Three.II Homomorphisms

Linear Algebra

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Definition

Homomorphism

1.1 *Definition* A function between vector spaces $h\colon V \to W$ that preserves addition

$$\text{if } \vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2 \in V \text{ then } h(\vec{v}_1 + \vec{v}_2) = h(\vec{v}_1) + h(\vec{v}_2)$$

and scalar multiplication

$$\text{if } \vec{v} \in V \text{ and } r \in \mathbb{R} \text{ then } h(r \cdot \vec{v}) = r \cdot h(\vec{v})$$

is a *homomorphism* or *linear map*.

Example Of these two maps $h, g\colon \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}$, the first is a homomorphism while the second is not.

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \stackrel{h}{\longmapsto} 2x - 3y \qquad \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \stackrel{g}{\longmapsto} 2x - 3y + 1$$

The map h respects addition

$$\begin{aligned} h(\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} x_2 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix}) = h(\begin{pmatrix} x_1 + x_2 \\ y_1 + y_2 \end{pmatrix}) &= 2(x_1 + x_2) - 3(y_1 + y_2) \\ &= (2x_1 - 3y_1) + (2x_2 - 3y_2) = h(\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \end{pmatrix}) + h(\begin{pmatrix} x_2 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix}) \end{aligned}$$

and scalar multiplication.

$$r \cdot h(\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}) = r \cdot (2x - 3y) = 2rx - 3ry = (2r)x - (3r)y = h(r \cdot \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix})$$

In contrast, g does not respect addition.

$$g(\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}) = -17 \qquad g(\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}) + g(\begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}) = -16$$

We proved these two while studying isomorphisms.

1.6 *Lemma* A homomorphism sends the zero vector to the zero vector.

1.7 *Lemma* The following are equivalent for any map $f\colon V \to W$ between vector spaces.

(1) f is a homomorphism

(2) $f(c_1 \cdot \vec{v}_1 + c_2 \cdot \vec{v}_2) = c_1 \cdot f(\vec{v}_1) + c_2 \cdot f(\vec{v}_2)$ for any $c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2 \in V$

(3) $f(c_1 \cdot \vec{v}_1 + \cdots + c_n \cdot \vec{v}_n) = c_1 \cdot f(\vec{v}_1) + \cdots + c_n \cdot f(\vec{v}_n)$ for any $c_1, \ldots, c_n \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\vec{v}_1, \ldots, \vec{v}_n \in V$

To verify that a map is a homomorphism the one that we use most often is statement (2).

Example Between any two vector spaces the zero map $Z\colon V \to W$ given by $Z(\vec{v}) = \vec{0}_W$ is a linear map. Using (2): $Z(c_1\vec{v}_1 + c_2\vec{v}_2) = \vec{0}_W = \vec{0}_W + \vec{0}_W = c_1 Z(\vec{v}_1) + c_2 Z(\vec{v}_2)$.

Example The *inclusion map* $\iota\colon \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}^3$

$$\iota(\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}) = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

is a homomorphism.

$$\begin{aligned}
\iota(c_1 \cdot \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \end{pmatrix} + c_2 \cdot \begin{pmatrix} x_2 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix}) &= \iota(\begin{pmatrix} c_1x_1 + c_2x_2 \\ c_1y_1 + c_2y_2 \end{pmatrix}) \\
&= \begin{pmatrix} c_1x_1 + c_2x_2 \\ c_1y_1 + c_2y_2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\
&= \begin{pmatrix} c_1x_1 \\ c_1y_1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} c_2x_2 \\ c_2y_2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\
&= c_1 \cdot \iota(\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \end{pmatrix}) + c_2 \cdot \iota(\begin{pmatrix} x_2 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix})
\end{aligned}$$

Example One basis of the space of quadratic polynomials $\mathcal{P}_2$ is $B = \langle x^2, x, 1\rangle$. We can define a map $\text{eval}_3 \colon \mathcal{P}_2 \to \mathbb{R}$ by specifying its action on that basis

$$x^2 \xrightarrow{\text{eval}_3} 9 \quad x \xrightarrow{\text{eval}_3} 3 \quad 1 \xrightarrow{\text{eval}_3} 1$$

and then extending linearly.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{eval}_3(ax^2 + bx + c) &= a \cdot \text{eval}_3(x^2) + b \cdot \text{eval}_3(x) + c \cdot \text{eval}_3(1) \\ &= 9a + 3b + c \end{aligned}$$

For instance, $\text{eval}_3(x^2 + 2x + 3) = 9 + 6 + 3 = 18$.

On the basis elements, we can describe the action of this map as: plugging the value 3 in for x. That remains true when we extend linearly, so $\text{eval}_3(\,p(x)\,) = p(3)$.