General linear transformations

Definition: Let V, W be two vector spaces. A function $T\colon V \to W$ is called a *linear transformation* from V to W if the following hold for all vectors u, v in V and for all scalars k.

(i) $T(u+v) = T(u) + T(v)$ (additivity)

(ii) $T(ku) = kT(u)$ (homogeneity)

If V and W are the same, we call a linear transformation from V to V a *linear operator*.

Theorem: A function $T\colon V \to W$ is a linear transformation if and only if for all vectors v_1, v_2 in V and for all scalars k_1, k_2 we have

$$T(k_1\,v_1 + k_2\,v_2) = k_1\,T(v_1) + k_2\,T(v_2)$$

General linear transformations

Theorem (basic properties of linear transformations): If T is a linear transformation then

a) $T(\vec{0}) = \vec{0}$

b) $T(-v) = -T(v)$

c) $T(u - v) = T(u) - T(v)$

Theorem: If $T\colon V \to W$ is a linear transformation, $S = \{v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_n\}$ is a basis in V, then for any vector v in V we can evaluate $T(v)$ by

$$T(v) = c_1\, T(v_1) + c_2\, T(v_2) + \ldots + c_n\, T(v_n)$$

where $v = c_1\, v_1 + c_2\, v_2 + \ldots + c_n\, v_n$.

Kernel and range of a linear transformation

Definition: Let $T\colon V \to W$ is a linear transformation.

- The set of all vectors v in V for which $T(v) = \vec{0}$ is called the *kernel* of T.
  We denote the kernel of T by $\ker(T)$.
- The set of all outputs (images) $T(v)$ of vectors in V via the transformation T is called the *range* of T.
  We denote the range of T by $R(T)$.

Theorem: If $T\colon V \to W$ is a linear transformation, then $\ker(T)$ is a *subspace* of V, while $R(T)$ is a subspace of W.

Definition: If V and W are *finite* dimensional vector spaces and $T\colon V \to W$ is a linear transformation, then we call

- $\dim \ker(T) =$ nullity of T
- $\dim R(T) =$ rank of T

Theorem: If V and W are finite dimensional vector spaces and $T\colon V \to W$ is a linear transformation, then

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