

Linear Algebra III

Ji, Yong-hyeon

August 19, 2025

We cover the following topics in this note.

Part I

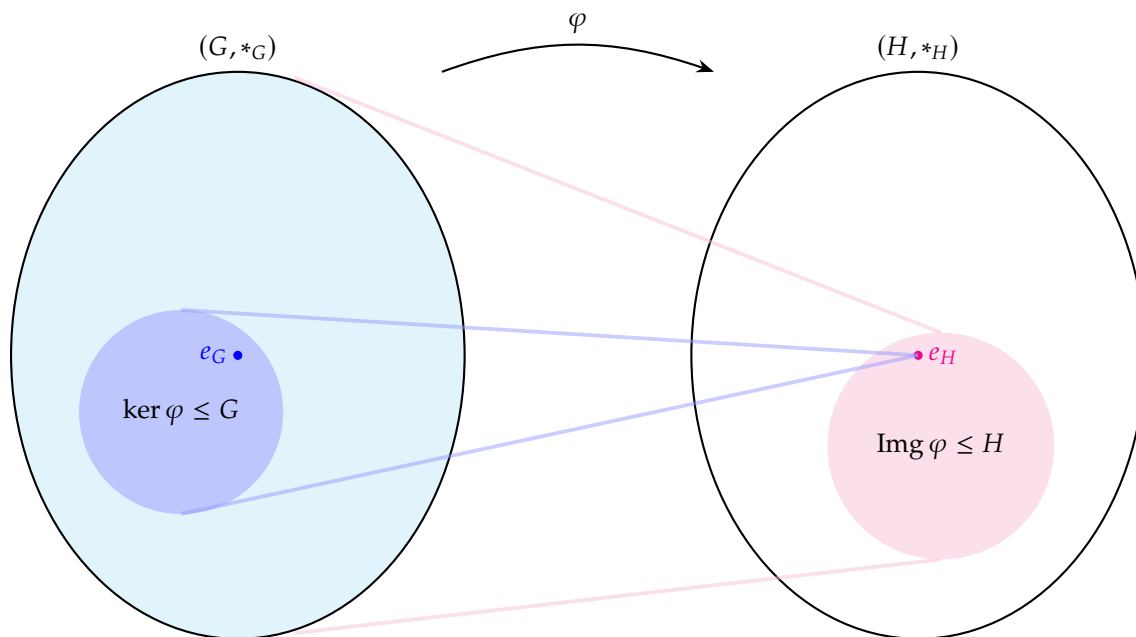
- Subspace; Span
- Subgroup

Part 2

- Homomorphism; Monomorphism; Epimorphism
- Isomorphism

Part 3

- Kernel and Images



1 Part I

Note (span). Let V be a vector space over a field \mathbb{F} , and let $S \subseteq V$. Recall that, for $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{span}(S) &:= \{ \lambda_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \lambda_2 \mathbf{v}_2 + \cdots + \lambda_n \mathbf{v}_n \mid \lambda_i \in \mathbb{F}, \mathbf{v}_i \in S \text{ for all } i = 1, 2, \dots, n \} \\ &= \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \mathbf{v}_i \mid \lambda_i \in \mathbb{F}, \mathbf{v}_i \in S \text{ for all } 1 \leq i \leq n \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

(Vector) Subspace

Definition. Let V be a vector space over a field \mathbb{F} , and let $U \subseteq V$. We write $U \leq V$ if U is a **(vector) subspace** of V . That is, $U \leq V$ if and only if U satisfy the following conditions:

- (i) $\mathbf{0}_V \in U$;
- (ii) $\forall \mathbf{u}, \tilde{\mathbf{u}} \in U, \mathbf{u} + \tilde{\mathbf{u}} \in U$;
- (iii) $\forall \mathbf{u} \in U, \forall \lambda \in \mathbb{F}, \lambda \mathbf{u} \in U$.

Remark. If $S \subseteq V$, then $\text{span}(S) \leq V$.

Proof. We must verify that $\text{span}(S)$ satisfies the three defining properties of a subspace of V :

- (i) If $S = \emptyset$, by convention we define $\text{span}(\emptyset) := \{\mathbf{0}_V\}$. Let $S \neq \emptyset$. Choose any $\mathbf{v} \in S (\subseteq V)$ and take $n = 1$ with the scalar $\lambda_1 = 0 \in \mathbb{F}$. Then $\mathbf{0}_V = 0 \cdot \mathbf{v} \in \text{span}(S)$.
- (ii) Let $\mathbf{u}, \tilde{\mathbf{u}} \in \text{span}(S)$, say, $\mathbf{u} = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \mathbf{v}_i$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{u}} = \sum_{j=1}^m \mu_j \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_j$, where $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$, $\lambda_i, \mu_j \in \mathbb{F}$, and $\mathbf{v}_i, \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_j \in S$ for all indices i, j . Then

$$\mathbf{u} + \tilde{\mathbf{u}} = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \mathbf{v}_i + \sum_{j=1}^m \mu_j \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_j = \underbrace{\lambda_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \lambda_2 \mathbf{v}_2 + \cdots + \lambda_n \mathbf{v}_n}_{n \text{ terms}} + \underbrace{\mu_1 \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_1 + \mu_2 \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_2 + \cdots + \mu_m \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_m}_{m \text{ terms}} \in \text{span}(S).$$

- (iii) Let $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}$. Let $\mathbf{u} \in \text{span}(S)$, say, $\mathbf{u} = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \mathbf{v}_i$, where $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{F}$, and $\mathbf{v}_i \in S$ for each $1 \leq i \leq n$. Then

$$\alpha \mathbf{u} = \alpha \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \mathbf{v}_i \right) = \sum_{i=1}^n (\alpha \lambda_i) \mathbf{v}_i \in \text{span}(S).$$

since $\alpha \lambda_i \in \mathbb{F}$ for all $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$.

□

Proposition. Let V be a vector space over a field \mathbb{F} , and let $S \subseteq V$. Then

- (1) $S \subseteq \text{span}(S) \subseteq V$.
- (2) If $U \leq V$ is any subspace of V such that $S \subseteq U$, then $\text{span}(S) \subseteq U$.

Proof.

- (1) Let $\mathbf{s} \in S$. Then, choosing $n = 1$ and $\lambda_1 = 1 \in \mathbb{F}$, we have $\mathbf{s} = 1 \cdot \mathbf{s} \in \text{span}(S)$. Each element $\mathbf{s} \in \text{span}(S)$ is of the form

$$\mathbf{s} = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \mathbf{v}_i,$$

where $\mathbf{v}_i \in S \subseteq V$ and $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{F}$. Since V is a vector space and is closed under finite linear combinations, it follows that $\mathbf{s} \in V$.

- (2) Let $U \leq V$ and $S \subseteq U$. Let $\mathbf{s} \in \text{span}(S)$. Then, there exist $n \in \mathbb{N}$, scalars $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n \in \mathbb{F}$, and vectors $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n \in S \subseteq U$ such that

$$\mathbf{s} = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \mathbf{v}_i \in \text{span}(S).$$

Since

- $S \subseteq U$, i.e., $\mathbf{v}_i \in S \subseteq U$ for each $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, and
- $U \leq V$, i.e., $\mathbf{u} + \tilde{\mathbf{u}} \in U$ and $\alpha \mathbf{u} \in U$ for any $\mathbf{u}, \tilde{\mathbf{u}} \in U$, $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}$,

it follows that

$$\forall i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}, \lambda_i \mathbf{v}_i \in U \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{s} = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \mathbf{v}_i \in U.$$

□

Proposition. Let V be a vector space over a field \mathbb{F} , and let $S \subseteq V$. Let $\mathcal{U} := \{U \leq V : S \subseteq U\}$. Then

$$\text{span}(S) = \bigcap_{U \in \mathcal{U}} U.$$

In other words, $\text{span}(S)$ is the smallest subspace of V containing S .

Proof. We want to show that $\text{span}(S) = \bigcap_{U \in \mathcal{U}} U$.

(\subseteq) Let $\mathbf{u} \in \text{span}(S)$. By definition, there exists $n \in \mathbb{N}$, scalars $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n \in \mathbb{F}$, and vectors $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n \in S$ such that

$$\mathbf{u} = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \mathbf{v}_i.$$

Let $U \in \mathcal{U}$ be arbitrary. Since $S \subseteq U$ and $U \leq V$, it is closed under finite linear combinations:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \mathbf{v}_i \in U.$$

Since $\forall U \in \mathcal{U}, \mathbf{u} \in U \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{u} \in \bigcap_{U \in \mathcal{U}} U$, we obtain

$$\mathbf{u} = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \mathbf{v}_i \in \bigcap_{U \in \mathcal{U}} U.$$

(\supseteq) Since $S \subseteq \text{span}(S)$ and $\text{span}(S) \leq V$, we know $\text{span}(S) \in \mathcal{U}$. Let $\mathbf{u} \in \bigcap_{U \in \mathcal{U}} U$. Then

$$\mathbf{u} \in \bigcap_{U \in \mathcal{U}} U \iff \forall U \in \mathcal{U}, \mathbf{u} \in U \implies \mathbf{u} \in \text{span}(S).$$

Hence, we conclude that $\text{span}(S) = \bigcap_{U \in \mathcal{U}} U$. □

Subgroup

Definition. Let G be a group. Let $H \subseteq G$. We say that H is a **subgroup** of G , denoted by $H \leq G$, if and only if H is itself a group (with the operation inherited from G).

Example.

- $(\mathbb{Q}, +) \leq (\mathbb{R}, +)$.
- $(\mathbb{Q}^\times, \times) \leq (\mathbb{R}^\times, \times)$.

Subgroup Test

Proposition. Let G be a group, and let $H \subseteq G$ with $H \neq \emptyset$.

(1) (2-step Test)

$$H \leq G \iff (x, y \in H \implies xy \in H, x^{-1} \in H)$$

(2) (1-step Test)

$$H \leq G \iff (x, y \in H \implies xy^{-1} \in H)$$

Proof. We want to show that

$$\underbrace{H \leq G}_{(a)} \iff \underbrace{(x, y \in H \implies xy \in H, x^{-1} \in H)}_{(b)} \iff \underbrace{(x, y \in H \implies xy^{-1} \in H)}_{(c)}$$

((a) \Rightarrow (b)) Let $H \leq G$. Let $x, y \in H$. Since every subgroup is closed under the group operation and taking inverses, we have

$$xy \in H \quad \text{and} \quad x^{-1} \in H.$$

((b) \Rightarrow (c)) Let $x, y \in H$. Suppose that $xy \in H$ and $x^{-1} \in H$. Clearly, $xy^{-1} \in H$.

((c) \Rightarrow (a)) Let $x, y \in H$. Suppose that

$$xy^{-1} \in H.$$

Since $H \neq \emptyset$, $\exists a \in H$, and so

$$aa^{-1} \in H \implies e \in H.$$

Since $x \in H$ and $e \in H$, we have

$$ex^{-1} \in H \implies x^{-1} \in H.$$

Then, since $x, y \in H$ and $y^{-1} \in H$, we obtain

$$x(y^{-1})^{-1} \in H \implies xy \in H,$$

i.e., H is closed under binary operation on G .

□

Subgroup Generated by S

Definition. Let G be a group, and let $S \subseteq G$. The **subgroup of G generated by S** , denoted by $\langle S \rangle$, is defined as:

$$\langle S \rangle := \bigcap \{H \leq G : S \subseteq H\} = \bigcap_{S \subseteq H \leq G} H.$$

Exercise. Let G be a group, and let $S \subseteq G$. Show that $\langle S \rangle$ is the unique smallest subgroup of G containing S .

Sol. TBA □

Exercise. Let G be a group, and let $S \subseteq G$. Let $H_i \leq G$ for each $i \in I$. Show that

$$\bigcap_{i \in I} H_i \leq G.$$

Sol. TBA □

Proposition. Let $(G, +)$ be an abelian group with identity 0_G , and let $x, y \in G$. Then

$$(1) \langle x \rangle = \{nx : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

$$(2) \langle x, y \rangle = \{nx + my : n, m \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

Proof. TBA □

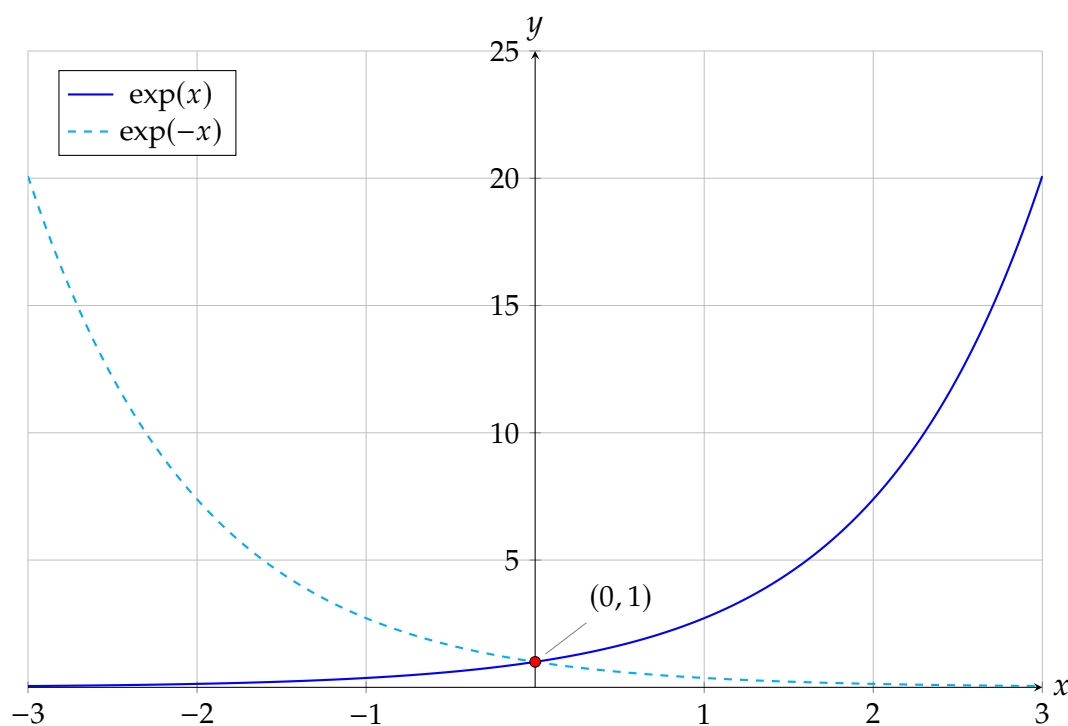
2 Part II

Observation. Let

- $(\mathbb{R}, +)$ is the additive group of real numbers, and
- $(\mathbb{R}_{>0}, \cdot)$ is the multiplicative group of positive real numbers.

The **exponential function** is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \exp : (\mathbb{R}, +) &\longrightarrow (\mathbb{R}_{>0}, \cdot) \\ x &\longmapsto e^x \end{aligned}.$$

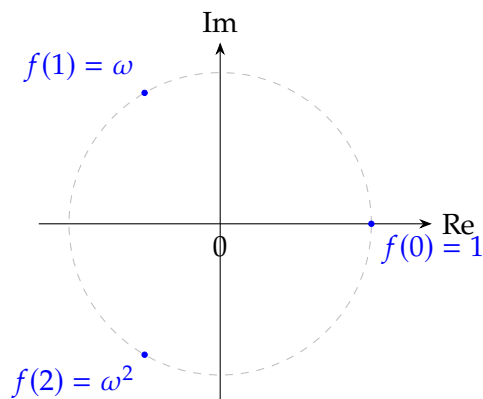


Then,

- (i) $\exp(x + y) = e^{x+y} = e^x \cdot e^y = \exp(x) \cdot \exp(y)$;
- (ii) $\exp(0) = e^0 = 1$;
- (iii) $\exp(-x) = e^{-x} = (e^x)^{-1} = (\exp(x))^{-1}$.

Observation. Consider the exponential map

$$f: \mathbb{Z}_3 \rightarrow U_3, \quad f(x) = \exp\left(\frac{2\pi i}{3}x\right).$$



Then f is a group homomorphism from the additive group $(\mathbb{Z}_3, +)$ to the multiplicative group (U_3, \cdot) of the third roots of unity. Here,

- $\mathbb{Z}_3 = \{0, 1, 2\}$ with addition modulo 3
- $U_3 = \{1, \omega, \omega^2\}$, with $\omega = \exp\left(\frac{2\pi i}{3}\right)$ which satisfies $\omega^3 = 1$.

The homomorphism property means that for all $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}_3$ we have:

$$f(x + y) = f(x)f(y).$$

(Addition Table in \mathbb{Z}_3)

+	0	1	2
0	0	1	2
1	1	2	0
2	2	0	1

(Multiplicative Table in \mathbb{Z}_3)

·	0	1	2
0	0	0	0
1	0	1	2
2	0	2	1

After applying the exponential map, the corresponding elements are:

$$f(0) = 1, \quad f(1) = \omega, \quad f(2) = \omega^2.$$

Thus, the multiplication table is:

·	1	ω	ω^2
1	1	ω	ω^2
ω	ω	ω^2	1
ω^2	ω^2	1	ω

·	$f(0)$	$f(1)$	$f(2)$
$f(0)$	$f(0)$	$f(1)$	$f(2)$
$f(1)$	$f(1)$	$f(2)$	$f(0)$
$f(2)$	$f(2)$	$f(0)$	$f(1)$

Homomorphism, Monomorphism, Epicmorphism, and Isomorphism

Definition. Let $(G, *_G)$ and $(H, *_H)$ be groups with identity elements e_G and e_H , respectively.

(1) A function $\varphi : G \rightarrow H$ is said to be a **group homomorphism** if and only if

$$\varphi(x *_G y) = \varphi(x) *_H \varphi(y) \quad \text{for all } x, y \in G.$$

(2) A group homomorphism $\varphi : G \rightarrow H$ is called a **group monomorphism** iff it is injective.

(3) A group homomorphism $\varphi : G \rightarrow H$ is called an **group epimorphism** iff it is surjective.

(4) A group homomorphism $\varphi : G \rightarrow H$ is called an **group isomorphism** iff it is bijective.

Ring Homomorphism

Definition. Let $(R, +_R, \cdot_R)$ and $(S, +_S, \cdot_S)$ be rings (with unity). A function

$$\varphi : (R, +_R, \cdot_R) \rightarrow (S, +_S, \cdot_S)$$

is called a **ring homomorphism** if

$$(i) \quad \varphi(a +_R b) = \varphi(a) +_S \varphi(b) \quad \text{for all } a, b \in R$$

$$(ii) \quad \varphi(a \cdot_R b) = \varphi(a) \cdot_S \varphi(b).$$

and, if the rings are unital, one additionally requires $\varphi(1_R) = 1_S$. It is immediate that this definition implies $\varphi(0_R) = 0_S$ since

$$\varphi(0_R) = \varphi(0_R +_R 0_R) = \varphi(0_R) +_S \varphi(0_R).$$

Module Homomorphism

Definition. Let R be a ring and let $(M, +_M, \cdot_M)$ and $(N, +_N, \cdot_N)$ be R -modules. A function

$$f : (M, +_M, \cdot_M) \rightarrow (N, +_N, \cdot_N)$$

is an **R -module homomorphism** if the following hold: for all $m_1, m_2 \in M$ and for all $r \in R$

$$(i) \quad f(m_1 +_M m_2) = f(m_1) +_N f(m_2)$$

$$(ii) \quad f(r \cdot_M m_1) = r \cdot_N f(m_1).$$

Linear Transformation (revised via Module Homomorphism)

Definition. Let F be a field and let V and W be vector spaces over \mathbb{F} ; that is, V and W are F -modules. A function

$$T : V \rightarrow W$$

is called a **linear transformation** if the followings are satisfied: for every $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2 \in V$ and every scalar $\lambda \in F$

$$(i) \quad T(\mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_2) = T(\mathbf{v}_1) + T(\mathbf{v}_2);$$

$$(ii) \quad T(\lambda \mathbf{v}_1) = \lambda T(\mathbf{v}_1).$$

Thus, a linear transformation is precisely an \mathbb{F} -module homomorphism.

Preservation of Identity and Inverses

Proposition. Let (G, \cdot_G) and (H, \cdot_H) be groups with respective identity elements e_G and e_H , and let $\varphi : G \rightarrow H$ be a group homomorphism, that is,

$$\varphi(a \cdot_G b) = \varphi(a) \cdot_H \varphi(b) \quad \text{for all } a, b \in G.$$

Then the following hold:

$$(1) \quad \textbf{Preservation of Identity:} \quad \varphi(e_G) = e_H.$$

$$(2) \quad \textbf{Preservation of Inverse:} \quad \varphi(a^{-1}) = (\varphi(a))^{-1} \text{ for all } a \in G.$$

Proof. TBA

□

3 Part III

Kernel

Definition. Let $\varphi : G \rightarrow H$ be a group homomorphism. The **kernel** of φ is the subset of G defined by

$$\ker(\varphi) := \{g \in G : \varphi(g) = e_H\}.$$

Remark. The set $\ker(\varphi)$ is a normal subgroup of G .

Proof. TBA

□

Image

Definition. Let $\varphi : G \rightarrow H$ be a group homomorphism. The **image** of φ is the subset of H given by

$$\text{Img}(\varphi) := \{h \in H : \exists g \in G \text{ such that } \varphi(g) = h\} = \{\varphi(g) : g \in G\}.$$

Remark. The set $\text{Img}(\varphi)$ forms a subgroup of H .

Proof. TBA

□