

TEST: Homogeneity, Additivity, and Linearity corrected

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Let V and W be vector spaces *over the same field*¹ and consider a function $f : V \rightarrow W$.

Problem 1 Give a precise definition of what it means for f to be **additive**.

Problem 2 Define a function $\phi : \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2$ by

$$\phi(a + bi, c + di) = (a + 2bi, 3c + 4di).$$

- (a) If we consider \mathbb{C}^2 as a complex vector space (as usual) what is the dimension of \mathbb{C}^2 ?
- (b) Show that ϕ is additive.

Problem 3 Give a precise definition of what it means for f to be **homogeneous**.

Problem 4 Define a function $g : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$g(x, y) = \sqrt[3]{x^3 + y^3}.$$

- (a) Show that g is homogeneous.

¹correction

- (b) Show that g is additive on every one-dimensional subspace of \mathbb{R}^2 , but $g(p+q) \neq g(p) + g(q)$ for any nonzero vectors $p, q \in \mathbb{R}^2$ **not** in the same one-dimensional subspace.

Correction: Note that $(1, 0)$ and $(0, 1)$ are nonzero vectors that are not in the same one-dimensional subspace, but $(1, 0) + (0, -1) = (1, -1)$, and

$$g(1, 0) + g(0, -1) = 1 + (-1) = 0 = g(1, -1).$$

Thus, the claimed assertion is not true.² Can you characterize the pairs of points $((x, y), (z, w)) \in \mathbb{R}^4$ (!) for which additivity holds/fails? Something that is “probably” true: If you pick any nonzero point $p = (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$, then given any one-dimensional subspace Z distinct from $\text{span}\{(x, y)\}$, there exists a point $q = (z, w) \in Z$ for which additivity fails: $g(p+q) \neq g(p) + g(q)$.

- (c) Show the function ϕ from Problem 2 is not homogeneous.

Problem 5 Show that if $\dim V = 1$ and $f : V \rightarrow W$ is homogeneous, then f is linear.

²Thanks go to Leo Wang for the counterexample.