



## Why

We can identify any linear functional  $F : \mathbf{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  with a vector  $y \in \mathbf{R}^n$  so that  $F(x) = \langle x, y \rangle$ . We generalize this result to complete inner product spaces.

## Motivating result

The following is known as the *Riesz representation theorem* (or *Riesz-Fréchet representation theorem*, or *Riesz theorem*, or *Riesz-Fréchet theorem*).

**Proposition 1.** *Let  $((V, k), \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$  be a complete inner product space and let  $F : V \rightarrow k$  be a continuous linear functional on  $V$ . There exists a unique  $y \in V$  so that*

$$F(x) = \langle x, y \rangle$$

*for all  $x \in V$ . Moreover  $\|y\| = \|F\|_*$ .*

Clearly  $\mathbf{R}^n$  is a complete inner product space, and so this theorem says the expected. We can identify linear functionals on  $\mathbf{R}^n$  with elements (vectors) in  $\mathbf{R}^n$ .<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Future editions will expand further.



