



## Why

We can consider function composition for linear maps?

## Definition

Given vector spaces  $U, V, W$  over the same field  $\mathbf{F}$  and linear maps  $T \in \mathcal{L}(U, V)$  and  $S \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$ , the *product* of  $S$  and  $T$  is the linear map  $R \in \mathcal{L}(U, W)$  defined by

$$R(u) = S(T(u)) \quad \text{for all } u \in U$$

(Prove that  $R$  so defined is linear). In other words, the product is  $S \circ T$ .

This definition only makes sense if  $T$  maps into the domain of  $S$ . We often say that the maps are *conforming* in this case.

## Notation

Often the product is denoted  $ST$  (instead of  $S \circ T$ ).

## Algebraic properties

**Proposition 1** (associativity). *Suppose  $T_1, T_2, T_3$  are three linear maps so that conforming for  $T_1 T_2 T_3$ . Then*

$$(T_1 T_2) T_3 = T_1 (T_2 T_3)$$

## Not commutative

## Image of zero

**Proposition 2.** *Suppose  $T$  is a linear map from  $V$  to  $W$ . Then  $T(0) = 0$ .*



