

A Book of Abstract Algebra | (2nd Edition)

Chapter 28, Problem 4EB

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Problem

Prove that $\{ f : f \text{ is a constant on the interval } [0,1] \}$ is a subspace of $\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{R})$.

Step-by-step solution

Step 1 of 2

It is already shown that $\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{R})$ represents a vector space as it satisfies all conditions for vector space.

Given subset for $\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{R})$ is set of all functions which are constant in closed interval $[1,0]$.

Or given condition for subspace is

$$\{ f \mid f \text{ is constant in interval } [1,0] \}$$

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Step 2 of 2

A 2 step check is needed to determine if given subset is a subspace. First determine if any linear combination of functions in subset is closed under given operation. Second, determine if 0 satisfies given conditions.

STEP 1: For any 2 functions f and g ,

$$f(x) = 0 \quad \forall x \in [0,1] \quad (1)$$

$$g(x) = 0 \quad \forall x \in [0,1] \quad (2)$$

Combining above 2 equations, $s(1)+t(2)$ gives

$$sf(x) + tg(y) = 0$$

As functions are vector space in themselves, any constant multiple of function is also a function.

Also sum of 2 functions is also a function. Thus,

$$sf(x) + tg(x) = 0 \quad \forall x \in [0,1]$$

$$\Rightarrow f'(x) + g'(x) = 0 \quad \forall x \in [0,1]$$

$$\Rightarrow F(x) = 0 \quad \forall x \in [0,1]$$

Thus linear combination of 2 functions in subset lies in subset.

STEP 2: Check if 0 function (which is 0 everywhere) satisfies given condition,

$$f_0(x) = 0 \quad \forall x \in [0,1]$$

Hence given set represents a subspace

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