

1 Vector Space

1.1 Vector Subspace

Definition 1 Let V be a vector space over the field F and let $W \subseteq V$. Then W will be a subspace of V if W itself is a vector space over F under the same compositions "addition of vectors" and "scalar multiplication" as in V .

Theorem 1 A non-empty subset W of a vector space V over a field F is a subspace of V if and only if

1. $\alpha, \beta \in W \Rightarrow \alpha + \beta \in W$.
2. $c \in F, \alpha \in W \Rightarrow c\alpha \in W$.

In the above theorem, we need two conditions to prove any subset of a vector space to be a subspace. Both the conditions of above theorem, can be merged in a single condition through which we can also show any subset of a vector space to be a subspace.

Theorem 2 A non-empty subset W of a vector space V over a field F is a subspace of V if and only if

$$c\alpha + d\beta \in W \quad \forall \quad c, d \in F, \text{ and } \alpha, \beta \in W.$$

Let us use these theorems for a subset to be a subspace of a vector space.

Example 1 Prove that the subset $W = \{(x, 2x, 3x) | x \in R\}$ of R^3 is a subspace of R^3 .

Proof 1 If we take $x = 0$, we see that $(0, 0, 0) \in W$, so W is non-empty. Now let $\alpha = (x, 2x, 3x)$ and $\beta = (y, 2y, 3y)$ be any two elements of W for $x \in R, y \in R$. Then

1.

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha + \beta &= (x + y, 2x + 2y, 3x + 3y) \\ &= ([x + y], 2[x + y], 3[x + y]) \\ &= (z, 2z, 3z) \in W \quad \text{if } z = x + y. \end{aligned}$$

2.

$$c\alpha = (cx, 2cx, 3cx) \in W \quad \text{for any scalar } c \in R.$$

Hence by Theorem 1, W is a subspace of R^3 .

Now let us try to prove W is a subspace of R^3 using Theorem 2.

Proof 2 Let c, d be any two real numbers (scalars) and let $\alpha = (x, 2x, 3x), \beta = (y, 2y, 3y)$ be any two elements of W for some $x \in R, y \in R$. Then,
 $c\alpha + d\beta = (cx, 2cx, 3cx) + (dy, 2dy, 3dy) = ([cx + dy], 2[cx + dy], 3[cx + dy]) \in W$
Hence W is a subspace of R^3

Note 1 Sometimes $V_3(R)$ is used for R^3 . Thus, $V_3(R)$ is a set of all triads or 3-tuples over the field R .

Example 2 Prove that the set of all solutions (a, b, c) of the equation $a + b + 2c = 0$ is a subspace of the vector space $V_3(R)$.

Proof: Let $W = \{(a, b, c) : a, b, c \in R \text{ and } a + b + 2c = 0\}$. We see that $(0, 0, 0)$ satisfies the equation $a + b + 2c = 0$, so atleast $(0, 0, 0) \in W$ and $W \neq \phi$. Let $\alpha = (a_1, b_1, c_1)$ and $\beta = (a_2, b_2, c_2)$ be any two elements

of W . Then

$$a_1 + b_1 + 2c_1 = 0 \quad (1)$$

$$\text{and } a_2 + b_2 + 2c_2 = 0 \quad (2)$$

If a, b be any two scalars in R , we have

$$\begin{aligned} a\alpha + b\beta &= a(a_1, b_1, c_1) + b(a_2, b_2, c_2) \\ &= (aa_1, ab_1, ac_1) + (ba_2, bb_2, bc_2) \\ &= (aa_1 + ba_2, ab_1 + bb_2, ac_1 + bc_2). \end{aligned}$$

Now W will be a subspace of $V_3(R)$ if $a\alpha + b\beta \in W$ i.e. $(aa_1 + ba_2, ab_1 + bb_2, ac_1 + bc_2)$ satisfies equation $a + b + 2c = 0$.

For this,

$$\begin{aligned} (aa_1 + ba_2) + (ab_1 + bb_2) + 2(ac_1 + bc_2) &= a(a_1 + b_1 + 2c_1) + b(a_2 + b_2 + 2c_2) \\ &= a \cdot 0 + b \cdot 0 \quad [\text{from (1) and (2)}] \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore a\alpha + b\beta = (aa_1 + ba_2, ab_1 + bb_2, ac_1 + bc_2) \in W$.

Thus for $\alpha, \beta \in W$ and $a, b \in R \rightarrow a\alpha + b\beta \in W$.

Hence W is a subspace of $V_3(R)$.

Problem 1 The set W of ordered triads $(a_1, a_2, 0)$, where $a_1, a_2 \in F$ is a subspace of $V_3(F)$.

Problem 2 If a_1, a_2, a_3 are fixed elements of a field F , then the set W of all ordered triads (x_1, x_2, x_3) of elements of F such that

$$a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + a_3x_3 = 0,$$

is a subspace of $V_3(F)$.

Theorem 3 The intersection of any two subspaces W_1 and W_2 of a vector space $V(F)$ is also a subspace of $V(F)$.

Proof: Since $0 \in W_1$ and $0 \in W_2$, therefore $0 \in W_1 \cap W_2 \Rightarrow W_1 \cap W_2 \neq \phi$.

In order to prove $W_1 \cap W_2$ a subspace, we need to show that for any $\alpha, \beta \in W_1 \cap W_2$ and $a, b \in F$, $a\alpha + b\beta \in W_1 \cap W_2$.

Let $\alpha, \beta \in W_1 \cap W_2 \Rightarrow \alpha, \beta \in W_1$ and $\alpha, \beta \in W_2$. Since W_1 is a subspace of a vector space $V(F)$ so for any scalars $a, b \in F$, we have $a\alpha + b\beta \in W_1$.

Similarly, W_2 is a subspace of a vector space $V(F)$, then for any scalars $a, b \in F$, we have $a\alpha + b\beta \in W_2$. This implies that $a\alpha + b\beta \in W_1 \cap W_2$. Thus for any $\alpha, \beta \in W_1 \cap W_2$ and $a, b \in F$, $a\alpha + b\beta \in W_1 \cap W_2$.

Hence $W_1 \cap W_2$ is a subspace of $V(F)$.

1.2 Linear combination of vectors

Definition 2 Let $V(F)$ be a vector space. If $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n \in V$, then any vector

$$X = c_1X_1 + c_2X_2 + \dots + c_nX_n \text{ where } c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n \in F$$

is called a linear combination of the vectors X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n . We also say that the vector X is generated by the vectors X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n .

1.3 Linear dependence and linear independence

Definition 3 Let V be a vector space over the field F and let $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n \in V$. We say that the vectors X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n or the set $\{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n\}$ is linearly dependent if there exist scalars c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n not all of them 0 (some of them may be zero) such that

$$c_1X_1 + c_2X_2 + \dots + c_nX_n = O$$

Definition 4 If the vectors X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are not linearly dependent over F , then they are said to be linearly independent over F .

Example 3 Prove that if two vectors are linearly dependent, one of them is a scalar multiple of the other.

or

Prove that the set $\{X_1, X_2\}$ of two vectors is linearly dependent if X_1 and X_2 are collinear.

Proof: Let X_1 and X_2 are linearly dependent. Then there exist scalars c_1 and c_2 , (not both zero) such that

$$c_1X_1 + c_2X_2 = O$$

If $c_1 \neq 0$, then we can have $X_1 = (-\frac{c_2}{c_1})X_2$,

If $c_2 \neq 0$, then we can have $X_2 = (-\frac{c_1}{c_2})X_1$

Thus one of the vector is scalar multiple of the other.

Conversely, let out of the two vectors, one is a scalar multiple of the other. Then $X_1 = cX_2$, for some scalar c . This implies that $1X_1 - cX_2 = O$, which shows that X_1 and X_2 are linearly dependent because both the scalars 1 and c are not zero.

Problem 3 The set $\{e_1, e_2\}$, where $e_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and $e_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ is a linearly independent set of vectors of R^2 .

Problem 4 Examine whether the following vectors $(1, 2, 3)$, $(0, 1, 2)$ and $(0, 0, 1)$ are linearly dependent or linearly independent.

Problem 5 Are the vectors $X_1 = (1, 0, 1, 2)$, $X_2 = (0, 1, 1, 2)$ and $X_3 = (1, 1, 1, 3)$ in R^4 linearly dependent or linearly independent?

Problem 6 Are the vectors $X_1 = (1, 2, -1)$, $X_2 = (1, -2, 1)$, $X_3 = (-3, 2, -1)$ and $X_4 = (2, 0, 0)$ linearly dependent or linearly independent?

Problem 7 The set $\{(1, 0, 0), (0, 1, 0), (0, 0, 1)\}$ of vectors of vector space $V_3(R)$ is linearly independent.

Problem 8 Find the value of x for which the set $\{(1, -2), (x, -4)\}$ is linearly dependent.

Problem 9 Determine whether each of the following subsets of R^3 is linearly independent.

i. $\{(1, 2, 3), (2, 3, 1), (3, 1, 2)\}$

ii. $\{(1, 2, 3), (2, 3, 1), (-3, -4, 1)\}$

iii. $\{(-2, 7, 0), (4, 17, 2), (5, -2, 1)\}$

iv. $\{(1, 2, 3), (2, 3, 1)\}$

Problem 10 Determine whether each of the following subsets of P (set of all polynomials) is linearly independent.

I. $\{3, x + 1, x^2, x^2 + 2x + 5\}$

II. $\{x^2, x^2 + 1\}$

III. $\{1, x^2, x^3, x^2 + 1\}$

IV. $\{(1, 2, 3), (2, 3, 1)\}$

1.4 Basis

Definition 5 A subset S of a vector space $V(F)$ is called a basis of $V(F)$ if

1. S can generate every vector of $V(F)$
2. S is linearly independent.

Example 4 The set $\{(1, 0, 0), (0, 1, 0), (0, 0, 1)\}$ of vectors form a basis of the vector space $V_3(R)$. This is known as the standard basis of R^3 .

Theorem 4 If one basis of a vector space contains n vectors, then all of its basis will contain n vectors.

Theorem 5 If a basis of a vector space contains n vectors, then any set containing more than n vectors is linearly dependent.

Theorem 6 (Existence of a basis) Every non-zero vector space has always a basis.

Note 2 A vector space may have more than one basis. The zero vector space o has no basis.

Problem 11 Determine whether or not the vectors $(1, 2, 1)$, $(2, 1, 0)$, $(1, -1, 2)$ form a basis of R^3 .

Problem 12 Determine whether or not the vectors $(0, 1, 0)$, $(1, 0, 1)$, $(1, 1, 0)$ form a basis of R^3 .

1.5 Dimension of a vector space

Definition 6 By the dimension of a vector space $V(F)$, we mean the number of vectors in a basis of $V(F)$. It is denoted by $\dim V$.

Example 5 The set $\{(1, 0), (0, 1)\}$ of vectors form a basis of the vector space \mathbb{R}^2 . The dimension of \mathbb{R}^2 is 2 i.e. $\dim \mathbb{R}^2 = 2$, because the number of vectors in this basis are two.

Example 6 The set $\{(1, 0, 0), (0, 1, 0), (0, 0, 1)\}$ of vectors form a basis of the vector space \mathbb{R}^3 . The dimension of \mathbb{R}^3 is 3 i.e. $\dim \mathbb{R}^3 = 3$, because the number of vectors in this basis are three.

Note 3 The dimension of the zero vector space is zero because the zero vector space $\{0\}$ has no basis.