

3.4.45 Let  $V$  and  $V'$  be finite dimensional vector spaces. Let  $L(V, V')$  denote the set of all linear transformations mapping  $V$  to  $V'$ . Then  $L(V, V')$  is a vector space (see "Summary Item 5" in Section 3.1). Let  $B$  and  $B'$  be ordered bases of  $V$  and  $V'$ , respectively. Describe the matrix representation of  $T_1 + T_2$  and  $rT_1$ , where  $r \in \mathbb{R}$ , in terms of the matrix representations of  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  relative to  $B, B'$ .

Solution

Let  $A_1$  be the matrix representation of  $T_1$  relative to  $B, B'$  and let  $A_2$  be the matrix representation of  $T_2$  relative to  $B, B'$  (see Definition 3.11). So for any  $\vec{v} \in V$  we have  $T_1(\vec{v})_{B'} = A_1 \vec{v}_B$  and  $T_2(\vec{v})_{B'} = A_2 \vec{v}_B$ .

Then  $(T_1 + T_2)\vec{v} = T_1(\vec{v}) + T_2(\vec{v})$  by the definition of addition in  $L(V, V')$  (see Exercise 43).

$$\text{and } \begin{aligned} ((T_1 + T_2)\vec{v})_{B'} &= (T_1(\vec{v}) + T_2(\vec{v}))_{B'} \\ &= T_1(\vec{v})_{B'} + T_2(\vec{v})_{B'} = A_1 \vec{v}_B + A_2 \vec{v}_B \end{aligned}$$

$$= (A_1 + A_2) \vec{v}_B.$$

Therefore the matrix representation of  $T_1 + T_2$  is  $A_1 + A_2$ .

Next, for any  $\vec{v} \in V$  we have  $((rT_1)(\vec{v}))_{B'} = (r(T_1(\vec{v})))_{B'}$  by the definition of scalar multiplication (see Exercise 44)

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$$\text{and } ({}^r T_1(\vec{v}))_{\beta'} = {}^r (T_1(\vec{v}))_{\beta'} = {}^r (A_1 \vec{v}_\beta) = ({}^r A_1) \vec{v}_\beta.$$

So the matrix representation of  ${}^r T_1$  is  ${}^r A_1$ .  $\square$