

MATH405: Linear Algebra

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1 Vector Space

Goals of this course is to discuss

- Vector spaces
- Linear transformations between vector spaces
- Other operations on vector spaces

1.1 Definitions

Definition - Field: A set of numbers containing 0, 1 that can be added, subtracted, multiplied, and divided (except cannot divide by 0) that satisfy the following **Field Axioms**

1. $a, b \in K \implies a + b, ab \in K$
2. $+, \times$ are commutative so $a + b = b + a$ and $ab = ba$
3. $+, \times$ are associative so $(a + b) + c = a + (b + c)$ and $a(bc) = (ab)c$
4. Distributive Law: $a(b + c) = ab + ac$
5. Additive Identity: $a + 0 = 0 + a = a$
6. Multiplicative Identity: $a \cdot 1 = 1 \cdot a = a$
7. Additive Inverse: $\forall a \in K, \exists b$ such that $a + b = 0$, namely $b = -a$ which is unique
8. Multiplicative Inverse: $\forall a \in K, \exists b$ such that $ab = 1$, name $b = 1/a$ which is unique

- **Example:** R, Q are fields. Z is not a field since there is no multiplicative inverse of 2

Example: $C = \{a + bi \mid a, b \in R\}$, where $i = \sqrt{-1}$ is a field under

- $+$: $(a + bi) + (c + di) = (a + c) + (b + d)i$
- \times : $(a + bi)(c + di) = (ac - bd) + (ad + bc)i$

Example: $F_2 = \{0, 1\}$ is a field under

- $+$: where
$$0 + 0 = 0$$
$$0 + 1 = 1 + 0 = 1$$
$$1 + 1 = 0$$
- \times : where
$$0 \cdot 0 = 0$$
$$0 \cdot 1 = 1 \cdot 0 = 0$$
$$1 \cdot 1 = 1$$

Example: For a prime p , let $F_p = \{0, \dots, p-1\}$. Then F_p is a field under

- $+$: $a + b \pmod{p}$
- \times : $ab \pmod{p}$

Definition - Vector Space: For an arbitrary field K , a K -vector space is a set V with a distinguished element O such that any 2 elements in V can be added and scalar multiplied by $c \in K$

- $u, v \in V \implies u + v \in V$
- $c \in K, u \in V \implies cu \in V$

Satisfying the following properties

1. Commutative Addition: $u + v = v + u$
2. Associative Addition: $(u + v) + w = u + (v + w)$
3. Additive Identity: $u + O = u$

4. Additive Inverse: $\forall u \in V, \exists v \in V$ such that $u + v = O$, namely $v = -u$ which is unique
5. Distributive Laws: $\forall a, b \in K, a(u + v) = au + av$ and $(a + b)u = au + bu$
6. Commutative Scalar Multiplication: $(ab)u = a(bu)$
7. Multiplicative Identity: $1 \cdot u = u$

Example: R^3 is an R -vector space defined by the operations

$$R^3 = \{(x, y, z) \mid x, y, z \in R\}$$

- $+$: add componentwise so $(a, b, c) + (d, e, f) = (a + d, b + e, c + f)$
- Scalar \times : for $r \in R, r(a, b, c) = (ra, rb, rc)$
- Additive Identity is $O = (0, 0, 0)$

Example: For any field K, K^2 is a K -vector space defined by the operations

$$K^2 = \{(x, y) \mid x, y \in K\}$$

- $+$: add componentwise so $(a, b) + (c, d) = (a + c, b + d)$
- Scalar \times : for $k \in K, k(a, b) = (ka, kb)$
- Additive Identity is $O = (0, 0)$

Example: R is an R -vector space since clearly the properties hold

Example R is a Q -vector space since clearly the properties hold

- Notably, for $q \in Q$ and $r \in R$, we have $qr \in R$. Thus scalar multiplication is closed

Example: For any field K , the set $\{O\}$ is a K -vector space

Example: Let X be any non-empty set and let $\mathcal{F}(X)$ be the set of all functions $f : X \rightarrow R$. Then \mathcal{F} is an R -vector space under the operations

- $+$: for $f, g \in \mathcal{F}(X)$, define $f + g := (f + g)(x)$
- Scalar \times : let $r \in R$, then define $rf := r(f(x))$
- Additive Identity is $O = f(x) = 0$, the function that takes any x to 0

Example: Take $X = N$ and let $F(X) = \{ \text{all functions } f : N \rightarrow R \}$ is a vector space

- **Note:** $f : N \rightarrow R$ is a sequence (a_0, \dots, a_n) where $a_n = f(n)$

Lemma 1 - Cancellation: For $u, v, w \in V$ and if $u + v = w + v$, then $u = w$

Proof: $v \in V$ has an additive inverse, namely $-v$. Thus we have

$$u + v - v = w + v - v \implies u = w$$

Lemma 2 - Unique Additive Inverse: For all $v \in V$, there is a unique additive inverse, namely $-v$

Proof: Suppose u, w are both additive inverses of v . Then we have

$$v + u = v + w \implies u = w$$

Lemma 3 - 0 Times a Vector: For all $v \in V$, $0v = O$

Proof: $v = 1v = (0 + 1)v = 0v + 1v = 0v + v \implies 0v = O$

Lemma 4 - $(-1)v$ is the Additive Inverse: For all $v \in V$, $(-1)v$ is the unique additive inverse of v

Proof: $(-1)v + v = (-1 + 1)v = 0v = O$. Thus $(-1)v$ is the additive inverse of v , which is unique by Lemma 2

Definition - Subspace: For a K -vector space V and a non-empty subset $W \subseteq V$, W is a **subspace** if it satisfies

- $w_1, w_2 \in W \implies w_1 + w_2 \in W$
- $\forall a \in K, w \in W \implies aw \in W$

Theorem 1: Every subspace of a K -vector space is a K -vector space

Proof: We need to show that $W \subseteq V$ satisfies all the necessary properties of a vector space

1. Verify $O \in W$

Since W is non-empty and closed under scalar multiplication, take $0w = O \in W$ by Lemma 3

2. $u, v \in W \implies u + v \in W$ and $a \in K, v \in W \implies aw \in W$ by definition of subspace

3. Every $w \in W$ has an additive inverse, namely $-w$

Since W is closed under scalar multiplication, $(-1)w = -w \in W$ by Lemma 4

4. Other conditions (e.g. associative addition, commutative addition, etc.) hold because $u, v, w \in V \implies u, v, w \in W$

For example, choose $u, v \in V$, then $u + v = v + u$, which also holds under W . Thus commutative addition is satisfied

Example: Take $(5, 3, 2) \in R^3$. Then let $W = \{r(5, 3, 2) \mid r \in R\}$

Then W is an R -vector space. We prove this by showing that W is a subspace of R^3

- $+$: Choose 2 arbitrary elements of W , $r(5, 3, 2)$ and $s(5, 3, 2)$ for $r, s \in R$

Then $r(5, 3, 2) + s(5, 3, 2) = (r + s)(5, 3, 2) \in W$

- \times : Choose $r(5, 3, 2) \in W$ and take $s \in R$

Then $s(r(5, 3, 2)) = (sr)(5, 3, 2) \in W$

Example: Let $U = \{(x, y, z) \in R^3 \mid 2x + 3y = 0\}$. We show that U is a vector space by showing it's a subspace of R^3

- $+$: Take (x_1, y_1, z_1) and $(x_2, y_2, z_2) \in U \implies 2x_1 + 3y_1 = 0$ and $2x_2 + 3y_2 = 0$

Then $2(x_1 + x_2) + 3(y_1 + y_2) = 0$

Thus $(x_1 + x_2, y_1 + y_2, z_1 + z_2) \in U$

- \times : Let $(x, y, z) \in U$ and $r \in R$

Then $2x + 3y = 0 \implies r(2x + 3y) = 2rx + 3ry = 0$

Thus $r(x, y, z) \in U$

Example: Consider $\sin(x), \cos(x) \in \mathcal{F}(R)$ and let $W = \{a \sin(x) + b \cos(x) \mid a, b \in R\}$. Then W is a subspace of $\mathcal{F}(R)$

- $+$: Take $a_1 \sin(x) + b_1 \cos(x)$ and $a_2 \sin(x) + b_2 \cos(x) \in W$. Then $(a_1 + a_2) \sin(x) + (b_1 + b_2) \cos(x) \in W$
- \times : Take $r \in R$. Then $r(a \sin(x) + b \cos(x)) = (ra) \sin(x) + (rb) \cos(x) \in W$

1.2 Basis

Definition - Linear Combination: For vectors $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\} \subseteq V$, a **linear combination** of $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ is any vector of the form

$$a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n \quad a_i \in K$$

Definition - Span: $\text{span}(\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}) = \{ \text{all linear combinations of } \{v_1, \dots, v_n\} \}$

Proposition 1: $W = \text{span}(\{v_1, \dots, v_n\})$ is a subspace of V and thus is itself a K -Vector Space

Proof: We show that W satisfies the necessary criteria to be a subspace of V

- $+$: Let $a = a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n \in W$ and $b = b_1v_1 + \dots + b_nv_n \in W$

Then $a + b = (a_1 + b_1)v_1 + \dots + (a_n + b_n)v_n \in W$

Thus W is closed under addition

- Scalar \times : Let $a = a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n \in W$ and let $c \in K$

Then $ca = (ca_1)v_1 + \dots + (ca_n)v_n \in W$

Thus W is closed under scalar multiplication

Example: Take $(5, 3, 1)$ and $(4, 0, -2) \in R^3$

$\text{span}(\{(5, 3, 1), (4, 0, -2)\})$ is a plane in R^3 passing through $(0, 0, 0)$

Example: Take $(5, 3, 1)$ and $(10, 6, 2) \in R^3$

$\text{span}(\{(5, 3, 1), (10, 6, 2)\})$ is a line in R^3 passing through $(0, 0, 0)$

- **Note:** $(10, 6, 2) = 2(5, 3, 1)$. Thus $\text{span}(\{(5, 3, 1), (10, 6, 2)\}) = a_1(5, 3, 1) + a_2(10, 6, 2) = (a_1 + 2a_2)(5, 3, 1)$

Definition - Linearly Independent: $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ is **linearly independent** if whenever $a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n = 0$, then $a_1 = \dots = a_n = 0$

- Otherwise $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ is **linearly dependent**

Proposition 2: $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ is linearly independent if and only if no v_i is a linearly combination of the other $n - 1$ vectors

Proof: \implies Assume $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ is linearly independent

BWOC, assume some $v_i = a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n$ for some $v_i \notin \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$

Then we have

$$0 = a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n + (-1)v_i$$

Since v_i is a linear combination of $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$, the above equation shows that $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ is linearly dependent. Contradiction

Thus v_i cannot be written as a linear combination of the other vectors

\Leftarrow Assume by way of contraposition that $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ is not linearly independent

Thus choose $a_1, \dots, a_n \in K$, not all 0 such that

$$a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n = 0$$

WLOG, assume $a_1 \neq 0$. Then $v_2a_2 + \dots + a_nv_n = -a_1v_1$

Since $a_1 \neq 0$ and K is a field, we have

$$v_1 = \frac{a_2}{-a_1}v_2 + \dots + \frac{a_n}{-a_1}v_n$$

Thus we have shown that v_1 is a linear combination of the other $n - 1$ vectors

Corollary 3: $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ is linearly independent if and only if for each i , $v_i \notin \text{span}(\{v_1, \dots, v_n\} \setminus \{v_i\})$

Proof: This follows from the previous proposition

Definition - Spans: Let W be a K -Vector Space and $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\} \subseteq W$. If $\text{span}(\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}) = W$, then $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ **spans** W , so every $w \in W$ is a linear combination of $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$

Definition - Basis: $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ is a **basis** of W if it spans W and is linearly independent

Example: $\{(5, 3, 1), (4, 0, -2)\}$ is a basis for $\text{span}(\{(5, 3, 1), (4, 0, -2)\})$

Example: $\{(5, 3, 1), (10, 6, 2)\}$ is not a basis for $\text{span}(\{(5, 3, 1), (10, 6, 2)\})$ since it is not linearly independent

Proposition 4: Let $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ be a basis for W and let $w \in W$ be arbitrary. Then w can be written uniquely as

$$w = a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n \quad a_i \in K$$

Proof: Since $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ spans W , every $w \in W$ is a linear combination of $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$

For uniqueness, suppose

$$w = a_1v_1 + \dots + a_nv_n = b_1v_1 + \dots + b_nv_n$$

Then we have

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

Since $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ is linearly independent, we must have $b_i - a_i = 0$, and thus $b_i = a_i$ for each i

Thus each $w \in W$ can be written uniquely as a linear combination of $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$

Example: Let $W = \text{span}(\{\sin(x), \cos(x)\}) = \{ \text{all functions of the form } a \sin(x) + b \cos(x) \mid a, b \in \mathbb{R} \}$

We know that W is an \mathbb{R} -Vector Space

$\{\sin(x), \cos(x)\}$ is linearly independent. Otherwise $\sin(x) = r \cos(x)$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$ and some $r \in \mathbb{R}$. However, this cannot hold for when $x = \pi/2$ since $\sin(\pi/2) = 1 \neq r \cos(\pi/2) = r \cdot 0$