

# MATH251 - Algebra 2

Vector spaces, linear (in)dependence, span, bases; linear transformations, kernel, image, isomorphisms, nilpotent operators.

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

**Remark 1.1.** This course is about vector spaces and linear transformations between them; a vector space involves multiplication by scalars, where the scalars come from some field. We recall first examples of fields, then vector spaces, as a motivation, before presenting a formal definition.

## 1.1 Vector Spaces

**Remark 1.2.** Much of this is recall from [Algebra 1](#).

### ⊗ Example 1.1: Examples of Fields

1.  $\mathbb{Q}$ ; the field of rational numbers.
2.  $\mathbb{R}$ ; the field of real numbers;  $\mathbb{Q} \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ .
3.  $\mathbb{C}$ ; the field of complex numbers;  $\mathbb{Q} \subseteq \mathbb{R} \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ .
4.  $\mathbb{F}_p \equiv \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z} \equiv \{0, 1, \dots, p-1\}$ ; the (unique) field of  $p$  elements, where  $p$  prime.<sup>a</sup>
  - (a)  $p = 2$ ;  $\mathbb{F}_2 \equiv \{0, 1\}$ .
  - (b)  $p = 3$ ;  $\mathbb{F}_3 \equiv \{0, 1, 2\}$ .
  - (c)  $\dots$

<sup>a</sup>where  $a +_p b :=$  remainder of  $\frac{a+b}{p}$ ,  $a \cdot_p b :=$  remainder of  $\frac{a \cdot b}{p}$ .

**Remark 1.3.** Throughout the course, we will denote an abstract field as  $\mathbb{F}$ .

### ⊗ Example 1.2: Examples of Vector Spaces

1.  $\mathbb{R}^3 := \{(x, y, z) : x, y, z \in \mathbb{R}\}$ . We can add elements in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , and multiply them by real scalars.
2.  $\mathbb{F}^n := \underbrace{\mathbb{F} \times \mathbb{F} \times \dots \times \mathbb{F}}_{n \text{ times}} := \{(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) : a_i \in \mathbb{F}\}$ , where  $n \in \mathbb{N}^1$ ; this is a generalization of the previous example, where we took  $n = 3$ ,  $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}$ . Operations follow identically; addition:

$$(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) + (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n) := (a_1 + b_1, a_2 + b_2, \dots, a_n + b_n)$$

and, taking a scalar  $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$ , multiplication:

$$\lambda \cdot (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) := (\lambda \cdot a_1, \lambda \cdot a_2, \dots, \lambda \cdot a_n).$$

We refer to these elements  $(a_1, \dots, a_n)$  as *vectors* in  $\mathbb{F}^n$ ; the vector for which  $a_i = 0 \forall i$  is the *0 vector*, and is the additive identity, making  $\mathbb{F}^n$  an abelian group under addition, that admits

multiplication by scalars from  $\mathbb{F}$ .

3.  $C(\mathbb{R}) := \{f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} : f \text{ continuous}\}$ . Here, we have the constant zero function as our additive identity ( $x \mapsto 0 \forall x$ ), and addition/scalar multiplication of two continuous real functions are continuous.
4.  $\mathbb{F}[t] := \{a_0 + a_1t + a_2t^2 + \cdots + a_nt^n : a_i \in \mathbb{F} \forall i, n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ , ie, the set of all polynomials in  $t$  with coefficients from  $\mathbb{F}$ . Here, we can add two polynomials;

$$(a_0 + a_1t + \cdots + a_nt^n) + (b_0 + b_1t + \cdots + b_mt^m) := \sum_{i=0}^{\max\{n,m\}} (a_i + b_i)t^i,$$

(where we “take” undefined  $a_i/b_i$ ’s as 0; that is, if  $m > n$ , then  $a_{m-n}, a_{m-n+1}, \dots, a_m$  are taken to be 0). Scalar multiplication is defined

$$\lambda \cdot (a_0 + a_1t + a_2t^2 + \cdots + a_nt^n) := \lambda a_0 + \lambda a_1t + \lambda a_2t^2 + \cdots + \lambda a_nt^n.$$

Here, the zero polynomial is simply 0 (that is,  $a_i = 0 \forall i$ ).

### ↪ **Definition 1.1: Vector Space**

A *vector space*  $V$  over a field  $\mathbb{F}$  is an *abelian group* with an operation denoted  $+$  (or  $+_V$ ) and identity element<sup>2</sup> denoted  $0_V$ , equipped with *scalar multiplication* for each scalar  $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$  satisfying the following axioms:

1.  $1 \cdot v = v$  for  $1 \in \mathbb{F}, \forall v \in V$ .
2.  $\alpha \cdot (\beta \cdot v) = (\alpha \cdot \beta)v, \forall \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{F}, v \in V$ .
3.  $(\alpha + \beta) \cdot v = \alpha \cdot v + \beta \cdot v, \forall \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{F}, v \in V$ .
4.  $\alpha \cdot (u + v) = \alpha \cdot u + \alpha \cdot v, \forall \alpha \in \mathbb{F}, u, v \in V$ .

We refer to elements  $v \in V$  as *vectors*.

<sup>1</sup>Where we take  $0 \in \mathbb{N}$ , for sake of consistency. Moreover, by convention, we define  $\mathbb{F}^0$  (that is, when  $n = 0$ ) to be  $\{0\}$ ; the trivial vector space.

<sup>2</sup>The “zero vector”.

### ↪ **Proposition 1.1**

For a vector space  $V$  over a field  $\mathbb{F}$ , the following holds:

1.  $0 \cdot v = 0_V, \forall v \in V$  (where  $0 := 0_{\mathbb{F}}$ )
2.  $-1 \cdot v = -v, \forall v \in V$  (where  $1 := 1_{\mathbb{F}}$ )<sup>3</sup>
3.  $\alpha \cdot 0_V = 0_V, \forall \alpha \in \mathbb{F}$

Proof. 1.  $0 \cdot v = (0 + 0) \cdot v = 0 \cdot v + 0 \cdot v \implies 0 \cdot v = 0_V$  (by “cancelling” one of the  $0 \cdot v$  terms on each side).

2.  $v + (-1 \cdot v) = (1 \cdot v + (-1) \cdot v) = (1 - 1) \cdot v = 0 \cdot v = 0_V \implies (-1 \cdot v) = -v$ .

3.  $\alpha \cdot 0_V = \alpha \cdot (0_V + 0_V) = \alpha \cdot 0_V + \alpha \cdot 0_V \implies \alpha \cdot 0_V = 0_V$  (by, again, cancelling a term on each side).

■

↪ Lecture 01; Last Updated: Mon Mar 25 13:48:03 EDT 2024

## 1.2 Creating Spaces from Other Spaces

### ↪ **Definition 1.2: Product/Direct Sum of Vector Spaces**

For vector spaces  $U, V$  over the same field  $\mathbb{F}$ , we define their *product* (or *direct sum*) as the set

$$U \times V = \{(u, v) : u \in U, v \in V\},$$

with the operations:

$$(u_1, v_1) + (u_2, v_2) := (u_1 + u_2, v_1 + v_2)$$

$$\lambda \cdot (u, v) := (\lambda \cdot u, \lambda \cdot v)$$

### ⊗ **Example 1.3: $\mathbb{F}$**

$\mathbb{F}^2 = \mathbb{F} \times \mathbb{F}$ , where  $\mathbb{F}$  is considered as the vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$  (itself).

<sup>3</sup>NB: “additive inverse”

### ↪ Definition 1.3: Subspace

For a vector space  $V$  over a field  $\mathbb{F}$ , a *subspace* of  $V$  is a subset  $W \subseteq V$  s.t.

1.  $0_V \in W$ <sup>4</sup>
2.  $u + v \in W \forall u, v \in W$  (closed under addition)
3.  $\alpha \cdot u \in W \forall u \in W, \alpha \in \mathbb{F}$ <sup>5</sup>

Then,  $W$  is a vector space in its own right.

### ⊗ Example 1.4: Examples of Subspaces

1. Let  $V := \mathbb{F}^n$ .

- $W := \{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{F}^n : x_1 = 0\} = \{(0, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n) : x_i \in \mathbb{F}\}.$
- $W := \{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{F}^n : x_1 + 2 \cdot x_2 = 0\}$

*Proof.* Let  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n), y = (y_1, \dots, y_n) \in W$ . Then,  $x + y = (x_1 + y_1, \dots, x_n + y_n)$ , and  $x_1 + y_1 + 2 \cdot (x_2 + y_2) = x_1 + 2 \cdot x_2 + y_1 + 2 \cdot y_2 = 0 + 0 = 0 \implies x + y \in W$ . Similar logic follows for axioms 2., 3. ■

- (More generally)

$$W := \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{F}^n : \begin{matrix} a_{11}x_1 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n = 0 \\ a_{21}x_1 + \dots + a_{2n}x_n = 0 \\ \vdots \\ a_{k1}x_1 + \dots + a_{kn}x_n = 0 \end{matrix} \},$$

that is, a linear combination of homogenous “conditions” on each term.

- $W^* := \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) : x_1 + x_2 = 1\}$  is *not* a subspace; it is not closed under addition, nor under scalar multiplication.
2. Let  $\mathbb{F}[t]_n := \{a_0 + a_1t + \dots + a_nt^n : a_i \in \mathbb{F}\}$ . Then,  $\mathbb{F}[t]_n$  is a subspace of  $\mathbb{F}[t]$ , the more general polynomial space. *However*, the set of all polynomials of degree *exactly*  $n$  (all axioms fail, in fact) is not a subspace of  $\mathbb{F}[t]_n$ .
    - $W := \{p(t) \in \mathbb{F}[t]_n : p(1) = 0\}.$
    - $W := \{p(t) \in \mathbb{F}[t]_n : p''(t) + p'(t) + 2p(t) = 0\}.$

<sup>4</sup>This is equivalent to requiring that  $W \neq \emptyset$ ; stated this way, axiom 3. would necessitate that  $0 \cdot w = 0_V \in W$ .

<sup>5</sup>Note that these axioms are equivalent to saying that  $W$  is a subgroup of  $V$  with respect to vector addition; 2. ensures closed under addition, and 3. ensures the existence of additive inverses (as per  $-1 \cdot v = -v$ ).

3. Let  $V := C(\mathbb{R})$  be the space of continuous function  $\mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

- $W := \{f \in C(\mathbb{R}) : f(\pi) + 7f(\sqrt{2}) = 0\}$ .
- $W := C^1(\mathbb{R}) :=$  everywhere differentiable functions.
- $W := \{f \in C(\mathbb{R}) : \int_0^1 f \, dx = 0\}$ .

### ↪ Proposition 1.2

Let  $W_1, W_2$  be subspaces of a vector space  $V$  over  $\mathbb{F}$ . Then, define the following:

1.  $W_1 + W_2 := \{w_1 + w_2 : w_1 \in W_1, w_2 \in W_2\}$
2.  $W_1 \cap W_2 := \{w \in V : w \in W_1 \wedge w \in W_2\}$

These are both subspaces of  $V$ .

Proof. 1. (a)  $0_V \in W_1$  and  $0_V \in W_2 \implies 0_V = 0_V + 0_V \in W_1 + W_2$ .  
(b)  $(u_1 + u_2) + (v_1 + v_2) = (u_1 + v_1) + (u_2 + v_2) \in W_1 + W_2$ .  
(c)  $\alpha \cdot (u + v) = \alpha \cdot u + \alpha \cdot v \in W_1 + W_2$

2. (a)  $0_V \in W_1$  and  $0_V \in W_2 \implies 0_V = 0_V + 0_V \in W_1 \cap W_2$ .  
(b)  $u, v \in W_1 \cap W_2 \implies u + v \in W_1 \wedge u + v \in W_2 \implies u + v \in W_1 \cap W_2$ .  
(c)  $\alpha \cdot u \in W_1 \wedge \alpha \cdot u \in W_2 \implies \alpha \cdot u \in W_1 \cap W_2$ .

■

## 1.3 Linear Combinations and Span

### ↪ Definition 1.4: Linear Combination

Let  $V$  be a vector space over a field  $\mathbb{F}$ . For finitely many vectors  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n$ , their *linear combination* is a sum of the form

$$\sum_{i=1}^n a_i v_i = a_1 \cdot v_1 + \dots + a_n \cdot v_n,$$

where  $a_i \in \mathbb{F} \forall i$ .

A linear combination is called *trivial* if  $a_i = 0 \forall i$ , that is, all coefficients are 0.

If  $n = 0$  (ie, we are “summing up” 0 vectors), we define the sum as the zero vector;  $\sum_{i=1}^0 a_i v_i := 0_V$ .

↪ **Definition 1.5: A More General Definition of Linear Combination**

For a (possibly infinite) set  $S$  of vectors from  $V$ , a *linear combination* of vectors in  $S$  is a linear combination of  $a_1v_1 + \cdots + a_nv_n$  for some finite subset  $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\} \subseteq S$ .<sup>6</sup>

↪ **Definition 1.6: Span**

For a subset  $S \subseteq V$ , we define its *span* as

$$\text{Span}(S) := \text{set of all linear combinations of } S := \{a_1v_1 + \cdots + a_nv_n : a_i \in \mathbb{F}, v_i \in S\}.$$

By convention, we set  $\text{Span}(\emptyset) = \{0_V\}$ .

⊗ **Example 1.5**

Let  $S := \{(1, 0, -1), (0, 1, -1), (1, 1, -2)\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3$ . Then,

$$0_{\mathbb{R}^3} = (0, 0, 0) = 1 \cdot (1, 0, -1) + 1 \cdot (0, 1, -1) + -1 \cdot (1, 1, -2).$$

We claim, moreover, that  $\text{Span}(S) = U := \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : x + y + z = 0\}$  (a plane through the origin).

Proof. Note that  $S \subseteq U$ , hence  $S \subseteq \text{Span } S \subseteq U$ . OTOH, if  $(x, y, z) \in U$ , we have  $z = -x - y$ , and so

$$(x, y, z) = (x, y, -x - y) = x \cdot (1, 0, -1) + y \cdot (0, 1, -1) \in \text{Span}(S)$$

hence  $U \subseteq \text{Span}(S)$  and thus  $\text{Span}(S) = U$ . ■

**Remark 1.4.** We implicitly used the following claim in the proof above; we prove it more generally.

↪ **Proposition 1.3**

Let  $V$  be a vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$  and let  $S \subseteq V$ . Then,  $\text{Span}(S)$  is always a subspace. Moreover, it is the smallest (minimal) subspace containing  $S$  (that is, for any subspace  $U \supseteq S$ , we have that  $U \supseteq \text{Span } S$ ).

Proof. Because adding/scalar multiplying linear combinations of elements of  $S$  again results in a linear combination of elements of  $S$ , and  $0_V \in \text{Span}(S)$  by definition, we have that  $\text{Span}(S)$  is indeed a subspace.

If  $U \supset S$  is a subspace of  $V$  containing  $S$ , then by definition  $U$  is closed under addition, that is, taking linear combinations of its elements (in particular, of elements of  $S$ ); hence,  $U \supset \text{Span}(S)$ . ■

↪ **Lemma 1.1**

For  $S \subseteq V$  and  $v \in V$ ,  $v \in \text{Span}(S) \iff \text{Span}(S \cup \{v\}) = \text{Span}(S)$ .

<sup>6</sup>That is, we do not allow infinite sums.



Proof. ( $\implies$ ) Let  $v \in \text{Span}(S) \implies v = a_1v_1 + \cdots + a_nv_n, a_i \in \mathbb{F}, v_i \in V$ . Then, for any linear combination

$$b_1u_1 + \cdots + b_mu_m + b \cdot v = b_1u_1 + \cdots + b_mu_m + b(a_1v_1 + \cdots + a_nv_n)$$

is a linear combination of vectors in  $S \cup \{v\}$  (first equality) or equivalently, a combination of vectors in  $S$  (second equality) and thus  $\text{Span}(S \cup \{v\}) \subseteq \text{Span } S$ . The reverse inclusion follows trivially.

( $\impliedby$ )  $\text{Span}(S \cup \{v\}) = \text{Span } S \implies v \in \text{Span}(S)$ . ■

### ⊗ Example 1.6

(From the above example) We have

$$\text{Span}(\{(1, 0, -1), (0, 1, -1)\} \cup \{(1, 1, -2)\}) = \text{Span}(\{(1, 0, -1), (0, 1, -1)\}),$$

since  $(1, 1, -2) \in \text{Span}(\{(1, 0, -1), (0, 1, -1)\})$  (it was redundant, as it could be generated by the other two vectors).

### ↪ Definition 1.7: Spanning Set

Let  $V$  be a vector space over a field  $\mathbb{F}$ . We call  $S \subseteq V$  a *spanning set* for  $V$  if  $\text{Span}(S) = V$ . We call such a spanning set *minimal* if no proper subset of  $S$  is a spanning set ( $\nexists v \in S$  s.t.  $S \setminus \{v\}$  spanning).

**Remark 1.5.** Note that any  $S \subseteq V$  is spanning for  $\text{Span}(S)$ . But,  $S$  may not be minimal; indeed, consider the previous example. We were able to remove a vector from  $S$  while having the same span.

### ⊗ Example 1.7

For  $\mathbb{F}^n$  as a vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$ , the *standard spanning set*

$$\text{St}_n := \{ \underbrace{(1, \dots, 0)}_{:=e_1}, \underbrace{(0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)}_{:=e_2}, \dots, \underbrace{(0, \dots, 1)}_{e_n} \}.$$

Given any  $x := (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{F}^n$ , we can write

$$x = x_1 \cdot e_1 + \cdots + x_n \cdot e_n.$$

This is clearly minimal; removing any  $e_i$  would then result in a 0 in the  $i$ th “coordinate” of a vector, hence  $\text{St} \setminus \{e_i\}$  would span only vectors whose  $i$ th coordinate is 0.

### ↪ Definition 1.8: Linear Dependence

Let  $V$  be a vector space over a field  $\mathbb{F}$ . A set  $S \subseteq V$  is said to be *linearly dependent* if there is a nontrivial linear combination of vectors in  $S$  that is equal to  $0_V$ .

Conversely,  $S$  is called *linearly independent* if there is no nontrivial linear combination of vectors in  $S$  that is equal to  $0_V$ ; all linear combinations of vectors in  $S$  that equal  $0_V$  are trivial.

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#### ⊗ Example 1.8

1. The empty set  $\emptyset$  is linearly independent; there are no non-trivial linear combinations that equal  $0_V$  (there are no linear combinations at all).
2. For  $v \in V$ , the set  $\{v\}$  is linearly dependent iff  $v = 0_V$ .
3.  $S := \{(1, 0, -1), (0, 1, -1), (1, 1, -2)\} := \{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$ ;  $S$  is linearly dependent ( $v_1 + v_2 - v_3 = (0, 0, 0)$ ).
4.  $V := \mathbb{F}^3$ ;  $S := \{(1, 0, -1), (0, 1, -1), (0, 0, 1)\} = \{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$  is linearly independent.

Proof. Suppose

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 v_1 + a_2 v_2 + a_3 v_3 &= 0_V \\ \implies a_1 = 0 \wedge a_2 = 0 \wedge -a_1 - a_2 + a_3 &= 0 \implies a_3 = 0 \\ \implies a_1 = a_2 = a_3 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Hence only a trivial linear combination is possible. ■

5.  $\text{St}_n$  is linearly independent.

Proof.

$$\sum_{i=1}^n a_i e_i = 0_{\mathbb{F}^n} \implies a_i = 0 \forall i$$

■

### ↪ Lemma 1.2

Let  $V$  be a vector space over a field  $\mathbb{F}$ , and  $S \subseteq V$  (possibly infinite).

1.  $S$  is linearly dependent  $\iff$  there is a finite subset  $S_0 \subseteq S$  that is linearly dependent.
2.  $S$  is linearly independent  $\iff$  all finite subsets of  $S$  are linearly independent.

Proof. 2. follows from the negation of 1.

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Trivial.

( $\Rightarrow$ ) Suppose  $S$  linearly dependent. Then,  $0_V =$  some nontrivial linear combination of vectors  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  in  $S$ . Let  $S_0 = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ , then,  $S_0$  is linearly dependent itself. ■

## 1.4 Linear Dependence and Span

### ↪ Proposition 1.4

Let  $V$  be a vector space over a field  $\mathbb{F}$  and  $S \subseteq V$ .

1.  $S$  linearly dependent  $\iff \exists v \in \text{Span}(S \setminus \{v\})$ .
2.  $S$  linearly independent  $\iff$  there is no  $v \in \text{Span}(S \setminus \{v\})$ .

Proof. 2. follows from the negation of 1.

( $\Rightarrow$ ) Suppose  $S$  linearly dependent. Then,  $0_V = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i v_i$  for some nontrivial linear combination of distinct vectors  $S$ . At least one of  $a_i \neq 0$ ; we can assume wlog (reindexing)  $a_1 \neq 0$ . Then,

$$a_1 v_1 = - \sum_{i=2}^n a_i v_i \implies v_1 = (-a_1^{-1}) \sum_{i=2}^n a_i v_i = \sum_{i=2}^n (-a_1^{-1} a_i) v_i,$$

hence,  $v_1 \in \text{Span}(\{v_2, \dots, v_n\}) \subseteq \text{Span}(S \setminus \{v\})$

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Suppose  $v \in \text{Span}(S \setminus \{v\})$ , then  $v = a_1 v_1 + \dots + a_n v_n$ , with  $v_1, \dots, v_n \in S \setminus \{v\}$ , thus

$$0_V = a_1 v_1 + \dots + a_n v_n - v,$$

which is not a trivial combination ( $-1$  on the  $v$ ;  $v$  cannot “merge” with the other vectors), hence  $S$  is linearly dependent. ■

### ↪ Corollary 1.1

$S \subseteq V$  is linearly independent  $\iff S$  a minimal spanning set of  $\text{Span } S$ .

Proof. Follows from proposition 1.4, 2. ■

### ↪ Definition 1.9: Maximally Independent

Let  $V$  be a vector space over a field  $\mathbb{F}$ . A set  $S \subseteq V$  is called *maximally independent* if  $S$  is linearly independent and  $\nexists v \in V \setminus S$  s.t.  $S \cup \{v\}$  is still linearly independent.

In other words, there is no proper superset  $\tilde{S} \supsetneq S$  that is still independent.

### ↪ Lemma 1.3

If  $S \subseteq V$  maximally independent, then  $S$  is spanning for  $V$ .

Proof. Let  $S \subseteq V$  be maximally independent. Let  $v \in V$ ; supposing  $v \notin S$  (in the case that  $v \in S$ , then  $v \in \text{Span}(S)$  trivially). By maximality,  $S \cup \{v\}$  is linearly dependent, hence there exists a nontrivial linear combination that equals  $0_V$ . Since  $S$  independent, this combination must include  $v$ , with a nonzero coefficient. We can write

$$\begin{aligned} av + \sum_{i=1}^n a_i v_i &= 0_V \quad a \neq 0, v_i \in S \\ \implies v &= \sum_{i=1}^n (-a^{-1}a_i)v_i \in \text{Span } S. \end{aligned}$$

■

### ↪ Theorem 1.1

Let  $V$  be a vector space over a field  $\mathbb{F}$  and let  $S \subseteq V$ . TFAE:

1.  $S$  is a minimal spanning set;
2.  $S$  is linearly independent and spanning;
3.  $S$  is a maximally linearly independent set;
4. Every vector in  $V$  is equal to *unique* linear combination of vectors in  $S$ .

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Proof. (1.  $\implies$  2.) Suppose  $S$  is spanning for  $V$  and is minimal. Then, by corollary 1.1, we have that  $S$  is linearly independent, and is thus both linearly independent and spanning.

(2.  $\implies$  3.) Suppose  $S$  is linearly independent and spanning. Let  $v \in V \setminus S$ ;  $S$  is spanning, hence  $v \in \text{Span } S$ , that is, there exists a linear combination of vectors in  $S$  that is equal to  $v$ :

$$v = a_1 v_1 + \cdots + a_n v_n, a_i \in \mathbb{F}, v_i \in S.$$

Thus,  $0_V = a_1 v_1 + \cdots + a_n v_n - v$ , thus  $S \cup \{v\}$  is linearly dependent, and so  $S$  is maximally linearly independent.

(3.  $\implies$  1.) Suppose  $S$  is maximally linearly independent. By lemma 1.3,  $S$  is spanning, and since  $S$  is linearly independent, by corollary 1.1,  $S$  is minimally spanning for  $\text{Span } S$ .

(2.  $\implies$  4.) Suppose  $S$  is linearly independent and spans  $V$ , and let  $v \in V$ . We have that  $v \in \text{Span } S$  and hence is equal to a linear combination of vectors in  $S$ . This gives existence; we now need to prove uniqueness.

Suppose there exist two linear combinations that equal  $v$ ,

$$v = a_1v_1 + \cdots + a_nv_n = b_1u_1 + \cdots + b_mu_m,$$

$a_i, b_j \in \mathbb{F}$ ,  $v_i, u_j \in S$ . With appropriate reindexing/relabelling and allowing certain scalars to equal 0, we can assume that the combinations use the same vectors (with potentially different coefficients), that is,

$$v = a_1w_1 + \cdots + a_kw_k = b_1w_1 + \cdots + b_kw_k.$$

This implies, then,

$$(a_1 - b_1)w_1 + \cdots + (a_k - b_k)w_k = 0_V,$$

and by the assumed linear independent of  $S$ , each coefficient  $(a_i - b_i) = 0 \forall i \implies a_i = b_i \forall i$ , hence, these are indeed the same representations, and thus this representation is unique.

(4.  $\implies$  2.) Suppose every vector in  $V$  admits a unique linear combination of vectors in  $S$ . Clearly, then,  $S$  is spanning. It remains to show  $S$  is linearly independent. Suppose

$$0_V = a_1v_1 + \cdots + a_nv_n$$

for  $v_i \in S$ . But we have that every vector has a unique representation, and we know that  $a_i = 0 \forall i$  is a (valid) linear combination that gives  $0_V$ ; hence, this must be the unique combination,  $a_i = 0 \forall i$ , and the linear combination above is trivial. Hence,  $S$  is linearly independent and spanning. ■

### ↪ **Definition 1.10: Basis**

If any (hence all) of the above statements hold, we call  $S$  a *basis* for  $V$ .

In the words of 4., we call the unique linear combination of vectors in  $S$  that is equal to  $v$  the *unique representation of  $v$  in  $S$* . Its coefficients are called the *Fourier coefficients of  $v$  in  $S$* .

### ⊗ **Example 1.9**

1.  $\text{St}_n = \{e_i : 1 \leq i \leq n\}$  is a basis for  $\mathbb{F}^n$ .

2. In  $\mathbb{F}^3$ , the set

$$\{(1, 0, -1), (0, 1, -1), (0, 0, 1)\}$$

is a basis; it is linearly independent and spanning.

3. For  $\mathbb{F}[t]_n$ , the standard basis is

$$\{1, t, t^2, \dots, t^n\}.$$

4. For  $\mathbb{F}[t]$ , the standard basis is

$$S := \{1, t, t^2, \dots\} = \{t^n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}.$$

5. Let  $\mathbb{F}[[t]]$  denote the space of all formal power series  $\sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} a_n t^n$ ; polynomials are an example, but with only finite nonzero coefficients. Note that, then, the set  $S$  defined above is not a basis for this “extended” set. We *can* in fact find a basis for this set; we need more tools first.

### ↪ **Theorem 1.2**

Every vector space has a basis.

**Remark 1.6.** *This theorem relies on assuming the Axiom of Choice.*

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*Proof (Attempt).* (Of theorem 1.2) We will try to “inductively” build a maximally independent set, as follows:

Begin with an empty set  $S_0 := \emptyset$ , and iteratively add more vectors to it. Let  $v_0 \in V$  be a non-zero vector, and let  $S_1 := \{v_0\}$ .

If  $S_1$  is maximal, then we are done. Otherwise, there exists a new vector  $v_1 \in V \setminus S_1$  s.t.  $S_2 := \{v_0, v_1\}$  is still independent.

If  $S_2$  is maximal, then we are done. Otherwise, there exists a new vector  $v_2 \in V \setminus S_2$  s.t.  $S_3 := \{v_0, v_1, v_2\}$  is still independent.

Continue in this manner; this would take arbitrarily many finite, or even infinite, steps; we would need some “choice function” that would “allow” us to choose any particular  $i$ th vector  $v_i$ .

We can make this construction precise via the Axiom of Choice and transfinite induction (on ordinals); alternatively, we will prove a statement equivalent to the Axiom of Choice, Zorn’s Lemma. ■

**Remark 1.7.** *Before stating Zorn’s Lemma, we introduce the following terminology.*

### ↪ **Axiom 1.1: Axiom of Choice**

Let  $X$  be a set of nonempty sets. Then, there exists a choice function  $f$  defined on  $X$  that maps each set of  $X$  to an element of that set.

### ↪ **Definition 1.11: Inclusion-Maximal Element**

A *inclusion-maximal* element of  $I$  is a set  $S \in I$  s.t. there is no strict super set  $S' \supsetneq S$  s.t.  $S' \in I$ .

### ↪ **Definition 1.12: Chain**

Let  $X$  a set. Call a collection  $C \subseteq \mathcal{P}(X)$  a *chain* if any two  $A, B \in C$  are comparable, ie,  $A \subseteq B$  or  $B \subseteq A$ .

### ↪ Definition 1.13: Upper Bound

An *upper bound* of a collection  $\tau \subseteq \mathcal{P}(X)$  is a set  $U \subseteq X$  s.t.  $U \supseteq J \forall J \in \tau$ ;  $U$  contains the union of all sets in  $J$ .

#### ⊗ Example 1.10: Of The Previous Definitions

Let  $X := \mathbb{N}, I := \{\emptyset, \{0\}, \{1, 2\}, \{1, 2, 3\}\} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})$ .

The maximal elements of  $I$  would be  $\{0\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ .

Chains would include  $C_0 := \{\emptyset, \{1, 2\}, \{1, 2, 3\}\}, C_1 := \{\emptyset, \{0\}\}, C_2 := \{\emptyset\}$  (or any set containing a single element).

The sets  $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$  and  $\{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  are upper bounds for  $I$ , while neither is an element of  $I$ . The set  $\{1, 2, 3\}$  is an upper bound for  $C_0$ . A chain  $\{\emptyset, \{0\}, \{0, 1\}, \{0, 1, 2\}, \dots\}$  has an upper bound of  $\mathbb{N}$ .

### ↪ Lemma 1.4: Zorn's Lemma

Let  $X$  be an ambient set and  $I \subseteq \mathcal{P}(X)$  be a nonempty collection of subsets of  $X$ . If every chain  $C \subseteq I$  has an upper bound in  $I$ , then  $I$  has a maximal element.

“Proof”. This is equivalent to the Axiom of Choice; proving it is beyond the scope of this course :(. ■

*Proof of theorem 1.2, cnt'd.* We obtain a maximal independent set using Zorn's Lemma.

Let  $I$  be the collection of all linearly independent subsets of  $V$ .  $I$  is nonempty;  $\emptyset \in I$ , as is  $\{v\} \in I$  for any nonzero  $v \in V$ . To apply Zorn's, we need to show that every chain  $C$  of sets in  $I$  has an upper bound in  $I$ ; that is, every linearly independent set has an upper bound that itself is linearly independent.

Let  $C$  be a chain in  $I$ . Let  $S := \bigcup C$  be the union of all sets in  $C$ . To show  $S$  is linearly independent, it suffices to show that every finite subset  $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\} \subseteq S$  is linearly independent. Let  $S_i \in C$  be s.t.  $v_i \in S_i$  for each  $i$ . Because  $C$  a chain, for each  $i, j$  we have either  $S_i \subseteq S_j$  or  $S_j \subseteq S_i$ , and so we can order  $S_1, \dots, S_n$  in increasing order w.r.t  $\subseteq$ . This implies, then, there is a maximal  $S_{i_0}$  s.t.  $S_{i_0} \supseteq S_i \forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ . Moreover, we have that  $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\} \in S_{i_0}$ , and that  $S_{i_0}$  is linearly independent and thus  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  is also linearly independent.

Thus, as we can apply Zorn's Lemma, we conclude that  $I$  has a maximal element, ie, there is a maximal independent set, and thus a  $V$  indeed has a basis. ■

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### ↪ Theorem 1.3

For every vector space  $V$  over a field  $\mathbb{F}$ , any two bases  $\mathcal{B}_1, \mathcal{B}_2$  are equinumerous/of equal size/cardinality, ie, there is a bijection between  $\mathcal{B}_1$  and  $\mathcal{B}_2$ .

**Remark 1.8.** We will only prove this for vector spaces that admit a finite basis.

↪ **Lemma 1.5: Steinitz Substitution**

Let  $V$  be a vector space over a field  $\mathbb{F}$ . Let  $Y \subseteq V$  be a (possibly infinite) linearly independent set and let  $Z \subseteq V$  be a finite spanning set. Then:

1.  $k := |Y| \leq |Z| =: n$
2. There is  $Z' \subseteq Z$  of size  $n - k$  s.t.  $Y \cup Z'$  is still spanning.

*Proof.* Remark first that if  $Z$  finite and spanning for  $V$ , then we cannot have a infinite linearly independent  $Y$  subset of  $V$ . Thus, wlog assume that  $Y$  finite.

We prove by induction on  $k$ .

$k = 0$  gives that  $Y = \emptyset$ , and so  $Z' = Z$  itself works ( $Z' \cup Y = Z$ ) as a spanning set.

Suppose the statement holds for some  $k \geq 0$ . Let  $Y$  be an independent set such that  $|Y| = k + 1$ , ie

$$Y := \{y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k, y_{k+1}\}, \quad y \in V.$$

By our inductive assumption, we can consider  $Y' := \{y_1, \dots, y_k\} \subseteq Y$  of size  $k$ , to obtain a set

$$Z' = \{z_1, z_2, \dots, z_{n-k}\} \subseteq Z, \text{ s.t. } Y' \cup Z' = \{y_1, \dots, y_k, z_1, \dots, z_{n-k}\}$$

is spanning. As this is spanning, we can write  $y_{k+1}$  as a linear combination of vectors in  $Y' \cup Z'$ , ie

$$y_{k+1} = a_1 y_1 + \dots + a_k y_k + b_1 z_1 + \dots + b_{n-k} z_{n-k}, \quad a_i, b_j \in \mathbb{F}.$$

It must be that at least one of  $b_j$ 's must be nonzero; if they were all zero, then  $y_{k+1}$  would simply be a linear combination of vector  $y_i$  giving that  $y_{k+1}$  linearly dependent, contradicting our construction of  $Y$  linearly independent.

Assume, wlog,  $b_{n-k} \neq 0$ . Then, we can write

$$z_{n-k} = b_{n-k}^{-1} y_{k+1} - b_{n-k}^{-1} a_1 y_1 - \dots - b_{n-k}^{-1} a_k y_k - b_{n-k}^{-1} b_1 z_1 - \dots - b_{n-k}^{-1} b_{n-k-1} z_{n-k-1},$$

and hence

$$z_{n-k} \in \text{Span}\{y_1, \dots, y_{k+1}, z_1, \dots, z_{n-k-1}\} = \text{Span}\left(\underbrace{\{y_1, \dots, y_{k+1}\}}_Y \cup \underbrace{\{z_1, \dots, z_{n-k-1}\}}_{:=Z''}\right).$$

We had that  $Y' \cup Z'$  was spanning, and  $(Y' \cup Z') \setminus (Y \cup Z'') = \{z_{n-k}\} \subseteq \text{Span}(Y \cup Z'')$ , and we thus have that  $Y \cup Z''$  is also spanning. ■

↪ **Corollary 1.2: Finite Basis Case for theorem 1.3**

Let  $V$  be a vector space that admits a finite basis. Then, any two bases of  $V$  are equinumerous.



Proof. Let  $Y, Z$  be two finite bases for  $V$ . Then,  $Y$  is independent and  $Z$  is spanning, so by Steinitz Substitution,  $|Y| \leq |Z|$ . OTOH,  $Z$  is independent, and  $Y$  is spanning, so by Steinitz Substitution,  $|Z| \leq |Y|$ , and we conclude that  $|Y| = |Z|$ . Let  $n := |Y|$ .

It remains to show that there exist no infinite bases for  $V$ ; it suffices to show that there is no independent set of size  $n + 1$ . To this end, let  $I \subseteq V$  such that  $|I| = n + 1$  be an independent set.  $Y$  is still spanning, hence, by the substitution lemma,  $n + 1 \leq n$ , a contradiction. Hence,  $I$  as defined cannot exist and so any basis of  $V$  must be of size  $n$ . ■

#### ↪ **Definition 1.14: Dimension**

Let  $V$  be a vector space over a field  $\mathbb{F}$ . The *dimension* of  $V$ , denote

$$\dim(V)$$

as the cardinality/size of any basis for  $V$ . We call  $V$  *finite dimensional* if  $\dim(V)$  is a natural number, i.e.  $V$  admits a finite basis. Otherwise, we say  $V$  is infinite dimensional.

#### ↪ **Corollary 1.3: of Steinitz Substitution**

Let  $V$  be a finite dimensional vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$  and denote  $n := \dim(V)$ . Then:

1. Every linearly independent subset  $I \subseteq V$  has size  $\leq n$ ;
2. Every spanning set  $S \subseteq V$  for  $V$  has size  $\geq n$ ;
3. Every independent set  $I$  can be completed to a basis to  $V$ , ie, there exists a basis  $B$  for  $V$  s.t.  $I \subseteq B$ .

Proof. Fix a basis  $B$  for  $V$ ,  $|B| = n$ .

1. If  $I$  is a independent set, then because  $B$  spanning, Steinitz Substitution gives  $|I| \leq |B|$ .
2. If  $S$  spanning for  $V$ , then because  $B$  is linearly independent, Steinitz Substitution gives  $|B| \leq |S|$ .
3. Let  $I$  be an independent set. Then, because  $B$  is spanning, Steinitz Substitution gives  $B' \subseteq B$  of size  $n - |I|$  s.t.  $I \cup B'$  is spanning. Moreover,  $|I \cup B'| \leq n$ , and by 2. it must have size  $\geq n$ , and thus has size precisely  $n$  and is thus a minimally spanning set and thus a basis.

#### ↪ **Corollary 1.4: Monotonicity of Dimension**

Let  $V$  be a vector space over a field  $\mathbb{F}$ . For any subspace  $W \subseteq V$ ,  $\dim W \leq \dim V$ , and

$$\dim W = \dim V \iff W = V.$$

*Proof.* Let  $B \subseteq W$  be a basis for  $W$ . Because  $B$  is independent,  $|B| \leq \dim(V)$  by 1. of corollary 1.3, so  $\dim(W) = |B| \leq \dim(V)$ .

If  $|B| = \dim(V)$ , then  $B$  is a basis for  $V$  again by 1. of corollary 1.3, so  $W = \text{Span}(B) = V$ . ■

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## 2 LINEAR TRANSFORMATIONS, MATRICES

### 2.1 Definitions

#### ↪ Definition 2.1: Linear Transformation

Let  $V, W$  be vector spaces over a field  $\mathbb{F}$ . A function  $T : V \rightarrow W$  is called a *linear transformation* if it preserves the vector space structures, that is,

1.  $T(v_0 + v_1) = T(v_0) + T(v_1), \forall v_0, v_1 \in V$ ;
2.  $T(\alpha \cdot v) = \alpha \cdot T(v), \forall \alpha \in \mathbb{F}, v \in V$ ;
3.  $T(0_V) = 0_W$ .

**Remark 2.1.** Note that 3. is redundant, implied by 2., but included for emphasis:

$$T(0_V) = T(0_{\mathbb{F}} \cdot 0_V) = 0_{\mathbb{F}} \cdot T(0_V) = 0_W.$$

#### ⊗ Example 2.1: Linear Transformations

1.  $T : \mathbb{F}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^2, T(a_1, a_2) := (a_1 + 2a_2, a_1)$ .
2. Let  $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$ , and let  $T_\theta : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  be the rotation by  $\theta$ . The linearity of this is perhaps most obvious in polar coordinates, ie  $v \in \mathbb{R}^2, v = r(\cos \alpha, \sin \alpha)$  for appropriate  $r, \alpha$ , and  $T_\theta(v) = r(\cos(\alpha + \theta), \sin(\alpha + \theta))$ .
3.  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ , a reflection about the  $x$ -axis, ie,  $T(x, y) = (x, -y)$ .
4. Projections,  $T : \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^n$ .
5. The transpose on  $M_n(\mathbb{F})$ , ie,  $T : M_n(\mathbb{F}) \rightarrow M_n(\mathbb{F})$ , where  $A \mapsto A^t$ .
6. The derivative on space of polynomials of degree leq  $n$ ,  $D : \mathbb{F}[t]_{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}[t]_n, p(t) \mapsto p'(t)$ .

### ↪ **Theorem 2.1**

Linear transformations are completely determined by their values on a basis.

That is, let  $\mathcal{B} := \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  be a basis for a vector space  $V$  over  $\mathbb{F}$ . Let  $W$  also be a vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$  and let  $w_1, \dots, w_n \in W$  be arbitrary vectors. Then, there is a unique linear transformation  $T : V \rightarrow W$  s.t.  $T(v_i) = w_i \forall i = 1, \dots, n$ .

Proof. We aim to define  $T(v)$  for arbitrary  $v \in V$ . We can write

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

as the unique representation of  $v$  in terms of the basis  $\mathcal{B}$ . Then, we simply define

$$T(v) := a_1w_1 + \dots + a_nw_n,$$

for our given  $w_i$ 's. Then,  $T(v_i) = 1 \cdot w_i = w_i$ , as desired, and  $T$  is linear;

1. Let  $u, v \in V$ ;  $u := \sum_n a_iv_i, v := \sum_n b_iv_i$ . Then,

$$T(u + v) = T\left(\sum_n a_iv_i + \sum_n b_iv_i\right) = T\left(\sum_n (a_i + b_i)v_i\right) = \sum_n (a_i + b_i)w_i = \sum_n a_iw_i + \sum_n b_iw_i = T(u) + T(v).$$

2. Scalar multiplication follows similarly.

To show uniqueness, suppose  $T_0, T_1$  are two linear transformations satisfying  $T_0(v_i) = w_i = T_1(v_i)$ . Let  $v \in V$ , and write  $v = \sum_n a_iv_i$ . By linearity,

$$T_k(v) = T_k\left(\sum_n a_iv_i\right) = \sum_n a_iT_k(v_i) = \sum_n a_iw_i,$$

for  $k = 0, 1$ , hence,  $T_1(v) = T_0(v)$  for arbitrary  $v$ , hence the transformations are equivalent. ■

### ↪ **Definition 2.2: Some Important Transformations**

We denote  $T_0 : V \rightarrow W$  by  $T_0(v) := 0_W \forall v \in V$  the *zero transformation*. We denote  $I_V : V \rightarrow V$ ,  $I_V(v) := v \forall v \in V$ , as the *identity transformation*.

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## 2.2 Isomorphisms, Kernel, Image

### ↪ **Definition 2.3: Isomorphism**

Let  $V, W$  be vector spaces over  $\mathbb{F}$ . An *isomorphism* from  $V$  to  $W$  is a linear transformation  $T : V \rightarrow W$  (a homomorphism for vector spaces) which admits an inverse  $T^{-1}$  that is also linear.

If such an isomorphism exists, we say  $V$  and  $W$  are *isomorphic*.

### ↪ Proposition 2.1

$T : V \rightarrow W$  is an isomorphism  $\iff T$  is linear and bijective.

Proof. The direction  $\implies$  is trivial.

Suppose  $T : V \rightarrow W$  is linear and bijective, ie  $T^{-1}$  exists. We need to show that  $T^{-1}$  is linear. Let  $w_1, w_2 \in W, a_1, a_2 \in \mathbb{F}$ . Then:

$$\begin{aligned} T^{-1}(a_1w_1 + a_2w_2) &= T^{-1}(a_1T(T^{-1}(w_1)) + a_2T(T^{-1}(w_2))) \\ \text{(by linearity of } T) \quad &= T^{-1}(T(a_1T^{-1}(w_1) + a_2T^{-1}(w_2))) \\ &= a_1T^{-1}(w_1) + a_2T^{-1}(w_2). \end{aligned}$$

■

**Remark 2.2.** This proposition holds for all structures that only have operations; it does not for those with relations, such as graphs, orders, etc..

### ↪ Theorem 2.2

For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , every  $n$ -dimensional vector space  $V$  over  $\mathbb{F}$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{F}^n$ . In particular, all  $n$ -dim vector spaces over  $\mathbb{F}$  are isomorphic.

Proof. Fix a basis  $\mathcal{B} := \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  for  $V$ , and let  $T : V \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^n$  be the unique linear transformation determined by  $\mathcal{B}$  with  $T(v_i) = e_i$ , where  $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$  is the standard basis for  $\mathbb{F}^n$ . We show that  $T$  is a bijection.

(Injective) Suppose  $T(x) = T(y), x, y \in V$ . Write  $x = a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n, y = b_1v_1 + \dots + b_nv_n$ , the unique representation of  $x, y$  in the basis  $\mathcal{B}$ . We have:

$$a_1e_1 + \dots + a_ne_n = a_1T(v_1) + \dots + a_nT(v_n) = T(a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n) = T(x) = T(y) = \dots = b_1e_1 + \dots + b_ne_n,$$

but by the uniqueness of representation in a basis, it follows that each  $a_i = b_i$ , hence,  $x = y$ .

(Surjective) Let  $w \in \mathbb{F}^n$ . Then,  $w = a_1e_1 + \dots + a_ne_n$  (uniquely). But then,

$$w = a_1T(v_1) + \dots + a_nT(v_n) = T(a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n),$$

where  $a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n \in V$ , hence  $T$  indeed surjective.

■

**Remark 2.3.** Replacing  $\mathbb{F}^n$  with an arbitrary  $n$ -dim vector space  $W$  over  $\mathbb{F}$  yields the following.

### ↪ Theorem 2.3: Freeness of Vector Spaces

Let  $W, V$  be vector spaces over  $\mathbb{F}$  and let  $\beta, \gamma$  be bases for  $V, W$  respectively. Every bijection  $T : \beta \rightarrow \gamma$  can be extended to an isomorphism  $\hat{T} : V \rightarrow W$ .

In particular, all vector spaces over  $\mathbb{F}$  with equinumerous bases are isomorphic.

**Remark 2.4.** The proof follows very similarly to the previous theorem, but extended to arbitrary, possibly infinite, spaces.

Proof. Homework exercise. ■

↪ **Definition 2.4: Image/Kernel**

For a linear transformation  $T : V \rightarrow W$ , where  $V, W$  are vector spaces over  $\mathbb{F}$ , we define the *image*

$$\text{Im}(T) := T(V),$$

and its *kernel*

$$\text{Ker}(T) = T^{-1}(\{0_W\}).$$

↪ **Proposition 2.2**

$\text{Ker}(T)$  and  $\text{Im } T$  are subspaces of  $V, W$  resp.

Proof. ( $\text{Ker}(T)$ ) Let  $v_0, v_1 \in \text{Ker } T$  and  $a_0, a_1 \in \mathbb{F}$ , then

$$T(a_0v_0 + a_1v_1) = a_0T(v_0) + a_1T(v_1) = 0_W \implies a_0v_0 + a_1v_1 \in \text{Ker } T.$$

( $\text{Im}(T)$ ) Let  $w_0, w_1 \in \text{Im } T$ ,  $a_0, a_1 \in \mathbb{F}$ . Then  $w_i = T(v_i)$ ,  $v_i \in V$ , and so

$$a_0w_0 + a_1w_1 = a_0T(v_0) + a_1T(v_1) = T(a_0v_0 + a_1v_1) \implies a_0w_0 + a_1w_1 \in \text{Im } T. \quad \blacksquare$$

↪ **Proposition 2.3**

Let  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be a linear transformation, where  $V, W$  vector spaces over  $\mathbb{F}$ . Let  $\beta$  be a (possibly infinite) basis for  $V$ . Then,  $T(\beta)$  spans  $\text{Im}(T)$ .

In particular,  $T$  is surjective iff  $T(\beta)$  spans  $W$ .

Proof. Let  $w \in \text{Im}(T)$ , so  $w = T(v)$  for some  $v \in V$ , where we have  $v := a_1v_1 + \cdots + a_nv_n$ ,  $v_i \in \beta$ . Then,

$$w = T(v) = a_1T(v_1) + \cdots + a_nT(v_n) \in \text{Span}(\{T(v_1), \dots, T(v_n)\}) \subseteq \text{Span}(T(\beta)). \quad \blacksquare$$

### ↪ Proposition 2.4

Let  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be a linear transformation, where  $V, W$  vector spaces over  $\mathbb{F}$ . TFAE:

1.  $T$  is injective.
2.  $\text{Ker}(T)$  is the trivial subspace  $\{0_V\}$ .
3.  $T(\beta)$  is independent for each basis  $\beta$  for  $V$ .
- 3'.  $T(\beta)$  is independent for some basis  $\beta$  for  $V$ .

Proof. (1.  $\implies$  2.) Trivial; only  $0_V$  can be mapped to  $0_W$ .

(2.  $\implies$  1.) Suppose  $\text{Ker}(T) = \{0_V\}$  and let  $T(x) = T(y), x, y \in V$ . By linearity,

$$T(x - y) = T(x) - T(y) = 0_W \implies x - y \in \text{Ker}(T) \implies x - y = 0_V \implies x = y.$$

(2.  $\implies$  3.) Fix a basis  $\beta$  for  $V$ . To show that  $T(\beta)$  linearly independent, take an arbitrary linear combination  $a_1w_1 + \cdots + a_nw_n \in T(\beta)$ . Suppose  $\sum_i a_iw_i = 0_W$ . Since  $w_i \in T(\beta), w_i = T(v_i), v_i \in \beta$ , hence

$$\begin{aligned} 0_W = a_1w_1 + \cdots + a_nw_n &= a_1T(v_1) + \cdots + a_nT(v_n) = T(a_1v_1 + \cdots + a_nv_n) \\ &\implies a_1v_1 + \cdots + a_nv_n \in \text{Ker}(T) \\ &\implies a_1v_1 + \cdots + a_nv_n = 0_V, \end{aligned}$$

but each  $v_i$  is linearly independent, hence this must be a trivial linear combination, and thus  $a_i = 0 \forall i$ .

(3)  $\implies$  (3') Trivial; stronger statement implies weaker statement.

(3')  $\implies$  (2) Suppose  $T(\beta)$  linearly independent for some basis  $\beta$  for  $V$ . Suppose  $T(v) = 0_W, v \in V$ . We write

$$v = a_1v_1 + \cdots + a_nv_n, v_i \in \beta.$$

Then,

$$0_W = T(v) = T(a_1v_1 + \cdots + a_nv_n) = a_1T(v_1) + \cdots + a_nT(v_n),$$

but  $\{T(v_i)\} \subseteq T(\beta)$  is linearly independent, hence, this combination must be trivial and each  $a_i = 0$ , and thus  $v = 0_V$  and so  $\text{Ker}(T) = \{0_V\}$  is trivial. ■

↪ **Definition 2.5: Rank, nullity**

Let  $V, W$  be vector spaces over  $\mathbb{F}$  and  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be linear. Define *rank* of  $T$  as

$$\text{rank}(T) := \dim(\text{Im}(T)),$$

and *nullity* of  $T$  as

$$\text{nullity}(T) := \dim(\text{Ker}(T)).$$

↪ **Theorem 2.4: Rank-Nullity Theorem**

Let  $V, W$  be vector spaces over  $\mathbb{F}$ ,  $\dim(V) < \infty$ . Let  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be a linear transformation. Then,

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

**Remark 2.5.** *Intuitively: the nullity is the number of vectors we “collapse”; the rank is what is left. Together, we have the entire space.*

**Remark 2.6.** *This follows directly from the first isomorphism theorem for vector spaces, and the fact that  $\dim(V/\text{Ker}(T)) = \dim(V) - \dim(\text{Ker}(T))$ ; however, we will prove it without this result below.*

Proof. Let  $\{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$  be a basis for  $\text{Ker}(T)$ , and complete it to a basis  $\beta := \{v_1, \dots, v_k, u_1, \dots, u_{n-k}\}$  for  $V$ , where  $n := \dim(V)$ . We need to show that  $\dim(\text{Im}(T)) = n - k$ .

Recall that  $\{T(v_1), \dots, T(v_k), T(u_1), \dots, T(u_{n-k})\}$  spans  $\text{Im}(T)$ . But  $v_1, \dots, v_k \in \text{Ker}(T)$ , so  $T(v_i) = 0_W \forall i = 1, \dots, k$ . Hence, letting  $\gamma := \{T(u_1), \dots, T(u_{n-k})\}$  spans  $\text{Im}(T)$ . It remains to show that  $\gamma$  is independent.

Let  $a_1 T(u_1) + \dots + a_{n-k} T(u_{n-k}) = 0_W$ ; by linearity,

$$T(a_1 u_1 + \dots + a_{n-k} u_{n-k}) = 0_W$$

$$\implies a_1 u_1 + \dots + a_{n-k} u_{n-k} \in \text{Ker}(T)$$

$$\implies a_1 u_1 + \dots + a_{n-k} u_{n-k} = b_1 v_1 + \dots + b_k v_k,$$

but each of these  $u_i, v_j \in \beta$ , hence, each coefficient must be identically zero as  $\beta$  linearly independent, and thus  $\dim(\text{Im}(T)) = n - k$ . This completes the proof. ■

↪ **Corollary 2.1: Pigeonhole Principle for Dimension**

Let  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be a linear transformation. If  $T$  injective, then  $\dim(W) \geq \dim(V)$ .

Proof. If  $\dim(V) < \infty$ , then  $\dim(\text{Im}(T)) = \dim(V)$ , and we have that  $\dim(\text{Im}(T)) \leq \dim(W)$  and conclude  $\dim(V) \leq \dim(W)$ .

If  $\dim(V) = \infty$ , then  $\dim(\text{Im}(T)) = \infty$  and  $\dim(W) \geq \dim(\text{Im}(T)) = \infty$ . ■

### ↪ **Corollary 2.2**

Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $V, W$  be  $n$ -dimensional vector spaces over  $\mathbb{F}$ . For a linear transformation  $T : V \rightarrow W$ , TFAE:

1.  $T$  injective;
2.  $T$  surjective;
3.  $\text{rank}(T) = n$ .

Proof. (2.  $\iff$  3.) Follows from  $\text{rank}(T) = \dim(\text{Im}(T)) = n \iff \text{Im}(T) = W$ .

(1.  $\implies$  3.) We have  $\text{nullity}(T) = 0$  so  $\text{rank}(T) = \dim(V) = n$ .

(3.  $\implies$  1.) If  $\text{rank}(T) = n$ , then  $\text{nullity}(T) = 0$ . ■

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### ↪ **Theorem 2.5: First Isomorphism Theorem for Vector Spaces**

Let  $V, W$  be vector spaces over  $\mathbb{F}$ . Let  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be a linear transformation. Then,

$$V/\text{Ker}(T) \cong \text{Im}(T),$$

by the isomorphism given by  $v + \text{Ker}(T) \mapsto T(v)$ .

Proof. From group theory, we know that  $\hat{T} : V/\text{Ker}(T) \rightarrow \text{Im}(T)$ , where  $\hat{T}(v + \text{Ker}(T)) := T(v)$  is well-defined, and is an isomorphism of abelian groups. We need only to check that  $\hat{T}$  is linear, namely, that it respects scalar multiplication. We have

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{T}(a \cdot (v + \text{Ker}(T))) &= \hat{T}((a \cdot v) + \text{Ker}(T)) \\ &= T(av) = a \cdot T(v) \\ &= a\hat{T}(v + \text{Ker}(T)),\end{aligned}$$

as desired. ■

## 2.3 The Space $\text{Hom}(V, W)$



### ↪ Definition 2.6: Homomorphism Space

For vector spaces  $V, W$  over  $\mathbb{F}$ , let  $\text{Hom}(V, W)$  (also denoted  $\ell(V, W)$ ) denote the set of all linear transformations from  $V$  to  $W$ . We can turn this into a vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$  as follows:

1. *Addition of linear transformations:* for  $T_0, T_1 \in \text{Hom}(V, W)$ , define

$$(T_0 + T_1) : V \rightarrow W, \quad v \mapsto T_0(v) + T_1(v).$$

$(T_0 + T_1)$  is clearly a linear transformation, as the linear combination of linear transformations  $T_0, T_1$ .

2. *Scalar multiplication of linear transformations:* for  $T \in \text{Hom}(V, W)$ ,  $a \in \mathbb{F}$ , define

$$(a \cdot T) : V \rightarrow W, \quad v \mapsto a \cdot T(v),$$

which is again clearly linear in its own right.

### ↪ Proposition 2.5

Endowed with the operations described above,  $\text{Hom}(V, W)$  is a vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$ .

Proof. Follows easily from the definitions. ■

### ↪ Theorem 2.6: Basis for $\text{Hom}(V, W)$

For vector spaces  $V, W$  over  $\mathbb{F}$  and bases  $\beta, \gamma$  for  $V, W$  resp., the following set

$$\{T_{v,w} = v \in \beta, w \in \gamma\},$$

is a basis for  $\text{Hom}(V, W)$ , where for each  $v \in \beta$  and  $w \in \gamma$ ,  $T_{v,w} \in \text{Hom}(V, W)$  defined as the unique linear transformation such that

$$T_{v,w}(v') = \begin{cases} w & v' = v \\ 0_W & v' \neq v \iff v' \in \beta \setminus \{v\} \end{cases}.$$

Proof. Left as a (homework) exercise. ■

### ↪ Corollary 2.3

If  $V, W$  finite dimensional, then  $\dim(\text{Hom}(V, W)) = \dim(V) \cdot \dim(W)$ .

↪ **Proposition 2.6**

Let  $\beta = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ ,  $\gamma = \{w_1, \dots, w_m\}$  be bases for  $V, W$  resp. Then, by theorem 2.6,

$$\{T_{v_i, w_j} : i \in \{1, \dots, n\}, j \in \{1, \dots, m\}\}$$

is a basis for  $\text{Hom}(V, W)$ , and it has  $n \cdot m$  vectors by construction.

## 2.4 Matrix Representation of Linear Transformations, Finite Fields

Consider a linear transformation  $T : \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^m$  between finite fields. We know that  $T$  is uniquely determined by its value of basis vectors, so fix the standard bases

$$\beta = \{e_1^{(n)}, \dots, e_n^{(n)}\} = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\},$$

and note that  $T$  is determined by  $\{T(v_1), \dots, T(v_n)\} \subseteq \mathbb{F}^m$ .

**Remark 2.7.** We denote vectors in  $\mathbb{F}^n$  as column vectors, ie  $\begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{F}^n$ .

Each  $T(v_i)$  is a column vector in  $\mathbb{F}^m$ , and we can put these into a  $m \times n$  matrix, namely:<sup>7</sup>

$$[T] := \begin{pmatrix} | & & | \\ T(v_1) & \cdots & T(v_n) \\ | & & | \end{pmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & \cdots & a_{mn} \end{pmatrix}}_n$$

We call this the *matrix representation* of  $T$  in the standard bases. The operation of multiplying an  $m \times n$  matrix and a  $n \times 1$  vector is precisely defined so that

↪ **Proposition 2.7**

$T(v) = [T] \cdot v$  for all  $v \in \mathbb{F}^n$ .

<sup>7</sup>Where  $[T]$  denotes a matrix named “ $T$ ”.

Proof. Let  $v = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}$ , where  $v = x_1v_1 + \cdots + x_nv_n$ . Then

$$T(v) = x_1T(v_1) + \cdots + x_nT(v_n)$$

$$T(v_i) = \begin{pmatrix} a_{1i} \\ \vdots \\ a_{mi} \end{pmatrix}$$

so

$$T(v) = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} \cdot x_1 + \cdots + a_{1n} \cdot x_n \\ \vdots \\ a_{m1} \cdot x_1 + \cdots + a_{mn} \cdot x_n \end{pmatrix} = [T] \cdot v$$

■

### ↪ Definition 2.7

For a given  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$  over  $\mathbb{F}$ , define  $L_A : \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^m$  by  $L_A(v) := A \cdot v$ , where  $v$  is viewed as an  $n \times 1$  column. It follows from definition that the  $L_A$  is linear.

In other words, every  $T \in \text{Hom}(\mathbb{F}^n, \mathbb{F}^m)$  is equal to  $L_A$  for some  $A$ .

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### ↪ Proposition 2.8

The map

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hom}(\mathbb{F}^n, \mathbb{F}^m) &\rightarrow M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F}) \\ T &\mapsto [T] \end{aligned}$$

is an isomorphism of vector spaces, with inverse

$$\begin{aligned} M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F}) &\rightarrow \text{Hom}(\mathbb{F}^n, \mathbb{F}^m) \\ A &\mapsto L_A. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Linearity: Let  $\beta = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  be the standard basis for  $\mathbb{F}^n$ . Fix  $T_1, T_2 \in \text{Hom}(\mathbb{F}^n, \mathbb{F}^m)$  and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}$ .

1.

$$\begin{aligned}
[T_1 + T_2] &= \begin{pmatrix} \cdots & \begin{array}{c} | \\ (T_1 + T_2)(v_i) \\ | \end{array} & \cdots \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cdots & \begin{array}{c} | \\ T_1(v_i) + T_2(v_i) \\ | \end{array} & \cdots \end{pmatrix} \\
&= \begin{pmatrix} \cdots & \begin{array}{c} | \\ T_1(v_i) \\ | \end{array} & \cdots \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \cdots & \begin{array}{c} | \\ T_2(v_i) \\ | \end{array} & \cdots \end{pmatrix} \\
&= [T_1] + [T_2]
\end{aligned}$$

2. It remains to show that  $\alpha \cdot [T] = [\alpha \cdot T]$ ; the proof follows similarly to 1.

Inverse: We need to show that 1.  $A \mapsto L_A \mapsto [L_A]$  is the identity on  $M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F})$ , and conversely, that 2.  $T \mapsto [T] \mapsto L_{[T]}$  is the identity on  $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{F}^n, \mathbb{F}^m)$ .

1. We need to show that  $[L_A] = A$ . The  $j$ th column of  $[L_A]$  is  $L_A(v_j) = A \cdot v_j = j$ th column of  $A =: A^{(j)}$ . Hence, the  $j$ th column of  $[L_A]$  is equal to the  $j$ th column of  $A$ , and thus they are equal.
2. We showed this in proposition 2.7.

■

### ↪ Corollary 2.4

$$\dim(\text{Hom}(\mathbb{F}^n, \mathbb{F}^m)) = \dim(M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F})) = m \cdot n.$$

**Remark 2.8.** This was stated previously in proposition 2.6 by constructing an explicit basis. Indeed, this basis is precisely the image of the standard basis for  $M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F})$  under the map  $A \mapsto L_A$ .

## 2.5 Matrix Representation of Linear Transformations, General Spaces

**Remark 2.9.** The previous section was concerned with representing transformations between finite fields  $\mathbb{F}^n, \mathbb{F}^m$ ; this section aims to make the same construction for any finite dimensional  $V, W$ .

### ↪ Definition 2.8: Coordinate Vector

Let  $V$  be a finite dimensional space over  $\mathbb{F}$  and let  $\beta := \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  be a basis for  $V$ . Let  $v \in V$ , with (unique) representation  $v = a_1 v_1 + \dots + a_n v_n$ . We denote

$$[v]_\beta := \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{F}^n$$

the coordinate vector of  $v$  in base  $\beta$ .

**Remark 2.10.** Recall that  $V \cong \mathbb{F}^n$  where  $\dim(V) = n$ , by the unique linear transformation  $v_i \mapsto e_i$ , where  $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$  the standard basis for  $\mathbb{F}^n$ . We denote this transformation

$$I_\beta : V \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^n.$$

For an arbitrary  $v \in V$ ,  $I_\beta(v)$  maps  $v$  to its coordinate vector:

$$\begin{aligned} I_\beta(v) &= I_\beta(a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n) = a_1I_\beta(v_1) + \dots + a_nI_\beta(v_n) \\ &= a_1e_1 + \dots + a_ne_n = [v]_\beta. \end{aligned}$$

### ↪ Proposition 2.9

The map

$$I_\beta : V \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^n, \quad v \mapsto [v]_\beta$$

is an isomorphism.

Suppose we are given a linear transformation  $T : V \rightarrow W$ , where  $V, W$  finite dimensional spaces over  $\mathbb{F}$ . Fix  $\beta := \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  and  $\gamma := \{w_1, \dots, w_m\}$  as bases for  $V, W$  resp. We can denote  $[T(v_i)]_\gamma$  as  $T(v_i)$  in base  $\gamma$  (in the field  $m$ ), and construct a matrix for  $T$ :<sup>8</sup>

$$[T]_\beta^\gamma := \begin{pmatrix} | & & | \\ [T(v_1)]_\gamma & \cdots & [T(v_n)]_\gamma \\ | & & | \end{pmatrix}$$

We call this the *matrix representation* of  $T$  from  $\beta$  to  $\gamma$ .

### ↪ Theorem 2.7

Let  $T : V \rightarrow W, \beta, \gamma$  as above.

1. The following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bullet V & \xrightarrow{T} & \bullet W \\ I_\beta \downarrow & & \downarrow I_\gamma \\ \bullet \mathbb{F}^n & \xrightarrow{L_{[T]_\beta^\gamma}} & \bullet \mathbb{F}^m \end{array}$$

Namely,  $I_\gamma \circ T = L_{[T]_\beta^\gamma} \circ I_\beta$ , or equivalently, given  $v \in V$ ,  $[T(v)]_\gamma = [T]_\beta^\gamma \cdot [v]_\beta$ .

2. The map  $\text{Hom}(V, W) \rightarrow M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F}), T \mapsto [T]_\beta^\gamma$  is a vector space isomorphism with inverse begin the map  $M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F}) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(V, W), A \mapsto I_\gamma^{-1} \circ L_A \circ I_\beta$

<sup>8</sup>Where we denote  $[T]_\beta^\gamma$  as the matrix representation of the transform  $T : V \rightarrow W$ , with basis  $\beta, \gamma$  for  $V, W$  respectively.

Proof. 2. is left as a (homework) exercise; it follows directly from 1.

Fix  $v \in V$ . We need to show that  $I_\gamma \circ T(v) = L_{[T]_\beta^\gamma} \circ I_\beta(v)$ . We have

$$I_\gamma \circ T(v) = [T(v)]_\gamma.$$

OTOH,

$$L_{[T]_\beta^\gamma} \circ I_\beta(v) = L_{[T]_\beta^\gamma}([v]_\beta) = [T]_\beta^\gamma \cdot [v]_\beta.$$

We need to show, then, that  $[T(v)]_\gamma = [T]_\beta^\gamma \cdot [v]_\beta$ . Let  $v = a_1v_1 + \cdots + a_nv_n$ , so  $[v]_\beta = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{pmatrix}$ . Recall that

$$[T]_\beta^\gamma = \begin{pmatrix} | & & | \\ [T(v_1)]_\gamma & \cdots & [T(v_n)]_\gamma \\ | & & | \end{pmatrix}. \text{ Thus, we have}$$

$$\begin{aligned} [T]_\beta^\gamma \cdot [v]_\beta &= a_1[T(v_1)]_\gamma + \cdots + a_n[T(v_n)]_\gamma = [a_1T(v_1) + \cdots + a_nT(v_n)]_\gamma \quad (\text{by linearity of } I_\gamma) \\ &= [T(a_1v_1 + \cdots + a_nv_n)]_\gamma \quad (\text{by linearity of } T) \\ &= [T(v)]_\gamma, \end{aligned}$$

which is precisely what we wanted to show. ■

**Remark 2.11.** For  $A \in M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F})$  and  $x = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{F}^n$ , we have

$$A \cdot x = x_1 \cdot A^{(1)} + x_2 \cdot A^{(2)} + \cdots + x_n \cdot A^{(n)},$$

where  $A^{(j)}$  is the  $j$ th column of  $A$ ; thus  $A \cdot x$  is a linear combination of  $A$ , with coefficients given by the vector  $x$ ; this interpretation can make it easier to make sense of computations.

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## 2.6 Composition of Linear Transformations, Matrix Multiplication

### ↪ Proposition 2.10

Composition is associative; given  $T : V \rightarrow W$ ,  $S : W \rightarrow U$ , and  $R : U \rightarrow X$ , then

$$(R \circ S) \circ T = R \circ (S \circ T).$$

Proof. Fix  $v \in V$ . Then

$$(R \circ S) \circ T(v) = (R \circ S)(T(v)) = R(S(T(v)))$$

OTOH:

$$R \circ (S \circ T)(v) = R((S \circ T)(v)) = R(S(T(v))).$$

■

Let  $A \in M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F})$  and  $B \in M_{l \times m}(\mathbb{F})$ . Then,  $L_A : \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^m$  and  $L_B : \mathbb{F}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^l$ , and have composition  $L_B \circ L_A : \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^l$ . We know that  $L_B \circ L_A$  is a linear transformation, and thus must be equal to  $L_C$  for some matrix  $C \in M_{l \times n}(\mathbb{F})$ . Indeed,  $C$  is the matrix representation of the transformation  $[L_B \circ L_A]$ , as proven previously.

Let  $\beta = \{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$  for  $\mathbb{F}^n$ , then

$$[L_B \circ L_A] = \begin{pmatrix} | & & | \\ L_B \circ L_A(e_1) & \cdots & L_B \circ L_A(e_n) \\ | & & | \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} | & & | \\ B \cdot (A \cdot e_1) & \cdots & B \cdot (A \cdot e_n) \\ | & & | \end{pmatrix}$$

### ↪ Definition 2.9: Matrix Multiplication

For matrices  $A \in M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F})$  and  $B \in M_{l \times m}(\mathbb{F})$ , define their product  $B \cdot A$  to be the matrix

$$[L_B \circ L_A] = \begin{pmatrix} | & & | \\ B \cdot (A \cdot e_1) & \cdots & B \cdot (A \cdot e_n) \\ | & & | \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} | & & | \\ B \cdot A^{(1)} & \cdots & B \cdot A^{(n)} \\ | & & | \end{pmatrix} = (c_{ij})_{1 \leq i \leq l, 1 \leq j \leq n}$$

where  $A^{(j)}$  is the  $j$ th column of  $A$ ,  $c_{ij} := \begin{pmatrix} - & B_{(i)} & - \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} | \\ A^{(j)} \\ | \end{pmatrix}$ .

### ↪ Proposition 2.11

$[L_B \circ L_A] = B \cdot A$ , ie  $L_B \circ L_A = L_{B \cdot A}$ .

Proof. Follows from our definition.

■

### ↪ Corollary 2.5

Matrix multiplication is association;  $C \cdot (B \cdot A) = (C \cdot B) \cdot A$  for  $A \in M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F})$ ,  $B \in M_{l \times m}(\mathbb{F})$ ,  $C \in M_{k \times l}(\mathbb{F})$ .

Proof.  $C \cdot (B \cdot A) = [L_C \circ (L_B \circ L_A)] = [(L_C \circ L_B) \circ L_A] = (C \cdot B) \cdot A$ .

■

**Remark 2.12.** This is proven by the linear transformation representation of matrices; try proving this directly from our definition.

### ↪ Corollary 2.6

Let  $V, W, U$  be finite-dimensional vector spaces over  $\mathbb{F}$ ,  $T : V \rightarrow W, S : W \rightarrow U$  be linear transformations and  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$  be bases for  $V, W, U$  resp. Then,

$$[S \circ T]_{\alpha}^{\gamma} = [S]_{\beta}^{\gamma} \cdot [T]_{\alpha}^{\beta}.$$

Proof. Follows from the commutativity of the diagrams:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} V & \xrightarrow{T} & W & \xrightarrow{S} & U \\ \wr \downarrow & & \wr \downarrow & & \wr \downarrow \\ \mathbb{F}^n & \xrightarrow{[T]_{\alpha}^{\beta}} & \mathbb{F}^m & \xrightarrow{[S]_{\beta}^{\gamma}} & \mathbb{F}^l \end{array} \iff \begin{array}{ccc} V & \xrightarrow{T \circ S} & U \\ \wr \downarrow & & \wr \downarrow \\ \mathbb{F}^n & \xrightarrow{[S \circ T]_{\alpha}^{\gamma}} & \mathbb{F}^l \end{array}$$

In “words”, for  $v \in V$ ,

$$[S \circ T]_{\alpha}^{\gamma} \cdot [v]_{\alpha} = [(S \circ T)(v)]_{\alpha}^{\gamma} = [S(T(v))]_{\alpha}^{\gamma} = [S]_{\beta}^{\gamma} \cdot [T(v)]_{\beta} = [S]_{\beta}^{\gamma} \cdot [T]_{\alpha}^{\beta} \cdot [v]_{\alpha},$$

ie we have shown that  $L_{[S \circ T]_{\alpha}^{\gamma}} = L_{[S]_{\beta}^{\gamma}} \cdot L_{[T]_{\alpha}^{\beta}}$ . Because  $A \mapsto L_A$  is an isomorphism, it follows that  $[S \circ T]_{\alpha}^{\gamma} = [S]_{\beta}^{\gamma} \cdot [T]_{\alpha}^{\beta}$ . ■

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## 2.7 Inverses of Transformations and Matrices

**Remark 2.13.** Recall that, given a function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ , a function  $g : Y \rightarrow X$  is called

1. a left inverse of  $f$  if  $g \circ f = \text{Id}_X$ ;
2. a right inverse of  $f$  if  $f \circ g = \text{Id}_Y$ ;
3. a (two-sided) inverse of  $f$  if  $g$  both a left and right inverse of  $f$ .

If an inverse exists, it is unique; let  $g_0, g_1$  be inverse of  $f$ , then,  $g_0 = g_0 \circ (f \circ g_1) = (g_0 \circ f) \circ g_1 = g_1$ .

### ↪ Proposition 2.12

Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ . Then,

1.  $f$  has a left-inverse  $\iff f$  injective;
2.  $f$  has a right-inverse  $\iff f$  surjective;
3.  $f$  has an inverse  $\iff f$  bijective.



*Proof.* ((a),  $\implies$ ) Suppose  $g : Y \rightarrow X$  is a left-inverse of  $f$  and  $f(x_1) = f(x_2)$ . Then,  $g \circ f(x_1) = g \circ f(x_2) \implies x_1 = x_2$  and so  $f$  injective.

((b),  $\implies$ ) Suppose  $g : Y \rightarrow X$  is a right-inverse of  $f$  and let  $y \in Y$ . Then,  $f(g(y)) = y \implies y \in f(X)$ .

The remainder of the cases and directions are left as an exercise. ■

**Remark 2.14.** *Proof of (b),  $\Leftarrow$  uses Axiom of Choice.*

### ⊗ Example 2.2

1. The differentiation transform  $\delta : \mathbb{F}[t]_{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}[t]_n, p(t) \mapsto p'(t)$  has a right inverse, the integration transform,  $\iota : \mathbb{F}[t]_n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}[t]_{n+1}, p(t) \mapsto \text{antiderivative of } p(t)$ ; conversely,  $\iota$  has left inverse  $\delta$ ; they do not admit inverses.
2. Let  $f : \mathbb{F}[[t]] \rightarrow \mathbb{F}[[t]]$  be the left-shift map, where  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n t^n \mapsto \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n t^{n-1}$ . Then,  $g : \mathbb{F}[[t]] \rightarrow \mathbb{F}[[t]]$  with  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n t^n \mapsto \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n t^{n+1}$ , the right-shift map, is a right inverse of  $f$ , but  $f$  has no left inverse (it is not injective).

**Remark 2.15.** *The existence of only one-sided inverses existing happens only when in infinite-dimensional vectors spaces, or when the dimension of the domain is not the same as the dimension of the codomain.*

### ↪ Corollary 2.7: Of Rank-Nullity Theorem

Let  $T : V \rightarrow W$  s.t.  $\dim(V) = \dim(W) < \infty$ . TFAE:

1.  $T$  has a left-inverse;
2.  $T$  has a right-inverse;
3.  $T$  is invertible (has an inverse).

*Proof.* We have already that  $T$  injective  $\iff T$  surjective  $\iff T$  bijective. ■

### ↪ Definition 2.10: Matrix Inverse

We call a  $n \times n$  matrix  $B$  over  $\mathbb{F}$  the *inverse* of an  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  over  $\mathbb{F}$  if  $A \cdot B = B \cdot A = I_n$ . We denote  $B = A^{-1}$ .

### ↪ Proposition 2.13

Let  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$ . Then,

1.  $L_A$  is invertible  $\iff A$  is invertible, in which case  $L_A^{-1} = L_{A^{-1}}$ ;
2.  $A$  is invertible  $\iff$  it has a left-inverse, ie  $B \cdot A = I_n \iff$  it has a right-inverse, ie  $A \cdot B = I_n$ .

Proof. 1.  $L_A$  invertible  $\iff \exists T : \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^n$ -linear s.t.  $L_A \circ T = T \circ L_A = I_{\mathbb{F}^n} \iff \exists$  a matrix  $B \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$  such that  $L_A \circ L_B = L_B \circ L_A = I_{\mathbb{F}^n} \iff$  there is a matrix  $B \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$  s.t.  $L_{AB} = L_{BA} = I_{\mathbb{F}^n} \iff$  there is a  $B \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$  s.t.  $A \cdot B = B \cdot A = I_n$ .

2. Follows directly from corollary 2.7 and part 1. ■

## 2.8 Invariant Subspaces and Nilpotent Transformations

### ↪ Definition 2.11: $T$ -Invariant

Let  $T : V \rightarrow V$  be a linear transformation.<sup>9</sup> We call a subspace  $W \subseteq V$   $T$ -invariant if  $T(W) \subseteq W$ .

#### ⊗ Example 2.3: Examples of Invariant Subspaces

1. For any  $T : V \rightarrow V$ ,  $\text{Im}(T)$  is  $T$ -invariant.
2. For any  $T : V \rightarrow V$ ,  $\text{Ker}(T)$  is  $T$ -invariant, since  $T(v) = 0_V \in \text{Ker}(T) \forall v \in \text{Ker}(T)$ . Moreover, for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , the space  $\text{Ker}(T^n)$  is  $T$ -invariant.<sup>10</sup>

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### ↪ Proposition 2.14

For a linear operator  $T : V \rightarrow V$ , the following hold:

1.  $V \supseteq \text{Im}(T) \supseteq \text{Im}(T^2) \supseteq \dots \supseteq \text{Im}(T^n) \supseteq \dots$ . Moreover,  $\text{Im}(T^n)$  is  $T$ -invariant for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .
2.  $\{0_V\} \subseteq \text{Ker}(T) \subseteq \text{Ker}(T^2) \subseteq \dots \subseteq \text{Ker}(T^n) \subseteq \dots$ . Moreover,  $\text{Ker}(T^n)$  is  $T$ -invariant for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Proof. 1. If  $x \in \text{Im}(T^{n+1})$ , then  $x = T^{n+1}(y) = T^n(T(y)) \in \text{Im}(T^n)$  for some  $y \in V$ , hence  $\text{Im}(T^{n+1}) \subseteq \text{Im}(T^n)$ .  
If  $x \in \text{Im}(T^n)$ , then  $x = T^n(y)$  so  $T(x) = T(T^n(y)) = T^n(T(y)) \in \text{Im}(T^n)$ , so  $T(\text{Im}(T^n)) \subseteq \text{Im}(T^n)$ .

2. If  $x \in \text{Ker}(T^n)$ , then  $T^{n+1}(x) = T(T^n(x)) = T(0_V) = 0_V$  hence  $x \in \text{Ker}(T^{n+1})$  so  $\text{Ker}(T^n) \subseteq \text{Ker}(T^{n+1})$ .  
Moreover,  $T(x) \in \text{Ker}(T^n)$  since  $T(x) \in \text{Ker}(T^{n-1}) \subseteq \text{Ker}(T^n)$ , since  $T^{n-1}(T(x)) = T^n(x) = 0_V$  so  $T(\text{Ker}(T^n)) \subseteq \text{Ker}(T^n)$ . ■

#### ⊗ Example 2.4: More Examples of Invariant Subspaces

Let  $T : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  by  $T(x, y, z) := (2x + y, 3x - y, 7z)$ . Then, the  $x - y$  plane,  $\{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : z = 0\}$  is  $T$ -invariant, as is the  $z$  axis,  $\{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : x = y = 0\}$ . Hence, we can decompose  $\mathbb{R}^3$  into two

<sup>9</sup>Because the domain and codomain are the same, we often call  $T$  a “linear operator”.

<sup>10</sup> $T^n := T \circ T \circ \dots \circ T$ ,  $n$  times;  $T^0 := I_V$ .

$T$ -invariant subspaces, namely  $x - y$  plane  $\oplus$   $z$ -axis.

### ↪ Definition 2.12: Nilpotent

In a ring  $R$ , an element  $r \in R$  is called *nilpotent* if  $r^n = 0$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}^+$ .

A linear transformation  $T : V \rightarrow V$  is called nilpotent if  $T^n = 0$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}^+$ .<sup>11</sup>

For a matrix  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$ ,  $A$  is called nilpotent if  $A^n = 0_n$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}^+$ .

### ⊗ Example 2.5: Examples of Nilpotent Transformations

1. Let  $V$ ,  $n$ -dimensional vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$  with basis  $\beta := \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ . Let  $T : V \rightarrow V$  be the unique linear transformation that “shifts”  $\beta$ : ie,  $T(v_1) := 0_V$ ,  $T(v_2) := v_1, \dots, T(v_n) = v_{n-1}$ .
2. The differentiation operation,  $\delta : \mathbb{F}[t]_n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}[t]_n$  is nilpotent, since  $\delta^{n+1} = 0$  for any polynomial.
3. For any matrix  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$ ,  $A$  is nilpotent iff  $L_A : \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^n$  is nilpotent.

Proof.  $L_{A^k} = L_A^k \implies A^k = 0 \iff L_{A^k} = 0 \iff L_A^k = 0$  ■

4.  $n \times n$  matrices that are strictly upper triangular<sup>12</sup> are nilpotent. For instance, for  $3 \times 3$ , we need to show<sup>13</sup>

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}^3 = 0 \iff \begin{pmatrix} 0 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}^3 \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \star \\ \star \\ \star \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

<sup>11</sup>One can verify that all linear transformations  $T : V \rightarrow V$  from a vector space to itself form a ring with  $(\circ, +)$ , ie composition and (“standard”) addition of transformations. The same holds for linear operators defined over an abelian group (where the same  $+$  operation is endowed by the ring).

We have:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \begin{pmatrix} 0 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}^2 \begin{pmatrix} 0 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \star \\ \star \\ \star \end{pmatrix} &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}^2 \begin{pmatrix} \star \\ \star \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\
 &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \star \\ \star \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\
 &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \star \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\
 &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.
 \end{aligned}$$

### ↪ **Proposition 2.15**

If  $V$  is  $n$ -dimensional and  $T : V \rightarrow V$  is a linear nilpotent transformation, then  $T^n = 0$ .

Proof. Left as a (homework) exercise. ■

### ↪ **Definition 2.13: Domain Restriction**

For a function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  and  $A \subseteq X$ , we define the *restriction* of  $f$  to  $A$  as the function  $f|_A : A \rightarrow Y$  given by  $a \mapsto f(a)$ .

### ↪ **Definition 2.14: Direct Sum**

Let  $V$  be a vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$ , and let  $W_0, W_1 \subseteq V$  be subspaces of  $V$ . If

1.  $W_0 \cap W_1 = \{0_V\}$  (the subspaces are *linearly independent*), and
2.  $W_0 + W_1 = \{w_0 + w_1 : w_0 \in W_0, w_1 \in W_1\} = V$ ,

we write  $V = W_0 \oplus W_1$ , and say  $V$  is the *direct sum* of  $W_0, W_1$ .

<sup>13</sup>ie zeros everywhere except cells strictly above diagonal.

<sup>13</sup>Where we denote arbitrary elements  $\star$ ; different  $\star$ s are not necessarily equal.

### ↪ **Theorem 2.8: Fitting's Lemma**

For finite dimensional vector space  $V$  over  $\mathbb{F}$  and a linear transformation  $T : V \rightarrow V$ , there is a decomposition

$$V = U \oplus W$$

as a direct sum of  $T$ -invariant subspaces  $U, W$  such that  $T|_U : U \rightarrow U$  is nilpotent and  $T|_W : W \rightarrow W$  is an isomorphism.

*Proof.* Recall that  $\text{Im}(T) \supseteq \cdots \supseteq \text{Im}(T^n)$  and  $\text{Ker}(T) \subseteq \cdots \subseteq \text{Ker}(T^n)$ . Both of these become constant eventually, ie the inequalities become strict equalities, hence  $\exists N \in \mathbb{N}^+$  such that  $\forall k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\text{Im}(T^{N+k}) = \text{Im}(T^N)$  and  $\text{Ker}(T^{N+k}) = \text{Ker}(T^N)$ .

Let  $U := \text{Ker}(T^N)$  and  $W := \text{Im}(T^N)$ . These are clearly  $T$ -invariant.

$T^N(\text{Ker}(T^N)) = \{0_V\}$ , and  $T(\text{Im}(T^N)) = \text{Im}(T^{N+1}) = \text{Im}(T^N) = W$  and thus  $T|_W : W \rightarrow W$  is surjective and hence  $T|_W$  must be injective and thus an isomorphism.

It remains to show that  $V = U \oplus W$ . If  $v \in U \cap W$ ,  $T^N(v) = 0_V$  but  $T|_W$  an isomorphism so  $T^N(v) = 0 \iff v = 0_V$ , hence  $U \cap W = \{0_V\}$ .

Thus, we have  $\dim(U + W) = \dim(U) + \dim(W) - \dim(U \cap W) = \dim(U) + \dim(W) = \dim(V)$ ; moreover, it must be that  $U + W = V$ .<sup>14</sup> ■

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## 2.9 Dual Spaces

### ↪ **Definition 2.15: Dual Space**

For a vector space  $V$  over a field  $\mathbb{F}$ , linear transformations from  $V \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$  (where we view  $\mathbb{F}$  as a one-dimensional vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$ ) are called *linear functionals*. The space of linear functionals (namely,  $\text{Hom}(V, \mathbb{F})$ ) is denoted  $V^*$ , and called the *dual space* of  $V$ .

### ↪ **Proposition 2.16**

If  $V$  is finite dimensional,  $\dim(V^*) = \dim(V)$ .<sup>15</sup>

*Proof.* For finite dimensional  $V$ , we know that  $\dim(\text{Hom}(V, \mathbb{F})) = \dim(V) \cdot \dim(\mathbb{F}) = \dim(V)$ , hence  $\dim(V^*) = \dim(V)$ . In the same notation with which we proved this originally in proposition 2.6; fix a basis  $\beta := \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  for  $V$  and the standard basis  $\gamma := \{1\}$  for  $\mathbb{F}$ , and defined  $\beta^* := \{f_1, \dots, f_n\}$ , where  $f_i := T_{v_i, 1} : V \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$  maps  $v_i \mapsto 1$  and every other basis vector to  $0_{\mathbb{F}}$ . ■

**Remark 2.16.** The basis  $\beta^*$  for  $V^*$  is called the dual basis. Explicitly, we have:

<sup>14</sup>It is precisely here that we use finiteness of  $V$ .

<sup>15</sup>This does *not* hold for infinite dimensional spaces.

### ↪ Corollary 2.8

Let  $V$  be a finite dimensional vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$  and let  $\beta := \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  be a basis for  $V$ . Then,

$$\beta^* := \{f_1, \dots, f_n\}$$

is a basis for  $V^*$ . Moreover, for each linear functional  $f \in V^*$ ,

$$f = \sum_{i=1}^n f(v_i) \cdot f_i.$$

Proof. Linear independence: let  $a_1 f_1 + \dots + a_n f_n = 0_{V^*} =: 0$ . Then,

$$(a_1 f_1 + \dots + a_n f_n)(v_i) = a_i f_i(v_i) = a_i \cdot 1 = a_i \implies a_i = 0,$$

hence  $\beta^*$  indeed linearly independent.

Spanning: let  $f \in V^*$ . We claim that  $f = \sum_{i=1}^n f(v_i) f_i$ . It suffices to show these two sides are equal on the basis vectors, as linear transformations are determined by their effect on basis vectors. We have:

$$\left( \sum_{i=1}^n f(v_i) f_i \right)(v_j) = \sum_{i=1}^n f(v_i) f_i(v_j) = \sum_{i=1}^n f(v_i) \cdot \delta_{ij} = f(v_j),$$

as desired.<sup>16</sup> ■

### ⊗ Example 2.6

1. Let  $V := \mathbb{F}^n$  and  $\beta := \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  be a basis for  $\mathbb{F}^n$ , viewed as column vectors, and let  $\beta^* := \{f_1, \dots, f_n\}$  be the dual basis for  $V^*$ . Recall that  $f_i : \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$ , hence  $f_i := L_{A_i}$  for some matrix  $A_i \in M_{1 \times n}(\mathbb{F}) := \text{space of } 1 \times n \text{ row vectors}$ . Hence,  $A_i = e_i^t$ .
2. Consider  $V^{**}$ , the dual of the dual. If  $V$  is finite-dimensional, then as  $\dim(V) = \dim(V^*)$ , we have  $\dim(V) = \dim(V^*) = \dim(V^{**})$ , ie, they are (abstractly) isomorphic.

We have that  $T : V \rightarrow V^*, v_i \mapsto f_i$  is an isomorphism; we define an explicit isomorphism to  $V^{**}$  below.

### ↪ Definition 2.16

Let  $V$  be an arbitrary vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$ . For each  $x \in V$ , define  $\hat{x} \in V^{**}$  by  $\hat{x} : V^* \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$ , where  $\hat{x}(f) := f(x)$ .

**Remark 2.17.** Note that  $\hat{x}$  is linear.

<sup>16</sup>Where  $\delta_{ij} := \begin{cases} 1 & i = j \\ 0 & i \neq j \end{cases}$  is the Kronecker delta.

↪ **Theorem 2.9**

The map  $x \mapsto \hat{x} : V \rightarrow V^{**}$  is a linear injection. In particular, if  $V$  is finite dimensional, it is an isomorphism.

*Proof.* Let  $x \in V$  and suppose  $\hat{x} = 0_{V^{**}}$ . Let  $\beta$  be a basis for  $V$  and  $\beta^*$  its dual basis. Let  $x = a_1v_1 + \cdots + a_nv_n$  for  $v_i \in \beta, a_i \in \mathbb{F}$ . Let  $f_i$  such that  $f_i(v_j) = \delta_{ij}$ . Then,

$$\hat{x}f_i = f_i(x) = f_i(a_1v_1 + \cdots + a_nv_n) = a_i = 0,$$

hence,  $a_i = 0 \forall i$ . Hence,  $x = 0$ , and thus  $\hat{x}$  has a trivial kernel and is thus injective. ■

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**Remark 2.18.** Notice that to get an isomorphism  $V \cong V^*$ , we fixed a basis for  $V$  to define it. However, for  $V \cong V^{**}$ , we had a canonical isomorphism independent of choice of basis. Writing  $S \subseteq V$ ,  $\hat{S} := \{\hat{x} : x \in S\} \subseteq V^{**}$ , our theorem says that  $\hat{V} = V^{**}$  for finite-dimensional  $V$ .

↪ **Definition 2.17: Annihilator**

Let  $V$  be a vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$  and  $S \subseteq V$ . We call

$$S^\perp := \{f \in V^* : f|_S = 0\} = \{f \in V^* : f(u) = 0 \forall u \in S\}$$

the *annihilator* of  $S$ .

↪ **Proposition 2.17**

Let  $V$  be a vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$  and  $S \subseteq V$ .

1.  $S^\perp$  is a subspace of  $V^{*17}$
2.  $S_1 \subseteq S_2 \subseteq V \implies S_1^\perp \supseteq S_2^\perp$
3.  $S^\perp = (\text{Span}(S))^\perp$

*Proof.* 1. If  $f_1, f_2 \in S^\perp, a \in \mathbb{F}$ , then  $\forall u \in S$ ,

$$(af_1 + f_2)(u) = af_1(u) + f_2(u) = a \cdot 0 + 0,$$

so  $af_1 + f_2 \in S^\perp$ .

2. Clear.

3. If  $f \in V^*$  takes all vectors in  $S$  to 0, then it does the same for linear combinations. ■

<sup>17</sup>Even if  $S$  is not a subspace itself.

↪ **Proposition 2.18**

If  $V$  is finite dimensional and  $U \subseteq V$  a subspace, then  $(U^\perp)^\perp = \hat{U}$ .

Proof. We know that  $V^{**} = \hat{V}$ , so we fix  $\hat{x} \in \hat{V}$  and show that

$$\hat{x} \in (U^\perp)^\perp \iff \hat{x} \in \hat{U} \iff x \in U.$$

We have

$$\hat{x} \in (U^\perp)^\perp : \iff \forall f \in U^\perp, \hat{x}(f) = f(x) = 0$$

hence if  $x \in U$ , then  $\hat{x} \in (U^\perp)^\perp$ , so  $\hat{U} \subseteq (U^\perp)^\perp$ .

Conversely, let  $\hat{x} \in (U^\perp)^\perp$ . Then,  $\forall f \in U^\perp, f(x) = 0$ .

Suppose towards a contradiction that  $x \notin U$ . We aim to define  $f \in U^\perp$  s.t.  $f(x) = 1$ , obtaining a contradiction. Let  $\{u_1, \dots, u_k\}$  be a basis for  $U$ , noting that  $\{u_1, \dots, u_k, x\}$  still linearly independent by assumption of  $x \notin U = \text{Span}(\{u_1, \dots, u_k\})$ . Thus, we can extend this to a basis  $\beta = \{u_1, \dots, u_k, x, v_1, \dots, v_m\}$  for  $V$ . Define  $f : V \rightarrow \mathbb{F} \in V^*$  as the unique linear transformation such that  $f(u_i) = f(v_j) = 0$  and  $f(x) = 1$ . Then,  $f \in U^\perp$  by definition, and  $f(x) = 1$  by definition. This is a contradiction that  $x \notin U$ . ■

↪ **Corollary 2.9**

For a finite dimensional  $V$  and subspace  $U \subseteq V$ ,

$$U = \{x \in V : \forall f \in U^\perp, f(x) = 0\}.$$

↪ **Definition 2.18: Dual/Transpose of  $T$**

Let  $V, W$  be vector spaces over a field  $\mathbb{F}$  and  $T : V \rightarrow W$ . We define the *dual/transpose* of  $T$  as the map  $T^t : W^* \rightarrow V^*$ , given by  $g \mapsto g \circ T$ . I.e.,  $T^t(g)(v) := g \circ T(v) = g(T(v))$ .

↪ **Proposition 2.19**

Let  $V, W$  be vector spaces over a field  $\mathbb{F}$  and  $T : V \rightarrow W$ .

1.  $T^t$  is linear.
2.  $\text{Ker}(T^t) = (\text{Im}(T))^\perp$ .
3.  $\text{Im}(T^t) \subseteq (\text{Ker}(T))^\perp$  and is equal if  $V, W$  are finite dimensional.
4. If  $V, W$  are finite dimensional and  $\beta, \gamma$  are bases resp., then

$$[T^t]_{\gamma^*}^{\beta^*} = ([T]_{\beta}^{\gamma})^t.$$



Proof. 1.  $T^t(ag_1 + g_2) = (ag_1 + g_2) \circ T = a \cdot g_1 \circ T + g_2 \circ T = a \cdot T^t(g_1) + T^t(g_2)$ ,  $\forall g_1, g_2 \in W^*, a \in \mathbb{F}$ .

2. For  $g \in W^*$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} g \in \text{Ker}(T^t) : &\iff T^t(g) = 0_{V^*} \iff T^t(g)(v) = 0 \forall v \in V \\ &\iff g(T(v)) = 0 \forall v \in V \\ &\iff g(w) = 0 \forall w \in \text{Im}(T) \\ &\iff g \in (\text{Im}(T))^{\perp} \end{aligned}$$

3. Fix  $f = T^t(g) \in \text{Im}(T^t)$ ,  $g \in W^*$ , and  $u \in \text{Ker}(T)$ , noting that  $f(u) = T^t(g)(u) = g(T(u)) = g(0_W) = 0$  so  $f \in (\text{Ker}(T))^{\perp}$ .

Suppose now  $V, W$  are finite dimensional; we've shown an inclusion, so it suffices now to show that  $\dim(\text{Im}(T^t)) = \dim(\text{Ker}(T))^{\perp}$ . We have:

$$\begin{aligned} \dim(\text{Im}(T^t)) &= \dim(W^*) - \dim(\text{Ker}(T^t)) \\ &= \dim(W) - \dim(\text{Im}(T)^{\perp}) \\ &= \dim(W) - \dim(W) + \dim(\text{Im}(T)) \\ &= \dim(\text{Im}(T)) \end{aligned}$$

OTOH:

$$\dim(\text{Ker}(T)^{\perp}) = \dim(V) - \dim(\text{Ker}(T)) = \dim(\text{Im}(T)),$$

and thus  $\dim(\text{Im}(T^t)) = \dim(\text{Ker}(T))^{\perp}$  (remarking that the first equality follows from 1. of the following theorem, and 2. from the dimension theorem).

4. Let  $\beta := \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ ,  $\gamma := \{w_1, \dots, w_m\}$  be finite bases for  $V, W$  resp. Recall that

$$A := [T]_{\beta}^{\gamma} := \begin{pmatrix} | & & | \\ [T(v_1)]_{\gamma} & \cdots & [T(v_n)]_{\gamma} \\ | & & | \end{pmatrix},$$

ie  $A^{(j)} = [T(v_j)]_{\gamma}$  hence  $T(v_j) = \sum_{k=1}^m A_{kj} w_k$ .

Similarly, write  $\gamma^* := \{g_1, \dots, g_m\}$  and  $\beta^* := \{f_1, \dots, f_n\}$ , then

$$B := [T^t]_{\gamma^*}^{\beta^*} := \begin{pmatrix} | & & | \\ [T^t(g_1)]_{\beta^*} & \cdots & [T^t(g_m)]_{\beta^*} \\ | & & | \end{pmatrix},$$

so  $T^t(g_i) = \sum_{\ell=1}^n B_{\ell i} f_{\ell} = \sum_{\ell=1}^n T^t(g_i)(v_{\ell}) f_{\ell}$ , so  $B_{\ell i} = T^t(g_i)(v_{\ell})$ . To complete the proof, we must show that

$A_{ij} = B_{ji}$  for all  $i, j$ :

$$B_{ji} = T^t(g_i)(v_j) = g_i(T(v_j)) = g_i\left(\sum_{k=1}^m A_{kj}w_k\right) = \sum_{k=1}^m A_{kj}g_i(w_k) = A_{ij},$$

where the last equality  $g_i(w_k) = \delta_{ik}$ , by construction. ■

↪ Lecture 17; Last Updated: Mon Mar 25 13:48:03 EDT 2024

### ↪ **Theorem 2.10**

Let  $V$  be a finite-dimensional vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$  and  $U \subseteq V$  be a subspace.

1.  $\dim(U^\perp) = \dim(V) - \dim(U)$ . In fact, if  $\{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$  is a basis for  $U$  and  $\beta := \{v_1, \dots, v_k, v_{k+1}, \dots, v_n\}$  is a basis for  $V$  with the dual basis  $\beta^* = \{f_1, \dots, f_n\}$ , then  $\{f_{k+1}, \dots, f_n\}$  is a basis for  $U^\perp$ .
2.  $(V/U)^* \cong U^\perp$  by the map  $f \mapsto f_U$ , where  $f_U : V \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$  given by  $f_U(v) := f(v + U)$ .

Proof. Left as a (homework) exercise. ■

### ↪ **Corollary 2.10: of proposition 2.19**

Let  $V, W$  be vector spaces over  $\mathbb{F}$  and  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be a linear transformation.

1.  $T^t$  injective  $\iff T$  surjective.
2. If  $V, W$  finite dimensional, then  $T^t$  surjective  $\iff T$  injective.

Proof. 1.  $T^t$  injective  $\iff \text{Ker}(T^t) = \{0_{W^*}\} \iff \text{Im}(T)^\perp = \{0_{W^*}\} \implies {}^\circ \text{Im}(T) = W \iff T$  surjective.  
Conversely, if  $\text{Im}(T) = W \implies (\text{Im}(T))^t = \{0_{W^*}\}$  (and the rest follows identically).

2.  $\text{Im}(T^t) = \text{Ker}(T)^\perp \implies \text{Im}(T^\perp) = V^* \iff \text{Ker}(T) = \{0_V\}$ , following similar logic to above. ■

**Remark 2.19.** Part 4. of proposition 2.19 establishes a dependency between the columns and rows of a matrix; precisely:

↪ Lecture 18; Last Updated: Mon Mar 25 13:48:03 EDT 2024

## 2.9.1 Application to Matrix Rank

↪ **Definition 2.19: Matrix Rank/C-Rank,R-Rank**

For a matrix  $A \in M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F})$ , we define

$$\text{rank}(A) := \text{rank}(L_A)$$

and the *column rank* of

$$\text{c-rank}(A) := \text{size of maximal indep. subset of columns } \{A^{(1)}, \dots, A^{(n)}\}$$

and *row rank* of

$$\text{r-rank}(A) := \text{size of maximal indep. subset of rows } \{A_{(1)}, \dots, A_{(m)}\}.$$

**Remark 2.20.** Notice that  $\text{rank}(A) = \text{c-rank}(A)$ .

↪ **Corollary 2.11**

$$\text{rank}(A) = \text{rank}(A^t) = \text{r-rank}(A)$$

*Proof.* We know already that  $\text{rank}(A^t) = \text{c-rank}(A^t) = \text{r-rank}(A)$ , as remarked previously, hence we need only to show that  $\text{rank}(A^t) = \text{rank}(A)$ . But  $A = [L_A]$  and  $A^t = [L_{A^t}] = [L_A]^t = [L_A^t]$ . Thus,  $\text{rank}(A) = \text{rank}(L_A) = \text{rank}(L_A^t) = \text{rank}(A^t)$ . ■

↪ **Corollary 2.12**

$$\text{rank}(A) = \text{c-rank}(A) = \text{r-rank}(A), \quad \forall A \in M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F})$$

## 3 ELEMENTARY MATRICES, MATRIX OPERATIONS

### 3.1 Systems of Linear Equations

We can write a system of  $m$  equations of  $n$  unknowns  $x_i$

$$\begin{cases} a_{11}x_1 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n = b_1 \\ \quad \quad \quad \ddots \quad \quad \quad \ddots \quad \quad \quad \ddots \\ a_{m1}x_1 + \dots + a_{mn}x_n = b_m \end{cases}$$

succinctly as a matrix equation

$$A \cdot \vec{x} = \vec{b},$$

where  $A := (a_{ij}) \in M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F})$ ,  $\vec{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}$ , and  $\vec{b} := \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ \vdots \\ b_m \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{F}^m$ . Hence,  $\vec{x}$  solves  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b} \iff L_A(\vec{x}) = \vec{b} \iff$

$\vec{x} \in L_A^{-1}(\vec{b})$ . In other words, a solution exists iff  $\vec{b} \in \text{Im}(L_A) = \text{Span}(A^{(1)}, \dots, A^{(n)})$ . In particular, when  $\vec{b} = \vec{0}$ , a solution always exists,  $\vec{x} = \vec{0}$ . We call  $A \cdot \vec{x} = \vec{0}$  the *homogeneous system of equations* of  $A$ .

It follows that  $A \cdot \vec{x} = \vec{0}$  has nonzero solutions  $\iff \text{Ker}(L_A)$  non-trivial. Moreover, if  $A \cdot \vec{x} = \vec{b}$  and  $A \cdot \vec{y} = \vec{0}$ , then  $A \cdot (\vec{x} + \vec{y}) = \vec{b}$  as well by linearity.

### ↪ Proposition 3.1

For  $A \in M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F})$  and  $b \in \text{Im}(L_A)$  the set of solutions to  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$  is precisely the coset  $\vec{v} + \text{Ker}(L_A)$  where  $\vec{v} \in \mathbb{F}^n$  is a particular solution to  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$ ;  $A\vec{v} = \vec{b}$ .

Proof.  $\vec{v} +$  an element of  $\text{Ker}(L_A)$  is a solution to  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$ . Conversely, if  $\vec{v}, \vec{w}$  are solutions to  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$ , then  $A \cdot (\vec{v} - \vec{w}) = \vec{b} - \vec{b} = \vec{0}$  so  $\vec{v} - \vec{w} \in \text{Ker}(L_A)$ , thus  $\vec{w} = \vec{v} + (\vec{v} - \vec{w}) \in \vec{v} + \text{Ker}(L_A)$ . ■

### ↪ Corollary 3.1

If  $m < n$  and  $A \in M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F})$ , then there is always a nonzero solution to the homogeneous equation  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$

Proof.  $\text{nullity}(L_A) = n - \text{rank}(L_A) = n - \dim(\text{Im}(L_A)) \geq n - m > 0$  hence  $\text{Ker}(L_A)$  nontrivial. ■

↪ Lecture 19; Last Updated: Mon Mar 25 13:48:03 EDT 2024

### ↪ Corollary 3.2

For  $A \in M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F})$ ,

1.  $\text{Ker}(L_A) = \{0_{\mathbb{F}^n}\} \iff A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$  has at most one solution, for each  $\vec{b} \in \mathbb{F}^m$ .
2. If  $n = m$ ,  $A$  is invertible  $\iff A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$  has exactly one solution for each  $\vec{b} \in \mathbb{F}^m$ .

Proof. 1. follows from proposition 3.1. 2. follows from 1. ■

We would like to determine whether  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$  has a solution (equivalently, if  $\vec{b} \in \text{Im}(L_A)$ ), and to solve it, determining a particular solution, and  $\text{Ker } L_A$ .

## 3.2 Elementary Row/Column Operations, Matrices

### ↪ Definition 3.1: Elementary Row (Column) Operations

Let  $A \in M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F})$ . An *elementary row (column) operation* is one of the following operations applied to  $A$ :

1. Interchanging any two rows (columns) of  $A$ ;
2. Multiplying a row (column) by a nonzero scalar from  $\mathbb{F}$ ;
3. Adding a scalar multiple of one row (column) to another.

**Remark 3.1.** All of these operations are (clearly) invertible. Moreover, each of these operations can be seen as linear transformations  $M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F}) \rightarrow M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F})$ , and can thus be represented as  $(m \cdot n) \times (m \cdot n)$  matrices.

### ↪ Definition 3.2: Elementary Matrix

A matrix  $E \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$  is called *elementary* if it is obtained from  $I_n$  by an elementary row / column operation.

#### ⊗ Example 3.1

1.  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  is obtained from  $I_3$  by operation 1.; indeed, either swapping the last two rows or columns yields the same result.

2.  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$  is obtained from  $I_3$  by operation 2.; again, either the row or column view yields the same.

3.  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  is obtained from  $I_3$  by operation 3.; again, either viewed as adding 2 times the second column to the first or 2 times the first row to the second.

### ↪ Theorem 3.1: Elementary Matrices and Operations

Each elementary matrix can be obtained either by a row or column operation of the same kind.

Proof. Clear by example. ■

### ↪ **Theorem 3.2**

For matrices  $A, B \in M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F})$ , if  $B$  is obtained from  $A$  by an elementary row (column) operation of type (i), then  $B = E \cdot A$  ( $B = A \cdot E$ ) for the elementary matrix  $E \in M_m(\mathbb{F})$  ( $M_n(\mathbb{F})$ ) obtained from the identity matrix by the same operation as in obtaining  $B$  from  $A$ .

Conversely, if  $E$  is an elementary matrix then  $E \cdot A$  ( $A \cdot E$ ) is obtained from  $A$  by applying the same elementary operations as in obtaining  $E$  from the identity matrix.

### ↪ **Proposition 3.2**

Elementary matrices are invertible, and the inverse is also an elementary matrix of the same type.

*Proof.* This follows from the fact that each elementary operation is invertible, and as each elementary operation can be representing as an elementary matrix, the result is clear. ■

↪ Lecture 20; Last Updated: Thu Feb 22 21:48:02 EST 2024

### ↪ **Proposition 3.3**

1. If  $A \in M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F})$ ,  $P \in GL_m(\mathbb{F})$ <sup>18</sup>, and  $Q \in GL_n(\mathbb{F})$ , then  $\text{rank}(P \cdot A) = \text{rank}(A) = \text{rank}(A \cdot Q)$
2. More generally, if  $T : V \rightarrow W$  is a linear transformation, where  $V, W$  finite dimensional, and  $S : W \rightarrow W$  and  $R : V \rightarrow V$  are linear and invertible, then  $\text{rank}(S \circ T) = \text{rank}(T) = \text{rank}(T \circ R)$ .

*Proof.* 1. follows directly from part 2., being a special case where  $T = L_A, S = L_P, R = L_Q$ .

We have that  $\text{rank}(T) = \dim(\text{Im}(T))$ , and as  $S$  an isomorphism,  $S|_{\text{Im}(T)}$  is injective and thus  $S(\text{Im}(T)) \cong \text{Im}(T)$ , by  $S$ , so in particular,  $\text{rank}(S \circ T) = \dim(S(\text{Im}(T))) = \text{rank}(\text{Im}(T)) = \text{rank}(T)$ .

For the other equality, we have that  $\text{Im}(T \circ R) = T(R(V)) = T(V) = \text{Im}(T)$  so  $\text{rank}(T) = \dim(\text{Im}(T)) = \dim(\text{Im}(T \circ R)) = \text{rank}(T \circ R)$ . ■

### ↪ **Corollary 3.3**

Elementary row/column operations (equivalently, multiplication by elementary matrices) are rank-preserving; if  $B$  obtained from  $A$  by a row/column operation, then  $\text{rank}(B) = \text{rank}(A)$ .

*Proof.* Elementary operations correspond to multiplication by elementary matrices as we have shown previously, which are further invertible by proposition 3.2, which hence do not change the rank by proposition 3.3. ■

<sup>18</sup>Denoting the space of invertible  $m \times m$  matrices.

↪ **Theorem 3.3: Diagonal Matrix Form**

Every matrix  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$  can be transformed into a matrix  $B$  of the form

$$\left( \begin{bmatrix} I_r & \\ & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \\ & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right),$$

where the top right and bottom left  $[0]$ 's are  $n - r \times r$ , the bottom  $[0]$  is  $n - r \times n - r$ , using row, column operations. In particular,  $r = \text{rank}(A)$ .

Proof. We prove by induction on  $n$ .

Base: If  $n = 0$ ,  $A = ()$  and we are done.

Inductive Step: Suppose  $n \geq 1$  and the statement holds for  $n - 1$ . If  $A$  is all zeros, we are done. Else,  $A$  has some nonzero entry, and by swapping two rows and columns such that the entry is in the top left ( $a_{11}$ ) of the matrix, and then multiplying by  $a_{11}^{-1}$  such that it is equal to 1,

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & \star & \cdots & \star \\ \star & \ddots & & \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \\ \star & & & \ddots \end{pmatrix}.$$

We can then use row (resp. column) operations such that each cell below (resp. to the right of) the top left 1 is equal to 0 by subtracting  $\star \cdot$  row (resp. column) one from each,

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \ddots & & \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \\ 0 & & & \ddots \end{pmatrix}.$$

Applying induction the the  $n - 1 \times n - 1$  matrix we have left over in the bottom right block, we can transform this block into the desired form by row/column operations, not affecting  $A$  itself. This gives us the desired form of  $A$ . ■

↪ **Corollary 3.4**

For each  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$ , there are invertible matrices  $P, Q \in \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{F})$  such that

$$B := P \cdot A \cdot Q$$

is of the form in theorem 3.3. Moreover,  $P$  and  $Q$  are products of elementary matrices.

Proof. Follows from row/column operations corresponding to left/right multiplication by elementary matrices.

### ↪ Corollary 3.5

Every invertible matrix  $A \in \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{F})$  is a product of elementary matrices.

*Proof.* Let  $A \in \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{F})$ , so  $\text{rank}(A) = n$ . Then, by corollary 3.4, there exists matrices  $P, Q \in \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{F})$  such that  $PAQ = I_n$  hence  $A = P^{-1}Q^{-1}$ .  $P, Q$  are themselves products of elementary matrices and thus their inverses are, hence  $A$  itself is a product of elementary matrices. ■

### ↪ Corollary 3.6

$\text{rank}(A) = \text{rank}(A^t) \forall A \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$ .

**Remark 3.2.** We've already proven this, but we present an alternative approach.

*Proof.* There are  $P, Q \in \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{F})$  such that  $B = PAQ$  of the desired diagonal form where  $r = \text{rank}(A)$ . Then,  $B^t = Q^t A^t P^t$ , and thus  $\text{rank}(B^t) = \text{rank}(A^t)$ . But  $B^t = B$  so  $\text{rank}(B^t) = \text{rank}(B) = \text{rank}(A)$  and thus  $\text{rank}(A) = \text{rank}(A^t)$  as desired. ■

### ↪ Corollary 3.7

The transpose of an invertible matrix is invertible, with  $(A^t)^{-1} = (A^{-1})^t$ .

*Proof.*  $A \cdot A^{-1} = I_n = A^{-1} \cdot A \implies (A^{-1})^t \cdot A^t = I_n^t = I_n = A^t \cdot (A^{-1})^t$ . ■

↪ Lecture 21; Last Updated: Mon Mar 25 13:48:03 EDT 2024

## 3.2.1 Application to Finding Inverse Matrix

If  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$  is invertible, then  $A = E_1 \cdots E_k$  for some elementary matrices  $E_i$ , so  $A^{-1} = E_k^{-1} \cdots E_1^{-1} \cdot I_n$ .

Consider the augmented matrix  $(A|I_n)$ . Remark that  $B \cdot (A|I_n) = (BA|BI_n)$ , and in particular,  $E_k^{-1} \cdots E_1^{-1} \cdot (A|I_n) = (I_n|A^{-1})$ , ie, there are row operations that turn  $(A|I_n)$  to  $(I_n|A^{-1})$ .

### ↪ Theorem 3.4

Let  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$  be invertible.

1. There are row operations that turn  $(A|I_n)$  into  $(I_n|A^{-1})$ .
2. If row operations turn  $(A|I_n)$  into  $(I_n|B)$  then  $B = A^{-1}$ .



### 3.2.2 Solving Systems of Linear Equations

#### ↪ Definition 3.3

For matrices  $A_1, A_2 \in M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F})$  and  $\vec{b}_1, \vec{b}_2 \in \mathbb{F}^m$ , the systems of linear equations  $A_1 \cdot \vec{x} = \vec{b}_1$  and  $A_2 \cdot \vec{x} = \vec{b}_2$  are called *equivalent* if their sets of solutions are equal.

In particular, any two systems with no solutions are equivalent.

#### ↪ Proposition 3.4

If  $G \in GL_m(\mathbb{F})$  and  $A \in M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F})$ ,  $\vec{b} \in \mathbb{F}^m$ , then  $G \cdot A\vec{x} = G \cdot \vec{b}$  is equivalent to  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$

Proof. Multiply both sides from the left by  $G^{-1}$ . ■

#### ↪ Corollary 3.8

Row operations applied to  $(A|b)$  do not change the solution set of  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$ .

#### ↪ Definition 3.4: ref/rref

Let  $B \in M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F})$ . We say  $B$  is in *row echelon form* if

1. All zero rows are at the bottom, ie each nonzero row is above each zero row;
2. The first nonzero entry (called a pivot) of each row is the only nonzero entry in its column;
3. The pivot of each row appears to the right of the pivot of the previous row.

If all pivots are 1, then we say that  $B$  is in *reduced row echelon form*.

#### ↪ Theorem 3.5: Gaussian Elimination Theorem

There is a sequence of row operations of types 1. and 3. that bring any matrix  $A \in M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F})$  to a row echelon form. Moreover, applying row operations of type 2. to a matrix in row echelon form results in a reduced row echelon form.

↪ Lecture 22; Last Updated: Sat Mar 9 09:25:26 EST 2024

#### ⊗ Example 3.2

$$\begin{array}{rrrrr} 3x_1 + & 2x_2 + & 3x_3 - & 2x_4 & = & 1 \\ x_1 + & x_2 + & x_3 & & = & 3 \\ x_1 + & 2x_2 + & x_3 - & x_4 & = & 2 \end{array} \rightsquigarrow A := \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \vec{b} := \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix},$$

so we have augmented matrix

$$(A|b) = \left( \begin{array}{cccc|c} 3 & 2 & 3 & -2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 & -1 & 2 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{\text{Gaussian Elimination}} \left( \begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 \end{array} \right),$$

so  $r := \text{rank}(A) = 3$  and  $\text{nullity}(L_A) = 4 - 3 = 1$ , so we expect a solution as a particular solution plus an ideal (the kernel). Rewriting, we see that

$$\begin{array}{rrcr} x_1 & & +x_3 & = & 1 \\ & x_2 & & = & 2 \\ & & x_4 & = & 3 \end{array} \implies \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - t_1 \\ 2 \\ t_1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + t_1 \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $t_1 \in \mathbb{F}$  arbitrary. Moreover, since setting  $t_1 = 0$  gives that  $\vec{v} := (1, 2, 0, 3)^t$  a solution, then  $t_1(-1, 0, 1, 0)^t$  is a solution to the homogeneous system  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$ , ie,  $\vec{u} := (-1, 0, 1, 0)^t$  is a basis for the kernel of  $\text{Ker}(L_A)$ .

### ↪ **Theorem 3.6**

For any system  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$ , using Gaussian elimination we obtain another system  $A_1\vec{x} = \vec{b}_1$  where  $(A_1|\vec{b}_1)$  is the reduced echelon form of  $(A|\vec{b})$ . Then:

1.  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$  has a solution  $\iff \text{rank}(A_1|\vec{b}_1) = \text{rank}(A_1) = \#$  of non-zero rows of  $A_1$ .
2. If a solution exists, then, denoting  $r := \text{rank}(A)$  and  $n := \#$  columns of  $A$ , we have the general solution to  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$  of the form

$$\vec{v} + t_1\vec{u}_1 + \cdots + t_{n-r}\vec{u}_{n-r}$$

where  $\vec{v} \in \mathbb{F}^n$  and  $\{\vec{u}_1, \dots, \vec{u}_{n-r}\}$  a basis for  $\text{Ker}(L_A) = \text{space of solutions to } A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$ .

Proof. We will only prove 1.

Recall that  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$  has a solution  $\iff \vec{b} \in \text{Im}(L_A) = \text{Span}(\text{columns of } A) \iff \text{Span}(\text{columns of } A) = \text{Span}(\text{columns of } (A|\vec{b})) \iff \text{rank}(A) = \text{rank}((A|\vec{b}))$ . ■

### ↪ Corollary 3.9

The system  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$  has a solution  $\iff$  in the reduced echelon form  $(A_1|\vec{b}_1)$  of the augmented matrix, we do not have a pivot in the last column.

### ↪ Lemma 3.1

Let  $B \in M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F})$  be obtained from  $A \in M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F})$  via a row operation. Then, for all  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{F}$ ,

$$a_1 A^{(1)} + \dots + a_n A^{(n)} = \vec{0} \iff a_1 B^{(1)} + \dots + a_n B^{(n)} = \vec{0}.$$

In particular, columns in  $A$  are linearly (in)dependent iff the corresponding columns in  $B$  are linearly (in)dependent.

Proof. Left as a (homework) exercise. ■

### ↪ Lemma 3.2

Let  $B$  be the reduced row echelon form of  $A \in M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F})$ . Then:

1. # non-zero rows of  $B = \text{rank}(B) = \text{rank}(A) =: r$ .
2. For each  $i = 1, \dots, r$ , denote by  $j_i$  the pivot of the  $i$ th row. Then,  $B^{(j_i)} = e_i \in \mathbb{F}^m$ . In particular,  $\{B^{(j_1)}, \dots, B^{(j_r)}\}$  is linearly independent.
3. Each column of  $B$  without a pivot is in the span of the previous columns.

Proof. Follows from the definition of rref. ■

### ↪ Corollary 3.10

The rref of a matrix is unique.

Proof. Left as a (homework) exercise. ■

↪ Lecture 23; Last Updated: Mon Mar 25 13:48:03 EDT 2024

## 3.3 Determinant

The determinant, denoted  $\det(A)$ , of a square matrix  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$  is a scalar from  $\mathbb{F}$ , meant to equal 0 iff  $A$  is not invertible.

### ↪ Proposition 3.5

$A \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$  is invertible  $\iff$  the columns of  $A$  are linearly independent  $\iff$  the rows of  $A$  are linearly independent  $\iff \text{rank}(A) = n$

Proof.  $A$  invertible  $\iff L_A$  invertible  $\iff L_A$  bijection  $\iff L_A$  surjection  $\iff \text{rank}(L_A) = \text{rank}(A) = n$  ■

### ⊗ Example 3.3

Let  $A \in M_3(\mathbb{R})$ ,  $A = \begin{pmatrix} - & v_1 & - \\ - & v_2 & - \\ - & v_3 & - \end{pmatrix}$ . If  $\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$  linear dependent, then  $\dim(\text{Span}(v_1, v_2, v_3)) \leq 2$ , which happens iff the parallelepiped formed with sides  $v_1, v_2, v_3$  is contained in a plane (is “flat”), iff the parallelepiped is a parallelogram, ie, has 0 volume. As such, we can make the notion of volume dependent on the orientation of  $v_1, v_2, v_3$  such that permuting  $v_1, v_2, v_3$  changes the sign of the volume. This gives us the idea of an “oriented volume”, which we can define as our determinant. This has a clear meaning in  $\mathbb{R}$ , but it remains to show how we can generalize this to arbitrary fields, where such a “volume” does not have a concrete meaning.

We now aim to derive a general formula for the determinant of a matrix over an arbitrary field by observing several key characteristics of our parallelepiped constructed above, and using these to define a unique determinant formula with geometric motivations.

### Observation 1

*Scaling a vector in a parallelepiped scales the volume of the parallelepiped by the same scalar.*

### ↪ Definition 3.5: multilinear form

A function  $\delta : M_n(\mathbb{F}) \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$  is called (row) multilinear, or  $n$ -linear, if it is linear in every row, i.e. for each  $i = 1, \dots, n$ ,

$$\delta \begin{pmatrix} - & v_1 & - \\ & \vdots & \\ - & v_{i-1} & - \\ - & c \cdot \vec{x} + \vec{y} & - \\ - & v_{i+1} & - \\ & \vdots & \\ - & v_n & - \end{pmatrix} = c \cdot \delta \begin{pmatrix} - & v_1 & - \\ & \vdots & \\ - & v_{i-1} & - \\ - & \vec{x} & - \\ - & v_{i+1} & - \\ & \vdots & \\ - & v_n & - \end{pmatrix} + \delta \begin{pmatrix} - & v_1 & - \\ & \vdots & \\ - & v_{i-1} & - \\ - & \vec{y} & - \\ - & v_{i+1} & - \\ & \vdots & \\ - & v_n & - \end{pmatrix}.$$

### ⊗ Example 3.4

1.  $\delta(A) := a_{11} \cdot a_{22} \cdot \dots \cdot a_{nn}$  is  $n$ -linear.

2. Fix  $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ . The function  $\delta_j(A) := a_{1j} \cdot a_{2j} \cdots a_{nj}$  is  $n$ -linear.

\*3. However,  $\text{tr}(A) := \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ii}$  is *not*  $n$ -linear; scalar multiplication fails.

### ↪ Proposition 3.6

For an  $n$ -linear form  $\delta : M_n(\mathbb{F}) \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$ , if  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$  has zero row, then  $\delta(A) = 0$ .

Proof.  $\delta(A) = \delta \left( \begin{pmatrix} \vec{0} \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix} \right) = \delta \left( \begin{pmatrix} \vec{0} \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \vec{0} \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix} \right) = \delta \left( \begin{pmatrix} \vec{0} \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix} \right) + \delta \left( \begin{pmatrix} \vec{0} \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix} \right) = \delta(A) + \delta(A) \implies \delta(A) = 0.$  ■

### Observation 2

If two sides of the parallelepiped are equal, then the volume is 0 (the shape is “flat”).

### ↪ Definition 3.6: Alternating

A  $n$ -linear form  $\delta : M_n(\mathbb{F}) \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$  is called *alternating* if  $\delta(A) = 0$  for any matrix  $A$  whose two equal rows.

### ↪ Proposition 3.7

Let  $\delta : M_n(\mathbb{F}) \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$  be an alternating  $n$ -linear form. Then, if  $B$  is obtained from  $A$  by swapping two rows, then  $\delta(B) = -\delta(A)$ .

Proof. It suffices to show that swapping two consecutive rows changes the sign of the result. Suppose  $B$  is obtained from  $A$  by swapping rows 1 and 2, namely

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} - & A_{(2)} & - \\ - & A_{(1)} & - \\ & \vdots & \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then,

$$\delta \begin{pmatrix} - & A_{(1)} + A_{(2)} & - \\ - & A_{(1)} + A_{(2)} & - \\ & \vdots & \end{pmatrix} = 0,$$

since its first two rows are equal; OTOH,

$$\delta \begin{pmatrix} - & A_{(1)} + A_{(2)} & - \\ - & A_{(1)} + A_{(2)} & - \\ & \vdots & \end{pmatrix} = \delta(A) + \delta(B),$$

so  $\delta(B) = -\delta(A)$ . ■

↪ **Proposition 3.8**

A multilinear form  $\delta : M_n(\mathbb{F}) \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$  is alternating  $\iff \delta(A) = 0$  for every matrix  $A$  with two equal consecutive rows.

Proof. Left as a (homework) exercise. ■

**Observation 3**

If  $v_i = e_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , ie, our parallelepiped is the unit cube, then the volume, aptly, equals 1; it is “normalized”.

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↪ **Proposition 3.9**

Let  $\delta : M_n(\mathbb{F}) \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$  be an alternating multilinear form. Then, for each matrix  $A := (a_{ij}) \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$ , we have

$$\delta(A) = \sum_{\pi \in S_n} a_{1\pi(1)} a_{2\pi(2)} \cdots a_{n\pi(n)} \delta(\pi I),$$

where

$$\pi I_n := \begin{pmatrix} - & e_{\pi(1)} & - \\ & \vdots & \\ - & e_{\pi(n)} & - \end{pmatrix}.$$

Proof. Left as a (homework) exercise. ■

**Remark 3.3.** Since  $\delta$  alternating, we can use row swaps to bring any  $\pi I_n$  to  $I_n$ , thus  $\delta(\pi I_n) = \pm \delta(I_n)$ ;  $\pm$  depends on the number of row swaps needed, ie, the parity of the given permutation  $\pi$ .

↪ **Definition 3.7: Parity**

For a permutation  $\pi \in S_n$ , we let  $\sharp\pi :=$  number of inversions = number of pairs  $i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  such that  $i < j$  but  $\pi(i) > \pi(j)$ . We say  $\pi$  even (resp. odd) if  $\sharp\pi$  even (resp. odd), and define  $\text{sgn}(\pi) := (-1)^{\sharp\pi}$  the sign of  $\pi$ .

↪ **Proposition 3.10**

$\text{sgn} : S_n \rightarrow (\{1, -1\}, \cdot)$  is a group homomorphism, that is  $-1$  of transpositions. In particular,

1.  $\text{sgn}(\pi^{-1}) = \text{sgn}(\pi)$
2. If  $\pi$  a product of  $k$  transpositions,  $\tau_1 \cdot \tau_2 \cdots \tau_k$ , then  $k = \sharp\pi \pmod{2}$ .

Proof. See Goren, Lemma 4.2.1.

For (a), we have that  $\text{sgn}(\pi^{-1}) = \text{sgn}(\pi)^{-1} = \text{sgn}(\pi)$ .

For (b),  $\text{sgn}(\pi) = \text{sgn}(\tau_1 \cdots \tau_k) = \text{sgn}(\tau_1) \cdots \text{sgn}(\tau_k) = (-1)^k$  so  $(-1)^{\sharp\pi} = (-1)^k$  and thus  $k = \sharp\pi \pmod{2}$ . ■

↪ **Corollary 3.11: Of proposition 3.9**

For any alternating multilinear form  $\delta : M_n(\mathbb{F}) \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$  and  $A := (a_{ij}) \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$ ,

$$\delta(A) = \sum_{\pi \in S_n} a_{1\pi(1)} \cdots a_{n\pi(n)} \cdot \text{sgn}(\pi) \cdot \delta(I_n).$$

In particular,  $\delta$  is uniquely determined by its value on  $I_n$ .

Proof. By proposition 3.9,  $\delta(A) = \sum_{\pi \in S_n} a_{1\pi(1)} \cdots a_{n\pi(n)} \delta(\pi I_n)$ , so we need only to show that  $\delta(\pi I_n) = \text{sgn}(\pi) \cdot \delta(I_n)$ . Writing  $\pi = \tau_1 \cdots \tau_k$  as transpositions, we know that  $(-1)^k = \text{sgn}(\pi)$  and each row swap corresponding to a  $\tau_i$  changes the sign of  $\delta$ . Applying each  $\tau_i$  row swaps to  $I_n$ , we obtain  $\pi I_n$  and thus  $\delta(\pi I_n) = (-1)^k \cdot \delta(I_n) = \text{sgn}(\pi) \cdot \delta(I_n)$ . ■

↪ **Theorem 3.7: Characterization of the Determinant**

There is a *unique* normalized (ie is 1 on  $I_n$ ) alternating multilinear form; we call such a form the *determinant* and denote  $\det$ ; namely,

$$\det(A) := \sum_{\pi \in S_n} \text{sgn}(\pi) \cdot a_{1\pi(1)} \cdots a_{n\pi(n)}.$$

Proof. Uniqueness follows from corollary 3.11. It remains to show that the given definition for  $\det$  is a normalized, alternating, multilinear form.

Normalized:  $\det(I_n) = \sum_{\pi \in S_n} \text{sgn}(\pi) \cdot a_{1\pi(1)} \cdots a_{n\pi(n)} = (-1)^0 \cdot 1 \cdots 1 = 1$ , since each summand will be zero for any permutation other than the identity.

Multilinear: A linear combination of  $n$ -linear forms is itself an  $n$ -linear form, so it suffices to prove that for a fixed  $\pi \in S_n$ ,  $\delta_\pi : M_n(\mathbb{F}) \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$  given by  $\delta_\pi(A) := a_{1\pi(1)} \cdots a_{n\pi(n)}$  is  $n$ -linear, which should be clear as a product of matrix entries.

Alternating: Suppose  $A$  has two equal rows, wlog  $A_{(1)}, A_{(2)}$ . We partition  $S_n$  into the disjoint union of even and odd permutations, denoting  $A_n$  the even permutations. Note that  $S_n \setminus A_n = A_n \cdot (12)$ , ie the coset of the transposition  $(12)$  of the subgroup  $A_n$ . Thus,  $A_n \rightarrow A_n \cdot (12)$  via  $\pi \mapsto \pi' := \pi \cdot (12)$  is a bijection, and our

partition has two equal parts. Thus, we can rewrite det as

$$\begin{aligned}
 \det(A) &= \sum_{\pi \in S_n} \operatorname{sgn}(\pi) \cdot a_{1\pi(1)} \cdots a_{n\pi(n)} \\
 &= \sum_{\pi \in A_n} \operatorname{sgn}(\pi) a_{1\pi(1)} \cdots a_{n\pi(n)} + \sum_{\pi \in A_n} \underbrace{\operatorname{sgn}(\pi')}_{=-\operatorname{sgn}(\pi)} \underbrace{a_{1\pi'(1)}}_{=a_{1\pi(2)}} \cdots \underbrace{a_{n\pi'(n)}}_{=a_{n\pi(n)}} \\
 &= \sum_{\pi \in A_n} \operatorname{sgn}(\pi) a_{1\pi(1)} \cdots a_{n\pi(n)} - \sum_{\pi \in A_n} \operatorname{sgn}(\pi) a_{1\pi(1)} \cdots a_{n\pi(n)} = 0,
 \end{aligned}$$

where the last line follows from  $a_{1\pi(2)} = a_{2\pi(2)}$  and conversely  $a_{2\pi(1)} = a_{1\pi(1)}$  by assumption, and thus the two partitioned summands are equal, of opposite sign. ■

### 3.3.1 Properties of the Determinant

#### ↪ Lemma 3.3

Let  $\delta : M_n(\mathbb{F}) \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$  be an alternating multilinear form. Then, for  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$  and an elementary matrix  $E$ , if  $E$  is of type

1. 1, then  $\delta(E \cdot A) = -\delta(A)$ ;
2. 2, representing multiplying by a scalar  $c \in \mathbb{F}$ , then  $\delta(E \cdot A) = c\delta(A)$ ;
3. 3, then  $\delta(E \cdot A) = \delta(A)$ .

*Proof.* 1. is a restatement of the alternating property, proposition 3.7, 2. is the definition of multilinearity.

For 3., suppose  $E$  adds  $c \cdot$  row  $i$  to row  $j$ , and suppose wlog  $i = 1, j = 2$ . Then,

$$\delta(E \cdot A) = \delta(A_{(1)}, A_{(2)} + c \cdot A_{(1)}, A_{(3)}, \dots, A_{(n)}) = \delta(A) + c \cdot \delta(A_{(1)}, A_{(1)}, A_{(3)}, \dots, A_{(n)}) = \delta(A),$$

by definition of  $\delta$  being alternating. ■

#### ↪ Theorem 3.8

For  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$ ,  $\det(A) = 0$  iff  $A$  noninvertible.

*Proof.* Let  $E_1, \dots, E_k$  be elementary matrices such that  $A' := E_1 \cdots E_k \cdot A$  is in rref, remarking that then  $\det(A') = c \cdot \det(A)$  for some  $c \in \mathbb{F}, c \neq 0$ , by lemma 3.3. We also have that  $\operatorname{rank}(A) = \operatorname{rank}(A')$ , and  $\operatorname{rank}(A') < n \iff A'$  has a zero row.

( $\Leftarrow$ ) if  $A'$  has a zero row, then by multilinearity,  $\det(A') = 0$  and thus  $\det(A) = 0$  as well.

( $\Rightarrow$ ) if  $A'$  has no zero row, then  $A' = I_n$  and thus  $\det(A') = 1$ , and  $\det(A) = c^{-1} \cdot 1 \neq 0$ . ■



### ↪ **Theorem 3.9**

The determinant respects products,  $\det(A \cdot B) = \det(A) \cdot \det(B)$ , for all  $A, B \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$ .

Proof. Suppose first  $A$  noninvertible, so  $\text{rank}(A) < n$  and  $\det(A) = 0$ . Then

$$\text{rank}(A \cdot B) = \text{rank}(L_{AB}) = \text{rank}(L_A \circ L_B) \leq \text{rank}(L_A) = \text{rank}(A) < n,$$

so  $A \cdot B$  also noninvertible and  $\det(A \cdot B) = 0$ . Hence,  $\det(A) \cdot \det(B) = 0 \cdot \det(B) = 0 = \det(A \cdot B)$ .

Suppose now  $A$  invertible. Then, writing  $A = E_1 \cdots E_k$  as a product of elementary matrices; it suffices to show, by induction, for a single  $E$ . By lemma 3.3,  $\det(A) = \det(E \cdot I) = c$  for some non-zero constant  $c \in \mathbb{F}$ , so  $\det(A) \cdot \det(B) = c \cdot \det(B)$ . On the other hand,  $\det(A \cdot B) = \det(E \cdot B) = c \cdot \det(B)$ , also by lemma 3.3. ■

### ↪ **Corollary 3.12**

$$\det(A^{-1}) = \det(A)^{-1}, \forall A \in \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{F}).$$

Proof.  $1 = \det(I_n) = \det(A \cdot A^{-1}) = \det(A) \cdot \det(A^{-1}) \implies \det(A^{-1}) = \det(A)^{-1}$ . ■

### ↪ **Corollary 3.13**

$$\det(A^t) = \det(A) \forall A \in M_n(\mathbb{F}).$$

Proof. If  $A$  noninvertible, then  $\text{rank}(A^t) = \text{rank}(A) < n$  so both are noninvertible, and thus  $\det(A^t) = \det(A) = 0$ .

If  $A$  invertible, writing  $A = E_1 \cdots E_k$ , we have  $A^t = E_k^t \cdots E_1^t$ . For each  $i = 1, \dots, k$ ,  $E_i^t$  is an elementary matrix of the same type, with the same constant if of type 2, and thus  $\det(E_i) = \det(E_i^t)$ , and so

$$\det(A^t) = \det(E_k^t) \cdots \det(E_1^t) = \det(E_1) \cdots \det(E_k) = \det(A).$$

■

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## 4 DIAGONALIZATION OF LINEAR OPERATORS

### 4.1 Introduction

This section will be concerned with decomposing a linear operator  $T : V \rightarrow V$  for a finite dimensional  $V$  into a direct sum of simpler linear operators.

The simplest linear operator we could consider is multiplication by a fixed scalar; ideally, then, we would like to be able, for any operator  $T : V \rightarrow V$ , to decompose  $V = V_1 \oplus V_2 \oplus \cdots \oplus V_k$  of  $T$ -invariant subspaces such that  $T|_{V_i}$  is just multiplication by some scalar  $\lambda_i$ .

↪ **Definition 4.1: Linearly Independent Subspaces**

For subspaces  $V_1, V_2, \dots, V_k \subseteq V$ , we say that  $\{V_1, \dots, V_k\}$  is *linearly independent* if

$$V_i \cap \sum_{j \neq i} V_j = \{0_V\},$$

then, we call  $V_1 + V_2 + \dots + V_k$  a *direct sum* and denote  $V_1 \oplus V_2 \oplus \dots \oplus V_k$ .

↪ **Definition 4.2: Diagonalization**

Call a linear operator  $T : V \rightarrow V$  *diagonalizable* if it admits a *diagonalization*, ie

$$V = V_1 \oplus V_2 \oplus \dots \oplus V_k,$$

where each  $V_i$  is a subspace of  $V$ , such that  $T|_{V_i}$  is just multiplication by a fixed scalar  $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{F}$ .

⊗ **Example 4.1**

1. If  $A$  a diagonal matrix,  $A = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & \ddots & 0 \\ \dots & 0 & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix}$ , then  $L_A$  is diagonalizable; take  $V_i := \text{Span}(\{e_i\})$ , then  $\mathbb{F}^n = V_1 \oplus \dots \oplus V_n$ .
2. If  $A$  not diagonal, but is similar to a diagonal matrix  $D$  as above ie  $\exists Q \in \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{F})$  s.t.  $A = QDQ^{-1}$ . Then, as any invertible matrix  $Q = [I_n]_{\alpha}^{\beta}$  is a change of basis matrix, denoting  $\beta := \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ , then letting  $V_i := \text{Span}(\{v_i\})$  gives the appropriate decomposition such that  $L_A|_{V_i} = \text{mult. by } \lambda_i$ . We generalize this below.

↪ **Proposition 4.1**

Let  $V$ ,  $\dim(V) < \infty$ . A linear operator  $T : V \rightarrow V$  is diagonalizable iff there is a basis  $\beta$  for  $V$  such that  $[T]_{\beta}^{\beta}$  is diagonal.

Proof. ( $\implies$ ) Suppose  $V = V_1 \oplus \dots \oplus V_k$  such that  $T|_{V_i} = \text{mult. by } \lambda_i$ . Let  $\beta_i$  be a basis for  $V_i$ , then,  $\beta := \cup_{i=1}^k \beta_i$

is a basis for  $V$ . Then, for each  $v \in \beta$ ,  $v \in \beta_i$  for some  $i$  and so  $T(v) = \lambda_i \cdot v$  and thus  $[T(v)]_\beta = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ \lambda_i \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ , and so

$$[T]_\beta = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix}.$$

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Suppose  $\beta := \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  a basis such that  $[T]_\beta$  is diagonal. Then, taking  $V_i := \text{Span}(\{v_i\})$ ,  $[T(v_i)] = \lambda_i \cdot e_i = \lambda_i \cdot [v_i]_\beta = [\lambda_i v_i]_\beta$ .  $v \mapsto [v]_\beta$  injective, and thus  $Tv_i = \lambda_i v_i$ . ■

## 4.2 Eigenvalues/vectors/spaces

### ↪ Definition 4.3: Eigenvalue/eigenvector

For a linear operator  $T : V \rightarrow V$  and  $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$ ,  $\lambda$  is called an *eigenvalue* of  $T$  if there is a non-zero vector  $v \in V$  such that  $T(v) = \lambda \cdot v$ . Then,  $v$  is called an *eigenvector*.

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### ↪ Proposition 4.2

For a finite dimensional vector space  $V$  and a linear transformation  $T : V \rightarrow V$ , TFAE:

1.  $T$  is diagonalizable, ie  $V = \bigoplus_{i=1}^k V_i$  s.t.  $T|_{V_i}$  scalar multiplication for each  $i$ .
2. There is a basis  $\beta$  for  $V$  such that  $[T]_\beta^\beta$  is diagonal.
3. There is a basis  $\beta$  consisting of eigenvectors of  $T$ .

Proof. (1.  $\iff$  2.) proposition 4.1.

(2.  $\implies$  3.) Suppose  $\beta := \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  a basis such that  $[T]_\beta$  a diagonal matrix with entries  $\lambda_i$ . Then,  $[T(v_j)]_\beta = \lambda_j e_j$  so  $T(v_j) = \lambda_j v_j$  and thus  $v_j$  an eigenvector.

(3.  $\implies$  2.) Let  $\beta := \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  a basis of eigenvectors such that  $T(v_j) = \lambda_j v_j$  for some  $\lambda_j \in \mathbb{F}$ . Then

$$[T]_\beta = \begin{pmatrix} | & | & & | \\ [T(v_1)]_\beta & [T(v_2)]_\beta & \cdots & [T(v_n)]_\beta \\ | & | & & | \end{pmatrix}$$

But  $[T(v_j)]_\beta = [\lambda_j v_j]_\beta = \lambda_j e_j$ , so this matrix is diagonal with entries  $\lambda_j$ . ■

### ↪ Proposition 4.3

For  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$ ,  $A$  is diagonalizable, ie  $L_A$  diagonalizable,  $\iff \exists Q \in GL_n(\mathbb{F})$  s.t.  $Q^{-1}AQ$  is diagonal; the columns of  $Q$  are eigenvectors, forming a basis for  $\mathbb{F}^n$ .

Proof.  $A$  diagonalizable  $\iff$  there is a basis  $\beta$  for  $\mathbb{F}^n$  such that  $[L_A]_\beta$  diagonal. Then, letting  $\alpha$  be the standard basis, we have that  $A = [L_A]_\alpha = [I]_\beta^\alpha \cdot [L_A]_\beta \cdot [I]_\alpha^\beta = [I]_\beta^\alpha \cdot [L_A]_\beta \cdot ([I]_\beta^\alpha)^{-1}$  so  $[L_A]_\beta = ([I]_\beta^\alpha)^{-1} \cdot A \cdot [I]_\beta^\alpha$ . Letting  $Q := [I]_\beta^\alpha$ , we get  $Q^{-1}AQ$  diagonal. The columns of  $Q$  are exactly the vectors in  $\beta$ , and thus eigenvectors. ■

### ↪ Definition 4.4: Eigenspace

For an eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of  $T : V \rightarrow V$ , let  $\text{Eig}_V(\lambda) := \{v \in V : Tv = \lambda v\}$ , called the *eigenspace* of  $T$  corresponding to  $\lambda$ .

### ↪ Proposition 4.4

$\text{Eig}_V(\lambda)$  a subspace of  $V$ .

**Remark 4.1.** *Diagonalizability is a conjugate-invariant property; if  $A \sim B$  and  $A$  diagonalizable, then so is  $B$ .*

### ↪ Proposition 4.5

The trace,  $\text{tr}$ , and determinant,  $\det$ , functions  $M_n(\mathbb{F}) \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$  are conjugation-invariant.

### ↪ Definition 4.5

Let  $V$ ,  $\dim(V) = n$ . and  $T : V \rightarrow V$  a linear operator. Define  $\text{tr}$  (resp.  $\det$ ) of  $T$  as  $\text{tr}(T) := \text{tr}([T]_\beta)$  ( $\det(T) := \det([T]_\beta)$ ) for some/any basis  $\beta$  for  $V$ .

**Remark 4.2.** *This is well-defined (doesn't depend on the choice of basis),  $[T]_\alpha, [T]_\beta$  are conjugate for any two bases, and  $\text{tr}, \det$  are conjugate-invariant.*

### ↪ Proposition 4.6

$\dim(V) = n, T : V \rightarrow V$  invertible  $\iff \det(T) \neq 0$ .

Proof.  $T$  invertible  $\iff [T]_\beta$  invertible  $\iff \det([T]_\beta) \neq 0$  for some basis  $\beta$ . ■

### ↪ Proposition 4.7

Let  $T : V \rightarrow V$ ,  $\dim(V) < \infty$ .

1.  $v \in V$  an eigenvector of  $T$  with eigenvalue  $\lambda \iff v \in \text{Ker}(\lambda I - T)$ .
2.  $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$  an eigenvalue  $\iff \lambda I - T$  non-invertible  $\iff \det(\lambda I - T) = 0$ .

Proof. 1.  $T(v) = \lambda v \iff \lambda v - T(v) = 0 \iff (\lambda I_V - T)(v) = 0 \iff v \in \text{Ker}(\lambda I_V - T)$ .

2. follows from 1. by the dimension theorem. ■

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### ↪ Corollary 4.1

For  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$ ,  $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$  an eigenvalue of  $A$  (that is, if  $L_A$ )  $\iff \det(\lambda I - A) = 0$ .

Proof. Follows from the previous proposition by noting that  $[\lambda I_{\mathbb{F}^n} - L_A]$  in the standard basis of  $\mathbb{F}^n$  is just  $\lambda I_n - A$ . ■

### ↪ Proposition 4.8

1. For  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$ , the function  $t \mapsto \det(tI_n - A)$  is a polynomial in  $t$  of the form

$$p_A(t) := t^n - \text{tr}(A)t^{n-1} + \cdots + (-1)^n \det(A)$$

and is called the *characteristic polynomial* of  $A$ .

2. For a  $n$ -dim  $V$  and  $T : V \rightarrow V$ , the function  $t \mapsto \det(tI_V - T)$  is a polynomial of the form

$$p_T(t) := t^n - \text{tr}(T)t^{n-1} + \cdots + (-1)^n \det(T).$$

Proof. 1. a homework exercise; 2. follows immediately. ■

Hence, this proposition gives that the eigenvalues of  $A$  are precisely the roots of  $p_A(t)$ .

### ↪ Corollary 4.2

$T : V \rightarrow V$  has at most  $n$  distinct eigenvalues.

### ⊗ Example 4.2

Let  $A := \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$ . Then

$$-p_A(t) = \det(A - tI_n) = \det \begin{pmatrix} 3-t & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3-t & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 4-t \end{pmatrix} = (3-t)^2(4-t),$$

with roots  $t = 3, 4$  and thus  $A$  has two eigenvalues  $\lambda_1 := 3$  mult. 2 and  $\lambda_2 := 4$ . Then:

$$\text{Eig}_A(\lambda_1) = \text{Ker}(3I - L_A) = \{\vec{x} \in \mathbb{F}^3 : (A - 3I)\vec{x} = 0\},$$

hence,  $\vec{x} \in \text{Eig}_A(\lambda_1)$  are the solutions to the homogeneous system  $(A - 3I)\vec{x} = 0$ :

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \iff \begin{cases} x_2 = 0 \\ x_3 = 0 \end{cases} \iff \vec{x} = ae_1, a \in \mathbb{F},$$

so  $\text{Eig}_A(3) = \text{Span}(\{e_1\})$ . A similar computation gives  $\text{Eig}_A(\lambda)(2) = \text{Span}(\{(1, 1, \frac{1}{4})\})$ .

We have hence found two 1-dimensional eigenspaces;  $A$  is thus not diagonalizable.

#### ↪ Proposition 4.9

Let  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$  be distinct eigenvalues of  $T : V \rightarrow V$  on  $V$   $n$ -dim. Then if  $v_i$  an eigenvector of  $T$  corresponding to  $\lambda_i$ , then  $\{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$  is linearly independent. In particular,  $k \leq n$ .

*Proof.* By induction on  $k$ . If  $k = 1$  then  $\{v_1\}$  is linear independent because  $v_1 \neq 0_V$ . Suppose the proposition holds for  $k$ . Let  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{k+1}$  be distinct eigenvalues with corresponding  $\{v_1, \dots, v_{k+1}\}$  eigenvectors. Let

$$\textcircled{1} \quad a_1v_1 + \dots + a_{k+1}v_{k+1} = 0_V.$$

Taking  $T(\textcircled{1})$ , we have

$$\textcircled{2} \quad \lambda_1 a_1 v_1 + \dots + \lambda_{k+1} a_{k+1} v_{k+1} = 0_V.$$

Then,  $\textcircled{2} - \lambda_{k+1} \cdot \textcircled{1}$  yields

$$(\lambda_1 - \lambda_{k+1})a_1v_1 + \dots + (\lambda_k - \lambda_{k+1})a_kv_k = 0_V,$$

but  $v_1, \dots, v_k$  linearly independent by assumption, so  $(\lambda_i - \lambda_{k+1})a_i = 0$  for  $i = 1, \dots, k$ . The  $\lambda_i$ 's distinct, hence it must be that  $a_i = 0$  for  $i = 1, \dots, k$ , and so  $\textcircled{1}$  gives that  $a_{k+1}v_{k+1} = 0_V$ . But  $v_{k+1}$  an eigenvector, so this is only possible if  $a_{k+1} = 0$  and the proof is complete. ■

### ↪ Corollary 4.3

For distinct eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$  of  $T : V \rightarrow V$ ,  $\dim(V) < \infty$ , the corresponding eigenspaces  $\text{Eig}_T(\lambda_i)$  are linearly independent.

Proof. This follows directly proposition 4.9. ■

### ↪ Definition 4.6: Geometric Multiplicity

For eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of  $T : V \rightarrow V$ , denote by  $m_g(\lambda) := \dim(\text{Eig}_T(\lambda))$  and call it the *geometric multiplicity* of  $\lambda$ .

### ↪ Corollary 4.4

For  $T : V \rightarrow V$  with distinct eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$ ,

$$\sum_{i=1}^k m_g(\lambda_i) \leq n.$$

Proof.  $\sum_{i=1}^k m_g(\lambda_i) = \dim(\bigoplus_{i=1}^k \text{Eig}_T(\lambda_i)) \leq n.$  ■

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### ↪ Theorem 4.1

Let  $V, n := \dim(V)$ . A linear operator  $T : V \rightarrow V$  is diagonalizable iff the sum of the geometric multiplicities of all of the eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$  equals  $n$ , ie iff

$$\sum_{i=1}^k m_g(\lambda_i) = n.$$

Proof. Recall that  $T$  diagonalizable iff  $\exists$  a basis consisting of eigenvectors.

( $\implies$ ) If  $\beta := \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  a basis for  $V$  of eigenvectors, then each  $v_i \in \text{Eig}_T(\lambda_j)$  for some  $j$ , so  $\beta \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^k \text{Eig}_T(\lambda_i)$  and  $\beta \cap \text{Eig}_T(\lambda_i)$  is linearly independent, hence  $|\beta \cap \text{Eig}_T(\lambda_i)| \leq m_g(\lambda_i)$ . Thus,  $n = |\beta| = \sum_{i=1}^k |\beta \cap \text{Eig}_T(\lambda_i)| \leq \sum_{i=1}^k m_g(\lambda_i)$ . By the previous corollary, it follows that  $\sum_{i=1}^k m_g(\lambda_i) = n$ .

( $\impliedby$ ) Suppose  $\sum_{i=1}^k m_g(\lambda_i) = n$  and let  $\beta_i$  a basis for  $\text{Eig}_T(\lambda_i)$ . By the linear independence of the eigenspaces,  $\beta := \bigcup_{i=1}^k \beta_i$  still linearly independent and, having  $n$  elements, is a basis for  $V$  consisting of eigenvectors by construction. ■

### ⊗ Example 4.3

Let  $D : \mathbb{F}[t]_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{F}[t]_2$  by  $p(t) \mapsto p'(t)$ . To find eigenvalues of  $D$ , we fix the basis  $\alpha := \{1, t, t^2\}$  for  $D$

and find the corresponding matrix representation

$$[D]_\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} | & | & | \\ [D(1)]_\alpha & [D(t)]_\alpha & [D(t^2)]_\alpha \\ | & | & | \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} | & | & | \\ [0]_\alpha & [1]_\alpha & [2t]_\alpha \\ | & | & | \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Thus,

$$p_D(t) = -\det([D]_\alpha - tI_3) = -\begin{vmatrix} -t & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -t & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & -t \end{vmatrix} = t^3,$$

hence, the only eigenvalue is  $\lambda = 0$ , with corresponding  $\text{Eig}_D(0) = \text{Ker}(D - 0 \cdot I) = \text{Ker}(D)$ , so  $m_g(0) = \dim(\text{Ker}(D)) = 3 - \text{rank}(D) = 3 - \text{rank}([D]_\alpha) = 1$ . Moreover,  $D$  is not diagonalizable.

#### ↪ **Definition 4.7: Algebraic Multiplicity**

For  $V, \dim(V) < \infty$ , and a linear operator  $T : V \rightarrow V$  and an eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of  $T$ , we define the *algebraic multiplicity* of  $\lambda$  to be the multiplicity of  $\lambda$  as the root of  $p_T(t)$ , ie the largest  $k \geq 1$  such that  $(t - \lambda)^k \mid p_T(t)$ . We denote this by

$$m_a(\lambda).$$

#### ↪ **Lemma 4.1**

Let  $V, \dim(V) < \infty$  and  $T : V \rightarrow V$  be linear. For each  $T$ -invariant subspace  $W \subseteq V$ , let  $T_W := T|_W : W \rightarrow W$ . Then,

$$p_{T_W}(t) \mid p_T(t).$$

Proof. Let  $\alpha := \{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$  be a basis for  $W$  and extend it to a basis  $\beta := \alpha \cup \{v_{k+1}, \dots, v_n\}$  for  $V$ . Letting  $A := [T_W]_\alpha$ , we see that

$$\begin{aligned} [T]_\beta &= \begin{pmatrix} | & & | & & | \\ [T(v_1)]_\beta & \cdots & [T(v_k)]_\beta & [T(v_{k+1})]_\beta & \cdots & [T(v_n)]_\beta \\ | & & | & & | \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} & \star & & & \\ A & & \star & & \\ & \star & & & \\ \mathbf{0} & & \star & & \\ & \star & & & \end{pmatrix}, \end{aligned}$$



where  $\mathbf{0}$  is a  $n - k \times k$  matrix of zeros. Hence,

$$p_T(t) = -\det([T]_\beta - tI_n) = -\det(\cdots) = -\det(A - tI_k) \cdot \det(B - tI_{n-k}) = -p_{T_W}(t) \det(B - tI_{n-k}),$$

and the proof is complete. ■

### ↪ **Proposition 4.10**

Let  $V$ ,  $\dim(V) < \infty$ , and  $T : V \rightarrow V$ . For each eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of  $T$ ,  $m_g(\lambda) \leq m_a(\lambda)$ .

Proof. Let  $W := \text{Eig}_T(\lambda)$ , which is  $T$ -invariant, so by lemma 4.1,  $p_T(t) = p_{T_W}(t) \cdot q(t)$  for some  $q(t) \in \mathbb{F}[t]$ . But, fixing any basis  $\alpha := \{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$  for  $W$ , we have that  $T_W(v_i) = T(v_i) = \lambda v_i$  so  $[T(v_i)]_\alpha = \lambda e_i \in \mathbb{F}^k$  hence  $[T_W]_\alpha$  is just a  $k \times k$  diagonal matrix with  $\lambda$  entries. Thus,  $p_{T_W}(t) = \det(tI_k - [T_W]_\alpha) = (t - \lambda)^k$ , and so  $p_T(t) = (t - \lambda)^k \cdot q(t)$  and thus  $m_a(\lambda) \geq k = \dim(W) = m_g(\lambda)$ . ■

### ↪ **Definition 4.8: Splits**

A polynomial  $p(t) \in \mathbb{F}[t]$  splits over  $\mathbb{F}$  if  $p(t) = a \cdot (t - r_1) \cdots (t - r_n)$  for some  $a \in \mathbb{F}$ ,  $r_1, \dots, r_n \in \mathbb{F}$ .

**Remark 4.3.** If  $\mathbb{F}$  is algebraically closed, then every polynomial over  $\mathbb{F}$  splits over  $\mathbb{F}$ .

**Remark 4.4.** For an eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of  $T : V \rightarrow V$ , where  $V$  is  $n$ -dimensional,  $p_T(t)$  splits iff  $\sum_{i=1}^k m_a(\lambda_i) = n$ .

### ↪ **Theorem 4.2: Main Criterion of Diagonalizability**

Let  $V$ ,  $\dim(V) < \infty$ ,  $T : V \rightarrow V$  linear. Then  $T$  diagonalizable iff  $p_T(t)$  splits and  $m_g(\lambda) = m_a(\lambda)$  for each eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of  $T$ .

Proof. Let  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$  be the distinct eigenvalues of  $T$ . Then,

$$T \text{ diagonalizable} \iff \sum_{i=1}^k m_g(\lambda_i) = n := \dim(V)$$

since  $m_g(\lambda_i) \leq m_a(\lambda_i)$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^k m_a(\lambda_i) \leq n$ , we have that

$$n = \sum_{i=1}^k m_g(\lambda_i) \iff m_g(\lambda_i) = m_a(\lambda_i), \quad i = 1, \dots, k, \text{ and } \sum_{i=1}^k m_a(\lambda_i) = n,$$

but this last statement is equivalent to saying that  $p_T(t)$  splits. ■

⊗ **Example 4.4**

1.  $A := \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$ , so  $L_A : \mathbb{F}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^3$ . Then,

$$p_A(t) = -\det \begin{pmatrix} 4-t & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 3-t & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 4-t \end{pmatrix} = -(4-t)(3-t)(4-t) + 1 \cdot (3-t) \cdot 2 = -(t-5)(t-3)^2.$$

Supposing  $\text{char}(\mathbb{F}) \neq 2$  ie  $3 \neq 5$ , then we have two distinct eigenvalues  $\lambda_1 = 5, \lambda_2 = 3$  with  $m_a(5) = 1, m_a(3) = 2$ , so the polynomial splits (regardless of  $\mathbb{F}$ ). We have that  $1 \leq m_g(5) \leq m_a(5) = 1$ , so  $m_g(5) = m_a(5) = 1$ . We need only to check that  $m_g(3) = 2$ ; but we have that

$$\begin{aligned} m_g(3) &= \text{nullity}(L_A - 3 \cdot I) = 3 - \text{rank}(L_A - 3 \cdot I) = 3 - \text{rank}(A - 3I) \\ &= 3 - \text{rank} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = 3 - 1 = 2 = m_a(3), \end{aligned}$$

so  $A$  indeed diagonalizable. A conjugate of  $A$  that is diagonal is  $D := \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$ , and if  $v_1$  an eigenvector for  $\lambda_1 = 5$  and  $v_2, v_3$  are linearly independent eigenvectors for  $\lambda_2 = 3$ , then

$$Q := \begin{pmatrix} | & | & | \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 \\ | & | & | \end{pmatrix} = [I_3]_{\beta}^{\alpha},$$

where  $\alpha := \{e_1, e_2, e_3\}$  and  $\beta := \{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$ , is such that

$$D = Q^{-1}AQ.$$

In the case that  $\text{char}(\mathbb{F}) = 2, 3 = 5$  so we have a single eigenvalue  $\lambda = 1 = 3 = 5$  with  $m_a(1) = 3$ .

But we still have that  $\text{rank}(A - I) = \text{rank} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = 1$  so  $m_g(1) = 2 < 3$ , hence  $A$  is not diagonalizable.

2. Let  $T : \mathbb{F}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^2$  be a rotation by ninety degrees, so  $T(e_1) = e_2$  and  $T(e_2) = -e_1$ . Then,  $T = L_A$

with

$$A = [T]_\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} | & | \\ e_2 & -e_1 \\ | & | \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

with  $\alpha$  the standard basis. Then

$$p_T(t) = p_A(t) = -\det \begin{pmatrix} -t & -1 \\ 1 & -t \end{pmatrix} = t^2 + 1,$$

which doesn't split over  $\mathbb{F} := \mathbb{R}$ , but does over  $\mathbb{F} := \mathbb{C}$  or any  $\mathbb{F}$  with characteristic 2 where  $t^2 + 1 = (t + 1)^2$ .

When  $\mathbb{F} := \mathbb{C}$ ,  $p_T(t) = (t - i)(t + i)$  so we have 2 distinct eigenvalues with each having algebraic multiplicity 1, hence both have geometric multiplicity of 1 and thus  $T$  is diagonalizable.

When  $\text{char}(\mathbb{F}) = 2$ , we have a single eigenvalue  $\lambda = 1$ , with

$$m_g(1) = \text{nullity}(T - I) = 2 - \text{rank}(T - I) = 2 - \text{rank} \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = 2 - \text{rank} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = 1 < 2 = m_a(1),$$

so  $T$  is not diagonalizable.

**Remark 4.5.** From the previous two examples, regard that the issue of diagonalizability is a field-related issue; not only because of the “splittability” of polynomials, but because of characteristic.

### 4.3 $T$ -cyclic Vectors and the Cayley-Hamilton Theorem

#### ↪ Definition 4.9: $T$ -cyclic subspace

Let  $V$  be any vector space,  $T : V \rightarrow V$  a linear operator, and  $v \in V$ . The  $T$ -cyclic subspace of  $V$  generated by  $v$  is the space

$$\text{Span}(\{v, T(v), T^2(v), \dots\}) = \text{Span}(\{T^n(v) : n \in \mathbb{N}\}).$$

**Remark 4.6.** Note that  $T$ -cyclic subspaces are  $T$ -invariant. In a sense,  $T$ -cyclic subspaces are “minimal  $T$ -invariant subspaces”. Recall too that the characteristic polynomial of  $T$  restricted to  $T$ -invariant subspaces divides the characteristic polynomial of  $T$  by lemma 4.1.

#### ↪ Lemma 4.2

Let  $V$  be finite dimensional,  $T : V \rightarrow V$  linear, and  $v \in V$ . Let  $W :=$  the  $T$ -cyclic subspace generated by  $v$ .

1.  $\{v, T(v), \dots, T^{k-1}(v)\}$  is a basis for  $W$ , where  $k := \dim(W)$ .
2. Since  $T^k(v) \in \text{Span}(\{v, T(v), \dots, T^{k-1}(v)\})$ , we have a unique representation  $T^k(v) = a_0v + a_1T(v) + \dots + a_{k-1}T^{k-1}(v)$ . Then,

$$p_{T_W}(t) = t^k - a_{k-1}t^{k-1} - \dots - a_1t - a_0$$

Proof. Left as homework. ■

Hint for 2.: use  $\beta := \{v, \dots, T^{k-1}(v)\}$  representation of  $[T_W]_\beta$ . ■

**Remark 4.7.** Note that if  $V$  itself  $T$ -cyclic for some  $v$ , then  $T$  “satisfies” its own characteristic polynomial. Indeed,  $p_T(t) = t^n - a_{n-1}t^{n-1} - \dots - a_0$  and so

$$p_T(T) := T^n - a_{n-1}T^{n-1} - \dots - a_0I_V$$

is equal to 0 on  $v$ , and hence on all vectors  $u \in V$  since  $V = \text{Span}(\{v, T(v), \dots, T^{n-1}(v)\})$  because

$$p_T(T)(T^i)(v) = T^{n+i}(v) - a_{n-1}T^{n-1+i}(v) - \dots - a_0T^i(v) = (T^i \circ p_T(T))(v) = T^i(p_T(v)) = T^i(0) = 0.$$

Even more generally, we have that this is true in general, precisely:

### ↪ **Theorem 4.3: Cayley-Hamilton Theorem**

Let  $V$  be finite dimensional and  $T : V \rightarrow V$  be linear. Then  $T$  satisfies its own characteristic polynomial

$p_T(t) = t^n + a_{n-1}t^{n-1} + \dots + a_0$ , ie

$$p_T(T) = T^n + a_{n-1}T^{n-1} + \dots + a_0I_V \equiv 0_V.$$

Proof. Fix  $v \in V$ . Let  $W := T$ -cyclic subspace generated by  $v$ , so  $p_{T_W}(t) | p_T(t)$ , ie  $p_T(t) = q(t) \cdot p_{T_W}(t)$ . Hence  $p_T(T) = q(T) \circ p_{T_W}(T)$ , and thus

$$p_T(T)(v) = q(T)(p_{T_W}(T)(v)) \stackrel{\text{lemma 4.2}}{=} q(T)(0) = 0. \quad \blacksquare$$

### ↪ **Corollary 4.5: Cayley-Hamilton for Matrices**

For every  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$ ,  $p_A(A) = 0$ .

Proof. Follows immediately from  $[L_A]_\alpha = A$ . ■

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## 5 INNER PRODUCT SPACES

### 5.1 Introduction

For this section,  $\mathbb{F}$  will always be either  $\mathbb{R}$  or  $\mathbb{C}$ .

### ↪ Definition 5.1: Inner Product

Let  $V$  be a vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$ . An *inner product* on  $V$  is a function

$$V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{F}, \quad (u, v) \mapsto \langle u, v \rangle,$$

satisfying, for all  $u, v, w \in V$  and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}$ ,

1. Linear in the first coordinate:

$$(a) \quad \langle u + v, w \rangle = \langle u, w \rangle + \langle v, w \rangle$$

$$(b) \quad \langle \alpha u, v \rangle = \alpha \cdot \langle u, v \rangle$$

2. Skew-symmetric:

$$(a) \quad \langle u, v \rangle = \overline{\langle v, u \rangle}$$

3.  $\langle u, u \rangle \geq 0$ , and equal to 0 iff  $u = 0_V$ .

$V$  together with  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  is called an *inner product space*.

**Remark 5.1.** Note that the third requirement is well-defined; that is, it follows from 2. that  $\langle u, u \rangle \in \mathbb{R}$ , so it makes sense to require it to be  $\geq 0$  (if it was complex, this would be meaningless).

### ↪ Definition 5.2

Let  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  be an inner product on  $V$ . The *norm* associated to this inner product is defined

$$\|v\| := \sqrt{\langle v, v \rangle}, \quad v \in V.$$

We call  $v \in V$  a *unit vector* if  $\|v\| = 1$ . For  $v \in V, v \neq 0$ , we call  $\|v\|^{-1} \cdot v$  the *normalization* of  $v$ .

**Remark 5.2.** Never work with a norm directly; working with the square of the norm is far easier.

### ↪ Proposition 5.1

Let  $V$  be an inner product space. For each  $u, v, w \in V$  and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}$ ,

1. Conjugate linearity in the second coordinate holds:

$$(a) \quad \langle u, v + w \rangle = \langle u, v \rangle + \langle u, w \rangle$$

$$(b) \quad \langle u, \alpha v \rangle = \overline{\alpha} \langle u, v \rangle$$

$$2. \quad \|\alpha \cdot v\| = |\alpha| \cdot \|v\|$$

$$3. \quad \|v, 0_V\| = 0 = \|0_V, v\|$$

Proof. 1.(a), (b) follow from skew-symmetry.

For 2., we have  $\|\alpha v\|^2 = \langle \alpha v, \alpha v \rangle = \alpha \cdot \bar{\alpha} \langle v, v \rangle = |\alpha|^2 \cdot \|v\|^2$ .

For 3., follows from  $\langle 0_V, v \rangle + \langle 0_V, v \rangle = \langle 0_V, v \rangle$ . ■

### ⊗ Example 5.1

1. For  $V := \mathbb{F}^n$ , the standard inner product is the “dot product”; for  $\vec{x} := (x_1, \dots, x_n), \vec{y} := (y_1, \dots, y_n)$ ,

$$\langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle := \vec{x} \cdot \vec{y} := \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \bar{y}_i,$$

which gives

$$\|\vec{x}\| = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|^2},$$

that is, the standard Euclidean norm.

### ↪ Proposition 5.2

For  $\mathbb{F} := \mathbb{R}$  and  $\vec{x}, \vec{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\vec{x} \cdot \vec{y} = \|\vec{x}\| \|\vec{y}\| \cos \alpha$ , where  $\alpha$  the angle from  $\vec{x}$  to  $\vec{y}$ .

2. If  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  an inner product on  $V$  and  $r$  a positive real, then  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_r := r \cdot \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  is also an inner product.  
 3. Let  $V := C[0, 1]$ . Define for  $f, g \in V$ ,

$$\langle f, g \rangle := \int_0^1 f(t) \cdot \overline{g(t)} \, dt.$$

4. Let  $V := \mathbb{F}[t]_n$ . For  $f(t) := a_0 + a_1 t + \dots + a_n t^n, g(t) := b_0 + b_1 t + \dots + b_n t^n$ , define

$$\langle f, g \rangle_1 := \sum_{i=0}^n a_i \bar{b}_i,$$

and

$$\langle f, g \rangle_2 := \int_0^1 f(t) \overline{g(t)} \, dt.$$

These are both inner products.

5. For  $A \in M_{n \times m}(\mathbb{F})$ , let  $A^* := \overline{A}^t$  the *conjugate transpose* of  $A$ .<sup>19</sup> For  $V := M_n(\mathbb{F})$  and  $A, B \in V$ , define

$$\langle A, B \rangle := \operatorname{tr}(B^* \cdot A).$$

It is left as a (homework) exercise to verify that this is a well-defined inner product.

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<sup>19</sup>Where  $\overline{A} := (\overline{a_{ij}})$ .

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