

Let U and V are two vector spaces over the same field. Then the mapping $T: U \rightarrow V$ is said to be a linear map or linear transformation / linear operator if

$$T(\alpha u_1 + \beta u_2) = \alpha T(u_1) + \beta T(u_2) \quad \forall u_1, u_2 \in U$$

α, β are scalars.

Ex:-

$$T: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$T(x, y) = (x+y, y)$$

$$\text{Let } u_1 = (x_1, y_1)$$

$$u_2 = (x_2, y_2)$$

$$\Rightarrow T(u_1) = (x_1 + y_1, y_1)$$

$$T(u_2) = (x_2 + y_2, y_2)$$

$$T(\alpha u_1 + \beta u_2) = T(\alpha(x_1, y_1) + \beta(x_2, y_2))$$

$$= T(\alpha x_1 + \beta x_2, \alpha y_1 + \beta y_2)$$

$$= (\alpha x_1 + \beta x_2 + \alpha y_1 + \beta y_2, \alpha y_1 + \beta y_2)$$

$$\alpha T(u_1) + \beta T(u_2) = \alpha(x_1 + y_1, y_1) + \beta(x_2 + y_2, y_2)$$

$$= (\alpha x_1 + \alpha y_1, \alpha y_1) + (\beta x_2 + \beta y_2, \beta y_2)$$

$$= (\alpha x_1 + \alpha y_1 + \beta x_2 + \beta y_2, \alpha y_1 + \beta y_2)$$

$$\therefore T(\alpha u_1 + \beta u_2) = \alpha T(u_1) + \beta T(u_2)$$

$\therefore T$ is linear.