



Subspace of Vector Space:

A non-empty subset W of a vector space V over a field F is said to be a subspace of V if W is itself a vector space over F under the same operations as defined in V .

Every vector space has two subspaces: V itself and the set $\{0\}$, which consists of zero vector only.

Theorem: Let V be a vector space over a field F and let W be a non-empty subset of V . Then W is a subspace of V if and only if

$$(i) w_1, w_2 \in W \Rightarrow w_1 + w_2 \in W$$

$$(ii) w \in W, a \in F \Rightarrow aw \in W$$

Proof:

Suppose W is non-empty subset of V satisfying (i) and (ii), then we have to show that W is a vector space.

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Let $w_1, w_2 \in W$, then by (ii) ~~(W)~~

$(-1)w_2 \in W$ i.e. $-w_2 \in W$.

Now $w_1, -w_2 \in W$ and so by (i)

$$w_1 + (-w_2) = w_1 - w_2 \in W$$

Therefore, W is a subgroup of a group V under addition. Since V is abelian group. Also, remaining properties of the vector space are satisfied because all the properties are satisfied in the bigger set V .

Conversely, suppose that W is subspace of V .

$\Rightarrow W$ is itself a vector space

So, by definition of vector space

$$(i) w_1, w_2 \in W \Rightarrow w_1 + w_2 \in W$$

$$(ii) w \in W, a \in F \Rightarrow aw \in W$$

Corollary: A non-empty subset W of a vector space V is a ~~vector~~^{sub}space of V if for

$$w_1, w_2 \in W \text{ and } a, b \in F$$

$$\Rightarrow aw_1 + bw_2 \in W$$

Example: Which of the following are subspace of \mathbb{R}^3 .

(i) $W = \{(x, y, z) : x + y + z = 0\}$

Sol:

Let $w_1, w_2 \in W$

 $w_1 = \{(x_1, y_1, z_1) : x_1 + y_1 + z_1 = 0\}$

$w_2 = \{(x_2, y_2, z_2) : x_2 + y_2 + z_2 = 0\}$

Now let $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$, then

$$\begin{aligned} aw_1 + bw_2 &= a(x_1, y_1, z_1) + b(x_2, y_2, z_2) \\ &= (ax_1, ay_1, az_1) + (bx_2, by_2, bz_2) \\ aw_1 + bw_2 &= (ax_1 + bx_2, ay_1 + by_2, az_1 + bz_2) \end{aligned}$$

$aw_1 + bw_2 \in W$ if $aw_1 + bw_2 = (ax_1 + bx_2, ay_1 + by_2, az_1 + bz_2) = (a(x_1 + y_1 + z_1) + b(x_2 + y_2 + z_2)) = a(0) + b(0) = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} L.H.S. &= ax_1 + bx_2 + ay_1 + by_2 + az_1 + bz_2 \\ &= a(x_1 + y_1 + z_1) + b(x_2 + y_2 + z_2) \\ &= a(0) + b(0) \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

So, $aw_1 + bw_2 \in W$

Hence W is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^3 .

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$$(ii) W = \{(\pi_1, y_1, z_1) : \pi_1 \geq 0\}$$

Sol:

Let $w_1, w_2 \in W$

$$w_1 = \{(\pi_1, y_1, z_1) : \pi_1 \geq 0\}$$

$$w_2 = \{(\pi_2, y_2, z_2) : \pi_2 \geq 0\}$$

 Now let $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$, then

$$\begin{aligned} aw_1 + bw_2 &= a(\pi_1, y_1, z_1) + b(\pi_2, y_2, z_2) \\ &= (a\pi_1, ay_1, az_1) + (b\pi_2, by_2, bz_2) \\ &= (a\pi_1 + b\pi_2, ay_1 + by_2, az_1 + bz_2) \end{aligned}$$

 Now $aw_1 + bw_2 \in W$ if $a\pi_1 + b\pi_2 \geq 0$

 As $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\pi_1, \pi_2 \geq 0$

So $a\pi_1 + b\pi_2$ may not be ≥ 0
 Hence $aw_1 + bw_2 \notin W$ $\forall a, b \in \mathbb{R}$

 So W is not a subspace of \mathbb{R}^3 .

(iii) $W = \{(x, 0, y) : x, z \in \mathbb{R}\}$

Sol:

Let $w_1, w_2 \in W$ then

$$w_1 = \{(x_1, 0, z_1) : x_1, z_1 \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

$$w_2 = \{(x_2, 0, z_2) : x_2, z_2 \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

Let $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$, then

$$\begin{aligned} aw_1 + bw_2 &= a(x_1, 0, z_1) + b(x_2, 0, z_2) \\ &= (ax_1, 0, az_1) + (bx_2, 0, bz_2) \\ &= (ax_1 + bx_2, 0, az_1 + bz_2) \end{aligned}$$

Now $aw_1 + bw_2 \in W$ if $ax_1 + bx_2, az_1 + bz_2 \in \mathbb{R}$

But as $a, b, x_1, z_1, x_2, z_2 \in \mathbb{R}$

So $ax_1 + bx_2, az_1 + bz_2 \in \mathbb{R}$

Hence $aw_1 + bw_2 \in W$

So W is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^3

Linear Combination:

Let V be a vector space over F and let $v_1, v_2, v_3, \dots, v_n \in V$ then any vector in V of the form $a_1v_1 + a_2v_2 + a_3v_3 + \dots + a_nv_n$ is called linear combination of v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n .

Example: Express the vector $(2, -5, 3)$ in \mathbb{R}^3 as a linear combination of the vectors $(1, -3, 2), (2, -4, -1), (1, -5, 7)$

Sol:

Let $(2, -5, 3) \in \mathbb{R}^3$
 and let $V = \{(1, -3, 2), (2, -4, -1), (1, -5, 7)\}$
 is a set of V .

let $a, b, c \in F$, then

$$(2, -5, 3) = a(1, -3, 2) + b(2, -4, -1) + c(1, -5, 7)$$

$$(2, -5, 3) = (a, -3a, 2a) + b(2b, -4b, -b) + (c, -5c, 7c)$$

$$a(2, -5, 3) = (a+2b+c, -3a-4b-5c, 2a-b+7c)$$

$$\Rightarrow a + 2b + c = 2 \quad - \textcircled{1}$$

$$-3a - 4b - 5c = -5 \quad - \textcircled{2}$$

$$2a - b + 7c = 3 \quad - \textcircled{3}$$

multiply eq. $\textcircled{1}$ by 3 and add in $\textcircled{2}$

~~$$3a + 6b + 3c = 6$$~~
~~$$-3a - 4b - 5c = -5$$~~

$$2b - 2c = 1 \quad - \textcircled{4}$$

$$b - c = \frac{1}{2} \quad - \textcircled{5}$$

Now multiply $\textcircled{1}$ by 2 and subtract $\textcircled{3}$ from $\textcircled{1}$

~~$$2a + 4b + 2c = 4$$~~
~~$$\pm 3a + b + 7c = \pm 3$$~~

$$5b - 5c = 1$$

$$b - c = \frac{1}{5} \quad - \textcircled{5}$$

from $\textcircled{4}$ and $\textcircled{5}$, we cannot find value of b and c . Thus $(2, -5, 3)$ cannot be expressed as a linear combination of ~~$(1, 1, 1)$, $(1, -1, 1)$~~ $(1, -3, 2)$, $(2, -4, -1)$, $(1, -5, 7)$.

Example: For what value of k will the vector $(1, -2, k)$ in \mathbb{R}^3 be a linear combination of vectors $(3, 0, -2)$ and $(2, -1, -5)$?

Sol:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let } (1, -2, k) &= a(3, 0, -2) + b(2, -1, -5) \\ &= (3a, 0, -2a) + (2b, -b, -5b) \\ (1, -2, k) &= (3a+2b, -b, -2a-5b) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow 3a+2b &= 1 \quad - \textcircled{1} \\ -b &= -2 \quad - \textcircled{2} \\ -2a-5b &= k \quad - \textcircled{3} \end{aligned}$$

put $b = +2$ in $\textcircled{1}$

$$3a + 4 = 1 \Rightarrow 3a = -3 \Rightarrow a = -1$$

put values of a and b in $\textcircled{3}$

$$\begin{aligned} -2(-1) - 5(2) &= k \\ 2 - 10 &= k \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow k = -8$$

So for $k = -8$, the vector \uparrow is a linear combination of $(3, 0, 2)$ and $(2, -1, -5)$.

Example: Show that each of the following sets of vectors generate \mathbb{R}^3 .

(i) $\{(1, 2, 3), (0, 1, 2), (0, 0, 1)\}$

Sol:

Given set is $\{(1, 2, 3), (0, 1, 2), (0, 0, 1)\}$
let $(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ and suppose

$$(x, y, z) = a(1, 2, 3) + b(0, 1, 2) + c(0, 0, 1)$$
$$= (a, 2a, 3a) + (0, b, 2b) + (0, 0, c)$$

$$(x, y, z) = (a, 2a+b, 3a+2b+c)$$

$$\Rightarrow a = x \quad \textcircled{1}$$

$$2a+b = y \quad \textcircled{2}$$

$$3a+2b+c = z \quad \textcircled{3}$$

from $\textcircled{1}$ $a = x$

put $a = x$ in $\textcircled{2}$

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$$2x + b = y$$
$$b = y - 2x$$

Put values of a and b in ③

$$3x + 2(y - 2x) + c = z$$

$$3x + 2y - 4x + c = z$$

$$-x + 2y + c = z$$

$$c = x - 2y + z$$

So,

$$(x, y, z) = x(1, 2, 3) + (y - 2x)(0, 1, 2) + (x - 2y + z)(0, 0, 1)$$

Hence given vectors generate \mathbb{R}^3 .

(ii) $\{(1, 1, 1), (0, 1, 1), (0, 1, -1)\}$

Sol: Given set is $\{(1, 1, 1), (0, 1, 1), (0, 1, -1)\}$

Let $(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ and suppose

$$\begin{aligned}(x, y, z) &= a(1, 1, 1) + b(0, 1, 1) + c(0, 1, -1) \\&= (a, a, a) + (0, b, b) + (0, c, -c)\end{aligned}$$

$$(x, y, z) = (a, a+b+c, a+b-c)$$

$$\Rightarrow a = x - \textcircled{1}$$

$$a+b+c = y - \textcircled{2}$$

$$a+b-c = z - \textcircled{3}$$

from $\textcircled{1}$ a = x

Add $\textcircled{2}$ and $\textcircled{3}$

$$a+b+c = y$$

$$\underline{a+b-c = z}$$

$$2a+2b = y+z$$

$$2x+2b = y+z \quad \text{using } a=x$$

$$2b = y+z-2x$$

$$b = \frac{y+z-2x}{2}$$

put values of a and b in $\textcircled{2}$

$$x + \frac{y+z-2x}{2} + c = y$$

$$c = y-x - \frac{y+z-2x}{2}$$

$$= \frac{2y-2x-y-z+2x}{2}$$

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$$C = \frac{y-z}{2}$$

So,

$$(x, y, z) = x(1, 1, 1) + \left(\frac{y+z-2x}{2}\right)(0, 1, 1) + \left(\frac{y-z}{2}\right)(0, 1, -1)$$

Hence given vectors generate \mathbb{R}^3 .

Linear Span:

Let S be a non-empty subset of vector space V , then the set of all linear combinations of finite no. of elements of S is called the linear span of S and is denoted by $\langle S \rangle$.

Example: Determine whether the set $S = \{(1, 1, 2), (1, 0, 1), (2, 1, 3)\}$ spans \mathbb{R}^3 .

Sol:

Given set is $S = \{(1, 1, 2), (1, 0, 1), (2, 1, 3)\}$

Let $(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ and suppose

$$\begin{aligned} (x, y, z) &= a(1, 1, 2) + b(1, 0, 1) + c(2, 1, 3) \\ &= (a, a, 2a) + (b, 0, b) + (2c, c, 3c) \\ (x, y, z) &= (a+b+2c, a+c, 2a+b+3c) \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow a+b+2c = x \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$a+c = y \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

$$2a+b+3c = z \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

Subtract (3) from (1)

$$\begin{aligned} a+b+2c &= x \\ \pm 2a \pm b + 3c &= \pm z \end{aligned}$$

$$-a - c = x - z$$

$$\text{or } a+c = z-x \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

$$\text{and } a+c = y \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

The equation (2) and (4) cannot be solved for a and c . Hence we cannot find values of a, b and c . So the set $S = \{(1, 1, 2), (1, 0, 1), (2, 1, 3)\}$ does not span \mathbb{R}^3 .

Example: Show that the yz -plane $W = \{(0, y, z) : y, z \in \mathbb{R}\}$ is spanned by

(i) $(0, 1, 1)$ and $(0, 2, -1)$

Sol:

Let $W = \{(0, y, z) : y, z \in \mathbb{R}\}$

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Suppose $(0, y, z) \in W$ and
 $(0, y, z) = a(0, 1, 1) + b(0, 2, -1)$
 $= (0, a, a) + (0, 2b, -b)$
 $(0, y, z) = (0, a+2b, a-b)$

$$\Rightarrow a+2b=y \quad \textcircled{1}$$

$$a-b=z \quad \textcircled{2}$$

Subtract \textcircled{2} from \textcircled{1}

$$\begin{array}{r} \cancel{a+2b=y} \\ \pm \cancel{a} \mp b = z \\ 3b = \cancel{y} - \cancel{z} \end{array}$$

$$b = \frac{y-z}{3}$$

put value of b in \textcircled{2}

$$a - \frac{y-z}{3} = z \Rightarrow a = \frac{y-z}{3} + z$$

$$a = \frac{y-z+3z}{3}$$

$$a = \frac{y+2z}{3}$$

So

$$(0, y, z) = \left(\frac{y+2z}{3}\right)(0, 1, 1) + \left(\frac{y-z}{3}\right)(0, 2, -1)$$

Hence yz -plane is spanned by $(0, 1, 1)$ and $(0, 2, -1)$.

(ii) $(0, 1, 2), (0, 2, 3)$, and $(0, 3, 1)$

Sol:

Given vectors are $(0, 1, 2), (0, 2, 3)$ and $(0, 3, 1)$

Let $(0, y, z) \in W$ and suppose

$$\begin{aligned} (0, y, z) &= a(0, 1, 2) + b(0, 2, 3) + c(0, 3, 1) \\ &= (0, a, 2a) + (0, 2b, 3b) + (0, 3c, c) \end{aligned}$$

$$(0, y, z) = (0, a+2b+3c, 2a+3b+c)$$

$$\Rightarrow a+2b+3c = y \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$2a+3b+c = z \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

put $a=0$

So

$$2b+3c = y \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

$$3b+c = z \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

Multiply (4) by 3 and subtract from (3)

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$$\begin{aligned}2b + 3c &= 4 \\ \pm 9b + 3c &= \pm 3z \\ -7b &= 4 - 3z\end{aligned}$$

$$b = \frac{3z - 4}{7}$$

put in ③

$$2 \left(\frac{3z - 4}{7} \right) + 3c = 4$$

$$\frac{6z - 8}{7} + 3c = 4$$

$$3c = 4 - \frac{6z - 8}{7}$$

$$= \frac{7y - 6z - 8}{7}$$

$$3c = \frac{9y - 6z}{7}$$

$$3c = \frac{3(3y - 2z)}{7}$$

$$c = \frac{3y - 2z}{7}$$

Hence,

$$(0, y, z) = 0(0, 1, 2) + \left(\frac{3z-y}{7}\right)(0, 2, 3) + \left(\frac{3y-3z}{7}\right)(0, 3, 1)$$

So yz -plane is spanned by $(0, 1, 2), (0, 2, 3)$ and $(0, 3, 1)$.