



**Why****Definition**

Suppose  $U_1, \dots, U_m$  are subsets of  $V$ . The *sum* of  $U_1, \dots, U_m$  is the set

$$\{u_1 + \dots + u_m \mid u_1 \in U_1, \dots, u_m \in U_m\}$$

**For subspaces**

The sum of two subspaces is a subspace. Moreover, it is the smallest subspace containing both subspaces.

**Proposition 1.** *Suppose  $U_1, \dots, U_m$  are subspaces of a vector space  $V$ . The  $U_1 + \dots + U_m$  is the smallest subspace containing  $U_1, \dots, U_m$ .*



