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Adjoint Operator:-

Let V be an inner product space and $T: V \rightarrow V$ be linear operator. Let \exists (there exists) a unique operator T^* on V such that

$$\langle T(u), v \rangle = \langle u, T^*(v) \rangle \quad \forall u, v \in V$$

Then T^* is called adjoint of T .

To prove that T^* is linear

Let $u, v, w \in V$ and $\alpha, \beta \in F$ ($F \rightarrow$ field)

$$\langle u, T^*(\alpha v + \beta w) \rangle = \langle T(u), (\alpha v + \beta w) \rangle \quad \text{by def (1)}$$

$$= \langle T(u), \alpha v \rangle + \langle T(u), \beta w \rangle$$

$$= \alpha \langle T(u), v \rangle + \beta \langle T(u), w \rangle \quad \text{by inner product properties}$$

$$= \alpha \langle u, T^*(v) \rangle + \beta \langle u, T^*(w) \rangle$$

$$= \langle u, \alpha T^*(v) + \beta T^*(w) \rangle$$

$$\text{Thus } \langle u, T^*(\alpha v + \beta w) \rangle = \langle u, \alpha T^*(v) + \beta T^*(w) \rangle$$

$$\langle u, T^*(\alpha v + \beta w) \rangle = \langle u, \alpha T^*(v) + \beta T^*(w) \rangle$$

This is True $\forall u \in V$

Hence the $T^*(\alpha v + \beta w)$ gives

$$T^*(\alpha v + \beta w) = \alpha T^*(v) + \beta T^*(w)$$

This prove that T^* is linear

* To show that T^* is unique. If possible let S be another linear operator on V such that

$$\langle T(u), v \rangle = \langle u, S(v) \rangle$$

$$\langle u, T^*(v) \rangle = \langle u, S(v) \rangle \quad \forall u, v \in V$$

$$\text{This } \Rightarrow T^*(v) = S(v) \Rightarrow T^* = S$$

$\Rightarrow T^*$ is unique.

Definition of self-Adjoint operator:

A linear operator T on inner product space $V(F)$ is called self-adjoint operator iff $T = T^*$

i.e. iff $\langle T(u), v \rangle = \langle u, T(v) \rangle \quad \forall u, v \in V$

A self-adjoint operator is called symmetric or Hermitian according as the space is Euclidean (i.e. $F = \mathbb{R}$, field is real) or Unitary ($F = \mathbb{C}$, field is complex)

Exp. Let A is $m \times n$ matrix over field F i.e. $A \in M_{m \times n}(F)$. The conjugate transpose or adjoint of A to the $n \times m$ matrix A^*

such that $(A^*)_{ij} = \bar{A}_{ji} \quad \forall i, j$

$$\text{or } A^*_{ij} = (\bar{A}_{ji})^T$$

$$A_{2 \times 2} = \begin{bmatrix} i & 1+2i \\ 2 & 3+4i \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \bar{A}_{2 \times 2} = \begin{bmatrix} -i & 1-2i \\ 2 & 3-4i \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow$$

$$\left[\bar{A}_{2 \times 2} \right]^T = \begin{bmatrix} -i & 2 \\ 1-2i & 3-4i \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow A^* \quad \text{This is adjoint of } A_{2 \times 2} \text{ matrix.}$$

Hermitian Matrix - A complex square matrix $A = [a_{ij}]$ is said to be Hermitian if $A = A^*$

$$i.e. [a_{ij}] = [\bar{a}_{ji}]$$

Exp.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2-3i & 3+4i \\ 2+3i & 3 & 4+5i \\ 3-4i & 4-5i & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\bar{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2+3i & 3-4i \\ 2+3i & 3 & 4-5i \\ 3+4i & 4+5i & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$[\bar{A}]^T = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2-3i & 3+4i \\ 2+3i & 3 & 4+5i \\ 3-4i & 4-5i & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A = [\bar{A}]^T = A^*$$

Hence A^* is self-adjoint of A matrix.

If $A^* = -A$ i.e. $[a_{ij}] = -[\bar{a}_{ji}]$ is said to be Skew-Hermitian matrix.