

## Sect 4.1 Vector spaces and vector subspaces

Def A real vector space  $V$  is a collection of objects on which two operations have been defined: for  $u, v$  in  $V$  and  $c$  real number  $u, v \mapsto u+v$  in  $V$  and  $c, u \mapsto cu$  in  $V$ . The operations must satisfy the following eight properties (axioms):

1.  $u+v = v+u$  for any  $u, v$  in  $V$ ;
2.  $(u+v)+w = u+(v+w)$  for any  $u, v, w$  in  $V$ ;
3. there exist  $0$  in  $V$  such that
 
$$0+u = u+0 = u \text{ for any } u \text{ in } V$$
4. for any  $u$  in  $V$  there exists  $-u$  in  $V$  such that  $(-u)+u = u+(-u) = 0$ ;
5.  $(cd)u = c(dv)$  for any  $c, d$  in  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $u$  in  $V$ ;
6.  $(c+d)u = cu+du$  for any  $c, d$  in  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $u$  in  $V$ ;
7.  $c(u+v) = cu+cv$  for any  $c$  in  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $u, v$  in  $V$ ;
8.  $1 \cdot u = u$  for any  $u$  in  $V$ .

Examples  $\mathbb{R}^n$  (for  $n=1, 2, 3, \dots$ ), the collection of all polynomials with the standard addition

and multiplication by a constant.

- The collection of all real valued functions defined on an interval with the standard addition of two functions and multiplication of a function by a constant.

Remark We will see that based solely on the eight properties in the definition, vector spaces have rich properties. These properties are common to all vector spaces and that is what makes vector spaces a powerful tool in science.

For example for any  $U$  in  $V$  we have

$$9. \quad \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{number}}}{0} \cdot \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{vector}}}{U} = \mathbf{0}$$

$$10. \quad (-1) \cdot U = -U$$

9. follows from:

$$0U = (0+0)U \stackrel{6.}{=} 0U + 0U$$

adding  $-0U$  which exists by 3. we get

$$0 = 0U$$

10. follows from

$$0 \stackrel{a.}{=} 0U = (1+(-1))U \stackrel{6.}{=} U + (-1)U$$

adding  $(-U)$  we get

$$-U = (-U) + 0 = ((-U) + U) + (-1)U = (-1)U$$

Def  $V_1$  is a subspace of a real vector space  $V$  if and only if  $V_1$  is a nonempty subset of  $V$  and:

(i) for any  $u, v$  in  $V_1$  we have  $u+v$  is in  $V_1$

(ii) for any  $u$  in  $V_1$  and  $c$  in  $\mathbb{R}$  we have  $c u$  is in  $V_1$

Examples A line or a plane are subspaces of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , polynomials of degree at most 3 form a subspace of the vector space of all polynomials, polynomials are a subspace of the vector space of all real valued functions defined on the real line.

Remark Because a subspace  $V_1$  is closed under addition and multiplication ((i) and (ii) in the definition) it becomes itself a real vector space. In other words  $V_1$  satisfies 1.-8. In practice, to show that  $V_1$  is a vector space one can replace checking 1.-8. with identifying  $V_1$  with a subset of a known vector space  $V$  and checking (i)-(ii).

For example:

- we know the collection of all polynomials is a subset of the collection of all real valued functions of real variable

- we know that the real valued functions of real variable form a vector space

- we deduce:

- sum of two polynomials is a polynomial

- a number times a polynomial is a polynomial

- we deduce that polynomials form a vector space.

of vectors

Problem Check whether the set  $V_1 \wedge \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}$  with

$a+2b+3c=0$  is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^3$

Check (i) Let  $\begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ b_1 \\ c_1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} a_2 \\ b_2 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix}$  be in  $V_1$

$$\text{then } \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ b_1 \\ c_1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} a_2 \\ b_2 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 + a_2 \\ b_1 + b_2 \\ c_1 + c_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{and } (a_1 + a_2) + 2(b_1 + b_2) + 3(c_1 + c_2) = a_1 + 2b_1 + 3c_1 + a_2 + 2b_2 + 3c_2 = 0 + 0 = 0.$$

properties of real #  
⇓  
↑  $\begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ b_1 \\ c_1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} a_2 \\ b_2 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix}$  are in  $V_1$

So  $\begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ b_1 \\ c_1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} a_2 \\ b_2 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix}$  is in  $V_1$  and (i) check.

Check (ii) Let  $d$  in  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}$  in  $V_1$  then

$$d \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} da \\ db \\ dc \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and}$$

$$da + 2db + 3dc \stackrel{\text{properties of real \#}}{=} d(a + 2b + 3c) = d \cdot 0 = 0$$

↑  $\begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}$  in  $V_1$

So  $d \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}$  is in  $V_1$  and (ii) checks