

LINEAR ALGEBRA II

SPRING 2024 - HKU

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These notes will be updated as the semester progresses. Their goal is to present the material from the textbook and the class in a more concise form. I will often try to give slightly different phrasing (and/or proofs) than the one provided in the textbook. The intent is to make you think the concepts through and to work the concepts by yourself.

You are strongly encouraged to do the exercises as you read. They will help you parse the definitions, examples, and concepts used in the proofs of the theory. Some of these exercises will be assigned as Homework or will be discussed in class.

Points in red and blue are still being edited.

I would appreciate any comments. If you find mistakes, which are probably present, please let me know too. I normally revise part of the notes after the class in which we discussed the material, so please refer frequently to the [website](#) for the most up-to-date version.

1. JAN. 15, 2024

1.1. Fields. In your previous linear algebra class (Math 2101) you defined a vector space over the real numbers. The very same definition works in a slightly more general context, we start by introducing some terminology for that.

Definition 1. A *field* is a triple $(\mathbb{F}, +, \cdot)$, where \mathbb{F} is a set, and we have operations (i.e. functions):

- addition $+: \mathbb{F} \times \mathbb{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$,
- multiplication $\cdot: \mathbb{F} \times \mathbb{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$;

satisfying the following list of axioms:

- (a) addition and multiplication are associative;
- (b) addition and multiplication are commutative;
- (c) there exists $0 \in \mathbb{F}$, such that $a + 0 = 0 + a = a$, for all $a \in \mathbb{F}$;
- (d) there exists $1 \in \mathbb{F}$, such that $a \cdot 1 = 1 \cdot a = a$, for all $a \in \mathbb{F}$;
- (e) $0 \neq 1$;
- (f) every $a \in \mathbb{F}$ has an *additive inverse*, i.e. an element $b \in \mathbb{F}$ such that $a + b = b + a = 0$;
- (g) every $a \in \mathbb{F} \setminus \{0\}$ has a multiplicative inverse;
- (h) distributivity, i.e. for every $a, b, c \in \mathbb{F}$ one has: $a \cdot (b + c) = a \cdot b + a \cdot c$.

Notation 1. We will omit the \cdot when writing the multiplication operation, i.e. for any $a, b \in \mathbb{F}$ we will write ab for $a \cdot b$.

Example 1. (i) The real numbers \mathbb{R} form a field with usual addition and multiplication.

(ii) The complex numbers \mathbb{C} form a field with usual addition and multiplication.

(iii) The *rational numbers* $\mathbb{Q} := \{\frac{p}{q} \mid p \in \mathbb{Z}, q \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}\}$ are a field.

Exercise 1. Write out explicitly what conditions (a-b) and (g) above are and check them in one of the examples in Example 1.

Exercise 2. Let p be a prime number and consider $\mathbb{F}_p = \{0, 1, \dots, p-1\}$, then for $a, b, c \in \mathbb{F}_p$ we define:

$$a + b := c \text{ if } (a + b - c) \text{ is a multiple of } p, \quad a \cdot b := c \text{ if } (a \cdot b - c) \text{ is a multiple of } p.$$

(i) Check that $+: \mathbb{F}_p \times \mathbb{F}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_p$ and $\cdot: \mathbb{F}_p \times \mathbb{F}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_p$ are well-defined.

(ii) Prove that \mathbb{F}_p is a field.

Exercise 3. Can you come up with another example of a field?

1.2. Vector spaces. In a previous Linear Algebra class you probably approached vector spaces by concrete examples. The main point of this class is to develop the theory from an abstract point of view focused on proofs, mostly basis-free, and applicable to general fields of characteristic zero, until later results that might require \mathbb{F} to be the real or complex numbers.

Let \mathbb{F} be a field.

Definition 2. A *vector space* over \mathbb{F} is the data of

- (i) a set V ;
- (ii) an operation $+: V \times V \rightarrow V$;
- (iii) a *scalar multiplication* operation $\cdot: \mathbb{F} \times V \rightarrow V$.

These are subject to the following axioms:

- (a) the operation $+$ is associative, commutative, it admits an identity $0_V \in V$ and inverse;
- (b) the operation \cdot is associative;
- (c) for every $v \in V$ one has $1 \cdot v = v$;
- (d) scalar multiplication distributes over vector addition (i.e. the operation $+$ on V) and vector addition distributes over scalar multiplication¹.

Example 2. (i) The set $\{0\}$ is a vector space over any field \mathbb{F} .

- (ii) Given a set S consider \mathbb{F}^S the set of functions $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$. The operations are defined by pointwise addition and multiplication, i.e. given $f, g \in \mathbb{F}^S$ and $a \in \mathbb{F}$ we let:

$$(f + g)(s) := f(s) + g(s), \quad (a \cdot f)(s) := a \cdot f(s),$$

and $0_{\mathbb{F}^S}$ is the zero function.

- (iii) For any $n \geq 1$, the set \mathbb{F}^n is a vector space, where the operations are defined as follows. Let $v = (v_1, \dots, v_n) \in \mathbb{F}^n$, $w = (w_1, \dots, w_n) \in \mathbb{F}^n$, and $a \in \mathbb{F}$, then:

$$v + w := (v_1 + w_1, \dots, v_n + w_n), \quad a \cdot v := (av_1, \dots, av_n),$$

and $0_{\mathbb{F}^n} := (0, \dots, 0)$.

- (iv) For any $n, m \geq 1$ the set $M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F})$ of $m \times n$ matrices with coefficients in \mathbb{F} equipped with matrix addition and scalar multiplication is a vector space over \mathbb{F} .
- (v) The set $\mathbb{F}^{\mathbb{N}}$ of sequences with value in \mathbb{F} is a vector space with termwise addition and scalar multiplication.

Remark 1. A set G equipped with an operation $+: G \times G \rightarrow G$ satisfying condition (a) above is an *Abelian group*. These objects are very important in algebra and are studied in more detail in an abstract algebra course, e.g. Math3301 (Algebra I).

Lemma 1. Let V be a vector space over \mathbb{F} .

- (1) Given $v \in V$ such that $v + w = w$ for all $w \in V$, then $v = 0_V$.

¹See Exercise 1 in Worksheet 1 for an example where this fails.

(2) The additive inverse is unique.

(3) For every $v \in V$, we have $0 \cdot v = 0_V$.

(4) For every $a \in \mathbb{F}$, we have $a \cdot 0_V = 0_V$.

(5) For every $v \in V$ we have $v + (-1) \cdot v = 0$, i.e. the additive inverse of v is given by $-v := (-1) \cdot v$.

Proof. (1) We have $v = v + 0_V = 0_V$, where the first equality follows from Definition 2 (a) and the second from the assumption.

(2) Assume there exists $u_1, u_2 \in V$ such that $u_1 + v = 0_V = u_2 + v$. Then we have: $u_1 = u_1 + 0_V = u_1 + u_2 + v = u_2 + u_1 + v = u_2 + 0_V = u_2$.

(3) Notice $v + 0 \cdot v = (1 + 0) \cdot v = 1 \cdot v = v$. Thus by (1), we have $0 \cdot v = 0_V$.

(4) For any $a \in \mathbb{F}$, we have: $a \cdot 0_V = a \cdot (0_V + 0_V) = a \cdot 0_V + a \cdot 0_V$. By (1), we have $a \cdot 0_V = 0_V$.

(5) Notice $v + (-1) \cdot v = (1 + (-1)) \cdot v = 0 \cdot v = 0_V$, where in the last step we used (3). □

Notation 2. (1) Notice that for $a, b \in \mathbb{F}$ and $v \in V$ we have:

$$(ab) \cdot v = a \cdot (b \cdot v)$$

by Definition 2 (b). Thus, we can omit the \cdot for the operation of scalar multiplication as we omitted it for multiplication in a field (see) without causing ambiguity.

(2) We will denote the additive inverse of v by $-v$.

(3) We will denote 0_V simply by 0 . This should not be confused with $0 \in \mathbb{F}$ the identity of the operation $+$ in \mathbb{F} , as these live in different sets, except when $V = \mathbb{F}$, in which case the notation is consistent.

Remark 2. (i) The empty set \emptyset is not a vector space. Namely, it fails condition (a) from Definition 2.

(ii) Condition (a) from Definition 2 can be substituted by

(a)' the operation $+$ is associative, commutative, it admits an identity $0_V \in V$ and (3) from Lemma 1 holds.

Indeed, assume (a)', then we have $0_V = 0 \cdot w = (1 + (-1)) \cdot w = w + (-1)w$ for every $w \in V$. Thus (a) holds.

Example 3. Let V be a vector space over \mathbb{R} . We can define a vector space over the complex numbers $V_{\mathbb{C}}$, called the *complexification* of V as follows:

- as a set we let $V_{\mathbb{C}} := V \times V$;
- $+: V_{\mathbb{C}} \times V_{\mathbb{C}} \rightarrow V_{\mathbb{C}}$ is given by $(u_1, v_1) + (u_2, v_2) := (u_1 + u_2, v_1 + v_2)$;
- scalar multiplication is defined as $(a + bi) \cdot (u_1, v_1) = (au_1 - bv_1, bu_1 + av_1)$.

The reader should check that $V_{\mathbb{C}}$ is a vector space over \mathbb{C} .

Exercise 4. Universal property of complexification. Let V be a vector space over \mathbb{R} and W a vector space over \mathbb{C} . Notice that W can be seen as a vector space over \mathbb{R} , where $a \cdot w := (a + i0) \cdot w$, i.e. using the natural inclusion of \mathbb{R} into \mathbb{C} . Let $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{R}}(V, W)$ denote the set of linear operators between V and W , where W is seen as a vector space over \mathbb{R} and let $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{C}}(V_{\mathbb{C}}, W)$ denote the set of linear operator between $V_{\mathbb{C}}$ and W as vector spaces over \mathbb{C} . Prove that there exists a bijection:

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{R}}(V, W) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{C}}(V_{\mathbb{C}}, W).$$

2. JAN. 18, 2024

2.1. Subspaces.

Definition 3. Let V be a vector space, a subset $U \subseteq V$ is said to be a *subspace* if:

- (a) $0 \in U$;
- (b) the restrictions $+_U : U \times U \rightarrow V$ and $\cdot_U : \mathbb{F} \times U \rightarrow V$ factors as:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} U \times U & \xrightarrow{+_U} & U \\ & \searrow +_U & \downarrow \\ & & V \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{F} \times U & \xrightarrow{\cdot_U} & U \\ & \searrow \cdot_U & \downarrow \\ & & V \end{array}.$$

Given a subspace $U \subseteq V$ we will simply write $+: U \times U \rightarrow U$ and $\cdot: \mathbb{F} \times U \rightarrow U$ for $+_U$ and \cdot_U , respectively.

Exercise 5. (i) Check that Definition 3 agrees with Definition (1.33) from the textbook.

- (ii) Show that only requiring condition (b) in Definition 3 would not agree with the notion as defined in the textbook.

Example 4. (i) let $U \subset \mathbb{F}^n$ defined as $U := \{(v_1, \dots, v_n) \in \mathbb{F}^n \mid v_1 + 2v_2 + \dots + nv_n = 0\}$;

- (ii) let $p \in \mathbb{F}[x, y, z]$ be a polynomial of the form $p(x, y, z) = ax + by + cz$, for some constants $a, b, c \in \mathbb{F}$, then $U := \{(v_1, v_2, v_3) \in \mathbb{F}^3 \mid p(v_1, v_2, v_3) = 0\}$ is a subspace;

- (iii) the subset of functions $f: [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ which are continuous is a subspace of all the functions from $[0, 1]$ to \mathbb{R} ;

- (iv) let $U \subset \mathbb{F}[x]$ denote the subset of polynomials p such that $p(0) = p'(0) = \dots = p^{(k)}(0) = 0$;

- (v) the set of all sequences of complex numbers whose limit is 0 is a subspace of $\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{N}}$.

Exercise 6. (i) Let $p \in \mathbb{R}[x, y, z]$ be a polynomial of degree 1 and define the subset:

$$U_p := \{(v_1, v_2, v_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid p(v_1, v_2, v_3) = 0\}.$$

Show that U_p is a subspace if and only if p is of the form taken in (ii) of Example 4.

- (ii) With the notation as in (i), assume that $p_1, p_2 \in \mathbb{R}[x, y, z]$ are polynomials of degree 1 with no constant term, prove that

$$U_{p_1} \cup U_{p_2} = U_{p_1 p_2}.$$

Is $U_{p_1 p_2}$ a subspace of \mathbb{R}^3 ? What about $U_{p_1} \cap U_{p_2}$?

- (iii) Can you guess which types of polynomials $p \in \mathbb{R}[x, y, z]$ have the property that U_p is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^3 .

Exercise 7. Let $\mathbb{F}^{\mathbb{N}}$ be the vector space of sequences over \mathbb{F} . For an integer $p \geq 1$, we define the subset $S_p \subset \mathbb{F}^{\mathbb{N}}$ of sequences $(a_n)_{n \geq 1}$ satisfying:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |a_n|^p < \infty.$$

Proof or disproof S_p is a subspace for every integer $p \geq 1$.

Definition 4. Given $U_1, U_2 \subseteq V$ two subspaces of V we define the *sum* $U_1 + U_2 \subseteq V$ as the subset of elements $v \in V$ such that there exist $u_1 \in U_1$ and $u_2 \in U_2$ such that $u_1 + u_2 = v$. For U_1, \dots, U_k a collection of k subspaces of V , we inductively define:²

$$U_1 + \dots + U_k := U_1 + (U_2(\dots + U_k)).$$

Example 5. (i) let $U_i = \{(v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4) \in \mathbb{F}^4 \mid v_j = 0 \text{ for } j \neq i\}$ for $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$. Then

$$U_2 + U_3 + U_4 = \{(v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4) \in \mathbb{F}^4 \mid v_1 = 0\}, \quad U_1 + U_2 + U_3 + U_4 = \mathbb{F}^4.$$

²In fact, this definition is independent of the choice of parenthesization, hence justifying the notation.

- (ii) let $U_1 = \{(v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4) \in \mathbb{F}^4 \mid v_3 + v_4 = 0 \text{ and } v_1 + v_2 = 0\}$, let $U_2 = \{(v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4) \in \mathbb{F}^4 \mid v_1 = 0\}$, then $U_1 + U_2 = \mathbb{F}^4$.

Exercise 8. In the condition in Definition 4 are the vectors u_1 and u_2 uniquely determined? Compare (i) and (ii) in Example 4.

Definition 5. Given $U_1, U_2 \subseteq V$ two subspaces of V we say that $U_1 + U_2$ is a *direct sum* if u_1 and u_2 are uniquely determined. In this case, we use the notation $U_1 \oplus U_2$ ³. Similarly, given subspaces $U_1, \dots, U_k \subseteq V$ we say that $U_1 + \dots + U_k$ is a direct sum if any vector $v \in U_1 + \dots + U_k$ can be written in a unique way as $v = u_1 + \dots + u_k$, where $u_j \in U_j$ for $1 \leq j \leq k$. We denote the direct sum by $U_1 \oplus \dots \oplus U_k$.

Exercise 9. Let $V = \mathbb{F}^4$. Provide three distinct subspaces $U_1, U_2, U_3 \subseteq V$ such that:

$$V_1 + V_2 = V_1 \oplus V_2, V_2 + V_3 = V_2 \oplus V_3, \text{ but } V_1 + V_2 + V_3 \neq V_1 \oplus V_2 \oplus V_3.$$

Remark 3. Let $U_1, \dots, U_k \subseteq V$ be a family of subspaces, then we have $U_1 + \dots + U_k$ is a direct sum if and only if for every $j \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ we have $U_j \cap (\sum_{i=1, i \neq j}^n U_i) = \{0\}$, where $\sum_{i=1, i \neq j}^n U_i$ denotes the sum of U_1, \dots, U_k where we omit U_j .

2.2. Span and linear dependence.

Definition 6. Given a subset $S \subseteq V$ we define $\text{Span } S$ the *span of S* to be the subset of V consisting of vectors $v \in V$ such that

$$v = a_1 v_1 + \dots + a_k v_k$$

for some $k \in \mathbb{N}$, $a_1, \dots, a_k \in \mathbb{F}$, and $v_1, \dots, v_k \in S$. It is convenient to define $\text{Span } \emptyset = \{0\}$. If $\text{Span } S = V$ we say that S *spans V* .

Remark 4. It is clear that $\text{Span } S$ is a vector space and that it contains S . We claim that $\text{Span } S$ is the smallest subspace of V containing S . Consider a subspace $U \subseteq V$ such that $S \subseteq U$, we claim that $\text{Span } S \subseteq U$. Indeed, given $v \in \text{Span } S$ we have $v = a_1 u_1 + \dots + a_k u_k$ for some $a_1, \dots, a_k \in \mathbb{F}$, and $u_1, \dots, u_k \in S$. Since $u_1, \dots, u_k \in U$ we have $v \in U$. Thus, it follows that $\text{Span } S$ belongs to the intersection of all subspaces of V containing S .

Example 6. (i) Consider $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\} \subseteq \mathbb{F}^n$, where $e_i = (0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$ where 1 is in the i th position. Then $\text{Span } \{e_1, \dots, e_n\} = \mathbb{F}^n$.

- (ii) Let $a, b, c \in \mathbb{F}$ and consider $S = \{(b, -a, 0), (0, c, -b)\}$, then we have $\text{Span } S = U_p$, where U_p is defined as in Example 4 (ii).

Exercise 10. Let e_i be as in Example 6 (i) and consider the set $S = \{je_i - ie_j\}_{1 \leq i < j \leq n}$, then

$$\text{Span } S = \{(v_1, \dots, v_n) \in \mathbb{F}^n \mid v_1 + 2v_2 + \dots + nv_n = 0\}.$$

Also notice that S is not a basis in general. How could you change it to be a basis?

Definition 7. A vector space U is *finite-dimensional* if there exists a finite subset $S \subseteq U$ such that $\text{Span } S = U$.

Example 7. (i) \mathbb{F}^n is finite-dimensional;

- (ii) the set $\mathcal{P}_n(\mathbb{F})$ of polynomials of degree at most n ;

(iii) for any S a finite set \mathbb{F}^S is a finite-dimensional vector space.

Exercise 11. Check which of the examples of vector spaces defined so far are finite-dimensional.

Definition 8. (1) A *polynomial* with coefficients in \mathbb{F} is a function $p : \mathbb{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$ such that

$$(1) \quad p(x) = a_0 + a_1 x + \dots + a_n x^n$$

for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $a_i \in \mathbb{F}$.

- (2) We let $\mathbb{F}[x]$ denote the set of polynomials in \mathbb{F} , notice that the textbook uses the notation $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{F})$.

³At the moment this notation might seem unmotivated, but it will be clearer when we consider this operation on vector spaces.

(3) Given a polynomial $p \in \mathbb{F}[x]$ the *degree* of p is the smallest natural number $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that p can be written as (1). By convention, we set the degree of the zero polynomial to be $-\infty$.

(4) Let $\mathcal{P}_n(\mathbb{F})$ denote the set of polynomials of degree at most n .

Exercise 12. Check that $\mathcal{P}_n(\mathbb{F})$ forms a vector space.

Exercise 13. Assume that $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}$ or \mathbb{C} . Let $p : \mathbb{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$ be a function. Check that $p \in \mathcal{P}_n(\mathbb{F})$ if and only if $p^{(n+1)} = 0$.

Exercise 14. The set $\mathbb{F}[x] = \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{F})$ is a vector space. Think about how we can formally define this.

Definition 9. Let V be a vector space over \mathbb{F} . Given a finite subset $S = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\} \subset V$ we say that S is *linearly independent* if

$$a_1 v_1 + \dots + a_n v_n = 0 \implies a_1 = \dots = a_n = 0,$$

where $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{F}$. By convention, we declare that $S = \emptyset$ is linearly independent. We say that a subset $S \subset V$ is linearly dependent if it is not linearly independent.

Example 8. (i) For every $k \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, the set $S = \{e_1, \dots, e_k\} \subset \mathbb{F}^n$, where e_i 's are defined as in Example 6 (i), is linearly independent.

(ii) For any $k \geq 0$ the set $S_k := \{1, x, \dots, x^k\} \subset \mathbb{F}[x]$ is linearly independent.

(iii) Given $\{v, w\} \subset V$, then $\{v, w\}$ is linearly independent if and only if $v \neq aw$ for every $a \in \mathbb{F}$ and $bv \neq w$ for every $b \in \mathbb{F}$.

Exercise 15. Given a finite subset $S \subset V$. Prove that if $0 \in S$ then S is linearly dependent.

Example 9. (1) the subset $S = \{e_1 - e_2, e_2 - e_3, e_3 - e_1\} \subset \mathbb{F}^3$ is linearly dependent.

(2) the subset $S = \{x^2, x^2 - 2x, 3x\} \subset \mathbb{F}[x]$ is linearly dependent.

Exercise 16. Given $S = \{(2, 3, 1), (1, -1, 2), (7, 3, c)\} \subset \mathbb{F}^3$. Check that S is linearly dependent if and only if $c = 8$.

Exercise 17. Given $\{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4\} \subset V$ a linearly independent set. Prove that $\{v_1, v_1 + v_2, v_1 + v_2 + v_3, v_1 + v_2 + v_3 + v_4\}$ is a linearly independent set.

The next result is extremely useful in many future proofs since it allows one to make a linearly dependent set smaller.

Lemma 2. Let $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\} \subset V$ be a linearly dependent subset of a vector space V . Then there exists $k \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ such that

$$v_k \in \text{Span}\{v_1, \dots, v_{k-1}\},$$

when $k = 1$ the right-hand side above should be interpreted as $\text{Span}\emptyset$. Moreover, one has:

$$\text{Span}\{v_1, \dots, v_n\} = \text{Span}\{v_1, \dots, v_n\} \setminus \{v_k\}.$$

Proof. Since $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ is linearly dependent there exists $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{F}$ not all zero such that

$$a_1 v_1 + \dots + a_n v_n = 0.$$

Thus, let $k \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ such that $a_k \neq 0$, then we have:

$$v_k = -a_k^{-1}(a_1 v_1 + \dots + a_{k-1} v_{k-1} + a_{k+1} v_{k+1} + \dots + a_n v_n),$$

where the expression on the right above works for $k \in \{2, \dots, n-1\}$, we leave it to the reader to write the correct expression for the edge cases. To prove the last assertion we notice that clearly $\text{Span}\{v_1, \dots, v_n\} \setminus \{v_k\} \subseteq \text{Span}\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$. Now suppose that $w \in \text{Span}\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ and let $w = a_1 v_1 + \dots + a_n v_n$. Since $v_k \in \text{Span}\{v_1, \dots, v_{k-1}\}$, there exists $b_1, \dots, b_{k-1} \in \mathbb{F}$ such that $v_k = b_1 v_1 + \dots + b_{k-1} v_{k-1}$. Then

$$w = (a_1 + b_1)v_1 + \dots + (a_{k-1} + b_{k-1})v_{k-1} + \sum_{i=k+1}^n a_i v_i,$$

so $w \in \text{Span}\{v_1, \dots, v_n\} \setminus \{v_k\}$. This finishes the proof. \square

Definition 10. Let $T \subseteq V$ be a subset of a vector space. We say that T is a *spanning set* of V if $\text{Span } T = V$.

Lemma 3. Let V be a finite-dimensional vector space. Consider $S, T \subseteq V$ subsets of a vector space V . Suppose that $\text{Span } S = V$ and that T is a linearly independent subset. Then $|T| \leq |S|$.

Proof. Let $v_1 \in T$ and consider $S \cup \{v_1\}$. Since $\text{Span } S = V$ we have that $v_1 \in \text{Span } S$, so $S \cup \{v_1\}$ is linearly dependent. By Lemma 2 there exists $u_1 \in S$ such that $\text{Span } S \cup \{v_1\} = \text{Span } S \cup \{v_1\} \setminus \{u_1\}$. Now let $T_1 := T \setminus \{v_1\}$, $S'_1 := S \setminus \{u_1\}$, and $S_1 := S'_1 \cup \{v_1\}$.

Let $v_2 \in T_1$ and consider $S_1 \cup \{v_2\}$, as argued in the previous paragraph we can find $u_2 \in S_1$ such that $\text{Span } S_1 = \text{Span } (S_1 \cup \{v_2\} \setminus \{u_2\})$. Then we let $T_2 := T_1 \setminus \{v_2\}$, $S'_2 := S'_1 \setminus \{u_1, u_2\}$, and $S_2 := S_1 \cup \{v_2\}$. Notice that we can repeat this process k times, where $k = |T|$ to obtain two sequences:

$$\emptyset \subset T_k \subset \cdots \subset T_1 \subset T, \quad \text{and} \quad S'_k \subset \cdots \subset S'_1 \subset S$$

where $\text{Span } S_i = \text{Span } S$, $|S'_i| = |S| - i$ and $|T_i| = |T| - i$ for every $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$. This implies that $|S| \geq k = |T|$.

This is the same argument as in (2.22) in the textbook. \square

Corollary 1. Let $U \subseteq V$ be a subset of a finite-dimensional vector space V , then U is finite-dimensional.

Proof. We do an induction on the number of vectors necessary to span U . The base case is $U = \text{Span } \emptyset = \{0\}$, in which case U is finite-dimensional. Assume that $U \neq \{0\}$ and let $v_1 \in U$ be a non-zero vector. Then if $U = \text{Span } v_1$ we are done, otherwise there exists $v_2 \in U$ such that $v_2 \notin \text{Span } v_1$ and we can consider $\text{Span } \{v_1, v_2\}$. We claim that repeating this step k times gives $\text{Span } \{v_1, \dots, v_k\} = U$ for some $k \in \mathbb{N}$. Indeed, let $S \subset V$ be a finite set such that $\text{Span } S = V$. Such a set exists since V is finite-dimensional. Then consider $\{v_1, \dots, v_k\} \subseteq \{v_1, \dots, v_k\} \cup S$. Since $S \subseteq \{v_1, \dots, v_k\} \cup S$ spans V , we have that $k \leq |S|$, thus k is finite. \square

3. JAN. 22, 2024

3.1. Basis. The following concept is extremely important in linear algebra. One could say that the main difference between this course and Math2101 is that in Math2101 one is choosing a basis for every vector space that is considered by default, whereas in Math2102 we are not.

Definition 11. A subset $S \subset V$ is a *basis* if it satisfies:

- (a) $\text{Span } S = V$;
- (b) S is linearly independent.

Example 10. (i) The set $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$ as defined in Example 6 (i) is a basis of \mathbb{F}^n .

(ii) The set $\{1, \dots, x^4\}$ is a basis of $\mathcal{P}_4(\mathbb{F})$ the vector space of polynomials of degree at most 4.

(iii) The sets $\{(7, 5), (-4, 9)\}$ and $\{(1, 2), (3, 5)\}$ are both basis of \mathbb{F}^2 .

Remark 5. A subset $S = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\} \subset V$ is a basis of V if and only if every element $u \in V$ can be written as:

$$u = a_1 v_1 + \cdots + a_n v_n$$

for an unique choice of $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{F}$. Indeed, suppose that there are two n -uples $(a_1, \dots, a_n), (b_1, \dots, b_n) \in \mathbb{F}^n$ such that

$$u = a_1 v_1 + \cdots + a_n v_n, \quad u = b_1 v_1 + \cdots + b_n v_n,$$

and $a_i \neq b_i$ for some $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$. Then we have:

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= u - u = (a_1 v_1 + \cdots + a_n v_n) - (b_1 v_1 + \cdots + b_n v_n) \\ &= (a_1 - b_1) v_1 + \cdots + (a_n - b_n) v_n. \end{aligned}$$

Since S is linearly independent, we have that $a_i = b_i$ for all $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$.

One of the consequences of Lemma 2 is that any finite spanning set contains a subset which is a basis.

Lemma 4. Let $T \subset V$ be a finite spanning subset of V . Then there exists $S \subseteq T$ such that S is a basis.

Proof. We proceed by downward induction. If T is linearly independent we are done. If T is linearly dependent, by Lemma 2 there exists $v \in T$ such that $\text{Span } T \setminus \{v\} = \text{Span } T = V$ and $|T \setminus \{v\}| < |T|$. Since T is finite this process stops and we obtain a basis. \square

We get two immediate consequences:

Corollary 2. (1) Every finite-dimensional vector space V admits a basis.

(2) Any linearly independent subset $S = \{v_1, \dots, v_k\} \subset V$ extends to a basis.

Proof. For (1) let T be a finite set such that $\text{Span } T = V$. By Lemma 4 there exists $S \subseteq T$ such that S is a basis of V .

For (2) let $T = \{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$ be a finite set such that $\text{Span } T = V$. Then $\text{Span } S \cup T = V$. Order the set $T \cup S$ as follows $\{v_1 < v_2 < \dots < v_k < w_1 < \dots < w_n\}$, then running the argument in the proof of Lemma 4 we notice that we obtain a subset $R \subset V$ such that:

$$S \subseteq R \subset S \cup T \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Span } R = V.$$

\square

The following result is interesting because it uses that \mathbb{F} is a field in a serious way. In other words, certain concepts so far would make sense for more general objects as (commutative) rings, i.e. the integers \mathbb{Z} , however, the following result is on of the first to fail.

Lemma 5. Let V be a finite vector space and consider a subspace $U \subseteq V$. Then there exists a subspace $W \subseteq V$ such that $U \oplus W = V$.

Proof. Notice that U is also finite-dimensional. Let T be a basis for U (it exists by Corollary 2 (1)). By Corollary 2 (2) we can find $T \subset R$ such that R is a basis of V . We claim that $W := \text{Span } R \setminus T$ satisfies $U \oplus W = V$. Indeed, it is clear that $U + W = V$, by Lemma ?? we need to check that $U \cap W = \{0\}$. We give names to the elements of $U = \{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$ and $W = \{v_{k+1}, \dots, v_n\}$. Assume by contradiction that there exists a non-zero vector $v \in U \cap W$, then we have

$$v = a_1 v_1 + \dots + a_k v_k = a_{k+1} v_{k+1} + \dots + a_n v_n.$$

Thus, $a_1 v_1 + \dots + a_k v_k - (a_{k+1} v_{k+1} + \dots + a_n v_n) = 0$, and since $\{v_1, \dots, v_k, v_{k+1}, \dots, v_n\}$ is linearly independent, we have that $a_i = 0$ for all $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$. So we get a contradiction with $U \cap W \neq \{0\}$. This finishes the proof. \square

3.2. Dimension. The notion of dimension is rather intuitive. The next result justifies that one can define it in a naïve way.

Lemma 6. Given T, S two basis of a vector space V , we have $|S| = |T|$.

Proof. Notice that S and T are both linearly independent sets and spanning sets for V . Thus, Lemma 3 implies that $|S| \leq |T|$ and $|T| \leq |S|$. \square

Definition 12. The *dimension* of a vector space V , denoted by $\dim V$, is the size of any basis of V .

Exercise 18. Go through all the examples of finite-dimensional vector spaces we had so far and find out their dimension.

Here are a couple of easy consequences of the definition.

Lemma 7. Assume that V is finite-dimensional.

- (1) For any subspace $U \subseteq V$, we have $\dim U \leq \dim V$.
- (2) Let $S \subseteq V$ be a linearly independent set, if $|S| = \dim V$, then S is a basis.
- (3) Given a subspace $U \subseteq V$ such that $\dim U = \dim V$, then $U = V$.
- (4) Let $S \subseteq V$ such that $\text{Span } S = V$ and $|S| = \dim V$, then S is a basis.

Proof. (1) Let $S \subset U$ be a basis of U . Notice that $S \subset V$ is also linearly independent. Now Lemma 3 implies that $|S| \leq |T|$ for any basis T of V , i.e. $|S| \leq \dim V$.

(2) Assume that S is not a basis, then by Corollary 2 (2) there exists $S \subset S'$ such that S' is a basis. However, this would imply that $\dim V = |S| < |S'|$ where S' is a basis of V , which is a contradiction.

(3) Let $S \subset U$ be a basis of U . Since $S \subset V$ is linearly independent in V and $|S| = \dim U = \dim V$, by (2) we have S is a basis of V . Thus, $U = \text{Span } S = V$.

(4) Assume that S is not a basis, i.e. S is linearly dependent, then by Lemma 2 there exist $v \in S$ such that $\text{Span } S \setminus \{v\} = V$. This gives $\dim V \leq |S| - 1$, which is a contradiction. \square

Now we investigate how the notion of dimension interacts with sums of subspaces.

Lemma 8. Let $U_1, U_2 \subset V$ be subspaces of V . Then we have:

$$\dim U_1 + U_2 = \dim U_1 + \dim U_2 - \dim U_1 \cap U_2.$$

Proof. Let S_{12} be a basis of $U_1 \cap U_2$. By Corollary 2 (2) there exists $S_{12} \subset S_1$ and $S_{12} \subset S_2$ such that S_i is a basis of U_i , for $i = 1, 2$. We claim that $S_1 \cup S_2$ is a basis of $U_1 + U_2$. Clearly, we have $S_1 \cup S_2 \subset U_1 + U_2$, this gives that $\text{Span } S_1 \cup S_2 \subset U_1 + U_2$. Since $U_1 \subseteq \text{Span } S_1 \cup S_2$ and $U_2 \subseteq \text{Span } S_1 \cup S_2$, we obtain $\text{Span } S_1 \cup S_2 = U_1 + U_2$.

Now, we need to check that $S_1 \cup S_2$ is linearly independent. For this we actually need to give names to the elements of S_{12} , S_1 and S_2 . Let $S_{12} = \{u_1, \dots, u_i\}$, $S_1 \setminus S_{12} = \{v_1, \dots, v_j\}$ and $S_2 \setminus S_{12} = \{w_1, \dots, w_k\}$. Suppose we have an equation:

$$a_1 u_1 + \dots + a_i u_i + b_1 v_1 + \dots + b_j v_j + c_1 w_1 + \dots + c_k w_k = 0,$$

for some $a_1, \dots, a_i, b_1, \dots, b_j, c_1, \dots, c_k \in \mathbb{F}$. Then solving for $w := c_1 w_1 + \dots + c_k w_k$ we have that $w \in U_1$. But this also gives that $w \in U_2$. Thus, there exist some scalars d_1, \dots, d_i such that

$$c_1 w_1 + \dots + c_k w_k = d_1 u_1 + \dots + d_i u_i.$$

Now, since $\{w_1, \dots, w_k\} \cup \{u_1, \dots, u_i\} = S_2$ is a linearly independent set, we get that all c_ℓ 's vanish. Thus we have that $a_1 u_1 + \dots + a_i u_i + b_1 v_1 + \dots + b_j v_j = 0$. Since $S_1 = \{v_1, \dots, v_j\} \cup \{u_1, \dots, u_i\}$ is linearly independent, we get that all a_ℓ 's and b_ℓ 's also vanish. This finishes the proof. \square

The previous result is an example of how questions about vector subspaces can be reduced to set-theoretic questions by using bases. We will return to this in later sections.

Exercise 19. Let V be a ten-dimensional vector space.

- (1) Suppose that $U_1, U_2 \subset V$ are subspaces of dimension 6. Prove that there exists two vectors $u_1, u_2 \in U_1 \cap U_2$ such that neither is a scalar multiple of the other.
- (2) Suppose that $U_1, U_2, U_3 \subset V$ are subspaces such that $\dim U_1 = \dim U_2 = \dim U_3 = 7$, prove that $U_1 \cap U_2 \cap U_3 \neq \{0\}$.

4. JAN. 25, 2024

4.1. Linear Maps. Most objects we encounter in mathematics only have “real” meaning when compared in an appropriate way to other objects of the same type. For instance, when study sets we are naturally lead to studying functions and comparing sets using them.

Vector spaces, a more structure kind of set, need to be compared with each other using a more structured kind of function. We introduce that now:

Definition 13. Let V and W be two vector spaces. A *linear map*, sometimes also called a *linear transformation*, is a function $T : V \rightarrow W$ satisfying:

- (a) (additivity) $T(u + v) = T(u) + T(v)$ for every $u, v \in U$;
- (b) (homogeneity) $T(au) = aT(u)$ for every $a \in \mathbb{F}$ and $u \in U$.

We will let $\mathcal{L}(V, W)$ denote the set of linear maps between V and W , and simply write $\mathcal{L}(V) := \mathcal{L}(V, V)$ for the set of linear maps from V to itself. Also notice that for any linear map T , one has $T(0) = 0$.

Example 11. Let V be a vector space.

- (i) The zero map $0 : V \rightarrow V$, where $0(V) := 0_V = 0$ is a linear map.
- (ii) The identity map $\text{Id}_V : V \rightarrow V$ given by $\text{Id}_V(v) = v$.
- (iii) Given any $a \in \mathbb{F}$ then $T_a(v) := a \cdot v$ is a linear map.
- (iv) Differentiation $D : \mathbb{R}[x] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}[x]$ is a linear map, i.e. $D(p) := p'$.
- (v) Integration $T_{[0,1]} : \mathbb{R}[x] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ given by $T_{[0,1]}(p) := \int_0^1 p(x)dx$.
- (vi) Let $q \in \mathbb{R}[x]$ then $T_q : \mathbb{R}[x] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}[x]$ given by $p(x) \mapsto p(q(x))$ is a linear map.
- (vii) Let consider a collection of scalars $a_{i,j} \in \mathbb{F}$ for $1 \leq i \leq m$ and $1 \leq j \leq n$.

$a_{1,1}, \dots, a_{n,1}, a_{1,2}, a_{2,2}, \dots, a_{n,2}, \dots, a_{1,m}, \dots, a_{n,m} \in \mathbb{F}$, then

$$T(v_1, \dots, v_n) := (a_{1,1}v_1 + \dots + a_{1,n}v_n, \dots, a_{m,1}v_1 + \dots + a_{m,n}v_n)$$

is a linear map.

Exercise 20. Prove that any linear map $T : \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^m$ is of the form given in Example 11.(viii).

Lemma 9. Let V and W be finite-dimensional vector spaces and $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\} \subset V$ be a basis of V . Given any subset $\{w_1, \dots, w_n\} \subset W$ there exists a unique linear map $T : V \rightarrow W$ such that

$$(2) \quad T(v_i) = w_i \quad \text{for } i \in \{1, \dots, n\}.$$

Proof. We first define T . Given any $v \in V$ can be written as $v = a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n$ we let $Tv := c_1w_1 + \dots + c_nw_n$. Notice that this is well-defined, since there is only one single way of written v as above and that it satisfies the conditions required. It is clear that it is a linear operator, we leave the details to be checked to the reader. Finally, assume that there exists $T' \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$ satisfying equations (2). Then for any $a_i \in \mathbb{F}$ we have $T'(a_iv_i) = a_iw_i$, thus for any $v \in V$, which can be written uniquely as $v = a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n$ we obtain:

$$T'(v = a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n) = a_1w_1 + \dots + a_nw_n = T(v).$$

This finishes the proof of uniqueness.

We leave the details to check that T is a linear map to the reader. □

We now observe that the set $\mathcal{L}(V, W)$ can be naturally endowed with the structure of a vector space.

Lemma 10. For any two vector spaces V, W the set $\mathcal{L}(V, W)$ is a vector space with addition and scalar multiplication defined as:

$$(T_1 + T_2)(v) := T_1(v) + T_2(v) \quad \text{and} \quad (a \cdot T)(v) := a \cdot T(v).$$

Proof. The details are left to the reader. □

Exercise 21. Given U, V , and W vector spaces we can consider the composition operation:

$$\begin{aligned} (-) \circ (-) : \mathcal{L}(V, W) \times \mathcal{L}(U, V) &\rightarrow \mathcal{L}(U, W) \\ (S, T) &\mapsto S \circ T(v) := S(T(v)). \end{aligned}$$

- (i) Check that \circ defined above is a linear map.
- (ii) Check that the operation \circ is associative and that it has identity elements. Part of the exercise is making sense of what that means.

Remark 6. This is an abstract remark and can be skipped as we will not use this concept in this course.. A mathematical concept that is really helpful in organizing certain mathematical objects is that of a category. You can look up its definition [here](#). We essentially just showed that vector spaces together with linear maps form a category Vect. In fact, the category Vect has many nice properties.

Exercise 22. Let V be a vector space, such that $\dim V > 1$. Prove that there exists $T, S \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ such that $ST \neq TS$.

4.2. Null spaces and ranges. In this subsection we define subspaces that are naturally associated to a linear operator.

Definition 14. Let $T : V \rightarrow W$ be a linear map.

(1) the *null space* of T :

$$\text{null } T := \{v \in V \mid Tv = 0\};$$

(2) the *range* of T :

$$\text{range } T := \{w \in W \mid Tv = w, \text{ for some } v \in V\}.$$

We check that $\text{null } T$ and $\text{range } T$ are in fact subspaces of V and W , respectively. Let $u, v \in \text{null } T$ we have

$$T(u + v) = T(u) + T(v) = 0, \quad \text{and} \quad T(a \cdot u) = a \cdot T(u) = a \cdot 0 = 0.$$

Assume that $w_1, w_2 \in \text{range } T$, then there exist $u_1, u_2 \in U$ such that $T(u_i) = w_i$, for $i = 1, 2$. Then we have

$$T(u_1 + u_2) = w_1 + w_2, \quad \text{and} \quad T(a \cdot u_1) = a \cdot w_1,$$

thus $\text{range } T$ is a vector space.

Remark 7. The null space is sometimes also called *kernel* of T . The range is sometimes called *image* of T .

The next results shows how the kernel and range related to the notions of injective and surjective.

Lemma 11. Let $T : V \rightarrow W$ be a linear operator.

(i) T is injective if and only if $\text{null } T = \{0\}$;

(ii) T is surjective if and only if $\text{range } T = W$.

Proof. For (i), first assume that T is injective. Assume that there exists a non-zero vector $v \in \text{null } T$. However, this is a contradiction with $Tv \neq 0$, since $v \neq 0$. Now assume that T is injective, and suppose that $Tv = 0$. Since $Tv = T(0) = 0$ and T is injective, we get $v = 0$. For (ii) there is nothing to check. \square

Theorem 1 (Fundamental theorem of linear maps). Let V be a finite-dimensional vector space and $T \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$. Then

$$\dim V = \dim \text{null } T + \dim \text{range } T.$$

Proof. Let $\{u_1, \dots, u_n\}$ be a basis of $\text{null } T$. By Lemma 2 (2) we can extend it to $\{u_1, \dots, u_n, u_{n+1}, \dots, u_{n+m}\}$ a basis of V . We claim that $\{Tu_{n+1}, \dots, Tu_{n+m}\}$ is a basis of $\text{range } T$. Indeed, let $w \in W$, then there exist $v \in V$ such that $Tv = w$. Since $\{u_1, \dots, u_n, u_{n+1}, \dots, u_{n+m}\}$ is a basis of V , there exists scalars a_i 's such that $v = a_1u_1 + \dots + a_{n+m}u_{n+m}$ and we have:

$$w = T(v) = T(a_1u_1 + \dots + a_{n+m}u_{n+m}) = a_1T(u_1) + \dots + a_nT(u_n) + a_{n+1}T(u_{n+1}) + \dots + a_{n+m}T(u_{n+m}).$$

Since the first n terms vanish, we get $w = a_{n+1}T(u_{n+1}) + \dots + a_{n+m}T(u_{n+m})$. This shows that $\{Tu_{n+1}, \dots, Tu_{n+m}\}$ is a spanning set. We now check that it is also linearly independent. Assume that there exists scalars $b_1, \dots, b_m \in \mathbb{F}$, not all zero, such that we have

$$b_1T(u_{n+1}) + \dots + b_mT(u_{n+m}) = 0$$

this implies that $b_1u_{n+1} + \dots + b_mu_{n+m} \in \text{null } T$. However, since $\{u_1, \dots, u_n\}$ is a basis of $\text{null } T$, it means there are scalars $c_1, \dots, c_n \in \mathbb{F}$, not all zero, such that:

$$c_1u_1 + \dots + c_nu_n = b_1u_{n+1} + \dots + b_mu_{n+m}.$$

However, this is a contradiction with $\{u_1, \dots, u_{n+m}\}$ being a basis of V .

This finishes the proof. \square

Here are a couple of easy consequences of the previous result.

Corollary 3. Let V and W be finite-dimensional vector spaces.

(1) Assume that $\dim V > \dim W$, then any linear map $T : V \rightarrow W$ is not injective.

(2) Assume that $\dim V < \dim W$, then any linear map $T : V \rightarrow W$ is not surjective.

Proof. (1) Assume by contradiction that there exist $T : V \rightarrow W$ an injective linear map. By Lemma 11.(1) we have $\text{null } T = 0$ and Theorem 1 implies $\dim V = \dim \text{range } T \leq \dim W$, which is a contradiction. (2) Assume by contradiction that there exist $T : V \rightarrow W$ a surjective linear map. Then Lemma 11.(2) and Theorem 1 implies that $\dim W = \dim \text{range } T \leq \dim T$, since $\dim \text{null } T \geq 0$, which is also a contradiction. \square

In fact, we can deduce some statements you will be familiar with from Math 2101 from Corollary 3.

Remark 8. (1) Any homogeneous system of linear equations with more variables than equations has a nonzero solution. Consider $V = \mathbb{F}^n$ and $W = \mathbb{F}^m$, a system of linear equations is given by an $m \times n$ matrix A , which gives a linear operator $T_A : \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^m$, by Exercise 20. By Corollary 3(1) we get that there exists $v \in \mathbb{F}^n$ such that $Tv = 0$.

(2) Any inhomogeneous system of linear equations with more equations than variables has no solution for some choice of the constant terms. Again consider $V = \mathbb{F}^n$ and $W = \mathbb{F}^m$ and a linear transformation $T : V \rightarrow W$ encoding the system of linear equations. If $m > n$, then by Corollary 3.(2) there exists $w \in W$ such that $Tv = w$ has no solution.

4.3. Matrices. Given two positive natural numbers $n, m \geq 1$ and a field \mathbb{F} an m -by- n matrix with coefficients in \mathbb{F} is a list $(a_{i,j})_{1 \leq i \leq m, 1 \leq j \leq n}$ sometimes denoted by:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{1,1} & \cdots & a_{1,n} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{m,1} & \cdots & a_{m,n} \end{pmatrix}$$

We let $\mathbb{F}^{m,n}$ denote the vector space of m by n matrices. You should make sure you understand why this is a vector space.

Definition 15. Given $T \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$ a linear map between two vector spaces V, W . Let $B_V = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ be a basis of V and $B_W = \{w_1, \dots, w_m\}$ be a basis of W . The matrix A associated to T and these basis is defined by:

$$Tv_j = a_{1,j}w_1 + \cdots + a_{m,j}w_m \quad \text{for } 1 \leq j \leq n.$$

Sometimes we emphasize the dependence on the basis by denoting $A := \mathcal{M}(T, B_V, B_W)$.

Example 12. (i) Let $T : \mathcal{P}_3(\mathbb{F}) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{F})$ be the linear map associated to the differentiation. Consider the bases $B_3 = \{1, x, x^2, x^3\}$ and $B_2 = \{1, x, x^2\}$ of $\mathcal{P}_3(\mathbb{F})$ and $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{F})$, respectively. Then we have:

$$\mathcal{M}(T, B_3, B_2) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

(ii) For T as in (i) if we take the basis $B_3 = \{1, 1+x, 1+x+x^2, 1+x+x^2+x^3\}$ and $B_2 = \{1, x, x^2\}$ for $\mathcal{P}_3(\mathbb{F})$ and $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{F})$, respectively. Then we obtain a *different* matrix:

$$\mathcal{M}(T, B_3, B_2) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

(iii) Consider $T : \mathbb{R}^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^4$ the linear map given by $T(v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4) = (v_1 + v_2, v_3, 0, v_2)$. On the basis $B_V = \{e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4\}$ for the source $V = \mathbb{R}^4$ and $B_W = \{e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4\}$ for the target, we have:

$$\mathcal{M}(T, B_V, B_W) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

However, if we take the basis $B_W^{(2)} = \{e_1 + e_2, e_2 + e_3, e_3 + e_4, e_4\}$ then we have:

$$\mathcal{M}(T, B_V, B_W^{(2)}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- Exercise 23.** (i) Make sure that you understand how to obtain the matrices in the Example above.
- (ii) Can you come up with a basis of \mathbb{R}^4 in Example 12.(iii) where all of the columns are non-zero?
- (iii) Can you come you with a basis B_W such that the set of column vectors of the matrix in Example 12.(iii) are linearly independent?

Remark 9. The construction from Definition 15 sends the operations of addition and scalar multiplication of linear maps to the corresponding operations between matrices as defined in Math 2101. Indeed, given two linear maps $T, S \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$, a scalar $a \in \mathbb{F}$, and two bases B_V of V and B_W of W . Then we have:

$$\mathcal{M}(T + S, B_V, B_W) = \mathcal{M}(T, B_V, B_W) + \mathcal{M}(S, B_V, B_W) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{M}(aT, B_V, B_W) = a\mathcal{M}(T, B_V, B_W).$$

Question: When did you learn matrix multiplication? Have you every thought what was the *meaning* behind the rule of how to multiply matrices?

Lemma 12. Consider U, V , and W three vector spaces and suppose that we picked bases B_U, B_V and B_W , respectively. Consider $T : U \rightarrow V$ and $S : V \rightarrow W$ two linear maps. Then

$$(3) \quad \mathcal{M}(S \circ T, B_U, B_W) = \mathcal{M}(S, B_V, B_W)\mathcal{M}(T, B_U, B_V),$$

where on the righthand side above we consider the multiplication of matrices.

Proof. This is done on page 73 of the textbook. We leave the details to the reader. □

Problem 1. Does the formula fail if we take different bases for V , i.e. do we have

$$\mathcal{M}(S \circ T, B_U, B_W) = \mathcal{M}(S, B'_V, B_W)\mathcal{M}(T, B_U, B_V)$$

for B'_V different than B_V ?

Let's recall a couple of concepts from Math 2101.

Definition 16. Given a matrix A represented as follow:

$$(4) \quad A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{1,1} & \cdots & a_{1,n} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{m,1} & \cdots & a_{m,n} \end{pmatrix}.$$

- (1) The *column space* of A , denoted $\text{col}(A)$, is defined as the span of $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ in \mathbb{R}^m , where $v_i = (a_{1,i}, \dots, a_{m,i})$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$.
- (2) The *row space* of A is the span of $\{w_1, \dots, w_m\}$ in \mathbb{R}^n spanned by $w_j = (a_{j,1}, \dots, a_{j,n})$ for $1 \leq j \leq m$.

Lemma 13. For any $m \times n$ matrix A we have

$$\dim \text{col}(A) = \dim \text{row}(A).$$

Proof. **TODO: Write this.** □

5. JAN. 29, 2024

5.1. Isomorphisms. The following notion is going to allow us to compare vector spaces and identify when there are “essentially” the same for all purposes of linear algebra.

Definition 17. A linear map $T : V \rightarrow W$ is *invertible* if there exists a map $S : W \rightarrow V$ such that

$$S \circ T = \text{Id}_V \quad \text{and} \quad T \circ S = \text{Id}_W.$$

Remark 10. Notice that if an inverse exists it is unique. Indeed, assume that S_1 and S_2 are inverses of T . Then we have $S_1 = S_1 \circ T \circ S_2 = S_2$. Thus, we will denote by T^{-1} the uniquely determined inverse, if it exists.

Example 13. Consider $T : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ given by $T(v_1, v_2, v_3) = (v_1 + v_2 + v_3, v_2, v_3)$. Then $T^{-1}(u_1, u_2, u_3) = (u_1 - u_2 - u_3, u_2, u_3)$.

Exercise 24. Determine which ones of the linear maps that we consider so far are invertible and determine their inverses.

Lemma 14. *Let $T : V \rightarrow W$ be a linear map. The following are equivalent:*

- (1) T is invertible;
- (2) T is injective and surjective;
- (3) $\text{null } T = \{0\}$ and $\text{range } T = W$.

Proof. The equivalence (2) \Leftrightarrow (3) is Lemma 11. Assume (1). Let $v, u \in V$ such that $Tv = Tu$ then we have $v = T^{-1}Tv = T^{-1}Tu = u$, thus T is injective. Now let $w \in W$ be any vector, then $T^{-1}w \in V$ satisfies $TT^{-1}w = w$, so T is surjective.

Assume (2). For any $w \in W$ we let $S(w) = v$ for any $v \in V$ such that $Tv = w$. This is well-defined, since by the injectivity of T , there is only one v satisfying $Tv = w$. We claim that S is an inverse of T . Indeed, we have $TSw = w$ and $STv = v$ for every $w \in W$ and $v \in V$. \square

In the case where our vector space is finite-dimensional, then we have a stronger version of Lemma 14.

Corollary 4. *Assume that V and W are finite-dimensional vector space and that $\dim V = \dim W$ and consider $T \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$. The following are equivalent:*

- (1) T is invertible;
- (2) T is injective;
- (2)' $\text{null } T = \{0\}$;
- (3) T is surjective;
- (3)' $\text{range } T = W$.

Proof. The implications (1) \Rightarrow (2)/(2)' and (1) \Rightarrow (3)/(3)' are clear.

The equivalences (2) \Leftrightarrow (2)' and (3) \Leftrightarrow (3)' were established in Lemma 11.

Assume (2)', then by Theorem 1 we have $\dim V = \dim \text{range } T = \dim W$, so we have (3)'. Now (2)' and (3)' imply (1) by Lemma 14.

Assume (3)', then by Theorem 1 we have $\dim V = \dim \text{range } T - \dim \text{null } T = \dim W - \dim \text{null } T$. Thus, $\dim \text{null } T = 0$, so we have (2)'. Now (2)' and (3)' imply (1) by Lemma 14. \square

Remark 11. It is important to notice that the assumption that V and W are finite-dimensional in Corollary 4 is crucial. Indeed, consider the linear map $T : \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$ given by

$$T(f)(n) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n = 0, \\ f(n+1) & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

This is injective but not an isomorphism.

Exercise 25. Write an example of a linear map which is surjective but not an isomorphism.

Exercise 26. Prove that there exists a polynomial $p \in \mathbb{R}[x]$ such that $((x^2 + 5x + 7)p)'' = q$ for any $q \in \mathbb{R}[x]$.

Exercise 27. Consider $S \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$ and $T \in \mathcal{L}(W, V)$ two linear maps. Assume that $\dim V = \dim W < \infty$. Prove that $ST = \text{Id}_W$ if and only if $TS = \text{Id}_V$.

The next concept plays the role for vector spaces of what bijections are for sets.

Definition 18. Two vector spaces V and W are said to be *isomorphic* if there exists an invertible linear map $T : V \rightarrow W$, equivalently if there exists an invertible linear map $S : W \rightarrow V$. In this case either isomorphism $T : V \rightarrow W$ or $S : W \rightarrow V$ are called *isomorphisms*.

Notation 3. We will sometimes simply write $V \simeq W$ to say that V and W are isomorphic.

It turns out that it is rather easy to determine if two finite-dimensional vector spaces are isomorphic or not as the next result shows.

Lemma 15. *Let V and W be two finite-dimensional vector spaces. The following are equivalent:*

- (1) $V \simeq W$.
- (2) $\dim V = \dim W$.

Proof. Assume (1) and let $T : V \rightarrow W$ be an invertible linear map. By Theorem 1 we have:

$$\dim T = \dim \text{null } T + \dim \text{range } T = \dim \text{range } T = \dim W,$$

where the second and third equalities above follow from Corollary 4.

Assume (2) and let $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ be a basis of V and $\{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$ be a basis of W . Let $T(c_1v_1 + \dots + c_nv_n) := c_1w_1 + \dots + c_nw_n$, which is well-defined as argued in the proof of Lemma 9. We claim T is injective. Indeed, assume that $T(c_1v_1 + \dots + c_nv_n) = c_1w_1 + \dots + c_nw_n = 0$ for some non-zero combination of c_i 's, then linear independence of w_i 's imply that all c_i 's are zero which gives that $c_1v_1 + \dots + c_nv_n = 0$. Thus, by Corollary 4 we are done. \square

The next result justify the idea that one can always think of a linear map between finite-dimensional vector spaces as a matrix. Notice however that this depends on the choice of bases.

Lemma 16. *Let V and W be finite-dimensional vector spaces of dimensions $n = \dim V$ and $m = \dim W$. Then $\mathcal{L}(V, W) \simeq \mathbb{F}^{m,n}$.*

Proof. Let $B_V = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ be a basis of V and $B_W = \{w_1, \dots, w_m\}$ be a basis of W . We claim that

$$\mathcal{M} := \mathcal{M}(-, B_V, B_W) : \mathcal{L}(V, W) \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^{m,n}$$

as defined in Definition 15 is an isomorphism. First notice that \mathcal{M} is a linear map by Remark 9. First we prove that \mathcal{M} is injective. Indeed, assume that $\mathcal{M}(T) = 0$, then $Tv = 0$ for every $v \in B_V$ since B_V is a basis we get $Tu = 0$ for every $u \in V$, thus $T = 0$. Now we prove that \mathcal{M} is surjective. Let $A \in \mathbb{F}^{m,n}$, represented as equation (4). Let $Tv_i := a_{1,i}w_1 + \dots + a_{m,i}w_m$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$. This is a well-defined linear operator and it is clear that $\mathcal{M}(T) = A$. \square

Here is a nice consequence of the discussion so far:

Corollary 5. *For any finite-dimensional vector spaces V and W , we have $\dim \mathcal{L}(V, W) = \dim V \cdot \dim W$.*

Proof. By Lemma 16 and Lemma 15 we have that

$$\dim \mathcal{L}(V, W) = \mathbb{F}^{\dim W, \dim V}.$$

The result now follows from calculating the dimension of the space of $\dim V$ by $\dim W$ matrices. \square

The following is variation on Definition 15.

Definition 19. Let V be a vector space of dimension n , given a basis $B_V = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ we let $\mathcal{M}(V, B_V) : V \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^n$ denote the linear map determined as follows

$$\mathcal{M}(V, B_V)(v) = (a_1, \dots, a_n) \text{ if } a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n = v.$$

You should check this is well-defined and indeed a linear map.

Remark 12. Notice that $\mathcal{M}(V, B_V)$ is always an isomorphism. Indeed, the same argument as in the proof of Lemma 16 works, we simply take W to be \mathbb{F} .

Remark 13. This remark is a bit abstract, but the reason we need it is to obtain certain matrix and vector multiplication compatibility without doing many calculations. Given a vector $v \in V$ in a finite-dimensional vector space V , we can think of v as a linear operator $L_v : \mathbb{F} \rightarrow V$ given as $L_v(1) := v$. Notice that there was a choice in determining this linear operator, namely a basis of \mathbb{F} , in this case $\{1\} \subset \mathbb{F}$ ⁴. Now we claim that:

$$\mathcal{M}(L_v, \{1\}, B_V) = \mathcal{M}(V, B_V)(v).$$

⁴So there are other linear operators associated to v , but in a sense picking $\{1\} \subset \mathbb{F}$ as a basis of \mathbb{F} over itself is rather natural, i.e. it makes sense for any field.

Indeed, let $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\} = B_V$, then $\mathcal{M}(L_v, \{1\}, B_V) = (a_{i,1})_{1 \leq i \leq n}$ as defined in Definition 15 is given by:

$$L_v(1) = v = a_{1,1}v_1 + \dots + a_{n,1}v_n,$$

whereas $\mathcal{M}(V, B_V)(v) = (b_{i,1})_{1 \leq i \leq n}$, as defined in Defintion 19, is the set $(b_{1,1}, \dots, b_{n,1})$ such that

$$v = b_{1,1}v_1 + \dots + b_{n,1}v_n.$$

The following is a consequence of Remark 13.

Corollary 6. *Let $T : V \rightarrow W$ be a linear map between finite-dimensional vector spaces and B_V and B_W bases, respectively. Then for any $v \in V$ we have:*

$$\mathcal{M}(T, B_V, B_W)\mathcal{M}(V, B_V)(v) = \mathcal{M}(W, B_W)(Tv).$$

Proof. Indeed, we compute:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}(T, B_V, B_W)\mathcal{M}(V, B_V)(v) &= \mathcal{M}(T, B_V, B_W)\mathcal{M}(L_v, \{1\}, B_V) \\ &= \mathcal{M}(T \circ L_v, \{1\}, B_W) \\ &= \mathcal{M}(Tv, \{1\}, B_W) \\ &= \mathcal{M}(W, B_W)(Tv). \end{aligned}$$

□

The next result relates a notion from Math 2101 which was defined using a basis, namely the column space of a matrix, with the range of a linear map which didn't depend on a basis to be defined.

Proposition 1. *Let $T : V \rightarrow W$ be a linear map between finite-dimensional vector spaces and let $B_V = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ and $B_W = \{w_1, \dots, w_m\}$ be basis of V and W , respectively. The restriction of $\mathcal{M}(W, B_W)$ to $\text{range } T$ has the following factorization:*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{range } T & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & \text{col}(\mathcal{M}(T, B_V, B_W)) \\ \downarrow \subset & & \downarrow \subset \\ W & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{M}(W, B_W)} & \mathbb{F}^{\dim W} \end{array}$$

and φ is an isomorphism.

Proof. **TODO:** maybe this proof becomes simpler after the previous Remark.

Let $(a_{i,j})_{1 \leq i \leq m; 1 \leq j \leq n}$ denote the entries of the matrix $\mathcal{M}(T, B_V, B_W)$. Given $w \in \text{range } T$ there exists $b_1, \dots, b_n \in \mathbb{F}$ such that $w = T(b_1v_1 + \dots + b_nv_n)$, we have

$$w = b_1T(v_1) + \dots + b_nT(v_n).$$

Now we notice that $\mathcal{M}(W, B_W)(T(v_j)) = (a_{j,1}, \dots, a_{j,m}) \in \mathbb{F}^m$ for $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$. (Check this!). By definition we have

$$\text{col}(\mathcal{M}(T, B_V, B_W)) = \text{Span}(\{(a_{1,1}, \dots, a_{1,m}), \dots, (a_{n,1}, \dots, a_{n,m})\}).$$

Thus, linearity of $\mathcal{M}(W, B_W)$ implies

$$\mathcal{M}(W, B_W)(w) \in \text{Span}\{\mathcal{M}(W, B_W)(Tv_1), \dots, \mathcal{M}(W, B_W)(Tv_n)\} = \text{col}(\mathcal{M}(T, B_V, B_W))$$

as required. This shows that φ factors as claimed.

We now check that φ is an isomorphism. We first notice that it is injective since it is the restriction of an injective linear map. Finally, let $w \in \text{col}(\mathcal{M}(T, B_V, B_W))$, then it can be written as $w = d_1\mathcal{M}(W, B_W)(Tv_1) + \dots + d_n\mathcal{M}(W, B_W)(Tv_n)$ for some $d_1, \dots, d_n \in \mathbb{F}$. By the linearity of $\mathcal{M}(W, B_W)$ we have

$$w = \mathcal{M}(W, B_W)(d_1Tv_1 + \dots + d_nTv_n)$$

and it is clear that $d_1Tv_1 + \dots + d_nTv_n \in \text{range } T$. This finishes the proof. □

The proposition immediately imply:

Corollary 7. Let V, W be finite-dimensional vector spaces, $T : V \rightarrow W$ a linear map and B_V and B_W bases, then

$$\dim \operatorname{range} T = \dim \operatorname{col}(\mathcal{M}(T, B_V, B_W)) = \dim \operatorname{row}(\mathcal{M}(T, B_V, B_W)).$$

We emphasize that in Corollary 7 the quantity $\dim \operatorname{range} T$ is defined without any appeal to a basis either of V or W .

We end this subsection stating a useful formula for change of bases. Before it we introduce some notation to simplify the formula.

Notation 4. Let V be a finite-dimensional vector space and consider $T : V \rightarrow V$ a linear map and B_V a basis of V , then we simply write:

$$\mathcal{M}(T, B_V) := \mathcal{M}(T, B_V, B_V).$$

Lemma 17. Let V be a finite-dimensional vector space and consider $T : V \rightarrow V$ a linear map and B_V^1 and B_V^2 two bases of V . Then we have:

$$\mathcal{M}(T, B_V^1) = \mathcal{M}(\operatorname{Id}_V, B_V^1, B_V^2)^{-1} \mathcal{M}(T, B_V^2) \mathcal{M}(\operatorname{Id}_V, B_V^1, B_V^2).$$

Proof. This is (3.84) from the textbook. [Write details.](#) □

6. FEB. 1, 2024

6.1. Products and Quotients of Vector spaces. In this section we introduce some constructions that define a new (abstract) vector space from a number of other vector spaces.

Definition 20. Let $n \geq 1$ be a natural number. Given a collection of vector spaces $\{V_1, \dots, V_n\}$ the *product* $V_1 \times \dots \times V_n$ of $\{V_1, \dots, V_n\}$ is the vector space whose:

- set is the Cartesian product $V_1 \times \dots \times V_n$;
- $+$: $(V_1 \times \dots \times V_n) \times (V_1 \times \dots \times V_n) \rightarrow V_1 \times \dots \times V_n$ is defined coordinate-wise, i.e. $(v_i) + I + (w_i)_I := (v_i + w_i)_I$, where $I = \{1, \dots, n\}$;
- \cdot : $\mathbb{F} \times (V_1 \times \dots \times V_n) \rightarrow V_1 \times \dots \times V_n$ is also given coordinate-wise.

Remark 14. The following is the universal property of the product. Given another vector space W and a collection of linear maps $f_i : W \rightarrow V_i$, then there exists an *unique* linear map $\varphi : W \rightarrow V_1 \times \dots \times V_n$ such that for every $i \in I$ the following diagrams commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} W & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & V_1 \times \dots \times V_n \\ & \searrow f_i & \downarrow p_i \\ & & V_i \end{array},$$

where $p_i : V_1 \times \dots \times V_n \rightarrow V_i$ sends $(v_j)_{j \in I}$ to v_i . You will prove this for $I = \{1, 2\}$ in Homework 1.

Example 14. (i) Let $V_1 = \mathbb{C}^2$ and $V_2 = \mathbb{C}^3$, then we have $V_1 \times V_2 = \{((v_1, v_2), (v_3, v_4, v_5)) \in \mathbb{C}^2 \times \mathbb{C}^3\}$. Notice that $\mathbb{C}^2 \times \mathbb{C}^3 \neq \mathbb{C}^5$, because of the parenthesization. We however normally simplify this to \mathbb{C}^5 because $\mathbb{C}^2 \times \mathbb{C}^3$ is isomorphic to \mathbb{C}^5 .

(ii) Let $V_1 = \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R})$ and $V_2 = \mathbb{R}^{m,n}$, then we have $V_1 \times V_2 = \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}) \times \mathbb{R}^{m,n}$.

Remark 15. In fact, it is more natural, and sometimes convenient, to take Remark 14 as the definition of product. More precisely, we say that the product U of vector spaces $\{V_1, \dots, V_n\}$, if it exists, is a vector space U satisfying the condition of Remark 14. Then we check two things:

- (i) the construction given in Definition 20 solves the question asked in Remark 14;
- (ii) any solution to Remark 14 is isomorphic to $V_1 \times \dots \times V_n$.

Actually, one can do even better than (ii), we can prove that for any solution U , there exists an isomorphism $\psi : U \rightarrow V_1 \times \dots \times V_n$ and that ψ is unique, if we require it to be compatible with the morphisms p_i for $V_1 \times \dots \times V_n$ and p'_i for U .

Remark 16. In fact, $V_1 \times \cdots \times V_n$ also satisfies a dual universal property. Namely, let W be a vector space and $g_i : V_i \rightarrow W$ be a collection of linear maps. Then there exists a unique linear $\psi : V_1 \times \cdots \times V_n \rightarrow W$ such that for every $i \in I$ the following diagrams commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} V_i & \xrightarrow{\iota_i} & V_1 \times \cdots \times V_n \\ & \searrow f_i & \downarrow \psi \\ & & W \end{array},$$

where $\iota_i : V_i \rightarrow V_1 \times \cdots \times V_n$ sends v_i to $(0, \dots, 0, v_i, 0, \dots, 0)$. You will also prove this for $I = \{1, 2\}$ in Homework 1. A similar comment as in Remark 15 applies to the object that would satisfy this condition, it is called the coproduct of $\{V_1, \dots, V_n\}$.

Proposition 2. Let S be a (not necessarily) finite set, and $\{V_s\}_S$ a collection of vector spaces. Consider:

(1) $\prod_{s \in S} V_s$ the subset of functions $f : S \rightarrow \bigcup_{s \in S} V_s$ satisfying $f(s) \in V_s$ for every $s \in S$.

(2) $\oplus_{s \in S}^{\text{ext}} V_s$ the subset of $\prod_{s \in S} V_s$ such that $f(s) \neq 0$ only for finitely many $s \in S$.

Then:

(i) $\prod_S V_s$ and $\oplus_S^{\text{ext}} V_s$ are vector spaces.

(ii) $\prod_S V_s$ together with the morphisms $p_s : \prod_S V_s \rightarrow V_s$ given by $p_s(f) := f(s)$ satisfies the conditions of Remark 14.

(iii) $\oplus_S^{\text{ext}} V_s$ together with the morphisms $\iota_s : V_s \rightarrow \oplus_S^{\text{ext}} V_s$ given by $\iota_s(v)(t) = v$ for $t = s$ and 0 otherwise, satisfies the conditions of Remark 16.

Proof. We define $(a \cdot f + g)(s) := a \cdot f(s) + g(s)$ for $a \in \mathbb{F}$ and $f, g \in \prod_S V_s$. This clearly makes $\prod_S V_s$ into a vector space.

Let's specify the morphisms $p_s : \prod_S V_s \rightarrow V_s$. Given $f \in \prod_S V_s$ we let $p_s(f) := f(s)$.

We prove (ii). Let $\{g_s : W \rightarrow V_s\}$ be a collection of linear maps, then we define $h : W \rightarrow \prod_S V_s$ by

$$h(w)(s) := g_s(w).$$

We notice that $p_s \circ h(w) = h(w)(s) = g_s(w)$ as required. Assume we are given $h' : W \rightarrow \prod_S V_s$ another linear map satisfying

$$p_s \circ h' = g_s \text{ for all } s \in S.$$

Then we have that for any $w \in W$ and $s \in S$:

$$h'(w)(s) = p_s \circ h'(w) = g_s(w) = p_s \circ h(w) = h(w)(s),$$

so $h' = h$.

The argument for (iii) is analogous to (ii) and we leave the details for the reader. \square

Here are some immediate properties of the product of vector spaces.

Lemma 18. (1) Let V_1, \dots, V_n be finite-dimensional vector spaces, then we have $\dim(V_1 \times \cdots \times V_n) = (\dim V_1) + \cdots + (\dim V_n)$.

(2) Suppose that V_1, \dots, V_n are subspaces of an ambient vector space W . Then we have a linear map:

$$\Gamma : V_1 \times \cdots \times V_n \rightarrow V_1 + \cdots + V_n$$

given by $\Gamma(v_1, \dots, v_n) := v_1 + \cdots + v_n$. Then $V_1 + \cdots + V_n$ is a direct sum if and only if Γ is injective.

(3) Given subspaces V_1, \dots, V_n of a finite-dimensional vector space W , then $V_1 + \cdots + V_n$ is a direct sum if and only if $\dim(V_1 + \cdots + V_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n \dim V_i$.

Proof. (1) can be proved by induction. We notice that given $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ a basis of V_1 and $\{u_1, \dots, u_m\}$ a basis of V_2 , then $\{(v_1, 0), \dots, (v_n, 0), (0, u_1), \dots, (0, u_m)\}$ is a basis of $V_1 \times V_2$. Indeed, assume we are given $(v, u) \in V_1 \times V_2$, then there exist unique a_1, \dots, a_n in \mathbb{F} such that $v = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i v_i$ and there are unique b_1, \dots, b_m in \mathbb{F} such that $u = \sum_{j=1}^m b_j u_j$. Thus we get:

$$(u, v) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i (v_i, 0) + \sum_{j=1}^m b_j (0, u_j).$$

that is $a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_m$ are unique coefficients writing (v, u) as a linear combination of the basis vectors.

(2) Again by induction it is enough to consider the case $n = 2$. Now recall that $\dim V_1 + V_2 = \dim V_1 + \dim V_2 - \dim V_1 \cap V_2$ and that $V_1 + V_2$ is a direct sum if and only if $\dim V_1 \cap V_2 = 0$. If we assume Γ is injective then Corollary 4 implies Γ is an isomorphism, thus $\dim V_1 + V_2 = \dim(V_1 \times V_2)$, which gives that $V_1 + V_2$ is a direct sum. Conversely, if $\dim V_1 \cap V_2 = 0$, then $\dim \text{null } \Gamma = \dim(V_1 \times V_2) - \dim \text{range } T$. But Γ is surjective, thus $\dim \text{range } T = \dim V_1 + V_2 = \dim V_1 + \dim V_2$, which gives that $\text{null } \Gamma = 0$.

(3) is essentially a simple restatement of (2). □

7. FEB. 5, 2024

7.1. Quotient spaces. The motivation for this session is the following. Suppose we are given a subspace $U \subseteq V$ and linear map $L : V \rightarrow W$ to another vector space such that $L|_U : U \rightarrow W$ is the identically 0 linear map. Can we describe the data of L in “smaller” terms, i.e. is there some vector space Q and a map $T : Q \rightarrow W$ such that we recover L from T . Notice that if V is finite-dimensional, one answer would be to pick a subspace $U' \subset V$ such that $U' \oplus U = V$, which exists by Lemma 5 and consider $T := L|_{U'} : U' \rightarrow W$. There are however two problems with this solution:

- (1) we had to assume that V is finite-dimensional;
- (2) we had to make a *choice* of U' , which we know, by Exercise 5 from Worksheet 1, is *not* unique—so T is not unique either.

To solve these two problems we need some preparatory discussion.

Let $U \subset V$ be a subspace, then consider the relation $R_U \subseteq V \times V$ on V defined by

$$(v_1, v_2) \in R_U \text{ if } v_1 - v_2 \in U.$$

Exercise 28. For any subspace $U \subseteq V$ the relation R_U is an equivalence relation⁵.

Let V/U denote the set of equivalence classes of R_U .

Lemma 19. *There exists a unique structure of vector space on V/U such the natural map:*

$$\begin{aligned} \pi : V &\rightarrow V/U \\ v &\mapsto \pi(v) \end{aligned}$$

is a linear map.

Proof. First we give a concrete description of $\pi(v)$. Notice that $w \in \pi(v)$ if and only if $w - v \in U$, i.e. $w \in v + U := \{w \in V \mid w - v \in U\}$. Now we define $\cdot' : V \times V/U \rightarrow V/U$ as follows:

$$a \cdot' \bar{v} := \pi(a \cdot v'), \text{ for any } v' \in V \text{ such that } \pi(v') = \bar{v}.$$

Similarly, we define $+' : V/U \times V/U \rightarrow V/U$ as follows:

$$\bar{v}_1 +' \bar{v}_2 := \pi(v'_1 + v'_2), \text{ for any } v'_1, v'_2 \in V \text{ such that } \pi(v'_1) = \bar{v}_1 \text{ and } \pi(v'_2) = \bar{v}_2.$$

Let's check that these are well-defined. Let v' and v'' be such that $\pi(v') = \pi(v'')$, i.e. there exist $u \in U$ such that $v' + u = v''$. Then we have

$$a \cdot \pi(v') = \pi(a \cdot v') = \pi(a \cdot v' + a \cdot u) = \pi(a \cdot (v' + u)) = \pi(a \cdot v'') = a \cdot \pi(v'').$$

The check that $+'$ is well-defined is similar. We leave it to the reader to check that π is a linear map. □

⁵If you don't remember this definition from set theory, see [here](#).

Definition 21. Given a subspace $U \subset V$ the quotient set V/U with the structure from Lemma 19 is called the *quotient space of V by U* .

Remark 17. Notice that $\text{null } \pi = U$. Indeed, for any $u \in U$ we have $\pi(u) = \pi(u - u) = \pi(0) = 0$. Thus, Theorem 1 imply that $\dim V/U = \dim V - \dim U$, whenever V is finite-dimensional.

We now show that this construction solves the problem that motivated us in the begining of this subsection.

Lemma 20. *Given a subspace $U \subseteq V$ and a linear map $L : V \rightarrow W$ such that $L|_U = 0$. Then there exist an unique $T : V/U \rightarrow W$ such that the following diagram commutes*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} V & \xrightarrow{\pi} & V/U \\ & \searrow L & \downarrow T \\ & & W \end{array},$$

i.e. $T \circ \pi = L$.

Proof. We let $T(\bar{v}) := L(v')$ for any $v' \in V$ such that $\pi(v') = \bar{v}$. We check this is well-defined. Let v', v'' such that $\pi(v') = \pi(v'')$ then $v' = v'' + u$, which gives

$$L(v') = L(v'' + u) = L(v'').$$

We leave it to the reader to check that T is linear and uniquely determined. \square

Remark 18. Notice that given a subspace $U \subseteq V$ of a finite-dimensional vector and a linear map $L : V \rightarrow W$ we can always modify L on U to make it satisfy the conditions of Lemma 20. Indeed, consider $L - \tilde{L}|_U$, where $\tilde{L}|_U : V \rightarrow W$ is the extension of $L|_U$ defined as follows: let $W \subseteq V$ be any subspace such that $W \oplus U = V$, then $\tilde{L}|_U := 0|_W \oplus L|_U$. Notice that $\tilde{L}|_U$ does not depend on W . [Explain the notation \$0|_W \oplus \tilde{L}|_U\$ and why it doesn't depend on \$U\$.](#)

Corollary 8. *Let $L : V \rightarrow W$ be a linear map, then one has a canonical map:*

$$\bar{L} : V / \text{null } L \rightarrow W$$

satisfying the following:

- (i) $\bar{L} \circ \pi = L$;
- (ii) \bar{L} is injective;
- (iii) $\text{range } \bar{L} = \text{range } L$;
- (iv) $V / \text{null } L \simeq \text{range } L$.

Proof. The existence of \bar{L} and (i) follow directly from Lemma 20, by noticing that $L|_{\text{null } L} = 0$

For (ii), suppose that there exist $\bar{v} \in V / \text{null } L$ such that $\bar{L}(\bar{v}) = 0$, but $\bar{v} \neq \pi(0)$. This implies that there exist $v' \in V$ such that $\pi(v') = \pi(0)$, i.e. $v' \in \text{null } L$ and $\bar{L}(\pi(v')) = L(v') = 0$, which is a contradiction.

For (iii), we notice that $\text{range } \bar{L} \subseteq \text{range } L$ by set-theoretic consideration. Now assume that $w \in \text{range } L$ and let $v \in V$ such that $L(v) = w$, then $\bar{L}(\pi(v)) = w$.

For (iv), we simply notice that \bar{L} factors as:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} V / \text{null } L & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & \text{range } \bar{L} \\ & \searrow \bar{L} & \downarrow \iota \\ & & W \end{array},$$

where by (ii) and (iii) φ is injective and surjective, hence an isomorphism by Lemma 14. \square

8. FEB. 8, 2024

8.1. Duality. The next definition associates a vector space to given vector space that is very useful.

Definition 22. Given a vector space V the vector space $V^* := \mathcal{L}(V, \mathbb{F})$ is called its *dual space*⁶. Elements $\lambda \in V^*$ are called *linear functionals* on V .

Example 15. (1) Let $\mathcal{P}_3(\mathbb{R})$, then $\varphi : \mathcal{P}_3(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ given by $\varphi(p) := \int_0^1 p(x)dx$ is a linear functional, i.e. $\varphi \in \mathcal{P}_3(\mathbb{R})^*$.

(2) For any $a := (a_1, \dots, a_n) \in \mathbb{F}^n$ we have $\lambda_a : \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$ given by $\lambda_a(v_1, \dots, v_n) := \sum_{i=1}^n a_i v_i$.

(3) Let $V = \mathbb{R}[[x]]$ denote the vector space of Taylor series, i.e. $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ given by a series $f(x) = \sum_{i \geq 0} a_i x^i$. Then $V^* \simeq \mathbb{R}[x]$. [Give details.](#)

Here are a couple of properties on the finite-dimensional case.

Lemma 21. *Given a finite-dimensional vector space V .*

(1) *One has $\dim V = \dim V^*$.*

(2) *A choice of basis B_V for V determines a basis B_{V^*} for V^* .*

Proof. By Corollary 5 we know that $\dim \mathcal{L}(V, \mathbb{F}) = \dim V \cdot \dim \mathbb{F} = \dim V$.

Let $B_v = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ be a basis of V , then we define $B_{V^*} := \{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n\} \subset V^*$ as follows:

$$\lambda_j(v_i) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } j = i \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}.$$

Notice that if there exists a collection of scalars $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{F}$ not all zero such that $\lambda := \sum_i a_i \lambda_i = 0$, then $\lambda(v_1 + \dots + v_n) = 0$ would contradict $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ being linearly independent. Thus, B_{V^*} is linearly independent. By Lemma 7 (2) B_{V^*} is a basis. \square

Remark 19. The set B_{V^*} is called the *dual basis*. It has the following property:

$$v = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i(v) v_i,$$

with the notation as in the proof of Lemma 21.

Definition 23. Given a linear map $T \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$ its dual is the linear map $T^* \in \mathcal{L}(W^*, V^*)$ defined as follows:

$$T^*(\lambda) := \lambda \circ T \text{ for every } \lambda \in W^*.$$

Example 16. Let $D : \mathbb{R}[x] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}[x]$ be the linear map given by differentiation. Then $D^* : \mathbb{R}[x]^* \rightarrow \mathbb{R}[x]^*$ is given by $D^*(\varphi) = \varphi \circ D$. For example, if $\varphi \in \mathbb{R}[x]^*$ is given by $\varphi(p) = \int_0^1 p(x)dx$, then $D^* \circ \int_0^1 p(x)dx = p(1) - p(0)$ by the fundamental theorem of Calculus.

Here are some properties of the construction from Definition 23.

Lemma 22. *Let V and W be two vector spaces. Then $(-)^* : \mathcal{L}(V, W) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(W^*, V^*)$ is a linear operation. Moreover, we have $(T \circ S)^* = S^* \circ T^*$.*

Proof. Let $T, T' \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$ then $(aT + T')^* : W^* \rightarrow V^*$ is given on an element $\lambda \in W^*$ by

$$(aT + T')^*(\lambda) = \lambda \circ (aT + T') = \lambda \circ aT + \lambda \circ T' = a\lambda \circ T + \lambda \circ T'$$

by Exercise 21. The second equation is left as an exercise. \square

Exercise 29. Is the operation linear map that sends $T \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$ to $T^* \in \mathcal{L}(W^*, V^*)$ an isomorphism? Prove or give a counter-example.

⁶The textbook uses the notation V' for the dual of V and similarly to other dual concepts. We adopt a notation that is consistent with [Wikipedia](#).

We now study how the notion of dual vector space interacts with the concepts of null space and range. First we introduce the following:

Definition 24. Let $U \subset V$ be a subspace, the *annihilator* of U is:

$$U^0 := \{\lambda \in V^* \mid \lambda(u) = 0 \text{ for all } u \in U\}.$$

We notice that $U^0 \subset V^*$ is a subspace. Indeed, let $\lambda, \mu \in U^0$, then we have

$$(a \cdot \lambda + \mu)(v) = a \cdot \lambda(v) + \mu(v) = \lambda(a \cdot v) + \mu(v) = 0 + 0,$$

if $v \in U$, since this implies $a \cdot v \in U$ as well.

Example 17. (1) Let $\mathcal{P}_3(\mathbb{R}) \subset \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R})$ be the subspace of degree at most 3 polynomials.

(2) Let $\mathbb{R}[x] \subset \mathbb{R}[[x]]$ be the subspace of polynomials. Then $\mathbb{R}[x]^0$ [What is this?](#)

Lemma 23. Let $T : V \rightarrow W$ be a linear map, then:

(i) $\text{null } T^* = (\text{range } T)^0$;

(ii) $\text{range } T^* \subseteq (\text{null } T)^0$ is a subspace.

Proof. For (i) let $\lambda \in \text{null } T^*$ this implies that $\lambda \circ T : V \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$ vanishes. Consider $w \in \text{range } T$, i.e. $w = Tv$ for some $v \in V$, then

$$\lambda(w) = \lambda(Tv) = 0.$$

So $\text{null } T^* \subseteq (\text{range } T)^0$. Now let $\lambda \in (\text{range } T)^0$ then for any $w = Tv \in W$ we have

$$\lambda(w) = \lambda(Tv) = \lambda \circ T(v) = T^*(\lambda)(v) = 0.$$

Notice that the above equation holds for any v , thus $T^*(\lambda) = 0$, which gives $(\text{range } T)^0 \subseteq \text{null } T^*$.

For (ii), consider $\lambda \in \text{range } T^*$, i.e. $\lambda = \mu \circ T$ for some $\mu \in V^*$. Let $v \in (\text{null } T)^0$, then we have

$$\lambda(v) = \mu \circ T(v) = 0.$$

This implies that $\text{range } T^* \subseteq (\text{null } T)^0$ as sets. We leave it to the reader to check that one is a subspace of the other. \square

Warning 1. Notice that in Lemma 23 (ii) we don't always have that $(\text{null } T)^0 \subseteq \text{range } T^*$. Can you give an example where this does *not* happen?

Remark 20. Let $U \subseteq V$ be a subspace of a finite-dimensional vector space V . Let $T : U \rightarrow W$ be a linear map, then there exist an *extension* of T to V , i.e. a linear map $\tilde{T} : V \rightarrow W$ such that $\tilde{T}|_U = T$. Indeed, let $\{u_1, \dots, u_n\}$ be a basis of U , which can be extended to $\{u_1, \dots, u_n, u_{n+1}, \dots, u_m\}$ a basis of V . Then we define:

$$\tilde{T}(u_i) := \begin{cases} T(u_i) & \text{for } i \leq n; \\ 0 & \text{for } i \geq n+1. \end{cases}$$

Notice that this is well-defined and satisfy the required condition to be an extension.

We collect some properties of the annihilator when the ambient vector space is finite-dimensional.

Lemma 24. Let $U \subset V$ be a subspace of a finite-dimensional vector space V .

(i) $\dim U^0 = \dim V - \dim U$;

(ii) $U^0 = V$ if and only if $U = \{0\}$;

(iii) $U^0 = \{0\}$ if and only if $U = V$.

Proof. For (i) let $\iota : U \rightarrow V$ denote the inclusion linear map. Then we get a linear map $\iota^* : V^* \rightarrow U^*$ and Theorem 1 implies that:

$$\dim \text{range } \iota^* + \dim \text{null } \iota^* = \dim V^*.$$

Notice that $\text{null } \iota^* = U^0$, by Lemma 23(i), since $\text{range } \iota = U$.

Now we claim that $\text{range } \iota^* = U^*$. Indeed, let $\lambda : U \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$ be a linear map, by Remark 20 there exist $\tilde{\lambda} : V \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$ such that $\tilde{\lambda} \circ \iota = \lambda$. Thus, $U^* \subseteq \text{range } \iota^*$, which implies the equality, since we have $\text{range } \iota^* \subseteq U^*$ by definition. Thus, we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \dim V &= \dim V^* \\ &= \dim \text{range } \iota^* + \dim \text{null } \iota^* \\ &= \dim U^* + \dim U^0 \\ &= \dim U + \dim U^0, \end{aligned}$$

where in the first and last equalities we used that $V \simeq V^*$ and $U \simeq U^*$ for finite-dimensional vector spaces.

For (ii) we notice that $U^0 \subseteq V$ being a subset, we have that $U^0 = V$ if and only if $\dim U^0 = \dim V - \dim U = \dim V$, that is $U = 0$.

Since (iii) is proved similarly, we leave the details to the reader. □

Similar to Lemma 24 we collect some properties of the dual of a linear map when the vector spaces involved are finite-dimensional.

Lemma 25. *Suppose that V and W are finite-dimensional and let $T : V \rightarrow W$ be a linear map. Then:*

- (i) $\dim \text{null } T^* = \dim \text{null } T + \dim W - \dim V$;
- (ii) $\dim \text{range } T^* = \dim \text{range } T$;
- (iii) $\text{range } T^* = (\text{null } T)^0$;
- (iv) T^* is injective if and only if T is surjective;
- (v) T^* is surjective if and only if T is injective.

Proof. For (i) notice that by Lemma 23 we have $\dim \text{null } T^* = \dim(\text{range } T)^0$. By the fundamental theorem of linear maps we have:

$$\dim V = \dim \text{null } T + \dim \text{range } T.$$

Notice that by Lemma 24 (1) we have $\dim(\text{range } T)^0 = \dim W - \dim \text{range } T$. Thus, substituting back we obtain:

$$\dim V = \dim \text{null } T + \dim W - \dim(\text{range } T)^0 = \dim \text{null } T + \dim W - \dim \text{null } T^*.$$

For (ii) we compute:

$$\begin{aligned} \dim \text{range } T^* &= \dim W^* - \dim \text{null } T^* \\ &= \dim W - \dim(\text{range } T)^0 \\ &= \dim \text{range } T, \end{aligned}$$

where the first equality is the fundamental theorem of linear maps applied to T^* , the second uses that W is finite-dimensional, so $\dim W = \dim W^*$ and Lemma 23(i). The last equality follows from Lemma 24(i).

For (iii), by Lemma 23(ii) we have that $\text{range } T^* \subseteq (\text{null } T)^0$ is a subspace. We will be done if we prove that they have the same dimension. Notice that:

$$\begin{aligned} \dim \text{range } T^* &= \dim \text{range } T \\ &= \dim V - \dim \text{null } T \\ &= \dim(\text{null } T)^0, \end{aligned}$$

where the first equality comes from (ii), the second from the fundamental theorem of linear maps, and the third from Lemma 24(i).

(iv) We have the following sequence of logical equivalences:

$$\begin{aligned}
 T^* \text{ is injective} &\Leftrightarrow \text{null } T^* = 0 \\
 &\Leftrightarrow (\text{range } T)^0 = 0 \\
 &\Leftrightarrow \text{range } T = W \\
 &\Leftrightarrow T \text{ is surjective} .
 \end{aligned}$$

Here the first equality is Lemma 11(i), the second is Lemma 23(i), the third is Lemma 24(ii) and the last is Lemma 11(ii).

The argument for (v) is similar to that for (iv) and we leave it as an exercise. \square

Finally, we remark on how passing to the dual linear map interacts with associating a matrix to a linear map. Consider the function:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (-)^t : \mathbb{F}^{m,n} &\rightarrow \mathbb{F}^{n,m} \\
 (a_{ij}) &\mapsto (a_{ji})
 \end{aligned}$$

that sends a matrix to its transpose, i.e. we swap the indices of its terms.

Lemma 26. *Let V and W be two finite-dimensional vector spaces with bases B_V and B_W . These determine bases B_{V^*} and B_{W^*} of V^* and W^* , respectively, as explained in Remark 19. The following diagram commutes:*

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{L}(V, W) & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{M}(-, B_V, B_W)} & \mathbb{F}^{m,n} \\
 (-)^* \downarrow & & \downarrow (-)^t, \\
 \mathcal{L}(W^*, V^*) & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{M}(-, B_{W^*}, B_{V^*})} & \mathbb{F}^{n,m}
 \end{array}$$

where $n = \dim V$ and $m = \dim W$.

Proof. Write this! \square

Here is a nice consequence of the previous result.

Corollary 9. *Let $A \in \mathbb{F}^{m,n}$ be an m by n matrix. Then $\dim \text{col}(A) = \dim \text{row}(A)$.*

Proof. Let $T : \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^m$ be the linear operator corresponding to A for B_n and B_m the standard bases of \mathbb{F}^n and \mathbb{F}^m , respectively. That is we have $\mathcal{M}(T, B_n, B_m) = A$. Then we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \dim \text{col}(A) &= \dim \text{range } T \\
 &= \dim \text{range } T^* \\
 &= \dim \text{col}(\mathcal{M}(T^*, B_m^*, B_n^*)) \\
 &= \dim \text{col}(A^t) \\
 &= \dim \text{row}(A).
 \end{aligned}$$

\square

8.2. Polynomials. This subsection is a digression that collects some facts about polynomials that we will need in the next topic.

Recall that \mathbb{C} is the field of complex numbers. As a set one has $\mathbb{C} \simeq \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$ the addition and multiplication are given by:

$$(a, b) + (a', b') = (a + a', b + b') \quad \text{and} \quad (a, b) \cdot (a', b') = (aa' - bb', ba' + ab').$$

These are normally denoted by $a + ib := (a, b)$. We have functions:

- $\overline{(-)} : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ given by $\overline{(a + ib)} = a - ib$ called *complex conjugation*;
- $\text{Re} : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ given by $\text{Re}(a + ib) = a$ called the *real part*;

- $\text{Im} : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ given by $\text{Im}(a + ib) = b$ called the *imaginary part*;
- $|\cdot| : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ given by $|a + ib| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$ called the *absolute value*.

Here is a list of properties they satisfy:

Lemma 27. *For any two complex numbers $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$ we have:*

- (i) $z + \bar{z} = 2 \text{Re } z$;
- (ii) $z - \bar{z} = 2 \text{Im } zi$;
- (iii) $z\bar{z} = |z|^2$;
- (iv) $\overline{z + w} = \bar{z} + \bar{w}$ and $\overline{zw} = \bar{z}\bar{w}$;
- (v) $\bar{\bar{z}} = z$;
- (vi) $|\text{Re } z| \leq |z|$ and $|\text{Im } z| \leq |z|$;
- (vii) $|\bar{z}| = |z|$;
- (viii) $|zw| = |z||w|$;
- (ix) $|z + w| \leq |z| + |w|$.

Proof. Left as an exercise. □

Definition 25. Given a polynomial $p \in \mathbb{F}[x]$ a *zero* of p is an element $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}$ such that $p(\alpha) = 0$.

Lemma 28. *Let $p \in \mathbb{F}[x]$ be a polynomial then the following are equivalent:*

- (1) α is a zero of p ;
- (2) there exists a polynomial $q \in \mathbb{F}[x]$ such that $p(x) = (x - \alpha)q(x)$.

Proof. Assume (1) and let $p(z) = \sum_{i=0}^m a_i z^i$ for some coefficients $a_i \in \mathbb{F}$. Then we have:

$$p(z) - p(\alpha) = \sum_{i=1}^m a_i (z^i - \alpha^i).$$

Recall that each $z^i - \alpha^i$ can be factored as:

$$z^i - \alpha^i = (z - \alpha) \sum_{j=1}^i z^{i-j} \alpha^{j-1}.$$

Thus, we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^m a_i (z^i - \alpha^i) &= \sum_{i=1}^m a_i (z - \alpha) \sum_{j=1}^i z^{i-j} \alpha^{j-1} \\ &= (z - \alpha) \sum_{i=1}^m a_i \sum_{j=1}^i z^{i-j} \alpha^{j-1}, \end{aligned}$$

that is we can take $q(z) = \sum_{i=1}^m a_i \sum_{j=1}^i z^{i-j} \alpha^{j-1}$. Notice that this is not unique. □

Now assume (2), then clearly we get $p(\alpha) = (\alpha - \alpha)q(\alpha) = 0$.

Here is a basic result about polynomials that follows from the previous Lemma.

Corollary 10. *Let p be a polynomial of degree $m \geq 0$. Then p has at most m zeros.*

Proof. We proceed by induction on m . For $m = 0$ we have $p(z) = a_0$ where $a_0 \neq 0$ ⁷. Thus, $p(\alpha) = a_0$ for every $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}$, so p has no zeros.

Assume we proved the result for all polynomials of degree up to $m - 1$. Let p have degree m . If it has no zeros, there is nothing to prove. Assume that p has a zero α , then $p(z) = (z - \alpha)q(z)$ by Lemma 28. Since $\deg p = \deg(z - \alpha) \deg(q)$ we obtain that q has degree $m - 1$, so it has at most $m - 1$ zeros by the inductive hypothesis. This finishes the proof. \square

The following result is called the division algorithm for polynomials, it is analogous to the [Euclidean algorithm](#) that you learned to perform division of integers.

Lemma 29. *Let $p, s \in \mathbb{F}[x]$ be two polynomials such that $s \neq 0$. Then there exist unique polynomials $q, r \in \mathbb{F}[x]$ such that:*⁸

$$(i) \quad p = qs + r;$$

$$(ii) \quad \deg r < \deg s.$$

Proof. Exercise for the reader. \square

The following result is a fact. In fact, it can be seen as the “raison d’être” of the complex numbers.

Theorem 2. *Every non-constant polynomial with complex coefficients has a root.*

Proof. See page 125 in the textbook. **TODO:** Give another argument. \square

Remark 21. There are [many proofs](#) of this theorem. You should make sure you know at least one. Also, most places call the Theorem 2 the “fundamental theorem of algebra”.

9. FEB. 19, 2024

9.1. Invariant subspaces.

Definition 26. Let $T : V \rightarrow V$ be a linear map from V to itself. We will call T an *operator*. A subspace $U \subseteq V$ is *invariant (with respect to T)*⁹ if the restriction $T|_U : U \rightarrow V$ factors as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} U & \xrightarrow{T|_U} & U \\ \downarrow \subset & & \downarrow \subset \\ V & \xrightarrow{T} & V \end{array}$$

i.e. for every $u \in U$ we have $T(u) \in U$.

Example 18. (i) Given any operator $T : V \rightarrow V$, then $\{0\}, V, \text{null } T$, and $\text{range } T$ are invariant subspaces of V .

(ii) Let $D : \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R})$ denote the differentiation operator. Then $\mathcal{P}_n(\mathbb{R}) \subset \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R})$ the subspace of polynomials of degree at most n is invariant subspace for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

The following concepts are key definitions in this class.

Definition 27. Given an operator $T : V \rightarrow V$. A vector $v \in V$ such that $\text{Span } v \subseteq V$ is an invariant subspace with respect to T is called an *eigenvector*.

Remark 22. Given an operator $T : V \rightarrow V$ and a non-zero vector $v \in V$ such that $\text{Span } v \subseteq V$ is an invariant subspace with respect to T . Then we claim that $T(v) = \lambda \cdot v$ for an unique $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$. Indeed, since $T(v) \in \text{Span } v$ we have that $T(v) = \lambda v$ for some $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$.

Definition 28. Let $T : V \rightarrow V$ be an operator.

(i) if $v \in V$ is an eigenvector of T , with $T(v) = \lambda v$ we say that λ is the eigenvalue of v ;

⁷Recall that we posed that $\deg 0 = -\infty$, which avoids us having to deal with the exception of the zero polynomial, which possibly has infinitely many zeros, e.g. if the field \mathbb{F} is infinite.

⁸Notice that if we drop condition (ii) that there are no unique polynomials satisfying (i).

⁹When the operator T is clear from the context we will omit the part “with respect to T ”.

- (ii) we will say that $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$ is an *eigenvalue* of T if there exists an eigenvector $v \in V$ such that λ is an eigenvalue of v .

Remark 23. Suppose that $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$ is an eigenvalue of T and $v \in V$ and eigenvector, then any non-zero multiple av is also an eigenvector of T with eigenvalue λ .

Lemma 30. *Given a vector space V and an operator $T : V \rightarrow V$ the following are equivalent:*

- (1) λ is an eigenvalue of T ;
- (2) $T - \lambda \text{Id}_V$ is not injective.

Assume that V is a finite-dimensional vector space, then the above are also equivalent to:

- (3) $T - \lambda \text{Id}_V$ is not surjective;
- (4) $T - \lambda \text{Id}_V$ is not invertible.

Proof. Left as an exercise. □

Example 19. (i) Let $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ denote the operator given by $T(x, y) = (-y, x)$. Assume that $T(x, y) = \lambda(-y, x)$ for some non-zero $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}$. Then we have $x = -\lambda y = -\lambda^2 x$ and $y = \lambda x = -\lambda^2 y$, which gives $\lambda^2 = -1$, since either x or y is non-zero. However, there is no $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\lambda^2 = -1$. Thus, T has no eigenvectors and so no eigenvalues.

- (ii) Now consider Let $T : \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2$ denote the operator given by $T(z, w) = (-w, z)$. The same argument as in (i) gives that $\lambda^2 = -1$ which gives $\lambda = \pm i$ in \mathbb{C} . By inspection we see that $T(z, -iz) = i(z, -iz)$ and $T(z, iz) = -i(z, iz)$, so for any $z \neq 0$ we have that $(z, -iz)$ is an eigenvector of i and (z, iz) is an eigenvector of $-i$.

Lemma 31. *Given an operator $T : V \rightarrow V$ and $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ a list of eigenvectors whose eigenvalues $\{\lambda_i\}_{1 \leq i \leq n}$ satisfy $\lambda_i \neq \lambda_j$ for every $i \neq j$. Then $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ are linearly independent.*

Proof. Let $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ be the smallest set of vector such that we have a non-trivial linear combination

$$\sum_{i=1}^n a_i v_i = 0.$$

We apply $(T - \lambda_n)$ to the equation above to obtain:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n a_i (\lambda_i - \lambda_n) v_i = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} a_i (\lambda_i - \lambda_n) v_i = 0,$$

where all of $a_i (\lambda_i - \lambda_n) \neq 0$ for $1 \leq i \leq n-1$. This gives a non-trivial linear combination of smaller set of vectors, which is a contradiction with the initial assumption. □

Corollary 11. *Let $T : V \rightarrow V$ be an operator on a finite-dimensional vector space. Then T has at most $\dim V$ distinct eigenvalues.*

Proof. If T has m distinct eigenvalues then Lemma 31 gives that there are m distinct linearly independent vectors. Lemma 3 gives that $m \leq \dim V$. □

9.2. Powers of operators. Let $T : V \rightarrow V$ be a linear operator on a vector space V over a field \mathbb{F} . Then for any polynomial $p \in \mathbb{F}[x]$ we let $p(T) : V \rightarrow V$ be the linear operator given by:

$$p(T) := a_0 \text{Id}_V + a_1 T + a_2 T^2 + \dots + a_n T^n.$$

Notice that this assignment respect the following compatibilities, given $p, q \in \mathbb{F}[x]$ two polynomials and an operator $T : V \rightarrow V$ then we have:

$$(5) \quad (pq)(T) = p(T)q(T) \quad \text{and} \quad p(T)q(T) = q(T)p(T).$$

Exercise 30. Check the relations in (5).

It turns out that by applying polynomials to an operator T we can create, possibly new, invariant subspaces.

Remark 24. Given an operator $T : V \rightarrow V$ and a polynomial $p \in \mathbb{F}[x]$, then $\text{null } p(T)$ and $\text{range } p(T)$ are invariant under T . Indeed, assume that $v \in \text{null } p(T)$, then $p(T) \circ T(v) = T \circ p(T)(v) = T(0) = 0$. Similarly, if for $w \in \text{range } p(T)$ then $w = p(T)(v)$ for some $v \in V$ and we have $T(w) = T \circ p(T)(v) = p(T) \circ T(v) = p(T)(T(v))$, thus $T(w) \in \text{range } p(T)$.

10. FEB. 22, 2024

10.1. The minimal polynomial. The following is one of the most important results of this course.

Proposition 3. *Let $T : V \rightarrow V$ be an operator on a finite-dimensional complex vector space V . Then T has an eigenvalue.*

Proof. Let $n = \dim V$ and consider $v \in V$ a non-zero vector. The set $\{v, Tv, \dots, T^n v\}$ is not linearly independent, since it has size $n+1$ which is larger than the dimension of V . Thus, there exist a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n such that

$$\sum_{i=0}^n a_i T^i(v) = 0.$$

We let $p(T) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i T^i$. Notice that we can assume that $p(T)$ has the smallest possible degree. By Theorem 2 there exist $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $p(\lambda) = 0$. Let $q \in \mathbb{C}[z]$ such that $p(z) = (z - \lambda)q(z)$. Thus, we have:

$$(6) \quad 0 = p(T)(v) = (T - \lambda \text{Id}_V)(q(T)(v)).$$

Since $\deg q < \deg p$ we have $q(T)(v) \neq 0$. Thus, $q(T)(v)$ is an eigenvector of T with eigenvalue λ . \square

Example 20. Let $T : \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{C})$ be given by $Tp(z) := zp(z)$. We claim that T has no eigenvalues. Indeed, assume by contradiction that $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ is an eigenvalue of T , i.e. there exist $q \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{C})$ such that

$$Tq(z) = zq(z) = \lambda q(z).$$

However, this is a contradiction, since $\deg Tq > \deg \lambda q$.

Proposition 4. *Given a finite-dimensional vector space V and an operator $T : V \rightarrow V$, there exist a unique monic¹⁰ polynomial $p \in \mathbb{F}[x]$ such that $p(T) = 0$ and $\deg p \leq \dim V$.*

Proof. We induce on $\dim V$. For $\dim V = 0$ then $T = \text{Id}_V$ and we can take $p = 1$ the constant polynomial with value 1.

Let $n = \dim V \geq 1$ and assume that the result holds for every vector space W over \mathbb{F} of dimension (strictly) less than n . Consider $v \in V$ a non-zero vector, then $\{v, Tv, \dots, T^n v\}$ are linearly dependent and Lemma 2 implies that there exist $m \leq n$ such that

$$T^m v = \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} a_i T^i v$$

for some scalars a_0, \dots, a_{m-1} . Thus, $p(T) := T^m - \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} a_i T^i$ is such that $p(T)(v) = 0$. Notice that $p(T)(T^i v) = T^i \circ p(T)(v) = 0$ for every $i \geq 1$. The set $\{Tv, T^2 v, \dots, T^{m-1} v\}$ is linearly independent and $\text{Span } \{Tv, T^2 v, \dots, T^{m-1} v\} \subseteq \text{null } p(T)$, which implies that:

$$\dim \text{range } p(T) \leq n - m.$$

By Remark 24 $\text{range } p(T) \subseteq V$ is subspace invariant under T . Thus, we can consider:

$$T|_{\text{range } p(T)} : \text{range } p(T) \rightarrow \text{range } p(T)$$

and we notice that $\dim \text{range } p(T) < n$, since $m \geq 1$. Thus the inductive hypothesis implies that there exist an unique monic polynomial $r \in \mathbb{F}[x]$ such that

$$r(T|_{\text{range } p(T)}) = 0, \quad \text{and} \quad \deg r < \dim \text{range } p(T) \leq n - m.$$

¹⁰A polynomial $p(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i x^i$ of degree n is said to be *monic* if $a_n = 1$.

Hence for all $v \in V$ we have:

$$rp(T)(v) = r(p(T)(v)) = 0,$$

i.e. $rp(T) = 0$. And $\deg rp \leq n - m + m = n$. This finishes the proof of the existence of a polynomial.

Assume that there exist two monic polynomials $p, q \in \mathbb{F}[x]$ such that $p(T) = q(T) = 0$ and they are both of minimal degree. Notice that $\deg p - q < \deg p$. Assume that $p - q \neq 0$, then we can divide $p - q$ by the coefficient of its highest power to make it a monic polynomial of degree less than p , which is a contradiction. Thus, $p = q$. This finishes the proof. \square

Definition 29. Given an operator $T : V \rightarrow V$ on a finite-dimensional vector space the unique monic polynomial p_T ¹¹ determined by Proposition 4 is called the *minimal polynomial of T* .

Example 21. Consider $T : \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^n$ given by $T(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (x_1 + \dots + x_n, \dots, x_1 + \dots + x_n)$. Notice that for any $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ we have $v_0 := T(e_i) = (1, \dots, 1)$. And that $T(v_0) = nv_0$, i.e. v_0 is an eigenvector with eigenvalue n .

Also notice that $T(e_i - e_{i+1}) = 0$ for $1 \leq i \leq n - 1$, i.e. $e_i - e_{i+1}$ are all eigenvectors with eigenvalue 0. Thus, for any $v = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i e_i$ we have:

$$T(v) = \left(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i \right) v_0.$$

Since $T(v_0) = nv_0$, we obtain that

$$T^2(v) - nT(v) = 0$$

for every $v \in V$. As $T(v) \neq \lambda v$ for every $v \in V$, we have that $p(T) = T^2 - T$ is the minimal polynomial of T .

Remark 25. It can be sometimes tricky to compute the minimal polynomial of an operator, you should read the discussion on page 145-146 just after Definition 5.24. See also, Example 5.26 for a concrete example of how one can compute the minimal polynomial.

The following illustrate the relation between the minimal polynomial and eigenvalues of an operator.

Lemma 32. Given $T : V \rightarrow V$ be an operator on a finite-dimensional vector space over \mathbb{F} , let $p(T)$ be its minimal polynomial. Then the following are equivalent:

- (1) $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$ is a zero of $p(x) \in \mathbb{F}[x]$;
- (2) λ is an eigenvalue of T .

Proof. (1) \Rightarrow (2) by Lemma 28 we can write $p(x) = (x - \lambda)q(x)$ for some monic polynomial $q \in \mathbb{F}[x]$. Then we have $p(T) = (T - \lambda)q(T) = 0$, which gives

$$(T - \lambda \text{Id}_V)q(T)(v) = 0,$$

for every $v \in V$. Now, since $\deg q < \deg p$, there exist at least one non-zero vector $v \in V$ such that $q(T)(v) \neq 0$, which implies that $(T - \lambda \text{Id}_V)(v) = 0$, i.e. v is an eigenvector with eigenvalue λ .

(2) \Rightarrow (1) let $v \in V$ be such that $T(v) = \lambda v$. By applying T repeatedly we obtain $T^k = \lambda^k v$, which implies:

$$p(T)v = p(\lambda)v.$$

Since $p(T)(v)$ and $v \neq 0$, we have $p(\lambda) = 0$, as required. \square

Corollary 12. Given $T : V \rightarrow V$ be an operator on a finite-dimensional vector space over \mathbb{C} the minimal polynomial of T is given by:

$$p(z) = \prod_{i=1}^m (z - \lambda_i),$$

where each λ_i is an eigenvalue of T .

Proof. This is a direct consequence of Theorem 2 and Lemma 32. \square

¹¹We sometimes will use the notation p_T for the minimal polynomial associated to T .

Warning 2. Notice that in Corollary 12 the roots λ_i might appear multiple times. Here is an example. Consider $T : \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2$ given by $T(x_1, x_2) = (x_1, x_1 + x_2)$. We know that T should have a minimal polynomial of degree 2, since T is not a multiple of the identity. We want to find $a, b \in \mathbb{C}$ such that

$$(T^2 + aT + b)(e_1) = 0, \text{ and } (T^2 + aT + b)(e_2) = 0.$$

The first equation gives $1 + a + b = 0$, while the second gives $1 + a + b = 0$ and $2 + a = 0$. We solve for $a = -2$ and $b = 1$. Thus, we have:

$$p(T) = T^2 - 2T + 1 = (T - 1)^2.$$

The following result is very useful for understanding how the minimal polynomial interacts with other polynomials we can write down from an operator.

Lemma 33. *Let $T : V \rightarrow V$ be an operator on a finite-dimensional vector space and consider a polynomial $q \in \mathbb{F}[x]$. Then $q(T) = 0$ if and only if p_T divides q .*

Proof. By Lemma 29 there exist $r, s \in \mathbb{F}[x]$ such that

$$q = p_T s + r$$

with $\deg r < \deg p_T$. Then we have:

$$q(T) = p_T(T)s(T) + r(T) = 0.$$

We claim that r is the 0 polynomial. Indeed, if that were not the case then r divided by the coefficient of its highest term would be a monic polynomial of degree smaller than $\deg p_T$ such that $r(T) = 0$, which is a contradiction with p_T being the minimal polynomial. Thus, q is a multiple of p_T as claimed.

Assume that $q(x) = p_T(x)s(x)$, then clearly we have $q(T) = p_T(T)s(T) = 0$. \square

Corollary 13. *Let $T : V \rightarrow V$ be an operator on a finite-dimensional vector space. Then T is invertible if and only if p_T has a non-zero constant term.*

Proof. Recall that: by Lemma 30

$$0 \text{ is an eigenvalue} \Leftrightarrow T \text{ is not invertible,}$$

by Lemma 30. And that:

$$0 \text{ is an eigenvalue} \Leftrightarrow 0 \text{ is a root of } p_T$$

by Lemma 32. It is clear that 0 is a root of p_T if and only if the constant term of p_T vanishes. \square

The next result is the first general statement about the existence of eigenvalues for operators on real vector spaces.

Proposition 5. *Let $T : V \rightarrow V$ be an operator on a finite-dimensional real vector space V and assume that $\dim V$ is odd. Then T has an eigenvalue.*

Proof. Let $\dim V = 2n + 1$, we will use induction on n to prove the result.

The base case is clear, since when $V = \mathbb{R}$ any operator is simply given by scalar multiplication.

Let $n \geq 1$ and assume the result holds for all V such that $\dim V = 2k + 1$ and $k < n$. Let p_T be the minimal polynomial of T . If p_T is a multiple of $(x - \lambda)$ then by Lemma 32 λ is an eigenvalue and we are done. So we can assume that there exist $b, c \in \mathbb{R}$ and a monic polynomial $q \in \mathbb{R}[x]$ such that $p_T(x) = q(x)(x^2 + bx + c)$ and that $b^2 < 4c$. Then

$$p(T) = q(T)(T^2 + bT + c),$$

which implies that $q(T)|_{\text{range}(T^2 + bT + c)} = 0$. Since $\deg q < \deg p$ we have that $\text{range}(T^2 + bT + c) \neq V$. By Theorem 1 we have:

$$\dim V = \dim \text{null}(T^2 + bT + c) + \dim \text{range}(T^2 + bT + c).$$

Now, $\dim \text{null}(T^2 + bT + c)$ is even by Lemma 34 below, which implies that $\dim \text{range}(T^2 + bT + c)$, since $\dim V$ is odd. Thus, $T|_{\text{range}(T^2 + bT + c)}$ has an eigenvalue by the inductive hypothesis, which implies that T has an eigenvalue. \square

Lemma 34. Let $T : V \rightarrow V$ be an operator on a finite-dimensional real vector space. Consider $b, c \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $b^2 < 4c$. Then $\dim \text{null}(T^2 + bT + c)$ is even.

Proof. By considering $T|_{\text{null}(T^2 + bT + c)}$ we can assume that $\text{null}(T^2 + bT + c) = V$. Assume there are $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ and $v \in V$ such that $Tv = \lambda v$, then we have:

$$(T^2 + bT + c)v = (\lambda^2 + b\lambda + c)v = \left(\left(\lambda + \frac{b}{2} \right)^2 + c - \frac{b^2}{4} \right) v,$$

and since $(\lambda + \frac{b}{2})^2 + c - \frac{b^2}{4} > 0$, we obtain that $v = 0$, i.e. T has no eigenvectors.

Let $U \subseteq V$ be the largest even-dimensional subspace invariant under T . If $U = V$ we are done. So assume that there exist $w \in V$ such that $w \notin U$. Notice that $W := \text{Span}\{w, Tw\}$ is invariant under T , since $T^2w = -bTw - cw$. Also $\dim W = 2$, otherwise w would be an eigenvector of T . Moreover, it is clear that $U \cap W = \{0\}$, otherwise it would be a one-dimensional subspace invariant under T . So we have:

$$\dim(U + W) = \dim U + \dim W - \dim U \cap W = \dim U + 2.$$

Thus, we produced a larger invariant subspace $U \subset U + W \subset V$, which contradicts the assumption that $U \neq V$. This finishes the proof. \square

11. FEB. 26, 2024

11.0.1. *Upper-Triangular matrices.* In this section we discuss the relation between finding invariant subspaces of an operator and being able to write a matrix in upper-triangular form.

Lemma 35. Let $T : V \rightarrow V$ be an operator on a finite-dimensional vector space and $B_V = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ a basis of V . Then the following are equivalent:

(1) the matrix $\mathcal{M}(T, B_V)$ associated to T (see Notation 4) is upper-triangular;

(2)

(3) $T(v_i) \in \text{Span}(v_1, \dots, v_i)$ for every $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$;

(4) $\text{Span}(v_1, \dots, v_i)$ is invariant under T for every $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$.

Proof. (1) \Rightarrow (2). By assumption for each $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ we have

$$T(v_i) = \sum_{j=1}^i a_j v_j,$$

for some constants a_j , i.e. $T(v_i) \in \text{Span}(v_1, \dots, v_i)$.

(2) \Rightarrow (3). For any $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, notice that $T(v_j) \in \text{Span}(v_1, \dots, v_i)$ for every $1 \leq j \leq i$. Thus $T(\text{Span}(v_1, \dots, v_i)) \subseteq \text{Span}(v_1, \dots, v_i)$.

(3) \Rightarrow (1). For each $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ we have

$$T(v_i) \in \text{Span}(v_1, \dots, v_i),$$

i.e. there exist $a_{i,j} \in \mathbb{F}$ such that

$$T(v_i) = \sum_{j=1}^i a_{i,j} v_j.$$

Since $\mathcal{M}(T, B_V) := (a_{i,j})_{1 \leq i, j \leq n}$, the claim follows. \square

Exercise 31. Let $T : V \rightarrow V$ be an operator on a finite-dimensional vector space and $B_V = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ a basis of V . Assume that

$$(7) \quad \mathcal{M}(T, B_V) := \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & * & \cdots & \cdots & * \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \cdots & \cdots & * \\ \vdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & * \\ 0 & \cdots & \cdots & \lambda_{n-1} & * \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix}$$

for some scalars $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n \in \mathbb{F}$. Prove that

$$(T - \lambda_1 \cdot \text{Id}_V) \cdot \dots \cdot (T - \lambda_n \cdot \text{Id}_V) = 0.$$

Corollary 14. *Let $T : V \rightarrow V$ be an operator on a finite-dimensional vector space. Assume that for some basis $B_V = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$, the matrix $\mathcal{M}(T, B_V)$ has the form (7). Then the eigenvalues of T are precisely $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$.*

Proof. Notice that $T(v_1) = \lambda_1 v_1$ and v_1 is non-zero, since it is part of a basis. Thus, λ_1 is one eigenvalue. For any $i \in \{2, \dots, n\}$ notice that

$$(T - \lambda_i)v_i \in \text{Span}(v_1, \dots, v_i).$$

Thus, $T|_{\text{Span}(v_1, \dots, v_i)}$ factors as follows:

$$T|_{\text{Span}(v_1, \dots, v_i)} : \text{Span}(v_1, \dots, v_i) \rightarrow \text{Span}(v_1, \dots, v_{i-1}).$$

Since $i = \dim \text{Span}(v_1, \dots, v_i) > \dim \text{Span}(v_1, \dots, v_{i-1}) = i - 1$, the linear map $T|_{\text{Span}(v_1, \dots, v_i)}$ is not injective. So there exists $v \in \text{Span}(v_1, \dots, v_i)$, $v \neq 0$ such that $(T - \lambda_i)v = 0$, so λ_i is an eigenvalue of T . This proves that $\{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n\}$ are all eigenvalues. One needs to argue that there are none others.

[Finish this argument.](#)

□