



### Definition

A *linear functional* on a vector space  $V$  over a field  $\mathbf{F}$  is a linear function  $f : V \rightarrow \mathbf{F}$ . In other words, a linear function is an element of  $\mathcal{L}(V, \mathbf{F})$ .

### Examples

1. Define  $\phi : \mathbf{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  by

$$\phi(x, y, z) = 4x - 5y + 2z$$

$\phi$  is a linear function on  $\mathbf{R}^3$

2. Define  $\phi : \mathbf{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$  by

$$\phi(x_1, \dots, x_n) = c_1x_1 + c_2x_2 + \dots + c_nx_n$$

where  $c_1, \dots, c_n \in \mathbf{C}$ .  $\phi$  is a linear functional on  $\mathbf{C}^n$ .

3. Let  $(c_n)_{n \in \mathbf{N}} \in \ell^\infty$ . Define  $F_c : \ell^1 \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$  by

$$F_c((x_n)_{n \in \mathbf{N}}) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n x_n.$$

4. As usual, denote the set of real polynomials by  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{R})$ . Define  $\phi : \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{R}) \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  by

$$\phi(p) = 3p''(5) + 7p(4)$$

$\phi$  is a linear functional on  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{R})$ .

5. As usual, denote the set of real polynomials by  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{R})$ . Define  $\phi : \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{R}) \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  by

$$\phi(p) = \int_{[0,1]} p$$

$\phi$  is a linear functional on  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{R})$ .



