

3. The map $D: \mathbb{R}[X] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}[X]$ defined such that

$$D(f(X)) = f'(X),$$

where $f'(X)$ is the derivative of the polynomial $f(X)$, is a linear map.

4. The map $\Phi: \mathcal{C}([a, b]) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ given by

$$\Phi(f) = \int_a^b f(t)dt,$$

where $\mathcal{C}([a, b])$ is the set of continuous functions defined on the interval $[a, b]$, is a linear map.

5. The function $\langle -, - \rangle: \mathcal{C}([a, b]) \times \mathcal{C}([a, b]) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ given by

$$\langle f, g \rangle = \int_a^b f(t)g(t)dt,$$

is linear in each of the variable f, g . It also satisfies the properties $\langle f, g \rangle = \langle g, f \rangle$ and $\langle f, f \rangle = 0$ iff $f = 0$. It is an example of an *inner product*.

Definition 3.19. Given a linear map $f: E \rightarrow F$, we define its *image (or range)* $\text{Im } f = f(E)$, as the set

$$\text{Im } f = \{y \in F \mid (\exists x \in E)(y = f(x))\},$$

and its *Kernel (or nullspace)* $\text{Ker } f = f^{-1}(0)$, as the set

$$\text{Ker } f = \{x \in E \mid f(x) = 0\}.$$

The derivative map $D: \mathbb{R}[X] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}[X]$ from Example 3.6(3) has kernel the constant polynomials, so $\text{Ker } D = \mathbb{R}$. If we consider the second derivative $D \circ D: \mathbb{R}[X] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}[X]$, then the kernel of $D \circ D$ consists of all polynomials of degree ≤ 1 . The image of $D: \mathbb{R}[X] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}[X]$ is actually $\mathbb{R}[X]$ itself, because every polynomial $P(X) = a_0X^n + \cdots + a_{n-1}X + a_n$ of degree n is the derivative of the polynomial $Q(X)$ of degree $n + 1$ given by

$$Q(X) = a_0 \frac{X^{n+1}}{n+1} + \cdots + a_{n-1} \frac{X^2}{2} + a_n X.$$

On the other hand, if we consider the restriction of D to the vector space $\mathbb{R}[X]_n$ of polynomials of degree $\leq n$, then the kernel of D is still \mathbb{R} , but the image of D is the $\mathbb{R}[X]_{n-1}$, the vector space of polynomials of degree $\leq n - 1$.

Proposition 3.17. *Given a linear map $f: E \rightarrow F$, the set $\text{Im } f$ is a subspace of F and the set $\text{Ker } f$ is a subspace of E . The linear map $f: E \rightarrow F$ is injective iff $\text{Ker } f = (0)$ (where (0) is the trivial subspace $\{0\}$).*