

## Section 4.1: Vector Spaces and Subspaces

**Definition** A **vector space** is a nonempty set  $V$  of objects called *vectors* together with two operations called *vector addition* and *scalar multiplication* that satisfy the following ten axioms: For all  $\mathbf{u}$ ,  $\mathbf{v}$ , and  $\mathbf{w}$  in  $V$ , and for any scalars  $c$  and  $d$

1. The sum  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$  of  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  is in  $V$ .
2.  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{u}$ .
3.  $(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) + \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w})$ .
4. There exists a **zero** vector  $\mathbf{0}$  in  $V$  such that  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{u}$ .
5. For each vector  $\mathbf{u}$  there exists a vector  $-\mathbf{u}$  such that  $\mathbf{u} + (-\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{0}$ .
6. For each scalar  $c$ ,  $c\mathbf{u}$  is in  $V$ .
7.  $c(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = c\mathbf{u} + c\mathbf{v}$ .
8.  $(c + d)\mathbf{u} = c\mathbf{u} + d\mathbf{u}$ .
9.  $c(d\mathbf{u}) = d(c\mathbf{u}) = (cd)\mathbf{u}$ .
10.  $1\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}$

# Subspaces

**Definition:** A **subspace** of a vector space  $V$  is a subset  $H$  of  $V$  for which

- a) The zero vector is in  $H$ <sup>1</sup>
- b)  $H$  is closed under vector addition. (i.e.  $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}$  in  $H$  implies  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$  is in  $H$ )
- c)  $H$  is closed under scalar multiplication. (i.e.  $\mathbf{u}$  in  $H$  implies  $c\mathbf{u}$  is in  $H$ )

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<sup>1</sup>This is sometimes replaced with the condition that  $H$  is nonempty.

## An Example of a Vector Space & Subspace

$C^1(\mathbb{R})$  denotes the set of all real valued functions with domain  $\mathbb{R}$  that are one-times continuously differentiable.

A function  $f$  is in  $C^1(\mathbb{R})$  if

- ▶  $f'(x)$  exists, and
- ▶  $f'(x)$  is continuous on  $(-\infty, \infty)$ .

This is a vector space with vector addition and scalar multiplication defined in the standard way for functions:

$$(f + g)(x) = f(x) + g(x), \quad \text{and} \quad (cf)(x) = cf(x).$$

$$H = \{f \in C^1(\mathbb{R}) \mid f(0) = 0\}$$

Show<sup>2</sup> that  $H$  is a subspace of  $C^1(\mathbb{R})$ .

We have to show that the zero vector is in  $H$  and it is closed under both operations.

① Note that if  $z(x) = 0$  for all real  $x$ , then  $z(0) = 0$ . So  $H$  contains the zero vector.

② Suppose  $f$  and  $g$  are in  $H$ . Then  $f(0) = 0$  and  $g(0) = 0$ . Note

$$(f+g)(0) = f(0) + g(0) = 0 + 0 = 0$$

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<sup>2</sup>The zero vector in  $C^1(\mathbb{R})$  is the function  $z(x) = 0$  for all  $x$ .

So  $f+g$  is in  $H$ , and  $H$  is closed under vector addition.

③ Let  $f$  be in  $H$  and  $c$  a scalar. Note

$$(cf)(0) = c f(0) = c(0) = 0.$$

So  $cf$  is in  $H$ , and  $H$  is closed under scalar multiplication.

$H$  is a subspace of  $C^1(\mathbb{R})$ .

## Definition: Linear Combination and Span

**Definition** Let  $V$  be a vector space and  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p$  be a collection of vectors in  $V$ . A **linear combination** of the vectors is a vector  $\mathbf{u}$

$$\mathbf{u} = c_1\mathbf{v}_1 + c_2\mathbf{v}_2 + \cdots + c_p\mathbf{v}_p$$

for some scalars  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_p$ .

**Definition** The **span**,  $\text{Span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$ , is the subset of  $V$  consisting of all linear combinations of the vectors  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p$ .

# Theorem

**Theorem:** If  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p$ , for  $p \geq 1$ , are vectors in a vector space  $V$ , then  $\text{Span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$ , is a subspace of  $V$ .

**Remark** This is called the **subspace of  $V$  spanned by (or generated by)  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$** . Moreover, if  $H$  is any subspace of  $V$ , a **spanning set** for  $H$  is any set of vectors  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$  such that  $H = \text{Span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$ .

## Example

$M^{2 \times 2}$  denotes the set of all  $2 \times 2$  matrices with real entries. Consider the subset  $H$  of  $M^{2 \times 2}$

$$H = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & b \end{bmatrix} \mid a, b \in \mathbb{R} \right\}.$$

Show that  $H$  is a subspace of  $M^{2 \times 2}$  by finding a spanning set. That is, show that  $H = \text{Span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2\}$  for some appropriate vectors.

Let  $\begin{bmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & b \end{bmatrix}$  be any element of  $H$ .

We'll write this as a linear combination.

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & b \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & b \end{bmatrix}$$



$$= a \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + b \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

This is a linear combo of the two vectors  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ .

$$\text{So } H = \text{Span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

As a span of some set,  $H$  is a subspace of  $M^{2 \times 2}$ .

## Section 4.2: Null & Column Spaces, Linear Transformations

**Definition:** Let  $A$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix. The **null space** of  $A$ , denoted<sup>3</sup> by  $\text{Nul } A$ , is the set of all solutions of the homogeneous equation  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ . That is

$$\text{Nul } A = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}\}.$$

We can say that  $\text{Nul } A$  is the subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  that gets mapped to the zero vector under the linear transformation  $\mathbf{x} \mapsto A\mathbf{x}$ .

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<sup>3</sup>Some authors will write  $\text{Null}(A)$  with two ells.

## Example

Determine Nul  $A$  where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 7 \end{bmatrix}.$$

We have to characterize all vectors  $\vec{x}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  such that  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$ . We can use an augmented matrix  $[A \ \vec{0}]$ .

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 7 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{rref}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x_1 = -3x_3$$

$$x_2 = -2x_3$$

$x_3$  is free

$$A\vec{x} = \vec{0} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -3x_3 \\ -2x_3 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$= x_3 \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{Nul } A = \text{Span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$