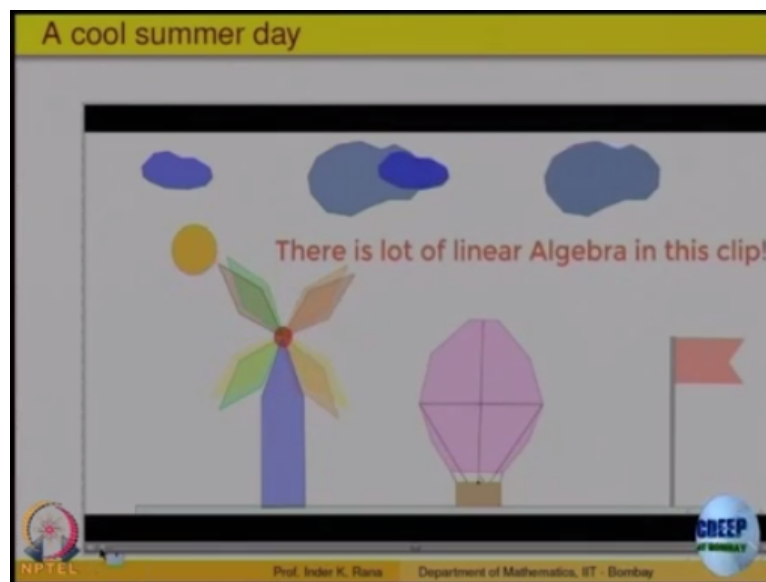


Basic Linear Algebra
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Lecture - 22
Linear Transformations -I

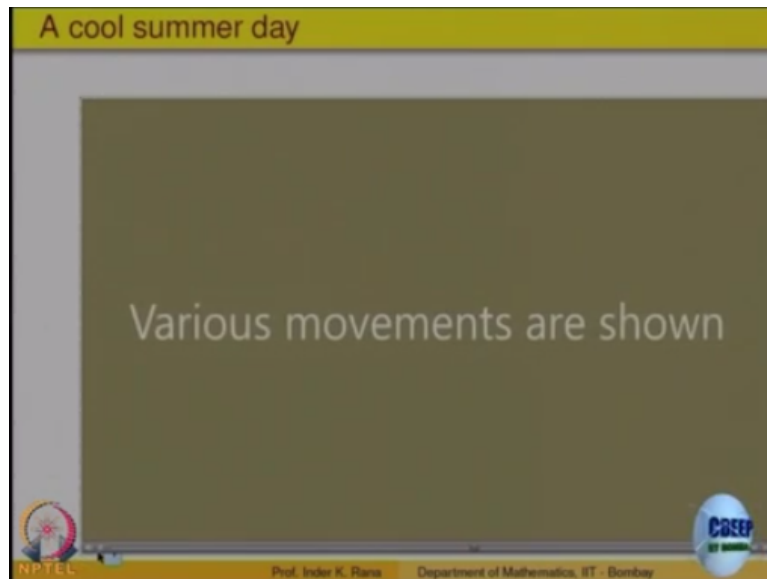
Okay, so we will start with our today's lecture. Till now we have seen various concepts of linear algebra, more of theoretical, they are motivated by geometrical concepts. Today we are starting to look at a concept, which is more dynamic in nature and so to motivate that concept let us look at a small video clip rather.

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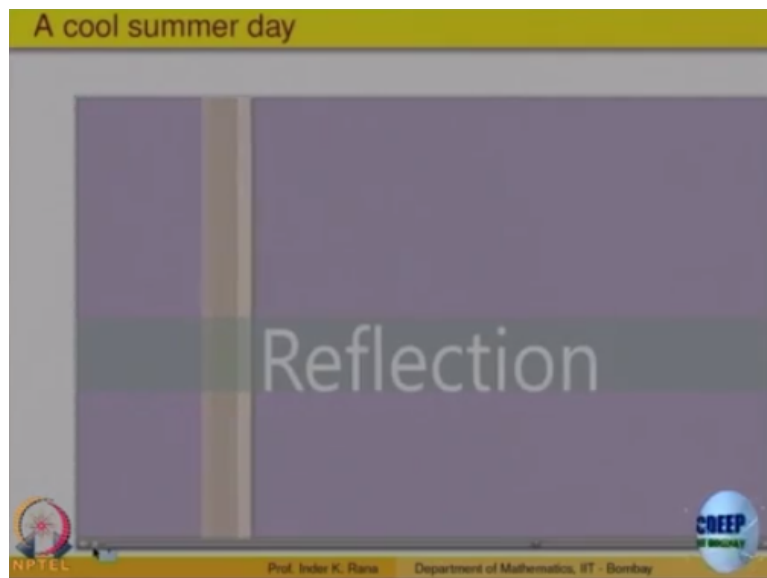
Observe the movements of the objects in this clip. So what are the kind of movements that you saw in this clip. These clouds were moving, this wings of the windmill they were moving, the sun was moving and this balloon was changing and this flag was changing, let us see it once again some part of it and observe the various movements.

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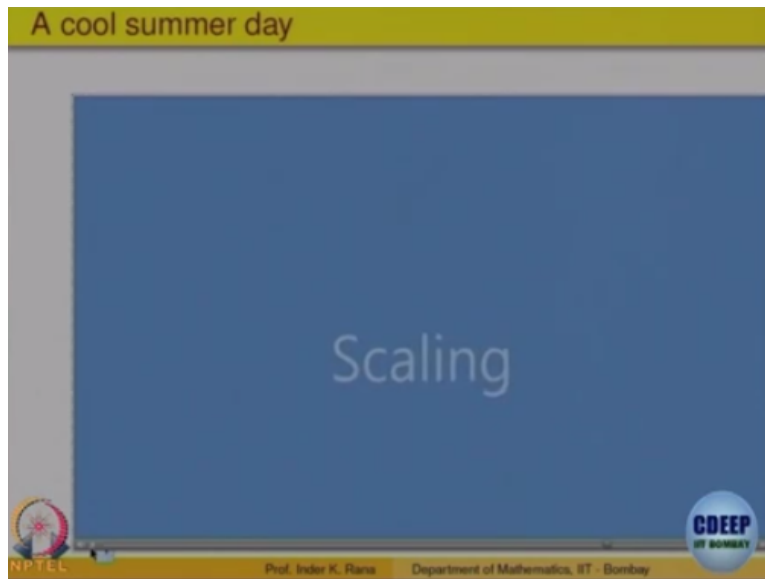
So what are the various movements which are happening? Clouds were removing in certain direction. The sun was moving along a particular path, the flag was shifting its position and the balloon was becoming bigger or smaller. So these are various things which we use in life which we observe in our day-to-day life and which have been used in this particular clip. So let us see what are those things. So movements were shown and some of them were reflection.

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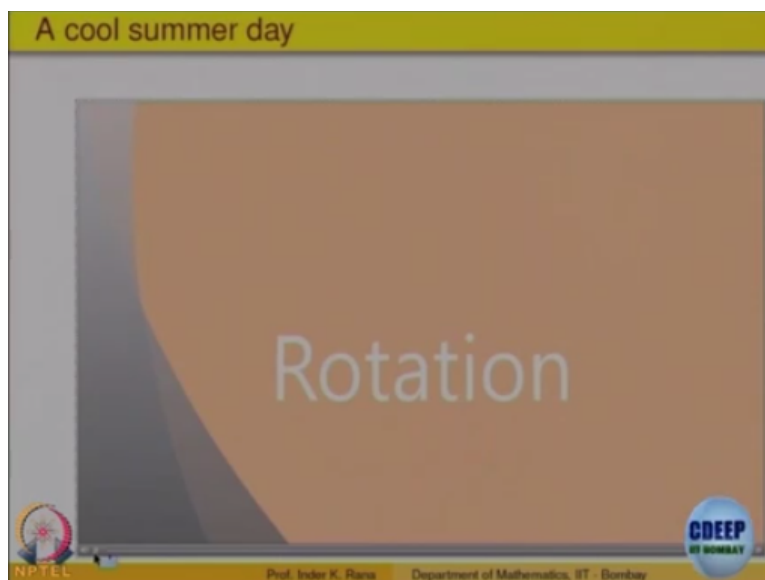


The flag changing okay. Then scaling.

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Balloon becoming bigger and bigger retaining the shape that is called scaling.
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Then there was rotation. The sun was moving along a circular path.
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Questions

Which of the maps $T : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ preserve collinearity and division ratios, i.e., have the following properties:

- (i) Leave the origin fixed.
- (ii) If \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} and \mathbf{w} are collinear, then so are $T(\mathbf{u}), T(\mathbf{v})$ and $T(\mathbf{w})$.
That is straight lines are mapped to straight lines.
- (iii) If \mathbf{u} divides \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} in the ratio d , then $T(\mathbf{u})$ also divides $T(\mathbf{v}), T(\mathbf{w})$ in the same ratio.

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How are these movements described mathematically? So basically the idea is to look for maps, let us call it as a map T , from \mathbb{R}^3 that is our word okay, to \mathbb{R}^3 which preserve collinearity. What does collinearity mean? They take lines to straight lines to straight lines they do not change the straightness of 3 points. If 3 points are collinear to start with then their images also remain collinear.

Right, so lines go to lines, so origin remains fixed in some of this right, in translation origin does not remain fix, but in rotation, reflection, scaling all these thing origin remains fixed and third the proportionality is maintained. The proportionally division ratios are mainlined if \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} and \mathbf{w} are in a particular ratio these points on a straight line were in a particular ratio then the images also maintain the same ratio.

So question mathematically comes what are the maps from \mathbb{R}^3 to \mathbb{R}^3 which have these 3 properties, which we observe in day to day life and which are useful.

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Answer

Theorem

Let $T : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ be a map. Then the following statements are equivalent:

- (i) T preserves collinearity and division ratios and leaves origin fixed.
- (ii) T satisfies the following:
for all $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2 \in \mathbb{R}^3$ and for all $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$,



$$T(\mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_2) = T(\mathbf{v}_1) + T(\mathbf{v}_2),$$

$$T(\alpha \mathbf{v}_1) = \alpha T(\mathbf{v}_1).$$

NOTE: For a linear transformation $T(0) = 0$.

Notation: Let $V \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be a vector space. A vector space $U \subset V$ is called a vector subspace of V .

The dimension of a vector space V is denoted by $\dim(V)$.

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So one can prove a theorem will not prove that theorem it is not very difficult but we will assume it that if T is the map from \mathbb{R}^3 to \mathbb{R}^3 then these 2 statements are equivalent one T preserves collinearity, division ratios and leaves origin fixed. Those are the transformations we want to look at. It says it is equivalent to saying the algebraic condition comes now T of you take 2 vectors \mathbf{v}_1 and \mathbf{v}_2 in \mathbb{R}^3 take their sum and take their image that is same as the sum of the respective images okay.

And if you scalar multiply a vector, magnify a vector, then the image gets magnified by the same scale. So these are the 2 properties which are equivalent to saying if a map T from \mathbb{R}^3 to \mathbb{R}^3 will have these 2 properties. So these are algebraic version of geometry right. We started with geometry namely what are the maps which preserve collinearity, division ratios and leaves origin fixed, this is algebraic way of saying the same thing and equivalent way of saying.

So this motivates the study of maps from vector spaces to vector spaces which have these 2 properties. So we will note one thing important that because T of $\alpha \mathbf{v}_1 = \alpha T\mathbf{v}_1$ for all α if I take $\alpha = 0$ what does that give you? T of $0 = 0$ so such maps will leave origin fixed right. So that is the consequence of this property. Origin is fixed, T of 0 is 0 right and note another thing.

Here it is from \mathbb{R}^3 to \mathbb{R}^3 , but when define we will for vector spaces we will see that they need not be from same vector space to same vector space right domain and range need not be same. We will use this notation and if V is contained in \mathbb{R}^n is the vector space we define the

notion of a vector space and u is inside v which is also a vector space then we will say u is the subspace of v right.

A subset also a vector space will call it as a subspace and this dimension of a vector space will write as $\dim(v)$ that will denote the dimension of the vector space, there is notation so that we do not have to write everything again and again.

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Linear maps

Definition
Let V, W be vector spaces and $T : V \rightarrow W$. We say T is a **linear transformation** if for all $v_1, v_2 \in V$ and $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$,

- (i) $T(v_1 + v_2) = T(v_1) + T(v_2)$.
- (ii) $T(\alpha v_1) = \alpha T(v_1)$.

Note that in the left hand side of (i) and (ii) addition and scalar multiplication are in the vector space V and on the right hand side they are in the vector space W .

Geometrically, the linear transformations are the study of those maps which take lines to lines, preserve ratios and leave the origin fixed. Algebraically, they are the maps from one vector space to another which respect the algebraic (linear) structure on them.

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So here is the formal definition of a linear transformation, v and w are vector spaces, T is the map from V to W . we say it is a linear transformation if T of the sum, image of the sum of vectors is = sum of the images and scalar multiple of image of the scalar multiple is same scalar multiple of the image right. If you add vectors, then the images can be added and that is same okay.

And if you scale a vector, magnify a vector then the image gets magnified by the same scale. So these 2 properties okay, one thing we should note here you see this when you add V_1 and V_2 where are V_1 and V_2 ? They are in the domain, they are in the vector space V . So you are adding V_1 and V_2 here, but TV_1 and TV_2 are in the image space W . So there this addition is of vectors in W right.

So here this addition is in the domain, here is in the codomain okay keep that in mind because here it could be \mathbb{R}^2 , T will be \mathbb{R}^2 to \mathbb{R}^3 for example okay. So that is similarly here αV_1 is scalar multiplication of the vectors in the domain and that is in the image space. So these are

one observation, you should note. So here addition is in the domain, here is in the codomain, scalar multiplication in domain and here is in the codomain.

So geometrically a linear transformation as we said preserves right, it takes lines to lines, preserves ratios and leaves origin fixed algebraically. See algebraically what it is essentially says is that there is a linear structure in the domain and this is the linear structure in the codomain. So it gives due respect to the corresponding structures right, in the domain as well as that is the algebraic meaning of that.

And this phenomenon comes in lot of branches in mathematics whether you study group study here we are studying vector spaces. So whenever there is a set and there is structure and there is one study maps between those 2 structure and if they preserve those are the important aspects that is what whole of mathematics is about. You take a set, look some structure on it okay. You get an object and look maps between these objects.

For example, in your calculus course you had the real line, right. On the real line what is the structure there is notion of distance on the real line. So notion have limits make sense on the domain. Closeness makes sense. You can take a range to be \mathbb{R} or \mathbb{R}^2 or \mathbb{R}^3 . There also is the notion of distance. So closeness is there. So you can study if something is close air, whether the images are close or not, continuity and such things.

So that happens in most of the branches in mathematics so okay. Let us go ahead with our concept of linear transformations. So it is clear what is the linear transformation, linear transformation is the map from one vector space to another which gives due respect to linearity that means T of the sum, image of the sum = sum of the images and image of the scalar multiple = scalar multiple of the image.

So these 2 because on a vector space there is addition and there is scalar multiplication. So these 2 are given due respect that is the linear transformation.

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Linear maps induced by matrices

Example:
 Consider $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ defined by

$$T((x, y)) = (x + y, y, x - y), (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2.$$

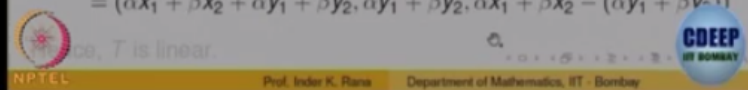
For $(x_i, y_i) \in \mathbb{R}^2, i = 1, 2$ and $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\begin{aligned} & T((\alpha(x_1, y_1) + \beta(x_2, y_2))) \\ &= T((\alpha x_1 + \beta x_2, \alpha y_1 + \beta y_2)) \\ &= (\alpha x_1 + \beta x_2 + \alpha y_1 + \beta y_2, \alpha y_1 + \beta y_2, \alpha x_1 + \beta x_2 - (\alpha y_1 + \beta y_2)) \end{aligned}$$

Also

$$\begin{aligned} & \alpha T((x_1, y_1)) + \beta T((x_2, y_2)) \\ &= \alpha(x_1 + y_1, y_1, x_1 - y_1) + \beta(x_2 + y_2, y_2, x_2 - y_2) \\ &= (\alpha x_1 + \beta x_2 + \alpha y_1 + \beta y_2, \alpha y_1 + \beta y_2, \alpha x_1 + \beta x_2 - (\alpha y_1 + \beta y_2)) \end{aligned}$$

∴ T is linear.



Let us look at this map, \mathbb{R}^2 to \mathbb{R}^3 , so the map is T of xy right. So points in \mathbb{R}^2 \mathbb{R}^3 will whenever we are writing as points will write as ordered pairs or ordered triplets when we treat them as in terms of matrices will go as columns vectors right keep that notation in mind. So here we are treating \mathbb{R}^2 as ordered pairs, \mathbb{R}^3 as ordered triplets, so for a point xy in \mathbb{R}^2 , so xy in \mathbb{R}^2 what is the image, images 3 components.

First component is $x + y$, second is y and third is $x - y$ right. So this is the map from \mathbb{R}^2 to \mathbb{R}^3 . We want to know whether this is linear or not. Is this map linear or not. So what we should look at, we should take 2 point $x_1 y_1, x_2 y_2$ take scalars α and β , take a linear combination of them $\alpha x_1, y_1 + \beta x_2, y_2, x_1 x_2$, look at the image.

Look at the images of the original point C of $x_1 y_1, T$ of x_2, y_2 and take the linear combination that too should be equal then it will be a linear map right. So to verify this let us look at T of $\alpha x_1 y_1 + \beta$ of $x_2 y_2$, these 2 vectors are added right with scalar multiples, T of that we want to compute. So first what we do is, we add these 2 vectors we add anyway right. So if we add them we will get $\alpha x_1 + \beta x_2$, the first component and second component is αy_1 plus.

Now T of that so what is T of a ordered pair, add x and y components, y component remains as it is, $x - y$. So this first component $\alpha x_1 + \beta x_2 + \alpha y_1 + \beta y_2$ that will be the first component. Second remaining as it is. So $\alpha y_1, \beta y_2$ that remains as it is. Third difference of the two, so that is the image of this right. On the other hand, if you want to

calculate you can calculate alpha times T of x1 y1 + beta times T of x2 y2 so what will be that.

So this will be alpha times x1 y1, y1 x1 - y1 right that is the image of the first one. Beta times image of the second so x2 y2, y2 x2 - y2 and simplify both will come out to be same. So that is what it means by checking whether something is linear or not right. So take 2 vectors v1 and v2 in the domain, take a linear combination take the image, take the image of the original vectors, take their linear combination by the same scalars and 2 come out to be same. So that is linearity. Okay so T is linear.

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Linear maps induced by matrices

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

$$T((x, y)) = (x + \alpha, y + \beta), \quad (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2, \quad \alpha, \beta \text{ fixed.}$$

It is **NOT linear** in case either of α, β is not zero,
for $T(0, 0) = (\alpha, \beta) \neq (0, 0)$ in that case.

T is called a **translation** by the vector (α, β) .

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So let us look at this, so T of xy it is from R2 to, this is a typo here this is R2 to R2 right, xy goes to x + alpha, y + beta. So x component you add alpha, y component you add beta. Question is is it linear or not right. Obviously it is not linear because in the linear, if T is linear T of 0 should be 0. If I put x =0 y =0 then it is alpha, beta. So alpha may be 0, beta maybe 0, both may not be 0 one of them maybe 0.

So if both are 0 then it is a linear transformation but in that case what you are doing nothing it is the identity map, xy goes to xy. So if either of alpha or beta is not 0 then this is not linear right. And what is this basically? This is what is the translation, you are taking a vector and just translating the vector by a fixed vector alpha, beta. So translations in plane or even in R3 or in any Rn are not linear transformations because it would not leave 0 fixed unless the translation by the trivial vector.

So this is called translation. So keep in mind translations are not linear. Whenever you want to check something is linear or not the first thing you should check is whether T of 0 is 0 or not right, that is a necessary condition. So T linear implies T of 0 is 0 , so that is a necessary condition. So always we want to check something is linear or not first verify the necessary condition alright that is how necessary conditions are used.

So it is not linear okay and this it causes some problem in computer graphics see, we will show later on that these motions translation, rotation, deflection, such things are used in computer animation right. So when you want to do computer animation you have to tell the machine that at this point this line is to be rotated like a robo is there standing and arm force right.

So that means this is my center wave I want to rotate and by how much angle I want to rotate but how do I give command to the computer, it does not understand to rotate. So all this is done via matrices okay. We will see how this command can be given by matrix and then to a computer and then computer does the job right. So that is possible, but the problem comes this translation is not linear.

That causes a problem because to give a command to a computer we need to convert a linear transformation to a matrix and translation is not linear so you cannot convert directly into a matrix. So what is done is one introduces a dummy variable right and then converts this into from R^3 one goes to R^4 actually and then does it. So you will learn these things if you are doing computer animation, computer graphics.

You will learn their order called projective coordinates. So we will not go into that because idea is to introduce things okay.

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Linear maps induced by matrices



Example:
 Let A be a $m \times n$ matrix with real entries. Consider the map

$$T_A : \mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^m, \quad T_A(\mathbf{u}) = A\mathbf{u} \text{ for all } \mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

where as usual we represent $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ as a column vector, an $n \times 1$ matrix.
 Using the fact that the matrix multiplication is distributive over matrix addition and it commutes with scalar multiplication, it is clear that T_A is linear.

T_A is called the **linear map induced** by the matrix A .

Note: A is $m \times n$ but T_A is from \mathbb{R}^n to \mathbb{R}^m .

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So let us look at some particular ways of introducing linear transformation examples they comes from matrices, so till now we have been treating matrices as collection of rows and columns of numbers which help us to reduce right express linear equation as system of linear equations and do various job. Here is a dynamic version of it. So take a matrix of order $m \times n$ okay.

Consider the map T_A this A indicates this map depends upon the matrix A , it is from \mathbb{R}^n to \mathbb{R}^m . So keep in mind here matrix is of order $m \times n$. the map we are defining is from \mathbb{R}^n to \mathbb{R}^m , so there is switch and how it is defined for a vector \mathbf{u} in \mathbb{R}^n , if \mathbf{u} is a vector in \mathbb{R}^n , A is the matrix of order $m \times n$, so you can multiply A with \mathbf{u} , you can multiply A with \mathbf{u} . So $m \times n$, this vector is $n \times 1$ \mathbf{u} as a column vector we have treated as column.

So what will be the result $m \times 1$, so that will be element in \mathbb{R}^m clear. So given a matrix of order $m \times n$ you take a vector \mathbf{u} in \mathbb{R}^n and multiply as matrix multiplication you will get a vector in \mathbb{R}^m . So take a matrix, take a vector in \mathbb{R}^n multiply you get a vector in \mathbb{R}^m . So this transformation we are writing it as T lower A , T index by A . It depends on the matrix A , question is is this a linear map.

Right obviously it is liner because we have observed the matrix multiplication distributes over addition. If you take vectors \mathbf{u}_1 and \mathbf{u}_2 and add them and multiply with the sum with the matrix A is same as multiplying A with \mathbf{u}_1 adding it to A multiply with \mathbf{u}_2 . Similarly, scalar types right. So that property of matrix multiplications says that this is a linear. So using the fact that matrix multiplication is distributive over matrix addition.

And commutes with scalar multiplication right. It follows the T of A is A linear map is it okay everybody, T of A is linear because A of A multiplied with $u_1 + u_2$ is same as matrix multiplication it is Au_1 A multiplied with u_1 added to A multiplied with u_2 and similarly scalar comes out. $A \alpha u$ is α times Au right okay. So this is linear. So this is called the linear map induced by the matrix A.

So we will give it a name. So every matrix $m \times n$ gives you a linear map from not from \mathbb{R}^m to \mathbb{R}^n but from \mathbb{R}^n to \mathbb{R}^m okay. So this keep that in mind. So now A is $m \times n$ but TA is from \mathbb{R}^n to \mathbb{R}^m , want to look at some particular cases of this. We will take a special matrix and see what is the effect happening. So let us look at that.

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Linear maps induced by special matrices

Example:
Let

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

Then, for any vector $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^2$, if $x = r \cos \alpha$, $y = r \sin \alpha$, then

$$\begin{aligned} T \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} x \cos \theta - y \sin \theta \\ x \sin \theta + y \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} r \cos(\theta + \alpha) \\ r \sin(\theta + \alpha) \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, T represents a **rotation** by an angle θ .

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So look at this matrix $\cos \theta - \sin \theta$, $\sin \theta$, $\cos \theta$ right. θ is some angle between 0 to 2π , let us take a vector xy in \mathbb{R}^2 right and let us say that x is the point in \mathbb{R}^2 xy so polar coordinates. So what are the polar coordinates $x = R \cos \alpha$, $y = R \sin \alpha$ right. So let us multiply this matrix by this vector and see what is the outcome. So when you multiply T of xy right, T of the image the matrix multiplied by the vector.

This vector is right what was x , x was $R \cos \alpha$, y is $R \sin \alpha$, so when you put these values $R \cos \alpha$, $\cos \theta - R \sin \alpha$, $\sin \theta$ input and used a trigonometric identity what is this R of $\cos \theta + \alpha$ and this is R of $\sin \theta + \alpha$. So what has happened earlier the point had polar coordinates $R \cos \alpha$ $R \sin \alpha$, now R remains the same, the

distance of that image now origin remains the same but the angle has changed to $\theta + \alpha$ right.

So if R_θ were the polar coordinates of the starting point. The image point has got polar coordinates $R_{\theta + \alpha}$ right. So that means what geometrically it is the rotation by an angle θ right. So this matrix multiplication gives you rotation by an angle θ depending on θ positive or negative clockwise or anticlockwise okay right. So let us look at one more. So this rotation by an angle θ .

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The slide is titled "Linear maps induced by special matrices". It contains the following text and equations:

Example:
Let

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Then

$$A \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ -y \end{bmatrix}$$

Thus, T_A is the reflection against the x -axis.
Similarly, T_B represents reflection against y -axis if

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The slide also features logos for NPTEL and CDEEP (Department of Mathematics, IIT Bombay) at the bottom.

Let us look at this, $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$, so if I take a vector xy and multiply by this what will happen, $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$ multiplied by xy so what will be the image? $x-y$ right x will remain as x , but y changes to $-y$. So a point xy is changed to $x - y$ so what does geometrically look like? x coordinates remain the same, the y which was there it has become $-y$. So this is what is reflection against the x axis. y goes to $-y$, so it is reflection against x axis right.

And similarly if you look at $\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ that gives you reflection against the y axis so reflections they are obtained by this simple matrix transformation in the plane right.

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Linear maps

Theorem
 Let $T : V \rightarrow W$ be a linear map and $B = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ be an ordered basis of V . Then, T is uniquely determined by the values $T(v_1), \dots, T(v_n)$.

Proof:
 Let $v \in V$. Then by definition, there exist unique $\alpha_i \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$v = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i v_i.$$

By the linearity of T , we have

$$T(v) = T\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i v_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i T(v_i).$$

The above equation specifies a unique value for $T(v)$, in terms of the values $T(v_1), \dots, T(v_n)$. ■

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So we will come across many more slowly. I just wanted to introduce 2 of them. So rotation has been done. Reflection has been done okay. We will look at examples more a bit later. So now here is, so linear transformations become important from these 2 examples anyway right. They are the transformations which help us to represent rotations and reflections at least. Now here is an important theorem which says if T is the linear transformation from V to W .

And let us fix a basis of the domain, that is V . So $v_1 v_2 v_n$ is the basis and not only it is the basis we have fixed at the order of the vector which are up hearing in that as a set that also is fixed. We fixed the order also right. So we will remain as the first one always we will not shift the position of $v_1 v_2$ or anything. So such things are called ordered basis right. You take a basis and fix the order in which the vectors in the basis are going to be written.

Okay that is called an ordered basis so what does basis of V mean, what is the meaning of saying that something is the basis of vector space V ? Every vector in V is the linear combination of the basis elements not only it is linear combination it is the unique representation. If a vector v is written as $\sum \alpha_i v_i$ then those α_i are unique you cannot have more than one representation because of independence if you recall.

That is what the importance of independence was generates and independent. Everything should be a linear combination and unique representation should be there. So we are fixing a ordered basis $v_1 v_2 v_n$, then the claim is T is uniquely determined by the values on this n vectors $v_1 v_2 v_n$ that means T is the liner transformations on a vectors that is V . If we fix it is values on basis elements, then it is value for every vector is fixed.

That means to determine a linear transformation completely on a vector space of dimension N there is an N elements in the basis. You need to know only the values on the basis elements. Where does this basis vector go that is all, nothing more is required. So let us see why there is so. So let us look at any vector V by definition we have got a basis $V_1 V_2 \dots V_n$ so every vector must be a linear combination and unique one.

So V is the unique linear combination of $V_1 V_2 \dots V_n$, that means V is a linear combination that means what $V = \alpha_1 V_1 + \alpha_2 V_2 + \dots + \alpha_n V_n$ and this scalars $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n$ depend on V , but they are unique for V , you cannot have 2 choices for any one of them we have only one choice for representing V as a linear combination that is uniqueness. But if T is this so what is T of V , T of V is T of the linear combination.

But T is linear, so what is T of the linear combination, it is the linear combination of the individual ones. So T of V is T of the sum, $\sum \alpha_i T(V_i)$ linearity of T right. Now if this T of V_i are fixed T of V_i are fixed right. We have said and only choice is α_i right. If you know the values of $T(V_i)$'s α_i 's are fixed, then this value is fixed now right.

Because given a vector V α_i 's are fixed right. This is weak choice and if we know T of V_i we know T of V right. So once you fix the values of a linear transformation on the basis vectors it is value for every vector is fixed there is only unique way you can do it right and that is here that if v is $\sum \alpha_i V_i$ then T of V is $\sum \alpha_i T(V_i)$ of linear combination of T of V_i so if T of V_i are fixed α_i 's are unique for the vector V so everything is fixed right.

So this equation specifies that unique value for T of V in terms of the values $T(V_1) T(V_2) \dots$ once you fix them so these are very important which says that to know value of T on any vector in the vector space you have to know only the values on the basis elements right that is what is important right.