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# Chapter 1

## Linear Transformations

### 1.1 Linear Transformations

**Definition 1.1.1 — linear transformation.** let  $V$  and  $W$  be vector spaces over the field  $\mathbb{F}$ . A linear transformation from  $V$  into  $W$  is a function  $T$  from  $V$  into  $W$  such that

$$T(c\alpha + \beta) = cT\alpha + T\beta,$$

for all  $\alpha, \beta \in V$  and  $c \in \mathbb{F}$ .

■ **Example 1** Let  $A$  be a fixed  $m \times n$  matrix with entries in the field  $\mathbb{F}$ . The function  $T$  defined by  $T(x) = Ax$  is a linear transformation from  $\mathbb{F}^{n \times 1}$  to  $\mathbb{F}^{m \times 1}$ . The function  $U$  defined by  $U(\alpha) = \alpha A$  is a linear transformation from  $\mathbb{F}^{1 \times m}$  to  $\mathbb{F}^{1 \times n}$ .

■ **Example 2** Let  $\mathbb{R}$  be the field of real numbers and let  $V$  be the space of all functions from  $\mathbb{R}$  to  $\mathbb{R}$  which are continuous. Define  $T$  by  $(Tf)(x) = \int_0^x f(t) dt$ . Then  $T$  is a linear transformation from  $V$  to  $V$ .

**Remark 1.1.1** It's important to notice that if  $T$  is a linear transformation from  $V$  into  $W$ , then

$$T(0_V) = 0_W.$$

**Remark 1.1.2** Linear transformation is actually defined to preserve linear combinations. That is

$$T(c_1\alpha_1 + c_2\alpha_2 + \dots + c_n\alpha_n) = c_1T(\alpha_1) + c_2T(\alpha_2) + \dots + c_nT(\alpha_n)$$

**Theorem 1.1.1** Let  $V$  be a finite dimensional vector space over the field  $\mathbb{F}$ , let  $\{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n\}$  be any ordered basis for  $V$ , let  $W$  be a vector space over the same field  $\mathbb{F}$  and let  $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_n$  be any vectors in  $W$ . Then there is precisely one linear transformation  $T$  from  $V$  into  $W$  such that  $T\alpha_j = \beta_j$ , for all  $j = 1, \dots, n$ .

*Proof.* Given  $\alpha \in V$ , there is a unique  $n$ -tuple  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  such that

$$\alpha = x_1\alpha_1 + x_2\alpha_2 + \dots + x_n\alpha_n.$$

We define  $T\alpha = x_1\beta_1 + x_2\beta_2 + \dots + x_n\beta_n$ . Then  $T$  is a well-defined rule for associating with each vector  $\alpha \in V$  a vector  $T\alpha \in W$ . It's clear that  $T\alpha_j = \beta_j$  for each  $j$  and  $T$  is a linear transformation. If  $U$  is a linear transformation from  $V$  into  $W$  with  $U\alpha_j = \beta_j, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , then for the vector  $\alpha = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i\alpha_i$  we have

$$U\alpha = U\left(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i\alpha_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i(U\alpha_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i\beta_i.$$

So  $U$  is exactly the same rule  $T$  which we defined. This shows that the linear transformation  $T$  with  $T\alpha_j = \beta_j$  for each  $j$  is unique. ■

**Remark 1.1.3** The proof of Theorem 1.1.1 show us the way to actually get the transformation  $T$ .

**Problem 1.1.1** The vector  $\alpha_1 = (1, 2)$ ,  $\alpha_2 = (3, 4)$  form a basis for  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .  $\beta_1 = (3, 2, 1)$ ,  $\beta_2 = (6, 5, 4)$  are two vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . We now want to find a linear transformation  $T$  such that  $T\alpha_j = \beta_j$ . We see that  $(1, 0) = -2(3, 2, 1) + (6, 5, 4)$ , thus  $T(1, 0) = -2(3, 2, 1) + (6, 5, 4) = (0, 1, 2)$ . Similarly, we can find  $T(0, 1)$ . Then we know all about this  $T$ .

■ **Example 3** Let  $T$  be a linear transformation from  $\mathbb{F}^m$  to  $\mathbb{F}^n$ . By Theorem 1.1.1 we know that  $T$  is uniquely determined by the sequence of vectors  $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_m \in \mathbb{F}^n$  where

$$\beta_i = T\epsilon_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m,$$

Namely, if we have

$$\alpha = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m),$$

then

$$T\alpha = x_1\beta_1 + \dots + x_m\beta_m.$$

If  $B$  is the  $m \times n$  matrix which has row vectors  $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_m$ , this says that

$$T\alpha = \alpha B.$$

**Remark 1.1.4** From Example 3 we show that we can give an explicit and reasonably simple description of all linear transformations from  $\mathbb{F}^m$  to  $\mathbb{F}^n$ .

**Remark 1.1.5** If  $T$  is a linear transformation from  $V$  into  $W$ , then the range of  $T$  is a subspace of  $W$ .

**Remark 1.1.6** The set  $N$  consisting of the vectors  $\alpha \in V$  such that  $T\alpha = 0$  is a subspace of  $V$ .

**Definition 1.1.2 — null space, rank, nullity.** Let  $V$  and  $W$  be vector spaces over the field  $\mathbb{F}$  and let  $T$  be a linear transformation from  $V$  to  $W$ . The null space of  $T$  is the set of all vectors  $\alpha \in V$  such that  $T\alpha = 0$ . If  $V$  is finite-dimensional, the rank of  $T$  is the dimension of range of  $T$  and the nullity of  $T$  is the dimension of the null space of  $T$ .

**Theorem 1.1.2** Let  $V$  and  $W$  be vector spaces over the field  $\mathbb{F}$  and let  $T$  be a linear transformation from  $V$  into  $W$ . Suppose that  $V$  is finite-dimensional, then

$$\text{rank } T + \text{nullity } T = \dim V$$

*Proof.* Let  $\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k\}$  be a basis for the null space of  $T$ . We can find  $\alpha_{k+1}, \dots, \alpha_n \in V$  such that  $\{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n\}$  is a basis for  $V$ . We shall show that  $\{T\alpha_{k+1}, \dots, T\alpha_n\}$  is a basis for the range of  $T$ . The vector  $T\alpha_1, \dots, T\alpha_n$  certainly span the range of  $T$ . Since  $T\alpha_1, \dots, T\alpha_k$  are zero,  $\{T\alpha_{k+1}, \dots, T\alpha_n\}$  spans the range of  $T$ . To see they are also independent, suppose we have scalars  $c_i$  such that

$$\sum_{i=k+1}^n c_i(T\alpha_i) = 0.$$

Then we have  $T(\sum_{i=k+1}^n c_i\alpha_i) = 0$  and accordingly  $\alpha = \sum_{i=k+1}^n c_i\alpha_i$  is in the null space of  $T$ . We then must have  $c_i = 0$  for  $i = k+1, \dots, n$ . So  $\{T\alpha_{k+1}, \dots, T\alpha_n\}$  is a basis for the range, we are done. ■

**Theorem 1.1.3** If  $A$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix with entries in the field  $\mathbb{F}$ , then

$$\text{row rank}(A) = \text{column rank}(A).$$

*Proof.* Let  $T$  be the linear transformation from  $\mathbb{F}^{n \times 1}$  to  $\mathbb{F}^{m \times 1}$  defined by  $T(x) = Ax$ . Say  $S$  is the solution space of the system  $Ax = 0$ , then nullity  $T = \dim S$ . So we have

$$\dim S + \text{rank } T = n.$$

Notice that  $\text{rank } T$  is actually the dimension of the column space of matrix  $A$ . Say the RREF of matrix  $A$  is  $R$  and the row rank for  $A$  and  $R$  is  $r$ . Let  $R_1, R_2, \dots, R_n$  be the columns of matrix  $R$ , then there are  $r$  of these columns, say  $R_{p_1}, \dots, R_{p_r}$ , have a single 1 as their only non-zero entry. Therefore, considering the space  $S$ , there are  $n - r$  free variables, which means  $\dim S = n - r$ . So we have  $\text{column rank } A = \text{row rank } A$ . ■

## 1.2 The Algebra of Linear Transformation

**Theorem 1.2.1** Let  $V$  and  $W$  be vector spaces over the field  $\mathbb{F}$ . Let  $T$  and  $U$  be linear transformations from  $V$  into  $W$ . The function  $(T + U)$  defined by

$$(T + U)(\alpha) = T\alpha + U\alpha$$

is a linear transformation from  $V$  into  $W$ . If  $c$  is any element of  $\mathbb{F}$ , the function  $(cT)$  defined by  $(cT)(\alpha) = c(T\alpha)$  is a linear transformation from  $V$  into  $W$ . The set of all linear transformation from  $V$  into  $W$ , together with the addition and scalar multiplication defined above, is a vector space over the field  $\mathbb{F}$ . ■

*Proof.* Omit. ■

**Remark 1.2.1** We denote the space of linear transformations from  $V$  into  $W$  by  $L(V, W)$ .

**Theorem 1.2.2** Let  $V$  be an  $n$  dimensional vector space over the field  $\mathbb{F}$ , and let  $W$  be an  $m$  dimensional vector spaces over the field  $\mathbb{F}$ . Then the space  $L(V, W)$  is finite-dimensional and has dimension  $mn$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{B} = \{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n\}$  and  $\mathcal{B}' = \{\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_m\}$  be ordered bases for  $V$  and  $W$ , respectively. For each pair of integer  $(p, q)$  with  $1 \leq p \leq n$  and  $1 \leq q \leq m$ , we define a linear transformation  $E^{p,q}$  from  $V$  into  $W$  by  $E^{p,q}(\alpha_i) = \delta_{iq}\beta_p$ .

Let  $T$  be a linear transformation from  $V$  to  $W$ .  $(A_{1j}, A_{2j}, \dots, A_{mj})$  is the coordinate vector of  $T(\alpha_j)$  in the ordered basis  $\mathcal{B}'$ , i.e.,

$$T(\alpha_j) = \sum_{i=1}^m A_{ij}\beta_i$$

Our claim is

$$T = \sum_{p=1}^m \sum_{q=1}^n A_{pq} E^{p,q}.$$

Actually, Let  $U$  be the linear transformation defined by RHS of the equation, then for each  $j$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} U(\alpha_j) &= \sum_{p=1}^m \sum_{q=1}^n A_{pq} E^{p,q} \alpha_j \\ &= \sum_{p=1}^m \sum_{q=1}^n A_{pq} \delta_{jq} \beta_p \\ &= \sum_{p=1}^m A_{pj} \beta_p = T(\alpha_j). \end{aligned}$$

So  $T = U$ . This means  $\{E^{p,q}\}$  spans  $L(V, W)$ . Furthermore,  $\{E^{p,q}\}$  are independent because if  $T = \sum_p \sum_q A_{pq} E^{p,q}$  is the zero transformation, then for each  $j$ ,  $T(\alpha_j) = \sum_i A_{ij} \beta_i = 0$ . So  $A_{ij} = 0$  for every  $i, j$ . ■

**Theorem 1.2.3** Let  $V, W, Z$  be vector spaces over the field  $\mathbb{F}$ . Let  $U$  be a linear transformation from  $V$  into  $W$ , and  $T$  be a linear transformation from  $W$  to  $Z$ , then the function  $(TU)$  defined by  $(TU)(\alpha) = T(U(\alpha))$  is a linear transformation from  $V$  to  $Z$ .

*Proof.* Omit. ■

**Definition 1.2.1 — linear operator.** Let  $V$  be a vector spaces over the field  $\mathbb{F}$ . A linear operator on  $V$  is a linear transformation from  $V$  into  $V$ .

**Remark 1.2.2** We notice that in Theorem 1.2.3, if  $V = W = Z$ , then  $(TU)$  is also a linear operator on  $V$ , i.e., there is a ‘multiplication’ operation defined by composition on  $L(V, V)$ . In addition,  $(UT)$  is also defined, but in general  $(UT) - (TU)$  is not zero transformation.

**Remark 1.2.3** If  $T$  is a linear operator on  $V$ , then we can define  $T^n = TTT \dots T$  without confusion. Proof is omitted. For convenience, we define  $T^0 = I$  (identity transformation).

**Lemma 1** Let  $V$  be a vector space over the field  $\mathbb{F}$ ,  $U, T_1, T_2$  be linear operators on  $V$ ,  $c$  is any elements in the field  $\mathbb{F}$ .

- 1)  $U = UI = IU$
- 2)  $U(T_1 + T_2) = UT_1 + UT_2; (T_1 + T_2)U = T_1U + T_2U$
- 3)  $c(UT) = (cU)T = U(cT)$

**Remark 1.2.4** Lemma 1 and Theorem 1.2.3 tell us that  $L(V, V)$ , together with composition, is what known as a linear algebra with identity.

■ **Example 4** Let  $A$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix and  $T$  be a linear transformation defined by  $T(X) = AX$ . Let  $B$  be an  $p \times m$  matrix and  $U$  be a linear transformation defined by  $U(Y) = BY$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} (UT)(X) &= U(T(X)) \\ &= U(AX) \\ &= B(AX) = BAX. \end{aligned}$$

**Remark 1.2.5** The effect of composition of  $U, T$  is multiplication of matrices  $B, A$ .

**Definition 1.2.2 — invertible.** A linear transformation  $T$  from  $V$  into  $W$  is invertible if there exist a function  $U$  from  $W$  into  $V$  such that  $(UT)$  is the identity transformation on  $V$  and  $(TU)$  is the identity transformation on  $W$ . In this case,  $U$  is unique and we denote  $U$  by  $T^{-1}$ .

**Remark 1.2.6** In Definition 1.2.2,  $T^{-1}$  exists if and only if

1.  $T$  is one-one. ( $T\alpha = T\beta \implies \alpha = \beta$ )
2.  $T$  is onto. (The range of  $T$  is  $W$ )

**Theorem 1.2.4** let  $T$  be a linear transformation from  $V$  into  $W$ . If  $T$  is invertible, then the inverse  $T^{-1}$  is a linear transformation from  $W$  into  $V$ .

*Proof.* Omit. ■

**Remark 1.2.7** We see that  $T^{-1}U^{-1}$  is the left and right inverse of  $UT$ , therefore the inverse of  $(UT)$  is  $T^{-1}U^{-1}$ .