

Notes and exercises from *Linear Algebra and Multilinear Algebra*

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Introduction

This document contains notes and exercises from [1] and [2].

Unless otherwise stated, Γ denotes a field of characteristic 0 over which all vector spaces are defined.

Linear Algebra

Chapter I

§ 1

Remark. The free vector space $C(X)$ is intuitively the space of all “formal linear combinations” of $x \in X$.

§ 2

Exercise (5 - Universal property of $C(X)$). Let X be a set and $C(X)$ the free vector space on X (subsection 1.7). Recall

$$C(X) = \{f : X \rightarrow \Gamma \mid f(x) = 0 \text{ for all but finitely many } x \in X\}$$

The inclusion map $i_X : X \rightarrow C(X)$ is defined by $a \mapsto f_a$ where f_a is the “characteristic function” of a : $f_a(a) = 1$ and $f_a(x) = 0$ for all $x \neq a$. For $f \in C(X)$, $f = \sum_{a \in X} f(a)f_a$.

- (i) If F is a vector space and $f : X \rightarrow F$, there is a unique *linear* $\varphi : C(X) \rightarrow F$ “extending f ” in the sense that $\varphi \circ i_X = f$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{i_X} & C(X) \\ & \searrow f & \downarrow \varphi \\ & & F \end{array}$$

- (ii) If $\alpha : X \rightarrow Y$, there is a unique *linear* $\alpha_* : C(X) \rightarrow C(Y)$ which makes the following diagram commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & Y \\ i_X \downarrow & & \downarrow i_Y \\ C(X) & \xrightarrow{\alpha_*} & C(Y) \end{array}$$

If $\beta : Y \rightarrow Z$, then $(\beta \circ \alpha)_* = \beta_* \circ \alpha_*$.

- (iii) If E is a vector space, there is a unique linear map $\pi_E : C(E) \rightarrow E$ such that $\pi_E \circ i_E = \iota_E$ (where $\iota_E : E \rightarrow E$ is the identity map):

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E & \xrightarrow{i_E} & C(E) \\ & \searrow \iota_E & \vdots \pi_E \\ & & E \end{array}$$

- (iv) If E and F are vector spaces and $\varphi : E \rightarrow F$, then φ is linear if and only if $\pi_F \circ \varphi_* = \varphi \circ \pi_E$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & F \\ \pi_E \uparrow & & \uparrow \pi_F \\ C(E) & \xrightarrow{\varphi_*} & C(F) \end{array}$$

- (v) Let E be a vector space and $N(E)$ the subspace of $C(E)$ generated by all elements of the form

$$f_{\lambda a + \mu b} - \lambda f_a - \mu f_b \quad (a, b \in E \text{ and } \lambda, \mu \in \Gamma)$$

Then $\ker \pi_E = N(E)$.

Proof.

- (i) By Proposition II, since $i_X(X)$ is a basis of $C(X)$.
(ii) By (i), applied to $i_Y \circ \alpha$. Note $\beta_* \circ \alpha_*$ is linear such that

$$(\beta_* \circ \alpha_*) \circ i_X = i_Z \circ (\beta \circ \alpha)$$

so $\beta_* \circ \alpha_* = (\beta \circ \alpha)_*$ by uniqueness:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} X & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & Y & \xrightarrow{\beta} & Z \\ i_X \downarrow & & \downarrow i_Y & & \downarrow i_Z \\ C(X) & \xrightarrow{\alpha_*} & C(Y) & \xrightarrow{\beta_*} & C(Z) \end{array}$$

(iii) By (i), applied to ι_E .

(iv) If φ is linear, then $\varphi \circ \pi_E : C(E) \rightarrow F$ is linear and extends φ in the sense that $\varphi \circ \pi_E \circ i_E = \varphi \circ \iota_E = \varphi$. However, $\pi_F \circ \varphi_* : C(E) \rightarrow F$ is also linear and extends φ since

$$\pi_F \circ \varphi_* \circ i_E = \pi_F \circ i_F \circ \varphi = \iota_F \circ \varphi = \varphi$$

By uniqueness, these two maps must be equal. Conversely, if these two maps are equal, then φ is linear since $\pi_F \circ \varphi_*$ is linear and π_E is surjective.

(v) By (iii),

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_E(f_{\lambda a + \mu b} - \lambda f_a - \mu f_b) &= \pi_E(f_{\lambda a + \mu b}) - \lambda \pi_E(f_a) - \mu \pi_E(f_b) \\ &= \lambda a + \mu b - \lambda a - \mu b \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

for all $a, b \in E$ and $\lambda, \mu \in \Gamma$. It follows that $N(E) \subseteq \ker \pi_E$ since $N(E)$ is the *smallest* subspace containing these elements and $\ker \pi_E$ is a subspace.

On the other hand, it follows from the fact that $N(E)$ is a subspace that

$$\sum \lambda_i f_{a_i} - f_{\sum \lambda_i a_i} \in N(E)$$

for all (finite) linear combinations. Now if $g = \sum_{a \in E} g(a) f_a \in \ker \pi_E$, then

$$0 = \pi_E(g) = \sum_{a \in E} g(a) \pi_E(f_a) = \sum_{a \in E} g(a) a$$

This implies $f_{\sum_{a \in E} g(a) a} = f_0 \in N(E)$. But by the above, $g - f_0 \in N(E)$, so $g \in N(E)$. Therefore also $\ker \pi_E \subseteq N(E)$. \square

Remark. Note (i) shows that $C(X)$ is a universal (initial) object in the category of “vector spaces with maps of X into them”. In this category, the objects are maps $X \rightarrow F$, for vector spaces F , and the arrows are *linear* (i.e. structure-preserving) maps $F \rightarrow G$ between the vector spaces which respect the mappings of X :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{\quad} & F \\ & \searrow & \downarrow \\ & & G \end{array}$$

By (i), every object $X \rightarrow F$ in this category can be obtained from the inclusion map $X \rightarrow C(X)$ in a unique way. This is why $C(X)$ is called “universal”. This is only possible because $C(X)$ is free from any nontrivial relations among the elements of X , so any relations among the images of those elements in F can be obtained starting from $C(X)$. This is why $C(X)$ is called “free”. It is immediate from the universal property that $C(X)$ is unique up to isomorphism: if $X \rightarrow U$ is also universal, then the composites $\psi \circ \varphi$ and $\varphi \circ \psi$ of the induced linear maps $\varphi : C(X) \rightarrow U$ and $\psi : U \rightarrow C(X)$ are linear and extend the inclusion maps, so must be the identity maps on $C(X)$ and U by uniqueness; that is, φ and ψ are mutually inverse and hence *isomorphisms*. In fact they are also unique by the universal property.

Now (ii) shows that we have a *functor* from the category of sets into the category of vector spaces, which sends sets X and Y to the vector spaces $C(X)$ and $C(Y)$, and which sends a set map $\alpha : X \rightarrow Y$ to the linear map $\alpha_* : C(X) \rightarrow C(Y)$. The functor preserves the category structure of composites of arrows.

In (iii), we are “forgetting” the linear structure of E when forming $C(E)$. For example, if $E = \mathbb{R}^2$, then $(1, 1) = (1, 0) + (0, 1)$ in E , but *not* in $C(E)$. The “formal” linear combination

$$(1, 1) - (1, 0) - (0, 1)$$

is not zero in $C(E)$ because the pairs are unrelated elements (symbols) which are *linearly independent*. Note π_E is surjective (since ι_E is), so E is a projection of $C(E)$. In (iv), we see that $\varphi : E \rightarrow F$ is linear if and only if it is a “projection” of $\varphi_* : C(E) \rightarrow C(F)$.

In (v), we see that π_E just recalls the linear structure of E that was forgotten in $C(E)$. In particular, $C(E)/N(E) \cong E$. In other words, if you start with E , then forget about its linear structure, then recall that linear structure, you just get E again.

§ 3

Remark. If

$$E_1 \oplus E_2 = E = F_1 \oplus F_2$$

are two direct sum decompositions of E with $E_i \subseteq F_i$ for $i = 1, 2$, then $E_i = F_i$ for $i = 1, 2$.

Proof. If $x \in F_i$, then $x = x_1 + x_2$ with $x_j \in E_j$. But then we must have $x = x_i$ since $x_j \in F_j$, so $x \in E_i$. □

§ 4

Exercise (11). Let E be a real vector space and E_1 a vector hyperplane in E (that is, a subspace of codimension 1). Define an equivalence relation on $E^1 = E - E_1$ as follows: for $x, y \in E^1$, $x \sim y$ if the segment

$$x(t) = (1 - t)x + ty \quad (0 \leq t \leq 1)$$

is disjoint from E_1 . Then there are precisely two equivalence classes.

Proof. Fix $e \in E^1$ with $E = E_1 \oplus \langle e \rangle$ and define $\alpha : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by $x - \alpha(x)e \in E_1$ for all $x \in E$. It is clear that α is linear, and $x \in E_1$ if and only if $\alpha(x) = 0$. For $x, y \in E^1$, it follows that $x \sim y$ if and only if

$$0 \neq \alpha(x(t)) = \alpha((1 - t)x + ty) = (1 - t)\alpha(x) + t\alpha(y)$$

for all $0 \leq t \leq 1$. But this is just equivalent to $\alpha(x)\alpha(y) > 0$.

Now if $x \in E^1$, then $\alpha(x) \neq 0$, so $\alpha(x)^2 > 0$ and $x \sim x$. If $x \sim y$, then $\alpha(y)\alpha(x) = \alpha(x)\alpha(y) > 0$, so $y \sim x$. If also $y \sim z$, then $\alpha(y)\alpha(z) > 0$, so $\alpha(x)\alpha(z) > 0$ and $x \sim z$. In other words, this is indeed an equivalence relation.

Note there are at least two equivalence classes since $\alpha(e) = 1$ and $\alpha(-e) = -1$, so $\alpha(e)\alpha(-e) = -1 < 0$ and $e \not\sim -e$. On the other hand, there are at most two classes since if $x \in E^1$, then either $\alpha(x) > 0$ and $x \sim e$ or $\alpha(x) < 0$ and $x \sim -e$. \square

Remark. This result shows that the hyperplane separates the vector space into two disjoint half-spaces.

Chapter II

§ 2

Remark. In subsection 2.11, in the second part of the proof of Proposition I, just let $\psi : E \leftarrow F$ be any linear mapping extending $\varphi_1^{-1} : E \leftarrow \text{Im } \varphi$.¹

§ 4

Remark. The direct sum $E \oplus F$ is a coproduct in the category of vector spaces in the following sense: if $\varphi : E \rightarrow G$ and $\psi : F \rightarrow G$ are linear maps, there is a

¹See Corollary I to Proposition I in subsection 1.15.

unique linear map $\chi : E \oplus F \rightarrow G$ such that $\varphi = \chi \circ i_E$ and $\psi = \chi \circ i_F$, where i_E and i_F are the canonical injections:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 E & \xrightarrow{i_E} & E \oplus F & \xleftarrow{i_F} & F \\
 & \searrow \varphi & \downarrow \chi & \swarrow \psi & \\
 & & G & &
 \end{array}$$

Indeed, χ is given by $\chi(x + y) = \varphi(x) + \psi(y)$ for $x \in E$, $y \in F$. It is the unique linear map “extending” both φ and ψ . This property makes $E \oplus F$ unique up to a unique isomorphism.

Dually, $E \oplus F$ is a product in the following sense: if $\varphi : G \rightarrow E$ and $\psi : G \rightarrow F$ are linear maps, there is a unique linear map $\chi : G \rightarrow E \oplus F$ such that $\varphi = \pi_E \circ \chi$ and $\psi = \pi_F \circ \chi$:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & G & & \\
 & \searrow \varphi & \downarrow \chi & \swarrow \psi & \\
 E & \xleftarrow{\pi_E} & E \oplus F & \xrightarrow{\pi_F} & F
 \end{array}$$

Indeed, χ is given by $\chi(x) = \varphi(x) + \psi(x)$, and “combines” φ and ψ . This property also makes $E \oplus F$ unique up to a unique isomorphism. An infinite direct sum is also a coproduct, but *not* a product, essentially because it has no infinite sums of elements.

In the proof of Proposition I, σ is the product map and τ is the coproduct map. If $\varphi_1 : E_1 \rightarrow F_1$ and $\varphi_2 : E_2 \rightarrow F_2$ are linear maps, then $\varphi = \varphi_1 \oplus \varphi_2$ is both a coproduct and product map:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 E_1 & \xrightleftharpoons{\quad} & E_1 \oplus E_2 & \xrightleftharpoons{\quad} & E_2 \\
 \downarrow \varphi_1 & & \downarrow \varphi & & \downarrow \varphi_2 \\
 F_1 & \xrightleftharpoons{\quad} & F_1 \oplus F_2 & \xrightleftharpoons{\quad} & F_2
 \end{array}$$

The structure of φ is completely determined by the structures of φ_1 and φ_2 . In particular, φ is injective (surjective, bijective) if and only if φ_1 and φ_2 are.

Remark. If $E = E_1 \oplus E_2$ and $F = F_1 \oplus F_2$, and $\varphi : E \rightarrow F$ is defined by $\varphi = \varphi_1 \oplus \varphi_2$ where $\varphi_1 : E_1 \rightarrow F_1$ and $\varphi_2 : E_2 \rightarrow F_2$, then the following diagrams commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E_1 & \xrightarrow{\varphi_1} & F_1 \\ \cong \downarrow & & \downarrow \cong \\ E/E_2 & \xrightarrow{\overline{\varphi}} & F/F_2 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} E_2 & \xrightarrow{\varphi_2} & F_2 \\ \cong \downarrow & & \downarrow \cong \\ E/E_1 & \xrightarrow{\overline{\varphi}} & F/F_1 \end{array}$$

Here the isomorphisms are those induced by the canonical projections.

§ 5

Remark. The definition of dual space is fundamentally *symmetrical* between E and E^* , as is the definition of dual mapping between φ and φ^* . This symmetry often allows us to use bidirectional reasoning and derive two theorems from one proof. For example, (2.48) actually follows from (2.47) by symmetry of φ and φ^* . The proof of Proposition I in subsection 2.23 exploits symmetry, as do other proofs in the book. Many other books simply *define* the dual space of E to be $L(E)$ (no doubt in light of Proposition I of this subsection), at the expense of this symmetry.

Remark. The definition of duality can be generalized to modules. Let R be a ring (with unit), M a *left* R -module, and N a *right* R -module. A binary mapping $\Phi : M \times N \rightarrow R$ is *bilinear* if

$$\Phi(\lambda x_1 + \mu x_2, y) = \lambda \Phi(x_1, y) + \mu \Phi(x_2, y)$$

and

$$\Phi(x, y_1 \lambda + y_2 \mu) = \Phi(x, y_1) \lambda + \Phi(x, y_2) \mu$$

for all $x, x_1, x_2 \in M$, $y, y_1, y_2 \in N$ and $\lambda, \mu \in R$. The map is *nondegenerate* if

$$\{x \in M \mid \Phi(x, y) = 0 \text{ for all } y \in N\} = 0$$

and

$$\{y \in N \mid \Phi(x, y) = 0 \text{ for all } x \in M\} = 0$$

Now M is *dual* to N if there is a nondegenerate bilinear map $\langle -, - \rangle : M \times N \rightarrow R$. Note this relation is not in general symmetric unless R is commutative.

Remark. The results in subsection 2.23 show that quotient spaces are dual to subspaces.

Remark. If E, E^* and F, F^* are pairs of dual spaces and $\varphi : E \rightarrow F$ is linear, then $\varphi^* : E^* \leftarrow F^*$ is dual to φ if and only if the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F^* \times E & \xrightarrow{\varphi^* \times \iota_E} & E^* \times E \\ \downarrow \iota_{F^*} \times \varphi & & \downarrow \langle , \rangle \\ F^* \times F & \xrightarrow{\langle , \rangle} & \Gamma \end{array}$$

Remark. Let E be a vector space and $(x_\alpha)_{\alpha \in A}$ be a basis of E . For each $x \in E$, write $x = \sum_{\alpha \in A} f_\alpha(x) x_\alpha$. Then $f_\alpha \in L(E)$ for each $\alpha \in A$. The function f_α is called the α -th coordinate function for the basis.

Coordinate functions can be used in an alternative proof of Proposition IV. If E_1 is a subspace of E , let B_1 be a basis of E_1 and extend it to a basis B of E . For each $x_\alpha \in B - B_1$, we have $f_\alpha \in E_1^\perp$. If $x \in E_1^{\perp\perp}$, then $f_\alpha(x) = \langle f_\alpha, x \rangle = 0$ for all such α , so $x \in E_1$. In other words, $E_1^{\perp\perp} \subseteq E_1$.

Remark. In the corollary to Proposition V, for $f \in L(E)$ let $f_k = f \circ i_k \circ \pi_k$ where $i_k : E_k \rightarrow E$ is the k -th canonical injection and $\pi_k : E \rightarrow E_k$ is the k -th canonical projection. Then $f = \sum_k f_k$ and $f_k \in F_k^\perp$ for all k , so $L(E) = \sum_k F_k^\perp$. The sum is direct since if $f \in F_k^\perp \cap \sum_{j \neq k} F_j^\perp$, then f kills $\sum_{j \neq k} E_j$ and E_k , so $f = 0$. A scalar product is induced between E_k, F_k^\perp since $E_k \cap F_k = 0$ and $F_k^\perp \cap E_k^\perp = 0$.² The induced injection $F_k^\perp \rightarrow L(E_k)$ is surjective since every linear function on E_k can be extended to a linear function on E which kills F_k .

Remark. For $\varphi : E \rightarrow F$ a linear map, let $L(\varphi) : L(E) \leftarrow L(F)$ be the dual map given by $L(\varphi)(f) = f \circ \varphi$ (2.50). Then L linearly embeds $L(E; F)$ in $L(L(F); L(E))$, by (2.43) and (2.44). Also, $L(\psi \circ \varphi) = L(\varphi) \circ L(\psi)$ and $L(\iota_E) = \iota_{L(E)}$. This shows that L is a contravariant functor in the category of vector spaces. This functor preserves exactness of sequences (see 2.29), and finite direct sums, which are just (co)products in the category (see 2.30), among other things.

Exercise (10). If $\varphi : E \rightarrow F$ is a linear map with restriction $\varphi_1 : E_1 \rightarrow F_1$ and dual map $\varphi^* : E^* \leftarrow F^*$, then φ^* can be restricted to F_1^\perp, E_1^\perp and the induced map $\overline{\varphi^*} : E^*/E_1^\perp \leftarrow F^*/F_1^\perp$ is dual to φ_1 .

²See subsection 2.23.

Proof. If $y^* \in F_1^\perp$ and $x \in E_1$, then

$$\langle \varphi^* y^*, x \rangle = \langle y^*, \varphi x \rangle = 0$$

so φ^* maps F_1^\perp into E_1^\perp . We know that the pairs $E_1, E^*/E_1^\perp$ and $F_1, F^*/F_1^\perp$ are dual under the induced scalar products. For $\overline{y^*} \in F^*/F_1^\perp$ and $x \in E_1$,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \overline{\varphi^* y^*}, x \rangle &= \langle \overline{\varphi^* y^*}, x \rangle \\ &= \langle \varphi^* y^*, x \rangle \\ &= \langle y^*, \varphi_1 x \rangle \\ &= \langle \overline{y^*}, \varphi_1 x \rangle \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

Remark. This result shows that quotient maps are dual to restriction maps. The examples in subsections 2.24 and 2.27 are special cases.

§ 6

Remark. If E is finite-dimensional, then since E is dual to $L(E)$ and $L(E)$ is dual to $L(L(E))$, it follows from Corollary II that there is a natural isomorphism $E \rightarrow L(L(E))$ given by

$$x \mapsto (f \mapsto f(x))$$

This means that the vector x may be naturally *identified* with the linear function “evaluation at x ”.

Remark. If E is finite-dimensional, then every basis of a dual space E^* is a dual basis. Indeed, if f_1, \dots, f_n is a basis of E^* , let e_1, \dots, e_n be its dual basis in E . Then $\langle f_i, e_j \rangle = \delta_{ij}$ by (2.62), so f_1, \dots, f_n is the dual basis of e_1, \dots, e_n , again by (2.62).

Alternatively, with $E^* = L(E)$, let f_1^*, \dots, f_n^* be the dual basis of f_1, \dots, f_n in $E^{**} = L(L(E))$, so $\langle f_j^*, f_i \rangle = \delta_{ij}$ by (2.62). Let $e_1, \dots, e_n \in E$ be defined by $\langle f_j^*, f \rangle = \langle f, e_j \rangle$ for all $f \in E^*$.³ Then $\langle f_i, e_j \rangle = \langle f_j^*, f_i \rangle = \delta_{ij}$, so f_1, \dots, f_n is the dual basis of e_1, \dots, e_n .

The first proof here uses the symmetry between E and E^* , while the second uses the natural isomorphism $E \cong E^{**}$.

Remark. In Proposition III,

$$\Phi(x^*, x) = \langle x^*, \varphi x \rangle = \langle \varphi^* x^*, x \rangle$$

³See problem 3 in § 5 or the prior remark.

so there is also a natural isomorphism $B(E^*, E) \cong L(E^*; E^*)$. We see that φ^* is “left-dual” to Φ while φ is “right-dual” to Φ . It might be said that Φ, φ, φ^* enter into a holy trinity.⁴

Exercise (9). If E and F are finite-dimensional, then the mapping

$$\Phi : L(E; F) \rightarrow L(F^*; E^*)$$

defined by $\varphi \mapsto \varphi^*$ is a linear isomorphism.

Proof. By the remark in § 5 above, and the fact that $\varphi^{**} = \varphi$. □

Chapter III

Warning. Greub’s notational choices in this chapter are insane. In particular, although he uses left-hand mapping notation (writing φx instead of $x\varphi$, and $\varphi\psi$ to mean φ after ψ), and follows the usual “row-by-column” convention for matrix multiplication, his convention for the matrix of a linear mapping is the transpose of that normally used in these circumstances. This has the following unfortunate consequences:

- The matrix of the linear mapping naturally associated with a system of linear equations has the coefficients from each equation appear *vertically in columns*.
- If $M(x)$ is the *column vector* representing x , then $M(\varphi x) = M(\varphi)^* M(x)$, and if $M(x)$ is the *row vector* representing x , then $M(\varphi x) = M(x)M(\varphi)$.
- $M(\varphi\psi) = M(\psi)M(\varphi)$

Compounding the insanity, Greub (inspired by tensor notation) indexes over columns instead of rows when working in dual spaces. This further increases the risk of confusion and error, as we see below. Greub says that “it would be very undesirable...to agree once and for all to always let the subscript count the rows”, but we couldn’t disagree more in this context.

⁴No one says this.

§ 3

Remark. In subsection 3.13, although $\beta_v^\theta = \check{\alpha}_v^\theta$, we must remember that v indexes the *columns* of the matrix of the dual basis transformation $x^{*v} \mapsto \bar{x}^{*v}$ by (3.24), whereas v indexes the *rows* of the matrix of the basis transformation $x_v \mapsto \bar{x}_v$ by (3.22). In other words, the matrix of the dual basis transformation $x^{*v} \mapsto \bar{x}^{*v}$ is the *transpose* of the inverse of the matrix of the basis transformation $x_v \mapsto \bar{x}_v$, contrary to what the book says.⁵ It's easier to remember that the matrix of $x^{*v} \mapsto \bar{x}^{*v}$ (arrow reversed!) is the transpose of the matrix of $x_v \mapsto \bar{x}_v$.

Remark. In subsection 3.13, we see that if a basis transformation is effected by τ , then the corresponding *coordinate* transformation is effected by τ^{-1} . The coordinates of a vector are transformed “exactly in the same way” as the vectors of the dual basis, despite the previous remark, because of Greub's notational choices.

Chapter IV

Remark. In this chapter, it is implicitly assumed that all vector spaces have dimension $n \geq 1$, except in the definition of intersection number (subsection 4.31) where $n = 0$. Here we summarize results for the case $n = 0$:

- For a set X , $X^0 = \{\emptyset\}$. Therefore maps $\Phi : X^0 \rightarrow Y$ can be identified with elements of Y .
- For vector spaces E and F , a map $\Phi : E^0 \rightarrow F$ is vacuously 0-linear. Since the only permutation in S_0 is the identity $\iota = \emptyset$, Φ is also trivially skew symmetric.

In particular if $E = 0$, the following results hold:

- Determinant functions in E are just scalars in Γ , and dual determinant functions are just reciprocal scalars.
- The only transformation of E is the zero transformation, which is also the identity transformation. It has determinant 1, trace 0, and constant characteristic polynomial 1. It has no eigenvalues or eigenvectors. Its adjoint is also the zero transformation. Its matrix on the empty basis is empty.

⁵Compare this to the proof of equation (3.4) in subsection 3.3.

- If E is real ($\Gamma = \mathbb{R}$), the orientations in E are represented by the scalars ± 1 , and determine whether the empty basis is positive or negative. The zero transformation is orientation preserving. The empty basis is deformable into itself.

§ 1

Remark. To see why (4.1) holds, observe by definition of $\tau(\sigma\Phi)$ that

$$(\tau(\sigma\Phi))(x_1, \dots, x_p) = (\sigma\Phi)(x_{\tau(1)}, \dots, x_{\tau(p)})$$

Let $y_i = x_{\tau(i)}$. Then by definition of $\sigma\Phi$ and $(\tau\sigma)\Phi$,

$$\begin{aligned} (\sigma\Phi)(x_{\tau(1)}, \dots, x_{\tau(p)}) &= (\sigma\Phi)(y_1, \dots, y_p) \\ &= \Phi(y_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, y_{\sigma(p)}) \\ &= \Phi(x_{\tau(\sigma(1))}, \dots, x_{\tau(\sigma(p))}) \\ &= \Phi(x_{(\tau\sigma)(1)}, \dots, x_{(\tau\sigma)(p)}) \\ &= ((\tau\sigma)\Phi)(x_1, \dots, x_p) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore $\tau(\sigma\Phi) = (\tau\sigma)\Phi$.

Remark. By Proposition I(iii) and Proposition II, a determinant function $\Delta \neq 0$ “determines” linear independence in the sense that $\Delta(x_1, \dots, x_n) \neq 0$ if and only if x_1, \dots, x_n are linearly independent. By (4.8), it follows that $\det \varphi$ “determines” whether a linear transformation φ preserves linear independence, i.e. whether or not φ is invertible.

Geometrically, $\Delta(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ measures the oriented (signed) volume of the n -dimensional parallelepiped determined by the vectors x_1, \dots, x_n . Therefore $\det \varphi$ is the factor by which φ changes oriented volume. Since a small change in the vectors x_1, \dots, x_n results in a small change in the oriented volume, Δ is continuous.

Remark. We provide an alternative proof of Proposition IV. First note

$$(-1)^{j-1} \Delta(x, x_1, \dots, \widehat{x_j}, \dots, x_n) = \Delta(x_1, \dots, x, \dots, x_n)$$

where x is in the j -th position on the right.⁶ Therefore

$$\sum_{j=1}^n (-1)^{j-1} \Delta(x, x_1, \dots, \widehat{x_j}, \dots, x_n) x_j = \Delta(x, x_2, \dots, x_n) x_1 + \dots + \Delta(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}, x) x_n$$

⁶ $\widehat{x_j}$ denotes deletion of x_j from the sequence on the left.

Viewing this as a function of x_1, \dots, x_n (that is, a set map from $E^n \rightarrow L(E; E)$), it is obviously multilinear and skew symmetric (by Proposition I(ii)). Therefore if x_1, \dots, x_n are linearly dependent, it is zero (by Proposition I(iii)). If x_1, \dots, x_n are linearly independent (and hence a basis), then viewing it as a function of x , its value at x_i is just $\Delta(x_1, \dots, x_n) x_i$ (by Proposition I(ii)), so it agrees on a basis with $\Delta(x_1, \dots, x_n) x$ and hence is equal to it.

Remark. Let E be a vector space with $\dim E = n > 1$ and E_1 a subspace with $\dim E_1 = 1$. Let Δ be a determinant function in E with $\Delta(e_1, \dots, e_n) = 1$ where $e_1 \in E_1$. Then Δ induces a determinant function Δ_1 in E/E_1 by

$$\Delta_1(\overline{x_2}, \dots, \overline{x_n}) = \Delta(e_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$$

with $\Delta_1(\overline{e_2}, \dots, \overline{e_n}) = 1$. Define $D : E^n \rightarrow \Gamma$ by

$$D(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{j=1}^n (-1)^{j-1} \Delta_1(\overline{x_1}, \dots, \widehat{\overline{x_j}}, \dots, \overline{x_n}) \cdot \pi_1(x_j)$$

where $\pi_1 : E \rightarrow \Gamma$ is the coordinate function for e_1 . Then D is skew symmetric and n -linear with $D(e_1, \dots, e_n) = 1$, so $D = \Delta$ by uniqueness (Proposition III). Therefore

$$\Delta(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{j=1}^n (-1)^{j-1} \Delta_1(\overline{x_1}, \dots, \widehat{\overline{x_j}}, \dots, \overline{x_n}) \cdot \pi_1(x_j)$$

This result, which can also be obtained by applying π_1 to both sides of (4.6) with $x = e_1$, expresses a fundamental relationship between an n -dimensional determinant function and an $(n-1)$ -dimensional one. The cofactor expansion formulas for the determinant (subsection 4.15) follow immediately.

Note that this relationship can also be exploited in reverse to *define* an n -dimensional determinant function in terms of an $(n-1)$ -dimensional one. In fact, if $\Phi : E^{n-1} \rightarrow \Gamma$ is a skew symmetric $(n-1)$ -linear function in E , then there is a vector $a \in E$ such that

$$\Phi(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}) = \Delta(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}, a) \tag{1}$$

To see this, define $\varphi : E^n \rightarrow E$ by

$$\varphi(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{j=1}^n (-1)^{n-j} \Phi(x_1, \dots, \widehat{x_j}, \dots, x_n) \cdot x_j$$

Then φ is skew symmetric and n -linear, so $\varphi = \Delta a$ where $a = \varphi(e_1, \dots, e_n)$. This means

$$\Delta(x_1, \dots, x_n)a = \sum_{j=1}^n (-1)^{n-j} \Phi(x_1, \dots, \widehat{x_j}, \dots, x_n) \cdot x_j \quad (2)$$

If x_1, \dots, x_{n-1} are linearly dependent, then (1) holds trivially, so we may assume that they are linearly independent. If a is not in their span, then (1) follows from (2) with $x_n = a$; if a is in the span, then (1) follows from (2) with x_n chosen so that $\Delta(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 1$.

Geometrically, this result expresses a relationship between n -dimensional volume and $(n-1)$ -dimensional volume. We also see from (1) that the latter is just the former measured *relative to a fixed vector*. The fact that the volume of an n -dimensional parallelepiped is equal to the product of the volume of any $(n-1)$ -dimensional “base” and the corresponding “height” (subsection 7.15) is a special case.

§ 2

Remark. In subsection 4.6, we want a transformation ψ with $\psi\varphi = (\det\varphi)\iota$. We can choose a basis x_1, \dots, x_n in E with $\Delta(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 1$, for which we want

$$\begin{aligned} (\psi\varphi)x_i &= \psi(\varphi x_i) = (\det\varphi)x_i \\ &= (\det\varphi)\Delta(x_1, \dots, x_n)x_i \\ &= \Delta(\varphi x_1, \dots, \varphi x_n)x_i \end{aligned}$$

To obtain this, we can define

$$\psi(x) = \sum_{j=1}^n \Delta(\varphi x_1, \dots, x, \dots, \varphi x_n)x_j$$

where x is in the j -th position on the right.⁷ Then ψ obviously satisfies the above properties, by multilinearity and skew symmetry of Δ .

To obtain ψ in a “coordinate-free” manner (without choosing a basis), we observe that the construction on the right is multilinear and skew symmetric in x_1, \dots, x_n when viewed as a mapping $\Phi : E^n \rightarrow L(E; E)$. By the universal property of Δ (Proposition III), there is a unique $\psi \in L(E; E)$ satisfying the above; this ψ is also seen to be independent of the choice of Δ .

⁷See the remark on Proposition IV above.

Remark. In subsection 4.7, observe that

$$\Delta(x_1, \dots, x_p, y_1, \dots, y_q)$$

induces a determinant function on E_2 when $x_1, \dots, x_p \in E$ are fixed, and induces a determinant function on E_1 when $y_1, \dots, y_q \in E$ are fixed. Now let a_1, \dots, a_p be a basis of E_1 , so $a_1, \dots, a_p, b_1, \dots, b_q$ is a basis of E . Then by (4.8),

$$\begin{aligned} \det \varphi \cdot \Delta(a_1, \dots, a_p, b_1, \dots, b_q) &= \Delta(\varphi_1 a_1, \dots, \varphi_1 a_p, \varphi_2 b_1, \dots, \varphi_2 b_q) \\ &= \det \varphi_1 \cdot \Delta(a_1, \dots, a_p, \varphi_2 b_1, \dots, \varphi_2 b_q) \\ &= \det \varphi_1 \cdot \det \varphi_2 \cdot \Delta(a_1, \dots, a_p, b_1, \dots, b_q) \end{aligned}$$

Since $\Delta(a_1, \dots, a_p, b_1, \dots, b_q) \neq 0$, it follows that $\det \varphi = \det \varphi_1 \cdot \det \varphi_2$. Note this result shows that

$$\det(\varphi_1 \oplus \varphi_2) = \det \varphi_1 \cdot \det \varphi_2$$

Exercise (2). Let $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ be linear with E_1 a stable subspace. If $\varphi_1 : E_1 \rightarrow E_1$ and $\overline{\varphi} : E/E_1 \rightarrow E/E_1$ are the induced maps, then

$$\det \varphi = \det \varphi_1 \cdot \det \overline{\varphi}$$

Proof. Let e_1, \dots, e_n be a basis of E where e_1, \dots, e_p is a basis of E_1 . Let $\Delta \neq 0$ be a determinant function in E . First observe that

$$\Delta_1(x_1, \dots, x_p) = \Delta(x_1, \dots, x_p, \varphi e_{p+1}, \dots, \varphi e_n) \quad (1)$$

is a determinant function in E_1 and

$$\Delta_2(\overline{x_{p+1}}, \dots, \overline{x_n}) = \Delta(e_1, \dots, e_p, x_{p+1}, \dots, x_n) \quad (2)$$

is a well-defined determinant function in E/E_1 . Now

$$\det \overline{\varphi} \cdot \Delta_2(\overline{x_{p+1}}, \dots, \overline{x_n}) = \Delta_2(\overline{\varphi x_{p+1}}, \dots, \overline{\varphi x_n}) = \Delta_2(\overline{\varphi x_{p+1}}, \dots, \overline{\varphi x_n}) \quad (3)$$

It follows from (2) and (3) that

$$\det \overline{\varphi} \cdot \Delta(e_1, \dots, e_p, x_{p+1}, \dots, x_n) = \Delta(e_1, \dots, e_p, \varphi x_{p+1}, \dots, \varphi x_n) \quad (4)$$

Now

$$\begin{aligned} \det \varphi \cdot \Delta(e_1, \dots, e_n) &= \Delta(\varphi e_1, \dots, \varphi e_n) \\ &= \Delta_1(\varphi_1 e_1, \dots, \varphi_1 e_p) && \text{by (1)} \\ &= \det \varphi_1 \cdot \Delta_1(e_1, \dots, e_p) \\ &= \det \varphi_1 \cdot \det \overline{\varphi} \cdot \Delta(e_1, \dots, e_n) && \text{by (1), (4)} \end{aligned}$$

Since $\Delta(e_1, \dots, e_n) \neq 0$, the result follows. \square

§ 4

Remark. If A is an $n \times n$ matrix of the form

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} A_1 & \\ * & A_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

where A_1 is $p \times p$ and A_2 is $(n-p) \times (n-p)$, then

$$\det A = \det A_1 \cdot \det A_2 \quad (1)$$

Indeed, let E be an n -dimensional vector space and $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ be defined by $M(\varphi; e_1, \dots, e_n) = A$, so $\det A = \det \varphi$. Let $E_1 = \langle e_1, \dots, e_p \rangle$ and $E_2 = \langle e_{p+1}, \dots, e_n \rangle$. Then $E = E_1 \oplus E_2$ and E_1 is stable under φ . If $\varphi_1 : E_1 \rightarrow E_1$ is the induced map, then $A_1 = M(\varphi_1)$, so $\det A_1 = \det \varphi_1$. Dually, $E^* = E_1^* \oplus E_2^*$ where $E_1^* = \langle e_1^*, \dots, e_p^* \rangle$ and $E_2^* = \langle e_{p+1}^*, \dots, e_n^* \rangle$, and E_2^* is stable under φ^* since

$$M(\varphi^*; e_1^*, \dots, e_n^*) = A^* = \begin{pmatrix} A_1^* & * \\ & A_2^* \end{pmatrix}$$

If $\varphi_2^* : E_2^* \rightarrow E_2^*$ is the induced map, then $A_2^* = M(\varphi_2^*)$ and $\det A_2 = \det A_2^* = \det \varphi_2^*$. So we must prove that $\det \varphi = \det \varphi_1 \cdot \det \varphi_2^*$.

Let $\Delta \neq 0$ be a determinant function in E and Δ^* its dual in E^* . We claim

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta^*(e_1^*, \dots, e_n^*) \cdot \Delta(e_1, \dots, e_p, \varphi e_{p+1}, \dots, \varphi e_n) \\ = \Delta(e_1, \dots, e_n) \cdot \Delta^*(e_1^*, \dots, e_p^*, \varphi^* e_{p+1}^*, \dots, \varphi^* e_n^*) \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Indeed, by (4.26) the left side of (2) is a determinant of the form

$$\begin{vmatrix} J & \\ * & B \end{vmatrix}$$

where J is the $p \times p$ identity matrix and $B = (\beta_i^j)$ with $\beta_i^j = \langle e_j^*, \varphi e_i \rangle = \langle \varphi^* e_j^*, e_i \rangle$. However, since the determinant is multilinear in its rows,⁸ it is equal to

$$\begin{vmatrix} J & \\ & B \end{vmatrix}$$

⁸See subsection 4.9, item 4.

A similar argument shows that the same is true of the right side of (2). Now

$$\begin{aligned}
\det \varphi &= \det \varphi \cdot \Delta(e_1, \dots, e_n) \cdot \Delta^*(e_1^*, \dots, e_n^*) \\
&= \Delta(\varphi_1 e_1, \dots, \varphi_1 e_p, \varphi e_{p+1}, \dots, \varphi e_n) \cdot \Delta^*(e_1^*, \dots, e_n^*) \\
&= \det \varphi_1 \cdot \Delta(e_1, \dots, e_p, \varphi e_{p+1}, \dots, \varphi e_n) \cdot \Delta^*(e_1^*, \dots, e_n^*) \\
&= \det \varphi_1 \cdot \Delta^*(e_1^*, \dots, e_p^*, \varphi_2^* e_{p+1}^*, \dots, \varphi_2^* e_n^*) \cdot \Delta(e_1, \dots, e_n) \quad \text{by (2)} \\
&= \det \varphi_1 \cdot \det \varphi_2^* \cdot \Delta^*(e_1^*, \dots, e_n^*) \cdot \Delta(e_1, \dots, e_n) \\
&= \det \varphi_1 \cdot \det \varphi_2^*
\end{aligned}$$

The same result (1) holds when A has the form

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} A_1 & * \\ & A_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Indeed, by the above,

$$\det A = \det A^* = \det A_1^* \cdot \det A_2^* = \det A_1 \cdot \det A_2$$

§ 5

Remark. Recall that the system (4.39) is equivalent to $\varphi x = y$ where $\varphi : \Gamma^n \rightarrow \Gamma^n$ is defined by $M(\varphi) = (\alpha_k^j) = A$, $x = (\xi^i)$, and $y = (\eta^j)$. If $\det A \neq 0$, then φ is invertible and

$$x = \varphi^{-1} y = \frac{1}{\det A} \text{ad}(\varphi)(y)$$

It follows from the analysis of the adjoint matrix in subsection 4.13 that

$$\xi^i = \frac{1}{\det A} \sum_j \text{cof}(\alpha_i^j) \eta^j$$

Moreover, it follows from (4.38) that $\sum_j \text{cof}(\alpha_i^j) \eta^j = \det A_i$ where A_i is the matrix obtained from A by replacing the i -th row with y .⁹ Therefore

$$\xi^i = \frac{\det A_i}{\det A}$$

Remark. In subsection 4.14, $\det B_i^j = \det S_i^j$ does *not* follow from (4.38), which only tells us that $\det B_i^j = \det B_i^j$. However, it follows from (4.16), or from our remarks in § 4 above.

⁹The cofactors of A_i and A along the i -th row agree since A_i and A agree on the other rows.

§ 6

Exercise (5). If $\varphi_1 : E_1 \rightarrow E_1$ and $\varphi_2 : E_2 \rightarrow E_2$ are linear, then

$$\chi_{\varphi_1 \oplus \varphi_2} = \chi_{\varphi_1} \chi_{\varphi_2}$$

where χ_φ denotes the characteristic polynomial of φ .

Proof. This follows from the result in subsection 4.7 and the fact that

$$\varphi_1 \oplus \varphi_2 - \lambda \iota = (\varphi_1 - \lambda \iota_{E_1}) \oplus (\varphi_2 - \lambda \iota_{E_2}) \quad \square$$

Exercise (6). Let $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ be linear with E_1 a stable subspace. If $\varphi_1 : E_1 \rightarrow E_1$ and $\bar{\varphi} : E/E_1 \rightarrow E/E_1$ are the induced maps, then

$$\chi_\varphi = \chi_{\varphi_1} \chi_{\bar{\varphi}}$$

Proof. This follows from problem 2 in § 2, the fact that $\varphi - \lambda \iota_E$ restricted to E_1 is just $\varphi_1 - \lambda \iota_{E_1}$, and $\overline{\varphi - \lambda \iota_E} = \bar{\varphi} - \lambda \iota_{E/E_1}$. \square

Remark. Taking $E_1 = \ker \varphi$, we have $\chi_{\varphi_1} = \chi_{0_{E_1}} = (-\lambda)^p$ where $p = \dim E_1$, so $\chi_\varphi = (-\lambda)^p \chi_{\bar{\varphi}}$.

Exercise (7). A linear map $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ is nilpotent if and only if $\chi_\varphi = (-\lambda)^n$.

Proof. If φ is nilpotent, we proceed by induction on k least such that $\varphi^k = 0$. If $k = 1$, the result is trivial. If $k > 1$, let $E_1 = \ker \varphi$ and $\bar{\varphi} : E/E_1 \rightarrow E/E_1$ the induced map. Then $\bar{\varphi}^{k-1} = 0$ since

$$\bar{\varphi}^{k-1}(\bar{x}) = \overline{\varphi^{k-1}(x)} = \overline{\varphi^{k-1}(x)} = 0$$

as $\varphi^{k-1}(x) \in E_1$. By the induction hypothesis, $\chi_{\bar{\varphi}} = (-\lambda)^{n-p}$ where $p = \dim E_1$, so by the previous problem,

$$\chi_\varphi = (-\lambda)^p (-\lambda)^{n-p} = (-\lambda)^n$$

Conversely, if $\varphi \neq 0$ and $\chi_\varphi = (-\lambda)^n$, then the constant term $\det \varphi = 0$, so $p > 0$ and by the previous problem $(-\lambda)^n = (-\lambda)^p \chi_{\bar{\varphi}}$, which implies $\chi_{\bar{\varphi}} = (-\lambda)^{n-p}$. By induction, $\bar{\varphi}$ is nilpotent. If $\bar{\varphi}^k = 0$, then $\varphi^{k+1} = 0$, so φ is nilpotent. \square

§ 7

Remark. It follows by symmetry from (4.61) that

$$\operatorname{tr} \varphi^* = \sum_i \langle \varphi^* e^{*i}, e_i \rangle = \sum_i \langle e^{*i}, \varphi e_i \rangle = \operatorname{tr} \varphi$$

where φ^* is dual to φ .

Exercise (5). If $f : L(E; E) \rightarrow \Gamma$ is linear, there is $\alpha \in L(E; E)$ unique with

$$f(\varphi) = \operatorname{tr}(\varphi \circ \alpha)$$

Proof. Since $L(E; E)$ is finite-dimensional and dual to itself under the scalar product

$$\langle \varphi, \psi \rangle = \operatorname{tr}(\psi \circ \varphi)$$

it follows from Proposition I in chapter II, § 6 that there is α unique with

$$f(\varphi) = \langle \alpha, \varphi \rangle = \operatorname{tr}(\varphi \circ \alpha) \quad \square$$

Exercise (6). If $f : L(E; E) \rightarrow \Gamma$ is linear with

$$f(\psi \circ \varphi) = f(\varphi \circ \psi)$$

there is $\lambda \in \Gamma$ with

$$f(\varphi) = \lambda \cdot \operatorname{tr} \varphi$$

Proof. By problem 5, there is α with

$$f(\varphi) = \operatorname{tr}(\varphi \circ \alpha) = \operatorname{tr}(\alpha \circ \varphi)$$

We claim $\alpha = \lambda \iota$ for some $\lambda \in \Gamma$, from which the result follows. By assumption,

$$\operatorname{tr}(\alpha \circ \varphi \circ \psi) = \operatorname{tr}(\alpha \circ \psi \circ \varphi) = \operatorname{tr}(\varphi \circ \alpha \circ \psi) \quad (1)$$

for all φ and ψ . Fix a basis of E . Let $A = M(\alpha)$, let R_l be the matrix with 1's in the l -th row and 0's elsewhere, and let C_k be the matrix with 1's in the k -th column and 0's elsewhere. By direct computation,

$$(C_k R_l A)_{ij} = 0 \quad (k \neq l)$$

while

$$(C_k A R_l)_{ij} = A_{kl}$$

It follows from (1) with $R_l = M(\varphi)$ and $C_k = M(\psi)$ that A is diagonal. Now let T_{kl} be the matrix with 1's in entries (k, l) and (l, k) and 0's elsewhere. It follows from (1) with $T_{kl} = M(\varphi)$ and $C_k = M(\psi)$ that

$$A_{ll} = \text{tr}(C_l A) = \text{tr}(C_k T_{kl} A) = \text{tr}(C_k A T_{kl}) = A_{kk}$$

Therefore the claim holds with $\lambda = A_{11}$. □

Exercise (10). If $A : L(E; E) \rightarrow L(E; E)$ is linear and “functorial” in that

$$A(\varphi \circ \psi) = A(\varphi) \circ A(\psi) \quad \text{and} \quad A(\iota) = \iota$$

then $\text{tr } A(\varphi) = \text{tr } \varphi$.

Proof. The function $\text{tr} \circ A : L(E; E) \rightarrow \Gamma$ is linear and

$$(\text{tr} \circ A)(\varphi \circ \psi) = \text{tr}(A(\varphi) \circ A(\psi)) = \text{tr}(A(\psi) \circ A(\varphi)) = (\text{tr} \circ A)(\psi \circ \varphi)$$

so $\text{tr} \circ A = \lambda \cdot \text{tr}$ for some $\lambda \in \Gamma$ by problem 6. But this implies

$$\lambda \cdot \text{tr } \iota = (\text{tr} \circ A)(\iota) = \text{tr } \iota$$

so $\lambda = 1$ and $\text{tr} \circ A = \text{tr}$. □

Exercise (12). If $\varphi_1 : E_1 \rightarrow E_1$ and $\varphi_2 : E_2 \rightarrow E_2$ are linear, then

$$\text{tr}(\varphi_1 \oplus \varphi_2) = \text{tr } \varphi_1 + \text{tr } \varphi_2$$

Proof. Immediate since

$$M(\varphi_1 \oplus \varphi_2) = \begin{pmatrix} M(\varphi_1) & \\ & M(\varphi_2) \end{pmatrix} \quad \square$$

§ 8

Remark. In (4.68), if instead we define

$$\Delta_1(x_1, \dots, x_p) = \Delta(x_1, \dots, x_p, e_{p+1}, \dots, e_n)$$

then Δ_1 represents the original orientation in E_1 . Indeed, in this case

$$\Delta_1(e_1, \dots, e_p) = \Delta(e_1, \dots, e_p, e_{p+1}, \dots, e_n) = \Delta_2(e_{p+1}, \dots, e_n) > 0$$

Chapter V

§ 1

Remark. An algebra A is a *zero algebra* if $xy = 0$ for all $x, y \in A$; this is equivalent to $A^2 = 0$. As an example, *the zero algebra* is the algebra $A = 0$. A zero algebra is unital if and only if it is the zero algebra.

Remark. Let $\varphi : A \rightarrow B$ be a homomorphism of algebras. If A_1 is a subalgebra of A and B_1 is a subalgebra of B and $\varphi(A_1) \subseteq B_1$, then the restriction $\varphi_1 : A_1 \rightarrow B_1$ of φ to A_1, B_1 is a homomorphism.

If A_1 and B_1 are *ideals*, then the induced linear map $\bar{\varphi} : A/A_1 \rightarrow B/B_1$ is also a homomorphism since

$$\bar{\varphi}(\bar{x}\bar{y}) = \bar{\varphi}(\overline{xy}) = \overline{\varphi(xy)} = \overline{\varphi(x)\varphi(y)} = \overline{\varphi(x)}\overline{\varphi(y)} = \bar{\varphi}(\bar{x})\bar{\varphi}(\bar{y})$$

In the problems below, E is a finite-dimensional vector space.

Exercise (12). The mapping

$$\Phi : A(E; E) \rightarrow A(E^*; E^*)^{\text{opp}}$$

defined by $\varphi \mapsto \varphi^*$ is an algebra isomorphism.

Proof. Φ is a linear isomorphism by problem 9 of chapter II, § 6, and preserves products since $(\varphi \circ \psi)^* = \psi^* \circ \varphi^*$. \square

Exercise (16). Every algebra automorphism $\Phi : A(E; E) \rightarrow A(E; E)$ is an *inner* automorphism; that is, there exists $\alpha \in GL(E)$ such that $\Phi(\varphi) = \alpha\varphi\alpha^{-1}$ for all $\varphi \in A(E; E)$.

Proof. First, observe that every basis (e_i) of E induces a basis (φ_{ij}) of $A(E; E)$ defined by $\varphi_{ij}(e_k) = \delta_{jk}e_i$. This basis satisfies

$$\varphi_{ij}\varphi_{lk} = \delta_{jl}\varphi_{ik} \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_i \varphi_{ii} = \iota \tag{1}$$

Conversely, every basis satisfying these properties is induced by a basis of E in this manner (see problem 14). Moreover, any two of these bases are conjugate to each other via the change of basis transformation between their inducing bases of E (see problem 15).

Now fix (e_i) and (φ_{ij}) as above. Since Φ is an automorphism, $(\Phi(\varphi_{ij}))$ is also a basis of $A(E; E)$ which satisfies (1), so there is $\alpha \in GL(E)$ with $\Phi(\varphi_{ij}) = \alpha\varphi_{ij}\alpha^{-1}$ for all i, j . It follows that $\Phi(\varphi) = \alpha\varphi\alpha^{-1}$ for all $\varphi \in A(E; E)$. \square

Remark. The result is true for any nonzero endomorphism Φ , since $A(E; E)$ is simple (see subsection 5.12).

§ 3

Remark. We see the following examples of change of coefficient field of a vector space:

- Taking the underlying real space of a complex space (5.16): for example changing from \mathbb{C} over \mathbb{C} to \mathbb{C} over \mathbb{R} . In this case the dimension is doubled. Moreover, the underlying real space can be decomposed into “real” and “imaginary” parts of equal dimension (11.7).
- Complexifying a real space (2.16): for example changing from \mathbb{R} over \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{R}^2 over \mathbb{C} . In this case the dimension is preserved.
- Inducing complex structure on a real space (8.21): for example changing from \mathbb{R}^2 over \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{R}^2 over \mathbb{C} . In this case the dimension is halved.

Chapter VI

§ 1

Remark. The space of polynomials in one variable is positively graded by the degrees of monomials. More generally, the space of polynomials in p variables is p -graded by the multidegrees of monomials.

Remark. If $E = \sum_{k \in G} E_k$ is a G -graded space and $F = \sum_{k \in G} F \cap E_k$ is a G -graded subspace, then $E/F = \sum_{k \in G} E_k / (F \cap E_k)$ is the G -graded factor space.¹⁰

Remark. The zero map between two G -graded vector spaces is homogeneous of every degree. A nonzero homogeneous map has a unique degree.

Remark. Let E and F be G -graded vector spaces. If $\varphi : E \rightarrow F$ is linear and homogeneous of degree k and φx is homogeneous of degree l , then we may assume without loss of generality that x is homogeneous of degree $l - k$. Indeed, writing $x = \sum_m x_m$ with $\deg x_m = m$, we have $\varphi x = \sum_m \varphi x_m$ with $\deg(\varphi x_m) = m + k$. Since $\deg(\varphi x) = l$, we must have $\varphi x_m = 0$ for $m \neq l - k$, so $\varphi x = \varphi x_{l-k}$.

Remark. If E is a finite-dimensional G -graded vector space and $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ is linear and homogeneous with $\deg \varphi \neq 0$, then $\text{tr } \varphi = 0$.

¹⁰See problem 2 in chapter II, § 4.

Proof. Write $E = E_{k_1} \oplus \cdots \oplus E_{k_n}$ with $k_i \in G$ and $d_i = \dim E_{k_i} < \infty$. Let (e_{ij}) be a basis of E such that for each $1 \leq i \leq n$, (e_{ij}) is a basis of E_{k_i} for $1 \leq j \leq d_i$. Let Δ be a determinant function in E with $\Delta(e_{ij}) = 1$. Then

$$\operatorname{tr} \varphi = \sum_{i,j} \Delta(e_{11}, \dots, e_{1d_1}, \dots, \varphi(e_{ij}), \dots, e_{n1}, \dots, e_{nd_n})$$

By assumption, $\varphi(e_{ij}) \in E_{k_l}$ for some $l \neq i$, so each term in this sum is zero, and hence $\operatorname{tr} \varphi = 0$. \square

As an example, formal differentiation in the space of polynomials of degree at most n (graded by the degrees of monomials) is homogeneous of degree -1 , so has zero trace. This is also obvious from its matrix representation with respect to the standard basis.

Exercise (6). Let E, E^* and F, F^* be pairs of dual G -graded vector spaces and let $\varphi : E \rightarrow F$ and $\varphi^* : E^* \leftarrow F^*$ be dual linear maps. If φ is homogeneous of degree k , then φ^* is homogeneous of degree $-k$.

Proof. We have direct sum decompositions

$$E = \sum_{m \in G} E_m \quad E^* = \sum_{m \in G} E^{*m}$$

and

$$F = \sum_{n \in G} F_n \quad F^* = \sum_{n \in G} F^{*n}$$

where the pairs E_m, E^{*m} and F_n, F^{*n} are dual for all m, n under the restrictions of the scalar products between E, E^* and F, F^* , respectively (see subsection 6.5). We also have $\varphi E_m \subseteq F_{m+k}$ for all m . We must prove $\varphi^* F^{*n} \subseteq E^{*n-k}$ for all n .

Let $y^* \in F^{*n}$ and $x \in E$. Write $x = \sum_m x_m$ where $x_m \in E_m$. Then

$$\langle \varphi^* y^*, x \rangle = \langle y^*, \varphi x \rangle = \sum_m \langle y^*, \varphi x_m \rangle = \langle y^*, \varphi x_{n-k} \rangle = \langle \varphi^* y^*, x_{n-k} \rangle$$

which implies

$$\langle \varphi^* y^*, x - \pi_{n-k} x \rangle = 0 \tag{1}$$

where $\pi_{n-k} : E \rightarrow E_{n-k}$ is the canonical projection. Now write $\varphi^* y^* = \sum_m x^{*m}$ where $x^{*m} \in E^{*m}$. We claim $x^{*m} = 0$ for all $m \neq n-k$. Indeed, for $m \neq n-k$ and $x \in E_m$ we have $\pi_{n-k} x = 0$, so by (1)

$$\langle x^{*m}, x \rangle = \sum_p \langle x^{*p}, x \rangle = \langle \varphi^* y^*, x \rangle = 0$$

Therefore $x^{*m} = 0$. It follows that $\varphi^* y^* = x^{*n-k} \in E^{*n-k}$, as desired. \square

Exercise (8). Let E, E^* be a pair of almost finite dual G -graded vector spaces. If F is a G -graded subspace of E , then F^\perp is a G -graded subspace of E^* and $F^{\perp\perp} = F$.

Proof. We have direct sums $E = \sum_{m \in G} E_m$ and $E^* = \sum_{m \in G} E^{*m}$ where the pairs E_m, E^{*m} are dual under the restrictions of the scalar product between E, E^* and $\dim E_m = \dim E^{*m} < \infty$ for all m . By assumption, $F = \sum_{m \in G} F \cap E_m$. We must prove

$$F^\perp = \sum_{m \in G} F^\perp \cap E^{*m} \quad (1)$$

Let $x^* \in F^\perp$ and write $x^* = \sum_m x^{*m}$ where $x^{*m} \in E^{*m}$. We claim $x^{*n} \in F^\perp$ for all n . Indeed, if $x \in F$, write $x = \sum_m x_m$ where $x_m \in F \cap E_m$. Then

$$\langle x^{*n}, x \rangle = \sum_m \langle x^{*n}, x_m \rangle = \langle x^{*n}, x_n \rangle = \sum_m \langle x^{*m}, x_n \rangle = \langle x^*, x_n \rangle = 0$$

This establishes (1). By symmetry, we have

$$F^{\perp\perp} = \sum_{m \in G} F^{\perp\perp} \cap E_m \quad (2)$$

We claim $F^{\perp\perp} \cap E_n \subseteq F \cap E_n$ for all n . To prove this, we first show

$$F^{\perp\perp} \cap E_n \subseteq (F \cap E_n)^{\perp_n \perp_n} \quad (3)$$

where \perp_n is taken relative to the scalar product between E_n, E^{*n} . Indeed, let $x \in F^{\perp\perp} \cap E_n$ and $x^* \in (F \cap E_n)^{\perp_n \perp_n} \subseteq E^{*n}$. If $y \in F$, write $y = \sum_m y_m$ where $y_m \in F \cap E_m$. Then

$$\langle x^*, y \rangle = \sum_m \langle x^*, y_m \rangle = \langle x^*, y_n \rangle = 0$$

This implies $x^* \in F^\perp$, which implies $\langle x^*, x \rangle = 0$, which in turn implies (3). Now $(F \cap E_n)^{\perp_n \perp_n} = F \cap E_n$ since $\dim E_n < \infty$, which establishes the claim. Finally, it follows from (2) that $F^{\perp\perp} = F$. \square

§ 2

Exercise (1). Let A be a G -graded algebra. If $x \in A$ is an invertible element homogeneous of degree k , then x^{-1} is homogeneous of degree $-k$. If A is nonzero and positively graded, then $k = 0$.

Proof. Write $A = \sum_{m \in G} A_m$ and $x^{-1} = \sum_m x_m$ with $x_m \in A_m$. Then

$$e = xx^{-1} = \sum_m xx_m$$

Since $\deg e = 0$ and $\deg(xx_m) = m + k$, it follows that $xx_m = 0$ for all $m \neq -k$. Therefore $e = xx_{-k}$ and $x^{-1} = x_{-k}$, so x^{-1} is homogeneous of degree $-k$.

If $A \neq 0$, then $x \neq 0$ and $x^{-1} \neq 0$, so $A_k \neq 0$ and $A_{-k} \neq 0$. If A is positively graded, this forces $k = 0$. \square

Exercise (4). Let E be a G -graded vector space. Then the subspace $A_G(E; E)$ of $A(E; E)$ generated by homogeneous linear transformations of E forms a G -graded subalgebra of $A(E; E)$.

Proof. First observe that $A_G(E; E)$ is naturally graded as a vector space by the degrees of homogeneous transformations (see problem 3). If $\varphi, \psi \in A_G(E; E)$ are homogeneous with $\deg \varphi = m$ and $\deg \psi = n$, then it is obvious that $\varphi\psi$ is homogeneous with $\deg(\varphi\psi) = m + n$. It follows from this that $A_G(E; E)$ is a G -graded subalgebra. \square

Exercise (7). Let E, E^* be a pair of almost finite dual G -graded vector spaces. Then the mapping

$$\Phi: A_G(E; E) \rightarrow A_G(E^*; E^*)^{\text{opp}}$$

defined by $\varphi \mapsto \varphi^*$ is an algebra isomorphism.

Proof. Φ is well defined by problems 6 and 10 of § 1, and is an isomorphism by problem 12 of chapter V, § 1. \square

Chapter VII

In this chapter, all vector spaces are real.

§ 1

Remark. The Riesz representation theorem shows that for a finite-dimensional inner product space E , there is a *natural* isomorphism between E and its dual space $L(E)$ given by $x \mapsto (x, -)$. This is unlike for a finite-dimensional vector space, where the isomorphism is in general non-natural, and means we may naturally *identify* a vector with its dual vector.

Remark. If E is a finite-dimensional inner product space and E_1 is a subspace of E , then E induces an inner product in E/E_1 by

$$(\bar{x}, \bar{y}) = (x, y)$$

where x, y are the unique representatives of \bar{x}, \bar{y} in E_1^\perp (see problem 5).

Proof. The only thing to check is bilinearity, which follows from the fact that E_1^\perp is a subspace of E . \square

Exercise (5). If E is a finite-dimensional inner product space and E_1 is a subspace of E , then every element of E/E_1 has exactly one representative in E_1^\perp .

Proof. By duality, $\dim E = \dim E_1 + \dim E_1^\perp$, and by definiteness of the inner product, $E_1 \cap E_1^\perp = 0$, so $E = E_1 \oplus E_1^\perp$. For $x + E_1 \in E/E_1$, let $y = \pi(x) - x$ where π is the canonical projection onto E_1^\perp . Then $y \in E_1$ so $x + y \in x + E_1$ and $x + y \in E_1^\perp$, as desired. If $z \in E_1$ and $x + z \in E_1^\perp$, then

$$y - z = (y + x) - (x + z) \in E_1 \cap E_1^\perp = 0$$

so $y = z$, establishing uniqueness. \square

§ 2

Remark. Let E be an inner product space of finite dimension n . We provide an inductive proof of the existence of an orthonormal basis in E .

For $n = 0, 1$, the result is trivial. For $n > 1$, fix a unit vector $e_1 \in E$ and let $E_1 = \langle e_1 \rangle$. By induction, there is an orthonormal basis $\bar{e}_2, \dots, \bar{e}_n$ in the induced inner product space E/E_1 (see above). Letting e_2, \dots, e_n be the representatives in E_1^\perp , it follows that e_1, \dots, e_n is an orthonormal basis in E .

Remark. In the Gram-Schmidt process, we can just let $e_1 = a_1/|a_1|$ and

$$e_k = \frac{a_k - (a_k, e_1)e_1 - \dots - (a_k, e_{k-1})e_{k-1}}{|a_k - (a_k, e_1)e_1 - \dots - (a_k, e_{k-1})e_{k-1}|} \quad (k = 2, \dots, n)$$

At each step, we compute the difference between the current vector a_k and its orthogonal projection onto the subspace generated by the previous vectors, then normalize (compare (7.19)).

Remark. If E is a finite-dimensional inner product space and $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ is linear, then the dual transformation $\varphi^* : E \rightarrow E$ satisfies

$$(\varphi^* x, y) = (x, \varphi y)$$

If φ preserves inner products, then it also preserves orthonormal bases and is invertible. In this case, φ^{-1} also preserves inner products, so

$$(\varphi^{-1} x, y) = (\varphi^{-1} x, \varphi^{-1} \varphi y) = (x, \varphi y)$$

and it follows that $\varphi^{-1} = \varphi^*$. Conversely if $\varphi^{-1} = \varphi^*$, then

$$(\varphi x, \varphi y) = (\varphi^* \varphi x, y) = (x, y)$$

so φ preserves inner products.

Such a φ is called an *orthogonal* transformation. Note φ is orthogonal if and only if $M(\varphi)$ is an orthogonal matrix relative to an orthonormal basis.

§ 3

Remark. A determinant function Δ in an inner product space E is normed if and only if $|\Delta(e_1, \dots, e_n)| = 1$ for any orthonormal basis e_1, \dots, e_n . If E is oriented and Δ is the normed determinant function representing the orientation, then $\Delta(e_1, \dots, e_n) = 1$ if e_1, \dots, e_n is positive. Geometrically, this is just *the* oriented volume function in E . By comparing (4.26) and (7.23), we see that *the normed determinant functions are precisely the self-dual determinant functions*.

If $\Delta_0 \neq 0$ is a determinant function in E and Δ_0^* is its dual, then $\Delta_0^* = \alpha \Delta_0$ for some real number α by uniqueness of Δ_0 , so

$$\alpha \Delta_0(x_1, \dots, x_n) \Delta_0(y_1, \dots, y_n) = \det(x_i, y_j) \quad (x_i, y_i \in E)$$

Substituting $x_i = y_i = e_i$ shows that $\alpha > 0$. It follows that $\Delta_1 = \pm \sqrt{\alpha} \cdot \Delta_0$ is a normed determinant function.

Remark. It follows from (7.37) that if x and y are linearly independent, then

$$|x \times y| = \Delta(x, y, z)$$

where $z = (x \times y) / |x \times y|$. Since z is a unit vector orthogonal to x and y , it follows (subsection 7.15) that $\Delta(x, y, z)$ is just the area of the parallelogram determined by x and y . In other words,

$$|x \times y| = |x||y| \sin \theta$$

where $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$ is the angle between x and y . This last equation obviously still holds if x and y are linearly dependent but nonzero.

Exercise (12). For vectors x_1, \dots, x_p ,

$$G(x_1, \dots, x_p) \leq |x_1|^2 \cdots |x_p|^2 \quad (1)$$

Additionally

$$\left| \begin{array}{ccc} a_{11} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & \cdots & a_{nn} \end{array} \right|^2 \leq \sum_{k=1}^n |a_{1k}|^2 \cdots \sum_{k=1}^n |a_{nk}|^2 \quad (2)$$

Proof. By induction with the “base times height” rule for volume (subsection 7.15), $V(u_1, \dots, u_p) \leq 1$ for linearly independent *unit* vectors u_1, \dots, u_p .

Now if x_1, \dots, x_p are linearly dependent, then $G(x_1, \dots, x_p) = 0$ and (1) holds trivially. Otherwise, setting $u_i = x_i/|x_i|$ we have

$$\sqrt{G(x_1, \dots, x_p)} = V(x_1, \dots, x_p) = |x_1| \cdots |x_p| \cdot V(u_1, \dots, u_p) \leq |x_1| \cdots |x_p|$$

Squaring both sides yields (1). Since the determinant of a matrix is a (normed) determinant function of the rows, (2) follows. \square

Remark. These results both simply express an upper bound for the volume of a parallelepiped in terms of the lengths of the edges.

§ 4

Remark. The covariant components of a vector are just its coordinates in the dual space, which are also just the entries of its matrix (as a linear function). They are called “covariant” because they vary in the same way as basis vectors in the original space under a change of basis (see subsections 3.13–14). This is unlike the regular components of the vector, which vary inversely to the basis vectors and may be called the *contravariant components*.

To see why the covariant components of a vector are its inner products with the basis vectors, observe from (7.42) and (7.49) that

$$(x, e_\nu) = \langle \tau x, e_\nu \rangle = \sum_{\lambda} \xi_{\lambda} \langle e^{*\lambda}, e_\nu \rangle = \xi_{\nu}$$

Dually, the contravariant components of a vector are its inner products with the dual basis vectors:

$$(\tau x, e^{*\nu}) = \xi^{\nu}$$

Remark. If e_v is an orthonormal basis of E , then the dual basis $e^{*v} = \tau e_v$ is an orthonormal basis of E^* .

§ 5

Remark. In subsection 7.22, observe that Q is just the set of unit vectors under the norm defined in example 3 in subsection 7.20. Since norm functions are continuous under the natural topology, Q is closed under this topology, and Q is also clearly bounded under this topology. It follows that Q is compact under this topology since E is finite-dimensional.

§ 6

Remark. If $x = \lambda e + x_1$ and $y = \mu e + y_1$ are quaternions ($\lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{R}$ and $x_1, y_1 \in E_1$), then by the definition of quaternion multiplication

$$xy = (\lambda\mu - (x_1, y_1))e + \lambda y_1 + \mu x_1 + x_1 \times y_1$$

Remark. In subsection 7.24, in the proof of Lemma I, observe that the result holds trivially if $y = \pm x$ by taking $\lambda = \mp 1$. If $y \neq \pm x$, then $e \neq 0$. Suppose

$$\alpha x + \beta y + \gamma e = 0 \quad (\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \mathbb{R})$$

If $\alpha \neq 0$, then $x = \beta_1 y + \gamma_1 e$ for $\beta_1, \gamma_1 \in \mathbb{R}$, so

$$-e = x^2 = (\beta_1 y + \gamma_1 e)^2 = 2\beta_1 \gamma_1 y + (\gamma_1^2 - \beta_1^2)e$$

which implies

$$2\beta_1 \gamma_1 y = (\beta_1^2 - \gamma_1^2 - 1)e$$

If $\beta_1 = 0$, it follows that $\gamma_1^2 = -1$, which is impossible. If $\gamma_1 = 0$, it follows that $\beta_1 = \pm 1$, so $x = \pm y$ contrary to assumption. Therefore $\beta_1 \gamma_1 \neq 0$, so $y = \delta e$ for $\delta \in \mathbb{R}$. But then $-e = y^2 = \delta^2 e$, so $\delta^2 = -1$, which is impossible. It follows that $\alpha = 0$. Similarly $\beta = 0$. Finally, $\gamma = 0$. This result shows that the vectors x, y, e are linearly independent.

Now $x + y$ and $x - y$ are roots of polynomials of degree 1 or 2, but the linear independence of x, y, e implies that these polynomials must have degree 2, so (7.60) and (7.61) follow.

Chapter VIII

In this chapter, all vector spaces are real and finite-dimensional.

Remark. In this chapter, it is useful to think intuitively of transformations like complex numbers, which induce transformations of the complex plane through multiplication. Under this analogy, adjoints correspond to complex conjugates; self-adjoint transformations, to real numbers; positive transformations, to non-negative real numbers; skew transformations, to purely imaginary numbers; and isometries, to complex numbers on the unit circle.

§ 1

Remark. In subsection 8.2, if the bases (x_ν) and (y_μ) are orthonormal, then they are self-dual,¹¹ so $M(\tilde{\varphi}, y_\mu, x_\nu) = M(\varphi, x_\nu, y_\mu)^*$ by (3.4). It follows that

$$\tilde{\alpha}_\mu^\rho = M(\tilde{\varphi})_\mu^\rho = M(\varphi)_\rho^\mu = \alpha_\rho^\mu$$

Remark. In subsection 8.4, the natural isomorphism $B(E, E) \cong L(E; E)$ follows from Proposition III in chapter II, § 6. There is also a natural isomorphism

$$B(E, E) \cong L(E; L(E))$$

given by

$$\Phi \mapsto (x \mapsto (y \mapsto \Phi(x, y))) \quad (1)$$

Recall from subsection 7.18 the natural isomorphism $\tau : E \rightarrow L(E)$ given by $x \mapsto (x, -)$, which maps each vector to its dual vector. For a linear transformation $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ and its corresponding bilinear function Φ defined by $\Phi(x, y) = (\varphi x, y)$, the linear map Φ' corresponding to Φ under the isomorphism (1) is $\tau\varphi$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} x & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & \varphi x \\ & \searrow \Phi' & \downarrow \tau \\ & & (\varphi x, -) \end{array}$$

¹¹See problem 2 in chapter VII, § 2.

In these ways, Φ is naturally dual to φ . Properties of Φ naturally correspond to those of φ ; for example, Φ is symmetric if and only if φ is symmetric (self-adjoint), and Φ is skew symmetric if and only if φ is skew symmetric. Since

$$\Phi(x, y) = (\varphi x, y) = (x, \tilde{\varphi} y)$$

we see that φ is “left-dual” to Φ , while $\tilde{\varphi}$ is “right-dual” to Φ .

Remark. In subsection 8.5, observe for a direct sum $E = \sum E_i$ and $\varphi = \sum \varphi_i$ with $\varphi_i : E_i \rightarrow E_i$, if E_i is stable under $\tilde{\varphi}$ then the restriction of $\tilde{\varphi}$ to E_i is the adjoint of φ_i . In other words, if $\tilde{\varphi}_i$ denotes the restriction, then

$$\tilde{\varphi}_i = \tilde{\varphi}_i$$

Indeed, for $x, y \in E_i$,

$$(\tilde{\varphi}_i x, y) = (\tilde{\varphi} x, y) = (x, \varphi y) = (x, \varphi_i y)$$

It follows that $\tilde{\varphi} = \sum \tilde{\varphi}_i$. If additionally the E_i are orthogonal, we see that φ is normal if and only if each φ_i is normal.

§ 2

Remark. Geometrically, a self-adjoint transformation just independently scales the axes in some system of orthogonal axes for the space.

Remark. For any transformation φ , the transformations

$$\varphi + \tilde{\varphi} \quad \varphi \tilde{\varphi} \quad \tilde{\varphi} \varphi$$

are self-adjoint.

Remark. If $E = E_1 \oplus E_2$ with $E_1 \perp E_2$, and $\varphi_1 : E_1 \rightarrow E_1$ and $\varphi_2 : E_2 \rightarrow E_2$ are self-adjoint, then $\varphi = \varphi_1 \oplus \varphi_2$ is self-adjoint.

Proof. For $x = x_1 + x_2$ and $y = y_1 + y_2$ with $x_i, y_i \in E_i$,

$$\begin{aligned} (\varphi x, y) &= (\varphi_1 x_1 + \varphi_2 x_2, y_1 + y_2) \\ &= (\varphi_1 x_1, y_1) + (\varphi_2 x_2, y_2) \\ &= (x_1, \varphi_1 y_1) + (x_2, \varphi_2 y_2) \\ &= (x_1 + x_2, \varphi_1 y_1 + \varphi_2 y_2) \\ &= (x, \varphi y) \end{aligned}$$

□

Remark. We provide an alternative proof of the existence of eigenvectors for self-adjoint transformations (subsection 8.6).

Let $\varphi: E \rightarrow E$ be a transformation. First observe that for $u \neq 0$, $\varphi u = \lambda u$ for some λ if and only if $\varphi u \in u^{\perp\perp}$, which is true if and only if $(\varphi u, v) = 0$ for all $v \in u^\perp$. This motivates us to study the bilinear function

$$\Phi(x, y) = (\varphi x, y)$$

We may assume without loss of generality that $|u| = |v| = 1$. Consider a unit vector w coincident with u and moving in the direction of v :

$$w(t) = (\cos t)u + (\sin t)v \quad 0 \leq t \leq \pi/2$$

Note $|w(t)| = 1$ and $w(0) = u$. Also

$$w'(t) = (-\sin t)u + (\cos t)v$$

so $w'(0) = v$. This means $\Phi(u, v) = \Phi(w(0), w'(0))$. If φ is self-adjoint, then Φ is symmetric and

$$2 \cdot \Phi(u, v) = \Phi(w'(0), w(0)) + \Phi(w(0), w'(0)) = (\Psi \circ w)'(0)$$

where $\Psi(x) = \Phi(x, x)$ is the quadratic function associated with Φ . Now we have $(\Psi \circ w)'(0) = 0$ if $t = 0$ minimizes (or maximizes) $\Psi \circ w$, which is true if $w(0) = u$ minimizes (or maximizes) Ψ . But we know such a u exists since the unit sphere is compact in E , and the argument above then shows that u is an eigenvector of φ . Note that

$$\Psi(u) = \Phi(u, u) = (\varphi u, u) = (\lambda u, u) = \lambda(u, u) = \lambda$$

is the eigenvalue, which is the minimum (resp. maximum) eigenvalue of φ . In summary: the quadratic function associated with a self-adjoint transformation attains its extreme values on the unit sphere at eigenvectors, where its values are the extreme eigenvalues.

Exercise (5). Every positive transformation φ has a unique positive square root (that is, a positive transformation ψ such that $\psi^2 = \varphi$).

Proof. There is an orthonormal basis e_1, \dots, e_n of eigenvectors of φ , so that $\varphi e_i = \lambda_i e_i$ for $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{R}$. Now $\lambda_i = (e_i, \varphi e_i) \geq 0$, so setting $\psi e_i = \sqrt{\lambda_i} e_i$ it follows that ψ is positive with $\psi^2 = \varphi$.

If ψ_1 is positive with $\psi_1^2 = \varphi$, then the eigenvalues of ψ_1 must be $\sqrt{\lambda_i}$. Also, if $\psi_1 x = \sqrt{\lambda_i} x$, then $\varphi x = \lambda_i x$, so $E_{\psi_1}(\sqrt{\lambda_i}) \subseteq E_\varphi(\lambda_i)$. By (8.21), it follows that $E_{\psi_1}(\sqrt{\lambda_i}) = E_\varphi(\lambda_i)$, so $\psi_1 e_i = \sqrt{\lambda_i} e_i$ and $\psi_1 = \psi$. \square

§ 3

Remark. In subsection 2.19, we see that a linear transformation π is a projection operator (that is, $\pi^2 = \pi$) if and only if $\pi = 0_{\ker \pi} \oplus \iota_{\operatorname{Im} \pi}$. In subsection 8.11, we see that π is additionally an *orthogonal* projection if and only if $\ker \pi \perp \operatorname{Im} \pi$. In summary, for a projection operator π , the following are equivalent:

- $\ker \pi \perp \operatorname{Im} \pi$.
- π is self-adjoint.
- π is normal.

§ 4

Remark. Geometrically, a skew transformation, apart from possibly killing off part of the space, induces scaled 90-degree rotations¹² on orthogonal stable planes in the space.

Remark. For any transformation φ , the transformation $\varphi - \tilde{\varphi}$ is skew. Also

$$\varphi = \frac{1}{2}(\varphi + \tilde{\varphi}) + \frac{1}{2}(\varphi - \tilde{\varphi})$$

uniquely represents φ as a sum of self-adjoint and skew transformations.

Remark. If φ is a skew transformation of E and F is a stable subspace of E , then F^\perp is also stable.

Proof. If $x \in F$ and $y \in F^\perp$, then $(x, \varphi y) = -(\varphi x, y) = 0$. □

Remark. In subsection 8.16, the proof of the normal form (8.35) is incorrect because it is not true in general that the a_n defined form an orthonormal basis of the space. For example in \mathbb{R}^4 , if we define the transformation ψ by

$$e_1 \mapsto e_2 \quad e_2 \mapsto -e_1 \quad e_3 \mapsto e_4 \quad e_4 \mapsto -e_3$$

where e_i is the i -th standard basis vector, then ψ is skew and $\varphi = \psi^2 = -\iota$ is diagonalized by the standard basis. If we follow the proof for this example, we get $a_1 = e_1$, $a_2 = \psi e_1 = e_2$, $a_3 = e_2$, and $a_4 = \psi e_2 = -e_1$, so the a_n do not form a basis of \mathbb{R}^4 .

¹²No one calls these “scrotations”.

To prove the result, let $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_r$ be the distinct eigenvalues of $\varphi = \psi^2$ and write the orthogonal decomposition (8.21)

$$E = E_1 \oplus \dots \oplus E_r$$

where E_i is the eigenspace of φ corresponding to λ_i . Observe that E_i is stable under ψ , for if $x \in E_i$ then

$$\varphi(\psi x) = \psi(\varphi x) = \psi(\lambda_i x) = \lambda_i(\psi x)$$

so $\psi x \in E_i$. As in the book, the λ_i are negative or zero. If $\lambda_i < 0$, construct a basis for $F = E_i$ in the following way: let a_1 be an arbitrary unit vector in F and $a_2 = \kappa_i^{-1} \psi a_1$ where $\kappa_i = \sqrt{-\lambda_i}$. It is immediate that a_2 is a unit vector in F orthogonal to a_1 and $H = \langle a_1, a_2 \rangle$ is stable under ψ . Let H^\perp be the orthogonal complement of H in F . If $H^\perp = 0$, take the basis a_1, a_2 . Otherwise, adjoin to a_1, a_2 the result of applying this procedure recursively to $F = H^\perp$ (recall that H^\perp is stable under ψ by the remark above). If $\lambda_i = 0$, assume that $i = r$ and choose any orthonormal basis of E_r , noting that ψ is zero on E_r since

$$|\psi x|^2 = (\psi x, \psi x) = -(x, \varphi x) = 0$$

for $x \in E_r$. Combine the resulting bases of the E_i to obtain an orthonormal basis of E with respect to which the matrix of ψ has the form (8.35).¹³

Exercise (1). If φ is a skew transformation of a plane, then

$$(\varphi x, \varphi y) = \det \varphi \cdot (x, y)$$

Proof. If $\varphi = 0$, then the result is trivial; if $\varphi \neq 0$, then φ is an automorphism since it has even rank. Now $\Delta(x, y) = (\varphi x, y)$ is a determinant function, so

$$(\varphi^2 x, \varphi y) = \Delta(\varphi x, \varphi y) = \det \varphi \cdot \Delta(x, y) = \det \varphi \cdot (\varphi x, y)$$

Substituting $\varphi^{-1} x$ for x yields the result. □

Exercise (2 - Skew transformations of 3-space). Let E be an oriented Euclidean 3-space.

(i) For $a \in E$, $\varphi_a(x) = a \times x$ is a skew transformation of E .

¹³See <https://math.stackexchange.com/q/3402347>.

- (ii) For $a, b \in E$, $\varphi_{a \times b} = \varphi_a \varphi_b - \varphi_b \varphi_a$.
- (iii) If φ is a skew transformation of E , then $\varphi = \varphi_a$ for a unique $a \in E$.
- (iv) The vector a in (iii) is given by

$$a = \alpha_{23}e_1 + \alpha_{31}e_2 + \alpha_{12}e_3$$

where e_1, e_2, e_3 is a positive orthonormal basis of E and $(\alpha_{ij}) = M(\varphi; e_i)$.

- (v) If $a \neq 0$, then $\ker \varphi_a = \langle a \rangle$ and a^\perp is stable under φ_a .
- (vi) If e_1, e_2 are normal such that e_1, e_2, a is a positive orthogonal basis of E , then

$$M(\varphi_a; e_1, e_2, a) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & |a| & 0 \\ -|a| & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Proof.

- (i) It is a transformation since the cross product is bilinear, and it is skew since $(x, a \times x) = 0$ for all $x \in E$.
- (ii) By the vector triple product formula (7.41),

$$(a \times b) \times x = a \times (b \times x) - b \times (a \times x)$$

- (iii) For uniqueness, note that if $\varphi_a = \varphi_b$, then $a \times x = b \times x$ for all $x \in E$, so $(a - b) \times x = 0$ for all $x \in E$, so $a - b = 0$ and $a = b$.

For existence, note that the bilinear function $(\varphi x, y)$ is skew symmetric, and hence a determinant function in any plane in E . Define

$$\Phi(x, y, z) = (\varphi y, z)x + (\varphi z, x)y + (\varphi x, y)z$$

Then Φ is clearly trilinear and skew symmetric. By the universal property of determinants if Δ is the normed determinant function representing the orientation in E and e_1, e_2, e_3 is an orthonormal basis with $\Delta(e_1, e_2, e_3) = 1$, then $\Phi = \Delta a$ where $a = \Phi(e_1, e_2, e_3)$.¹⁴ By direct computation it is easily verified that $a \times e_i = \varphi e_i$, so $\varphi = \varphi_a$.

¹⁴See Proposition III in subsection 4.3.

(iv) By the proof of (iii), noting that $a = \Phi(e_1, e_2, e_3)$ and $\alpha_{ij} = (\varphi e_i, e_j)$.

(v) By the fact that $a \times x = 0$ if and only if a and x are linearly dependent.

(vi) By direct computation. □

Remark. The definition of Φ in (iii) is motivated by the fundamental relationship between n -dimensional and $(n - 1)$ -dimensional determinant functions discussed in § 1 of chapter IV above. If φ is skew, then its dual bilinear function $\Delta_1(x, y) = (\varphi x, y)$ is a determinant function in any plane in E . If $\varphi = \varphi_a$, then

$$\Delta_1(x, y) = (a \times x, y) = \Delta(a, x, y)$$

where Δ is the normed determinant function representing the orientation in E . In other words, Δ_1 is just the 2-dimensional area function induced by the 3-dimensional volume function Δ and the vector a . Therefore if we *define* a 3-dimensional volume map Φ in terms of Δ_1 , we should expect that $\Phi = \Delta a$.

This result, which shows that any skew linear *transformation* of the space can be represented by a unique vector under the *cross* product, is analogous to the Riesz representation theorem, which shows that any linear *function* of the space can be represented by a unique vector under the *inner* product.

Exercise (3). If $\varphi \neq 0$ and ψ are skew transformations of an oriented Euclidean 3-space with $\ker \varphi \subseteq \ker \psi$, then $\psi = \lambda \varphi$ for some $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$.

Proof. By the previous problem, we can write $\varphi(x) = a \times x$ and $\psi(x) = b \times x$ with $a \neq 0$. By assumption, a and b are orthogonal to the same plane, so $b = \lambda a$ for some $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ and hence $\psi = \lambda \varphi$. □

Exercise (4).

$$(a_1 \times a_2) \times a_3 = a_2(a_1, a_3) - a_1(a_2, a_3)$$

Proof. Without loss of generality, we may assume that a_1, a_2 are orthonormal. In particular, $a_1 \times a_2 \neq 0$. Define

$$\varphi(x) = (a_1 \times a_2) \times x \quad \text{and} \quad \psi(x) = a_2(a_1, x) - a_1(a_2, x)$$

Then $\varphi \neq 0$ is skew, and ψ is skew since $(x, \psi x) = 0$ for all x . The kernel of φ is the line determined by $a_1 \times a_2$, which is killed by ψ . By the previous problem, $\psi = \lambda \varphi$ for some $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$. Substituting $x = a_1 + a_2$ into this equation, it follows that $a_2 - a_1 = \lambda(a_2 - a_1)$, so $\lambda = 1$ and $\psi = \varphi$. □

Exercise (5). A linear transformation φ satisfies $\tilde{\varphi} = \lambda\varphi$ for $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ if and only if φ is self-adjoint or skew.

Proof. If $\varphi \neq 0$ and $\tilde{\varphi} = \lambda\varphi$ for some $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$, then there exist vectors x, y such that $(\varphi x, y) \neq 0$ and

$$(\varphi x, y) = \lambda(x, \varphi y) = \lambda^2(\varphi x, y)$$

so $\lambda = \pm 1$ and φ is self-adjoint or skew, respectively. The rest is obvious. \square

Exercise (6). If Φ is a skew symmetric bilinear function in an oriented Euclidean 3-space, then there is a unique vector a such that

$$\Phi(x, y) = (a, x \times y)$$

Proof. By problem 2, the skew transformation φ dual to Φ can be written in the form $\varphi(x) = a \times x$ for some vector a . Then

$$\Phi(x, y) = (\varphi x, y) = (a \times x, y) = (a, x \times y)$$

Uniqueness is obvious. \square

Remark. This result shows that any function measuring 2-dimensional area in planes in 3-space actually measures 3-dimensional volume relative to some fixed vector in the space.

§ 5

Remark. Geometrically, a rotation (and more generally an isometry) preserves length and angle. A proper rotation additionally preserves orientation, whereas an improper rotation reverses it.

Exercise (2). A linear transformation φ is regular and preserves orthogonality (that is, $(\varphi x, \varphi y) = 0$ whenever $(x, y) = 0$) if and only if $\varphi = \lambda\tau$ where $\lambda \neq 0$ and τ is a rotation.

Proof. For the forward direction, let e_1, \dots, e_n be an orthonormal basis. Then $\varphi e_1, \dots, \varphi e_n$ is an orthogonal basis. Also

$$|\varphi e_i|^2 - |\varphi e_j|^2 = (\varphi e_i - \varphi e_j, \varphi e_i + \varphi e_j) = (\varphi(e_i - e_j), \varphi(e_i + e_j)) = 0$$

since

$$(e_i - e_j, e_i + e_j) = 1 - 1 = 0$$

for all i, j . Let $\lambda = |\varphi e_i| > 0$. Then clearly $\tau = \lambda^{-1}\varphi$ is a rotation.

The reverse direction is trivial. \square

Remark. This proof is motivated by the geometrical fact that a rectangle is a square if and only if its diagonals are orthogonal.

Exercise (5). If $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ is a mapping such that $\varphi(0) = 0$ and

$$|\varphi x - \varphi y| = |x - y|$$

for all $x, y \in E$, then φ is linear.

Proof. Substituting $y = 0$, we have $|\varphi x| = |x|$ for all x , so

$$(\varphi x - \varphi y, \varphi x - \varphi y) = |x|^2 - 2(\varphi x, \varphi y) + |y|^2$$

On the other hand,

$$(\varphi x - \varphi y, \varphi x - \varphi y) = |\varphi x - \varphi y|^2 = |x - y|^2 = |x|^2 - 2(x, y) + |y|^2$$

Therefore

$$(\varphi x, \varphi y) = (x, y)$$

It now follows that

$$|\varphi(x + y) - \varphi x - \varphi y|^2 = (\varphi(x + y) - \varphi x - \varphi y, \varphi(x + y) - \varphi x - \varphi y) = 0$$

so $\varphi(x + y) = \varphi x + \varphi y$. Similarly $\varphi(\lambda x) = \lambda \varphi x$. □

§ 6

Remark. In subsection 8.21, j is called the canonical “complex structure” on E because it induces a complex vector space structure on the underlying set of E in which scalar multiplication is defined by

$$(\alpha + \beta i) \cdot x = \alpha x + \beta jx \quad \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$$

Remark. In subsection 8.21, to derive (8.40) from (8.39) and (8.41), first observe that $j\varphi = \varphi j$. Indeed, for $z \neq 0$, $(jz, z) = 0$, so $(\varphi jz, \varphi z) = 0$. On the other hand, $(j\varphi z, \varphi z) = 0$. Since E is a plane, it follows that $j\varphi z = \lambda \varphi jz$ for some $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$. But

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda |z|^2 &= \lambda |\varphi jz|^2 \\ &= \lambda (\varphi jz, \varphi jz) \\ &= (j\varphi z, \varphi jz) \\ &= \Delta(\varphi z, \varphi jz) \\ &= \Delta(z, jz) \\ &= (jz, jz) \\ &= (z, z) = |z|^2 \end{aligned}$$

so $\lambda = 1$ and $j\varphi z = \varphi jz$.

From this and (8.39), it follows that

$$\varphi^{-1}x = x \cdot \cos(-\Theta) + jx \cdot \sin(-\Theta) = x \cdot \cos \Theta - jx \cdot \sin \Theta$$

where x and Θ are as in (8.39). In (8.41),

$$\Delta(x, \varphi y) = (jx, \varphi y) = (\varphi^{-1}jx, y) = (j\varphi^{-1}x, y) = \Delta(\varphi^{-1}x, y)$$

so

$$\Delta(\varphi x, y) + \Delta(x, \varphi y) = \Delta(\varphi x + \varphi^{-1}x, y) = 2 \cos \Theta \cdot \Delta(x, y)$$

and it follows that $\cos \Theta = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{tr} \varphi$. Similar reasoning shows that $\sin \Theta = -\frac{1}{2} \operatorname{tr}(j\varphi)$, contrary to what the book says.

Remark. In subsection 8.21, to make sense of the “definition” in (8.43), fix $x \neq 0$ and let $0 \leq \Theta \leq \pi$ be the angle between x and φx . Fix an orientation in E so that Θ is the *oriented* angle between x and φx . Then (8.40) holds, so $\cos \Theta = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{tr} \varphi$. Clearly Θ is independent of x and depends only on φ , so can be written as $\Theta(\varphi)$ and satisfies (8.43).

Remark. In subsection 8.22, why would we expect the rotation vector u in (8.45) to lie on the rotation axis? Since ψ is skew, $\Psi(x, y) = (\psi x, y)$ measures oriented area in planes in E , and since ψ kills off E_1 , $\Psi(x, y) = 0$ if $x \in E_1$ or $y \in E_1$. But we know from previous results that Ψ actually measures oriented *volume* relative to u , so it follows that u must lie in E_1 .

Note that ψ stabilizes $F = E_1^\perp$, and if ψ_1 denotes the restriction, then

$$\psi_1 = \frac{1}{2}(\varphi_1 - \widetilde{\varphi_1}) = \frac{1}{2}(\varphi_1 - \varphi_1^{-1})$$

where φ_1 denotes the restriction of φ . If F is oriented by E and by $u \neq 0$, and j is the induced canonical complex structure on F , then

$$\psi_1 = j \cdot \sin \Theta$$

where $0 < \Theta < \pi$ is the oriented angle of rotation. If $x \in F$ is any unit vector, then

$$|u| = |u \times x| = |\psi_1 x| = |jx| \sin \Theta = \sin \Theta$$

as expected.

Remark. In subsection 8.24, for the proof of the first part of Proposition I, let $q_i = p_i - \lambda_i e$ where $\lambda_i = (p_i, e)$ for $i = 1, 2$. Since q_1 and q_2 each generate the same axis of rotation, either $q_1 = 0 = q_2$ in which case $p_1 = \pm e$ and $p_2 = \pm e$ and the result holds, or else $q_1 \neq 0$ and $q_2 = \alpha q_1$ for some $\alpha \neq 0$. If $\alpha > 0$, then q_1 and q_2 induce the same orientation in their orthogonal plane (in E_1), so the oriented angle Θ of rotation in that plane is the same. It follows that

$$\lambda_1 = \cos \frac{\Theta}{2} = \lambda_2 \quad \text{and} \quad |q_1| = \sin \frac{\Theta}{2} = |q_2|$$

The second equation implies that $\alpha = 1$, so $q_1 = q_2$ and $p_1 = p_2$. On the other hand if $\alpha < 0$, then $-p_2$ is a unit quaternion inducing the same rotation as p_1 and its pure part $-q_2$ satisfies $-q_2 = (-\alpha)q_1$ with $-\alpha > 0$, so by the previous case $p_1 = -p_2$.

Exercise (16). If $p \neq \pm e$ is a unit quaternion, then the rotation vector induced by p is

$$u = 2\lambda(p - \lambda e) \quad \lambda = (p, e)$$

Proof. Let $q = p - \lambda e$. By assumption, $q \neq 0$ and $u = \alpha q$ since q and u both lie on the axis of rotation. If $\alpha > 0$, then q and u both induce the same orientation on the orthogonal plane and

$$\alpha|q| = |u| = \sin \Theta = 2\lambda|q|$$

where Θ is the oriented angle of rotation. Therefore $\alpha = 2\lambda$ and the result holds. If $\alpha < 0$, then $-p$ induces the same rotation vector and satisfies the hypotheses of the previous case since $u = (-\alpha)(-q)$ with $-\alpha > 0$, so $-\alpha = 2(-\lambda)$ and $\alpha = 2\lambda$ and the result holds. If $\alpha = 0$, then $u = 0$ and $\Theta = \pi$, so $\lambda = \cos(\pi/2) = 0$ and the result holds. \square

Exercise (17). Let $p \neq \pm e$ be a unit quaternion. If F denotes the plane generated by e and p , then the rotations $\varphi x = px$ and $\psi x = xp$ agree on F and stabilize F and F^\perp .

Proof. The rotations agree on e and p , hence on F . By definition of quaternion multiplication, $p^2 \in F$, so they also stabilize F and F^\perp . \square

Chapter XI

Remark. In parts of this chapter, it is implicitly assumed that unitary spaces have dimension $n \geq 1$.

Remark. A map $\varphi : E \rightarrow F$ of complex vector spaces E, F is *conjugate-linear* if

$$\varphi(\lambda x + \mu y) = \bar{\lambda}\varphi x + \bar{\mu}\varphi y$$

for all $x, y \in E$ and $\lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{C}$, where $\bar{\lambda}, \bar{\mu}$ denote the complex conjugates of λ, μ respectively.

§ 1

Remark. A sesquilinear function $\Phi(x, y)$ is linear in x and conjugate-linear in y .

§ 2

Remark. The identity map $\kappa : F \rightarrow \bar{F}$ is conjugate-linear. A map $\varphi : E \rightarrow F$ is conjugate-linear if and only if $\kappa\varphi : E \rightarrow \bar{F}$ is linear. This yields a natural bijective correspondence between conjugate-linear maps $E \rightarrow F$ and linear maps $E \rightarrow \bar{F}$.

Remark. If $z \mapsto \bar{z}$ is a conjugation in E , then for $\lambda = \alpha + i\beta$ with $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$\overline{\lambda z} = \overline{\alpha z + i\beta z} = \alpha\bar{z} - i\beta\bar{z} = \bar{\lambda}\bar{z}$$

Therefore a conjugation is just a conjugate-linear involution. By the previous remark, a conjugation can also be viewed as a linear map $E \rightarrow \bar{E}$.

§ 3

Remark. If E is a unitary space, then there exists a conjugation in E . In fact, if z_1, \dots, z_n is a basis of E and F is the real span of z_1, \dots, z_n , then F is a real form of E and the map $z \mapsto \bar{z}$ defined by $x + iy \mapsto x - iy$ for $x, y \in F$ is a conjugation in the *vector space* E . It is also a conjugation in the *unitary space* E since for $z_1 = x_1 + iy_1$ and $z_2 = x_2 + iy_2$ with $x_j, y_j \in F$,

$$(z_1, z_2) = (x_1, x_2) + (y_1, y_2) + i[(y_1, x_2) - (x_1, y_2)]$$

and

$$(\bar{z}_1, \bar{z}_2) = (x_1, x_2) + (y_1, y_2) - i[(y_1, x_2) - (x_1, y_2)]$$

so $(\bar{z}_1, \bar{z}_2) = \overline{(z_1, z_2)}$ as required.¹⁵

¹⁵See problem 2(i) in § 2.

Remark. If E, F are unitary spaces and \bar{E}, \bar{F} the corresponding conjugate spaces, then E is dual to \bar{E} under the scalar product

$$\langle x, x^* \rangle = (x, \kappa_E^{-1} x^*)$$

where $\kappa_E : E \rightarrow \bar{E}$ is the identity map; similarly F is dual to \bar{F} under the scalar product

$$\langle y, y^* \rangle = (y, \kappa_F^{-1} y^*)$$

where $\kappa_F : F \rightarrow \bar{F}$ is the identity map.

If $\varphi : E \rightarrow F$ is a linear map, then the dual map $\varphi^* : \bar{E} \leftarrow \bar{F}$ satisfies

$$(\varphi x, \kappa_F^{-1} y^*) = \langle \varphi x, y^* \rangle = \langle x, \varphi^* y^* \rangle = (x, \kappa_E^{-1} \varphi^* y^*)$$

Taking $y^* = \kappa_F y$ yields

$$(\varphi x, y) = (x, \kappa_E^{-1} \varphi^* \kappa_F y)$$

Therefore $\tilde{\varphi} = \kappa_E^{-1} \varphi^* \kappa_F$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E & \xleftarrow{\tilde{\varphi}} & F \\ \kappa_E \downarrow & & \downarrow \kappa_F \\ \bar{E} & \xleftarrow{\varphi^*} & \bar{F} \end{array}$$

This construction of the adjoint avoids using conjugations in E, F by using the conjugate spaces \bar{E}, \bar{F} instead.

If $E = F$, $\Delta \neq 0$ is a determinant function in E , and Δ^* is the corresponding determinant function in \bar{E} (11.6), then

$$\begin{aligned} \det \tilde{\varphi} \cdot \Delta(x_1, \dots, x_n) &= \Delta(\tilde{\varphi} x_1, \dots, \tilde{\varphi} x_n) \\ &= \Delta(\kappa_E^{-1} \varphi^* \kappa_F x_1, \dots, \kappa_E^{-1} \varphi^* \kappa_F x_n) \\ &= \overline{\Delta^*(\varphi^* \kappa_F x_1, \dots, \varphi^* \kappa_F x_n)} \\ &= \overline{\det \varphi^* \cdot \Delta^*(\kappa_F x_1, \dots, \kappa_F x_n)} \\ &= \overline{\det \varphi} \cdot \Delta(x_1, \dots, x_n) \end{aligned}$$

where $\kappa = \kappa_E$, so $\det \tilde{\varphi} = \overline{\det \varphi}$. This derivation of (11.21) similarly avoids using conjugations in E .

Remark. The mapping $\varphi \mapsto \tilde{\varphi}$ is conjugate-linear.

Remark. If $z \mapsto \bar{z}$ is a conjugation in E and Δ is a determinant function in E , then

$$\bar{\Delta}(z_1, \dots, z_n) = \overline{\Delta(\bar{z}_1, \dots, \bar{z}_n)}$$

is also a determinant function in E , called the *conjugate determinant function*. The proof of (11.21) in the book uses one of these.

Exercise (1). If E is a unitary space and $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ is linear, then

$$\Phi(x, y) = (\varphi x, y)$$

is sesquilinear. Conversely, every sesquilinear function in E can be uniquely represented in this way. The adjoint $\tilde{\varphi}$ represents the adjoint $\tilde{\Phi}$.

Proof. The forward direction is trivial. If Φ is sesquilinear, then for any fixed vector x the function

$$y \mapsto \overline{\Phi(x, y)}$$

is linear, so by the Riesz theorem (11.5) there is a unique vector φx such that

$$\overline{\Phi(x, y)} = (y, \varphi x) = \overline{(\varphi x, y)}$$

and therefore

$$\Phi(x, y) = (\varphi x, y)$$

Clearly φ is linear and is uniquely determined by Φ . Also

$$(\tilde{\varphi} x, y) = \overline{(y, \tilde{\varphi} x)} = \overline{(\varphi y, x)} = \overline{\Phi(y, x)} = \tilde{\Phi}(x, y) \quad \square$$

Remark. This result shows that the linear transformation φ is naturally left-dual to the sesquilinear function Φ . Observe that Φ is Hermitian if and only if φ is Hermitian (self-adjoint) and Φ is skew-Hermitian if and only if φ is skew-Hermitian.

Chapter XII

§ 1

Remark. The pair $(\Gamma[t], t)$ is a universal (initial) object in the category of pointed algebras (A, a) , where A is an associative unital Γ -algebra with unit $e \in A$ and

distinguished element $a \in A$. In this category, an arrow $\varphi : (A, a) \rightarrow (B, b)$ is a unital Γ -algebra homomorphism $\varphi : A \rightarrow B$ with $\varphi a = b$. This result follows from the existence and uniqueness of the evaluation homomorphism $\Gamma[t] \rightarrow A$.

Identifying the scalars $\alpha \in \Gamma$ with the elements $\alpha \cdot e \in A$, this result shows that $\Gamma[t]$ is universal as an algebra obtained by adjoining a single element to Γ , in the sense that every such algebra can be obtained from $\Gamma[t]$ in a unique way through evaluation.

Exercise (2). Define the linear mapping $\int : \Gamma[t] \rightarrow \Gamma[t]$ by

$$\int t^p = \frac{t^{p+1}}{p+1} \quad (p \geq 0)$$

Then \int is homogeneous (of degree 1) with $d \circ \int = \iota$, and is unique with these properties.

Proof. If \int satisfies the properties, then we must have

$$\int t^p = \frac{t^{p+1}}{p+1} + \alpha_p \quad (\alpha_p \in \Gamma)$$

since $d \circ \int = \iota$. But $\alpha_p = 0$ for all p since \int is homogeneous. Finally, \int is uniquely determined on $\Gamma[t]$ since \int is linear and the t^p ($p \geq 0$) form a basis of $\Gamma[t]$. \square

Exercise (3). If $\int : \Gamma[t] \rightarrow \Gamma[t]$ is the integration operator, then $\int \circ d = \iota - \varrho$, where $\varrho : \Gamma[t] \rightarrow \Gamma$ is the scalar projection $\varrho f = f(0)$. It follows that

$$\int f g' = f g - \varrho(f g) - \int g f'$$

Proof. The first part is easily verified on the basis t^p ($p \geq 0$). The second part then follows since

$$f g - \varrho(f g) = \int (f g)' = \int (f' g + f g') = \int f' g + \int f g' \quad \square$$

§ 3

Remark. If $A = 0$, then the minimum polynomial of $a = 0$ is $\mu = 1$.

Remark. In the proof of Proposition I, to see why the elements $1, \bar{t}, \dots, \bar{t}^{r-1}$ form a basis of $\Gamma[t]/I_\mu$, first observe that every element of $\Gamma[t]/I_\mu$ is of the form $f(\bar{t})$ for some $f \in \Gamma[t]$. Write $f = g\mu + h$ where $h = 0$ or $\deg h < r$. Then

$$f(\bar{t}) = g(\bar{t})\mu(\bar{t}) + h(\bar{t}) = h(\bar{t})$$

since $\mu(\bar{t}) = 0$, and clearly $h(\bar{t})$ is in the span of $1, \bar{t}, \dots, \bar{t}^{r-1}$.

On the other hand, suppose

$$\alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \bar{t} + \dots + \alpha_{r-1} \bar{t}^{r-1} = 0$$

Define $f = \alpha_0 + \dots + \alpha_{r-1} t^{r-1}$. Then $f = 0$ or $\deg f < r$. But $f \in \ker \pi = I_\mu$, so $\mu \mid f$, which forces $f = 0$ and $\alpha_0 = \dots = \alpha_{r-1} = 0$. It follows that the elements $1, \bar{t}, \dots, \bar{t}^{r-1}$ are linearly independent.

Chapter XIII

Remark. In parts of this chapter, it is implicitly assumed that the vector space E has dimension $n \geq 1$.

§ 1

In the following remarks, $f \in \Gamma[t]$.

Remark. Why is it natural to apply polynomials to a linear transformation? If we think of a linear transformation $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ as being adjoined to the scalar transformations in $A(E; E)$, then we know that the structure of the resulting subalgebra is obtained from that of $\Gamma[t]$ in a unique way through evaluation $f \mapsto f(\varphi)$, by the universal property of $\Gamma[t]$.¹⁶ This fact makes it natural to apply polynomials to φ in order to study the structure of φ .

Remark. The results of this section are summarized in the following diagram, which shows that K is a homomorphism from the lattice of polynomials in $\Gamma[t]$ under divisibility to the lattice of subspaces of E under inclusion:¹⁷

¹⁶See the remark in chapter XII, § 1 above.

¹⁷Recall from chapter XII that $f \vee g$ denotes the greatest common divisor of f and g , while $f \wedge g$ denotes the least common multiple of f and g —notation inspired by the lattice of *ideals*. See also problem 11.



Remark. If $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ is linear and E_1 is stable under φ , then E_1 is also stable under $f(\varphi)$ and

$$f(\varphi)_{E_1} = f(\varphi_{E_1})$$

Dually,

$$\overline{f(\varphi)} = f(\overline{\varphi})$$

Proof. Stabilization of E_1 is preserved by addition, scalar multiplication, and composition, so is preserved by f . It follows that $f(\varphi)_{E_1}$ and $f(\varphi_{E_1})$ are both transformations of E_1 with the same action, so are equal. Finally,

$$\overline{f(\varphi)}(\overline{x}) = \overline{f(\varphi)(x)} = f(\overline{\varphi})(\overline{x}) \quad \square$$

Remark. It follows that if $K_1(f) = \ker f(\varphi_{E_1})$, then

$$K_1(f) = K(f) \cap E_1$$

Dually, if $\overline{K}(f) = \ker f(\overline{\varphi})$, then

$$\overline{K}(f) \supseteq \overline{K(f)}$$

The reverse inclusion does not hold in general. For a counterexample, consider $f = t$ with $\varphi : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ defined by $\varphi(x, y) = (y, 0)$ and $E_1 = \mathbb{R} \times 0$.

Remark. If $\varphi_1 : E_1 \rightarrow E_1$ and $\varphi_2 : E_2 \rightarrow E_2$ are linear, then

$$f(\varphi_1 \oplus \varphi_2) = f(\varphi_1) \oplus f(\varphi_2)$$

Proof. Write $\varphi = \varphi_1 \oplus \varphi_2$, so $\varphi_{E_1} = \varphi_1$ and $\varphi_{E_2} = \varphi_2$. Then

$$f(\varphi) = f(\varphi)_{E_1} \oplus f(\varphi)_{E_2} = f(\varphi_1) \oplus f(\varphi_2) \quad \square$$

Remark. It follows that

$$r(f(\varphi)) = r(f(\varphi_1)) + r(f(\varphi_2))$$

where $r(\psi)$ denotes the rank of ψ .

Remark. If E, E^* are dual spaces and $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ and $\varphi^* : E^* \leftarrow E^*$ are dual linear transformations, then

$$f(\varphi)^* = f(\varphi^*)$$

Proof. By the results of subsection 2.25. \square

Remark. It follows that $f(\varphi) = 0$ if and only if $f(\varphi^*) = 0$, so $\mu_{\varphi^*} = \mu_{\varphi}$.

Remark. In particular, if E is an inner product space or a unitary space, then

$$\widetilde{f(\varphi)} = \overline{f(\tilde{\varphi})}$$

where \overline{f} is obtained from f by conjugating the coefficients.¹⁸

Proof. Let \overline{E} be the conjugate space and $\kappa : E \rightarrow \overline{E}$ the conjugate-linear identity map. Then

$$\widetilde{f(\varphi)} = \kappa^{-1} f(\varphi)^* \kappa = \kappa^{-1} f(\varphi^*) \kappa = \overline{f}(\kappa^{-1} \varphi^* \kappa) = \overline{f}(\tilde{\varphi}) \quad \square$$

Remark. It follows that $f(\varphi) = 0$ if and only if $\overline{f}(\tilde{\varphi}) = 0$, so $\mu_{\tilde{\varphi}} = \overline{\mu_{\varphi}}$.

Remark. If $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ and $\psi : F \rightarrow F$ are linear with

$$\psi = \alpha \circ \varphi \circ \alpha^{-1}$$

where $\alpha : E \cong F$, then

$$f(\psi) = \alpha \circ f(\varphi) \circ \alpha^{-1}$$

Proof. Conjugation by α is an algebra isomorphism $A(E; E) \cong A(F; F)$. \square

¹⁸In the case of an inner product space, $\overline{f} = f$.

Remark. It follows that $f(\psi) = 0$ if and only if $f(\varphi) = 0$, so $\mu_\psi = \mu_\varphi$.

Remark. In particular if $E = E_1 \oplus E_2$ and $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ is given by $\varphi = \varphi_1 \oplus \varphi_2$ where $\varphi_1 : E_1 \rightarrow E_1$ and $\varphi_2 : E_2 \rightarrow E_2$, then $\mu_{\varphi_1} = \mu_{\bar{\varphi}}$ where $\bar{\varphi} : E/E_2 \rightarrow E/E_2$ is the induced transformation. Dually, $\mu_{\varphi_2} = \mu_{\bar{\varphi}}$ where $\bar{\varphi} : E/E_1 \rightarrow E/E_1$ is induced.¹⁹

Exercise (2). Consider the linear transformations $\varphi, \psi : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ defined by

$$\varphi(x, y) = (y, 0) \quad \text{and} \quad \psi(x, y) = (0, y)$$

Then $\varphi\psi = \varphi$ while $\psi\varphi = 0$, so

$$\mu_{\varphi\psi} = t^2 \neq t = \mu_{\psi\varphi}$$

Exercise (3). If $\varphi_1 : E_1 \rightarrow E_1$ and $\varphi_2 : E_2 \rightarrow E_2$ are linear, then

$$\mu_{\varphi_1 \oplus \varphi_2} = \mu_{\varphi_1} \wedge \mu_{\varphi_2}$$

Proof. Write $\varphi = \varphi_1 \oplus \varphi_2$. By a remark above, $f(\varphi) = f(\varphi_1) \oplus f(\varphi_2)$, so $f(\varphi) = 0$ if and only if $f(\varphi_1) = 0$ and $f(\varphi_2) = 0$. It follows that μ_φ is the least common multiple of μ_{φ_1} and μ_{φ_2} . \square

Exercise (5). If $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ stabilizes E_1 , and $\varphi_1 : E_1 \rightarrow E_1$ and $\bar{\varphi} : E/E_1 \rightarrow E/E_1$ are the induced transformations, then

$$\bar{\mu} \wedge \mu_1 \mid \mu \mid \bar{\mu}\mu_1$$

where $\mu = \mu_\varphi$, $\mu_1 = \mu_{\varphi_1}$, and $\bar{\mu} = \mu_{\bar{\varphi}}$.

Proof. By a remark above, $\mu(\varphi_1) = 0$ and $\mu(\bar{\varphi}) = 0$, so $\mu_1 \mid \mu$ and $\bar{\mu} \mid \mu$. On the other hand,

$$\bar{\mu}\mu_1(\varphi)(x) = \mu_1(\varphi)(\bar{\mu}(\varphi)(x))$$

But $\bar{\mu}(\varphi)(x)$ is in E_1 since

$$\overline{\bar{\mu}(\varphi)(x)} = \overline{\bar{\mu}(\varphi)(\bar{x})} = \bar{\mu}(\bar{\varphi})(\bar{x}) = 0$$

so

$$\mu_1(\varphi)(\bar{\mu}(\varphi)(x)) = \mu_1(\varphi_1)(\bar{\mu}(\varphi)(x)) = 0$$

It follows that $\bar{\mu}\mu_1(\varphi) = 0$, so $\mu \mid \bar{\mu}\mu_1$. \square

¹⁹See the conjugacy diagrams in chapter II, § 4 above.

Exercise (6). The minimum polynomial μ of $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ can be constructed in the following way: select $x_1 \in E$ and let k_1 be least such that the vectors

$$x_1, \varphi x_1, \dots, \varphi^{k_1} x_1 \quad (1)$$

are linearly dependent, with

$$\lambda_0 x_1 + \lambda_1 \varphi x_1 + \dots + \lambda_{k_1} \varphi^{k_1} x_1 = 0$$

where the λ_i are not all zero, so in particular $\lambda_{k_1} \neq 0$. Define the polynomial

$$f_1 = \lambda_0 + \lambda_1 t + \dots + \lambda_{k_1} t^{k_1}$$

If the vectors (1) do not span E , select $x_2 \in E$ not in their span and construct the corresponding polynomial f_2 . Repeat this procedure until E is exhausted. Then μ is the (monic) least common multiple of the f_i .

Proof. Let E_i be the span of the vectors

$$x_i, \varphi x_i, \dots, \varphi^{k_i-1} x_i \quad (2)$$

By construction, (2) is a basis of E_i with $\varphi^{k_i} x_i \in E_i$, and we have the direct sum $E = \sum_i E_i$. The minimum polynomial of the restriction $\varphi_i : E_i \rightarrow E_i$ is just $\lambda_{k_i}^{-1} f_i$, so the result follows from problem 3. \square

Remark. The subspaces E_i are cyclic, so this procedure just produces a cyclic decomposition of E , from which the minimum polynomial is easily computed.²⁰

Exercise (8). If E is an inner product space and $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ is a rotation, then the coefficients α_i of the minimum polynomial μ of φ satisfy

$$\alpha_i = \varepsilon \alpha_{k-i} \quad k = \deg \mu$$

where $\varepsilon = \pm 1$.

Proof. Since $\tilde{\varphi} = \varphi^{-1}$, we have $\mu_{\varphi^{-1}} = \mu$ by a remark above, so

$$\alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \varphi^{-1} + \dots + \alpha_k \varphi^{-k} = \mu(\varphi^{-1}) = 0 \quad (1)$$

Multiplying both sides of (1) by φ^k yields

$$\alpha_0 \varphi^k + \alpha_1 \varphi^{k-1} + \dots + \alpha_k = \mathfrak{u}(\varphi) = 0 \quad (2)$$

where $\mathfrak{u} = \sum_i \alpha_{k-i} t^i$. It follows from (2) that $\mu \mid \mathfrak{u}$, and in fact $\alpha_0 \mu = \mathfrak{u}$. Since $\alpha_0^2 = \alpha_k = 1$, the result holds with $\varepsilon = \alpha_0$. \square

²⁰See Proposition IV and its corollary in § 3.

Exercise (9). The minimum polynomial μ of a self-adjoint transformation of a unitary space has real coefficients.

Proof. By a remark above, $\bar{\mu} = \mu$. □

Exercise (12). If $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ is regular, then $\varphi^{-1} = f(\varphi)$ for some $f \in \Gamma[t]$.

Proof. Let μ be the minimum polynomial of φ and $\alpha = \mu(0)$. Since φ is regular, 0 is not an eigenvalue of φ , so $\alpha \neq 0$. Write

$$\alpha^{-1}\mu = 1 - tf \quad f \in \Gamma[t] \quad (1)$$

Evaluating both sides of (1) at φ yields $\varphi f(\varphi) = \iota$ and therefore $\varphi^{-1} = f(\varphi)$. □

§ 2

Remark. If the minimum polynomial of $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ has the prime decomposition

$$\mu = f_1^{k_1} \cdots f_r^{k_r}$$

and E has the generalized eigenspace decomposition

$$E = E_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus E_r$$

define

$$g_i = f_1^{k_1} \cdots \widehat{f_i^{k_i}} \cdots f_r^{k_r}$$

and

$$F_i = E_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \widehat{E_i} \oplus \cdots \oplus E_r$$

Then $f_i^{k_i}(\varphi)$ kills E_i and induces an isomorphism on F_i , while $g_i(\varphi)$ kills F_i and induces an isomorphism on E_i .

More generally if $K \subseteq \{1, \dots, r\}$, define

$$f_K = \prod_{i \in K} f_i^{k_i}$$

and

$$E_K = \sum_{i \in K} E_i \quad E_{\widehat{K}} = \sum_{i \notin K} E_i$$

Then $f_K(\varphi)$ kills E_K and induces an isomorphism on $E_{\widehat{K}}$.

Remark. In Proposition I, if π_i and π_i^* are the projection operators associated with the generalized eigenspace decompositions in E and E^* , then

$$(\pi_i)^* = \pi_i^*$$

Proof. From (13.24), it follows that

$$\langle \pi_i^* x^*, x \rangle = \langle \pi_i^* x^*, \pi_i x \rangle = \langle x^*, \pi_i x \rangle \quad \square$$

Remark. If $g_i \in \Gamma[t]$ with $g_i(\varphi) = \pi_i$ (subsection 13.5), then

$$g_i(\varphi^*) = g_i(\varphi)^* = (\pi_i)^* = \pi_i^*$$

Alternatively, the fact that $g_i(\varphi^*) = \pi_i^*$ follows from the fact that g_i depends only on the common minimum polynomial of φ^* and φ , and the argument above can be run in reverse to obtain (13.24).²¹

Exercise (1). The minimum polynomial μ of $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ is completely reducible if and only if every nonzero subspace of E stable under φ contains an eigenvector of φ .

Proof. If $F \neq 0$ is stable, then by (13.22)

$$F = \sum_i F \cap E_i$$

where the E_i are the generalized eigenspaces of φ . Fix i with $F \cap E_i \neq 0$. If μ is completely reducible, then $E_i = K((t - \lambda)^k)$ for some $\lambda \in \Gamma$ and $k \geq 1$. Choose $x \in F \cap E_i$ with $x \neq 0$ and let $1 \leq l \leq k$ be least with $(\varphi - \lambda I)^l x = 0$. Then it follows that $(\varphi - \lambda I)^{l-1} x \in F$ is an eigenvector.

Conversely, suppose f is monic irreducible with $\deg f \geq 1$ and $f \mid \mu$. Let $F = K(f)$. Then $F \neq 0$ is stable and so contains an eigenvector by assumption. If λ is the associated eigenvalue, then $(t - \lambda) \mid \mu_f = f$, so $f = t - \lambda$. It follows that μ is completely reducible. \square

Remark. This is true in particular if Γ is algebraically closed (for example $\Gamma = \mathbb{C}$).

Exercise (2). If the minimum polynomial μ of $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ is completely reducible, then there is a basis of E with respect to which the matrix of φ is triangular:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ * & & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix}$$

²¹See problems 7 and 8.

Proof. By induction on $\dim E$.

Since $E \neq 0$ is stable, there is an eigenvector x_1 with $\varphi x_1 = \lambda_1 x_1$. Let $E_1 = \langle x_1 \rangle$ and consider $\bar{\varphi} : E/E_1 \rightarrow E/E_1$ with minimum polynomial $\bar{\mu}$. Since $\bar{\mu} \mid \mu$, $\bar{\mu}$ is completely reducible, and by induction there is a basis $\bar{x}_2, \dots, \bar{x}_n$ of E/E_1 with $\bar{\varphi}(\bar{x}_k) \in \langle \bar{x}_2, \dots, \bar{x}_k \rangle$ for $2 \leq k \leq n$. It follows that x_1, \dots, x_n is a basis of E with $\varphi x_k \in \langle x_1, \dots, x_k \rangle$ for $1 \leq k \leq n$. \square

Remark. The diagonal entries of this matrix are just the eigenvalues of φ .

Exercise (9). Let F be a subspace of E stable under $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ and consider the induced mappings $\varphi_F : F \rightarrow F$ and $\bar{\varphi} : E/F \rightarrow E/F$. Let $E = \sum_i E_i$ be the generalized eigenspace decomposition of E under φ .

(a) The generalized eigenspace decomposition of F under φ_F is

$$F = \sum_i F \cap E_i$$

(b) The generalized eigenspace decomposition of E/F under $\bar{\varphi}$ is

$$E/F = \sum_i E_i/F$$

Moreover, $E_i/F \cong E_i/(F \cap E_i)$.

(c) If π_i , π_i^F , and $\bar{\pi}_i$ are the projection operators in E , F , and E/F associated with the decompositions, then the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} F & \xrightarrow{j} & E & \xrightarrow{\rho} & E/F \\ \pi_i^F \downarrow & & \pi_i \downarrow & & \bar{\pi}_i \downarrow \\ F & \xrightarrow{j} & E & \xrightarrow{\rho} & E/F \end{array}$$

commutes, where j and ρ are the canonical injection and projection. Moreover,

$$\pi_i^F = (\pi_i)_F \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{\pi}_i = \overline{\pi_i}$$

so π_i^F and $\bar{\pi}_i$ are unique making the diagram commute.

(d) If $g_i \in \Gamma[t]$ with $g_i(\varphi) = \pi_i$, then

$$g_i(\varphi_F) = \pi_i^F \quad \text{and} \quad g_i(\overline{\varphi}) = \overline{\pi}_i$$

Proof. For (a), we already know from (13.22) that

$$F = \sum_i F \cap E_i \tag{1}$$

Let

$$F = \sum_i F_i \tag{2}$$

be the generalized eigenspace decomposition of F under φ_F . Since $\mu_{\varphi_F} \mid \mu_\varphi$, we may assume that $F_i = K_F(f_i^{j_i})$ and $E_i = K(f_i^{k_i})$ for some f_i with $j_i \leq k_i$. Then

$$F_i = K_F(f_i^{j_i}) = F \cap K(f_i^{j_i}) \subseteq F \cap K(f_i^{k_i}) = F \cap E_i \tag{3}$$

It follows from (1), (2), and (3) that $F_i = F \cap E_i$, establishing (a).

For (b), it follows from (1) that

$$E/F = \sum_i E_i/F \tag{4}$$

is a direct sum decomposition of E/F , and it is immediate that E_i/F is stable under $\overline{\varphi}$ since E_i is stable under φ . Let

$$E/F = \sum_i (E/F)_i \tag{5}$$

be the generalized eigenspace decomposition of E/F under $\overline{\varphi}$. Since $\mu_{\overline{\varphi}} \mid \mu_\varphi$, we may assume that $(E/F)_i = \overline{K}(f_i^{m_i})$ with $m_i \leq k_i$. Now

$$E_i/F = K(f_i^{k_i})/F \subseteq \overline{K}(f_i^{k_i})$$

so if μ_i denotes the minimum polynomial of $\overline{\varphi}_{E_i/F}$, then $\mu_i \mid f_i^{k_i}$. On the other hand, $\mu_i \mid \mu_{\overline{\varphi}}$, so we must have $\mu_i \mid f_i^{m_i}$ and therefore

$$E_i/F \subseteq \overline{K}(f_i^{m_i}) = (E/F)_i \tag{6}$$

It now follows from (4), (5), and (6) that $(E/F)_i = E_i/F$. Finally, the restriction to E_i of the canonical projection induces the isomorphism $E_i/F \cong E_i/F$.

For (c), commutativity of the left square in the diagram follows from (a) and commutativity of the right square follows from (b). The rest of (c) follows from the diagram.

Finally, (d) follows immediately from (c). \square

Exercise (10). If the minimum polynomial μ of $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ is completely reducible, then $\mu \mid \chi$ where χ is the characteristic polynomial of φ .

Proof. First consider the case $\mu = (t - \lambda)^k$. By problem 2, there is a basis of E with respect to which the matrix of φ has the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} \lambda & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ * & & \lambda \end{pmatrix}$$

It follows immediately that $(\varphi - \lambda I)^n = 0$ where $n = \dim E$, so $\mu \mid (t - \lambda)^n$ and therefore $k \leq n$. Moreover, $\chi = (-1)^n(t - \lambda)^n$, so $\mu \mid \chi$.

In the general case, take the prime decomposition

$$\mu = (t - \lambda_1)^{k_1} \cdots (t - \lambda_r)^{k_r}$$

and let $E = \sum_i E_i$ be the corresponding generalized eigenspace decomposition. Let $\varphi_i : E_i \rightarrow E_i$ be the restriction with minimum polynomial $\mu_i = (t - \lambda_i)^{k_i}$ and characteristic polynomial χ_i . Then $\mu_i \mid \chi_i$ by the previous case, so

$$\mu = \mu_1 \cdots \mu_r \mid \chi_1 \cdots \chi_r = \chi \quad \square$$

Remark. This is just a special case of the Cayley-Hamilton theorem.²²

§ 3

Remark. In Proposition I, the vector a is intuitively “hard to kill”, and therefore generates a cyclic subspace that is as large as possible.²³

Remark. A vector space E is cyclic with generator $a \in E$ under $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ if and only if E is the smallest subspace of E containing a and stable under φ .

Remark. To prove Proposition III, just recall from the proof of Proposition II that σ_a induces an isomorphism $\overline{\sigma}_a : \Gamma[t]/I_\mu \cong E$ defined by $\overline{\sigma}_a(\overline{f}) = \sigma_a(f)$. Since $1, \overline{t}, \dots, \overline{t}^{m-1}$ is a basis of $\Gamma[t]/I_\mu$ and $\sigma_a(t^i) = \varphi^i(a)$, it follows that

$$a, \varphi(a), \dots, \varphi^{m-1}(a)$$

is a basis of E .

²²See Theorem II in § 5.

²³See Proposition V.

Remark. In the proof of the corollary to Proposition IV, to see that $\mu(\varphi) = 0$, first observe that

$$\mu(\varphi)(a_0) = \varphi^n(a_0) - \sum_{v=0}^{n-1} \alpha_v \varphi^v(a_0) = \varphi(a_{n-1}) - \sum_{v=0}^{n-1} \alpha_v a_v = 0$$

Now if $\mu(\varphi)(a_v) = 0$ for some $0 \leq v \leq n-2$, then

$$\mu(\varphi)(a_{v+1}) = \mu(\varphi)(\varphi(a_v)) = \varphi(\mu(\varphi)(a_v)) = \varphi(0) = 0$$

By induction, $\mu(\varphi)(a_v) = 0$ for all $0 \leq v \leq n-1$, so $\mu(\varphi) = 0$.

Remark. If E and E^* are dual spaces and $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ and $\varphi^* : E^* \leftarrow E^*$ are dual transformations, then E is cyclic with respect to φ if and only if E^* is cyclic with respect to φ^* .

Proof. By Theorem I, if E is cyclic then

$$\dim E^* = \dim E = \deg \mu_\varphi = \deg \mu_{\varphi^*}$$

so E^* is cyclic. The converse follows by symmetry. \square

§ 4

Remark. If $E = \sum_i E_i$ is the generalized eigenspace decomposition of E and $E_i = \sum_j E_{ij}$ is a cyclic decomposition of E_i , then $E = \sum_{i,j} E_{ij}$ is an irreducible decomposition of E . Conversely, an irreducible decomposition of E yields an irreducible (and hence cyclic) decomposition of each E_i .²⁴

Remark. In subsection 13.14, observe that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{v=0}^{p-1} \alpha_v f^{i-1}(\varphi) \varphi^v e + f(\varphi)^{i-1} \varphi^p e &= f(\varphi)^{i-1} \sum_{v=0}^p \alpha_v \varphi^v e \\ &= f(\varphi)^{i-1} f(\varphi) e \\ &= f(\varphi)^i e \end{aligned}$$

Remark. In subsection 13.17, observe from the formula for $r(\psi^j)$ that we can first determine N_k from $r(\psi^{k-1})$, then determine N_{k-1} from $r(\psi^{k-2})$ and N_k , then determine successively N_{k-2}, \dots, N_1 .

²⁴See the remarks at the end of subsection 13.17.

Remark. Proposition II shows that two linear transformations are conjugate if and only if they have the same Jordan canonical matrix. The matrix is therefore a particularly simple representative for the conjugacy class.

The proof of case II can be simplified by noting that $\dim E_i = \dim F_i$ follows from the fact that $r(f_i(\varphi_i)^j) = r(f_i(\psi_i)^j)$ for all $j \geq 1$.

Remark. In the proof of Corollary II to Proposition II, it follows from the results of subsection 13.20 that the common characteristic polynomial of the induced restrictions of φ and ψ to E_i and F_i is just $f_i^{m_i}$.²⁵

Exercise (5). If $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ stabilizes E_1 , and $\varphi_1 : E_1 \rightarrow E_1$ and $\bar{\varphi} : E/E_1 \rightarrow E/E_1$ are the induced transformations, then E is cyclic if and only if (i) E_1 is cyclic, (ii) E/E_1 is cyclic, and (iii) $\mu = \mu_1 \bar{\mu}$, where $\mu = \mu_\varphi$, $\mu_1 = \mu_{\varphi_1}$, and $\bar{\mu} = \mu_{\bar{\varphi}}$.

Proof. If E is cyclic, then $\sigma_a : \Gamma[t] \rightarrow E$ is surjective for some $a \in E$. It follows that $\pi\sigma_a : \Gamma[t] \rightarrow E/E_1$ is also surjective, where $\pi : E \rightarrow E/E_1$ is the canonical projection. But

$$(\pi\sigma_a)(f) = \pi(f(\varphi)(a)) = f(\bar{\varphi})(\bar{a}) = \sigma_{\bar{a}}(f)$$

so $\sigma_{\bar{a}} = \pi\sigma_a$ is surjective, and therefore E/E_1 is cyclic. Now

$$\deg \mu_1 \leq \dim E_1 = \dim E - \dim E/E_1 = \deg \mu - \deg \bar{\mu} \leq \deg \mu_1$$

since $\mu \mid \mu_1 \bar{\mu}$. It follows that $\dim E_1 = \deg \mu_1$ so E_1 is cyclic, and $\deg \mu = \deg \mu_1 \bar{\mu}$ so $\mu = \mu_1 \bar{\mu}$.

Conversely, if E_1 and E/E_1 are cyclic and $\mu = \mu_1 \bar{\mu}$, then

$$\dim E = \dim E_1 + \dim E/E_1 = \deg \mu_1 + \deg \bar{\mu} = \deg \mu_1 \bar{\mu} = \deg \mu$$

so E is cyclic. □

Remark. If $\varphi = \varphi_1 \oplus \varphi_2$ with $\mu_2 = \mu_{\varphi_2}$, then $\bar{\mu} = \mu_2$, so if E is cyclic it follows that $\mu = \mu_1 \mu_2$. Since also $\mu = \mu_1 \wedge \mu_2$, this implies that μ_1 and μ_2 are relatively prime.

Exercise (6). Let $E = F_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus F_s$ and $\varphi = \varphi_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \varphi_s$ where $\varphi_j : F_j \rightarrow F_j$ with $\mu = \mu_\varphi$ and $\mu_j = \mu_{\varphi_j}$.

(a) E is cyclic if and only if each F_j is cyclic and the μ_j are relatively prime.

(b) If E is cyclic, then each F_j is a sum of generalized eigenspaces for φ .

²⁵See the remarks in § 5 below.

(c) If E is cyclic and

$$a = a_1 + \cdots + a_s \quad a_j \in F_j$$

is any vector in E , then a generates E if and only if each a_j generates F_j .

Proof. For (a), if E is cyclic then by problem 5 each F_j is cyclic and (by induction on s)

$$\mu_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \mu_s = \mu = \mu_1 \cdots \mu_s$$

so the μ_j are relatively prime. Conversely, if each F_j is cyclic and the μ_j are relatively prime, then

$$\begin{aligned} \dim E &= \dim F_1 + \cdots + \dim F_s \\ &= \deg \mu_1 + \cdots + \deg \mu_s \\ &= \deg \mu_1 \cdots \mu_s \\ &= \deg \mu_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \mu_s \\ &= \deg \mu \end{aligned}$$

so E is cyclic.

For (b), since $\mu = \mu_1 \cdots \mu_s$ and the μ_j are relatively prime, the generalized eigenspaces of φ_j in F_j are generalized eigenspaces of φ in E . It follows that the projection operator associated with F_j is a polynomial $g_j(\varphi)$ in φ .

For (c), if a generates E and $x \in F_j$, then there is $f \in \Gamma[t]$ with

$$x = f(\varphi)a = f(\varphi_1)a_1 + \cdots + f(\varphi_s)a_s = f(\varphi_j)a_j$$

so a_j generates F_j . Conversely, if each a_j generates F_j and

$$x = x_1 + \cdots + x_s \quad x_j \in F_j$$

is a vector in E , there are $f_j \in \Gamma[t]$ with $x_j = f_j(\varphi_j)a_j$. Define $f = \sum f_j g_j$. Then

$$f(\varphi)a = \sum f_j(\varphi)g_j(\varphi)a = \sum f_j(\varphi)a_j = \sum x_j = x$$

so a generates E . □

Exercise (7). If $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ stabilizes F , and $\varphi_F : F \rightarrow F$ and $\bar{\varphi} : E/F \rightarrow E/F$ are the induced transformations, then E is irreducible if and only if (i) E/F is irreducible, (ii) F is irreducible, and (iii) $\mu_{\varphi_F} = f^k$, $\mu_{\bar{\varphi}} = f^l$, and $\mu_{\varphi} = f^{k+l}$ where f is irreducible.

Proof. By Theorem I and problem 5. □

Exercise (8). Let E be irreducible with respect to φ , with $\mu_\varphi = f^k$ (f irreducible).

(a) The k subspaces $K(f), \dots, K(f^k)$ are the only nontrivial stable subspaces of E .

(b) $\text{Im } f(\varphi)^m = K(f^{k-m})$ for $0 \leq m \leq k$.

Proof. We may assume that f is monic with $\deg f = p$. For (a), we know that

$$0 = K(1) \subset K(f) \subset \dots \subset K(f^k) = E$$

are stable subspaces of E . If $F \neq 0$ is a stable subspace of E , then $\mu_F = f^m$ for some $1 \leq m \leq k$ and hence $F \subseteq K(f^m)$. Since F and $K(f^m)$ are both cyclic,

$$\dim F = pm = \dim K(f^m)$$

so $F = K(f^m)$.

For (b), $\text{Im } f(\varphi)^m$ is stable and

$$\begin{aligned} \dim \text{Im } f(\varphi)^m &= \dim E - \dim \ker f(\varphi)^m \\ &= pk - pm \\ &= p(k - m) \\ &= \dim \ker f(\varphi)^{k-m} \end{aligned}$$

so we must have $\text{Im } f(\varphi)^m = K(f^{k-m})$ by (a). □

§ 5

Remark. The proof of Lemma I is essentially the same as the proof that the product of cyclic groups of orders m and n is cyclic if and only if m and n are relatively prime.

In the proof, if Y_i is the cyclic subspace generated by y_i , then $Y_i = Y \cap F_i$. The contradiction is that $Y = Y_1 \oplus Y_2$ is a cyclic subspace but the orders of y_1 and y_2 under $f_1(\varphi)$ are not relatively prime.²⁶

Remark. The minimum polynomial μ and the characteristic polynomial χ of a linear transformation $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ have the same prime factors.

²⁶See also problem 6 in § 4 above.

Proof. Let $E = \sum_i F_i$ be a cyclic decomposition of E and $\varphi_i : F_i \rightarrow F_i$ the induced restriction of φ with minimum polynomial μ_i and characteristic polynomial χ_i . Then

$$\mu = \bigwedge \mu_i$$

and

$$\chi = \prod \chi_i = \pm \prod \mu_i$$

by the cyclic case of the Cayley-Hamilton theorem (Lemma II). It follows that the prime factors of μ and χ are the prime factors of the μ_i .²⁷ \square

Remark. If $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$, let

$$\chi = f_1^{m_1} \cdots f_r^{m_r} \quad \text{and} \quad \mu = f_1^{k_1} \cdots f_r^{k_r} \quad (k_i \leq m_i)$$

be the prime decompositions of the characteristic and minimum polynomials, by the Cayley-Hamilton theorem. If

$$E = E_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus E_r$$

is the generalized eigenspace decomposition of E and $\varphi_i : E_i \rightarrow E_i$ the induced restriction of φ with minimum polynomial μ_i and characteristic polynomial χ_i , then

$$\chi_i = f_i^{m_i} \quad \text{and} \quad \mu_i = f_i^{k_i}$$

Proof. We already know that $\mu_i = f_i^{k_i}$, and it follows from the previous remark that f_i does not divide χ_j if $i \neq j$. On the other hand $\chi = \prod \chi_i$, so we must have $\chi_i = f_i^{m_i}$. \square

Remark. In subsection 13.20, we see that

$$\mu_\varphi(t) = \mu_{\varphi-\lambda t}(t - \lambda)$$

Substituting $t + \lambda$ for t , we obtain

$$\mu_{\varphi-\lambda t}(t) = \mu_\varphi(t + \lambda)$$

In particular, it follows that $\mu_\varphi(\lambda)$ is the constant term of $\mu_{\varphi-\lambda t}$, and $\mu_{\varphi-\lambda t}(-\lambda)$ is the constant term of μ_φ .

²⁷ It also follows from this proof that $\mu \mid \chi$.

Remark. In subsections 13.21 and 13.22, we have

$$C^2(\varphi) = \Gamma(\varphi) \subseteq C(\varphi) = C(\Gamma(\varphi)) = C^3(\varphi)$$

Exercise (2). E is cyclic with respect to φ if and only if $\chi_\varphi = \pm\mu_\varphi$.

Proof. The forward direction follows from Lemma II, and the reverse from

$$\dim E = \dim \chi_\varphi = \dim \mu_\varphi \quad \square$$

Exercise (3). If $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$, and $E = \sum_j F_j$ is a decomposition of E as a direct sum of stable subspaces F_j , then each F_j is a sum of generalized eigenspaces for φ if and only if each F_j is stable under $C(\varphi)$.

Proof. If each F_j is a sum of generalized eigenspaces, then by Theorem I the projection operators ρ_j are in $\Gamma(\varphi)$. If $\psi \in C(\varphi)$, then ψ commutes with ρ_j , so

$$\psi F_j = \psi \rho_j F_j = \rho_j \psi F_j \subseteq F_j$$

Conversely, if each F_j is stable under $C(\varphi)$ and $\psi \in C(\varphi)$, then for $x = \sum_j x_j$ with $x_j \in F_j$, we have

$$\rho_j \psi x = \psi x_j = \psi \rho_j x$$

so ρ_j commutes with ψ . Since ψ was arbitrary, $\rho_j \in C^2(\varphi)$. But $C^2(\varphi) = \Gamma(\varphi)$ by Theorem III, so $\rho_j \in \Gamma(\varphi)$ and each F_j is a sum of generalized eigenspaces by Theorem I. \square

§ 6

Remark. If $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ is nilpotent of degree k and E is cyclic with respect to φ , then a generates E if and only if k is least with $\varphi^k a = 0$, which is true if and only if $\varphi^{k-1} a \neq 0$.

Proof. If a generates E , then the vectors

$$a, \varphi a, \dots, \varphi^{k-1} a \quad (1)$$

form a basis of E and are therefore nonzero, while $\varphi^k a = 0$. Conversely, if k is least with $\varphi^k a = 0$ and the vectors (1) are linearly dependent, there are scalars $\alpha_0, \dots, \alpha_{k-1}$ not all zero with

$$\alpha_0 a + \alpha_1 \varphi a + \dots + \alpha_{k-1} \varphi^{k-1} a = 0 \quad (2)$$

Let j be least with $\alpha_j \neq 0$. Applying φ^{k-j-1} to (2) yields

$$\alpha_j \varphi^{k-1} a = 0$$

which is a contradiction. \square

Remark. In the proof of Theorem I, Proposition I is used as a lemma. On the other hand, Proposition I follows from Theorem I by the remarks at the end of subsection 13.23.

Exercise (1). If $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ is nilpotent and N_λ is the number of subspaces of dimension λ in an irreducible decomposition of E , then

$$\dim \ker \varphi = \sum_{\lambda} N_{\lambda}$$

Proof. From subsection 13.17,

$$r(\varphi) = \sum_{\lambda} (\lambda - 1) N_{\lambda} = \dim E - \sum_{\lambda} N_{\lambda}$$

so

$$\sum_{\lambda} N_{\lambda} = \dim E - \dim \operatorname{Im} \varphi = \dim \ker \varphi \quad \square$$

Exercise (3). Let $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ and $\varphi^* : E^* \leftarrow E^*$ be dual. If φ is nilpotent of degree k and E is cyclic with respect to φ , then φ^* is nilpotent of degree k and E^* is cyclic with respect to φ^* . If a generates E , then a^* generates E^* if and only if

$$\langle a^*, \varphi^{k-1} a \rangle \neq 0$$

Proof. We know $\mu_{\varphi^*} = \mu_{\varphi} = t^k$, so φ^* is nilpotent of degree k , and

$$\dim E^* = \dim E = k$$

so E^* is cyclic with respect to φ^* .²⁸

By a remark above, a^* generates E^* if and only if $(\varphi^*)^{k-1} a^* \neq 0$. Since

$$\langle (\varphi^*)^{k-1} a^*, \varphi^j a \rangle = \langle a^*, \varphi^{k+j-1} a \rangle = 0 \quad (1)$$

for all $j \geq 1$ and the $(\varphi^j a)_{j \geq 0}$ form a basis of E , it follows that $(\varphi^*)^{k-1} a^* = 0$ if and only if (1) holds for $j = 0$. \square

²⁸See the remark in § 4 above.

Exercise (4). A linear transformation is diagonalizable if and only if it is semi-simple and its minimum polynomial is completely reducible, or equivalently if its minimum polynomial is the product of distinct monic linear factors.

Proof. A linear transformation is diagonalizable if and only if its generalized eigenspace decomposition is an eigenspace decomposition, which is true if and only if the minimum polynomial has the indicated form. The rest follows from Theorem I. \square

Exercise (5). If $\varphi, \psi : E \rightarrow E$ are commuting diagonalizable transformations, they are simultaneously diagonalizable (that is, there exists a basis of E which diagonalizes both φ and ψ).

Proof. Let

$$\sum_i E_i = E = \sum_j F_j$$

be the generalized eigenspace decompositions for φ and ψ respectively, which are eigenspace decompositions by diagonalizability of φ and ψ . It follows from commutativity of φ and ψ and the results of subsection 13.21 that there is an induced decomposition

$$E = \sum_{i,j} E_i \cap F_j$$

A basis of E obtained by joining bases of the subspaces $E_i \cap F_j$ diagonalizes both φ and ψ . \square

Remark. It follows from this problem and the previous problem that if φ and ψ are commuting semisimple transformations over the field of complex numbers (which is algebraically closed), then $\varphi + \psi$ and $\varphi\psi$ are semisimple.

Exercise (6). Let E be a complex vector space and $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$. Let $E = \sum_i E_i$ be the generalized eigenspace decomposition of E and $\pi_i : E \rightarrow E$ the corresponding projection operators. Assume that the minimum polynomial of the induced transformation $\varphi_i : E_i \rightarrow E_i$ is $\mu_i = (t - \lambda_i)^{k_i}$. Then the semisimple part of φ is

$$\varphi_S = \sum_i \lambda_i \pi_i$$

Proof. Let $\iota_i : E_i \rightarrow E_i$ be the identity map and write

$$\varphi_i = (\varphi_i - \lambda_i \iota_i) + \lambda_i \iota_i$$

Note that $\varphi_i - \lambda_i \iota_i$ is nilpotent, $\lambda_i \iota_i$ is semisimple, and the two transformations commute. Since

$$\varphi = \sum_i \varphi_i = \sum_i (\varphi_i - \lambda_i \iota_i) + \sum_i \lambda_i \iota_i$$

and direct sums preserve nilpotency, semisimplicity, and commutativity, the result now follows from the uniqueness of the Jordan-Chevalley decomposition (Theorem II). \square

Exercise (8). Consider the transformations $\varphi, \psi : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ defined by

$$\varphi(x, y) = (y, 0) \quad \text{and} \quad \psi(x, y) = (y, x)$$

The only 1-dimensional subspace stable under φ is the line $y = 0$, while the only 1-dimensional subspaces stable under ψ are the lines $y = \pm x$, so the set $\{\varphi, \psi\}$ is semisimple but φ is not. Note that φ and ψ do not commute since, for example

$$\varphi\psi(1, 0) = (1, 0) \neq (0, 0) = \psi\varphi(1, 0)$$

§ 7

Exercise (2). If E is an inner product space, then $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ is normal if and only if $\tilde{\varphi} = f(\varphi)$ for some $f \in \mathbb{R}[t]$.

Proof. If $\tilde{\varphi} = f(\varphi)$, then $\tilde{\varphi}\varphi = \varphi\tilde{\varphi}$, so φ is normal. Conversely, if φ is normal let

$$E = E_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus E_r \tag{1}$$

be the orthogonal generalized eigenspace decomposition of E and $\varphi_i : E_i \rightarrow E_i$ the induced homothetic restriction (Theorem I). Write $\varphi_i = \lambda_i \tau_i$ where $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{R}$ and τ_i is a rotation. We know $\tau_i^{-1} = f_i(\tau_i)$ for some $f_i \in \mathbb{R}[t]$.²⁹ By subsection 8.5, we have the direct sum

$$\tilde{\varphi} = \sum \tilde{\varphi}_i = \sum \lambda_i \tilde{\tau}_i = \sum \lambda_i \tau_i^{-1} = \sum \lambda_i f_i(\tau_i) \tag{2}$$

Define $g_i \in \mathbb{R}[t]$ by

$$g_i(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \lambda_i = 0 \\ \lambda_i f_i(\lambda_i^{-1} t) & \text{if } \lambda_i \neq 0 \end{cases}$$

Let $\pi_i = h_i(\varphi)$ be the i -th projection operator for (1), where $h_i \in \mathbb{R}[t]$. It follows from (2) that

$$\tilde{\varphi} = \sum g_i(\varphi) h_i(\varphi)$$

Setting $f = \sum g_i h_i$, we have $\tilde{\varphi} = f(\varphi)$. \square

²⁹See problem 12 in § 1.

Multilinear Algebra

Chapter 1

§ 1

Remark. If $\lambda^1 \lambda^4 - \lambda^2 \lambda^3 = 0$, we want $\xi^1, \xi^2, \eta^1, \eta^2$ with

$$\lambda^1 = \xi^1 \eta^1 \quad \lambda^2 = \xi^1 \eta^2 \quad \lambda^3 = \xi^2 \eta^1 \quad \lambda^4 = \xi^2 \eta^2$$

If $\lambda^1 = 0$, then $\lambda^2 \lambda^3 = \lambda^1 \lambda^4 = 0$, so $\lambda^2 = 0$ or $\lambda^3 = 0$.

- If $\lambda^2 = 0$, we take $\xi^1 = 0$, $\xi^2 = 1$, $\eta^1 = \lambda^3$, and $\eta^2 = \lambda^4$.
- If $\lambda^3 = 0$, we take $\xi^1 = \lambda^2$, $\xi^2 = \lambda^4$, $\eta^1 = 0$, and $\eta^2 = 1$.

If $\lambda^1 \neq 0$ and $\lambda^2 = 0$, then $\lambda^4 = 0$ and we take $\xi^1 = \lambda^1$, $\xi^2 = \lambda^3$, $\eta^1 = 1$, and $\eta^2 = 0$.

If $\lambda^1 \neq 0$ and $\lambda^2 \neq 0$, we take $\xi^1 = 1$, $\xi^2 = \lambda^3 / \lambda^1 = \lambda^4 / \lambda^2$, $\eta^1 = \lambda^1$, and $\eta^2 = \lambda^2$.

§ 2

Remark. In the construction of the first induced bilinear map $\tilde{\varphi}$, note that for each $y \in F$ the linear map $\varphi(-, y) : E \rightarrow G$ sends E_1 into G_1 and hence induces a linear map $\bar{\varphi}(-, y) : E/E_1 \rightarrow G/G_1$ by $\bar{\varphi}(\rho x, y) = \pi \varphi(x, y)$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E & \xrightarrow{\varphi(-, y)} & G \\ \rho \downarrow & & \downarrow \pi \\ E/E_1 & \xrightarrow{\bar{\varphi}(-, y)} & G/G_1 \end{array}$$

Since $\bar{\varphi}(-, y)$ depends linearly on y , $\bar{\varphi}$ is bilinear and we define $\tilde{\varphi} = \bar{\varphi}$.

In the construction of the second induced bilinear map $\tilde{\varphi}$, note that the linear map $y \mapsto \bar{\varphi}(-, y)$ kills F_1 , so it factors through σ :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F & \xrightarrow{y \mapsto \bar{\varphi}(-, y)} & L(E/E_1; G/G_1) \\ \sigma \downarrow & \nearrow \sigma y \mapsto \bar{\varphi}(-, y) & \\ F/F_1 & & \end{array}$$

This allows us to define the bilinear map $\tilde{\varphi}(\rho x, \sigma y) = \overline{\varphi}(\rho x, y) = \pi\varphi(x, y)$.

§ 3

Remark. The claim in problem 5(b) is false because it implies, for example, that any two inner products in \mathbb{R}^2 agree on orthogonality, which is false. The claim holds if and only if ψ preserves linear relations satisfied by φ .

Exercise (7). If E, E^* are finite-dimensional dual spaces and $\Phi: E^* \times E \rightarrow \Gamma$ is a bilinear function such that

$$\Phi(\tau^{*-1}x^*, \tau x) = \Phi(x^*, x)$$

for every pair of dual automorphisms, then there is $\lambda \in \Gamma$ such that

$$\Phi(x^*, x) = \lambda \langle x^*, x \rangle$$

Proof. Let $\varphi: E \rightarrow E$ be the linear transformation with $\Phi(x^*, x) = \langle x^*, \varphi x \rangle$. If τ is an automorphism of E , then since $(\tau^{-1})^* = (\tau^*)^{-1}$,

$$\langle x^*, \tau^{-1}\varphi\tau(x) \rangle = \langle \tau^{*-1}x^*, \varphi\tau(x) \rangle = \Phi(\tau^{*-1}x^*, \tau x) = \Phi(x^*, x) = \langle x^*, \varphi x \rangle$$

It follows that $\tau^{-1}\varphi\tau = \varphi$. Since τ was arbitrary, $\varphi = \lambda \iota$ for some $\lambda \in \Gamma$, from which the result follows. \square

§ 4

Remark. The tensor product $E \otimes F$ is a universal (initial) object in the category of “vector spaces with bilinear maps of $E \times F$ into them”. In this category, the objects are bilinear maps $E \times F \rightarrow G$, and the arrows are linear maps $G \rightarrow H$ which respect the bilinear maps:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E \times F & \xrightarrow{\quad} & H \\ \downarrow & \nearrow & \\ G & & \end{array}$$

Every object $E \times F \rightarrow G$ in this category can be obtained from the tensor product $\otimes: E \times F \rightarrow E \otimes F$ in a unique way. This is why \otimes is said to satisfy the “universal property”. This is only possible because the elements of $E \otimes F$ satisfy only those relations required to make $E \otimes F$ into a vector space and to make \otimes bilinear. By category theoretic abstract nonsense, $E \otimes F$ is unique up to isomorphism.

§ 5

Remark. Lemma 1.5.1 generalizes the consequence of linear independence to tensor products other than scalar multiplication.

We provide an alternative proof. For a linear function $g \in L(F)$, consider the bilinear map $E \times F \rightarrow E$ defined by $(x, y) \mapsto g(y)x$. By the universal property of the tensor product, there is a linear map $h : E \otimes F \rightarrow E$ with $h(x \otimes y) = g(y)x$. Now

$$0 = h\left(\sum a_i \otimes b_i\right) = \sum h(a_i \otimes b_i) = \sum g(b_i)a_i$$

By linear independence of the a_i , it follows that $g(b_i) = 0$ for all i . Since g was arbitrary, it follows that $b_i = 0$ for all i .

Note $h = \iota \otimes g : E \otimes F \rightarrow E \otimes \Gamma$ (see § 16).

Remark. Lemma 1.5.2 generalizes the existence and uniqueness of a representation relative to a basis.

§ 8

Remark. In the proof of Proposition 1.8.1, note that if f is injective, it has a left inverse $g : G \rightarrow E \otimes F$ with $g \circ f = \iota$. If $\psi : E \times F \rightarrow K$ is bilinear, there is a linear map $h : E \otimes F \rightarrow K$ with

$$\psi = h \circ \otimes = h \circ \iota \circ \otimes = h \circ g \circ f \circ \otimes = h \circ g \circ \varphi$$

So ψ factors through φ . Since ψ was arbitrary, φ satisfies \otimes_2 .

Exercise (3). If S and T are sets, then $C(S \times T) \cong C(S) \otimes C(T)$.

Proof. By the universal property of the free space, there is a unique linear map $\varphi : C(S \times T) \rightarrow C(S) \otimes C(T)$ with $\varphi(s, t) = s \otimes t$ for $s \in S$ and $t \in T$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S \times T & \xrightarrow{i \times i} & C(S) \times C(T) \\ \downarrow i & & \downarrow \otimes \\ C(S \times T) & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & C(S) \otimes C(T) \end{array}$$

Observe that φ is injective since

$$0 = \varphi\left(\sum_i \lambda_i(s_i, t_i)\right) = \sum_i \lambda_i s_i \otimes t_i$$

implies $\lambda_i = 0$ by linear independence of the distinct s_i in $C(S)$ and t_i in $C(T)$ (1.5.1). Also φ is surjective since

$$\left(\sum_i \lambda_i s_i\right) \otimes \left(\sum_j \mu_j t_j\right) = \sum_{i,j} \lambda_i \mu_j s_i \otimes t_j = \sum_{i,j} \lambda_i \mu_j \varphi(s_i, t_j)$$

and the elements on the left generate $C(S) \otimes C(T)$. \square

Exercise (4). If $a \otimes b \neq 0$, then $a \otimes b = a' \otimes b'$ if and only if $a' = \lambda a$ and $b' = \lambda^{-1} b$ for some $\lambda \neq 0$.

Proof. For the forward direction, note all the vectors are nonzero by bilinearity of \otimes . Now

$$a \otimes b + a' \otimes (-b') = 0$$

so we must have $a' = \lambda a$ for some $\lambda \neq 0$ (1.5.1). It follows that

$$a \otimes (b - \lambda b') = 0$$

so $b - \lambda b' = 0$ and $b' = \lambda^{-1} b$.

The reverse direction follows from bilinearity of \otimes . \square

§ 10

Remark. To obtain the tensor product of E/E_1 and F/F_1 , just take the tensor product of E and F and then kill off all the products by elements of E_1 and by elements of F_1 .

§ 11

Remark. The tensor product operation is bilinear on *spaces*:

$$\left(\bigoplus_{\alpha} E_{\alpha}\right) \otimes \left(\bigoplus_{\beta} F_{\beta}\right) = \bigoplus_{\alpha, \beta} E_{\alpha} \otimes F_{\beta}$$

In particular, $E \otimes 0 = 0 = 0 \otimes E$.

§ 12

Remark. In the proof of (1.2), the idea is that $E \cong \bigoplus_{\alpha} E_{\alpha}$ and $F \cong \bigoplus_{\beta} F_{\beta}$, so

$$E \otimes F \cong \left(\bigoplus_{\alpha} E_{\alpha}\right) \otimes \left(\bigoplus_{\beta} F_{\beta}\right) = \bigoplus_{\alpha, \beta} E_{\alpha} \otimes F_{\beta}$$

by the result for external direct sums in the previous subsection. Observe that $h = f \otimes g$ (see § 16).

§ 15

Remark. By (1.7), the intersection of tensor products is the tensor product of the intersections. Observe that (1.4) and (1.5) are special cases of (1.7).

In the proof of (1.4), $u_\beta = v_\beta$ follows immediately from Lemma 1.5.2. In the proof of (1.5), if $z \in (E_1 \otimes F) \cap (E \otimes F_1)$, then in particular $z = x + y$ with $x \in E_1 \otimes F_1$ and $y \in E_1 \otimes F'$. Now $y = z - x \in E \otimes F_1$, so

$$y \in (E \otimes F_1) \cap (E \otimes F') = E \otimes (F_1 \cap F') = E \otimes 0 = 0$$

by (1.4). Hence $y = 0$ and $z = x \in E_1 \otimes F_1$. Note that this argument makes (1.6) superfluous.

Remark. If $\sum_{i=1}^r x_i \otimes y_i = \sum_{j=1}^s x'_j \otimes y'_j$ and the x_i are linearly independent, then the y_i are in the span of the y'_j .

Proof. By induction on s . If the vectors in $\{x_i\} \cup \{x'_j\}$ are linearly independent, then $y_i = 0$ for all i (1.5.1), so the result holds trivially. Otherwise, since the x_i are linearly independent, we may assume (relabeling if necessary) that

$$x_s = \sum_{i=1}^r \lambda_i x_i + \sum_{j=1}^{s-1} \mu_j x'_j \quad (\lambda_i, \mu_j \in \Gamma)$$

By bilinearity of the tensor product, it follows that

$$\sum_{i=1}^r x_i \otimes (y_i - \lambda_i y'_s) = \sum_{j=1}^{s-1} x'_j \otimes (y'_j + \mu_j y'_s)$$

By induction, the $y_i - \lambda_i y'_s$ are in the span of the $y'_j + \mu_j y'_s$, so the y_i are in the span of the y'_j . \square

Remark. If $\sum_{i=1}^r x_i \otimes y_i = \sum_{j=1}^s x'_j \otimes y'_j$ and the x_i and y_i are respectively linearly independent, then $r \leq s$.

Proof. By the previous remark and the elementary fact that the size of a linearly independent set is at most the size of a spanning set in a subspace. \square

Exercise (1). If $\sum_{i=1}^r x_i \otimes y_i = \sum_{j=1}^s x'_j \otimes y'_j$ and the x_i , y_i , x'_j , and y'_j are each respectively linearly independent, then $r = s$.

Proof. By the previous remark, $r \leq s$ and $s \leq r$. \square

Remark. It follows from this result and the proof of Lemma 1.5.3 that the tensor representations of minimal length are precisely the representations by linearly independent vectors. These representations are *not* unique, as already seen in problem 1.8.4.

Exercise (2). A bilinear mapping $\varphi : E \times F \rightarrow G$ satisfies \otimes_2 if and only if the vectors $\varphi(x_\alpha, y_\beta)$ are linearly independent whenever the vectors $x_\alpha \in E$ and $y_\beta \in F$ are linearly independent.

Proof. If $f : E \otimes F \rightarrow G$ is the induced linear map with $\varphi = f \circ \otimes$, then φ satisfies \otimes_2 if and only if f is injective (1.8.1)—that is, if and only if f preserves linear independence. But f preserves linear independence if and only if φ does, since \otimes does (1.5.1). \square

Exercise (3). If $A \neq 0$ is a finite-dimensional algebra forming a tensor product under the algebra multiplication, then $\dim A = 1$.

Proof. By (1.3) $\dim A = (\dim A)^2$, and $\dim A \neq 0$, so $\dim A = 1$. \square

Exercise (5). If E, E^* and F, F^* are pairs of dual spaces of finite dimension and $\beta : E \times F \rightarrow B(E^*, F^*)$ is the bilinear map given by

$$\beta_{x,y}(x^*, y^*) = \langle x^*, x \rangle \langle y^*, y \rangle$$

then $(B(E^*, F^*), \beta)$ is the tensor product of E and F .

Proof. Let x_1, \dots, x_n be a basis in E with dual basis x^{*1}, \dots, x^{*n} in E^* and let y_1, \dots, y_m be a basis in F with dual basis y^{*1}, \dots, y^{*m} in F^* . Let $\varphi^{*kl} : E^* \times F^* \rightarrow \Gamma$ be the basis function in $B(E^*, F^*)$ defined by

$$\varphi^{*kl}(x^{*i}, y^{*j}) = \delta_i^k \delta_j^l$$

Then

$$\beta_{x_k, y_l}(x^{*i}, y^{*j}) = \langle x^{*i}, x_k \rangle \langle y^{*j}, y_l \rangle = \delta_i^k \delta_j^l = \varphi^{*kl}(x^{*i}, y^{*j})$$

so $\beta_{x_k, y_l} = \varphi^{*kl}$. It follows that $\text{Im } \beta = B(E^*, F^*)$, so β satisfies \otimes_1 .

If $\varphi : E \times F \rightarrow G$ is bilinear, define $f : B(E^*, F^*) \rightarrow G$ by $f(\varphi^{*kl}) = \varphi(x_k, y_l)$. Then $\varphi(x_k, y_l) = f(\beta_{x_k, y_l})$, so $\varphi = f\beta$. It follows that β satisfies \otimes_2 . \square

Remark. This result allows us to view an element $\sum x_i \otimes y_i$ of the tensor product as a bilinear function: given linear scalar substitutions $x_i \rightarrow \lambda_i$ and $y_i \rightarrow \mu_i$ as inputs, it produces the scalar $\sum \lambda_i \mu_i$ as output. This is analogous to viewing a vector as a linear function. Indeed, if we identify x with $\langle -, x \rangle$ and y with $\langle -, y \rangle$, then we can identify $x \otimes y$ with $\langle -, x \rangle \langle -, y \rangle$.

§ 16

Remark. The tensor product operation is a bifunctor in the category of vector spaces. It maps the objects E and F to the object $E \otimes F$ and the arrows $\varphi : E \rightarrow E'$ and $\psi : F \rightarrow F'$ to the arrow $\varphi \otimes \psi : E \otimes F \rightarrow E' \otimes F'$.

Remark. Corollary III to Proposition 1.16.1 is not established in subsection 1.27, where it is also assumed that E' and F' are finite-dimensional. However, it is true. In fact, for fixed bases in E, E', F, F' , the tensor products of the induced basis maps in $L(E; E')$ and $L(F; F')$ are the basis maps in $L(E \otimes F, E' \otimes F')$ induced by the tensor products of the basis vectors.³⁰

§ 19

Remark. The proof of (1.12) is captured in the following commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 E \otimes F & \xrightarrow{\varphi \otimes \psi} & E' \otimes F' \\
 \pi \searrow & & \nearrow \chi \\
 \pi_1 \otimes \pi_2 \downarrow & & \uparrow \\
 \overline{E} \otimes \overline{F} & \xrightarrow{g} & \overline{E'} \otimes \overline{F'} \\
 \overline{\varphi} \otimes \overline{\psi} \nearrow & & \searrow
 \end{array}$$

Remark. The “only if” part of the claim in problem 1(a) requires $E \neq 0$ and $F \neq 0$. For example, if $E \neq 0$ and $F = 0$ and $\varphi = 0$ and $\psi = 0$, then $E \otimes F = 0$ and $\varphi \otimes \psi = 0$ is injective despite the fact that φ is not.

Exercise (2). If $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ and $\psi : F \rightarrow F$ are linear with $\dim E = n$ and $\dim F = m$, then

$$\text{tr}(\varphi \otimes \psi) = \text{tr} \varphi \cdot \text{tr} \psi$$

and

$$\det(\varphi \otimes \psi) = (\det \varphi)^m \cdot (\det \psi)^n$$

³⁰See problem 1.19.4.

Proof. Let e_1, \dots, e_n be a basis of E and f_1, \dots, f_m be a basis of F . Write

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi e_i &= \sum_{k=1}^n \alpha_i^k e_k \\ \psi f_j &= \sum_{l=1}^m \beta_j^l f_l\end{aligned}$$

Then $e_1 \otimes f_1, \dots, e_n \otimes f_m$ is a basis of $E \otimes F$ and

$$(\varphi \otimes \psi)(e_i \otimes f_j) = \varphi e_i \otimes \psi f_j = \sum_{k,l} \alpha_i^k \beta_j^l e_k \otimes f_l$$

It follows that

$$\text{tr}(\varphi \otimes \psi) = \sum_{i,j} \alpha_i^i \beta_j^j = \left(\sum_i \alpha_i^i \right) \left(\sum_j \beta_j^j \right) = \text{tr } \varphi \cdot \text{tr } \psi$$

For the determinant, observe that

$$\varphi \otimes \psi = (\varphi \otimes \iota_F) \circ (\iota_E \otimes \psi)$$

so

$$\det(\varphi \otimes \psi) = \det(\varphi \otimes \iota_F) \cdot \det(\iota_E \otimes \psi)$$

But $M(\varphi \otimes \iota_F) = (\alpha_i^k \delta_j^l)$ is block diagonal with m blocks each equal to $M(\varphi)$, so $\det(\varphi \otimes \iota_F) = (\det \varphi)^m$. Similarly $\det(\iota_E \otimes \psi) = (\det \psi)^n$. \square

Exercise (3). If $\alpha, \beta : E \rightarrow E$ are linear with $\dim E = n$, and $\Phi : L(E; E) \rightarrow L(E; E)$ is defined by

$$\Phi \sigma = \alpha \circ \sigma \circ \beta$$

then

$$\text{tr } \Phi = \text{tr } \alpha \cdot \text{tr } \beta$$

and

$$\det \Phi = (\det \alpha \cdot \det \beta)^n$$

Proof. Let e_1, \dots, e_n be a basis of E and let $\psi_{ij} : E \rightarrow E$ be the induced basis transformation defined by $\psi_{ij} e_k = \delta_k^i e_j$. The isomorphism $\Psi : E \otimes E \rightarrow L(E; E)$ defined by $\Psi(e_i \otimes e_j) = \psi_{ij}$ induces an isomorphism

$$\hat{\Psi} : L(E \otimes E; E \otimes E) \cong L(L(E; E); L(E; E))$$

by $\widehat{\Psi}(\sigma \otimes \tau) = \Psi \circ (\sigma \otimes \tau) \circ \Psi^{-1}$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E \otimes E & \xrightarrow{\Psi} & L(E; E) \\ \sigma \otimes \tau \downarrow & & \downarrow \widehat{\Psi}(\sigma \otimes \tau) \\ E \otimes E & \xrightarrow{\Psi} & L(E; E) \end{array}$$

It is easy to verify that

$$\widehat{\Psi}(\beta^* \otimes \alpha) = \Phi$$

where β^* is the transpose of β . Therefore by the previous exercise,

$$\text{tr } \Phi = \text{tr}(\beta^* \otimes \alpha) = \text{tr}(\beta^*) \cdot \text{tr } \alpha = \text{tr } \alpha \cdot \text{tr } \beta$$

and

$$\det \Phi = \det(\beta^* \otimes \alpha) = (\det \beta^*)^n (\det \alpha)^n = \det(\alpha \circ \beta)^n \quad \square$$

Remark. It is more natural to do this problem using the composition algebra (see § 26). Indeed, writing $\alpha = a^* \otimes b$, $\beta = c^* \otimes d$, and $\sigma = x^* \otimes y$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha \circ \sigma \circ \beta &= (a^* \otimes b) \circ (x^* \otimes y) \circ (c^* \otimes d) \\ &= (a^* \otimes b) \circ (\langle x^*, d \rangle (c^* \otimes y)) \\ &= \langle x^*, d \rangle \langle a^*, y \rangle (c^* \otimes b) \\ &= (\langle x^*, d \rangle c^*) \otimes (\langle a^*, y \rangle b) \\ &= \beta^* x^* \otimes \alpha y \\ &= (\beta^* \otimes \alpha) \sigma \end{aligned}$$

so $\Phi = \beta^* \otimes \alpha$. Here $\beta^* = d \otimes c^*$.³¹ Alternately, we could use the isomorphism Ω from Proposition 1.29.1.

§ 20

Remark. A *linear* map is universal if and only if it is an isomorphism. In fact, it satisfies \otimes_1 if and only if it is surjective, and it satisfies \otimes_2 if and only if it is injective (has a left inverse). In this sense, a tensor product map is a multilinear analogue of an isomorphism.

³¹See problem 1.29.1.

Remark. To see that there is a unique isomorphism

$$f : (E_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes E_p) \otimes (E_{p+1} \otimes \cdots \otimes E_{p+q}) \rightarrow E_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes E_{p+q}$$

with

$$f((x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_p) \otimes (x_{p+1} \otimes \cdots \otimes x_{p+q})) = x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_{p+q} \quad (1)$$

observe that for each p -tuple $(x_1, \dots, x_p) \in E_1 \times \cdots \times E_p$, there is a q -linear map $\varphi_{x_1 \dots x_p} : E_{p+1} \times \cdots \times E_{p+q} \rightarrow E_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes E_{p+q}$ given by

$$\varphi_{x_1 \dots x_p}(x_{p+1}, \dots, x_{p+q}) = x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_{p+q}$$

By the universal property of $E_{p+1} \otimes \cdots \otimes E_{p+q}$, it follows that there is a linear map $f_{x_1 \dots x_p} : E_{p+1} \otimes \cdots \otimes E_{p+q} \rightarrow E_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes E_{p+q}$ with

$$f_{x_1 \dots x_p}(x_{p+1} \otimes \cdots \otimes x_{p+q}) = x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_{p+q}$$

Now the mapping $(x_1, \dots, x_p) \mapsto f_{x_1 \dots x_p}$ is p -linear, so by the universal property of $E_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes E_p$, there is a linear map

$$\widehat{f} : E_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes E_p \rightarrow L(E_{p+1} \otimes \cdots \otimes E_{p+q}; E_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes E_{p+q})$$

with $\widehat{f}(x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_p) = f_{x_1 \dots x_p}$. Define

$$\varphi : (E_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes E_p) \times (E_{p+1} \otimes \cdots \otimes E_{p+q}) \rightarrow E_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes E_{p+q}$$

by $\varphi(x, y) = \widehat{f}(x)(y)$. Then φ is bilinear, so by the universal property of $(E_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes E_p) \otimes (E_{p+1} \otimes \cdots \otimes E_{p+q})$, there is a linear map f satisfying $f \circ \otimes = \varphi$, which implies (1).

By the universal property of $E_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes E_{p+q}$, the $(p+q)$ -linear map

$$\psi : E_1 \times \cdots \times E_{p+q} \rightarrow (E_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes E_p) \otimes (E_{p+1} \otimes \cdots \otimes E_{p+q})$$

defined by

$$\psi(x_1, \dots, x_{p+q}) = (x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_p) \otimes (x_{p+1} \otimes \cdots \otimes x_{p+q})$$

induces a linear map

$$g : E_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes E_{p+q} \rightarrow (E_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes E_p) \otimes (E_{p+1} \otimes \cdots \otimes E_{p+q})$$

with

$$g(x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_{p+q}) = (x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_p) \otimes (x_{p+1} \otimes \cdots \otimes x_{p+q})$$

By universal properties again, $f \circ g = \text{id}$ and $g \circ f = \text{id}$ so f is an isomorphism, and f is uniquely determined by (1).

Remark. If the vectors a_v^i are linearly independent in E_i ($i = 1, \dots, p$), then their tensor products $a_{v_1}^1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{v_p}^p$ are linearly independent in $E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_p$. Indeed, if $p = 2$, this follows from Lemma 1.5.1. If $p > 2$, we use the natural isomorphism

$$E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_p \cong (E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_{p-1}) \otimes E_p$$

If

$$\sum_{v_1, \dots, v_p} \lambda_{v_1 \dots v_p} a_{v_1}^1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{v_p}^p = 0$$

then

$$\sum_{v_1, \dots, v_p} (\lambda_{v_1 \dots v_p} a_{v_1}^1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{v_{p-1}}^{p-1}) \otimes a_{v_p}^p = 0$$

Since the $a_{v_p}^p$ are linearly independent in E_p , it follows from Lemma 1.5.1 that

$$\lambda_{v_1 \dots v_p} a_{v_1}^1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{v_{p-1}}^{p-1} = 0$$

for all v_1, \dots, v_p . But $a_{v_1}^1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{v_{p-1}}^{p-1} \neq 0$ since $a_v^i \neq 0$ for all i, v (see problem 1), so $\lambda_{v_1 \dots v_p} = 0$ for all v_1, \dots, v_p .

If the vectors a_v^i span E_i ($i = 1, \dots, p$), then clearly their tensor products span $E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_p$. It follows that if the vectors a_v^i form a basis of E_i ($i = 1, \dots, p$), then their tensor products form a basis of $E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_p$.

Remark. To see that for $\varphi_i : E_i \rightarrow F_i$ the map $(\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_p) \mapsto \varphi_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \varphi_p$ induces an injection

$$L(E_1; F_1) \otimes \dots \otimes L(E_p; F_p) \rightarrow L(E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_p; F_1 \otimes \dots \otimes F_p)$$

proceed by induction on $p \geq 2$. For $p = 2$, this is just Proposition 1.16.1. For $p > 2$, if we make the appropriate identifications we have

$$\begin{aligned} L(E_1; F_1) \otimes \dots \otimes L(E_p; F_p) &= (L(E_1; F_1) \otimes \dots \otimes L(E_{p-1}; F_{p-1})) \otimes L(E_p; F_p) \\ &\subseteq L(E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_{p-1}; F_1 \otimes \dots \otimes F_{p-1}) \otimes L(E_p; F_p) \\ &\subseteq L((E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_{p-1}) \otimes E_p; (F_1 \otimes \dots \otimes F_{p-1}) \otimes F_p) \\ &= L(E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_p; F_1 \otimes \dots \otimes F_p) \end{aligned}$$

Exercise (1). In $E_1 \otimes \dots \otimes E_p$:

- (a) $x_1 \otimes \dots \otimes x_p = 0$ if and only if at least one $x_i = 0$.

(b) If $x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_p \neq 0$, then

$$x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_p = y_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes y_p$$

if and only if $y_i = \lambda_i x_i$ with $\lambda_1 \cdots \lambda_p = 1$.

Proof. The reverse directions follow from multilinearity of the tensor product. The forward directions follow by induction on p using the natural isomorphism

$$E_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes E_p \cong (E_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes E_{p-1}) \otimes E_p$$

(a) If $p = 2$, the result follows from Lemma 1.5.1. If $p > 2$, then $(x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_{p-1}) \otimes x_p = 0$, so by Lemma 1.5.1 either $x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_{p-1} = 0$ and $x_i = 0$ for some $i = 1, \dots, p-1$ by induction, or else $x_p = 0$.

(b) If $p = 2$, the result follows from problem 1.8.4. If $p > 2$, then

$$(x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_{p-1}) \otimes x_p = (y_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes y_{p-1}) \otimes y_p$$

so by the same problem,

$$y_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes y_{p-1} = \lambda_p^{-1} x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_{p-1} \quad \text{and} \quad y_p = \lambda_p x_p$$

for some $\lambda_p \neq 0$. Setting $\mu = \lambda_p^{-1}/(p-1)$, we have

$$y_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes y_{p-1} = \mu x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mu x_{p-1}$$

so $y_i = \mu_i \mu x_i$ for $i = 1, \dots, p-1$ with $\mu_1 \cdots \mu_{p-1} = 1$ by induction. Setting $\lambda_i = \mu_i \mu$ for $i = 1, \dots, p-1$, we have $y_i = \lambda_i x_i$ for $i = 1, \dots, p$ and $\lambda_1 \cdots \lambda_p = 1$ as desired. \square

§ 21

Remark. For $p, q \geq 1$, let

$$\varphi_i : \prod_{j=1}^p E_j^i \rightarrow E_{p+1}^i \quad (i = 1, \dots, q)$$

be a family of q p -linear maps. Then there is a unique p -linear map

$$\varphi = \varphi_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \varphi_q : \prod_{j=1}^p \left(\bigotimes_{i=1}^q E_j^i \right) \rightarrow \bigotimes_{i=1}^q E_{p+1}^i$$

with

$$\varphi(x_1^1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_1^q, \dots, x_p^1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_p^q) = \varphi_1(x_1^1, \dots, x_p^1) \otimes \cdots \otimes \varphi_q(x_1^q, \dots, x_p^q)$$

Moreover,

$$\ker_j \varphi = \sum_{i=1}^q E_j^1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \ker_j \varphi_i \otimes \cdots \otimes E_j^q \quad (j = 1, \dots, p)$$

In particular, if each φ_i is nondegenerate, then φ is nondegenerate.

§ 22

Remark. If Φ is bilinear in $E \times E'$ and Ψ is bilinear in $F \times F'$, then nondegeneracy of $\Phi \otimes \Psi$ does not imply nondegeneracy of Φ and Ψ unless all the spaces are nonzero, contrary to what the book says. For example, if $E \neq 0$ and $E' = 0$, $F = F' = 0$, and $\Phi = 0$ and $\Psi = 0$, then Φ is degenerate, but $E \otimes F = 0$ and $E' \otimes F' = 0$, so $\Phi \otimes \Psi = 0$ is nondegenerate.³²

§ 26

Remark. If e_1, \dots, e_n is a basis in E and f_1, \dots, f_n is its dual basis in $L(E)$, then the basis transformation φ_{ij} in $L(E; E)$ with $\varphi_{ij}(e_k) = \delta_{ik} e_j$ is given by $x \mapsto f_i(x) e_j$. Therefore it is natural to consider the isomorphism $T : L(E) \otimes E \rightarrow L(E; E)$ with $T(f_i \otimes e_j) = \varphi_{ij}$. In the algebra induced by T^{-1} in $L(E) \otimes E$,

$$(f_i \otimes e_j) \circ (f_k \otimes e_l) = T^{-1}(\varphi_{ij} \circ \varphi_{kl}) = T^{-1}(\delta_{il} \varphi_{kj}) = f_i(e_l)(f_k \otimes e_j)$$

This motivates the definition of the composition algebra. An alternative way to discover the isomorphism is (see § 28)

$$L(E; E) \cong L(E \otimes \Gamma; \Gamma \otimes E) \cong L(E; \Gamma) \otimes L(\Gamma; E) \cong L(E) \otimes E$$

Exercise (1). For the bilinear map

$$\gamma : L(E, E'; E'') \times L(F, F'; F'') \rightarrow L(E \otimes F, E' \otimes F'; E'' \otimes F'')$$

with

$$\gamma(\varphi, \psi) : (x \otimes y, x' \otimes y') \mapsto \varphi(x, x') \otimes \psi(y, y')$$

the pair $(\text{Im } \gamma, \gamma)$ is the tensor product of $L(E, E'; E'')$ and $L(F, F'; F'')$.

³²This is essentially the same error as in problem 1.19.1(a) above.

Proof. By transfer of Corollary II of Proposition 1.16.1, using the isomorphism between linear and bilinear maps induced by the tensor product.

In detail, consider the following commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 L(E \otimes E'; E'') \otimes L(F \otimes F'; F'') & \xrightarrow{f} & L((E \otimes E') \otimes (F \otimes F'); E'' \otimes F'') \\
 \uparrow \cong & & \downarrow \cong \\
 & & L((E \otimes F) \otimes (E' \otimes F'); E'' \otimes F'') \\
 & & \downarrow \cong \\
 L(E, E'; E'') \otimes L(F, F'; F'') & \xrightarrow{g} & L(E \otimes F, E' \otimes F'; E'' \otimes F'') \\
 \uparrow \otimes & \nearrow \gamma & \\
 L(E, E'; E'') \times L(F, F'; F'') & &
 \end{array}$$

Note g is injective since f is injective (1.16.1), so γ satisfies \otimes_2 (1.8.1). Since γ also satisfies \otimes_1 , it follows that γ is the tensor product. \square

Exercise (2). If E, E^* and F, F^* are pairs of dual spaces with $E_1 \subseteq E$ and $F_1 \subseteq F$ subspaces, then a scalar product is induced between

$$(E^* \otimes F^*) / (E_1^\perp \otimes F^* + E^* \otimes F_1^\perp) \quad \text{and} \quad E_1 \otimes F_1$$

by the scalar product between $E^* \otimes F^*$ and $E \otimes F$. In particular,

$$(E_1 \otimes F_1)^\perp = E_1^\perp \otimes F^* + E^* \otimes F_1^\perp$$

Proof. A scalar product is induced between E^* / E_1^\perp and E_1 by $\langle \overline{x^*}, x \rangle = \langle x^*, x \rangle$, and between F^* / F_1^\perp and F_1 by $\langle \overline{y^*}, y \rangle = \langle y^*, y \rangle$. Therefore a scalar product is induced between $(E^* / E_1^\perp) \otimes (F^* / F_1^\perp)$ and $E_1 \otimes F_1$ by

$$\langle \overline{x^*} \otimes \overline{y^*}, x \otimes y \rangle = \langle x^*, x \rangle \langle y^*, y \rangle = \langle x^* \otimes y^*, x \otimes y \rangle$$

where the scalar product on the right is between $E^* \otimes F^*$ and $E \otimes F$. However,

$$(E^* \otimes F^*) / (E_1^\perp \otimes F^* + E^* \otimes F_1^\perp) \cong (E^* / E_1^\perp) \otimes (F^* / F_1^\perp)$$

where $\overline{x^* \otimes y^*} \mapsto \overline{x^*} \otimes \overline{y^*}$, so there is a scalar product

$$\langle \overline{x^* \otimes y^*}, x \otimes y \rangle = \langle x^* \otimes y^*, x \otimes y \rangle$$

as required. \square

Exercise (3). If E, E^* are dual spaces and $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ and $\varphi^* : E^* \leftarrow E^*$ are dual transformations, then $\varphi \otimes \varphi^*$ is self-dual.

Proof. Recall that $E \otimes E^*$ is self-dual under the scalar product

$$\langle x \otimes x^*, y \otimes y^* \rangle = \langle x^*, y \rangle \langle y^*, x \rangle$$

Now

$$\begin{aligned} \langle (\varphi \otimes \varphi^*)(x \otimes x^*), y \otimes y^* \rangle &= \langle \varphi x \otimes \varphi^* x^*, y \otimes y^* \rangle \\ &= \langle \varphi^* x^*, y \rangle \langle y^*, \varphi x \rangle \\ &= \langle x^*, \varphi y \rangle \langle \varphi^* y^*, x \rangle \\ &= \langle x \otimes x^*, \varphi y \otimes \varphi^* y^* \rangle \\ &= \langle x \otimes x^*, (\varphi \otimes \varphi^*)(y \otimes y^*) \rangle \end{aligned}$$

so $(\varphi \otimes \varphi^*)^* = \varphi \otimes \varphi^*$. \square

§ 28

In this subsection, all vector spaces are finite-dimensional.

Remark. By (1.30), if we view $a^* \otimes a$ as a linear transformation, then its trace is just $\langle a^*, a \rangle$. This gives a natural (coordinate-free) definition of the trace. This also gives a slick proof that $\text{tr}(\varphi \otimes \psi) = \text{tr} \varphi \cdot \text{tr} \psi$. Indeed, if we write $\varphi = a^* \otimes a$ and $\psi = b^* \otimes b$, then we can write $\varphi \otimes \psi = (a^* \otimes b^*) \otimes (a \otimes b)$ since

$$\begin{aligned} (\varphi \otimes \psi)(x \otimes y) &= \varphi x \otimes \psi y \\ &= (\langle a^*, x \rangle a) \otimes (\langle b^*, y \rangle b) \\ &= \langle a^*, x \rangle \langle b^*, y \rangle (a \otimes b) \\ &= \langle a^* \otimes b^*, x \otimes y \rangle (a \otimes b) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\text{tr}(\varphi \otimes \psi) = \langle a^* \otimes b^*, a \otimes b \rangle = \langle a^*, a \rangle \langle b^*, b \rangle = \text{tr} \varphi \cdot \text{tr} \psi$$

§ 29

In this subsection, all vector spaces are finite-dimensional.

Remark. In the proof of Proposition 1.29.1, note that if $\alpha = a^* \otimes b$ and $\beta = c^* \otimes d$, then

$$F(\alpha \otimes \beta)(x^* \otimes y) = \langle a^* \otimes b, x^* \otimes y \rangle (c^* \otimes d) = \langle x^*, b \rangle \langle a^*, y \rangle (c^* \otimes d)$$

Comparing with the calculation after problem 1.19.3 above, we immediately see that Q , which swaps b and d , satisfies

$$F(Q(\alpha \otimes \beta)) = \beta^* \otimes \alpha = \Omega(\alpha \otimes \beta)$$

These results show that we can view $L(A; A)$ as a tensor product in multiple ways.

Exercise (1). Let E, E^* and F, F^* be pairs of dual spaces. If $a^* \in E^*$ and $b \in F$, then

$$(a^* \otimes b)^* = b \otimes a^*$$

Proof. Recall $a^* \otimes b : E \rightarrow F$ is defined by $x \mapsto \langle a^*, x \rangle b$ and $b \otimes a^* : F^* \rightarrow E^*$ is defined by $y^* \mapsto \langle y^*, b \rangle a^*$. For $y^* \in F^*$ and $x \in E$,

$$\langle (b \otimes a^*) y^*, x \rangle = \langle y^*, b \rangle \langle a^*, x \rangle = \langle y^*, (a^* \otimes b) x \rangle \quad \square$$

Exercise (2). If $E, F \neq 0$ are Euclidean spaces with $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ and $\psi : F \rightarrow F$, then $\varphi \otimes \psi : E \otimes F \rightarrow E \otimes F$ is a rotation if and only if $\varphi = \lambda \tau_E$ and $\psi = \lambda^{-1} \tau_F$ where τ_E and τ_F are rotations and $\lambda \neq 0$.

Proof. If $\varphi = \lambda \tau_E$ and $\psi = \lambda^{-1} \tau_F$, then $\varphi \otimes \psi = \tau_E \otimes \tau_F$, and

$$\begin{aligned} \widetilde{\tau_E \otimes \tau_F} \circ (\tau_E \otimes \tau_F) &= (\widetilde{\tau_E} \otimes \widetilde{\tau_F}) \circ (\tau_E \otimes \tau_F) \\ &= (\widetilde{\tau_E} \circ \tau_E) \otimes (\widetilde{\tau_F} \circ \tau_F) \\ &= \iota_E \otimes \iota_F \\ &= \iota_{E \otimes F} \end{aligned}$$

so $\widetilde{\varphi \otimes \psi} = (\varphi \otimes \psi)^{-1}$ and $\varphi \otimes \psi$ is a rotation.

Conversely if $\varphi \otimes \psi$ is a rotation, then

$$\widetilde{\varphi \otimes \psi} = \widetilde{\varphi \otimes \psi} = (\varphi \otimes \psi)^{-1} = \varphi^{-1} \otimes \psi^{-1}$$

It follows that $\tilde{\varphi} = \mu\varphi^{-1}$ and $\tilde{\psi} = \mu^{-1}\psi^{-1}$ for some $\mu \neq 0$.³³ We may assume $\mu > 0$ (otherwise consider $-\varphi$ and $-\psi$). Set $\lambda = \sqrt{\mu} > 0$ and define $\tau_E = \lambda^{-1}\varphi$ and $\tau_F = \lambda\psi$. Then $\widetilde{\tau_E} \circ \tau_E = \iota_E$, so $\widetilde{\tau_E} = \tau_E^{-1}$ and τ_E is a rotation, and similarly for τ_F . \square

Remark. The proofs of the other parts of this problem in the book are similar.

Exercise (3). Let E be a real vector space with $\dim E = n$ and $\varphi, \psi : E \rightarrow E$ be regular transformations.

- (a) If n is even, then $\varphi \otimes \psi$ preserves orientation.
- (b) If n is odd, then $\varphi \otimes \psi$ preserves orientation if and only if φ and ψ either both preserve orientation or both reverse orientation.

Proof. This follows from $\det(\varphi \otimes \psi) = (\det \varphi \cdot \det \psi)^n$.³⁴ \square

Chapter 2

§ 2

Remark. If A and B are algebras and $A \otimes B$ denotes the tensor product of the underlying *vector spaces*, define $\varphi : A \times B \times A \times B \rightarrow A \otimes B$ by

$$\varphi(x_1, y_1, x_2, y_2) = x_1 x_2 \otimes y_1 y_2$$

Then φ is multilinear, so it induces a linear map $f : (A \otimes B) \otimes (A \otimes B) \rightarrow A \otimes B$ satisfying

$$f((x_1 \otimes y_1) \otimes (x_2 \otimes y_2)) = x_1 x_2 \otimes y_1 y_2$$

Now the bilinear map $f \circ \otimes$ makes $A \otimes B$ into an algebra with

$$(x_1 \otimes y_1)(x_2 \otimes y_2) = x_1 x_2 \otimes y_1 y_2$$

This construction avoids the use of structure maps.

³³See problem 1.8.4.

³⁴See problem 1.19.2.

§ 3

Remark. If $\varphi_1 : A_1 \rightarrow B_1$ and $\varphi_2 : A_2 \rightarrow B_2$ are algebra homomorphisms and $\varphi = \varphi_1 \otimes \varphi_2$ is the tensor product of the underlying *linear maps*, then

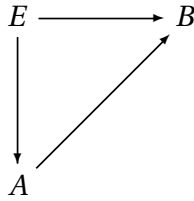
$$\begin{aligned}\varphi((x_1 \otimes x_2)(y_1 \otimes y_2)) &= \varphi(x_1 y_1 \otimes x_2 y_2) \\ &= \varphi_1(x_1 y_1) \otimes \varphi_2(x_2 y_2) \\ &= (\varphi_1 x_1 \varphi_1 y_1) \otimes (\varphi_2 x_2 \varphi_2 y_2) \\ &= (\varphi_1 x_1 \otimes \varphi_2 x_2)(\varphi_1 y_1 \otimes \varphi_2 y_2) \\ &= \varphi(x_1 \otimes x_2) \varphi(y_1 \otimes y_2)\end{aligned}$$

Since φ is linear, it follows that φ is an algebra homomorphism. This proof avoids the use of structure maps.

Chapter 3

§ 3

Remark. The tensor algebra $\otimes E$ is a universal (initial) object in the category of “associative unital algebras with linear maps of E into them”. In this category, the objects are linear maps $E \rightarrow A$, for associative unital algebras A , and the arrows are algebra homomorphisms $A \rightarrow B$ which preserve the units and respect the linear maps from E :



Every object in this category can be obtained from the tensor algebra $\otimes E$ in a unique way. This is why $\otimes E$ is said to satisfy the “universal property”. This is only possible because the elements of $\otimes E$ satisfy only those properties that are required to make $\otimes E$ into an associative unital algebra containing E . By category theoretic abstract nonsense, $\otimes E$ is unique up to isomorphism (§ 4).

§ 5

Remark. We have a functor from the category of vector spaces into the category of associative unital algebras, which sends vector spaces E and F to the tensor

algebras $\otimes E$ and $\otimes F$, and which sends a linear map $\varphi : E \rightarrow F$ to the algebra homomorphism $\varphi_{\otimes} : \otimes E \rightarrow \otimes F$.

Remark. By a remark from § 21 of chapter 1 above,

$$\ker \varphi_{\otimes} = \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} \sum_{i=1}^p E \otimes \cdots \otimes \ker \varphi \otimes \cdots \otimes E$$

where $\ker \varphi$ is in position i of p on the right.

§ 6

Remark. There is a connection between the derivation and the trace of a linear transformation. If E is an n -dimensional vector space and $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ is linear, let $\Delta : E^n \rightarrow \Gamma$ be a nonzero determinant function in E . Recall

$$\operatorname{tr} \varphi \cdot \Delta(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta(x_1, \dots, \varphi x_i, \dots, x_n)$$

By the universal property of the tensor product $\otimes^n E$, there is an induced linear function $\Delta_{\otimes} : \otimes^n E \rightarrow \Gamma$ with $\Delta_{\otimes}(x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_n) = \Delta(x_1, \dots, x_n)$. Now

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{tr} \varphi \cdot \Delta_{\otimes}(x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_n) &= \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta_{\otimes}(x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \varphi x_i \otimes \cdots \otimes x_n) \\ &= \Delta_{\otimes}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \varphi x_i \otimes \cdots \otimes x_n\right) \\ &= \Delta_{\otimes}(\theta_{\textcircled{n}}(\varphi)(x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_n)) \end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$\Delta_{\otimes} \circ (\operatorname{tr} \varphi \cdot \iota) = \operatorname{tr} \varphi \cdot \Delta_{\otimes} = \Delta_{\otimes} \circ \theta_{\textcircled{n}}(\varphi)$$

Since $\theta_{\textcircled{n}}$ is linear by (3.7), it follows that the trace is also linear. If $\psi : E \rightarrow E$ is another linear transformation, then it follows from (3.8) that

$$\operatorname{tr}(\varphi\psi) - \operatorname{tr}(\psi\varphi) = \operatorname{tr}(\varphi\psi - \psi\varphi) = \operatorname{tr} \varphi \cdot \operatorname{tr} \psi - \operatorname{tr} \psi \cdot \operatorname{tr} \varphi = 0$$

so $\operatorname{tr}(\varphi\psi) = \operatorname{tr}(\psi\varphi)$.³⁵

³⁵This is what problem 3.7.3 was supposed to be.

§ 7

Exercise (1). If $u_1 = a_1 \otimes b_1 \neq 0$ and $u_2 = a_2 \otimes b_2$ are decomposable tensors, then $u_1 + u_2$ is decomposable if and only if $a_2 = \lambda a_1$ or $b_2 = \mu b_1$ for some $\lambda, \mu \in \Gamma$.

Proof. By the remark after problem 1.15.1 above. \square

§ 11

Remark. In the finite-dimensional case, the following are familiar types of mixed tensors in E^*, E :

Bidegree	Type
(0,0)	Scalar
(0,1)	Vector
(1,0)	Linear function
(1,1)	Linear transformation

§ 12

Remark. We have

$$\otimes(E^*, E) = \sum_{p,q} \otimes_q^p(E^*, E)$$

An element of this algebra is a finite sum of decomposable homogeneous mixed tensors. As an example of multiplication, if $x^* \otimes x$ and $y^* \otimes y$ are (1,1)-tensors, then

$$(x^* \otimes x)(y^* \otimes y) = x^* \otimes y^* \otimes x \otimes y$$

is a (2,2)-tensor.

Remark. The space $\otimes(E^*, E)$ is clearly dual to itself, and to $\otimes(E, E^*)$.

§ 14

Remark. The mapping $T : GL(E) \rightarrow GL(\otimes_q^p(E^*, E))$ given by $\alpha \mapsto T_\alpha$ is a group homomorphism. The map T_α is tensorial if α is in the center of $GL(E)$.

Remark. We have $T_\alpha^* = T_{\alpha^{-1}}$. Indeed, since $(\alpha^\otimes)^{-1} = (\alpha^{-1})^\otimes$,

$$\begin{aligned}\langle y^* \otimes y, T_\alpha(x^* \otimes x) \rangle &= \langle y^* \otimes y, (\alpha^\otimes)^{-1} x^* \otimes \alpha_\otimes x \rangle \\ &= \langle y^*, \alpha_\otimes x \rangle \langle (\alpha^\otimes)^{-1} x^*, y \rangle \\ &= \langle \alpha^\otimes y^*, x \rangle \langle x^*, (\alpha^{-1})_\otimes y \rangle \\ &= \langle \alpha^\otimes y^* \otimes (\alpha^{-1})_\otimes y, x^* \otimes x \rangle \\ &= \langle T_{\alpha^{-1}}(y^* \otimes y), x^* \otimes x \rangle\end{aligned}$$

Remark. Writing $\otimes_q^p(E^*, E) \otimes \otimes_q^p(E^*, E) = \otimes_q^p(E^* \otimes E^*, E \otimes E)$ (see problem 10), we have $T_\alpha \otimes T_\beta = T_{\alpha \otimes \beta}$. Writing $\otimes_q^p(E^*, E) \otimes \otimes_s^r(E^*, E) = \otimes_{q+s}^{p+r}(E^*, E)$, we have $T_\alpha \otimes T_\beta = T_\alpha$.

Remark. If e_i, e^{*i} and \bar{e}_i, \bar{e}^{*i} are pairs of dual bases in E, E^* and α is the change of basis transformation $e_i \mapsto \bar{e}_i$ in E , then α^{*-1} is the corresponding change of basis transformation $e^{*i} \mapsto \bar{e}^{*i}$ in E^* .³⁶ Therefore in $\otimes_q^p(E^*, E)$,

$$T_\alpha(e_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_q}^{v_1 \dots v_p}) = \bar{e}_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_q}^{v_1 \dots v_p}$$

In other words, T_α is the induced change of basis transformation in $\otimes_q^p(E^*, E)$. It follows that a mapping is tensorial if and only if its matrix is invariant under this type of change of basis.

Remark. For $\alpha = \lambda \iota$ with $\lambda \neq 0$, $\alpha^{*-1} = \lambda^{-1} \iota$, so $T_\alpha = \lambda^{q-p} \iota$ on $\otimes_q^p(E^*, E)$.

Remark. If E is finite-dimensional and we identify $\otimes_1^1(E^*, E)$ with $L(E; E)$ in the natural way, then for any automorphism α of E ,

$$T_\alpha(a^* \otimes b) = \alpha \circ (a^* \otimes b) \circ \alpha^{-1}$$

Exercise (1). If e_v, e^{*v} and \bar{e}_v, \bar{e}^{*v} are pairs of dual bases in E, E^* related by

$$\bar{e}_v = \sum_\lambda \alpha_v^\lambda e_\lambda \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{e}^{*v} = \sum_\lambda \beta_\lambda^v e^{*\lambda}$$

then the components of a mixed tensor $w \in \otimes_q^p(E^*, E)$ are related by

$$\bar{\zeta}_{v_1 \dots v_p}^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_q} = \sum_{(\kappa), (\lambda)} \alpha_{v_1}^{\lambda_1} \dots \alpha_{v_p}^{\lambda_p} \beta_{\kappa_1}^{\mu_1} \dots \beta_{\kappa_q}^{\mu_q} \zeta_{\lambda_1 \dots \lambda_p}^{\kappa_1 \dots \kappa_q}$$

³⁶See the remark in chapter III, § 3 of [1] above.

Proof. In this proof, we use the Einstein summation convention to simplify the notation. Since $e_\kappa = \beta_\kappa^\mu \bar{e}_\mu$ and $e^{*\lambda} = \alpha_\nu^\lambda \bar{e}^{*\nu}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
w &= \zeta_{\lambda_1 \dots \lambda_p}^{\kappa_1 \dots \kappa_q} e_{\kappa_1 \dots \kappa_q}^{\lambda_1 \dots \lambda_p} \\
&= \zeta_{\lambda_1 \dots \lambda_p}^{\kappa_1 \dots \kappa_q} e^{*\lambda_1} \otimes \dots \otimes e^{*\lambda_p} \otimes e_{\kappa_1} \otimes \dots \otimes e_{\kappa_q} \\
&= \zeta_{\lambda_1 \dots \lambda_p}^{\kappa_1 \dots \kappa_q} (\alpha_{\nu_1}^{\lambda_1} \bar{e}^{*\nu_1}) \otimes \dots \otimes (\alpha_{\nu_p}^{\lambda_p} \bar{e}^{*\nu_p}) \otimes (\beta_{\kappa_1}^{\mu_1} \bar{e}_{\mu_1}) \otimes \dots \otimes (\beta_{\kappa_q}^{\mu_q} \bar{e}_{\mu_q}) \\
&= \zeta_{\lambda_1 \dots \lambda_p}^{\kappa_1 \dots \kappa_q} \alpha_{\nu_1}^{\lambda_1} \dots \alpha_{\nu_p}^{\lambda_p} \beta_{\kappa_1}^{\mu_1} \dots \beta_{\kappa_q}^{\mu_q} \bar{e}_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_q}^{\nu_1 \dots \nu_p}
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\bar{\zeta}_{\nu_1 \dots \nu_p}^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_q} = \alpha_{\nu_1}^{\lambda_1} \dots \alpha_{\nu_p}^{\lambda_p} \beta_{\kappa_1}^{\mu_1} \dots \beta_{\kappa_q}^{\mu_q} \zeta_{\lambda_1 \dots \lambda_p}^{\kappa_1 \dots \kappa_q} \quad \square$$

Remark. This relationship serves as the basis of an alternative definition of a *tensor* as a multidimensional array of numbers which transforms according to this rule under change of basis.

Exercise (3). For $u^* \in \otimes^p E^*$ and $u \in \otimes^p E$,

$$\langle u^*, u \rangle = (C_1^1)^p (u^* \otimes u)$$

Proof. By induction on p . For $p = 0$ the result is trivial, and for $p = 1$ it follows from the definition of C_1^1 . For $p > 1$, write $u^* = u^{*1} \otimes \tilde{u}^*$ and $u = u_1 \otimes \tilde{u}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
(C_1^1)^p (u^* \otimes u) &= (C_1^1)^{p-1} (C_1^1 (u^* \otimes u)) \\
&= \langle u^{*1}, u_1 \rangle (C_1^1)^{p-1} (\tilde{u}^* \otimes \tilde{u}) \\
&= \langle u^{*1}, u_1 \rangle \langle \tilde{u}^*, \tilde{u} \rangle \\
&= \langle u^*, u \rangle
\end{aligned} \quad \square$$

Exercise (4). If the mappings

$$\Phi : \otimes_q^p (E^*, E) \rightarrow \otimes_s^r (E^*, E) \quad \text{and} \quad \Phi^* : \otimes_p^q (E^*, E) \leftarrow \otimes_r^s (E^*, E)$$

are dual and Φ is tensorial, then Φ^* is tensorial.

Proof. If α is an automorphism of E , then by a remark above

$$\Phi^* \circ T_\alpha = \Phi^* \circ T_{\alpha^{-1}}^* = (T_{\alpha^{-1}} \circ \Phi)^* = (\Phi \circ T_{\alpha^{-1}})^* = T_{\alpha^{-1}}^* \circ \Phi^* = T_\alpha \circ \Phi^* \quad \square$$

Exercise (5). The sum, composite, and tensor product of tensorial mappings are tensorial.

Proof. If Φ and Ψ are tensorial, then it is obvious that $\Phi + \Psi$ and $\Phi \circ \Psi$ are also tensorial. By a remark above,

$$\begin{aligned}
 (\Phi \otimes \Psi) \circ T_\alpha &= (\Phi \otimes \Psi) \circ (T_\alpha \otimes T_\alpha) \\
 &= (\Phi \circ T_\alpha) \otimes (\Psi \circ T_\alpha) \\
 &= (T_\alpha \circ \Phi) \otimes (T_\alpha \circ \Psi) \\
 &= (T_\alpha \otimes T_\alpha) \circ (\Phi \otimes \Psi) \\
 &= T_\alpha \circ (\Phi \otimes \Psi)
 \end{aligned}$$

so $\Phi \otimes \Psi$ is tensorial. \square

Exercise (6). If $\Phi : \bigotimes_q^p(E^*, E) \rightarrow \bigotimes_s^r(E^*, E)$ is a nonzero tensorial mapping, then $r - p = s - q$.

Proof. Let $\lambda > 1$. By a remark above, $\lambda^{q-p}\Phi = \lambda^{s-r}\Phi$ since Φ is tensorial. It follows that $\lambda^{q-p+r-s} = 1$ since $\Phi \neq 0$, so $q - p + r - s = 0$ since $\lambda > 1$. \square

Exercise (7). If E is finite-dimensional and for $a \in E^* \otimes E$ the linear map $\mu(a)$ is defined by $z \mapsto a \otimes z$ for $z \in E$, then $\mu(a)$ is tensorial if and only if $a = \lambda t$ where t is the unit tensor.

Proof. By direct computation, it is easily verified that $\mu(a)$ is tensorial if and only if $T_\alpha(a) = a$ for all automorphisms α of E . By a remark above, the latter is true if and only if a , when viewed as a transformation of E , is preserved under conjugation, which is true if and only if it is a scalar transformation. Since the unit tensor corresponds to the identity transformation, the result follows. \square

Exercise (8). If E is finite-dimensional, then every tensorial map $\Phi : E^* \otimes E \rightarrow \Gamma$ is of the form $\Phi = \lambda \cdot C$ where C is the contraction operator.

Proof. This follows from problem 1.3.7 applied to $\Phi \circ \otimes$. \square

§ 15

Remark. The induced inner products in $\bigotimes^p E$ and $\bigotimes E$ are just the induced scalar products from § 8 with $E^* = E$ under the inner product.

§ 17

Remark. The metric tensors encode all of the information required to compute inner products, and hence metric properties (length, angle, etc.), in E and E^* .

Remark. We have

$$\tau_{\otimes}(g) = \sum_v \tau e_v \otimes \tau e_v = g^*$$

so $\tau_{\otimes}^{-1}(g^*) = g$. This yields

$$\begin{aligned} (x^*, y^*) &= (\tau^{-1}x^*, \tau^{-1}y^*) \\ &= \langle g^*, \tau^{-1}x^* \otimes \tau^{-1}y^* \rangle \\ &= \langle g^*, \tau_{\otimes}^{-1}(x^* \otimes y^*) \rangle \\ &= \langle x^* \otimes y^*, \tau_{\otimes}^{-1}g^* \rangle \\ &= \langle x^* \otimes y^*, g \rangle \end{aligned}$$

Exercise (4). If E, E^* is a pair of dual Euclidean spaces and $\varphi = a^* \otimes b$ is a linear transformation of E , then $\tilde{\varphi} = \tau b \otimes \tau^{-1}a^*$.

Proof. Let $\psi = \tau b \otimes \tau^{-1}a^*$. For $x \in E$,

$$\psi x = \langle \tau b, x \rangle \tau^{-1}a^* = (x, b)\tau^{-1}a^*$$

so for $y \in E$,

$$(\psi x, y) = (x, b)(\tau^{-1}a^*, y) = (x, b)\langle a^*, y \rangle = (x, \varphi y)$$

Therefore $\psi = \tilde{\varphi}$. □

Exercise (7). If E, E^* is a pair of dual Euclidean spaces and x_v, x^{*v} a pair of dual bases, then

$$g^* = \sum_{v,\mu} (x_v, x_\mu) x^{*v} \otimes x^{*\mu} \quad \text{and} \quad g = \sum_{v,\mu} (x^{*v}, x^{*\mu}) x_v \otimes x_\mu$$

Proof. Since $x_v \otimes x_\mu$ and $x^{*v} \otimes x^{*\mu}$ are dual bases of $E \otimes E$ and $E^* \otimes E^*$, we have

$$g^* = \sum_{v,\mu} g_{v\mu} x^{*v} \otimes x^{*\mu} \quad \text{and} \quad g = \sum_{v,\mu} g^{v\mu} x_v \otimes x_\mu$$

where

$$g_{v\mu} = \langle g^*, x_v \otimes x_\mu \rangle = (x_v, x_\mu)$$

and

$$g^{v\mu} = \langle x^{*v} \otimes x^{*\mu}, g \rangle = (x^{*v}, x^{*\mu})$$

□

Remark. It follows that the components of g^* vary in the same way as the basis vectors in E under a change of basis, while the components of g vary inversely. This is why g^* is called “covariant” and g is called “contravariant”.

§ 19

Remark. The definition of the substitution operator $i_\nu(h)$ does not specify the behavior on p -linear functions with $p < \nu$.

Remark. The definitions of the substitution operators $i_A(h)$ and $i_S(h)$ given in this subsection are inappropriate for use with the algebras of skew-symmetric and symmetric multilinear functions, respectively. See below.

§ 23

Remark. We have

$$T_q^p(E) \cong (\otimes^p E^*) \otimes (\otimes^q E) = \otimes_q^p(E^*, E)$$

and

$$T(E) \cong (\otimes E^*) \otimes (\otimes E) = \otimes(E^*, E)$$

It follows that $T_q^p(E)$ is dual to $T_p^q(E)$, and $T(E)$ is dual to itself and to $T(E^*)$.

Remark. The results in this subsection show that it is possible to develop tensor algebra using multilinear function spaces instead of tensor product spaces (at least in the finite-dimensional case). While it is easier to get started this way, it is messier in the long run.

Chapter 4

§ 4

Remark. We see from (4.10) that the skew-symmetric part of a product depends only on the skew-symmetric parts of the factors.

Exercise (1). The map $\sigma : \otimes^p E \rightarrow \otimes^p E$ is tensorial. If E is finite-dimensional, then σ is generated by $\mu(t)$ and C_j^i , where t is the unit tensor.

Proof. If α is an automorphism of E and $u = x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_p \in \otimes^p E$, then

$$\sigma T_\alpha u = \alpha x_{\sigma^{-1}(1)} \otimes \cdots \otimes \alpha x_{\sigma^{-1}(p)} = T_\alpha \sigma u$$

so $\sigma T_\alpha = T_\alpha \sigma$ and hence σ is tensorial.

For the second claim, we may assume that $\sigma = (12 \cdots j)$ where $1 < j$. Write $t = \sum_v e^{*v} \otimes e_v$ where e_v, e^{*v} is any pair of dual bases in E, E^* . Then

$$\begin{aligned} C_{j+1}^1(t \otimes u) &= \sum_v C_{j+1}^1(e^{*v} \otimes e_v \otimes x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_p) \\ &= \sum_v \langle e^{*v}, x_j \rangle e_v \otimes x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_{j-1} \otimes x_{j+1} \otimes \cdots \otimes x_p \\ &= x_j \otimes x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_{j-1} \otimes x_{j+1} \otimes \cdots \otimes x_p \\ &= \sigma u \end{aligned}$$

so $C_{j+1}^1 \circ \mu(t) = \sigma$. □

§ 5

Remark. In the following subsections, an algebra of skew-symmetric tensors is constructed in two ways: first from the top down, by starting with the tensor algebra $\otimes E$ and killing off tensors with equal factors in $N(E)$ to form $\otimes E / N(E)$; and then from the bottom up, by collecting skew-symmetric tensors in $\otimes E$ to form $X(E)$. The two constructions are essentially equivalent by (4.17), although scalar products between dual algebras are defined slightly differently in § 8.

§ 6

Remark. If we make the appropriate identifications, we have

$$\pi(\otimes^p E) = \otimes^p E / (N(E) \cap \otimes^p E) = \otimes^p E / N^p(E) = X^p(E)$$

so we already know

$$\otimes E / N(E) = \sum_p \pi(\otimes^p E) = \sum_p X^p(E) = X(E)$$

Remark. To see how (4.16) follows from (4.13), write $u = \pi(a)$ and $v = \pi(b)$ with $a \in \otimes^p E$ and $b \in \otimes^q E$. By (4.15), (4.17), and (4.13),

$$uv = \pi a \cdot \pi b = \pi(a \otimes b) = \rho \pi_A(a \otimes b) = (-1)^{pq} \rho \pi_A(b \otimes a) = (-1)^{pq} vu$$

§ 7

Remark. $X(E)$ is not a subalgebra of $\otimes E$, but can be made into an algebra (see problem 1).

Remark. The inverse of ρ is the induced isomorphism $\overline{\pi_X} : \otimes E / N(E) \cong X(E)$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \otimes E & \xrightarrow{\pi_X} & X(E) \\ \pi \downarrow & \nearrow \rho^{-1} = \overline{\pi_X} & \\ \otimes E / N(E) & & \end{array}$$

Exercise (1). If we define a product in $X(E)$ by

$$u \cdot v = \pi_A(u \otimes v) \quad u, v \in X(E)$$

then $X(E)$ becomes an algebra and ρ an algebra isomorphism. Moreover,

$$\pi_A u \cdot \pi_A v = \pi_A(u \otimes v) \quad u, v \in \otimes E$$

Proof. Clearly the product makes $X(E)$ into an algebra. By (4.17) and (4.15),

$$\rho(u \cdot v) = \rho \pi_A(u \otimes v) = \pi(u \otimes v) = \pi u \cdot \pi v = \rho u \cdot \rho v$$

for all $u, v \in X(E)$, so ρ is an algebra isomorphism. By (4.10),

$$\pi_A u \cdot \pi_A v = \pi_A(\pi_A u \otimes \pi_A v) = \pi_A(u \otimes v)$$

for all $u, v \in \otimes E$. □

Remark. The proof also shows that the product is uniquely determined by the requirement that ρ be an algebra isomorphism.

Chapter 5

§ 1

Exercise (1). Let $L_p(E; F)$ denote the space of p -linear mappings $E^p \rightarrow F$, and $A_p(E; F)$ the subspace of skew-symmetric mappings. If $T : L_p(E; F) \rightarrow L_p(E; F)$ is linear such that $T\varphi = \varphi$ for all $\varphi \in A_p(E; F)$, and $T(\sigma\varphi) = \varepsilon_\sigma T\varphi$ for all $\sigma \in S_p$ and $\varphi \in L_p(E; F)$, then $T = A$ (the alternator).

Proof. By assumption, $TA = A$ and

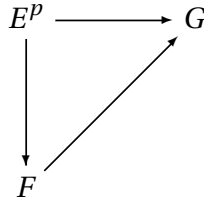
$$(TA)\varphi = T(A\varphi) = \frac{1}{p!} \sum_{\sigma} \varepsilon_{\sigma} T(\sigma\varphi) = \frac{1}{p!} \sum_{\sigma} T\varphi = T\varphi$$

so $TA = T$. □

Remark. This result shows that the alternator is the unique “skew-symmetric” transformation of p -linear mappings which fixes skew-symmetric mappings.

§ 3

Remark. The p -th exterior power $\wedge^p E$ of E is a universal (initial) object in the category of “vector spaces with skew-symmetric p -linear maps of E into them”. In this category, the objects are skew-symmetric p -linear maps $E^p \rightarrow F$, and the arrows are linear maps $F \rightarrow G$ which respect the p -linear maps:



Every object $E^p \rightarrow F$ in this category can be obtained from the exterior product $\wedge^p : E^p \rightarrow \wedge^p E$ in a unique way. This is why \wedge^p is said to satisfy the “universal property”. This is only possible because the elements of $\wedge^p E$ satisfy only those relations required to make \wedge^p skew-symmetric and p -linear. By category theoretic abstract nonsense, $\wedge^p E$ is unique up to isomorphism.

Remark. Geometrically, the p -vector

$$\wedge^p(x_1, \dots, x_p) = x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge x_p$$

represents the oriented (signed) volume of the p -dimensional parallelepiped determined by x_1, \dots, x_p . It can also be thought of as a family of p -dimensional parallelepipeds with the same orientation and volume.

Remark. If E is n -dimensional and $\Delta \neq 0$ is a determinant function in E , then since \wedge^n is skew-symmetric and n -linear in E ,

$$x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge x_n = \Delta(x_1, \dots, x_n) \cdot e_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge e_n$$

where $\Delta(e_1, \dots, e_n) = 1$. Here $e_1 \wedge \dots \wedge e_n$ represents the unit volume under Δ . On the other hand, since Δ is skew-symmetric and n -linear, there is a linear function $\Delta_\wedge : \wedge^n E \rightarrow \Gamma$ with

$$\Delta_\wedge(x_1 \wedge \dots \wedge x_n) = \Delta(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

Note Δ_\wedge is inverse to $e_1 \wedge \dots \wedge e_n \cdot \iota$, so it is an isomorphism. Also

$$\Delta_\wedge(x_1 \wedge \dots \wedge x_n) = \Delta_\otimes(x_1 \otimes \dots \otimes x_n)$$

These results show that the universality of determinant functions is a special case of the universality of the exterior product.

§ 4

Remark. The projection $\pi : \otimes E \rightarrow \otimes E / N(E)$ and the projection $\pi : \otimes E \rightarrow \wedge E$ constructed in this subsection are related by the following commutative diagram:

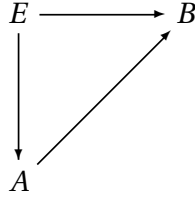
$$\begin{array}{ccc} \otimes E & \xrightarrow{\pi} & \wedge E \\ \pi \downarrow & \nearrow f & \\ \otimes E / N(E) & & \end{array}$$

Remark. If $u \in \wedge^p E$ and $v \in \wedge^q E$ with pq even, then

$$\begin{aligned} (u + v)^k &= \frac{1}{k!} \underbrace{(u + v) \wedge \dots \wedge (u + v)}_k \\ &= \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{i+j=k} \frac{k!}{i!(k-i)!} \underbrace{u \wedge \dots \wedge u}_i \wedge \underbrace{v \wedge \dots \wedge v}_j \\ &= \sum_{i+j=k} \frac{1}{i!j!} (i! u^i) \wedge (j! v^j) \\ &= \sum_{i+j=k} u^i \wedge v^j \end{aligned}$$

§ 5

Remark. The exterior algebra $\wedge E$ is a universal (initial) object in the category of “associative unital algebras with linear maps of E into them whose squares are zero”. In this category, the objects are linear maps $\varphi : E \rightarrow A$ for associative unital algebras A with $\varphi^2 = 0$, and the arrows are algebra homomorphisms $A \rightarrow B$ which preserve the units and respect the linear maps:



Every object in this category can be obtained from the exterior algebra $\wedge E$ in a unique way. This is why $\wedge E$ is said to satisfy the “universal property”. This is only possible because the elements of $\wedge E$ satisfy only those properties that are required to make $\wedge E$ into an associative unital algebra containing E with skew-symmetric multiplication in E . By category theoretic abstract nonsense, $\wedge E$ is unique up to isomorphism.

§ 7

Remark. If E is n -dimensional, then $\wedge^p E = 0$ for $p > n$. Geometrically, this just reflects the fact that you can’t fit a p -dimensional parallelepiped into the n -dimensional space.

Remark. If E is a Euclidean space and $x_1, \dots, x_p \in E$, then

$$|x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge x_p| = \sqrt{\det(x_i, x_j)}$$

is the volume of the p -dimensional parallelepiped determined by x_1, \dots, x_p .

Exercise (1). Let E, E^* be a pair of finite-dimensional dual vector spaces and $A \subseteq L(E^*; E)$ be the subspace of linear maps $\varphi : E^* \rightarrow E$ for which $\varphi^* = -\varphi$. If $\varphi : E \times E \rightarrow A$ is the bilinear map defined by

$$\varphi_{a,b}(x^*) = \langle x^*, a \rangle b - \langle x^*, b \rangle a$$

then (A, φ) is a second exterior power of E .

Proof. Identifying $E \otimes E$ with $L(E^*; E)$ under the natural isomorphism

$$a \otimes b \mapsto (x^* \mapsto \langle x^*, a \rangle b)$$

A is just the subspace of skew-symmetric tensors in $E \otimes E$, and

$$\varphi_{a,b} = a \otimes b - b \otimes a$$

is (up to a factor of 2) just the skew-symmetric part of $a \otimes b$. □

Exercise (4 - Lagrange identity).

$$\left| \begin{array}{ccc} \sum_{v=1}^n \xi_1^v \eta_v^1 & \cdots & \sum_{v=1}^n \xi_1^v \eta_v^p \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \sum_{v=1}^n \xi_p^v \eta_v^1 & \cdots & \sum_{v=1}^n \xi_p^v \eta_v^p \end{array} \right| = \sum_{<} \left| \begin{array}{ccc} \xi_1^{v_1} & \cdots & \xi_1^{v_p} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \xi_p^{v_1} & \cdots & \xi_p^{v_p} \end{array} \right| \left| \begin{array}{ccc} \eta_{v_1}^1 & \cdots & \eta_{v_p}^1 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \eta_{v_1}^p & \cdots & \eta_{v_p}^p \end{array} \right| \quad (1)$$

Proof. Let L denote the left-hand side of (1). Let E, E^* be a pair of dual vector spaces with dual bases e_1, \dots, e_n and e^{*1}, \dots, e^{*n} . Define

$$x_i = \sum_{v=1}^n \xi_i^v e_v \quad \text{and} \quad y^{*j} = \sum_{\mu=1}^n \eta_\mu^j e^{*\mu} \quad (i, j = 1, \dots, p)$$

Since

$$\langle y^{*j}, x_i \rangle = \sum_{v=1}^n \xi_i^v \eta_v^j$$

it follows from (5.10) and (5.13) that

$$\begin{aligned} L &= \langle y^{*1} \wedge \cdots \wedge y^{*p}, x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge x_p \rangle \\ &= \sum_{(v), (\mu)} \xi_1^{v_1} \cdots \xi_p^{v_p} \eta_{\mu_1}^1 \cdots \eta_{\mu_p}^p \langle e^{*\mu_1} \wedge \cdots \wedge e^{*\mu_p}, e_{v_1} \wedge \cdots \wedge e_{v_p} \rangle \\ &= \sum_{(v), (\mu)} \xi_1^{v_1} \cdots \xi_p^{v_p} \eta_{\mu_1}^1 \cdots \eta_{\mu_p}^p \det(\delta_{v_i}^{\mu_j}) \end{aligned}$$

Now

$$\det(\delta_{v_i}^{\mu_j}) = \sum_{\sigma} \varepsilon_{\sigma} \delta_{v_{\sigma(1)}}^{\mu_1} \cdots \delta_{v_{\sigma(p)}}^{\mu_p}$$

so $\det(\delta_{v_i}^{\mu_j}) = \varepsilon_{\tau}$ if the v_i are distinct and $\mu_i = v_{\tau(i)}$ for some permutation τ , otherwise $\det(\delta_{v_i}^{\mu_j}) = 0$. The v_i are distinct if and only if $v_{\sigma(1)} < \cdots < v_{\sigma(p)}$ for

some permutation σ , so we have

$$\begin{aligned} L &= \sum_{v_1 < \dots < v_p} \sum_{\sigma} \xi_1^{v_{\sigma(1)}} \dots \xi_p^{v_{\sigma(p)}} \sum_{\tau} \varepsilon_{\tau} \eta_{v_{\tau\sigma(1)}}^1 \dots \eta_{v_{\tau\sigma(p)}}^p \\ &= \sum_{v_1 < \dots < v_p} \sum_{\sigma} \varepsilon_{\sigma} \xi_1^{v_{\sigma(1)}} \dots \xi_p^{v_{\sigma(p)}} \sum_{\tau} \varepsilon_{\tau\sigma} \eta_{v_{\tau\sigma(1)}}^1 \dots \eta_{v_{\tau\sigma(p)}}^p \end{aligned}$$

Since $\tau\sigma$ runs over all permutations as τ does, we have

$$L = \sum_{\sigma} \left(\sum_{\varepsilon_{\sigma}} \xi_1^{v_{\sigma(1)}} \dots \xi_p^{v_{\sigma(p)}} \right) \left(\sum_{\varepsilon_{\varrho}} \eta_{v_{\varrho(1)}}^1 \dots \eta_{v_{\varrho(p)}}^p \right)$$

which is just (1). □

§ 8

Remark. Let E be an n -dimensional space and Δ a determinant function in E with $\Delta(e_1, \dots, e_n) = 1$. If $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ is linear, then

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_{\wedge}(x_1 \wedge \dots \wedge x_n) &= \varphi x_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \varphi x_n \\ &= \Delta(\varphi x_1, \dots, \varphi x_n) \cdot e_1 \wedge \dots \wedge e_n \\ &= \det \varphi \cdot \Delta(x_1, \dots, x_n) \cdot e_1 \wedge \dots \wedge e_n \\ &= \det \varphi \cdot x_1 \wedge \dots \wedge x_n \end{aligned}$$

for all $x_1, \dots, x_n \in E$. Therefore

$$\varphi_{\wedge}^{(n)} = \det \varphi \cdot \iota$$

where $\varphi_{\wedge}^{(n)}$ is the restriction of φ_{\wedge} to $\wedge^n E$. Equivalently

$$\text{tr} \varphi_{\wedge}^{(n)} = \det \varphi$$

§ 10

Remark. Let E be an n -dimensional space and Δ a determinant function in E with $\Delta(e_1, \dots, e_n) = 1$. If $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ is linear, then

$$\begin{aligned} \theta_{\wedge}(\varphi)(x_1 \wedge \dots \wedge x_n) &= \sum_{i=1}^n x_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \varphi x_i \wedge \dots \wedge x_n \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta(x_1, \dots, \varphi x_i, \dots, x_n) \cdot e_1 \wedge \dots \wedge e_n \\ &= \text{tr} \varphi \cdot \Delta(x_1, \dots, x_n) \cdot e_1 \wedge \dots \wedge e_n \\ &= \text{tr} \varphi \cdot x_1 \wedge \dots \wedge x_n \end{aligned}$$

for all $x_1, \dots, x_n \in E$. Therefore

$$\theta_{\wedge}^{(n)}(\varphi) = \text{tr } \varphi \cdot \iota$$

where $\theta_{\wedge}^{(n)}(\varphi)$ is the restriction of $\theta_{\wedge}(\varphi)$ to $\wedge^n E$. Equivalently

$$\text{tr } \theta_{\wedge}^{(n)}(\varphi) = \text{tr } \varphi$$

This is also equivalent to the result in subsection 3.6 above, by the following commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & E^n & & \\
 & & \downarrow \otimes^n & \searrow \Delta & \\
 \otimes^n E & \xrightarrow{\theta_{\otimes}(\varphi)} & \otimes^n E & \xrightarrow{\Delta_{\otimes}} & \Gamma \\
 \downarrow \pi & & \downarrow \pi & \nearrow \Delta_{\wedge} & \\
 \wedge^n E & \xrightarrow{\theta_{\wedge}^{(n)}(\varphi)} & \wedge^n E & &
 \end{array}$$

§ 11

Remark. If $\omega = \iota_{\wedge}$ and $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ is linear, then $\Omega(\varphi) = \theta_{\wedge}(\varphi)$. This shows that the construction in § 10 is just a special case of the construction in this subsection.

§ 12

Exercise (8). If $\psi : E \rightarrow E$ is a linear transformation with $\dim E = n$, then there exist linear transformations $\psi_i^{(n)} : \wedge^n E \rightarrow \wedge^n E$ unique such that

$$(\psi - \lambda \iota)_{\wedge}^{(n)} = \sum_{i=0}^n \psi_i^{(n)} \lambda^{n-i} \quad \lambda \in \Gamma$$

Moreover, $\text{tr } \psi_i^{(n)} = \alpha_i$ where α_i is the i -th characteristic coefficient of ψ .

Proof. By an argument similar to that given in subsection 4.19 of [1],

$$(\psi - \lambda \iota)_{\wedge}^{(n)} = \sum_{i=0}^n \tilde{S}_i$$

where

$$\tilde{S}_i(x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge x_n) = \frac{(-\lambda)^{n-i}}{i!(n-i)!} \sum_{\sigma} \varepsilon_{\sigma} \varphi x_{\sigma(1)} \wedge \cdots \wedge \varphi x_{\sigma(i)} \wedge x_{\sigma(i+1)} \wedge \cdots \wedge x_{\sigma(n)}$$

This uniquely determines $\psi_i^{(n)}$ with $\tilde{S}_i = \psi_i^{(n)} \lambda^{n-i}$. By (4.47) and (4.48) of [1],

$$\Delta_{\wedge} \circ \tilde{S}_i = \alpha_i \lambda^{n-i} \Delta_{\wedge} = \Delta_{\wedge} \circ (\alpha_i \lambda^{n-i} \iota)$$

where $\Delta \neq 0$ is a determinant function in E . Since Δ_{\wedge} is injective, this implies

$$\psi_i^{(n)} \lambda^{n-i} = \tilde{S}_i = \alpha_i \lambda^{n-i} \iota$$

so $\psi_i^{(n)} = \alpha_i \iota$ and $\text{tr} \psi_i^{(n)} = \alpha_i$. □

Remark. We have $\psi_0^{(n)} = (-1)^n \iota$, $\psi_1^{(n)} = (-1)^{n-1} \theta_{\wedge}^{(n)}(\psi)$, and $\psi_n^{(n)} = \psi_{\wedge}^{(n)}$.

§ 14

Exercise (1). If $u^* \in \wedge^p E^*$ and $i(a)u^* = 0$ for all $a \in \wedge^k E$ for some $k \leq p$, then $u^* = 0$.

Proof. We claim $\langle u^*, v \rangle = 0$ for all $v \in \wedge^p E$, from which it follows that $u^* = 0$. Since $k \leq p$, we may write

$$v = \sum_{\nu} a_{\nu} \wedge v_{\nu} \quad a_{\nu} \in \wedge^k E, \quad v_{\nu} \in \wedge^{p-k} E$$

Then

$$\langle u^*, v \rangle = \sum_{\nu} \langle u^*, a_{\nu} \wedge v_{\nu} \rangle = \sum_{\nu} \langle i(a_{\nu})u^*, v_{\nu} \rangle = 0 \quad \square$$

Remark. This result generalizes Proposition 5.14.2.

Exercise (2). Let E, E^* be a pair of dual n -dimensional vector spaces and $e_{\nu}, e^{*\nu}$ a pair of dual bases. If $\varphi : E \rightarrow E$ is linear, then

$$\theta_{\wedge}(\varphi) = \sum_{\nu} \mu(\varphi e_{\nu}) i(e^{*\nu}) \quad (1)$$

$$\theta^{\wedge}(\varphi) = \sum_{\nu} \mu(e^{*\nu}) i(\varphi e_{\nu}) \quad (2)$$

Proof. By Corollary II to Proposition 5.14.1,

$$i(e^{*v})(x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge x_p) = \sum_{\mu=1}^p (-1)^{\mu-1} \langle e^{*v}, x_\mu \rangle x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \widehat{x_\mu} \wedge \cdots \wedge x_p$$

It follows that

$$\mu(\varphi e_v) i(e^{*v})(x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge x_p) = \sum_{\mu=1}^p x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \varphi(\langle e^{*v}, x_\mu \rangle e_v) \wedge \cdots \wedge x_p$$

and so

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{v=1}^n \mu(\varphi e_v) i(e^{*v})(x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge x_p) &= \sum_{\mu=1}^p x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \varphi\left(\sum_{v=1}^n \langle e^{*v}, x_\mu \rangle e_v\right) \wedge \cdots \wedge x_p \\ &= \sum_{\mu=1}^p x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \varphi x_\mu \wedge \cdots \wedge x_p \\ &= \theta_\wedge(\varphi)(x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge x_p) \end{aligned}$$

This establishes (1). Now (2) follows from (1) by duality since

$$\theta^\wedge(\varphi) = \theta_\wedge(\varphi)^* = \sum_{v=1}^n i(e^{*v})^* \mu(\varphi e_v)^* = \sum_{v=1}^n \mu(e^{*v}) i(\varphi e_v) \quad \square$$

Exercise (3). Let E, E^* be a pair of dual n -dimensional vector spaces and e_v, e^{*v} a pair of dual bases.

(a) For $x \in E$ and $x^* \in E^*$,

$$i(x^*)\mu(x) + \mu(x)i(x^*) = \langle x^*, x \rangle \iota$$

(b) For $u \in \wedge^p E$,

$$\sum_v \mu(e_v) i(e^{*v}) u = pu$$

(c) For $u \in \wedge^p E$,

$$\sum_v i(e^{*v}) \mu(e_v) u = (n-p)u$$

Proof. For (a), dualize Corollary I to Proposition 5.14.1; for (b), apply problem 2 with $\varphi = \iota$; for (c), apply (a) and (b) to obtain

$$\sum_{v=1}^n i(e^{*v}) \mu(e_v) u = \sum_{v=1}^n \langle e^{*v}, e_v \rangle u - \sum_{v=1}^n \mu(e_v) i(e^{*v}) u = nu - pu \quad \square$$

Exercise (6). If $a \in \wedge^p E$ and $p \leq q$, then

$$i(a)(x_1^* \wedge \cdots \wedge x_q^*) = \sum_{v_1 < \cdots < v_p} (-1)^{\sum_{i=1}^p (v_i - i)} \langle x_{v_1}^* \wedge \cdots \wedge x_{v_p}^*, a \rangle x_{v_{p+1}}^* \wedge \cdots \wedge x_{v_q}^*$$

where (v_{p+1}, \dots, v_q) is the ordered tuple complementary to (v_1, \dots, v_p) .

Proof. By induction on p . For $p = 0$ the result is trivial, and for $p = 1$ it is just Corollary II to Proposition 5.14.1. We illustrate the induction step for $p = 2$, where we may assume that $a = a_1 \wedge a_2$ and write $u^* = x_1^* \wedge \cdots \wedge x_q^*$:

$$\begin{aligned} i(a)u^* &= i(a_2)i(a_1)(x_1^* \wedge \cdots \wedge x_q^*) \\ &= i(a_2) \sum_{v_1} (-1)^{v_1-1} \langle x_{v_1}^*, a_1 \rangle x_1^* \wedge \cdots \wedge \widehat{x_{v_1}^*} \wedge \cdots \wedge x_q^* \\ &= \sum_{v_1} (-1)^{v_1-1} \langle x_{v_1}^*, a_1 \rangle i(a_2)(x_1^* \wedge \cdots \wedge \widehat{x_{v_1}^*} \wedge \cdots \wedge x_q^*) \\ &= \sum_{v_1 < v_2} (-1)^{(v_1-1)+(v_2-2)} C_{v_1, v_2} x_1^* \wedge \cdots \wedge \widehat{x_{v_1}^*} \wedge \cdots \wedge \widehat{x_{v_2}^*} \wedge \cdots \wedge x_q^* \end{aligned}$$

where

$$C_{v_1, v_2} = \sum_{\sigma} \varepsilon_{\sigma} \langle x_{v_{\sigma(1)}}^*, a_1 \rangle \langle x_{v_{\sigma(2)}}^*, a_2 \rangle = \det(\langle x_{v_i}^*, a_j \rangle) = \langle x_{v_1}^* \wedge x_{v_2}^*, a_1 \wedge a_2 \rangle \quad \square$$

§ 29

Remark. Recall that if E, E^* is a pair of finite-dimensional dual vector spaces, then there is a natural isomorphism $\alpha : \otimes^p E^* \rightarrow T^p(E)$.³⁷ Since

$$\langle x^{*1}, x_{\sigma(1)} \rangle \cdots \langle x^{*p}, x_{\sigma(p)} \rangle = \langle x^{*\sigma^{-1}(1)}, x_1 \rangle \cdots \langle x^{*\sigma^{-1}(p)}, x_p \rangle$$

for all $x_i \in E$, $x^{*i} \in E^*$, and $\sigma \in S_p$, the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \otimes^p E^* & \xrightarrow{\sigma} & \otimes^p E^* \\ \alpha \downarrow & & \downarrow \alpha \\ T^p(E) & \xrightarrow{\sigma} & T^p(E) \end{array}$$

³⁷See subsection 3.20.

It follows that the alternator diagram also commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \otimes^p E^* & \xrightarrow{\pi^A} & \otimes^p E^* \\
 \alpha \downarrow & & \downarrow \alpha \\
 T^p(E) & \xrightarrow{A} & T^p(E)
 \end{array}$$

Therefore (5.81) follows from (4.11).

§ 32

Remark. In this subsection, the substitution operator $i_A(h)$ should be redefined on $T^p(E)$ as

$$i_A(h) = \frac{1}{p} \sum_{v=1}^p (-1)^{v-1} i_v(h)$$

Then for $\Phi \in A^p(E)$,

$$\begin{aligned}
 p \cdot (i_A(h)\Phi)(x_1, \dots, x_{p-1}) &= \sum_{v=1}^p (-1)^{v-1} (i_v(h)\Phi)(x_1, \dots, x_{p-1}) \\
 &= \sum_{v=1}^p (-1)^{v-1} \Phi(x_1, \dots, x_{v-1}, h, x_{v+1}, \dots, x_{p-1}) \\
 &= \sum_{v=1}^p \Phi(h, x_1, \dots, x_{p-1}) \\
 &= p \cdot \Phi(h, x_1, \dots, x_{p-1}) \\
 &= p \cdot (i_1(h)\Phi)(x_1, \dots, x_{p-1})
 \end{aligned}$$

so

$$i_A(h)\Phi = i_1(h)\Phi$$

as desired. This redefinition is required to make $i_A(h)$ an antiderivation in the algebra of skew-symmetric multilinear functions (5.32.1), although under the redefinition $i_A(h)$ is no longer an antiderivation in the algebra of multilinear functions.³⁸

³⁸See subsection 3.19.

§ 33

Remark. The algebra isomorphism $\beta \circ \eta : \wedge E^* \rightarrow A^\bullet(E)$ satisfies

$$f_1^* \wedge \cdots \wedge f_p^* \mapsto f_1^* \wedge \cdots \wedge f_p^* = p! A(f_1^* \bullet \cdots \bullet f_p^*) \quad f_i^* \in E^*$$

The product on the left is the exterior product and the product on the right is the Grassmann product, where f_i^* has been identified with $\langle f_i^*, - \rangle$.

§ 34

Remark. We see that the algebra isomorphisms $\wedge E^* \cong A^\bullet(E)$ and $\wedge E \cong A_\bullet(E)$ preserve scalar products.

References

- [1] Greub, W. *Linear Algebra*, 4th ed. Springer, 1975.
- [2] Greub, W. *Multilinear Algebra*, 2nd ed. Springer, 1978.