

Step-1

$$v = \frac{1}{2}[v+w] + \frac{1}{2}[v-w] \quad (1)$$

And

$$w = \frac{1}{2}[v+w] - \frac{1}{2}[v-w] \quad (2)$$

The two pairs $\{v, w\}$, $\{v+w, v-w\}$ of vectors span the same space.

Step-2

Since $v+w, v-w$ are linear combinations of v, w as well as v, w are linear combinations of $v-w, v+w$ as in equations (1), (2).

If v, w are linearly independent then the sets $\{v, w\}$, $\{v+w, v-w\}$ basis for the same space.

Therefore, they are a basis when v and w are linearly independent.