

Selected Problems Chapter 3

Linear Algebra Done Right, Sheldon Axler, 3rd Edition

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Problem Integration. Define $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}), \mathbb{R})$ by

$$Tp = \int_0^1 p(x)dx.$$

Show that T is a linear map.

Proof.

Additivity

Given $p, q \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R})$, we want the additivity propriety to hold for T . Applying T to the sum of p and q , we have

$$\begin{aligned} T(p + q) &= \int_0^1 p(x) + q(x)dx \\ &= \int_0^1 p(x)dx + \int_0^1 q(x)dx \\ &= T(p) + T(q), \end{aligned}$$

since integration of a sum is equal to the sum of the integrated parts.

Homogeneity

Given $p \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R})$ and $a \in F$, we want the homogeneity property to hold. Applying T to the scalar multiple of p , we have

$$\begin{aligned} T(a * p) &= \int_0^1 a * p(x)dx \\ &= a * \int_0^1 p(x)dx \\ &= a * T(p), \end{aligned}$$

since constants can be separated in integration.

□

Problem Theorem 3.5. Suppose v_1, \dots, v_n is a basis of V and $w_1, \dots, w_m \in W$. Show that there exists a unique linear map $T : V \rightarrow W$ such that

$$T(v_j) = w_j$$

for each $j = 1, \dots, n$.

Proof. We must first show the existence of a linear map with the desired properties. Define $T : V \rightarrow W$ by

$$T(a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n) = a_1w_1 + \dots + a_nw_n$$

, where a_1, \dots, a_n are coefficients in F .

We must show that T is a linear map. Given $a_1v_1, \dots, a_nv_n \in V$ and $b_1v_1, \dots, b_nv_n \in V$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} T'((a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n) + (b_1v_1 + \dots + b_nv_n)) &= T'((a_1 + b_1)v_1 + \dots + (a_n + b_n)v_n) \\ &= (a_1 + b_1)w_1 + \dots + (a_n + b_n)w_n \\ &= (a_1w_1 + \dots + a_nw_n) + (b_1w_1 + \dots + b_nw_n) \\ &= T(a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n) + T(b_1v_1 + \dots + b_nv_n). \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, given $a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n \in V$ and $\lambda \in F$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} T(\lambda(a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n)) &= T((\lambda * a_1)v_1 + \dots + (\lambda * a_n)v_n) \\ &= (\lambda * a_1)w_1 + \dots + (\lambda * a_n)w_n \\ &= \lambda(a_1w_1 + \dots + a_nw_n) \\ &= \lambda * T(a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n) \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we have shown T to be a linear map.

Assume the existence of another linear map $T' : V \rightarrow W$ with the property

$$T'(v_j) = w_j$$

for each $j = 1, \dots, n$. To show uniqueness, we want that $T(v) = T'(v)$ for all $v \in V$.

Given $v \in V$, we can write $v = a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n$, since we have a basis for V . Then,

$$\begin{aligned} T(v) &= T(a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n) \\ &= a_1T(v_1) + \dots + a_nT(v_n) \\ &= a_1T'(v_1) + \dots + a_nT'(v_n) \\ &= T'(a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n) \\ &= T'(v), \end{aligned}$$

since $T(v_i) = w_i = T'(v_i)$ for each $j = 1, \dots, n$. □

Problem 3.A.11. Suppose V is finite-dimensional. Prove that every linear map on a subspace of V can be extended to a linear map on V . In other words, show that if U is a subspace of V and $S \in \mathcal{L}(U, W)$, then there exists $T \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$ such that $Tu = Su$ for all $u \in U$.

Proof. Given a subspace U of V and a linear map $S \in \mathcal{L}(U, W)$, we want to extend S to be a linear map on V . Choose a basis of U to be u_1, \dots, u_m . We can extend our chosen basis for U to be a basis of V as the list $u_1, \dots, u_m, v_1, \dots, v_n$. Let

$$w_j = Su_j$$

for $j = 1, \dots, m$. Thus the linear map S can be explicitly written as

$$\begin{aligned} Su &= S(a_1u_1 + \dots + a_mu_m) \\ &= a_1w_1 + \dots + a_mw_m \end{aligned}$$

, for all $u \in U$.

We are now in the position to define the extension linear map T . We define T by

$$\begin{aligned} Tv &= T(a_1u_1 + \dots + a_mu_m + a_{m+1}v_1 + \dots + a_{m+n}v_n) \\ &= a_1w_1 + \dots + a_mw_m \end{aligned}$$

, for all $v \in V$. It is clear that $Tu = Su$ for all $u \in U$ by the definition of T ; T is also a linear map.

□

Problem 3.A.14. Suppose V is finite-dimensional with $\dim V \geq 2$. Prove that there exists $S, T \in \mathcal{L}(V, V)$ such that $ST \neq TS$.

Proof. Assume that $n \geq 2$. Choose a basis $v_1, \dots, v_n \in V$. We will define both linear maps as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} Tv &= T(a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n) \\ &= a_nv_1 + a_1v_2 + \dots + a_{n-1}v_n \end{aligned}$$

, which shifts coefficients by 1 in a circle; Also,

$$\begin{aligned} Sv &= S(a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n) \\ &= a_1v_1. \end{aligned}$$

We will now show that these linear maps do not commute. Let $v = v_1 + 2v_2$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} ST(v) &= ST(v_1 + 2v_2) \\ &= S(2v_1 + v_2) \\ &= 2v_1, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} TS(v) &= TS(v_1 + 2v_2) \\ &= T(v_1) \\ &= v_2. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $ST \neq TS$. □

Problem 3.B.2. Suppose V is a vector space and $S, T \in \mathcal{L}(V, V)$ are such that $\text{range}(S) \subset \text{null}(T)$. Prove that $(ST)^2 = 0$.

Proof. Given $u \in V$, we must show that $((ST)(ST))u = 0$. By the definition of the product of linear maps, we have

$$((ST)(ST))u = (ST)(STu)$$

Let $w = (STu)$, which is in $\text{range}(S)$. Because $w \in \text{range}(S)$, w is also in $\text{null}(T)$ by our assumption. We have

$$\begin{aligned} ((ST)(ST))u &= (ST)(STu) \\ &= (ST)w \\ &= (STw) \\ &= (S0) \\ &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

as desired.

□

Problem 3.B.12. Suppose that V is finite-dimensional and that $T \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$. Prove that there exists a subspace U of V such that $U \cap \text{null}(T) = \{0\}$ and $\text{range}(T) = \{Tu \mid u \in U\}$.

Proof. Choose a subspace U of V such that $U \oplus \text{null}(T) = V$, which is guaranteed by Theorem 2.34. Since U and $\text{null}(T)$ form a direct sum, we have

$$U \cap \text{null}(T) = \{0\}.$$

The next part is to show that $\text{range}(T) = \{Tu \mid u \in U\}$. The right to left inclusion is clear by the definition of range; we must show the left to right inclusion to finish the proof. Given $w \in \text{range}(T)$, choose $v \in V$ such that $w = Tv$. Since $U \oplus \text{null}(T) = V$, choose $u \in U$ and $n \in \text{null}(T)$ such that $v = u + n$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} w &= Tv \\ &= T(u + n) \\ &= T(u) + T(n) \\ &= T(u) + 0 \\ &= T(u), \end{aligned}$$

as desired.

□

Problem Fundamental Theorem of Linear Maps. Suppose V is finite-dimensional and $T \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$. Then $\text{range}(T)$ is finite-dimensional and

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

Proof. By Theorem 2.34, we can choose a subspace U of V such that $U \oplus \text{null}(T) = V$. By Problem 3.B.12, $\text{range}(T) = \{Tu \mid u \in U\}$. Let $B_1 = \{u_1, \dots, u_m\}$ of U , and let $B_2 = \{n_1, \dots, n_k\}$ of $\text{null}(T)$.

We want $B_1 \cup B_2$ to be a basis for V . Since $U \oplus \text{null}(T) = V$, $B_1 \cup B_2$ spans V . We need to show that $B_1 \cup B_2$ is also linearly independent. It suffices to show that the zero-vector can be represented uniquely. Assume that the zero-vector can be written as

$$0 = \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i u_i + \sum_{i=m+1}^{m+k} \lambda_i n_i$$

and

$$0 = \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i u_i + \sum_{i=m+1}^{m+k} \alpha_i n_i.$$

Since U and $\text{null}(T)$ form a direct sum, any vector in V can be written uniquely as a vector from U and a vector from $\text{null}(T)$; Thus, we have

$$\sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i u_i = \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i u_i$$

and

$$\sum_{i=m+1}^{m+k} \lambda_i n_i = \sum_{i=m+1}^{m+k} \alpha_i n_i.$$

It follows from the fact that B_1 and B_2 are basis lists that $\lambda_i = \alpha_i$ for all i . Thus, $B_1 \cup B_2$ forms a basis for V .

We know that $\dim(V) = m + k$ from $B_1 \cup B_2$ being a basis. We also know that $\dim(\text{null}(T)) = k$ from B_2 being a basis of $\text{null}(T)$. It suffices to show that $\dim(\text{range}(T)) = m$. We must show that $R = \{Tu_1, \dots, Tu_m\}$ is a basis for $\text{range}(T)$. By Problem 3.B.12, R spans $\text{range}(T)$. For a contradiction, suppose that R is linearly dependent. We can choose Tu_j in $\text{span}(Tu_1, \dots, Tu_{j-1})$ by the Linear Dependence Lemma. We have

$$T(u_j) = \lambda_1 T(u_1) + \dots + \lambda_{j-1} T(u_{j-1}),$$

so

$$\begin{aligned}T(u_j) &= T(\lambda_1 u_1 + \cdots + \lambda_{j_1} u_{j-1}) \\0 &= T(\lambda_1 u_1 + \cdots + \lambda_{j_1} u_{j-1} - u_j)\end{aligned}$$

Thus, $\lambda_1 u_1 + \cdots + \lambda_{j_1} u_{j-1} - u_j \in \text{null}(T)$, with not all the constants being zero, but we know that $U \cap \text{Null}(T) = \{0\}$, which is a contradiction.

□

Problem A map to a smaller dimensional space is not injective. Suppose V and W are finite-dimensional vector spaces and $\dim(V) > \dim(W)$. Then no linear map from V to W is injective.

The intuition is that v is being transferred into a smaller space, so there is no way that points in W receive a unique member in V , since there are simply too many elements in V .

Proof. We are given a linear map $T \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$. Since $\text{range}(T) \subseteq W$, $\dim(\text{range}(T)) \leq \dim(W)$. By the Fundamental Theorem of Linear Maps, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \dim(\text{null}(T)) &= \dim(V) - \dim(\text{range}(T)) \\ &\geq \dim(V) - \dim(W) \\ &\geq 1 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, for any basis of $\text{null}(T)$, there is at least one non-zero element which is mapped to the zero-vector in W . The zero-vector in V is also mapped to the zero-vector in W . T is not injective as desired.

□

Problem A map to a larger dimensional space is not surjective. Suppose V and W are finite-dimensional vector spaces and $\dim(V) < \dim(W)$. Then no linear map from V to W is surjective.

Proof. We are given a linear map $T \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$. By the Fundamental Theorem of Linear Maps, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\dim(\text{range}(T)) &= \dim(V) - \dim(\text{null}(T)) \\ &\leq \dim(V) \\ &< \dim(W).\end{aligned}$$

Thus, for any basis of $\text{range}(T)$, we can extend it to a basis of W , revealing a vector not in $\text{range}(T)$; thus, $T : V \rightarrow W$ is not surjective.

□

Problem A map to a larger dimensional space is not surjective. Suppose V and W are finite-dimensional vector spaces and $\dim(V) < \dim(W)$. Then no linear map from V to W is surjective.

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$$\begin{aligned}\dim(\text{range}(T)) &= \dim(V) - \dim(\text{null}(T)) \\ &\leq \dim(V) \\ &< \dim(W).\end{aligned}$$

Thus, for any basis of $\text{range}(T)$, we can extend it to a basis of W , revealing a vector not in $\text{range}(T)$; thus, $T : V \rightarrow W$ is not surjective.

□

Problem 3.B.20. Suppose W is finite-dimensional and $T \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$. Prove that T is injective if and only if there exists $S \in \mathcal{L}(W, V)$ such that ST is the identity map on V .

Proof. We will first prove the forward direction. Assume that T is injective. Define $S : \text{range}(T) \rightarrow V$ by

$$Sw = v$$

where v is the unique element in V such that $Tv = w$. We must show that ST is the identity map on V . Choose $v \in V$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} (ST)v &= S(Tv) \\ &= v, \end{aligned}$$

by the definition of S .

We will prove the backward direction. Choose $S \in \mathcal{L}(W, V)$ such that ST is the identity map on V . Assume that $Tu = Tw$ for some $u, w \in V$. Using (ST) , we have

$$\begin{aligned} u &= (ST)u \\ &= S(Tu) \\ &= S(Tw) \\ &= (ST)w \\ &= w, \end{aligned}$$

meaning T is injective.

□

Problem Edited 3.B.29 (V is assumed to be finite-dimensional). Suppose $T \in \mathcal{L}(V, F)$. Suppose $u \in V$ is not in $\text{null}(T)$. Prove that

$$V = \text{null}(T) \oplus \{au \mid a \in F\}$$

Proof. We will first construct a certain basis for V . Choose $u \in V$ such that u is not in $\text{null}(T)$. Let $\{n_1, \dots, n_m\}$ be a basis for $\text{null}(T)$. We want

$$B = \{n_1, \dots, n_m, u\}$$

to be a basis for V .

For a contradiction, suppose that B is not a basis for V . Thus, we can extend B to a basis of V :

$$B_e = \{n_1, \dots, n_m, u, e_1, \dots, e_n\}.$$

We consider the complex numbers to be a vector space over itself, so $\dim(F) = 1$. We want a contradiction with $\dim(\text{range}(T)) \leq \dim(F)$. We will do this by showing that $R = \{Tu, Te_1, \dots, Te_n\}$ is a basis for $\text{range}(T)$. Given $r \in \text{range}(T)$, choose $a_1, \dots, a_{m+n+1} \in F$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} r &= T((a_1n_1 + \dots + a_mn_m) + a_{m+1}u + (a_{m+2}e_1 + \dots + a_{m+n+1}e_n)) \\ &= a_{m+1}T(u) + a_{m+2}T(e_1) + \dots + a_{m+n+1}T(e_n) \end{aligned}$$

, so R spans $\text{range}(T)$. Next, we need to show that R is linearly independent. Choose $a_1, \dots, a_{n+1} \in F$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= a_1T(u_1) + a_2T(e_1) + \dots + a_{n+1}T(e_m) \\ &= T(a_1u_1 + a_2e_1 + \dots + a_{n+1}e_m), \end{aligned}$$

so $a_1u_1 + a_2e_1 + \dots + a_{n+1}e_m \in \text{span}(n_1, \dots, n_m)$. For some $b_1, \dots, b_m \in F$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= (a_1u_1 + a_2e_1 + \dots + a_{n+1}e_m) - (b_1n_1 + \dots + b_mn_m) \\ &, \end{aligned}$$

which means that all the scalars must be 0 because the vectors form a basis for V . Thus, R is a basis for $\text{range}(T)$.

Now, for the contradiction.

$$\begin{aligned} \dim(\text{range}(T)) &= 1 + n \\ &> 1 \\ &= \dim(F), \end{aligned}$$

which is not possible because $\dim(F) = 1$. So B is a basis for V .

We've established that B is a basis for V . All that is left is to show that $V = \text{null}(T) + \{au \mid a \in F\}$ and $\text{null}(T) \cap \{au \mid a \in F\} = \{0\}$. Because B span V , it is clear that $V = \text{null}(T) + \{au \mid a \in F\}$. We assumed that $u \notin \text{null}(T)$, so the $\text{null}(T) \cap \{au \mid a \in F\} = \{0\}$. \square