



Why

Can we think of linear maps as vectors?

Definitions

Suppose V and W are some vector spaces over a field \mathbf{F} . Denote the linear maps from V to W by $\mathcal{L}(V, W)$ as usual.

Addition. Given $S, T \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$ the *sum* of S and T is the linear map $R \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$ defined by

$$Rv = Sv + Tv \quad \text{for all } v \in V$$

Scalar multiplication. Given $S \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$ the *(scalar) product* of λ and T is the linear map $Q \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$ defined by

$$Qv = \lambda Tv \quad \text{for all } v \in V$$

Proposition 1. *Suppose V and W are two vector spaces over the same field \mathbf{F} . Then $\mathcal{L}(V, W)$ is a vector space over the field \mathbf{F} with respect to the operations of addition and scalar multiplication just defined.*

The additive identity of the vector space $\mathcal{L}(V, W)$ is the zero map $0 \in \mathcal{L}(V, w)$.

Notation

Given $S, T \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$ the *sum* of S and T and $\lambda \in \mathbf{F}$, we denote the sum of S and T by $S + T$. Hence,

$$(S + T)(v) = Sv + Tv \quad \text{for all } v \in V$$

We denote the product of λ and T by λT . Hence,

$$(\lambda T)(v) = \lambda(Tv) \quad \text{for all } v \in V$$

