

Vector Space Over a Field:

Definition of Field: A nonempty set (F) equipped with two binary operations called addition $(+)$ and multiplication $(\cdot)$ is said to be a field if it satisfies the following properties—

- i) $x + y = y + x \quad \forall x, y \in F$
- ii) $x + (y + z) = (x + y) + z \quad \forall x, y, z \in F$
- iii) $\exists$ a unique element $0 \in F$ (called additive identity) such that,
 $x + 0 = x \quad \forall x \in F$
- iv) For every $x \in F \exists$ a unique element $x' \in F$ such that
 $x + x' = 0$ [x' is denoted by $(-x)$ also]
- v) $xy = yx \quad \forall x, y \in F$
- vi) $x(yz) = (xy)z \quad \forall x, y, z \in F$
- vii) $\exists$ a unique element $1 \in F$ such that $x1 = x \quad \forall x \in F$
- viii) For every nonempty $x \in F \exists$ an unique element $x' \in F$ such that
 $x \cdot x' = 1$ [x' is denoted by x^{-1} also]

ix) Multiplication is distributive over addition.

$$\text{i.e. } x(y+z) = xy + xz \quad \forall x, y, z \in F$$

Thus we can say that, $(F, +)$ is an additive group and $(F^*, \cdot)$ are commutative group and addition is distributive over multiplication.

For example, $(\mathbb{R}, +, \cdot)$, $(\mathbb{C}, +, \cdot)$,
 $(\mathbb{Q}, +, \cdot)$.

Definition of vector space:

A vector space (or linear space) V over a field F consists of a set on which two operations (called addition and scalar multiplication respectively) are defined so that for each pair of elements x, y in V there is a unique element $x+y$ in V and for each element α in F and each element x in V there is a unique element αx in V , such that the following condition holds,

- 1) $\forall x, y$ in V , $x+y = y+x$
- 2) $\forall x, y, z$ in V , $(x+y)+z = x+(y+z)$
- 3) additive identity
- 4) additive inverse
- 5) for each element x in V ,
 $1x = x$.
- 6) for each pair of elements a, b in F and each element x in V ,
 $(ab)x = a(bx)$
- 7) for each element a in F and each pair of elements x, y in V ,
 $a(x+y) = ax + ay$
8. for each pair of elements a, b in F and each element x in V ,
 $(a+b)x = ax + bx$.

The elements of F are called scalars and elements of V are called vectors. The product, ax , for $a \in F$ and $x \in V$ is called external product.

Examples:

1) The set of n -tuples with entries from a field F is denoted by F^n . F^n is a vector space over the field F .

2) The set of all $m \times n$ matrices with entries from a field F is a vector space over F is denoted by $M_{m \times n}(F)$.

3) The space of function from a set to a field:

Let S be a nonempty set and F be a field. $F(S, F)$ denote the set of all functions from S to F . Let $f, g \in F(S, F)$ then $f+g$ is defined by,

$$(f+g)(s) = f(s) + g(s)$$

~~and~~ The product of the scalar c and the function f is defined by,

$$(cf)(s) = c \cdot f(s).$$

This is a vector space over the field F .

4. Space of polynomial function over F :
 V is the set of all elements f such that $f: F \rightarrow F$ and

$$f(x) = c_0 + c_1x + \dots + c_nx^n,$$

$c_i \in F$ independent of x . f is called polynomial function and V is set of all polynomial over F . This is a vector space over F .

5. Set of complex numbers:

Set of all complex numbers
is a vector space over the field of real
number.

⊗ $\mathbb{C}^n$ is also a vector space over $\mathbb{R}$
and $\mathbb{C}$,

⊗ $\mathbb{R}^n$ is a vector space over $\mathbb{R}$.

Theorem: In vector space V , the
following statements are true:

i) $0x = 0$ for each $x \in V$
ii) $(-a)x = -(ax) = a(-x)$ for each
 $a \in F$ and $x \in V$.

iii) $a0 = 0$ for each $a \in F$.

Proof

Subspace: Let V be vector space over the field F . A subspace of V is a subset W of V which is itself a vector space over F with operations of vector addition and scalar multiplication on V .

Note: For any vector space V over a field F , V and $\{0\}$ are subspaces of V . These vector spaces are called zero space or null space.

Theorem 1: A nonempty subset W of V is a subspace of V if and only if for each pair of vectors α, β in W and each scalar c in F the vector $c\alpha + \beta$ is again in W .

Hint: ① $\alpha \in W \Rightarrow$

$$(-1)\alpha + \alpha = 0 \in W$$

$$c\alpha + 0 \in W$$

$$\Rightarrow c\alpha \in W$$

$$(-1)\alpha \in W$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha = \alpha$$

$$\alpha + \beta =$$

Example:

$n \times n$ - symmetric matrix.

Solution: If W is a subspace of V then $c\alpha \in W$, $\forall c \in F$ and $\alpha \in W$, $c\alpha + \beta \in W$, $\forall \alpha, \beta \in W$, by definition of subspace.

conversely, suppose that

$$c\alpha + \beta \in W \quad \forall c \in F, \alpha, \beta \in W$$

Let $\alpha \in W$, $-1 \in F$, ~~then~~

$$\text{Then } (-1)\alpha + \alpha = -\alpha + \alpha = 0 \in W$$

Again for any scalar $c \in F$,

$$c\alpha = c\alpha + 0 \in W$$

Again for $\alpha, \beta \in W$, $1\alpha + \beta = \alpha + \beta \in W$

Note: We should note that to prove that a subset of V is a subspace we need ~~to~~ not to verify all the properties of vector space, because some properties automatically follow. We only have to check that,
additive identity i.e. $0 \in W$,
 W is closed w.r.t addition,
and W is closed w.r.t external multiplication.

Examples:

1. Set of all symmetric $n \times n$ matrices over the field F is a subspace of $M_{n \times n}(F)$.
2. Considering degree of zero polynomial to be -1 , the set of all polynomial of degree less or equal to n $[P_n(F)]$ is a subspace of $\mathcal{P}(F)$ [Set of all polynomial over F]
3. $C(\mathbb{R})$ denotes the set of all real valued continuous function and $F(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$ denotes the set of real valued functions. Show that $C(\mathbb{R})$ is a subspace of $F(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$.
4. Show that set of all diagonal matrices over F is a subspace of $M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{R})$.
5. $\text{tr}(M) = M_{11} + M_{22} + \dots + M_{nn}$,
i.e. sum of all diagonal elements.
The set of all $n \times n$ matrices with trace 0 is a subspace of $M_{n \times n}$.
6. An $n \times n$ matrix A over the field of complex number is said to be Hermitian if $A_{jk} = \overline{A_{kj}}$ for each j, k . The bar denotes the complex conjugate. Set of all Hermitian matrix over $\mathbb{C}$ is not a subspace of the vector space $\mathbb{C}$ but a vector space of $\mathbb{R}$.

□ Theorem: Let V be a vector space over the field F . The intersection of any collection of subspaces of V is a subspace of V .

Proof: Let $\{W_i\}$ be a collection of subspaces of V and $W = \bigcap W_i$ be their intersection.

Since each W_i is a subspace of V then each W_i contains 0 . Hence $0 \in W$. Thus W is nonempty. If $W = \{0\}$ then W is a ~~set~~ zero subspace of V .

Again if $W \neq \{0\}$ then suppose that, $\alpha, \beta \in W$ and $c \in F$.

$\Rightarrow \alpha, \beta \in W_i$ for each i .

Hence $c\alpha + \beta \in W_i$ for each i .

$\Rightarrow c\alpha + \beta \in \bigcap W_i = W$

$\Rightarrow c\alpha + \beta \in W$.

Thus by necessary sufficient condition of subspace we can say that $W = \bigcap W_i$ is a subspace of V over the field F .

□ Corollary: If W_1, W_2 be two subspaces of V a vector space V over the field F then $W_1 \cap W_2$ is a subspace of V .

□ Note: $W_1 \cap W_2$ is the largest subspace of V contained in both W_1 and W_2 .

☐ Show that by an example, the union of two subspaces of V may not be a subspace of V .

Example: Let V be the set of all 2×2 matrices over the field of real numbers.

W_1 = Set of all 2×2 symmetric matrices

W_2 = Set of all 2×2 matrices with trace = 0.

Let $\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in W_1$, $\beta = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 5 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \in W_2$

~~$\alpha + \beta$~~ $\therefore \alpha, \beta \in W_1 \cup W_2$.

Now, $\alpha + \beta = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 3 \\ 5 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$.

$\Rightarrow \alpha + \beta \notin W_1$ and $\alpha + \beta \notin W_2$.

Thus $\alpha + \beta \notin W_1 \cup W_2$.

Thus $W_1 \cup W_2$ is not a subspace.

☐ Theorem: If W_1 and W_2 be two subspaces of V then $W_1 \cup W_2$ is also a subspace of V if and only if $W_1 \subset W_2$ or $W_2 \subset W_1$.

Solution: Let $W_1 \cup W_2$ is a subspace of V .

We prove that either $W_1 \subset W_2$ or $W_2 \subset W_1$.

i.e. either $W_1 - W_2 = \emptyset$ or $W_2 - W_1 = \emptyset$.

Let us assume that $W_1 - W_2 \neq \emptyset$ and $W_2 - W_1 \neq \emptyset$.

Hence there exist $\alpha \in W_1 - W_2$ and $\beta \in W_2 - W_1$.

Hence $\alpha \in W_1$ and $\alpha \notin W_2$

$\beta \in W_2$ and $\beta \notin W_1$

Again $\alpha \in W_1 \Rightarrow \alpha \in W_1 \cup W_2$

$\beta \in W_2 \Rightarrow \beta \in W_1 \cup W_2$

$\alpha + \beta \in W_1 \cup W_2$, Since $W_1 \cup W_2$ is a subspace of V .

This implies either $\alpha + \beta \in W_1$ or $\alpha + \beta \in W_2$.

If $\alpha + \beta \in W_2$ then,

$\alpha + \beta, \alpha \in W_2$

$\Rightarrow (\alpha + \beta) + (-\alpha) \in W_2$

$\Rightarrow \beta \in W_2$, this is a contradiction.

Similarly, if $\alpha + \beta \in W_1$ then $\alpha \in W_1$, which is a contradiction.

Hence our assumption that $W_1 - W_2 \neq \emptyset$ and $W_2 - W_1 \neq \emptyset$ is not true.

Therefore either $W_1 - W_2 = \emptyset$ or $W_2 - W_1 = \emptyset$
i.e. $W_1 \subset W_2$ or $W_2 \subset W_1$.

Conversely,

If $W_1 \subset W_2$ then $W_1 \cup W_2 = W_2$, is a subspace of V .

If $W_2 \subset W_1$, then $W_1 \cup W_2 = W_1$, is a subspace of V .