

# Vector Spaces and Subspaces

## Linear Algebra

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# Introduction

We have seen that **vector addition** and **scalar multiplication** are key concepts for **linear** algebra:

- ▶ linear combinations,
- ▶ vector equations (linear systems and matrix equations),
- ▶ linear transformations.

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- ▶ linear transformations.

So far our vectors have been vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

We will now generalize “**vectors**” to be any objects that we can **add** and do **scalar mult**.

# Vector Spaces

A **vector space** is a nonempty set  $V$  of objects called **vectors** on which we define two operations, called **addition** and **scalar multiplication**, for which the following properties hold for **all vectors**  $\mathbf{u}$ ,  $\mathbf{v}$ , and  $\mathbf{w}$  in  $V$  and **all scalars**  $c$  and  $d$ :

1. **Closed under addition:**

$$\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} \text{ is in } V.$$

2. **Addition is commutative:**

$$\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{u}$$

3. **Addition is associative:**

$$(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) + \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w})$$

4. **Additive identity (zero vector):**

There exists  $\mathbf{0}$  in  $V$  such that  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{u}$ .

5. **Additive inverse:** For each  $\mathbf{u}$  in  $V$ , there exists a  $-\mathbf{u}$  in  $V$  where  $\mathbf{u} + (-\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{0}$ .

6. **Closed under scalar multiplication:**

$$c\mathbf{u} \text{ is in } V.$$

7. **Distributive property 2:**

$$(c + d)\mathbf{u} = c\mathbf{u} + d\mathbf{u}$$

8. **Distributive property 1:**

$$c(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = c\mathbf{u} + c\mathbf{v}$$

9. **Scalar multiplication is associative:**

$$c(d\mathbf{u}) = (cd)\mathbf{u}$$

10. **Multiplicative identity:**

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

# Examples

$V = \mathbb{R}^2$  with usual vector addition and scalar multiplication.

1.  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$  is in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

2.  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{u}$

3.  $(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) + \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w})$

4.  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{u}$ .

5.  $\mathbf{u} + (-\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{0}$ .

6.  $c\mathbf{u}$  is in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

7.  $c(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = c\mathbf{u} + c\mathbf{v}$

8.  $(c + d)\mathbf{u} = c\mathbf{u} + d\mathbf{u}$

9.  $c(d\mathbf{u}) = (cd)\mathbf{u}$

10.  $1\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}$

## Examples

$V = \mathbb{P}_2$  denote the set of all polynomials of degree at most two, with the usual operations.

$$V = \{a_2x^2 + a_1x + a_0 : a_2, a_1, a_0 \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

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$$V = \{a_2x^2 + a_1x + a_0 : a_2, a_1, a_0 \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

1.  $(a_2x^2 + a_1x + a_0) + (b_2x^2 + b_1x + b_0) = (a_2 + b_2)x^2 + (a_1 + b_1)x + (a_0 + b_0)$
2.  $f(x) + g(x) = g(x) + f(x)$
3.  $(f(x) + g(x)) + h(x) = f(x) + (g(x) + h(x))$
4.  $\mathbf{0} = 0x^2 + 0x + 0 = 0$
5.  $-f(x) = -a_2x^2 - a_1x - a_0$
6.  $cf(x) = ca_2x^2 + ca_1x + ca_0$  in  $\mathbb{P}_2$
7.  $c(f(x) + g(x)) = cf(x) + cg(x)$
8.  $(c + d)f(x) = cf(x) + df(x)$
9.  $c(df(x)) = (cd)f(x)$
10.  $1f(x) = f(x)$

# Is it a Vector Space?

$V = \mathbb{R}^3$  with usual scalar multiplication and  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 + v_2 \\ u_2 + v_2 \\ u_3 + v_2 \end{bmatrix}$ .



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1.  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$  is in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

$$\begin{aligned} 2. \quad \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} &= \begin{bmatrix} u_1 + v_1 & u_2 + v_2 & u_3 + v_2 \end{bmatrix} \\ \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{u} &= \begin{bmatrix} v_1 + u_1 & v_2 + u_2 & v_3 + u_2 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 3. \quad (\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) + \mathbf{w} &= [(u_1 + v_1) + w_1 & (u_2 + v_2) + w_2 & (u_3 + v_2) + w_3] \\ \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}) &= [u_1 + (v_1 + w_1) & u_2 + (v_2 + w_2) & u_3 + (v_2 + w_3)] \end{aligned}$$

$$4. \quad \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{u}, \text{ then } \mathbf{0} = \begin{bmatrix} a & 0 & b \end{bmatrix}.$$

5.  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$  has no additive inverse.

6.  $c\mathbf{u}$  is in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

$$\begin{aligned} 7. \quad c(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) &= [c(u_1 + v_1) & c(u_2 + v_2) & c(u_3 + v_2)] \\ c\mathbf{u} + c\mathbf{v} &= [cu_1 + cv_1 & cu_2 + cv_2 & cu_3 + cv_2] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 8. \quad (c + d)\mathbf{u} &= [(c + d)u_1 & (c + d)u_2 & (c + d)u_3] \\ c\mathbf{u} + d\mathbf{u} &= [cu_1 + du_1 & cu_2 + du_2 & cu_3 + du_2] \end{aligned}$$

$$9. \quad c(d\mathbf{u}) = (cd)\mathbf{u}$$

$$10. \quad 1\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}$$

# Uniqueness of Zero Vector and Additive Inverse

If  $V$  is a vector space, then there exists a unique zero vector  $\mathbf{0}$ .

**Proof.** Suppose  $\mathbf{w}$  in  $V$  with  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{u}$  for all  $\mathbf{u}$  in  $V$ .  
Thus, if  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$ , then we have  $\mathbf{0} + \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0}$ , and so  $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0}$ .

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If  $V$  is a vector space, then for each  $\mathbf{u}$  in  $V$  there exists a unique additive inverse  $-\mathbf{u}$ .

**Proof.** Suppose for  $\mathbf{u}$  in  $V$ ,  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{z}$ .  
Add  $\mathbf{z}$  to both sides of  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0}$ .  $\implies \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{z}$ .

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3.  $(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) + \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{v} + (\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{w})$

4.  $\mathbf{0} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ .

5.  $-\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} -u_1 \\ -u_2 \\ -u_3 \end{bmatrix}$

6.  $c\mathbf{u}$  is in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

7.  $c(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = \begin{bmatrix} -c(u_1 + v_1) & -c(u_2 + v_2) & -c(u_3 + v_3) \end{bmatrix}$   
 $c\mathbf{u} + c\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} -cu_1 - cv_1 & -cu_2 - cv_2 & -cu_3 - cv_3 \end{bmatrix}$

8.  $(c + d)\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} -(c + d)u_1 & -(c + d)u_2 & -(c + d)u_3 \end{bmatrix}$   
 $c\mathbf{u} + d\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} -cu_1 - du_1 & -cu_2 - du_2 & -cu_3 - du_3 \end{bmatrix}$

9.  $c(d\mathbf{u}) \neq (cd)\mathbf{u}$

10. Multiplicative identity fails since  $1\mathbf{u} \neq \mathbf{u}$ .

# Is it a Vector Space?

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Let  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  denote  $3 \times 3$  matrices and  $c$  and  $d$  scalars.

1.  $A + B$  is a  $3 \times 3$  matrix.

2.  $A + B = B + A$

3.  $(A + B) + C = A + (B + C)$

4.  $\mathbf{0} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

5.  $-A = \begin{bmatrix} -a_{11} & -a_{12} & -a_{13} \\ -a_{21} & -a_{22} & -a_{23} \\ -a_{31} & -a_{32} & -a_{33} \end{bmatrix}$

6.  $cA$  is a  $3 \times 3$  matrix.

7.  $c(A + B) = cA + cB$

8.  $(c + d)A = cA + dA$

9.  $(cd)A = c(dA)$

10.  $1A = A$

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$V$  is all  $3 \times 3$  matrices with **determinant 1**.

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6.  $c\mathbf{u}$  is in  $V$ .
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1.  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$  is in  $V$ .    **No!**  $\det(I + I) = 2^3$
2.  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{u}$
3.  $(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) + \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w})$
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No!

Addition is not commutative:  $\sin(x^2) \neq (\sin x)^2$ .

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So **not** closed under addition!

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# Subspaces

## Definition

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Some of the vector space properties are satisfied for  $H$  since  $V$  is a vector space.

If a subset  $H$  of a vector space  $V$  has the following three properties, it is a **subspace**.

1. **Nonempty.** There exists some vector  $\mathbf{u}$  in  $H$ .
2. **Closed under vector addition.** If  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  are both in  $H$ , then their sum  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$  is in  $H$ .
3. **Closed under scalar multiplication.** If  $\mathbf{u}$  is in  $H$ , then for all scalars  $c$ ,  $c\mathbf{u}$  is in  $H$ .

Let  $V = \mathbb{R}^3$  with usual operations. Consider the subset  $H = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} : x, y \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$ .

# The Zero Vector and Additive Inverses

## Theorem

Let  $V$  be a vector space. For any vector  $\mathbf{u}$  in  $V$ ,  $0\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$ .

Thus, nonempty plus closure of scalar mult implies that the zero vector is in a subspace.

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**Proof.** Note that  $0\mathbf{u} = (0 + 0)\mathbf{u} = 0\mathbf{u} + 0\mathbf{u}$ . Subtracting  $0\mathbf{u}$  from both sides, we have  $\mathbf{0} = 0\mathbf{u}$ .

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**Proof.** Note that  $\mathbf{0} = 0\mathbf{u} = (1 - 1)\mathbf{u} = 1\mathbf{u} + (-1)\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u} + (-1)\mathbf{u}$ .

Since the additive inverse is unique,  $(-1)\mathbf{u} = -\mathbf{u}$ .

# Is it a Subspace?

1. Nonempty.
2. Closed under addition.
3. Closed under scalar mult.

Let  $V = \mathbb{R}^4$  with usual operations.

$$H = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2a + 3b \\ -d \\ 0 \\ 6c + 2a - b \end{bmatrix} : a, b, c, d \text{ in } \mathbb{R} \right\}.$$



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1.  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  is in  $H$ .

2. 
$$\begin{bmatrix} 2a_1 + 3b_1 \\ -d_1 \\ 0 \\ 6c_1 + 2a_1 - b_1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 2a_2 + 3b_2 \\ -d_2 \\ 0 \\ 6c_2 + 2a_2 - b_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2(a_1 + a_2) + 3(b_1 + b_2) \\ -(d_1 + d_2) \\ 0 \\ 6(c_1 + c_2) + 2(a_1 + a_2) - (b_1 + b_2) \end{bmatrix}.$$

3. 
$$k \begin{bmatrix} 2a + 3b \\ -d \\ 0 \\ 6c + 2a - b \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2(ka) + 3(kb) \\ -(kd) \\ 0 \\ 6(kc) + 2(ka) - (kb) \end{bmatrix}.$$

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So  $H$  is a **subspace** of  $\mathbb{R}^4$ .

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$$H = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 3a + b \\ a + 5 \\ 2a - 5b \end{bmatrix} : a, b \text{ in } \mathbb{R} \right\}.$$

# Is it a Subspace?

1. Nonempty.
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1. Nonempty:  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 5 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  is in  $H$ .

2. Consider  $\begin{bmatrix} 3(3) + 0 \\ 3 + 5 \\ 2(3) - 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 + 1 \\ 0 + 5 \\ 0 - 5(1) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 10 \\ 13 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3(3) + 1 \\ 3 + 10 \\ 2(3) - 5(1) \end{bmatrix}$  is NOT in  $H$ .

3. If  $k = 0$ , then  $k\mathbf{h} = \mathbf{0}$  is NOT in  $H$ . We need  $a = -5$ , which means  $b = 15$ . This gives  $2a - 5b = -10 - 75 = -85$ . We cannot find values for  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  in  $\mathbb{R}$  such that  $\mathbf{0}$  is in  $H$ .

# The Span of a Set of Vectors

## Theorem

Let  $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p$  be vectors from a vector space  $V$ . Then  $\text{Span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$  is a **subspace** of  $V$ .

- ▶ We call  $\text{Span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$  the **subspace spanned by  $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p$** .
- ▶ Given any subspace of  $H$  of  $V$ , a **spanning set for  $H$**  is a set  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$  in  $H$  such that  $H = \text{Span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$ .

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**Proof.**

1.  $\mathbf{0} = 0\mathbf{v}_1 + 0\mathbf{v}_2 + \dots + 0\mathbf{v}_p$  is in  $\text{Span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$ . So  $\text{Span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$  is nonempty.

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$$\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} = (a_1 + b_1)\mathbf{v}_1 + (a_2 + b_2)\mathbf{v}_2 + \dots + (a_p + b_p)\mathbf{v}_p.$$
 So  $\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y}$  is in  $\text{Span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$ .

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 So  $\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y}$  is in  $\text{Span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$ .
3. Let  $\mathbf{x} = a_1\mathbf{v}_1 + a_2\mathbf{v}_2 + \dots + a_p\mathbf{v}_p$ . Then for a scalar  $c$ , we have  
$$c\mathbf{x} = (ca_1)\mathbf{v}_1 + (ca_2)\mathbf{v}_2 + \dots + (ca_p)\mathbf{v}_p.$$
 So  $c\mathbf{x}$  is in  $\text{Span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$ .



# Is it a Subspace?

1. Nonempty.
2. Closed under addition.
3. Closed under scalar mult.

Let  $V = \mathbb{R}^4$  with usual operations.

$$H = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2a + 3b \\ -d \\ 0 \\ 6c + 2a - b \end{bmatrix} : a, b, c, d \text{ in } \mathbb{R} \right\}.$$

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Notice that  $\begin{bmatrix} 2a + 3b \\ -d \\ 0 \\ 6c + 2a - b \end{bmatrix} = a \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + b \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} + c \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} + d \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ . Thus we have:

$$H = \text{Span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}. \quad \text{Thus, } H \text{ is a subspace of } \mathbb{R}^4.$$

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Let  $V = \text{Mat}_{2 \times 2}$  with the usual operations.

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

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Let  $V = \text{Mat}_{3 \times 3}$  with the usual operations.

$$H = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & b & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & c \end{bmatrix} : a, b, c \in \mathbb{R} \text{ with } a + b + c = 0 \right\}$$

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

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Let  $V = \mathbb{P}$  (all polynomials) with usual operations.  
 $H$  is the set of polynomials of degree at most 2.

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**YES!**  $H = \text{Span}\{x^2, x, 1\}$ .



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**No!** Not closed under scalar mult (scalars are reals).

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Let  $V$  be all continuous functions with the usual operations.

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YES! But cannot be described as a finite span.