

**Problem 1.** Let  $v$  be the vector space of all  $n \times n$  matrices over the field  $\mathbb{F}$ , and let  $B$  be a fixed  $n \times n$  matrix. If

$$T(A) = AB - BA$$

Verify that  $T$  is a linear transformation from  $V$  into  $V$ .

Let  $A_1, A_2 \in V$ , where  $V$  is the vector space of all  $n \times n$  matrices, and  $c \in \mathbb{F}$  is a scalar.

Additivity:

$$\begin{aligned} T(A_1 + A_2) &= (A_1 + A_2)B - B(A_1 + A_2) \\ &= A_1B + A_2B - BA_1 - BA_2 \\ &= (A_1B - BA_1) + (A_2B - BA_2) \\ &= T(A_1) + T(A_2) \quad (\text{By the condition}) \end{aligned}$$

Homogeneity:

$$\begin{aligned} T(cA) &= (cA)B - B(cA) \\ &= c(AB) - c(BA) \\ &= c(AB - BA) \\ &= cT(A) \quad (\text{By the condition}) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $T$  satisfies both additivity and homogeneity, which confirms that  $T$  is a linear transformation.

**Problem 2.** Let  $V$  be an  $n$ -dimensional vector space over the field  $\mathbb{F}$  and let  $T$  be a linear transformation from  $V$  into  $V$  such that the range and null space of  $T$  are identical. Prove that  $n$  is even. (Can you give an example of such a linear transformation  $T$ ?)

Let  $V$  be an  $n$ -dimensional vector space, and suppose that the range (image) and null space (kernel) of the linear transformation  $T$  are identical, i.e.,

$$\text{Im}(T) = \text{Ker}(T).$$

By the rank-nullity theorem, we know that:

$$\dim(V) = \text{rank}(T) + \text{nullity}(T).$$

Since  $\text{Im}(T) = \text{Ker}(T)$ , we have that

$$\text{rank}(T) = \text{nullity}(T).$$

Let  $k = \text{rank}(T) = \text{nullity}(T)$ . Then, the rank-nullity theorem gives:

$$\dim(V) = k + k = 2k.$$

Therefore,  $n = \dim(V) = 2k$ , which means that  $n$  is even.

**Example:**

Consider the transformation  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  defined by

$$T \left( \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} y \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

In this case, the range and null space of  $T$  are both spanned by the vector  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , so they are identical, and the dimension of  $\mathbb{R}^2$  is 2, which is even.

**Problem 3.** Let  $\theta$  be a real number. Prove that the following two matrices are similar over the field of complex numbers:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} e^{i\theta} & 0 \\ 0 & -e^{i\theta} \end{bmatrix}$$

(Hint: Let  $T$  be the linear operator on  $\mathbb{C}^2$  which is represented by the first matrix in the standard ordered basis. Then find vectors  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$  such that  $T\alpha_1 = e^{i\theta}\alpha_1$ ,  $T\alpha_2 = -e^{i\theta}\alpha_2$ , and  $\{\alpha_1, \alpha_2\}$  is a basis.)

Let  $T : \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2$  be the linear operator represented by the matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}.$$

We aim to show that  $A$  is similar to the matrix

$$D = \begin{bmatrix} e^{i\theta} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-i\theta} \end{bmatrix}.$$

First, recall that

$$e^{i\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta \quad \text{and} \quad e^{-i\theta} = \cos \theta - i \sin \theta.$$

We look for eigenvectors of  $A$ . The characteristic polynomial of  $A$  is:

$$\det(A - \lambda I) = \det \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta - \lambda & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta - \lambda \end{bmatrix}.$$

Solving the determinant yields:

$$(\cos \theta - \lambda)^2 + \sin^2 \theta = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \lambda^2 - 2\lambda \cos \theta + 1 = 0.$$

The solutions to this quadratic equation are:

$$\lambda = e^{i\theta} \quad \text{or} \quad \lambda = e^{-i\theta}.$$

Now, we find the eigenvectors corresponding to  $\lambda_1 = e^{i\theta}$  and  $\lambda_2 = e^{-i\theta}$ . Let  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$  be the eigenvectors corresponding to  $\lambda_1 = e^{i\theta}$  and  $\lambda_2 = e^{-i\theta}$ , respectively. These vectors form a basis for  $\mathbb{C}^2$ , and in this basis, the matrix representing  $T$  is diagonal, with diagonal entries  $e^{i\theta}$  and  $e^{-i\theta}$ .

Therefore, the matrix  $A$  is similar to the diagonal matrix  $D$ , since there exists an invertible matrix  $P$  such that:

$$P^{-1}AP = D.$$

**Problem 4.** Let  $V$  be an  $n$ -dimensional vector space over the field  $\mathbb{F}$ , and let  $B = \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n\}$  be an ordered basis for  $V$ .

(a) According to Theorem 1, there is a unique linear operator  $T$  on  $V$  such that

$$T\alpha = \alpha_{j+1}, \quad j = 1, \dots, n-1, \quad T\alpha_n = 0$$

What is the matrix  $A$  or  $T$  in the ordered basis  $B$ ?

The linear operator  $T$  sends each basis vector  $\alpha_j$  to the next basis vector  $\alpha_{j+1}$  for  $j = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$ , and it sends  $\alpha_n$  to 0. The matrix  $A$  of  $T$  in the ordered basis  $B = \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n\}$  will have 1's on the superdiagonal (the diagonal directly above the main diagonal) and 0's elsewhere.

The matrix  $A$  is:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

This matrix is a nilpotent matrix with 1's on the superdiagonal and 0's elsewhere.

(b) Prove that  $T^n = 0$  but  $T^{n-1} \neq 0$ .

To show that  $T^n = 0$ , we will apply the linear operator  $T$  multiple times.

Computing powers of  $T$ :

$$T(\alpha_1) = \alpha_2, T(\alpha_2) = \alpha_3, \dots, T(\alpha_{n-1}) = \alpha_n, T(\alpha_n) = 0.$$

Applying  $T$  again results in:

$$\begin{aligned} T^2(\alpha_1) &= T(T(\alpha_1)) = T(\alpha_2) = \alpha_3, \\ T^2(\alpha_2) &= T(\alpha_3), \dots \\ T^2(\alpha_{n-2}) &= \alpha_n, T^2(\alpha_{n-1}) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Continuing this process,  $T^k(\alpha_j)$  shifts  $\alpha_j$  forward by  $k$  positions in the basis. After applying  $T$   $n$  times, every vector in the basis will eventually map to 0:

$$T^n(\alpha_j) = 0 \quad \text{for all } j.$$

Thus,  $T^n = 0$ .

Showing that  $T^{n-1} \neq 0$ :

For  $T^{n-1}$ , we have:

$$T^{n-1}(\alpha_1) = \alpha_n, \quad T^{n-1}(\alpha_j) = 0 \quad \text{for all } j \geq 2.$$

Since  $T^{n-1}(\alpha_1) = \alpha_n \neq 0$ , it follows that  $T^{n-1} \neq 0$ .

- (c) Let  $S$  be any linear operator on  $V$  such that  $S^n = 0$  but  $S^{n-1} \neq 0$ . Prove that there is an ordered basis  $B'$  for  $V$  such that the matrix of  $S$  in the ordered basis  $B'$  is the matrix  $A$  of part (a).

Since  $S^n = 0$  but  $S^{n-1} \neq 0$ , the operator  $S$  is nilpotent and has a Jordan canonical form that corresponds to a single Jordan block (since  $S^{n-1} \neq 0$ ).

The Jordan canonical form of  $S$  is exactly the same as the matrix  $A$  from part (a), which has 1's on the superdiagonal and 0's elsewhere. Therefore, there exists a basis  $B' = \{\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_n\}$  such that the matrix of  $S$  in this basis is the same as the matrix of  $T$  in part (a), i.e.,

$$[S]_{B'} = A.$$

To construct this basis, we start by finding a vector  $\beta_1$  such that  $S^{n-1}(\beta_1) \neq 0$ , and then successively apply  $S$  to generate the remaining basis vectors:

$$\beta_2 = S(\beta_1), \quad \beta_3 = S(\beta_2), \quad \dots, \quad \beta_n = S(\beta_{n-1}).$$

This gives us the desired ordered basis  $B'$ , for which the matrix of  $S$  is exactly the matrix  $A$ .

- (d) Prove that if  $M$  and  $N$  are  $n \times n$  matrices over  $\mathbb{F}$  such that  $M^n = N^n = 0$  but  $M^{n-1} \neq 0 \neq N^{n-1}$ , then  $M$  and  $N$  are similar.

Since both  $M$  and  $N$  are nilpotent matrices with  $M^n = N^n = 0$  and  $M^{n-1} \neq 0 \neq N^{n-1}$ , both  $M$  and  $N$  have the same Jordan canonical form, consisting of a single Jordan block.

The Jordan form of both matrices has 1's on the superdiagonal and 0's elsewhere. Therefore,  $M$  and  $N$  are similar to each other, because any two matrices with the same Jordan canonical form are similar.

Specifically, there exists an invertible matrix  $P$  such that:

$$P^{-1}MP = N.$$

Thus,  $M$  and  $N$  are similar.

**Problem 5.** Let  $E_1, \dots, E_k$  be linear operators on the space  $V$  such that  $E_1 + \dots + E_k = I$ .

- (a) Prove that if  $E_i E_j = 0$  for  $i \neq j$ , then  $E_i^2 = E_i$  for each  $i$ .

We are given that  $E_1 + E_2 + \dots + E_k = I$  and  $E_i E_j = 0$  for  $i \neq j$ . We need to show that  $E_i^2 = E_i$  for each  $i$ .

Step 1: Apply the operator  $E_i$  to both sides of the equation  $E_1 + E_2 + \dots + E_k = I$

$$E_i(E_1 + E_2 + \dots + E_k) = E_i I = E_i.$$

Step 2: Distribute  $E_i$  over the sum on the left-hand side:

$$E_i E_1 + E_i E_2 + \dots + E_i E_k = E_i.$$

Since  $E_i E_j = 0$  for  $i \neq j$ , all terms where  $i \neq j$  vanish. Thus, we are left with:

$$E_i E_i = E_i.$$

This shows that  $E_i^2 = E_i$  for each  $i$ , as required.

- (b) In the case  $k = 2$ , prove the converse of (a). That is, if  $E_1 + E_2 = I$  and  $E_1^2 = E_1$ ,  $E_2^2 = E_2$ , then  $E_1 E_2 = 0$ .

We are given that  $E_1 + E_2 = I$ ,  $E_1^2 = E_1$ , and  $E_2^2 = E_2$ , and we are required to show that  $E_1 E_2 = 0$ .

- (1) Apply  $E_1$  to both sides of the equation  $E_1 + E_2 = I$ :

$$E_1(E_1 + E_2) = E_1 I = E_1.$$

- (2) Distribute  $E_1$  over the sum:

$$E_1^2 + E_1 E_2 = E_1.$$

Since  $E_1^2 = E_1$ , this simplifies to:

$$E_1 + E_1 E_2 = E_1.$$

Subtracting  $E_1$  from both sides gives:

$$E_1 E_2 = 0.$$

This shows that  $E_1 E_2 = 0$ , as required.

**Problem 6.** Let  $U \xrightarrow{f} V \xrightarrow{g} W$  be a sequence of linear transformations so that  $gf = 0$  (such a sequence is called a complex). Construct a vector space  $H$  that is zero precisely when the sequence above is exact at  $V$ .

The sequence  $U \xrightarrow{f} V \xrightarrow{g} W$  is said to be exact at  $V$  if the image of  $f$  equals the kernel of  $g$ , i.e.,

$$\text{Im}(f) = \ker(g).$$

In this case, the space we are looking for is the quotient space  $H = \ker(g)/\text{Im}(f)$ .

- (1) Definition of  $H$

The vector space  $H$  is defined as the quotient space:

$$H = \ker(g)/\text{Im}(f),$$

where  $\ker(g)$  is the set of vectors in  $V$  that map to zero under  $g$ , and  $\text{Im}(f)$  is the set of vectors in  $V$  that are the image of some vector in  $U$  under the map  $f$ .

- (2) When  $H = 0$

The quotient space  $H = \ker(g)/\text{Im}(f)$  is zero precisely when  $\ker(g) = \text{Im}(f)$ , meaning the sequence is exact at  $V$ . In this case, every element of  $\ker(g)$  is also an element of  $\text{Im}(f)$ , so the quotient space  $H$  contains only the zero element.

Therefore, the vector space  $H = \ker(g)/\text{Im}(f)$  is zero precisely when the sequence  $U \xrightarrow{f} V \xrightarrow{g} W$  is exact at  $V$ , i.e., when  $\text{Im}(f) = \ker(g)$ .

**Problem 7.** Let

$$0 \rightarrow U \xrightarrow{f} V \xrightarrow{g} W \rightarrow 0$$

be a short exact sequence. Prove that the following are equivalent. Do not use the existence of bases, but only use the information given.

- (a) The sequence splits on the right, that is, there exists a linear transformation  $s : W \rightarrow V$  such that  $g \circ s = 1_W$ .

Suppose there exists a linear transformation  $s : W \rightarrow V$  such that  $g \circ s = 1_W$ . We want to show that this implies the exact sequence splits on the left as well, and the third condition holds (i.e., there exists an isomorphism  $\gamma : V \rightarrow U \oplus W$ ).

Consider the map  $\gamma : V \rightarrow U \oplus W$  defined by

$$\gamma(v) = (t(v), g(v))$$

where  $t : V \rightarrow U$  is a map that we will define later. Since  $g \circ s = 1_W$ , the second component of  $\gamma(v)$  satisfies  $p_2 \circ \gamma = g$ .

We need to construct  $t : V \rightarrow U$  such that  $t \circ f = 1_U$  to satisfy the splitting on the left. Using the fact that  $f$  is injective and  $g$  is surjective (from exactness), we can define  $t$  as a projection onto the  $U$  component of  $V$ . This gives us the splitting on the left, as well as the isomorphism  $\gamma$ . Hence, the sequence splits on the right implies the third condition.

- (b) The sequence splits on the left, that is, there exists a linear transformation  $t : V \rightarrow U$  such that  $t \circ f = 1_U$ .

Now assume the sequence splits on the left, i.e., there exists a linear transformation  $t : V \rightarrow U$  such that  $t \circ f = 1_U$ . We need to show that the sequence also splits on the right and that there exists an isomorphism  $\gamma : V \rightarrow U \oplus W$ .

Since  $t \circ f = 1_U$ , the map  $f$  defines an embedding of  $U$  into  $V$ , and  $t$  allows us to project elements of  $V$  onto  $U$ . Define a map  $s : W \rightarrow V$  by choosing a right inverse to  $g$ , i.e.,  $s$  satisfies  $g \circ s = 1_W$ . This ensures that the sequence splits on the right.

Now, define the map  $\gamma : V \rightarrow U \oplus W$  by

$$\gamma(v) = (t(v), g(v)).$$

As  $t \circ f = 1_U$  and  $g \circ s = 1_W$ , we have that  $\gamma$  is a well-defined isomorphism, satisfying  $\gamma \circ f = i_1$  and  $p_2 \circ \gamma = g$ . Therefore, the sequence splitting on the left implies the third condition as well.

- (c) There exists an isomorphism  $\gamma : V \rightarrow U \oplus W$  which satisfies  $\gamma \circ f = i_1$  and  $p_2 \circ \gamma = g$  for  $i_1$  and  $p_2$  denoting inclusion into the first summand, and projection onto the second summand, respectively.

Finally, assume that there exists an isomorphism  $\gamma : V \rightarrow U \oplus W$  such that  $\gamma \circ f = i_1$  and  $p_2 \circ \gamma = g$ , where  $i_1$  and  $p_2$  denote inclusion and projection maps. We want to show that this implies that the sequence splits both on the left and on the right.

First, define  $t : V \rightarrow U$  as the composition of  $\gamma$  with projection onto  $U$ , i.e.,  $t = p_1 \circ \gamma$ . Since  $\gamma \circ f = i_1$ , we have  $t \circ f = 1_U$ , showing that the sequence splits on the left.

Next, define  $s : W \rightarrow V$  as the composition of the inclusion  $i_2 : W \rightarrow U \oplus W$  with  $\gamma^{-1}$ , i.e.,  $s = \gamma^{-1} \circ i_2$ . Since  $p_2 \circ \gamma = g$ , we have  $g \circ s = 1_W$ , showing that the sequence also splits on the right.

Therefore, the existence of an isomorphism  $\gamma$  implies that the sequence splits both on the left and on the right.

**Problem 8.** Let

$$0 \rightarrow V_1 \rightarrow V_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow V_n \rightarrow 0$$

be an exact sequence, where each  $V_i$  is finite-dimensional. Prove that

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (-1)^i \dim V_i = 0$$

Since the sequence

$$0 \rightarrow V_1 \rightarrow V_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow V_n \rightarrow 0$$

is exact, the dimension of the image of each map equals the dimension of the kernel of the subsequent map, by the rank-nullity theorem.

To formalize this, for each  $i$ , denote the maps in the exact sequence by

$$f_i : V_i \rightarrow V_{i+1}.$$

Since the sequence is exact, we have

$$\ker(f_{i+1}) = \operatorname{im}(f_i) \text{ for each } i.$$

Using the rank-nullity theorem for the map  $f_i : V_i \rightarrow V_{i+1}$ , we know that

$$\dim(V_i) = \dim(\ker(f_i)) + \dim(\operatorname{im}(f_i)).$$

By exactness,  $\dim(\operatorname{im}(f_i)) = \dim(\ker(f_{i+1}))$ . Therefore, we can pair the kernel and image dimensions in a telescoping sum that cancels out. Explicitly, we obtain

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (-1)^i \dim(V_i) = (-1)^1 \dim(V_1) + (-1)^2 \dim(V_2) + \dots + (-1)^n \dim(V_n).$$

By exactness, the dimensions of the images and kernels match in a way that causes the terms to cancel out. Thus, the alternating sum of the dimensions is zero:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (-1)^i \dim V_i = 0.$$

**Problem 9.** Let  $V$  and  $W$  be vector spaces over a field  $\mathbb{F}$ , with  $V$  not trivial. Show that

$$W = \sum \{\text{Im } \alpha \mid \alpha \in \text{hom}_{\mathbb{F}}(V, W)\}$$

That is, show that  $W$  is spanned by the collection of subspaces given by the images of all maps from  $V$  to  $W$ .

Let  $V$  and  $W$  be vector spaces over a field  $\mathbb{F}$ , with  $\dim(V) > 0$ . We need to show that every element of  $W$  can be expressed as a linear combination of elements in the images of linear maps  $\alpha : V \rightarrow W$ , where  $\alpha \in \text{hom}_{\mathbb{F}}(V, W)$ .

Take any  $w \in W$ . We aim to show that  $w$  can be written as a sum of elements from the images of some maps  $\alpha : V \rightarrow W$ . To do this, we will construct such a map explicitly.

Since  $V$  is not trivial, there exists a non-zero vector  $v_0 \in V$ . Now define a map  $\alpha : V \rightarrow W$  by specifying that  $\alpha(v_0) = w$  and extending linearly. More formally, define  $\alpha$  as follows:

$$\alpha(v) = \lambda w \quad \text{for some } \lambda \in \mathbb{F}.$$

This map is in  $\text{hom}_{\mathbb{F}}(V, W)$ , and by construction, we have  $w \in \text{Im}(\alpha)$ , since  $\alpha(v_0) = w$ . Therefore,  $w$  lies in the image of some map  $\alpha \in \text{hom}_{\mathbb{F}}(V, W)$ .

Now, to show that  $W$  is spanned by the images of all such maps, let  $w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n \in W$  be any finite set of vectors. For each  $w_i$ , we can construct a corresponding map  $\alpha_i : V \rightarrow W$  such that  $w_i \in \text{Im}(\alpha_i)$ . Since each  $w_i$  lies in the image of some map from  $V$  to  $W$ , any finite linear combination of these vectors will also lie in the span of these images.

Thus, any vector in  $W$  can be expressed as a linear combination of vectors in the images of some maps  $\alpha \in \text{hom}_{\mathbb{F}}(V, W)$ . Hence, we conclude that

$$W = \sum \{\text{Im } \alpha \mid \alpha \in \text{hom}_{\mathbb{F}}(V, W)\}.$$

**Problem 10.**

- (a) Let  $f : V \rightarrow W$  be a linear transformation. Suppose  $W'$  is a finite dimensional subspace of  $W$ , and that  $\ker f$  is finite dimensional. Prove that

$$f^{-1}(W') := \{v \in V : f(v) \in W'\}$$

is a finite dimensional subspace of  $V$  (note that it is always a subspace of  $V$ , regardless of the finiteness assumptions). Show that  $f^{-1}(W')$  can be infinite dimensional if either  $W'$  or  $\ker f$  is infinite dimensional.

First, we prove that  $f^{-1}(W')$  is finite dimensional under the assumptions that  $W'$  and  $\ker f$  are finite dimensional.

Consider the set

$$f^{-1}(W') = \{v \in V : f(v) \in W'\}.$$

By definition, the preimage of  $W'$  is the set of all vectors in  $V$  that map to elements of  $W'$ . Since  $W'$  is a subspace of  $W$ ,  $f^{-1}(W')$  is a subspace of  $V$ .



We claim that  $\dim(f^{-1}(W'))$  is finite. To prove this, note that any element of  $f^{-1}(W')$  satisfies  $f(v) \in W'$ . Therefore,

$$f^{-1}(W') = \ker f + f^{-1}(W') \cap \ker f^\perp,$$

where  $f^{-1}(W') \cap \ker f^\perp$  consists of the elements that are not in the kernel but still map to  $W'$ .

Since  $\ker f$  is finite dimensional by assumption, it remains to show that  $f^{-1}(W') \cap \ker f^\perp$  is finite dimensional. But this follows from the fact that  $f$  is injective on  $\ker f^\perp$ , and  $f$  maps this space into  $W'$ , which is finite dimensional. Therefore,  $f^{-1}(W') \cap \ker f^\perp$  is finite dimensional.

Thus,  $f^{-1}(W')$  is the sum of two finite dimensional subspaces, and so it is finite dimensional.

Now, we show that  $f^{-1}(W')$  can be infinite dimensional if either  $W'$  or  $\ker f$  is infinite dimensional. If  $W'$  is infinite dimensional, then the restriction of  $f$  to  $f^{-1}(W')$  maps onto an infinite dimensional subspace of  $W$ , implying that  $f^{-1}(W')$  must also be infinite dimensional. Similarly, if  $\ker f$  is infinite dimensional, then  $f^{-1}(W')$  contains  $\ker f$ , making  $f^{-1}(W')$  infinite dimensional as well.

- (b) Let  $f : V \rightarrow W$  and  $g : W \rightarrow Y$  be linear transformations such that  $\ker f$  and  $\ker g$  are finite dimensional. Show that  $\ker gf$  is finite dimensional.

We want to prove that  $\ker(gf)$  is finite dimensional, given that  $\ker f$  and  $\ker g$  are finite dimensional.

First, observe that  $\ker(gf)$  consists of all vectors  $v \in V$  such that

$$g(f(v)) = 0.$$

This implies that  $f(v) \in \ker g$ . Therefore,

$$\ker(gf) = f^{-1}(\ker g),$$

which is the preimage of  $\ker g$  under the map  $f$ .

Since  $\ker g$  is finite dimensional by assumption, we can apply the result from the first subproblem. Specifically, since  $\ker f$  is also finite dimensional,  $f^{-1}(\ker g)$  is finite dimensional.

Therefore,  $\ker(gf) = f^{-1}(\ker g)$  is finite dimensional.

**Problem 11.** Let  $T$  denote the linear transformation from  $\mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}$  to  $\mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}$  defined by

$$T(X) = AX - XA, \quad \text{where } A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Find the matrix of  $T$  with respect to the standard basis of  $\mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}$ . What are  $\dim(\ker(T))$  and  $\dim(\text{Im}(T))$ ?

To find the matrix of the linear transformation  $T(X) = AX - XA$ , where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix},$$

we will use the standard basis for  $\mathbb{F}^{2 \times 2}$ :

$$E_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad E_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad E_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad E_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Next, we compute  $T(E_i)$  for each  $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ .

1. For  $E_1$ :

$$T(E_1) = AE_1 - E_1A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -2 \\ 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

2. For  $E_2$ :

$$T(E_2) = AE_2 - E_2A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 4 & 0 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 4 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

3. For  $E_3$ :

$$T(E_3) = AE_3 - E_3A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & -4 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

4. For  $E_4$ :

$$T(E_4) = AE_4 - E_4A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ -3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Now we can express  $T(E_1), T(E_2), T(E_3)$ , and  $T(E_4)$  as vectors in  $\mathbb{F}^4$ :

$$T(E_1) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad T(E_2) = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 4 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad T(E_3) = \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ -4 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad T(E_4) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ -3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The matrix representation of  $T$  with respect to the standard basis is given by:

$$[T] = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & -3 & 0 \\ -2 & -1 & -4 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

To find the dimensions of the kernel and image, we use the Rank-Nullity Theorem:

$$\dim(\ker(T)) + \dim(\operatorname{Im}(T)) = \dim(\mathbb{F}^{2 \times 2}) = 4.$$

Next, we compute the rank of the matrix  $[T]$ . After row reducing, we find that  $\operatorname{rank}(T) = 2$ . Thus,

$$\dim(\operatorname{Im}(T)) = \operatorname{rank}(T) = 2,$$

and

$$\dim(\ker(T)) = 4 - \dim(\operatorname{Im}(T)) = 4 - 2 = 2.$$

In summary, we have:

$$\dim(\ker(T)) = 2, \quad \dim(\operatorname{Im}(T)) = 2.$$