[T]$ is simply the matrix whose columns are given by $T(\vec{e}_1), \dots, T(\vec{e}_r)$.

For $j=1, \dots, r$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} T(\vec{e}_j) &= T_1 \circ T_2(\vec{e}_j) = T_1(T_2(\vec{e}_j)) = T_1(B\vec{e}_j) = A(B\vec{e}_j) \\ &= AB\vec{e}_j \end{aligned}$$

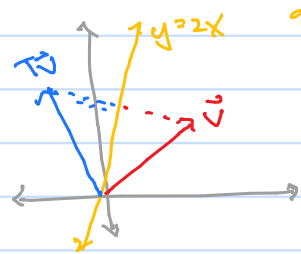
So the j th column of $[T]$ is $AB\vec{e}_j$, but this is precisely the j th column of AB . So $[T] = AB$ since they have the same columns. □

EX Let $T: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ be the transformation that sends $\vec{v} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ to its reflection over the line $y=2x$.

Let's compute $[T]$. It suffices to compute $T(\vec{e}_1), T(\vec{e}_2)$

for

$$\vec{e}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \vec{e}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



but this is hard. Instead, we note that if the line were $y=0$, reflections

would be much easier to compute: $\begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ -v_2 \end{pmatrix}$.

But remember that rotation is a linear transformation, so we can first rotate so $y=2x$ becomes $y=0$, reflect, and then rotate back.

Let θ be the angle between $y=2x$ and $y=0$

Let $R_\theta: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ be rotation by θ radians counterclockwise.

Let $S: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ be reflection over $y=0$.

Then

$$T = R_\theta \circ S \circ R_{-\theta}$$

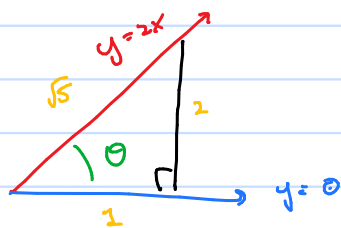
$$\text{So } [T] = [R_\theta][S][R_{-\theta}].$$

First we compute $[S]$:

$$S\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad S\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \rightarrow \quad [S] = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Recall: $R_\theta = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}$

Note that



$$\text{so } \cos \theta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} = \frac{\sqrt{5}}{5}$$

$$\sin \theta = \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} = \frac{2\sqrt{5}}{5}$$

$$\text{So } R_\theta = \frac{\sqrt{5}}{5} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad R_{-\theta} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(-\theta) & -\sin(-\theta) \\ \sin(-\theta) & \cos(-\theta) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} = \frac{\sqrt{5}}{5} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ -2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Hence

$$[T] = \frac{1}{5} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ -2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{5} \begin{pmatrix} -3 & 4 \\ 4 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Properties of matrix multiplication

Matrix multiplication satisfies the following properties:

- ① Associativity: $A(BC) = (AB)C$, provided that either the left or right side is well-defined; we therefore just write ABC .
- ② Distributivity: $A(B+C) = AB+AC$
 $(A+B)C = AC+BC$
- ③ Commutativity with scalar multiplication: $A(\alpha B) = \alpha(AB) = (\alpha A)B$

Exercise: prove these properties.

These are just the usual multiplication properties that numbers satisfy, except multiplication is not commutative: generally $AB \neq BA$.

Ex • $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ while $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$.

• $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ while $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ DNE

Recall that the transpose A^T of a matrix A is found by turning the rows of A into the columns of A^T (or vice-versa): $(A^T)_{jk} = (A)_{kj}$.

Prop^{1.8} Let $A \in M_{m \times n}$ and $B \in M_{n \times r}$ be matrices. Then

$$(AB)^T = B^T A^T$$

Proof we simply appeal to the definition of matrix multiplication and the transpose:

while $((AB)^T)_{jk} = (AB)_{kj} = \sum_{\ell=1}^n (A)_{\ell k} (B)_{\ell j}$

$$(B^T A^T)_{jk} = \sum_{\ell=1}^n (B^T)_{j\ell} (A^T)_{\ell k} = \sum_{\ell=1}^n (B)_{\ell j} (A)_{\ell k} = \sum_{\ell=1}^n (A)_{\ell k} (B)_{\ell j}$$

So the entries of $(AB)^T$ agree with the entries of $B^T A^T$, which means $(AB)^T = B^T A^T$. □

The Trace

Def For $A \in M_{n \times n}$ (a square matrix) its trace is the scalar

$$\text{tr}(A) := (A)_{11} + (A)_{22} + \dots + (A)_{nn} = \sum_{i=1}^n (A)_{ii}$$

• Observe that the trace defines a transformation $\text{tr}: M_{n \times n} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$.

It is in fact linear: for $A, B \in M_{n \times n}$ and scalars $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{F}$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr}(\alpha A + \beta B) &= \sum_{i=1}^n (\alpha A + \beta B)_{ii} = \sum_{i=1}^n (\alpha A)_{ii} + (\beta B)_{ii} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha (A)_{ii} + \beta (B)_{ii} = \alpha \sum_{i=1}^n (A)_{ii} + \beta \sum_{i=1}^n (B)_{ii} = \alpha \text{tr}(A) + \beta \text{tr}(B). \end{aligned}$$

Thm^{1.9} Let $A \in M_{m \times n}$ and $B \in M_{n \times m}$ be matrices. Then

$$\text{tr}(AB) = \text{tr}(BA)$$

Proof This is Exercise 6 on Homework 3. □

1.6 Invertible Transformations: Isomorphisms

- Recall that if $T: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is linear, then for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$ $T(x) = ax$ for some $a \in \mathbb{R}$. Also recall that if $a \neq 0$ the "inverse" (reciprocal) of a is $\frac{1}{a}$. Define $S: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by $S(x) = (\frac{1}{a})x$. Let's compute $T \circ S$ and $S \circ T$:

$$T \circ S(x) = T(\frac{1}{a}x) = a(\frac{1}{a}x) = x$$

$$S \circ T(x) = S(ax) = \frac{1}{a}(ax) = x$$

So $T \circ S$ and $S \circ T$ both equal the transformation $I: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $I(x) = x$. We call I the identity transformation, and can easily see it is linear.

- More generally we have:

Def For a vector space V , the identity (linear) transformation $I_V: V \rightarrow V$ is defined by $I_V(\vec{x}) = \vec{x}$. We will often just write I for I_V .

- Note that the domain and target space of I are the same.

Ex Let $I: \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^n$ be the identity transformation. Let's compute $[I]$:

$$I(\vec{e}_1) = \vec{e}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad I(\vec{e}_2) = \vec{e}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \dots, \quad I(\vec{e}_n) = \vec{e}_n = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Thus

$$[I] = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

We will denote this matrix by I_n . □

- Let $T: V \rightarrow V$ be a linear transformation. Observe that

$$T \circ I(\vec{v}) = T(I(\vec{v})) = T(\vec{v})$$

$$I \circ T(\vec{v}) = I(T(\vec{v})) = T(\vec{v})$$

So $T \circ I = T = I \circ T$. Compare this to $t \cdot 1 = t = 1 \cdot t$ for $t \in \mathbb{R}$.

A special case of this fact is that for $A \in M_{n \times n}$

$$A I_n = A = I_n A.$$

Exercise: use matrix multiplication to show the above equalities.

- Recall that in the first example above, we had $S \circ T = T \circ S = I$. More generally, we have:

Def Let $A: V \rightarrow W$ be a linear transformation. We say that A is

left invertible if there exists a linear transformation $B: W \rightarrow V$ such that

$$B \circ A = I,$$

where here $I = I_V$.

We say A is right invertible if there exists a linear transformation $C: W \rightarrow V$ such that

$$A \circ C = I,$$

where here $I = I_W$.

We call B and C the left and right inverses of A , respectively.

Def A linear transformation $A: V \rightarrow W$ is invertible if it is both left and right invertible.

Ex Consider the linear transformation $A: \mathbb{P}_3 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_2$ defined by $A(p(x)) = p'(x)$.

Claim 1 A is right invertible.

Proof We must find a lin. trans. $B: \mathbb{P}_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_3$ so that $A \circ B = I_{\mathbb{P}_2}$. That is, for $p(x) \in \mathbb{P}_2$, we have

$$A \circ B(p(x)) = I(p(x))$$

$$A(B(p(x))) = p(x)$$

So $q(x) := B(p(x)) \in \mathbb{P}_3$ must be a polynomial s.t. $A(q(x)) = q'(x) = p(x)$. Thus $q(x)$ should be an anti-derivative of $p(x)$. If $p(x) = a_2 x^2 + a_1 x + a_0$, then

$$B(p(x)) = \frac{1}{3} a_2 x^3 + \frac{1}{2} a_1 x^2 + a_0 x + C$$

for some scalar C . However, since we want B to be linear, we must choose $C = 0$. Indeed,

$$B(2x) = x^2 + C$$

"

$$B(x+x) = B(x) + B(x) = \frac{1}{2} x^2 + C + \frac{1}{2} x^2 + C = x^2 + 2C$$

So $2C = C \Rightarrow C = 0$. So define B by

$$B(a_2 x^2 + a_1 x + a_0) = \frac{1}{3} a_2 x^3 + \frac{1}{2} a_1 x^2 + a_0 x$$

(Exercise: Check that B satisfies the full def. of linear.)

It is easy to see that $A(B(p(x))) = p(x)$ for all $p(x) \in \mathbb{P}_2$, so A is right invertible with right inverse B . □

Claim 2 A is not left invertible.

Proof We'll do a proof by contradiction. Suppose, towards a contradiction, that $C: \mathbb{P}_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_3$ was a left inverse for A :

$$C \circ A = I_{\mathbb{P}_3}$$

Then $C(A(p(x))) = p(x)$ for every $p(x) \in \mathbb{P}_3$. Consider $p(x) = 1$. Then $A(p(x)) = (1)' = 0$. Since C is linear, we must have

$$C(A(p(x)) = C(0) = 0 \neq p(x)$$

a contradiction. Thus the left inverse of A must not exist, and so A is not left invertible. This further implies A is not invertible. \square \square

- The above example implies there are transformations that are right invertible, but not left invertible. Similarly, there are trans. that are left but not right invertible. transformations (e.g. B)

9/23

Thm ^{1.10} If a linear transformation $A: V \rightarrow W$ is invertible, then its left and right inverses B and C are unique and satisfy $B=C$

Proof By definition of the left and right inverses, we have

$$B \circ A = I_V \quad \text{and} \quad A \circ C = I_W$$

So

$$(B \circ A) \circ C = I_V \circ C$$

$$B \circ (A \circ C) = C$$

$$B \circ (I_W) = C$$

$$B = C$$

Now, if $B_1: W \rightarrow V$ is another left inverse of A , then repeating the argument with B_1 instead of B gives $B_1 = C$. But since $C = B \Rightarrow B_1 = B$. Thus the left inverse is unique. A similar proof shows the right inverse is unique. \square

- This theorem can be used to simplify our proof of Claim 2 in the previous example. Rather than showing a left inverse cannot exist, we just have to show it cannot be B from Claim 1.

Corollary ^{1.11} A linear transformation $A: V \rightarrow W$ is invertible if and only if there exists a unique linear transformation, denoted A^{-1} , such that $A^{-1}: W \rightarrow V$ and

$$A^{-1}A = I_V \quad \text{and} \quad AA^{-1} = I_W.$$

A^{-1} is called the inverse of A .

Matrix Inverses

Def A matrix $A \in M_{m \times n}$ is invertible (resp. left invertible, right invertible) if the linear transformation

$$F^n \ni \vec{x} \mapsto A\vec{x} \in F^m$$

is invertible (resp. left invertible, right invertible).

The above theorem says that if $A \in M_{m \times n}$ is invertible, then there is a unique matrix A^{-1} satisfying

$AA^{-1} = I$ and $A^{-1}A = I$. We, of course, call A^{-1} the inverse of A .

EX (1) The identity matrix $I_n \in M_{n \times n}$ is invertible with $(I_n)^{-1} = I_n$. (Compare this to the reciprocal of 1 being 1).

(2) For $\theta \in (0, 2\pi)$ the rotation matrix

$$R_\theta = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}$$

has inverse $(R_\theta)^{-1} = R_{-\theta}$. This clear from how the rotation is defined.

Exercise: verify using matrix multiplication: $R_\theta R_{-\theta} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $R_{-\theta} R_\theta = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

(3) For $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$, $B = \begin{pmatrix} 1/2 & 1/2 \end{pmatrix}$ is a left inverse:

$$BA = \begin{pmatrix} 1/2 & 1/2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1/2 + 1/2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \end{pmatrix} = I.$$

But it isn't a right inverse since AB is ~~not~~ ~~not~~ ~~not~~ I . So A is not right invertible.

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1/2 & 1/2 \\ 1/2 & 1/2 \end{pmatrix} \neq I$$

Thm 1.12 If $A \in M_{n \times n}$ is invertible, then A is square (i.e. $n=m$).

Proof Since $A^{-1} \in M_{m \times m}$, we have

$$A^{-1}A = I_n \quad \text{and} \quad AA^{-1} = I_m$$

So using Exercise #6 on HW3 we have:

$$n = \text{Tr}(I_n) = \text{Tr}(A^{-1}A) = \text{Tr}(AA^{-1}) = \text{Tr}(I_m) = m. \quad \square$$

Properties of the inverse transformation

Thm 1.13 If $A: V \rightarrow W$ and $B: U \rightarrow V$ are invertible linear transformations, then $A \circ B: V \rightarrow W$ is invertible with

$$(A \circ B)^{-1} = B^{-1} \circ A^{-1}$$

Proof we compare

$$(A \circ B) \circ (B^{-1} \circ A^{-1}) = A \circ (B \circ B^{-1}) \circ A^{-1} = A \circ I \circ A^{-1} = A \circ A^{-1} = I$$

and

$$(B^{-1} \circ A^{-1}) \circ (A \circ B) = B^{-1} \circ (A^{-1} \circ A) \circ B = B^{-1} \circ I \circ B = B^{-1} \circ B = I \quad \square$$

Rem Be careful: if $A \circ B$ is invertible this does not imply A and B are invertible. In fact, in the above proof, we really only tried that B is right invertible and A is left invertible.

1.14
Thm If A is an invertible matrix, then A^T is invertible with $(A^T)^{-1} = (A^{-1})^T$.

Proof Recall $(AB)^T = B^T A^T$. So we have:

$$(A^{-1})^T A^T = (A A^{-1})^T = (I)^T = I$$

and

$$A^T (A^{-1})^T = (A^{-1} A)^T = (I)^T = I. \quad \square$$

1.15
Thm If $A: V \rightarrow W$ is invertible, then so is A^T with $(A^T)^{-1} = A$.

Proof The same equations that show A^{-1} is the inverse of A also show $A = (A^T)^{-1}$. \square

Isomorphism and Isomorphic Spaces

Def Given two vector spaces V and W (over the same field \mathbb{F}), we say V and W are isomorphic, and write $V \cong W$, if there exists an invertible linear transformation $T: V \rightarrow W$. We call T an isomorphism.

• When V and W are isomorphic, this means they are effectively the same vector space, just with another name. Let's see some evidence of this:

1.16
Thm Let $T: V \rightarrow W$ be an isomorphism, and let $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n \in V$ be a generating (resp. linearly independent) system. Then $T(\vec{v}_1), \dots, T(\vec{v}_n) \in W$ is a generating (resp. linearly independent) system. In particular, if $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n$ is a basis for V , then $T(\vec{v}_1), \dots, T(\vec{v}_n)$ is a basis for W .

Proof Homework 4 \square

1.17
Thm Let $T: V \rightarrow W$ be a linear transformation, and let $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n \in V$ be a basis. If $T(\vec{v}_1), \dots, T(\vec{v}_n)$ is a basis for W , then T is an isomorphism.

Proof Denote

$$\vec{w}_j := T(\vec{v}_j), \dots, \vec{w}_n := T(\vec{v}_n)$$

Recall that any linear transformation is defined by its outputs on a basis. Thus we can define a lin. trans. $S: W \rightarrow V$ by $S(\vec{w}_j) := \vec{v}_j$. It follows that

$$T \circ S(\vec{w}_j) = T(\vec{v}_j) = \vec{w}_j = I_W(\vec{w}_j)$$

$$\text{So } T(\vec{v}_j) = S(\vec{w}_j) = \vec{v}_j = I_V(\vec{v}_j)$$

Since $T \circ S$ and $S \circ T$ are determined by their outputs on the bases $\vec{w}_1, \dots, \vec{w}_n$ and $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n$, respectively, it follows that $T \circ S = I_W$ and $S \circ T = I_V$. That is, $S = T^{-1}$ and so T is an isomorphism. \square

1.18
Cor $A \in M_{n \times n}$ is invertible if and only if its columns form a basis for \mathbb{F}^n .

Proof The columns of A are the vectors $A(\vec{e}_1), \dots, A(\vec{e}_n)$. So the previous two theorems yield (\Rightarrow) and (\Leftarrow) , respectively. \square

Ex ① $\mathbb{P}_n \cong \mathbb{F}^{n+1}$. Define $T: \mathbb{F}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_n$ by
 $T(\vec{e}_1) = 1, T(\vec{e}_2) = x, \dots, T(\vec{e}_{n+1}) = x^n$

Since $1, x, \dots, x^n$ is a basis for \mathbb{P}_n , the previous theorem implies T is an iso.

② Let V be any real vector space with basis $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n \in V$. Then $V \cong \mathbb{R}^n$ by the iso
 $T(\vec{e}_1) = \vec{v}_1, \dots, T(\vec{e}_n) = \vec{v}_n$.

Similarly, if V is a complex vector space with basis $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n$, then $V \cong \mathbb{C}^n$.

③ $M_{2 \times 3} \cong \mathbb{F}^6$ ($= 2 \cdot 3$) since $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ is a basis.

Rem In general, $M_{m \times n} \cong \mathbb{F}^{m \cdot n}$ and an isomorphism is defined by:

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \dots & a_{mn} \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} \\ \vdots \\ a_{m1} \\ a_{12} \\ \vdots \\ a_{m2} \\ \vdots \\ a_{1n} \\ \vdots \\ a_{mn} \end{pmatrix}$$

i.e. stack the columns of A on top of each other

However, this forgets some important information about $M_{m \times n}$: mult. and transpose.

1.19
Thm Let V be a vector space, and suppose $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n$ and $\vec{w}_1, \dots, \vec{w}_m$ are both bases for V . Then $n = m$.

Proof By the above example, we have $V \cong \mathbb{F}^n$, say with iso. $T: V \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^n$, and $V \cong \mathbb{F}^m$ say with iso. $S: V \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^m$. Then $S \circ T^{-1}: \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^m$ is an isomorphism, and therefore $[S \circ T^{-1}] \in M_{m \times n}$ is invertible. Since only square matrices are invertible, we have $n = m$. \square

• So any two finite bases of a vector space have the same size.

Def. Let V be a vector space and let $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n$ be any basis for V . The dimension of V , denoted $\dim(V)$, is the number n .

Invertibility and Solving Equations

1.20

Thm Let $A: X \rightarrow Y$ be a linear transformation. Then A is invertible if and only if for every $\vec{b} \in Y$ the equation

$$A(\vec{x}) = \vec{b}$$

has a unique solution.

Proof (\Rightarrow) Suppose A is invertible. For $\vec{b} \in Y$, $\vec{x} := A^{-1}(\vec{b})$ solves the equation. Moreover, if \vec{x}_1 is another solution then we have:

$$\begin{aligned} A(\vec{x}_1) &= \vec{b} \\ A^{-1}(A(\vec{x}_1)) &= A^{-1}(\vec{b}) \\ \vec{x}_1 &= \vec{x}. \end{aligned}$$

So the solution is unique.

(\Leftarrow) Suppose for any $\vec{b} \in Y$, $A(\vec{x}) = \vec{b}$ has a unique solution. Define $B: Y \rightarrow X$ by letting $B(\vec{y}) \in X$ be the unique solution of $A(\vec{x}) = \vec{y}$.

We claim B is the inverse of A . First, let us verify that it is linear. For $\vec{y}_1, \vec{y}_2 \in Y$ let $\vec{x}_1 = B(\vec{y}_1)$ and $\vec{x}_2 = B(\vec{y}_2)$. Then by definition of B we have:

$$\begin{aligned} A(\vec{x}_1) &= \vec{y}_1 \\ A(\vec{x}_2) &= \vec{y}_2. \end{aligned}$$

Now, for any scalars α, β we have by linearity of A that

$$A(\alpha\vec{x}_1 + \beta\vec{x}_2) = \alpha A(\vec{x}_1) + \beta A(\vec{x}_2) = \alpha\vec{y}_1 + \beta\vec{y}_2.$$

So $\alpha\vec{x}_1 + \beta\vec{x}_2$ must be the unique solution to

$$A(\vec{x}) = \alpha\vec{y}_1 + \beta\vec{y}_2.$$

Hence

$$B(\alpha\vec{y}_1 + \beta\vec{y}_2) = \alpha\vec{x}_1 + \beta\vec{x}_2 = \alpha B(\vec{y}_1) + \beta B(\vec{y}_2).$$

And so B is linear.

Finally, we check $A \circ B = I$ and $B \circ A = I$. Let $\vec{x} \in X$ and set $\vec{y} := A(\vec{x})$. Then by def. of B we have

$$\vec{x} = B(\vec{y}) = B(A(\vec{x})) = B \circ A(\vec{x}).$$

Similarly, if $\vec{y} \in Y$, then $\vec{x} := B(\vec{y})$ solves $A(\vec{x}) = \vec{y}$. Hence

$$\vec{y} = A(\vec{x}) = A(B(\vec{y})) = A \circ B(\vec{y}).$$

Thus $B = A^{-1}$ as claimed. □

1.7 Subspaces

Def A subspace of a vector space V is a subset $V_0 \subset V$ satisfying:

1. $\vec{0} \in V_0$
2. For every $\vec{v}, \vec{w} \in V_0$, $\vec{v} + \vec{w} \in V_0$ (V_0 is closed under addition)
3. For every $\vec{v} \in V_0$ and every scalar d , $d\vec{v} \in V_0$ (V_0 is closed under scalar multiplication)

A subspace $V_0 \subset V$ is in particular a vector space in its own right. Indeed, all the axioms are satisfied because they are satisfied for V . Thus subspaces can very easily give us lots of new examples of vector spaces, since we only need to check 1-3 above, rather than all of the vector space axioms.

EX (1) For a vector space V , $V_0 = \{\vec{0}\}$ is a subspace called the trivial subspace. It is the smallest subspace in any vector space. ($\emptyset \subset V$ is not a subspace because it fails 1.)
 $V \subset V$ is also a subspace (the biggest subspace).

(2) Let $T: V \rightarrow W$ be a linear transformation.

• $\text{Null}(T) = \{\vec{v} \in V : T(\vec{v}) = \vec{0}\}$ is a subspace of V called the null space of T . (also called the kernel of T and denoted $\text{Ker}(T)$).

• $\text{Ran}(T) = \{\vec{w} \in W : \exists \vec{v} \in V \text{ such that } T(\vec{v}) = \vec{w}\}$ is a subspace of W called the range of T .

(3) Let $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n \in V$. The span of $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n$ is the set

$$\text{span}\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n\} = \{d_1\vec{v}_1 + \dots + d_n\vec{v}_n : d_1, \dots, d_n \text{ are scalars}\},$$

and it is a subspace of V .