

### SUBSPACES

## Why

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#### Definition

A *subspace* of a vector space is a subset of vectors that is a vector space when restriction vector addition and scalar multiplication to the set. In other words, a subspace is a subset of a vector space which is closed under vector addition and scalar multiplication.

For example, the entire set of vectors is a subspace. As a second example, the set consisting only of the zero vector is a subspace; we call this the zero subspace. These two subspaces are the trivial subspaces. A nontrivial subspace is a subspace that is not trivial.

#### Notation

Let  $(V, \mathbf{F})$  be a vector space. Let  $U \subset V$  with

$$\alpha u + \beta v \in U$$

for all  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathsf{F}$  and  $u, v \in U$ . Then U is a subspace of  $(V, \mathsf{F})$ .

# **Properties**

**Prop.** 1. The intersection of a family of subspaces is a subspace.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Future editions will include.

**Prop. 2.** There exists a family of subspaces whose union is not a subspace;

Remark 1. In other words: the union of a family subspaces need not be a subspace.

**Prop.** 3. A subspace must contain the zero vector; in other words, every subspace is nonempty.

