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Let V be a finite dimensional vector space over \mathbb{R} and let V^* be its dual space i.e. the set of all linear maps from V to \mathbb{R} . Then $\dim(V^*) = \dim(V)$.

Proof: Let $\dim(V) = n$ and let $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$ be a basis of V

Define $e^i \in V^* : e^i(e_j) = \delta_{ij} \quad (i, j = 1, \dots, n)$

We will show that $\{e^1, \dots, e^n\}$ is a basis of V^*

Firstly, we need to show that $\{e^1, \dots, e^n\}$ spans V^*

Let $f \in V^*$ and $v \in V$, one has:

$$f(v) = f\left(\sum_j v_j e_j\right)$$

$$= \sum_j v_j f(e_j)$$

Denote $f(e_j) = \lambda_j$

$$\text{Hence } f(v) = \sum_j v_j \lambda_j e^j(e_j)$$

$$\text{Notice that : } e^j(v) = e^j\left(\sum_k v_k e_k\right)$$

$$= \sum_k v_k e^j(e_k)$$

$$= v_j e^j(e_j)$$

$$\text{So } f(v) = \sum_j \lambda_j e^j(v) = \left[\sum_j \lambda_j e^j\right](v)$$

Therefore for any $f \in V^*$, it can be expressed as a linear combination of $\{e^1, \dots, e^n\}$

So $\{e^1, \dots, e^n\}$ spans V^* (1)

Secondly, we need to prove that e^1, \dots, e^n are linearly independent.

Let $\bar{0}$ be the zero-element of V^* and consider:

$$c_1 e^1 + \dots + c_n e^n = \bar{0}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{One has: } \bar{0}(e_j) &= \left[\sum_i c_i e^i \right](e_j) \quad (\text{for } j=1, \dots, n) \\ &= \sum_i c_i e^i(e_j) \\ &= c_j \end{aligned}$$

And by definition $\bar{0}(e_j) = 0$ so $c_j = 0$ ($\forall j=1, \dots, n$)

So e^1, \dots, e^n are linearly independent (2)

From (1) and (2), $\{e^1, \dots, e^n\}$ is a basis of V^*

And thus $\dim(V^*) = n$ \square

Remark: This is true only for finite dimensional vector spaces. For infinite dimensional vector spaces, it's not true in general.