

## GENERAL LINEAR GROUPS

## Why

We can generalize the real general linear groups to vector spaces over  $\mathbf{C}$ .

## **Definition**

Suppose V is a vector space over the field  $\mathbf{C}$  of complex numbers. The set of isomorphisms of V onto itself is a group, called the *general linear group*, under the operation of composition. If V has dimension n, then the general linear group can be identified with the invertible  $n \times n$  complex matrices in the usual way.

## Notation

We denote by GL(V) the general linear group of isomorphisms of V onto itself. If  $f \in GL(V)$ , and V has a finite basis  $e_1, \ldots, e_n \in V$ , then f has corresponding matrix representation  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  given by

$$A = \left[ f(e_1) \quad \cdots \quad f(e_n) \right].$$

