

MATH 146

Personal Notes

Marcus Chan

Taught by Ross Willard

UW Math '25



Chapter 1:

Vector Spaces

(S1.1)

KEY	
S :	section
D :	definition
R :	remark
E :	example
T :	theorem
L :	lemma
C :	corollary

Let \mathbb{F} be a field.

Then, we say V is a "vector space"

over \mathbb{F} if there exists

① an addition $+ : (V \times V) \rightarrow V$ by $+ (x, y) = x + y$; and

② a scalar multiplication $\cdot : (\mathbb{F} \times V) \rightarrow V$ by $\cdot (a, x) = ax$;

and the following conditions hold:

① V is an abelian group with respect

to addition; (VS 1 = commutativity; 2 = associativity; 3 = identity; 4 = inverse)

② $\forall x \in V \quad \forall a \in \mathbb{F} \quad a \cdot x = x \cdot a$ (VS 5)

③ multiplication is associative; ie $a(bx) = (ab)x \quad \forall a, b \in \mathbb{F}, x \in V$;

and (VS 6)

④ the left and right distributive laws hold;

ie $a(x+y) = ax+ay$ and $(a+b)x = ax+bx \quad \forall a, b \in \mathbb{F}, x \in V$. (D2)

(VS 7 = former, VS 8 = latter)

\mathbb{F}^n IS A VECTOR SPACE OVER \mathbb{F} (E2(1))

We can show that the Cartesian product

$$\mathbb{F}^n = \{(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) : a_i \in \mathbb{F} \text{ for } i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}\}$$

is a vector space over \mathbb{F} with respect to the addition operation

$$(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) + (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n) = (a_1 + b_1, a_2 + b_2, \dots, a_n + b_n)$$

and multiplication operation

$$c(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) = (ca_1, ca_2, \dots, ca_n).$$

Proof. This follows from verifying each of the conditions above. \blacksquare

Note that we generally say "the vector space \mathbb{F}^n " to refer to the vector space \mathbb{F}^n over \mathbb{F} . (R3(4))

COLUMN VECTOR NOTATION (E2(2))

Note that we can also write elements of \mathbb{F}^n as "column vectors"; ie of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{pmatrix}$$

where $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{F}$.

\mathbb{Q}^n IS A VECTOR SPACE OVER \mathbb{Q} ,

\mathbb{R}^n IS A VECTOR SPACE OVER \mathbb{R} , &

\mathbb{C}^n IS A VECTOR SPACE OVER \mathbb{C} (R3(1))

We can show

① \mathbb{Q}^n is a vector space over \mathbb{Q} ;

② \mathbb{R}^n is a vector space over \mathbb{R} ; and

③ \mathbb{C}^n is a vector space over \mathbb{C} .

Proof. This directly follows from the fact that \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R} and \mathbb{C} are fields (MATH 145), and substituting the respective fields into the above lemma. \blacksquare

\mathbb{R}^n IS A VECTOR SPACE OVER \mathbb{Q} , &

\mathbb{C}^n IS A VECTOR SPACE OVER \mathbb{R} (R3(2))

Moreover, we can also show that

① \mathbb{R}^n is a vector space over \mathbb{Q} ; and

② \mathbb{C}^n is a vector space over \mathbb{R} .

Proof. Essentially, this stems from the fact that we can "multiply" vectors in \mathbb{R}^n by scalars in \mathbb{Q} , and vectors in \mathbb{C}^n by scalars in \mathbb{R} .

The formal proof is left to the reader. \blacksquare

MATRICES (D3(1))

Let \mathbb{F} be a field, and $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$.

Then, we say A is an "mxn matrix" with entries from \mathbb{F} if it is of the form

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \cdots & a_{mn} \end{pmatrix}$$

where $a_{ij} \in \mathbb{F} \quad \forall i \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\}, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$.

Alternatively, we can represent A via the notation

$$A = (a_{ij}), \quad i \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\}, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}.$$

ij-ENTRY OF A MATRIX (D3(2))

Given a mxn matrix A , the "ij-entry" of A , or " a_{ij} ", is defined to be the entry in A at the i th row and j th column.

ZERO MATRIX (D3(3))

The "mxn zero matrix", or more simply the "zero matrix", denoted as " 0 ", is defined to be

$$0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{pmatrix} \underbrace{\qquad\qquad\qquad}_{m}$$

ie the mxn matrix where which entry equals 0 .

MATRIX EQUALITY (D3(4))

We say two matrices A and B are equal if and only if $a_{ij} = b_{ij} \quad \forall i \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\}, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$.

MATRIX ADDITION (D3(5))

Let A and B be mxn matrices with entries from some field \mathbb{F} .

Then, the "addition" of A and B , denoted by " $A+B$ ", is defined to be the matrix where

$$(a+b)_{ij} = a_{ij} + b_{ij} \quad \forall i \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\}, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}.$$

MATRIX SCALAR MULTIPLICATION (D3(6))

Let A be a mxn matrix with entries from some field \mathbb{F} , and $c \in \mathbb{F}$ be arbitrary.

Then the "scalar multiplication" of A by c , denoted by " CA ", is defined to be the matrix where

$$(ca)_{ij} = c(a_{ij}) \quad \forall i \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\}, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}.$$

SPACE OF mxn MATRICES (E3)

Let \mathbb{F} be a field.

Then the "space of all mxn matrices" with entries from \mathbb{F} , denoted by " $M_{mn}(\mathbb{F})$ ", is defined to be the set of all mxn matrices with entries from \mathbb{F} .

Note that $M_{mn}(\mathbb{F})$ is a vector space over \mathbb{F} with respect to the matrix addition and scalar multiplication operations.

Proof. This follows from verifying each of the conditions in D2. \blacksquare

FUNCTION SPACES (E4)

Let the set $D \neq \emptyset$ be arbitrary, and let \mathbb{F} be a field.
Then the space of all functions from D to \mathbb{F} , denoted by " \mathbb{F}^D ", is defined to be the set of all functions of the form $f: D \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$.
Similarly, we can show that \mathbb{F}^D is a vector space over \mathbb{F} with respect to the operations of function addition.

$$(f+g)(x) := f(x) + g(x) \quad \forall f, g \in \mathbb{F}^D, x \in D$$

and function scalar multiplication

$$(cf)(x) := cf(x) \quad \forall f \in \mathbb{F}^D, x \in D, c \in \mathbb{F}.$$

Proof. Similar strategy to E3: verify each condition in D2 holds.

POLYNOMIALS (D4)

SET OF ALL POLYNOMIALS OF DEGREE AT MOST n ($D4(1)$)

Let \mathbb{F} be a field.

Then, we denote $P_n(\mathbb{F})$ to be the set of all polynomials with coefficients from \mathbb{F} and of degree at most n ; ie

$$P_n(\mathbb{F}) = \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^n a_i x^i : a_i \in \mathbb{F}, i \in \{0, \dots, n\} \right\}.$$

POLYNOMIAL SPACES (D4(2))

Let \mathbb{F} be a field.

Then, we denote " $\mathbb{F}[x]$ " to be the set of all polynomials with coefficients from \mathbb{F} ; ie

$$\mathbb{F}[x] = \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} a_i x^i : a_i \in \mathbb{F}, i \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\} \right\}.$$

Then, we can show that $\mathbb{F}[x]$ is a vector space over \mathbb{F} with respect to the operations of polynomial addition

$$(f+g)(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} (a_i + b_i) x^i \quad \forall f, g \in \mathbb{F}[x]$$

and polynomial scalar multiplication

$$(cf)(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} (ca_i) x^i \quad \forall f \in \mathbb{F}[x], c \in \mathbb{F}.$$

Proof. Similar strategy to E4.

BASIC PROPERTIES OF VECTOR SPACES (SI.2)

CANCELLATION PROPERTY FOR VECTOR ADDITION (TI.1)

Let V be a vector space.

Suppose there exists some $x, y, z \in V$ such that

$$x+z = y+z.$$

Then necessarily $x=y$.

Proof. Note that

$$\begin{aligned} x &= x+0 \\ &= x+(z+(-z)) \\ &= (x+z)+(-z) \\ &= (y+z)+(-z) \\ &= y+(z+(-z)) \end{aligned}$$

and so $x=y$, as required. \blacksquare

UNIQUENESS OF THE ZERO VECTOR IN VECTOR SPACES (CI.1.1 (1))

Let V be a vector space.

Suppose $0_1, 0_2 \in V$ are both zero vectors.

Then necessarily $0_1 = 0_2$.

Proof. This follows from the fact that V is an abelian group under addition. \blacksquare

UNIQUENESS OF ADDITIVE INVERSES IN VECTOR SPACES (CI.1.1 (2))

Let V be a vector space.

Then for any $x \in V$, there exists one and only one vector $y \in V$ that satisfies $x+y=0$.

Proof. This also follows from the fact that V is an abelian group under addition. \blacksquare

$0x=0 \quad \forall x \in V$ (TI.2 (1))

Let V be a vector space over some field \mathbb{F} , and let 0 be the additive identity of \mathbb{F} .

Then, for any $x \in V$, necessarily $0 \cdot x = 0$.

Proof. This, again, follows from the fact that V is an abelian group under addition. \blacksquare

$a0=0 \quad \forall a \in \mathbb{F}$ (TI.2 (2))

Let V be a vector space over some field \mathbb{F} , and let 0 be the zero vector of V .

Then, for any $a \in \mathbb{F}$, necessarily $a \cdot 0 = 0$.

Proof. This, again, follows from the fact that V is an abelian group under addition. \blacksquare

$(-a)x = -(ax) = a(-x) \quad \forall a \in \mathbb{F}, x \in V$ (TI.2 (3))

Let V be a vector space over some field \mathbb{F} , and let $a \in \mathbb{F}, x \in V$ be arbitrary.

Then necessarily $(-a)x = -(ax) = a(-x)$.

Proof. Proof is similar to the analog of this statement for rings (MATH145). \blacksquare

SUBSPACES (SI.3)

Let V be a vector space over some field \mathbb{F} . Then we say the subset $W \subseteq V$ is a "subspace" of V if

- ① $W \neq \emptyset$;

* we usually check whether $0 \in W$ to verify this claim. (R4)

- ② If $x \in W$ and $y \in W$, then $(x+y) \in W$; and

- ③ If $c \in \mathbb{F}$ and $x \in W$, then $cx \in W$. (D6)

SUBSPACES ARE VECTOR SPACES OVER \mathbb{F} WITH RESPECT TO THE OPERATIONS OF V (TI.3)

Let W be a subspace of a vector space V over some field \mathbb{F} .

Then W is also a vector space over \mathbb{F} under the operations of V restricted to W .

Proof. This follows from verifying the conditions in D2, taking into account the properties of subspaces. \square

$\{0\}$ AND V ARE SUBSPACES OF V (E8(1))

Let V be a vector space.

Then $\{0\}$ and V itself are always subspaces of V .

Proof. $\{0\}$ is vacuously a subspace, and V is trivially a subspace. \square

$P_2(\mathbb{R})$ IS A SUBSPACE OF $\mathbb{R}[x]$ (E8(2))

We can show that $P_2(\mathbb{R})$ is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}[x]$.

Proof. This stems from the fact that:

- $P_2(\mathbb{R}) \subset \mathbb{R}[x]$ by definition;
- $0 \in P_2(\mathbb{R})$; and
- $P_2(\mathbb{R})$ is closed under the addition & scalar multiplication defined on $\mathbb{R}[x]$. \square

$\{(a_{ij}) \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{F}) \mid \sum_{k=1}^n a_{kk} = 0\}$ IS A SUBSPACE

OF $M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{F})$ (E8(3))

We can show that the set $\{(a_{ij}) \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{F}) \mid \sum_{k=1}^n a_{kk} = 0\}$ is a subspace of $M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{F})$, where $n \in \mathbb{N}$ is arbitrary.

Proof. Similar proof to the above.

$\{(a_{ij}) \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{F}) \mid \sum_{k=1}^n a_{kk} = 1\}$ IS NOT A

SUBSPACE OF $M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{F})$ (E8(4))

We can show the set $\{(a_{ij}) \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{F}) \mid \sum_{k=1}^n a_{kk} = 1\}$ is not a subspace of $M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{F})$.

Proof. Let $a, b \in \{(a_{ij}) \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{F}) \mid \sum_{k=1}^n a_{kk} = 1\}$ be arbitrary.

Then, notice that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^n (a+b)_{kk} &= \sum_{k=1}^n (a_{kk} + b_{kk}) \\ &= 1 + 1 \\ &= 2, \end{aligned}$$

so that $a+b \notin \{(a_{ij}) \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{F}) \mid \sum_{k=1}^n a_{kk} = 1\}$. \square

SUBSPACES OF \mathbb{R}^2 (E9(1))

Note that the subspaces of \mathbb{R}^2 are

- ① \mathbb{R}^2 itself;

- ② $\{0_{\mathbb{R}^2}\} = \{(0,0)\}$; and

- ③ all lines in \mathbb{R}^2 that pass through $(0,0)$.

SUBSPACES OF \mathbb{F}^2 (E9(4a))

In general, for any field \mathbb{F} , the subspaces of

$$\mathbb{F}^2$$
 are

- ① \mathbb{F}^2 itself;

- ② $\{0\}$; and

- ③ all the "lines" in \mathbb{F}^2 through 0 .

i.e. of the form $\{(x,y) \in \mathbb{F}^2 \mid (x) = k(y), (y) \in \mathbb{F}^2\}$

SUBSPACES OF \mathbb{R}^3 (E9(2))

Similarly, the subspaces of \mathbb{R}^3 are

- ① \mathbb{R}^3 itself;

- ② $\{0_{\mathbb{R}^3}\} = \{(0,0,0)\}$;

- ③ all lines in \mathbb{R}^3 that pass through $(0,0,0)$; and

- ④ all planes in \mathbb{R}^3 that pass through $(0,0,0)$.

SUBSPACES OF \mathbb{F}^3 (E9(4b))

Similarly, for any field \mathbb{F} , the subspaces of \mathbb{F}^3 are

- ① \mathbb{F}^3 itself;

- ② $\{0\}$;

- ③ all the "lines" in \mathbb{F}^3 through 0 ; and

i.e. of the form $\{(x,y,z) \in \mathbb{F}^3 \mid (x) = k(y), (y) = k(z), (z) \in \mathbb{F}^3\}$ (E9(3))

- ④ all the "planes" in \mathbb{F}^3 through 0 .

i.e. of the form $\{(x,y,z) \in \mathbb{F}^3 \mid \exists a, b, c \in \mathbb{F} \text{ such that } ax+by+cz=0\}$.

LINEAR COMBINATIONS & SYSTEM OF LINEAR EQUATIONS (SI.4)

LINEAR COMBINATION (D7(1))

* knowledge of elimination method is assumed.

\exists_1 Let V be a vector space over a field F , and let the subset $S \subseteq V$ be such that $S \neq \emptyset$.

Then, we say a vector $x \in V$ is a "linear combination" of vectors from S if there exists a finite number of vectors $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n \in S$ and scalars $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in F$ such that

$$x = a_1 u_1 + a_2 u_2 + \dots + a_n u_n,$$

where $n \geq 1$. (D7(1))

\exists_2 In this case, we also say that x is a linear combination of the vectors u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n .

COEFFICIENTS OF A LINEAR COMBINATION (D7(2))

\exists_1 Let V be a vector space over some field F , and let the vector $x \in V$ be a linear combination of the vectors $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n \in S$, where $S \subseteq V$ and $S \neq \emptyset$. Assume that $x = a_1 u_1 + a_2 u_2 + \dots + a_n u_n$, where $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in F$.

Then we denote the scalars $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in F$ as the "coefficients" of the linear combination.

SPAN (D7(3))

\exists_1 Let V be a vector space over some field F , and let the subset $S \subseteq V$ be such that $S \neq \emptyset$.

Then, we define the "span" of S , denoted as "span(S)", to be the set of all linear combinations of vectors in S .

\exists_2 Note that, for convenience, we define

$$\text{span}(\emptyset) = \{\emptyset\}.$$

EXAMPLE 1: SPAN OF $(1,0,0)$ & $(0,1,0)$ IN \mathbb{R}^3 (E10(1))

\exists_1 Observe that in \mathbb{R}^3 , the span of $(1,0,0)$ & $(0,1,0)$ in \mathbb{R}^3 is

$$\{(a, 0, 0) + b(0, 1, 0) : a, b \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

or more simply

$$\{(a, b, 0) : a, b \in \mathbb{R}\}.$$

EXAMPLE 2: SPAN($\{x^n : n \geq 1\}$) IN $\mathbb{Q}[x]$ (E10(2))

\exists_1 We can show that for the vector space $\mathbb{Q}[x]$, the span of $S = \{x, x^2, \dots, x^n, \dots\}$ is the set of all polynomials in $\mathbb{Q}[x]$ whose constant coefficient equals 0.

SPAN OF A FINITE AMOUNT OF VECTORS (E10(3.1))

\exists_1 Suppose V is a vector space over some field F , and let $S \subseteq V$. Further assume that

$$S = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\},$$

i.e. the size of S is finite.

Then, it follows that

$$\text{span}(S) = \{a_1 v_1 + a_2 v_2 + \dots + a_n v_n : a_i \in F \text{ for } i=1, 2, \dots, n\}.$$

SPAN OF A COUNTABLE AMOUNT OF VECTORS (E10(3.2))

\exists_1 Suppose V is a vector space over some field F , and let $S \subseteq V$. Further assume that

$$S = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n, \dots\},$$

i.e. $|S| = |\mathbb{N}|$.

Then, we can show that

$$\text{span}(S) = \text{span}(\{v_1\}) \cup \text{span}(\{v_1, v_2\}) \cup \dots \cup \text{span}(\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}) \cup \dots$$

or in other words, that

$$\text{span}(S) = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \text{span}(\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}).$$

SPAN OF AN UNCOUNTABLE AMOUNT OF VECTORS (E10(3.3))

\exists_1 Suppose V is a vector space over some field F , and let $S \subseteq V$. Further assume that $|S| > |\mathbb{N}|$; i.e. the size of S is uncountable. Then note that there are no "obvious" simplifications to the formula for $\text{span}(S)$.

SPAN OF A SET IS ALWAYS A SUBSPACE OF THE PARENT VECTOR SPACE (T1.4)

\exists_1 Let V be a vector space over some field F , and let $S \subseteq V$. Then necessarily $\text{span}(S)$ is a subspace of V .

Proof: This follows from verifying each subspace condition for $\text{span}(S)$. \square

\exists_2 Moreover, $\text{span}(S)$ is the "smallest possible" subspace of V that contains S , in the sense that

① $S \subseteq \text{span}(S)$; and

② If W is any other subspace of V containing S , then $\text{span}(S) \subseteq W$.

"GENERATES / SPANS" (D8)

\exists_1 Let V be a vector space, and let $S \subseteq V$.

Then, we say S "generates" V , or S "spans" V , if $\text{span}(S) = V$.

\exists_2 Note to prove $\text{span}(S) = V$, we just need to prove every vector in V can be written as a linear combination of vectors in S , since $\text{span}(S) \subseteq V$ by definition.

(This follows from extensionality.) (R6)

LINEAR INDEPENDENCE & DEPENDENCE (SI-5)

LINEARLY DEPENDENT (D9(1))

💡 Let V be a vector space over some field F , and let $S \subseteq V$.

Then, we say S is "linearly dependent" if there exists a finite number of distinct vectors $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n \in S$ and scalars $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n \in F$, where c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n are all not zero, such that

$$c_1 u_1 + c_2 u_2 + \dots + c_n u_n = 0.$$

💡 In this case, we also say the vectors of S are linearly dependent.

💡 Note that if S is finite, say $S = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$, then S is linearly dependent if and only if there exists a $(c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n) \in F^n$, where $(c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n) \neq (0, 0, \dots, 0)$, such that

$$c_1 u_1 + c_2 u_2 + \dots + c_n u_n = 0. \quad (\text{R7(4a)})$$

LINEARLY INDEPENDENT (D9(2))

💡 Let V be a vector space over some field F , and let $S \subseteq V$.

Then, we say S is "linearly independent" if it is not "linearly dependent"; ie for every choice of distinct $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n \in S$, if $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n \in F$ are scalars such that

$$c_1 u_1 + c_2 u_2 + \dots + c_n u_n = 0,$$

then necessarily $c_1 = c_2 = \dots = c_n = 0$.

💡 Similarly, if S is finite, say $S = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$, then S is linearly independent if and only if whenever $(c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n) \in F^n$ are such that

$$c_1 u_1 + c_2 u_2 + \dots + c_n u_n = 0,$$

then necessarily $c_1 = c_2 = \dots = c_n = 0$.

TRIVIAL REPRESENTATION OF 0 (R7(1))

💡 Note that for any vector space V and vectors $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n \in V$, we denote the "trivial representation of $0 \in V$ " as a linear combination of u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n by

$$0u_1 + 0u_2 + \dots + 0u_n = 0.$$

EMPTY SET IS LINEARLY INDEPENDENT (R7(2))

💡 Note that the empty set, \emptyset , is vacuously linearly independent.

* since linearly dependent sets must be non-empty by definition.

$\{0\}$ IS LINEARLY DEPENDENT (R7(3))

💡 Note that the set $\{0\}$ is linearly dependent, since $1(0) = 0$ is a non-trivial representation of 0 as a linear combination of finitely many distinct vectors in S .

$0 \in S \Rightarrow S$ IS LINEARLY DEPENDENT (R7(5))

💡 Note that any subset of a vector space that contains the zero vector is linearly dependent.

EXAMPLE 1: $S = \{(0, 1, 1), (1, 0, 1), (1, 2, 3)\}$ IS LINEARLY DEPENDENT IN \mathbb{R}^3 (E14)

💡 We can show that the set $S = \{(0, 1, 1), (1, 0, 1), (1, 2, 3)\}$ is linearly dependent in \mathbb{R}^3 .

Proof. We search for scalars $a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}$, not all 0, such that

$$a\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + b\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + c\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

This reduces to solving the system

$$\begin{cases} b+c=0 \\ a+2c=0 \\ a+b+3c=0 \end{cases}$$

Simplifying, we get that

$$a = -2t, b = -t \text{ and } c = t,$$

where $t \in \mathbb{R}$.

For instance, $(a, b, c) = (-2, -1, 1)$ is a solution in which not all of a, b, c are 0.

It follows that S is linearly dependent. \blacksquare

EXAMPLE 2: $S = \{1, x, x^2, x^3\}$ IS LINEARLY INDEPENDENT IN $\mathbb{Z}_5[x]$ (E15)

💡 We can show that the set $S = \{1, x, x^2, x^3\}$ is linearly independent in $\mathbb{Z}_5[x]$.

Proof. Note that if there exist $a_0, a_1, a_2, a_3 \in \mathbb{Z}_5$ such that

$$a_0(1) + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 = 0,$$

then by definition necessarily $a_0 = a_1 = a_2 = a_3 = 0$, and this is sufficient to prove the claim. \blacksquare

S IS LINEARLY DEPENDENT \Leftrightarrow

$S = \{0\}$ OR SOME VECTOR IN S IS A
LINEAR COMBINATION OF OTHER VECTORS
IN S (TI-S)

Let V be a vector space, and let $S \subseteq V$.
Then S is linearly dependent if and only if
 $S = \{0\}$ or some vector in S is a linear
combination of other vectors in S .

Proof. We first prove the backward argument.

First, note we know why $\{0\}$ is linearly
dependent from a previous section.

So, suppose there exists a vector $v \in S$
such that

$$v = c_1 u_1 + c_2 u_2 + \dots + c_n u_n,$$

where $c_i \in \mathbb{F}$ and $u_i \in V$ $\forall i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$.

Without loss in generality, assume u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n are distinct.

By assumption, since $v \notin \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$, necessarily
 u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n, v are distinct.

Finally, since

$$0 = (-1)v + c_1 u_1 + c_2 u_2 + \dots + c_n u_n,$$

and $-1 \neq 0$, it follows S is linearly dependent. *

Next, we prove the forward argument.

Assume S is linearly dependent, so that there exist
distinct $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n \in S$ and $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{F}$ (not all 0)
such that

$$a_1 u_1 + a_2 u_2 + \dots + a_n u_n = 0.$$

Without loss in generality, assume $a_1 \neq 0$ $\forall i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$.

Case 1: $n=1$.

Then $a_1 u_1 = 0$, and since $a_1 \neq 0$ it follows that $u_1 = 0$
(since fields are integral domains, so the cancellation
property applies.)

Hence $0 \in S$. If $S = \{0\}$ we are done;
otherwise, we can pick a $v \in S \setminus \{0\}$, and we
can write $0 = 0v$, proving some vector in S , 0, can
be written as a linear combination of another
vector, v , in S .

Case 2: $n > 1$.

Then since $a_1 \neq 0$, we can solve for u_1 :

$$u_1 = -a_1^{-1} [a_1 u_1 + a_2 u_2 + \dots + a_{n-1} u_{n-1}],$$

$$\therefore u_1 = (-a_1^{-1} a_1) u_1 + (-a_1^{-1} a_2) u_2 + \dots + (-a_1^{-1} a_{n-1}) u_{n-1},$$

showing u_1 can be expressed as a linear
combination of other elements in S .

BASES & DIMENSION (SI.6)

BASIS (D10)

Let V be a vector space.

Then, we say a subset $S \subseteq V$ is a "basis" for V if
① S is linearly independent; and
② S spans V .

In this case, we also say that the vectors of S form a basis for V .

STANDARD BASIS (C17)

In \mathbb{F}^n , define the "standard basis" for \mathbb{F}^n the subset

$$S = \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n\},$$

where $e_j \in \mathbb{F}^n$ is the vector with j th coordinate 1 and other coordinates 0.

(It is easy to prove S is indeed a basis for \mathbb{F}^n .)

In $P_n(\mathbb{F})$, define the "standard basis" for $P_n(\mathbb{F})$ as the set

$$S = \{1, x, x^2, \dots, x^n\}.$$

(It is also easy to prove S is indeed a basis for $P_n(\mathbb{F})$.)

UNIQUE REPRESENTATION OF ELEMENTS IN VECTOR SPACES UNDER A BASIS (T1.6)

Let $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$ be a basis for a vector space V .

Then for every $x \in V$, x can be uniquely represented as a linear combination of v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n ; ie there exists a unique n -tuple $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) \in \mathbb{F}^n$ such that

$$x = a_1 v_1 + a_2 v_2 + \dots + a_n v_n.$$

Proof. Existence: this follows from the fact that $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$ spans V by definition.

Uniqueness: suppose there exists some $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n \in \mathbb{F}$ such that

$$x = a_1 v_1 + \dots + a_n v_n = b_1 v_1 + \dots + b_n v_n.$$

It follows that

$$0 = (a_1 - b_1)v_1 + \dots + (a_n - b_n)v_n,$$

and since $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$ is linearly independent, necessarily $a_i = b_i \quad \forall i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$. \square

V IS GENERATED BY S , $|S| = |\mathbb{N}|$

$\Rightarrow TCS$ IS ALSO A BASIS FOR V (T1.7)

Let V be a vector space, and assume that

V is generated by a countable set S .

Then there exists a subset of S that is a basis for V .

Proof. If $S = \emptyset$ or $S = \{0\}$, then \emptyset is a basis for V trivially.

Otherwise, S contains at least a non-zero vector.

Hence, we can write S as

$$S = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\} \text{ or } S = \{v_1, v_2, \dots\}.$$

By the WOP, we can pick the smallest index $i \geq 1$ such that $v_i \neq 0$.

Then $\{v_i\}$ is linearly independent.

Let i_2 be the smallest index such that $v_{i_2} \in \text{span}\{v_i\}$.

Continue this "process" until we obtain the set

$$T = \{v_{i_k} \mid v_{i_k} \notin \text{span}\{v_{i_1}, \dots, v_{i_{k-1}}\}, k \geq 1\}.$$

Finally, we can prove T is a basis for V .

① Assume T is linearly dependent.

Then there exists a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k , all not 0, such that

$$a_1 v_{i_1} + \dots + a_k v_{i_k} = 0.$$

It follows that

$$v_{i_k} = -a_1^{-1} a_1 v_{i_1} - \dots - a_{k-1}^{-1} a_{k-1} v_{i_{k-1}},$$

contradicting the construction of T .

② We can prove by induction that $\text{span}(S_k) = \text{span}(T_k) \quad \forall k \geq 1$, where

$$S_k = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k\} \text{ and } T_k = T \cap S_k = \{v_{i_q} \mid i_q \leq k\}.$$

Then, let $x \in \text{span}(S)$. Then $x \in \text{span}(S_m)$ for some large m , so that $x \in \text{span}(T_m) \subset \text{span}(T)$.

Hence $V \subseteq \text{span}(T)$, and it follows that $V = \text{span}(T)$. \square

EVERY VECTOR SPACE HAS A BASIS

(T1.8)

We can prove that every vector space has a basis.

(The proof uses Zorn's Lemma & maximal linearly independent subsets.)

REPLACEMENT THEOREM (TI.9)

Suppose V is a vector space with a finite spanning set S . Let T be a linearly independent subset in V . Then

- ① $|T| \leq |S|$; and
- ② There exists a set $H \subseteq S$ containing exactly $(|S|-|T|)$ vectors such that $T \cup H$ generates V .

Proof. Let $n = |S|$, and let $m = |T|$. Then, when $m=0$, clearly $m=0 \leq |S|$. Next, assume the statement is true for some $m \geq 0$. This implies that if $T_m \subseteq V$ is any linearly independent subset in V of size m , then $m \leq n$ and there exists a set $H_m \subseteq S$ containing exactly $n-m$ vectors such that $T_m \cup H_m$ generates V .

Let $T_m = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m\}$ and $T = T_m \cup \{v_{m+1}\}$, such that T is linearly independent and a subset of V .

Note that this implies T_m is also linearly independent.

Now, apply the induction hypothesis on T_m to get that $n \geq m$, and there exist $(n-m)$ vectors $w_{m+1}, \dots, w_n \in S$ such that

$\{v_1, \dots, v_m, w_{m+1}, \dots, w_n\}$ generates V .

Then, since $n \geq m$, either $n=m$ or $n > m$.

If $n=m$, $\{v_1, \dots, v_m, w_{m+1}, \dots, w_n\} = \{v_1, \dots, v_m\}$.

Thus, $v_{m+1} \in \text{span}\{v_1, \dots, v_m\}$, so by Theorem 1.5, the set $\{v_1, \dots, v_m, v_{m+1}\}$ is linearly dependent.

But this is a contradiction; hence, it follows that $n > m$, so that $n \geq m+1$, proving ①.

Subsequently, write

$$v_{m+1} = a_1 v_1 + \dots + a_m v_m + a_{m+1} v_{m+1} + \dots + a_n w_n$$

for some scalars $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{F}$.

Then, if $a_{m+1} = \dots = a_n = 0$, then we would get that $v_{m+1} = a_1 v_1 + \dots + a_m v_m$, which is a contradiction; hence, at least one of the scalars a_{m+1}, \dots, a_n must be non-zero.

Then, without loss in generality, assume $a_{m+1} \neq 0$.

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} w_{m+1} &= -a_{m+1}^{-1} a_1 v_1 - \dots - a_{m+1}^{-1} a_m v_m - a_{m+1}^{-1} a_{m+1} v_{m+1} \\ &\quad - a_{m+1}^{-1} a_{m+2} w_{m+2} - \dots - a_{m+1}^{-1} a_n w_n. \end{aligned}$$

Let $H = \{w_{m+2}, \dots, w_n\} \subset S$. The above shows that

$w_{m+1} \in \text{span}(T \cup H)$.

Moreover, since $v_1, \dots, v_m \in T \subseteq \text{span}(T \cup H)$ and $w_{m+2}, \dots, w_n \in H \subseteq \text{span}(T \cup H)$, it follows that

$$V = \text{span}\{w_{m+1}, v_1, \dots, v_m, w_{m+2}, \dots, w_n\} \subseteq \text{span}(T \cup H).$$

But since $\text{span}(T \cup H) \subseteq V$, it follows that $V = \text{span}(T \cup H)$, completing the proof. \square

V IS FINITELY SPANNED \Rightarrow ALL BASES OF V & H HAVE EQUAL CARDINALITIES (CI.9.1)

Suppose V is a finitely spanned vector space.

Then all bases of V are finite and have the same amount of elements.

Proof. Let S be a finite spanning set for V , and let B be an arbitrary basis for V . Then by definition, B is linearly independent.

By the Replacement Theorem, $|B| \leq |S| < \infty$.

Next, let B_1 and B_2 be two bases of V . Then, since B_1 is linearly independent and B_2

is a finite spanning set for V , by the Replacement Theorem necessarily $|B_1| \leq |B_2|$.

Similarly, since B_2 is linearly independent and B_1 is a finite spanning set for V , by the Replacement Theorem necessarily $|B_2| \leq |B_1|$.

It follows that $|B_1| = |B_2|$, and we are done.

DIMENSION FINITE/INFINITE-DIMENSIONAL (DI.2)

We say a vector space V is "finite-dimensional" if it has a basis consisting of a finite number of vectors.

Otherwise, we say V is "infinite-dimensional".

DIMENSION (DI.2)

Let V be a finite-dimensional vector space.

Then, the "dimension" of V , denoted as " $\dim V$ ", is defined to be the unique number of vectors in each basis for V .

By convention, we let $\dim\{0\} = 0$.

Examples:

- ① $\dim \mathbb{F}^n = n$;
- ② $\dim \mathbb{C}^n = 2n$;
- ③ $\dim M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F}) = mn$; and
- ④ $\dim P_n(\mathbb{F}) = n+1$. (E18)

ANY FINITE SPANNING SET FOR V CONTAINS AT LEAST n VECTORS (C1.9.2(1))

Let V be a vector space with $\dim V = n$. Then if S is a finite spanning set for V , necessarily $|S| \geq n$.

Proof. By the Existence Theorem (T1.7), there exists a subset T of S that is a basis for V . Therefore $|T| = \dim V = n$, which implies that $|S| \geq |T| = n$. \square

S GENERATES V , $|V|=n \Rightarrow S$ IS A BASIS FOR V (C1.9.2 (2))

Let V be a vector space with $\dim V = n$, and suppose S generates V , with $|S|=n$. Then S is a basis for V .

Proof. Again, by the Existence Theorem (T1.7), there exists some subset $T \subseteq S$ such that T is a basis for V . By the above corollary, $|T|=n$, so that if $|S|=n$, necessarily $S=T$. It follows that S is a basis for V . \square

S IS LINEARLY INDEPENDENT \Rightarrow S CONTAINS AT MOST n VECTORS (C1.9.2(3))

Let V be a vector space, with $\dim V = n$. Suppose the subset $S \subseteq V$ is linearly independent. Then S contains at most n vectors.

Proof. Applying the Replacement Theorem for the spanning set P , it follows that $|S| \leq |P|$, and since $|P|=n$, this tells us that $|S| \leq n$, as needed. \square

S IS LINEARLY INDEPENDENT, $|S|=n$ $\Rightarrow S$ IS A BASIS FOR V (C1.9.2 (4))

Let V be a vector space, with $\dim V = n$. Suppose the subset $S \subseteq V$ is linearly independent and $|V|=n$. Then S is a basis for V .

Proof. Applying the Replacement Theorem for the spanning set P and the linearly independent set S , there must exist a subset $H \subseteq P$ containing $|P|-|S|=n-n=0$ vectors such that $S \cup H$ generates V . But since $|H|=0$, hence $H=\emptyset$, so that S generates V (and hence is a basis for V). \square

EVERY LINEARLY INDEPENDENT SUBSET OF V CAN BE "EXTENDED" TO A BASIS OF V (C1.9.2 (5))

Let V be a vector space, with $\dim V = n$. Suppose $L = \{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$ is a linearly independent subset of V , where $1 \leq k \leq n$. Then there exists a HCV such that $L \cup H$ is a basis of V .

Proof. If $k=n$, by C1.9.2(4) L is trivially a basis for V . If $k < n$, then by the Replacement Theorem for the spanning set P and L , there necessarily exists a subset $H \subseteq P$ containing $|P|-|L|=n-k$ vectors such that $L \cup H$ generates V . By C1.9.2(1), $|L \cup H| \geq n$. But $|L \cup H| \leq |L| + |H| = k + (n-k) = n$, so that $|L \cup H| = n$. It follows by C1.9.2(2) that $L \cup H$ is a basis for V . \square

W IS A SUBSPACE OF V

$$\Rightarrow \dim W \leq \dim V ; \quad \dim W = \dim V \\ \Leftrightarrow W = V \quad (\text{C1.9.2 (6)})$$

Let W be a subspace of the vector space V . Then $\dim W \leq \dim V$, with equality occurring if and only if $V=W$.

Proof. If $W=\{v\}$, then $\dim W=0 \leq \dim V$. Otherwise, W contains a non-zero vector w_1 . Then $\{w_1\}$ is linearly independent. Continue to choose the vectors $w_1, \dots, w_n \in W$ such that $\{w_1, \dots, w_k\}$ is linearly independent. Note that this process cannot go on indefinitely, since $\{w_1, \dots, w_k\}$ is also linearly independent in V . This implies that $k \leq n$. Next, by T1.5, $W \subseteq \text{span}(\{w_1, \dots, w_k\}) = \text{span}(T)$. Then, since $T \subseteq W$, necessarily $\text{span}(T) \subseteq \text{span}(W) = W$. It follows that $W = \text{span}(T)$, so that T is a basis (since it is also linearly independent), and $\dim W = |T| = k \leq n = \dim V$.

Note that if $\dim V = n = \dim W$, then a basis for W is also a linearly independent set containing n elements. Hence, by C1.9.2(4), that set is also a basis for V . \square

W IS A SUBSPACE FOR $V \Rightarrow$ ANY BASIS OF W CAN BE "EXTENDED" TO A BASIS IN V (C1.9.2 (7))

Let W be a subspace of the vector space V , and let S be a basis of W . Then we can "extend" S to a basis in V .

Proof. By C1.9.2(6), $\dim W \leq \dim V$. Let $T = \{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$ be a basis for W , so that T is linearly independent in W , which in turn implies T is linearly independent in V . So, by C1.9.2(5), we can "extend" T to a basis in V . \square