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***Linear extensions of relations between vector spaces***

Comment.Math.Univ.Carolinae 44,2 (2003) 367-385.

**Abstract:** Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be vector spaces over the same field  $K$ . Following the terminology of Richard Arens [Pacific J. Math. 11 (1961), 9–23], a relation  $F$  of  $X$  into  $Y$  is called linear if  $\lambda F(x) \subset F(\lambda x)$  and  $F(x) + F(y) \subset F(x + y)$  for all  $\lambda \in K \setminus \{0\}$  and  $x, y \in X$ .

After improving and supplementing some former results on linear relations, we show that a relation  $\Phi$  of a linearly independent subset  $E$  of  $X$  into  $Y$  can be extended to a linear relation  $F$  of  $X$  into  $Y$  if and only if there exists a linear subspace  $Z$  of  $Y$  such that  $\Phi(e) \in Y|Z$  for all  $e \in E$ . Moreover, if  $E$  generates  $X$ , then this extension is unique.

Furthermore, we also prove that if  $F$  is a linear relation of  $X$  into  $Y$  and  $Z$  is a linear subspace of  $X$ , then each linear selection relation  $\Psi$  of  $F|Z$  can be extended to a linear selection relation  $\Phi$  of  $F$ . A particular case of this Hahn-Banach type theorem yields an easy proof of the existence of a linear selection function  $f$  of  $F$  such that  $f \circ F^{-1}$  is also a function.

**Keywords:** vector spaces, linear and affine subspaces, linear relations

**AMS Subject Classification:** Primary 26E25; Secondary 15A03, 15A04