

# Rough Sets and Convex Subsets in a Linear Space

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## Abstract

In this paper we give the notion of a congruence on a linear space  $V$  and prove that it can be identified with the notion of a subspace of  $V$ . And we give some elementary properties of rough sets (the lower and the upper approximations) of a subset, a subspace and a convex subset of  $V$  with respect to a subspace.

Keywords: Congruence relation, subspace, rough set, lower approximation, upper approximation, convex subset,

## 1 Introduction

The notion of rough sets was introduced by Z. Pawlak in his paper [2]. Let  $\mu$  be a equivalence relation on a given set  $S$ . We denote by  $[a]_\mu$  the  $\mu$ -equivalence class containing  $a$  of  $S$ . Then for a nonempty subset  $A$  of  $S$ , the sets

$$\mu_-(A) = \{x \in S : [x]_\mu \subseteq A\}$$

$$\mu^-(A) = \{x \in S : [x]_\mu \cap A \neq \emptyset\}$$

is called the *lower approximation* and the *upper approximation* of  $A$ , respectively. And

$$\mu(A) = (\mu_-(A), \mu^-(A))$$

is called the *rough set* of  $A$ . So the notion of the rough set  $\mu(A)$  is an extended notion of the set  $A$ .

We shall apply the notion of rough sets to the elementary theory of a linear space  $V$ .

In section 2 we define the notion of a congruence relation on  $V$ . Let  $C(V)$  the set of all congruence relations on  $V$ , and let  $S(V)$  the set of all subspaces of  $V$ . Then we shall prove that there exists a one-to-one mapping from  $S(V)$  onto  $C(V)$ . This means that we can identify the notion of a congruence on a linear space  $V$  with the notion of a subspace of  $V$ .

We give some properties of the lower and the upper approximations of subsets of  $V$  in section 3, of subspaces of  $V$  in section 4, and of convex subsets of  $V$  in section 5.

## 2 Congruences on a linear space

Let  $R$  be the set of all real numbers, and  $V$  a linear space over  $R$ . By a *congruence* on  $V$  we mean an equivalence relation  $\mu$  such that

$$(a, b) \in \mu \text{ implies } (a + x, b + x) \in \mu \text{ and } (ka, kb) \in \mu$$

for all  $a, b, x \in V$  and all  $k \in R$ .

Let  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  be two binary relations on  $V$ . Then the product  $\mu \circ \nu$  of  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  is defined by

$$(\mu \circ \nu) = \{(a, b) \in V \times V : (a, x) \in \mu, (x, b) \in \nu \text{ for some } x \in V\}.$$

In this section we shall give some properties of congruences on  $V$ .

**Theorem 1** *Let  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  be congruences on a linear space  $V$ . Then*

$$\mu \circ \nu = \nu \circ \mu.$$

□

**Theorem 2** *Let  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  be any congruences on a linear space  $V$  over  $R$ . Then the product  $\mu \circ \nu$  is also a congruence on  $V$ .*

Proof. It follows from Theorem 1 that  $\mu \circ \nu$  is an equivalence relation on  $V$ . In order to see that  $\mu \circ \nu$  is congruence, let  $(a, b) \in \mu \circ \nu$ , and  $\forall x \in V$  and  $\forall k \in R$ . Then there exists an element  $y \in V$  such that  $(a, y) \in \mu$  and  $(y, b) \in \nu$ . Since  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  are both congruence, we have

$$(a + x, y + x) \in \mu \text{ and } (y + x, b + x) \in \nu.$$

Then we have

$$(a + x, b + x) \in \mu \circ \nu.$$

And also since

$$(ka, ky) \in \mu \text{ and } (ky, kb) \in \nu.$$

we have

$$(ka, kb) \in \mu \circ \nu.$$

This means that  $\mu \circ \nu$  is congruence.  $\square$

**Theorem 3** Let  $W$  be a subspace of a linear space  $V$  over  $R$ . We define a binary relation  $\mu_w$  on  $V$  as follows:

$$\mu_w = \{(a, b) \in V \times V : a - b \in W\}.$$

Then  $\mu_w$  is a congruence on  $V$ .

Proof. As is well-known, and is easily seen,  $\mu_w$  is an equivalence relation on  $V$ . To see that  $\mu_w$  is a congruence, let  $(a, b) \in \mu_w$ , and  $x \in V$ ,  $k \in R$ . Then we have

$$(a + x) - (b + x) = a - b \in W,$$

and so

$$(a + x, b + x) \in \mu_w.$$

And, since  $W$  is a subspace of  $V$ , we have

$$ka - kb = k(a - b) \in W,$$

and so

$$(ka, kb) \in \mu_w.$$

This implies that  $\mu_w$  is a congruence on  $V$ . This completes the proof.

Remark:  $[x]_{\mu_w} = x + W$ .

The following property can be easily seen.

**Theorem 4** Let  $\mu$  be a congruence on a linear space  $V$  over  $R$ . We define a subset  $W_\mu$  of  $V$  as follows:

$$W_\mu = \{a \in V : (a, 0) \in \mu\}.$$

Then  $W_\mu$  is a subspace of  $V$ .

We denote by  $C(V)$  the set of all congruences on a linear space  $V$ , and by  $S(V)$  the set of all subspaces of  $V$ . Then we have the following:

**Theorem 5** Let  $V$  be a linear space over  $R$ . Then there exists a one-to-one mapping  $\psi$  from  $S(V)$  onto  $C(V)$ .

*Proof.* We define a mapping  $\psi : S(V) \rightarrow C(V)$  as follows:

$$\psi(W) = \mu_w$$

for all  $W \in S(V)$ . Then it can easily be seen that  $\psi$  is a one-to-one onto mapping.  $\square$

*Remark:* Theorem 5 shows that we can identify the notion of a subspace with a congruence in a linear space.

**Theorem 6** Let  $W, U$  be subspaces of a linear space  $V$  over  $R$ . Then

$$\mu_w \cap \mu_u = \mu_{w \cap u}.$$

$\square$

**Theorem 7** Let  $W$  and  $U$  be subspaces of a linear space  $V$ . Then

$$\mu_w \circ \mu_u = \mu_{w+u}.$$

*Proof.* It is clear that  $\mu_w \circ \mu_u \subseteq \mu_{w+u}$ . Conversely, let  $(a, b) \in \mu_{w+u}$ . Then  $a - b \in W + U$ , and so there exist elements  $x \in W$  and  $y \in U$  such that  $a - b = x + y$ . Then, since  $a - (b + y) = x \in W$ , we have  $(a, b + y) \in \mu_w$ . Since  $a - (b + x) = y \in U$ , we have  $(b + y, b) = (a - x, b) \in \mu_u$ . Therefore we have  $(a, b) \in \mu_w \circ \mu_u$ , and so

$$\mu_{w+u} \subseteq \mu_w \circ \mu_u.$$

Therefore we obtain that

$$\mu_w \circ \mu_u = \mu_{w+u}.$$

$\square$

### 3 The lower and upper approximations with respect to a subspace in a linear spaces

As is proved in Theorem 4 that there exists a one-to-one mapping between  $C(V)$  and  $S(V)$ . Therefore we can identify the notion of congruences with subspaces of a linear space  $V$ .

Let  $W$  be a subspace of a linear space  $V$ . Let  $A$  be a nonempty subset of  $V$ . Then the sets

$$W_-(A) = \{x \in V : x + W \subseteq A\},$$

$$W^-(A) = \{x \in V : (x + W) \cap A \neq \emptyset\}$$

is called respectively the *lower and the upper approximations* of the set  $A$  with respect to the subspace  $W$ .

The following properties can be easily seen:

**Theorem 8** *Let  $W$  and  $U$  be subspaces of a linear space  $V$ . Let  $A$  and  $B$  be any nonempty subsets of  $V$ . Then,*

- (1)  $W_-(A) \subseteq A \subseteq W^-(A)$ ;
- (2)  $W^-(A \cup B) = W^-(A) \cup W^-(B)$ ;
- (3)  $W_-(A \cap B) = W_-(A) \cap W_-(B)$ ;
- (4)  $A \subseteq B$  implies  $W_-(A) \subseteq W_-(B)$ ;
- (5)  $A \subseteq B$  implies  $W^-(A) \subseteq W^-(B)$ ;
- (6)  $W_-(A \cup B) \supseteq W_-(A) \cup W_-(B)$ ;
- (7)  $W^-(A \cap B) \subseteq W^-(A) \cap W^-(B)$ ;
- (8)  $U \subseteq W$  implies  $W_-(A) \subseteq U_-(A)$ ;
- (9)  $W \subseteq U$  implies  $W^-(A) \subseteq U^-(A)$ .

□

**Theorem 9** *Let  $W$  be a subspace of a linear space  $V$ . Let  $A$  and  $B$  be nonempty subsets of  $V$ . Then*

- (1)  $W^-(A) + W^-(B) = W^-(A + B)$ .
- (2)  $W_-(A) + W_-(B) \subseteq W_-(A + B)$ .

*Proof.* (1) Let  $c$  be any element of  $W^-(A+B)$ . Then  $(c+W) \cap (A+B) \neq \emptyset$ . Thus there exists an element  $x \in (c+W) \cap (A+B)$ , and so  $x \in c+W$  and  $x \in A+B$ . Then  $x = a+b$  with  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$ , and

$$c \in x + W = (a + b) + W = (a + W) + (b + W).$$

Thus  $c = y + z$  with  $y \in a + W$  and  $z \in b + W$ . Then  $a \in (y + W) \cap A$  and  $b \in (z + W) \cap B$ . Therefore  $y \in W^-(A)$  and  $z \in W^-(B)$ . Thus we have

$$c = y + z \in W^-(A) + W^-(B),$$

and so

$$W^-(A + B) \subseteq W^-(A) + W^-(B).$$

Conversely, let  $c$  be any element of  $W^-(A) + W^-(B)$ . Then  $c = a + b$  with  $a \in W^-(A)$  and  $b \in W^-(B)$ . Thus there exist elements  $x$  and  $y$  in  $V$  such that

$$x \in (a + W) \cap A \text{ and } y \in (b + W) \cap B,$$

and so

$$x \in a + W, x \in A, y \in b + W \text{ and } y \in B.$$

Then

$$x + y \in (a + W) + (b + W) = (a + b) + W = c + W,$$

and

$$x + y \in A + B.$$

Thus we have

$$x + y \in (c + W) \cap (A + B).$$

Thus

$$W^-(A) + W^-(B) \subseteq W^-(A + B).$$

Therefore we obtain that

$$W^-(A) + W^-(B) = W^-(A + B).$$

(2) Let  $c$  be any element of  $W_-(A) + W_-(B)$ . Then  $c = a + b$  with  $a \in W_-(A)$  and  $b \in W_-(B)$ . Thus

$$a + W \subseteq A \text{ and } b + W \subseteq B,$$

and so

$$c + W = (a + b) + W = (a + W) + (b + W) \subseteq A + B.$$

Thus  $c \in W_-(A + B)$ , and so

$$W_-(A) + W_-(B) \subseteq W_-(A + B),$$

which completes the proof.  $\square$

**Theorem 10** Let  $W$  and  $U$  be subspaces of a linear space  $V$ . Let  $A$  be a nonempty subset of  $V$ . Then

- (1)  $(W \cap U)^-(A) \subseteq W^-(A) \cap U^-(A)$ .
- (2)  $(W \cap U)_-(A) = W_-(A) \cap U_-(A)$ .

*Proof.* (1) Let  $c \in (W \cap U)^-(A)$ . Then  $(c + (W \cap U)) \cap A \neq \emptyset$ . Thus there exists an element  $a \in (c + (W \cap U)) \cap A$ , and so

$$a \in c + (W \cap U) \text{ and } a \in A.$$

This implies that

$$a \in c + W, a \in A \text{ and } a \in c + U, a \in A.$$

This means that

$$c \in W^-(A) \text{ and } c \in U^-(A),$$

and so we have

$$c \in W^-(A) \cap U^-(A).$$

Thus we obtain that

$$(W \cap U)^-(A) \subseteq W^-(A) \cap U^-(A).$$

(2)

$$\begin{aligned} c \in (W \cap U)_-(A) &\Leftrightarrow c + (W \cap U) \subseteq A \\ &\Leftrightarrow c + W \subseteq A \text{ and } c + U \subseteq A \\ &\Leftrightarrow c \in W_-(A) \text{ and } c \in U_-(A) \\ &\Leftrightarrow c \in W_-(A) \cap U_-(A). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore we obtain that

$$(W \cap U)_-(A) = W_-(A) \cap U_-(A).$$

□

**Theorem 11** Let  $W$  be a subspace of a linear space  $V$  over  $R$ , and  $k \in R (k \neq 0)$ . If  $A$  is a nonempty subset of  $V$ , then

$$W^-(kA) = kW^-(A).$$

Proof. Let  $c$  be any element of  $W^-(kA)$ . Then  $(c + W) \cap kA \neq \emptyset$ , and so there exists an element  $a \in (c + W) \cap kA$ . Then  $a \in c + W$  and  $a \in kA$ . Thus  $a = kb$  for some  $b \in A$ . Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} c &\in a + W = kb + W = kb + k(1/k)W \\ &\subseteq kb + kW = k(b + W). \end{aligned}$$

Then  $c = kb$  for some  $y \in b + W$ , and so  $b \in (y + W) \cap A$ . Thus  $y \in W^-(A)$ , and so  $c = ky \in kW^-(A)$ . Therefore we have

$$W^-(kA) \subseteq kW^-(A).$$

Conversely, let  $c$  be any element of  $kW^-(A)$ . Then  $c = ka$  for some  $a \in W^-(A)$ . Thus there exists an element  $x \in (a + W) \cap A$ , and so  $x \in a + W$  and  $x \in A$ . Then

$$kx \in k(a + W) = ka + kW \subseteq ka + W,$$

and  $kx \in kA$ . Thus  $kx \in (ka + W) \cap kA$ , and so  $c = ka \in W^-(kA)$ . Therefore we have

$$kW^-(A) \subseteq W^-(kA).$$

Therefore we obtain that

$$W^-(kA) = kW^-(A),$$

which completes the proof.  $\square$

## 4 Rough subspaces in a linear space

Let  $W$  be a subspace of a linear space  $V$  over  $R$ . Let  $A$  be a nonempty subset of  $V$ . Then

$$W(A) = (W_-(A), W^-(A))$$

is called a *rough set* of  $A$  with respect to the subspace  $W$ . A nonempty subset  $A$  of  $V$  is called a  *$W^-$ -rough subspace* of  $V$  if the upper approximation  $W^-(A)$  of  $A$  is a subspace of  $V$ . Similarly,  $A$  is called a  *$W_-$ -rough subspace* of  $V$  if  $W_-(A)$  is a subspace of  $V$ .



**Theorem 12** *Let  $W$  be a subspace of a linear space  $V$  over  $R$ . If  $A$  is a subspace of  $V$ , then it is a  $W^-$ -rough subspace of  $V$*

Proof. Since  $W$  and  $A$  are subspaces of  $V$ ,  $0 \in W$  and  $0 \in A$ , and so

$$0 \in (0 + W) \cap A.$$

Thus  $0 \in W^-(A)$ . Let  $a, b \in W^-(A)$ . Then

$$(a + W) \cap A \neq \emptyset \quad \text{and} \quad (b + W) \cap A \neq \emptyset.$$

Then there exist elements  $x, y \in V$  such that

$$x \in (a + W) \cap A \quad \text{and} \quad y \in (b + W) \cap A.$$

Thus we have

$$x \in a + W, \quad x \in A, \quad y \in b + W \quad \text{and} \quad y \in A.$$

Since  $A$  is a subspace of  $V$ , we have  $x + y \in A$ . And since  $W$  is a subspace of  $V$ ,

$$x + y \in (a + W) + (b + W) = (a + b) + W.$$

Therefore we have

$$x + y \in ((a + b) + W) \cap A,$$

and so

$$a + b \in W^-(A).$$

Let  $a \in W^-(A)$  and  $k \in R$ . Then there exists an element  $x \in V$  such that

$$x \in (a + W) \cap A,$$

and so

$$x \in a + W \quad \text{and} \quad x \in A.$$

Since  $A$  is a subspace of  $V$ ,  $kx \in A$ . And also  $W$  is a subspace of  $V$ ,

$$kx \in k(a + W) = ka + kW \subseteq ka + W,$$

and so

$$kx \in (ka + W) \cap A.$$

Thus we have

$$ka \in W^-(A).$$

Therefore we have  $W^-(A)$  is a subspace of  $V$ , and  $A$  is a  $W^-$ -rough subspace of  $V$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 13** *Let  $W$  be a subspace of a linear space  $V$  over  $R$ . If  $A$  is a subspace of  $V$  such that  $W \subseteq A$ , then  $A$  is a  $W_-$ -rough subspace of  $V$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $0 + W = W \subseteq A$ , we have  $0 \in W_-(A)$ . Let  $a, b \in W_-(A)$ . Then

$$a + W \subseteq A \quad \text{and} \quad b + W \subseteq A.$$

Then, since  $A$  is a subspace of  $V$ , we have

$$(a + b) + W = (a + W) + (b + W) \subseteq A + A \subseteq A,$$

and so

$$a + b \in W_-(A).$$

Let  $a \in W_-(A)$  and  $k \in R$ . If  $k = 0$ , then, as is stated above,

$$ka = 0a = 0 \in W_-(A).$$

If  $k \neq 0$ , then  $k(1/k) = 1$ . Since  $a + W \subseteq A$  and since  $A$  is a subspace of  $V$ , we have

$$ka + W = ka + k(1/k)W \subseteq ka + kW = k(a + W) \subseteq kA \subseteq A,$$

and so

$$ka \in W_-(A).$$

Therefore  $W_-(A)$  is a subspace of  $V$ , and  $A$  is a  $W_-$ -rough subspace of  $V$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 14** *Let  $W$  and  $U$  be subspaces of a linear space  $V$  over  $R$ . If  $A$  is a subspace of  $V$ , then*

- (1)  $W^-(A) + U^-(A) \subseteq (W + U)^-(A)$ .
- (2)  $W_-(A) + U_-(A) \subseteq (W + U)_-(A)$ .

*Proof.* (1) Let  $c$  be any element of  $W^-(A) + U^-(A)$ . Then  $c = a + b$  with  $a \in W^-(A)$  and  $b \in U^-(A)$ . Then

$$(a + W) \cap A \neq \emptyset \quad \text{and} \quad (b + U) \cap A,$$

and so there exist elements  $x, y \in V$  such that

$$x \in (a + W) \cap A \quad \text{and} \quad y \in (b + U) \cap A.$$

Thus we have

$$x \in a + W, \quad x \in A, \quad y \in b + W \quad \text{and} \quad y \in A.$$

Since  $W$  is a subspace of  $V$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} x + y &\in (a + W) + (b + U) \\ &= (a + (W + b)) + U \\ &= (a + (b + W)) + U \\ &= ((a + b) + W) + U \\ &= (a + b) + (W + U) \\ &= c + (W + U). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $A$  is a subspace of  $V$ ,  $x + y \in A$ . Thus we have

$$x + y \in (c + (W + U)) \cap A,$$

and so

$$c \in (W + U)^-(A).$$

Therefore we obtain that

$$W^-(A) + U^-(A) \subseteq (W + U)^-(A).$$

(2) Let  $c$  be any element of  $W_-(A) + U_-(A)$ . Then  $c = a + b$  with  $a \in W_-(A)$  and  $b \in U_-(A)$ . Thus

$$a + W \subseteq A \quad \text{and} \quad b + U \subseteq B.$$

Then, since  $W$  and  $A$  are subspaces of  $V$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} (a + b) + (W + U) &= (a + (b + W)) + U \\ &= (a + (W + b)) + U \\ &= ((a + W) + B) + U \\ &= (a + W) + (b + U) \\ &\subseteq A + A \\ &\subseteq A, \end{aligned}$$

and so

$$c = a + b \in (W + U)_-(A).$$

Thus we obtain that

$$W_-(A) + U_-(A) \subseteq (W + U)_-(A).$$

□

**Theorem 15** *Let  $W$  and  $U$  be subspaces of a linear space  $V$  over  $R$ . If  $A$  is a subspace of  $V$ , then*

$$(W + U)^-(A) \subseteq (W^-(A) + U) \cap (U^-(A) + W).$$

*Proof.* Let  $c$  be any element of  $(W + U)^-(A)$ . Then  $(c + (W + U)) \cap A \neq \emptyset$ . Then there exists an element  $x \in V$  such that

$$x \in (c + (W + U)) \cap A.$$

Thus we have

$$x \in c + (W + U) \quad \text{and} \quad x \in A.$$

Then  $x = c + a + b$  for some  $a \in W$  and  $b \in U$ . Note that, since  $W$  and  $U$  are subspaces of  $V$ ,  $-a \in W$  and  $-b \in U$ . Then we have

$$x = c + a + b \in c + W + b = c + b + W,$$

and so

$$x \in (c + b + W) \cap A.$$

Thus we have

$$c + b \in W^-(A),$$

and so

$$c \in W^-(A) + (-b) \subseteq W^-(A) + U.$$

Similarly, it can be seen that

$$c \in U^-(A) + W,$$

and so

$$c \in (W^-(A) + U) \cap (U^-(A) + W).$$

Therefore we obtain that

$$(W + U)^-(A) \subseteq (W^-(A) + U) \cap (U^-(A) + W).$$

□

## 5 Convex subsets

Let  $S$  be a nonempty subset of a linear space  $V$  over  $R$ . Then  $S$  is called to be *convex* if for any  $a, b \in S$  and  $0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$ ,

$$\lambda a + (1 - \lambda)b \in S.$$

In this section we give some properties of the upper approximation of convex subsets of a linear space  $V$ .

**Theorem 16** *Let  $W$  be a subspace of a linear space  $V$  over  $R$ . If  $S$  is a convex subset of  $V$ , Then  $W^-(S)$  is convex.*

*Proof.* Let  $a, b \in S$ , and  $0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$ . Then

$$(a + W) \cap S \neq \emptyset \quad \text{and} \quad (b + W) \cap S \neq \emptyset,$$

Then there exist elements  $x, y \in S$  such that

$$x \in a + W \quad y \in b + W.$$

Then, since  $W$  is a subspace of  $V$ ,

$$\lambda x \in \lambda(a + W) = \lambda a + \lambda W \subseteq \lambda a + W$$

and

$$(1 - \lambda)y \in (1 - \lambda)(b + W) = (1 - \lambda)y + (1 - \lambda)W \subseteq (1 - \lambda)y + W.$$

Thus we have

$$\lambda x + (1 - \lambda)y \in (\lambda a + W) + ((1 - \lambda)b + W) = (\lambda a + (1 - \lambda)b) + W.$$

Since  $S$  is convex, we have

$$\lambda x + (1 - \lambda)y \in S.$$

Thus we have

$$\lambda x + (1 - \lambda)y \in ((\lambda a + (1 - \lambda)b) + W) \cap S.$$

and so

$$\lambda a + (1 - \lambda)b \in W^-(S).$$

This means that  $W^-(S)$  is convex, which completes the proof.

A nonempty subset  $C$  of  $V$  is called a *cone* if for all  $a \in C$  and for all  $\lambda \geq 0$ ,  $\lambda a \in C$ .

**Theorem 17** *Let  $W$  be a subspace of  $V$  over  $R$ . If  $C$  is a cone, then  $W^-(C)$  is a cone.*

*Proof.* Let  $a$  be any element of  $W^-(C)$  and  $\lambda \geq 0$ . Then

$$(a + W) \cap C \neq \emptyset.$$

Thus there exists an element  $x \in C$  such that  $x \in a + W$ . Then we have

$$\lambda x \in \lambda(x + W) = \lambda x + \lambda W \subseteq \lambda x + W.$$

Since  $C$  is a cone,  $\lambda x \in C$ . Thus we have

$$\lambda x \in (\lambda a + W) \cap C.$$

This implies that  $\lambda a \in W^-(C)$ , which means that  $W^-(C)$  is a cone.  $\square$

**Theorem 18** *Let  $W$  be a subspace of a linear space  $V$  over  $R$  and  $C$  a convex cone of  $V$ . Then  $W^-(C)$  is a convex cone.*

$\square$

## 6 The kernel of a linear mapping

Let  $V$  and  $V'$  be two linear spaces over  $R$ , and  $f : V \rightarrow V'$  a linear mapping. We denote by  $0'$  the zero of  $V'$ . Then the set

$$\text{Ker}(f) = \{x \in V : f(x) = 0'\}$$

is called the *kernel* of  $f$ .

As is easily seen,  $\text{Ker}(f)$  is a subspace of  $V$ . The following can be easily seen.

**Lemma 1** Let  $f : V \rightarrow V'$  be a linear mapping. Then

$$\mu_{Ker(f)} = \{(a, b) \in V \times V : f(a) = f(b)\}.$$

□

**Lemma 2** Let  $f : V \rightarrow V'$  be a linear mapping. Then for a nonempty subset  $A$  of  $V$ ,

$$f(A) = f(A + Ker(f)).$$

Proof. Let  $y$  be any element of  $f(A)$ . Then  $f(a) = y$  for some  $a \in A$ . We note that  $0 \in Ker(f)$ . Thus we have

$$y = f(a) = f(a + 0) \in f(A + Ker(f)),$$

and so

$$f(A) \subseteq f(A + Ker(f)).$$

Conversely, let  $y$  be any element of  $f(A + Ker(f))$ . Then  $f(a) = y$  for some  $a \in A + Ker(f)$ . Thus  $a = b + c$  with  $b \in A$  and  $c \in Ker(f)$ . Then

$$y = f(a) = f(b + c) = f(b) + f(c) = f(b) + 0' = f(b) \in f(A),$$

and so

$$f(A + Ker(f)) \subseteq f(A).$$

Therefore we obtain that

$$f(A) = f(A + Ker(f)),$$

which completes the proof. □

**Theorem 19** Let  $f : V \rightarrow V'$  be a linear mapping, and  $W$  a subspace of  $V$ . Then for a nonempty subset  $A$  of  $V$ ,

$$f(A) \subseteq f(W^-(A)) \subseteq f(A + N).$$

Proof. By Theorem 8(1),  $A \subseteq W^-(A)$ , and so  $f(A) \subseteq f(W^-(A))$ . To see  $f(W^-(A)) \subseteq f(A + W)$ , let  $y$  be any element of  $f(W^-(A))$ . Then  $f(a) = y$  for some  $a \in W^-(A)$ . Then there exists an element  $x \in V$  such that  $x \in$

$(a + W) \cap A$ . Thus  $x \in a + W$  and  $x \in A$ . Then  $x = a + b$  for some  $b \in W$ , that is,  $a = x - b$ . Since  $W$  is a subspace of  $V$ ,  $-b \in W$ . Then we have

$$y = f(a) = f(x - b) \in f(A + W),$$

and so

$$f(W^{-}(A)) \subseteq f(A + W),$$

which completes the proof.  $\square$

**Theorem 20** *Let  $f : V \rightarrow V'$  be a linear mapping. Then for a nonempty subset  $A$  of  $V$ ,*

$$f(A) = f(Ker(f)^{-}(A)).$$

*Proof.* By Lemma 1 and Theorem 19 we have

$$f(A) \subseteq f(Ker(f)^{-}(A)) \subseteq f(A + Ker(f)) = f(A).$$

Therefore we obtain that

$$f(A) = f(Ker(f)^{-}(A)),$$

which completes the proof.

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