

The space of bounded linear transformations from a Banach space \mathcal{B}_1 to a Banach space \mathcal{B}_2 is a Banach space, with the operator norm,

$$\|T\|_{op} = \sup_{\|x\|_1=1} \|Tx\|_2.$$

Proof. To verify that $\|\cdot\|_{op}$ is a norm, we need to show

1. $\|T\|_{op} \geq 0$ and $= 0$ iff $T = 0$. Immediate from the definition of the operator norm.
2. $\|\alpha T\|_{op} = |\alpha| \|T\|_{op}$, also immediate, from the same property for $\|\cdot\|_2$, since $\|\alpha Tx\|_2 = |\alpha| \|Tx\|_2$.
3. The triangle inequality, $\|S + T\|_{op} \leq \|S\|_{op} + \|T\|_{op}$. For this,

$$\begin{aligned} \|S + T\|_{op} &= \sup_{\|x\|_1=1} \|(S + T)x\|_2 \leq \sup_{\|x\|_1=1} (\|Sx\|_2 + \|Tx\|_2) \\ &\leq \sup_{\|x\|_1=1} \|Sx\|_2 + \sup_{\|x\|_1=1} \|Tx\|_2 = \|S\|_{op} + \|T\|_{op}. \end{aligned}$$

To verify completeness, suppose that $\{T_n\}$ is a Cauchy sequence in the operator norm. Then since $\|T_n(x) - T_m(x)\|_2 = \|(T_n - T_m)(x)\|_2 \leq \|T_n - T_m\|_{op} \|x\|_1$, it follows that $\{T_n(x)\}$ is Cauchy in \mathcal{B}_2 . therefore it has a limit $z \in \mathcal{B}_2$, and we define T_* as the operator mapping x to z . It is mechanical to check that T_* is linear. To see that T_* is bounded, notice that $\|T_*(x)\|_2 \leq \limsup_n \|T_n\|_{op} \|x\|_1$. Since $\{T_n\}$ is Cauchy, for any $\epsilon > 0$ there is a fixed m so that for $n > m$, $\|T_n - T_m\|_{op} < \epsilon$, and therefore $\|T_*(x)\|_2 \leq (\|T_m\|_{op} + \limsup_{n>m} \|T_n - T_m\|_{op}) \|x\|_1 \leq (\|T_m\|_{op} + \epsilon) \|x\|_1$. This shows that T is a bounded operator.