

Direct Sum

Definition: Let V be a vector space and let M_1, M_2, \dots, M_k be subspaces of V . The **sum** of the subspaces M is defined as

$$M = \{m = m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_k \mid m_i \in M_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, k\}$$

Theorem: The sum of subspaces M is a subspace of V .

Proof:

Let $x, y \in M$ Then,

$$x = m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_k$$

$$y = \bar{m}_1 + \bar{m}_2 + \dots + \bar{m}_k$$

$$\alpha x + \beta y = \alpha(m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_k) + \beta(\bar{m}_1 + \bar{m}_2 + \dots + \bar{m}_k)$$

$$\alpha x + \beta y = (\alpha m_1 + \beta \bar{m}_1) + (\alpha m_2 + \beta \bar{m}_2) + \dots + (\alpha m_k + \beta \bar{m}_k)$$

Since $\alpha m_i + \beta \bar{m}_i \in M_i$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$, we have $\alpha x + \beta y \in M$.

Remark: Let $V = M_1 + M_2 + \dots + M_k$ and let M_1, M_2, \dots, M_k are linearly independent. Let $x \in V$

$$x = m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_k$$

where $m_i \in M_i$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$

$$m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_k = 0 \implies m_1 = m_2 = \dots = m_k = 0$$

since M_1, M_2, \dots, M_k are linearly independent

Definition: Let M_1, M_2, \dots, M_k be subspaces of V .

$$\text{i) } M = M_1 + M_2 + \dots + M_k$$

$$\text{ii) } M_1, M_2, \dots, M_k \text{ are linearly independent}$$

Then, M is called the **direct sum** of M_1, M_2, \dots, M_k and we write $M = M_1 \oplus M_2 \oplus \dots \oplus M_k$.

When we have a direct sum, summation of dimensions of subspaces is equal to the dimension of the direct sum.

Example: $V = \mathbb{R}^4$ $x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^4$

$$M_1 = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^4 \mid x_3 = x_4 = 0\} \text{ dimension of } M_1 \text{ is } 2$$

$$M_2 = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^4 \mid x_1 = x_2 = 0\} \text{ dimension of } M_2 \text{ is } 2$$

$$M_3 = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^4 \mid x_1 = 0\} \text{ dimension of } M_3 \text{ is } 3$$

- $M_1 + M_2 = \mathbb{R}^4$
- $M_1 \oplus M_2 = \mathbb{R}^4$

Definition: If $M = V$, then $M = M_1 \oplus M_2 \oplus \dots \oplus M_k$ is called a **direct sum decomposition** of V .

Remark: Let $M = M_1 \oplus M_2 \oplus \dots \oplus M_k$ be a direct sum decomposition of V . Then, the decomposition is unique.

Proof: Let $M = M_1 \oplus M_2 \oplus \dots \oplus M_k$ and $M = \bar{M}_1 \oplus \bar{M}_2 \oplus \dots \oplus \bar{M}_k$ be two direct sum decompositions of V . Then,

$$\text{i) } M = M_1 + M_2 + \dots + M_k$$

$$\text{ii) } M_1, M_2, \dots, M_k \text{ are linearly independent}$$

$$\text{iii) } M = \bar{M}_1 + \bar{M}_2 + \dots + \bar{M}_k$$

$$\text{iv) } \bar{M}_1, \bar{M}_2, \dots, \bar{M}_k \text{ are linearly independent}$$

Let $x \in M_1 \cap \bar{M}_1$, then $x \in M_1$ and $x \in \bar{M}_1$. Since $M_1 \oplus \bar{M}_1$, we have $x = 0$.

Let $x \in M_2 \cap \bar{M}_2$, then $x \in M_2$ and $x \in \bar{M}_2$. Since $M_2 \oplus \bar{M}_2$, we have $x = 0$.

\vdots

Let $x \in M_k \cap \bar{M}_k$, then $x \in M_k$ and $x \in \bar{M}_k$. Since $M_k \oplus \bar{M}_k$, we have $x = 0$.

Since $x = 0$ for all $x \in M_1 \cap \bar{M}_1, M_2 \cap \bar{M}_2, \dots, M_k \cap \bar{M}_k$, we have $M_1 = \bar{M}_1, M_2 = \bar{M}_2, \dots, M_k = \bar{M}_k$.

Definition: Let V be an inner product space and let M_1, M_2, \dots, M_k be subspaces of V . The **orthogonal sum** of the subspaces M is defined as

$$\langle m_1, m_2 \rangle = 0 \quad \forall m_1 \in M_1 \text{ and } m_2 \in M_2$$

Orthogonality is denoted by $M_1 \perp M_2$.

Definition: Let $M = M_1 \oplus M_2 \oplus \dots \oplus M_k$ and let $M_1 \perp M_2 \perp \dots \perp M_k$. Then, M is called the **orthogonal direct sum** of M_1, M_2, \dots, M_k and we write $M = M_1 \oplus M_2 \oplus \dots \oplus M_k$.

Definition: Let $M = M_1 \oplus M_2 \oplus \dots \oplus M_k$ be a direct sum decomposition of V . Then, the **orthogonal complement** of M_i is defined as

$$M_i^\perp = \{x \in V \mid \langle x, m_i \rangle = 0 \quad \forall m_i \in M_i\}$$

Theorem: M_i^\perp is a subspace of V .

Proof: $x, y \in M^\perp$ then $\alpha x + \beta y \in M^\perp$ should be shown.

- $0 \in M_i^\perp$ since $\langle 0, m_i \rangle = 0$ for all $m_i \in M_i$.
- Let $x, y \in M_i^\perp$ and let $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$. Then,

$$\langle \alpha x + \beta y, m_i \rangle = \alpha \langle x, m_i \rangle + \beta \langle y, m_i \rangle = 0$$

for all $m_i \in M_i$. Therefore, $\alpha x + \beta y \in M_i^\perp$.

Example: $V = \mathbb{R}^3$ $M = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ $M^\perp = ?$

Solution: Let $x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} \in M^\perp$

$$\langle x, m_1 \rangle = 0 \quad \langle x, m_2 \rangle = 0$$

$$\langle x, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \rangle = 0$$

$$x_2 - x_3 = 0$$

$$x_2 = x_3$$

$$\langle x, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \rangle = 0$$

$$-x_1 + x_3 = 0$$

$$x_1 = x_3$$

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_3 \\ x_3 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = x_3 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M^\perp = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

Theorem: Let V be an inner product space and let M be a subspace of V . Then, we can always write $M \oplus M^\perp = V$. That is V can always be written as the direct sum of a subspace and its orthogonal complement.

Proof: We need to show two things:

1. M and M^\perp are linearly independent.
2. Any $x \in V$ can be written as $x = m + m^\perp$ where $m \in M$ and $m^\perp \in M^\perp$.

See lecture notes for the full proof.