

## 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.  $1\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}$

## Examples of Vector Spaces

For an integer  $n \geq 0$ ,  $\mathbb{P}_n$  denotes the set of all polynomials with real coefficients of degree at most  $n$ . That is

$$\mathbb{P}_n = \{\mathbf{p}(t) = p_0 + p_1 t + \cdots + p_n t^n \mid p_0, p_1, \dots, p_n \in \mathbb{R}\},$$

where addition<sup>1</sup> and scalar multiplication are defined by

$$(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q})(t) = \mathbf{p}(t) + \mathbf{q}(t) = (p_0 + q_0) + (p_1 + q_1)t + \cdots + (p_n + q_n)t^n,$$

$$(c\mathbf{p})(t) = c\mathbf{p}(t) = cp_0 + cp_1 t + \cdots + cp_n t^n.$$

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<sup>1</sup> $\mathbf{q}(t) = q_0 + q_1 t + \cdots + q_n t^n$

$\mathbb{P}_1$ 

Verify that  $\mathbb{P}_1$  is closed under vector addition and scalar multiplication.

A vector in  $\mathbb{P}_1$  looks like  $\vec{p}(t) = p_0 + p_1 t$ ,  $p_0, p_1$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

If  $\vec{p}, \vec{q}$  are in  $\mathbb{P}_1$  then  $\vec{p}(t) = p_0 + p_1 t$ ,  $\vec{q}(t) = q_0 + q_1 t$

$$(\vec{p} + \vec{q})(t) = \vec{p}(t) + \vec{q}(t) = (p_0 + q_0) + (p_1 + q_1)t$$

a polynomial of degree at most 1 so it's in  $\mathbb{P}_1$ .

For scalar  $c$ ,

$$(c\vec{p})(t) = c\vec{p}(t) = cp_0 + cp_1 t$$

a polynomial of degree at most 1 so it's in  $\mathbb{P}_1$ .

$\mathbb{P}_1$  is closed under vector addition and scalar multiplication as the operations are defined.

## Examples of Vector Spaces

Let  $V$  be the set of all differentiable, real valued functions  $f(x)$  defined for  $-\infty < x < \infty$  with the property that

$$f(0) = 0.$$

Define vector addition and scalar multiplication in the standard way for functions—i.e.

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

## Example

Verify that properties 1. and 6. hold.

Suppose  $f$  and  $g$  are in  $V$ . Then  $f$  and  $g$  are differentiable on  $(-\infty, \infty)$  and  $f(0) = 0$  and  $g(0) = 0$ .

$$(f+g)(x) = f(x) + g(x).$$

This is differentiable with domain  $(-\infty, \infty)$ .

$$\text{And } (f+g)(0) = f(0) + g(0) = 0 + 0 = 0.$$

Hence  $f+g$  is in  $V$  which is closed under

addition.

For scalar  $c$

$$(cf)(x) = cf(x).$$

This is differentiable with domain  $(-A_0, A_0)$ .

Also

$$(cf)(0) = cf(0) = c \cdot 0 = 0$$

So  $cf$  is in  $V$  which is closed under scalar multiplication.

## A set that is not a Vector Space

Let  $V = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}, \mid x \leq 0, y \leq 0 \right\}$  with regular vector addition and scalar multiplication in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . Note  $V$  is the third quadrant in the  $xy$ -plane.

(1) Does property 1. hold for  $V$ ?

Let  $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix}$  be in  $V$  so  $x \leq 0, y \leq 0, u \leq 0$   
and  $v \leq 0$ .

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x+u \\ y+v \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} u+x \leq 0 \\ \text{and} \\ y+v \leq 0 \end{array}$$

The sum is in  $V$ .  $V$  is closed under vector addition.



## A set that is not a Vector Space

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(2) Does property 6. hold for  $V$ ?

Let  $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$  be in  $V$  so  $x \leq 0$  and  $y \leq 0$

Is it necessary that  $c \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} cx \\ cy \end{bmatrix}$  will satisfy  $cx \leq 0, cy \leq 0$ ?

Note  $\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$  is in  $V$  but

$-2 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$  is not in  $V$ .  $V$  is not closed under scalar multiplication.

No

# Theorem

Let  $V$  be a vector space. For each  $\mathbf{u}$  in  $V$  and scalar  $c$

$$0\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$$

$$c\mathbf{0} = \mathbf{0}$$

$$-1\mathbf{u} = -\mathbf{u}$$

# 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>2</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>2</sup>This is sometimes replaced with the condition that  $H$  is nonempty.

## Example

Consider  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and let  $V = \text{Span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$  be a nonempty ( $p \geq 1$ ) subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Show that  $V$  is a subspace.

We need to show that  $V$  satisfies the 3 conditions of a subspace.

① Note  $\vec{0} = 0\vec{v}_1 + 0\vec{v}_2 + \dots + 0\vec{v}_p$  i.e.  $\vec{0}$  is in  $\text{span}\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p\}$ .  
 $\vec{0}$  is in  $V$ .

② If  $\vec{x}, \vec{u}$  are in  $V$  then

$$\vec{x} = c_1\vec{v}_1 + c_2\vec{v}_2 + \dots + c_p\vec{v}_p \quad \text{and}$$

$$\vec{u} = a_1\vec{v}_1 + a_2\vec{v}_2 + \dots + a_p\vec{v}_p \quad \text{for some}$$

scalars  $c_1, \dots, c_p$  and  $a_1, \dots, a_p$ .

$$\vec{x} + \vec{u} = (c_1 + a_1)\vec{v}_1 + (c_2 + a_2)\vec{v}_2 + \dots + (c_p + a_p)\vec{v}_p$$

Hence  $\vec{x} + \vec{u}$  is in  $V$  which is closed under vector addition.

③ For scalar  $k$

$$k\vec{x} = kc_1\vec{v}_1 + kc_2\vec{v}_2 + \dots + kc_p\vec{v}_p$$

Hence  $k\vec{x}$  is in  $V$  which is closed under scalar multiplication.

$V$  is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

## Example

Determine which of the following is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

(a) The set of all vectors of the form  $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, 0)$ .

① Note  $\vec{0} = (0, 0)$  has the right form, it's in this set.

② If  $\vec{u} = (u_1, 0)$  and  $\vec{v} = (v_1, 0)$ , then

$\vec{u} + \vec{v} = (u_1 + v_1, 0 + 0) = (u_1 + v_1, 0)$  has the right form. This set is closed under vector addition.

③ For scalar  $c$ ,  $c\vec{u} = (cu_1, c \cdot 0) = (cu_1, 0)$

The set is closed under scalar multiplication

The set is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

## Example continued

(b) The set of all vectors of the form  $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, 1)$ .

This is not a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ ,

In fact,  $\vec{0}$  is not in this set.

## 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.

Take  $\begin{bmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & b \end{bmatrix}$  in  $H$ , note

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

linear combination of  
constant vectors

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

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