

Exercise Sheet for Maths Material Covered in Week 8

Vector Spaces: Definition, Examples, Span, Linear (in)dependence

- (1) Consider the vector space \mathbb{Q}^2 of 2-tuples of rational numbers over the field \mathbb{Q} of rational numbers. Show that if $\vec{u} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\vec{v} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ then $\text{Span}(\vec{u}, \vec{v}) = \mathbb{Q}^2$.

Comment: You need to show that $\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} \in \text{Span}(\vec{u}, \vec{v})$ for every $a, b \in \mathbb{Q}$.

- (2) Consider the vector space \mathbb{Q}^3 of 3-tuples of rational numbers over the field \mathbb{Q} of rational numbers. Show that $\vec{w} \notin \text{Span}(\vec{u}, \vec{v})$ where $\vec{w} = \begin{pmatrix} 9 \\ 27 \\ 35 \end{pmatrix}$, $\vec{u} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\vec{v} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 6 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix}$.

- (3) Let V be a vector space over a field F . Let \vec{u}, \vec{v} be any two vectors in V . Recall that $\text{Span}(\vec{u}, \vec{v}) = \{r\vec{u} \oplus s\vec{v} \mid r, s \in F\}$. Verify that $\text{Span}(\vec{u}, \vec{v})$ is a vector space over F .

Comment: First define for $\text{Span}(\vec{u}, \vec{v})$ the two operations of (i) vector addition, and (ii) multiplication of a scalar with a vector. Each of the 8 conditions in the definition of vector space over a field now needs to be verified. You can use any of the 8 conditions available due to V being a vector space over the field F .

- (4) Consider the vector space \mathbb{Q}^3 of 3-tuples of rational numbers over the field \mathbb{Q} of rational numbers. Let $\vec{u} = \begin{pmatrix} 9 \\ 17 \\ 135 \end{pmatrix}$, $\vec{v} = \begin{pmatrix} 19 \\ 27 \\ 100 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\vec{w} = \begin{pmatrix} 28 \\ 44 \\ 235 \end{pmatrix}$. Are the vectors $\vec{u}, \vec{v}, \vec{w}$ linearly independent?

Comment: Does the observation $\vec{u} \oplus \vec{v} = \vec{w}$ help you?