

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 ¹
- 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)

¹This 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:

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

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

Show² that H is a subspace of $C^1(\mathbb{R})$.

We need to show that H has the three properties of a subspace.

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

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

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

Thus $f+g$ is in H , and H is closed

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

under vector addition.

③ Let f be in H , and c be a scalar.

$$\text{Then } (cf)(0) = cf(0) = c \cdot 0 = 0$$

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 2×2 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.

We'll take an element of H and write it as a linear combination.

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

This is a linear combo of the vectors

$$\vec{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \vec{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

Section 4.2: Null & Column Spaces, Linear Transformations

Definition: Let A be an $m \times n$ matrix. The **null space** of A , denoted³ 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 $\mathbf{x} \mapsto A\mathbf{x}$.

³Some 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 need to characterize vectors \vec{x} in \mathbb{R}^3 such that $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$. We can use row reduction on $[A \ \vec{0}]$.

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

$$x_1 = -3x_3$$

$$x_2 = -2x_3$$

x_3 - free

A vector \vec{x} in $\text{Nul } A$ is

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

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

Theorem

For $m \times n$ matrix A , $\text{Nul } A$ is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n .