

Upper Division Tutoring Program Topic Review

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Vector Spaces, Linear Maps, and Duality

Section I: Definitions and Theorems Review

Vector Spaces

Definition 1 (vector space). Fix a field F . Then a *vector space* V over F is a set equipped with an addition $+$ and scalar multiplication \cdot satisfying the following conditions.

- Addition commutes and associates: $u + v = v + u$ and $u + (v + w) = (u + v) + w$ for any $u, v, w \in V$.
- Additive identity: there is a vector $0 \in V$ such that $v + 0 = 0 + v = v$ for any $v \in V$.
- Additive inverse: for any $v \in V$, there is a vector $-v \in V$ such that $v + (-v) = (-v) + v = 0$.
- Multiplicative identity: for any $v \in V$, we have $1v = v$.
- Distribution: for any $a, b \in F$ and $v, w \in V$, we have $(a + b)(v + w) = av + aw + bv + bw$.

Remark. One can show that the identity $0 \in V$ and inverse $-v \in V$ of $v \in V$ are unique. As such, we may say “the identity” or “the inverse of v .”

Definition 2 (subspace). Fix a vector space V over a field F . A subset $W \subseteq V$ is a *subspace* if and only if it satisfies the following.

- Zero: $0 \in W$.
- Addition: for $v, w \in W$, we have $v + w \in W$.
- Scalar multiplication: for $a \in F$ and $v \in W$, we have $av \in W$.

Definition 3 (sum, direct sum). Fix a vector space V over a field F . Given some subsets U_1, \dots, U_n , we define the *sum* as

$$U_1 + \dots + U_n := \{u_1 + \dots + u_n : u_1 \in U_1, \dots, u_n \in U_n\}.$$

This is a *direct sum* if it satisfies the following property: for each $v \in U_1 + \dots + U_n$, there are unique vectors $u_1 \in U_1, \dots, u_n \in U_n$ such that $v = u_1 + \dots + u_n$. In this case, we write $U_1 \oplus \dots \oplus U_n$.

Definition 4 (span). Fix a vector space V over a field F . Given a set of vectors $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$, the *span* of these vectors is given by

$$\text{span}(\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}) := \{a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n : a_1, \dots, a_n \in F\}.$$

In other words, the span is the set of linear combinations of the vectors in $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$.

Definition 5 (linearly independent). Fix a vector space V over a field F . Then a set of vectors $\{v_1, \dots, v_m\}$ in V is *linearly independent* if and only if

$$a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n = 0$$

for $a_1, \dots, a_n \in F$ implies that $a_1 = \dots = a_n = 0$. Otherwise, we say that these vectors are *linearly dependent*.

Definition 6 (basis, dimension). Fix a vector space V over a field F . A *basis* of a set of vectors B which is linearly independent and spans V . The *dimension* $\dim V$ of V is the size of the set B .

Proposition 1. Fix a vector space V over a field F and a subset of vectors $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$. Then this set is a basis if and only if it satisfies the following: for any vector $v \in V$, there are scalars $a_1, \dots, a_n \in F$ such that

$$v = a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n.$$

Theorem 1. Every vector space has a (possibly infinite) basis.

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Linear Maps

Definition 7 (linear map). Fix vector spaces V and W over a field F . Then a *linear map* is a function $T: V \rightarrow W$ satisfying the following.

- Addition: for $v, v' \in V$, we have $T(v + v') = T(v) + T(v')$.
- Scalar multiplication: for $v \in V$ and $a \in F$, we have $T(cv) = cT(v)$.

We denote the vector space of linear transformations $V \rightarrow W$ by $\mathcal{L}(V, W)$

Example 1. Given a vector space V , define the function $\text{id}_V: V \rightarrow V$ by $\text{id}_V(v) := v$ for each $v \in V$. Then id_V is a linear map.

Remark. If V and W are finite-dimensional, then $\dim \mathcal{L}(V, W) = (\dim V)(\dim W)$.

Proposition 2. Fix a finite-dimensional vector space V with a basis $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$. Given a vector space W and some vectors $\{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$, there is a unique linear transformation $T: V \rightarrow W$ such that

$$T(v_1) = w_1, \quad T(v_2) = w_2, \quad \dots, \quad T(v_n) = w_n.$$

Definition 8 (null space, range). Fix a linear map $T: V \rightarrow W$ of vector spaces.

- The *null space* of T is $\text{null } T := \{v \in V : T(v) = 0\}$. It is a subspace of V .
- The *range* of T is $\text{range } T := \{T(v) : v \in V\}$. It is a subspace of W .

Definition 9 (injective, surjective, bijective). Fix a linear map $T: V \rightarrow W$ of vector spaces.

- We say T is *injective* if and only if $T(v) = T(v')$ implies $v = v'$ for any $v, v' \in V$.
- We say T is *surjective* if and only if any vector $w \in W$ has some vector $v \in V$ such that $T(v) = w$.
- We say T is *bijective* or an *isomorphism* if and only if T is both injective and surjective.

Remark. One can show that T is injective if and only if $\text{null } T = \{0\}$, and T is surjective if and only if $\text{range } T = W$.

Theorem 2. Fix a linear map $T: V \rightarrow W$ of vector spaces. Then

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

Definition 10 (matrix). Fix a linear map $T: V \rightarrow W$ of finite-dimensional vector spaces V and W with bases $\{v_1, \dots, v_m\}$ and $\{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$ respectively. For each v_i , find scalars a_{i1}, \dots, a_{in} such that

$$Tv_i = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} w_j.$$

Then the matrix $\{a_{ij}\}$ is the *matrix associated to* T .

Duality

Definition 11 (linear functional). Let V be a vector space, ϕ is a linear functional on V if $\phi \in \mathcal{L}(V, \mathbb{F})$.

Definition 12 (dual space). Fix a vector space V , its dual space V' is the space of all linear functionals on V . We write $V' := \mathcal{L}(V, \mathbb{F})$.

Proposition 3. Fix a vector space V . Then $\dim V = \dim V'$.

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Definition 13 (dual operator). Fix a linear operator $T: V \rightarrow W$, then its dual operator $T': W' \rightarrow V'$ is defined by $T'(\phi) := \phi \circ T$ for any $\phi \in W'$.

Definition 14 (dual basis). Let v_1, \dots, v_n be a basis of a finite-dimensional vector space V . Then the dual basis of this list is given by $\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_n \in V'$, where each $\varphi_j \in V'$ has

$$\varphi_j(v_i) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i = j, \\ 0 & \text{if } i \neq j. \end{cases}$$

Proposition 4. The dual basis defined as above is indeed a basis of V' .

Proposition 5. The matrix of the dual operator T' is the transpose of the matrix of T .

Definition 15. Let V be a vector space and $U \subset V$ be a subspace. Then, the annihilator of U , denoted by U^0 , is the set of all $\phi \in V'$ such that $\phi(u) = 0$ for all $u \in U$.

Remark. The annihilator U^0 is a subspace of V' .

Section II: Practice Exercises

Exercises are organized thematically, not by difficulty.

1. Given a matrix

$$A := \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & \cdots & a_{15} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{51} & \cdots & a_{55} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{5 \times 5},$$

we say that A is *symmetric* if and only if $a_{ij} = a_{ji}$ for each i and j , and we say that A is *skew-symmetric* if and only if $a_{ij} = -a_{ji}$.

- (a) Let Y and K be the set of symmetric and skew-symmetric matrices in $\mathbb{R}^{5 \times 5}$, respectively. Show that Y and K are subspaces of $\mathbb{R}^{5 \times 5}$.
 - (b) Compute $\dim Y$ and $\dim K$.
 - (c) Show that $\mathbb{R}^{5 \times 5}$ is the direct sum of the subspaces Y and K .
2. (Axler 2.C.17) Fix a finite-dimensional vector space V over a field F , and fix subspaces U_1, \dots, U_n of V .

- (a) Show that

$$\dim(U_1 + \cdots + U_n) \leq \dim U_1 + \cdots + \dim U_n.$$

- (b) In fact, show that equality holds in (a) if and only if the sum $U_1 + \cdots + U_n$ is direct.

3. Fix a linear transformation $T: V \rightarrow W$ of vector spaces over a field F . For any $w \in W$, suppose there is a vector $v_0 \in V$ such that $f(v_0) = w$. Then show that

$$\{v \in V : f(v) = w\} = \{v + v_0 : v \in \text{null } T\}.$$

4. (Axler 3.B.28) Suppose $p \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R})$. Prove that there exists a polynomial $q \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R})$ such that

$$5q'' + 3q' = p.$$

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5. Let I be the linear map $I: \mathcal{P}_5(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_6(\mathbb{R})$ by

$$I(f) := \int_0^x f(t) dt.$$

- (a) Convince yourself that I is a linear map.
 - (b) Find bases of $\mathcal{P}_5(\mathbb{R})$ and $\mathcal{P}_6(\mathbb{R})$.
 - (c) Use the bases found in (b) in order to write dual bases for $\mathcal{P}_5(\mathbb{R})'$ and $\mathcal{P}_6(\mathbb{R})'$.
 - (d) Use the dual bases found in (c) in order to write $I': \mathcal{P}_6(\mathbb{R})' \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_5(\mathbb{R})'$ as a matrix.
6. Let V be a 2-dimensional vector space, and let $\varphi, \psi \in V'$. Show that φ and ψ are linearly independent if and only if

$$\text{null}(\varphi) \cap \text{null}(\psi) = \{0\}.$$

7. Fix a finite-dimensional vector space V . Call a linear map $T: V \rightarrow V$ a *projection* if and only if $T \circ T = T$.
- (a) Give an example of a projection $T: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ which is neither the zero nor the identity operators.
 - (b) For any projection T , show that T fixes $\text{range } T$.
 - (c) For any projection T , show that $\text{range } T \cap \text{null } T = \{0\}$. Conclude that $V = \text{range } T \oplus \text{null } T$.
 - (d) We say that a linear transformation $T \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ is *diagonal* if and only if there is a basis $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ of V and constants $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ such that $Tv_i = \lambda_i v_i$ for each i . Show that T can be written as a linear combination of projections.
8. (Axler 3.F.23) Let V be a finite-dimensional vector space, and let U and W be subspaces of V .
- (a) Show that $(U + W)^0 = U^0 \cap W^0$.
 - (b) Show that $(U \cap W)^0 = U^0 + W^0$.