

MATH 235  
Linear Algebra 2

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# 1 Abstract Vector Spaces

## 1.1 Vector Spaces

### 1.1.1 Recap from Linear Algebra I

1. The vector space  $\mathbb{R}^n$ :  $n$ -dimensional real vector space

$$\mathbb{R}^n = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{bmatrix} \mid a_i \in \mathbb{R} \text{ for all } i \right\}$$

2. The vector space  $\mathbb{C}^n$ :  $n$ -dimensional complex vector space

$$\mathbb{C}^n = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{bmatrix} \mid a_i \in \mathbb{C} \text{ for all } i \right\}$$

3. The vector space  $\mathbb{F}^n$ :  $n$ -dimensional **field**, that denotes either  $\mathbb{R}$  or  $\mathbb{C}$ .

$$\mathbb{F}^n = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{bmatrix} \mid a_i \in \mathbb{F} \text{ for all } i \right\}$$

If  $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}$ , then  $\mathbb{F}^n = \mathbb{R}^n$ , and if  $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}$ , then  $\mathbb{F}^n = \mathbb{C}^n$  and the scalar  $\alpha$  depends on the appropriate field.

### 1.1.2 Other Vector Spaces

4. The vector space  $\mathcal{P}_n(\mathbb{F})$ : The set of polynomials of degree at most  $n$  with coefficients in  $\mathbb{F}$ .

$$\mathcal{P}_n(\mathbb{F}) = \{a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n \mid a_i \in \mathbb{F} \text{ for all } i\}$$

5. The vector space  $M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F})$ :  $m$  by  $n$  matrices with entries in  $\mathbb{F}$

$$M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F}) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & \cdots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix} \mid a_{ij} \in \mathbb{F} \text{ for all } i, j \right\}$$

6. The vector space of real-valued continuous functions on the interval  $[a, b]$ :

$$\mathcal{C}([a, b]) = \{f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid f \text{ is continuous on } [a, b]\}$$

#### Definition 1.1.1 (Vector space over $\mathbb{F}$ )

A vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$  is a set  $V$  together with an operation  $+$  :  $V \times V \rightarrow V$  (vector addition) so that

$$\forall \vec{x}, \vec{y} \in V, \vec{x} + \vec{y} \in V$$

and an operation  $\times$  :  $\mathbb{F} \times V \rightarrow V$  (scalar multiplication) so that

$$\forall s \in \mathbb{F}, \vec{x} \in V, s \cdot \vec{x} \in V$$

**Definition 1.1.2 (vector space axioms)**

Properties of vector spaces that closed under addition and scalar multiplication,

1.  $\forall \vec{x}, \vec{y}, \vec{z} \in V, (\vec{x} + \vec{y}) + \vec{z} = \vec{x} + (\vec{y} + \vec{z})$
2. There exists a vector  $\vec{0} \in V$  such that,  $\forall \vec{x} \in V, \vec{0} + \vec{x} = \vec{x} + \vec{0} = \vec{x} \rightarrow$  **zero vector** of  $V$
3.  $\forall \vec{x} \in V$ , there exists  $-\vec{x} \in V$  such that  $\vec{x} + (-\vec{x}) = (-\vec{x}) + \vec{x} = \vec{0} \rightarrow$  **additive inverse** of  $\vec{x}$
4.  $\forall \vec{x}, \vec{y} \in V, \vec{x} + \vec{y} = \vec{y} + \vec{x}$
5.  $\forall \vec{x} \in V$  and  $s, t \in \mathbb{F}, s \cdot (t \cdot \vec{x}) = (st) \cdot \vec{x}$
6.  $\forall \vec{x} \in V$  and  $s, t \in \mathbb{F}, (s + t) \cdot \vec{x} = s \cdot \vec{x} + t \cdot \vec{x}$
7.  $\forall \vec{x}, \vec{y} \in V$  and  $s \in \mathbb{F}, s \cdot (\vec{x} + \vec{y}) = s \cdot \vec{x} + s \cdot \vec{y}$
8.  $1 \cdot \vec{x} = \vec{x} \rightarrow$  **multiplicative inverse** of  $\vec{x}$

**Proposition 1.1.1**

Let  $V$  be a vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$ . Then,

- a. The zero vector in  $V$  is **unique**. If  $\vec{z} \in V$  satisfies the property that  $\vec{x} + \vec{z} = \vec{x}, \forall \vec{x} \in V$ , then it must be the case that  $\vec{z} = \vec{0}$ .
- b. Let  $\vec{x} \in V$ . The additive inverse of  $\vec{x}$  is **uniquely determined** by  $\vec{x}$ . That is, if  $\vec{y}$  satisfies the property that  $\vec{x} + \vec{y} = \vec{y} + \vec{x} = \vec{0}$ , then  $\vec{y} = -\vec{x}$

**Proof**

Trivial proof using axioms ...

**Proposition 1.1.2**

Let  $V$  be a vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$ . Then

1.  $0 \cdot \vec{x} = \vec{0}$ , for all  $\vec{x} \in V$
2.  $(-1) \cdot \vec{x} = -\vec{x}$  for all  $\vec{x} \in V$
3.  $t \cdot \vec{0} = \vec{0}$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{F}$

**Proof**

For exercise ...

## 1.2 Subspaces

**Definition 1.2.1 (subspace)**

Let  $V$  be a vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$  and  $U \subseteq V$  a subset.  $U$  is a **subspace** of  $V$  if  $U$ , endowed with the addition and scalar multiplication from  $V$ , is itself a vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$ .

**Theorem 1.2.1 (The subspace test)**

Let  $V$  be vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$  and let  $U$  be a subset of  $V$ . Then  $U$  is a subspace of  $V$  if and only if the following three conditions hold.

- a.  $U$  is non-empty
- b.  $\forall \vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2 \in U, \vec{u}_1 + \vec{u}_2 \in U$ . i.e., closed under addition
- c.  $\forall \alpha \in \mathbb{F}$  and  $\forall \vec{u} \in U, \alpha \vec{u} \in U$ . i.e., closed under scalar multiplication

**Proof**

If  $U$  is a subspace, then (b) and (c) hold as part of being a definition of a subspace, and since all vector spaces have a zero,  $U$  must be non-empty.

Suppose (a), (b) and (c) hold for a subset  $U$  of  $V$ . Properties (b) and (c) imply that the addition and scalar multiplication from  $V$  restrict to addition and scalar multiplication on  $U$ . Vector space axioms 1,4,5,6,7, and 8 hold since  $V$  is a vector space. For axiom 2, since  $U$  is non-empty, choose a vector  $\vec{u} \in U$  and the by previous proposition,  $0\vec{u} = \vec{0}$ . Property (c) then implies that  $\vec{0} \in U$ . Similarly, for axiom 3, let  $\vec{u} \in U$ . Then by proposition and property (c),  $-\vec{u} = (-1)\vec{u} \in U$ , hence proved.

**Corollary 1.2.1.1**

Let  $V$  be a vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$  and suppose that  $U$  is a subspace of  $V$ . Then  $\vec{0} \in U$ .

**Proof**

For exercise ...

**Definition 1.2.2 (Span)**

Let  $S = \{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_k\} \subseteq V$ . Define the **span** of  $S$  by

$$\text{span}(S) = \{t_1\vec{v}_1 + \dots + t_k\vec{v}_k \mid t_1, \dots, t_k \in \mathbb{F}\}$$

By convention, we define the span of the empty set to be the set consisting of the zero vector

$$\text{span}(\emptyset) = \{\vec{0}\}$$

**Definition 1.2.3 (Linear combination)**

A vector of the form  $t_1\vec{v}_1 + \dots + t_k\vec{v}_k$  is called a **linear combination** of the vectors  $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_k$

**Proposition 1.2.2**

Let  $S = \{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_k\} \subseteq V$ . Then  $\text{span}(S)$  is a subspace of  $V$ .

**Proof**

Since,  $\vec{0} = 0\vec{v}_1 + \dots + 0\vec{v}_k$ ,  $\vec{0} \in \text{span}(S)$  so  $\text{span}(S)$  is non-empty. Suppose  $\vec{x}, \vec{y} \in \text{span}(S)$ , and let  $\vec{x} = t_1\vec{v}_1 + \dots + t_k\vec{v}_k$  and  $\vec{y} = s_1\vec{v}_1 + \dots + s_k\vec{v}_k$  for elements  $t_1, \dots, t_k, s_1, \dots, s_k \in \mathbb{F}$ . Then

$$\vec{x} + \vec{y} = (t_1 + s_1)\vec{v}_1 + \dots + (t_k + s_k)\vec{v}_k$$

so,  $\vec{x} + \vec{y} \in \text{span}(S)$ . Finally, let  $\vec{x} \in \text{span}(S)$  be as above, and let  $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}$ . Then  $\alpha\vec{x} = (\alpha t_1)\vec{v}_1 + \dots + (\alpha t_k)\vec{v}_k$  and since  $\alpha t_i \in \mathbb{F}$  for all  $i$ ,  $\alpha\vec{x} \in \text{span}(S)$ . Therefore, by the subspace test,  $\text{span}(S)$  is a subspace of  $V$ .

## 1.3 Bases and Dimension

### Linear Independence, Spanning Sets and Bases

#### Definition 1.3.1 (Spanning set, Spans)

A set of vectors  $S = \{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_k\}$  in a vector space  $V$  is a **spanning set** for  $V$ , if  $\text{span}(S) = V$ . We also say that  $S$  **spans**  $V$ .

#### Definition 1.3.2 (Linearly independent and dependent)

A set of vectors  $\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_k\}$  in a vector space  $V$  is **linearly independent** if the only solution to the equation

$$t_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + t_k \vec{v}_k = \vec{0}$$

is  $t_1 = \dots = t_k = 0$ . The set is **linearly dependent** otherwise.

By convention, the empty set  $\emptyset$  is linearly independent.

#### Definition 1.3.3 (Basis)

A **basis** for a vector space  $V$  is a linearly independent subset that spans  $V$ .

#### Theorem 1.3.1

Every vector space has a basis.

### Dimension

For  $\mathbb{F}^n$ , we will define the dimension of a vector space  $V$  to be the number of vectors in a basis for  $V$ .

#### Lemma 1.3.2

Let  $V$  be a vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$  and suppose that  $V = \text{span}(\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n\})$ . If  $\{\vec{u}_1, \dots, \vec{u}_k\}$  is a linearly independent set in  $V$ , then  $k \leq n$ .

#### Proof

Since  $\text{span}(\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n\}) = V$ , we have

$$\vec{u}_1 = a_{11}\vec{v}_1 + \dots + a_{1n}\vec{v}_n$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\vec{u}_k = a_{k1}\vec{v}_1 + \dots + a_{kn}\vec{v}_n$$

where  $a_{ij} \in \mathbb{F}$ , for all  $i$  and  $j$ . We will now aim to show that if  $k > n$ , then there is a solution to  $t_1 \vec{u}_1 + \dots + t_k \vec{u}_k = \vec{0}$ , where not all the  $t_i$  are 0. We have

$$\begin{aligned} t\vec{u}_1 + \dots + t_k \vec{u}_k &= t_1(a_{11}\vec{v}_1 + \dots + a_{1n}\vec{v}_n) + \dots + t_k(a_{k1}\vec{v}_1 + \dots + a_{kn}\vec{v}_n) \\ &= (a_{11}t_1 + \dots + a_{k1}t_k)\vec{v}_1 + \dots + (a_{1n}t_1 + \dots + a_{kn}t_k)\vec{v}_n \end{aligned}$$

Now, if  $k > n$  the system of linear equations

$$\begin{aligned} a_{11}t_1 + \cdots + a_{k1}t_k &= 0 \\ &\vdots \\ a_{1n}t_1 + \cdots + a_{kn}t_k &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

has a solution where not all the  $t_i$  are 0. Consider such a solution. We then have,

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{0} &= 0\vec{v}_1 + \cdots + 0\vec{v}_n \\ &= (a_{11}t_1 + \cdots + a_{k1}t_k)\vec{v}_1 + \cdots + (a_{1n}t_1 + \cdots + a_{kn}t_k)\vec{v}_n \\ &= t_1\vec{u}_1 + \cdots + t_k\vec{u}_k \end{aligned}$$

contradicting the assumption that  $\{\vec{u}_1, \dots, \vec{u}_k\}$  is linearly independent. So  $k \leq n$ .

### Theorem 1.3.3

Suppose  $\mathcal{B} = \{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n\}$  and  $\mathcal{C} = \{\vec{u}_1, \dots, \vec{u}_k\}$  are both bases of a vector space  $V$ . Then  $k = n$ .

### Proof

Since  $\mathcal{B}$  spans  $V$  and  $\mathcal{C}$  is linearly independent,  $k \leq n$ . However, since  $\mathcal{C}$  spans  $V$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  is linearly independent,  $n \leq k$ . Thus,  $k = n$ .

### Definition 1.3.4 (Dimension)

The **dimension** of a vector space  $V$ , denoted by  $\dim(V)$ , is the size of any basis for  $V$ .

- $\dim(\{\vec{0}\}) = 0$  since by convention  $\emptyset$  is a basis for  $\{\vec{0}\}$ .
- $\dim(\mathbb{F}^n) = n$  since the standard basis has size  $n$ .
- $\dim(\mathcal{P}_n(\mathbb{F})) = n + 1$  since the standard basis has a size  $n + 1$ .
- $\dim(M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F})) = mn$  since the standard basis has size  $nm$ .

If there is no finite basis for a vector space  $V$ , then  $V$  is infinite-dimensional vector space.

### Theorem 1.3.4

Let  $V$  be an  $n$ -dimensional vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$ . Then

- A set of more than  $n$  vectors in  $V$  must be linearly dependent.
- A set of fewer than  $n$  vectors in  $V$  cannot span  $V$ .
- A set with exactly  $n$  vectors in  $V$  is a spanning set for  $V$  if and only if its linearly independent.

### Theorem 1.3.5

Let  $V$  be a finite-dimensional vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$  and let  $W$  be a subspace of  $V$ . Then  $\dim(W) \leq \dim(V)$  with equality if and only if  $W = V$ .

### Proof

Since any basis for  $W$  can be extended to a basis for  $V$ , the inequality  $\dim(W) \leq \dim(V)$  follows.

Suppose now that  $\dim(W) = \dim(V)$ . Then according to previous theorem (c) part, a basis  $\mathcal{B}$  for  $W$  will automatically be a basis for  $V$ , since it is a linearly independent set of size  $\dim(V)$ . It follows that  $V = \text{span}(\mathcal{B}) = W$ . Conversely, if  $W = V$ , then  $\dim(W) = \dim(V)$ .

### Obtaining Bases

1. **Extending a linearly independent subset.** Given a linearly independent subset  $\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_k\} \in V$ . If it is a spanning set, then it's a basis. If not, choose a vector  $\{\vec{v}_{k+1}\}$  not in the span of  $\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_k\}$ . Then  $\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_{k+1}\}$  must be linearly independent. If this new spans, then it's a basis. If not, then repeat. This process must eventually stop since our vector space is finite-dimensional, and you will be left with a basis containing  $\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_k\}$ .
2. **Reducing an arbitrary finite spanning set.** Given a finite spanning set  $\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_k\}$  for a vector space  $V$ , and assume that it doesn't contain  $\vec{0}$ . If it is linearly independent, it is a basis. If not, say  $v_i$  as a linear combination of the others. Now  $\text{span}(\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_k\}) = \text{span}(\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_{i-1}, \vec{v}_{i+1}, \dots, \vec{v}_k\})$ , so  $\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_{i-1}, \vec{v}_{i+1}, \dots, \vec{v}_k\}$  spans the vector space. If this new set is linearly independent, then it is a basis. If not, repeat to remove another vector. This process must eventually stop since we started with finitely many vectors in our spanning set. The final product will be a basis made up entirely out of vectors from our original spanning set.

### Coordinates w.r.t a basis

#### Lemma 1.3.6

Let  $V$  be a vector space, let  $S = \{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n\}$  be a subset of  $V$ , and let  $U = \text{span}(S)$ . Then every vector in  $U$  can be expressed in a unique way as a linear combination of the vectors in  $S$  if and only if  $S$  is linearly independent.

#### Proof

Suppose every vector in  $U$  is expressed uniquely as a linear combination of the vectors in  $S$ . Then there is only one way to write

$$\vec{0} = t_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + t_k \vec{v}_k$$

which is  $t_1 = \dots = t_k = 0$ , so  $S$  is linearly independent. Conversely, suppose  $S$  is linearly independent and

$$t_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + t_k \vec{v}_k = s_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + s_k \vec{v}_k$$

Rearranging we have  $(t_1 - s_1) \vec{v}_1 + \dots + (t_k - s_k) \vec{v}_k = \vec{0}$ . Since  $S$  is linearly independent, this can only be true if  $t_i = s_i$  for all  $i$ , hence proved.

#### Theorem 1.3.7 (Unique representation theorem)

Let  $V$  be a vector space and let  $\mathcal{B} = \{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n\}$  be a basis of  $V$ . Then for all  $\vec{v} \in V$ , there exist an unique scalar  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{F}$  such that

$$\vec{v} = x_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + x_n \vec{v}_n$$



**Definition 1.3.5 (Ordered basis)**

Let  $V$  be a vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$ . An **ordered basis** for  $V$  is a basis  $\mathcal{B} = \{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n\}$  for  $V$  together with a fixed ordering.

A basis  $\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n\}$  gives rise to  $n!$  ordered bases, one for each possible permutation of the vectors in the basis.

**Definition 1.3.6 (Coordinate vector)**

Let  $\mathcal{B} = \{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n\}$  be an ordered basis for a vector space  $V$ . If  $\vec{x} \in V$  is written as

$$\vec{x} = x_1\vec{v}_1 + \dots + x_n\vec{v}_n$$

the the coordinate vector of  $\vec{x}$  with respect to  $\mathcal{B}$  is

$$[\vec{x}]_{\mathcal{B}} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

Once we have chosen a basis for  $V$ , every vector can now be represented as a column vector. Column vectors, as we know, come with their own addition and scalar multiplication.

**Theorem 1.3.8**

Let  $V$  be a vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$  with ordered basis  $\mathcal{B}$ . Then

$$[\vec{x}]_{\mathcal{B}} + [\vec{y}]_{\mathcal{B}} = [\vec{x} + \vec{y}]_{\mathcal{B}} \quad \text{and} \quad t[\vec{x}]_{\mathcal{B}} = [t\vec{x}]_{\mathcal{B}}$$

for all  $\vec{x}, \vec{y} \in V$  and all  $t \in \mathbb{F}$ .

**Proof**

This is just a matter of using the definition to determine  $[\vec{x}]_{\mathcal{B}}$ ,  $[\vec{y}]_{\mathcal{B}}$ ,  $[\vec{x} + \vec{y}]_{\mathcal{B}}$  and  $[t\vec{x}]_{\mathcal{B}}$