

Solutions to Linear Algebra Done Right (4th Ed)
- Sheldon Axler

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Preface

The goal of this document is to share my personal solutions to the exercises in the Fourth Edition of Linear Algebra Done Right by Sheldon Axler during my reading. As a disclaimer, the solutions are not unique and there will probably be better or more optimized solutions than mine. Feel free to correct me or ask me anything about the content of this document at the following address : samy.lahloukamel@mcgill.ca

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Chapter 1

Vector Spaces

1A \mathbf{R}^n and \mathbf{C}^n

Exercise 1

Show that $\alpha + \beta = \beta + \alpha$ for all $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbf{C}$.

Solution

First, suppose that

$$\alpha = a + ib \quad \text{and} \quad \beta = c + id$$

where $a, b, c, d \in \mathbf{R}$, then

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha + \beta &= (a + ib) + (c + id) \\ &= (a + c) + i(b + d) \\ &= (c + a) + i(d + b) \\ &= (c + id) + (a + ib) \\ &= \beta + \alpha\end{aligned}$$

which proves that addition is commutative in \mathbf{C} using the fact that it is commutative in \mathbf{R} .

Exercise 2

Show that $(\alpha + \beta) + \lambda = \alpha + (\beta + \lambda)$ for all $\alpha, \beta, \lambda \in \mathbf{C}$.

Solution

First, suppose that

$$\alpha = a + ib, \quad \beta = c + id \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda = e + if$$

where $a, b, c, d, e, f \in \mathbf{R}$, then

$$\begin{aligned}(\alpha + \beta) + \lambda &= [(a + ib) + (c + id)] + (e + if) \\ &= [(a + c) + i(b + d)] + (e + if) \\ &= ([a + c] + e) + i([b + d] + f) \\ &= (a + [c + e]) + i(b + [d + f]) \\ &= (a + ib) + [(c + e) + i(d + f)] \\ &= (a + ib) + [(c + id) + (e + if)] \\ &= \alpha + (\beta + \lambda)\end{aligned}$$

which proves that addition is associative in \mathbf{C} using the fact that it is associative in \mathbf{R} .

Exercise 3

Show that $(\alpha\beta)\lambda = \alpha(\beta\lambda)$ for all $\alpha, \beta, \lambda \in \mathbf{C}$.

Solution

First, suppose that

$$\alpha = a + ib, \quad \beta = c + id \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda = e + if$$

where $a, b, c, d, e, f \in \mathbf{R}$, then

$$\begin{aligned} (\alpha\beta)\lambda &= [(a + ib)(c + id)](e + if) \\ &= [(ac - bd) + i(ad + bc)](e + if) \\ &= ([ac - bd]e - [ad + bc]f) + i([ac - bd]f + [ad + bc]e) \\ &= (ace - bde - adf - bcf) + i(acf - bdf + ade + bce) \\ &= (a[ce - fd] - b[cf + de]) + i(a[cf + de] + b[ce - fd]) \\ &= (a + ib)[(ce - fd) + i(cf + de)] \\ &= (a + ib)[(c + id)(e + if)] \\ &= \alpha(\beta\lambda) \end{aligned}$$

which proves that multiplication is associative in \mathbf{C} using the fact that multiplication is associative and addition is commutative in \mathbf{R} .

Exercise 4

Show that $\lambda(\alpha + \beta) = \lambda\alpha + \lambda\beta$ for all $\lambda, \alpha, \beta \in \mathbf{C}$.

Solution

First, suppose that

$$\alpha = a + ib, \quad \beta = c + id \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda = e + if$$

where $a, b, c, d, e, f \in \mathbf{R}$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda(\alpha + \beta) &= (e + if)[(a + ib) + (c + id)] \\ &= (e + if)[(a + c) + i(b + d)] \\ &= [e(a + c) - f(b + d)] + i[e(b + d) + f(a + c)] \\ &= (ea + ec - fb - fd) + i(eb + ed + fa + fc) \\ &= [(ea - fb) + i(eb + fa)] + [(ec - fd) + i(ed + fc)] \\ &= [(e + if)(a + ib)] + [(e + if)(c + id)] \\ &= \lambda\alpha + \lambda\beta \end{aligned}$$

which proves the distributivity in \mathbf{C} using the distributivity in \mathbf{R} .

Exercise 5

Show that for every $\alpha \in \mathbf{C}$, there exists a unique $\beta \in \mathbf{C}$ such that $\alpha + \beta = 0$.

Solution

Let $\alpha = a + ib$ and consider $\beta = (-a) + i(-b)$, then we get

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha + \beta &= (a + ib) + ([-a] + i[-b]) \\ &= (a + [-a]) + i(b + [-b]) \\ &= 0 + i0 \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

which proves the existence of such a complex number β . To prove the uniqueness of such a complex number, let β_1 and β_2 be two complex numbers satisfying $\alpha + \beta_1 = 0$ and $\alpha + \beta_2 = 0$, this implies that $\alpha + \beta_1 = \alpha + \beta_2$. If we add β_1 on both sides, we get

$$\begin{aligned}\beta_1 + (\alpha + \beta_1) &= \beta_1 + (\alpha + \beta_2) \implies (\beta_1 + \alpha) + \beta_1 = (\beta_1 + \alpha) + \beta_2 \\ &\implies (\alpha + \beta_1) + \beta_1 = (\alpha + \beta_1) + \beta_2 \\ &\implies 0 + \beta_1 = 0 + \beta_2 \\ &\implies \beta_1 = \beta_2\end{aligned}$$

which proves that such a complex number is unique.

Exercise 6

Show that for every $\alpha \in \mathbf{C}$ with $\alpha \neq 0$, there exists a unique $\beta \in \mathbf{C}$ such that $\alpha\beta = 1$.

Solution

Let $\alpha = a + ib \neq 0$, then notice that we must have $a^2 + b^2 \neq 0$. Hence, consider

$$\beta = \left(\frac{a}{a^2 + b^2} \right) + i \left(-\frac{b}{a^2 + b^2} \right)$$

Thus, we get

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha\beta &= (a + ib) \left[\left(\frac{a}{a^2 + b^2} \right) + i \left(-\frac{b}{a^2 + b^2} \right) \right] \\ &= \left(a \left(\frac{a}{a^2 + b^2} \right) - b \left(-\frac{b}{a^2 + b^2} \right) \right) + i \left(a \left(-\frac{b}{a^2 + b^2} \right) + b \left(\frac{a}{a^2 + b^2} \right) \right) \\ &= \frac{a^2 + b^2}{a^2 + b^2} + i \frac{-ab + ba}{a^2 + b^2} \\ &= 1 + i0 \\ &= 1\end{aligned}$$

which proves the existence of such a complex number β . To prove the uniqueness of such a complex number, let β_1 and β_2 be two complex numbers satisfying $\alpha\beta_1 = 1$ and $\alpha\beta_2 = 1$, this implies that $\alpha\beta_1 = \alpha\beta_2$. If we multiply by β_1 on both sides, we get

$$\begin{aligned}\beta_1(\alpha\beta_1) &= \beta_1(\alpha\beta_2) \implies (\beta_1\alpha)\beta_1 = (\beta_1\alpha)\beta_2 \\ &\implies (\alpha\beta_1)\beta_1 = (\alpha\beta_1)\beta_2 \\ &\implies 1 \cdot \beta_1 = 1 \cdot \beta_2 \\ &\implies \beta_1 = \beta_2\end{aligned}$$

which proves that such a complex number is unique.

Exercise 7

Show that

$$\frac{-1 + \sqrt{3}i}{2}$$

is a cube root of 1 (meaning that its cube equals 1).

Solution

This is pretty straightforward:

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{-1 + \sqrt{3}i}{2} \right)^3 &= \frac{(-1 + \sqrt{3}i)^3}{2^3} \\ &= \frac{(-1)^3 + 3(-1)^2(\sqrt{3}i) + 3(-1)^1(\sqrt{3}i)^2 + (\sqrt{3}i)^3}{8} \\ &= \frac{-1 + 3\sqrt{3}i + 3 \cdot 3 - 3(\sqrt{3}i)}{8} \\ &= \frac{8}{8} \\ &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 8

Find two distinct square roots of i .

Solution

Consider $\alpha = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} + i\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$ and $\beta = -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} - i\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$. Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha^2 &= \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} + i\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \right)^2 \\ &= \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \right)^2 + 2 \cdot \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \cdot i\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} + \left(i\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \right)^2 \\ &= \frac{2}{4} + i - \frac{2}{4} \\ &= i \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \beta^2 &= \left(-\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} - i\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \right)^2 \\ &= \left(-\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \right)^2 + 2 \cdot \left(-\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \right) \cdot \left(-i\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \right) + \left(-i\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \right)^2 \\ &= \frac{2}{4} + i - \frac{2}{4} \\ &= i \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, α and β are two distinct square roots of i .

Exercise 9

Find $x \in \mathbf{R}^4$ such that

$$(4, -3, 1, 7) + 2x = (5, 9, -6, 8).$$

Solution

First, suppose that such an element x exists, then there exist $a, b, c, d \in \mathbf{R}$ such that $x = (a, b, c, d)$ and

$$(4 + 2a, -3 + 2b, 1 + 2c, 7 + 2d) = (5, 9, -6, 8)$$

But notice that this is equivalent to the following system of equations:

$$\begin{cases} 4 + 2a = 5 \\ -3 + 2b = 9 \\ 1 + 2c = -6 \\ 7 + 2d = 8 \end{cases}$$

which implies that

$$\begin{cases} a = \frac{1}{2} \\ b = 6 \\ c = \frac{7}{2} \\ d = \frac{1}{2} \end{cases}$$

Therefore, we get that $x = (\frac{1}{2}, 6, \frac{7}{2}, \frac{1}{2}) \in \mathbf{R}^4$ is indeed a solution to our original equation.

Exercise 10

Explain why there is does not exist $\lambda \in \mathbf{C}$ such that

$$\lambda(2 - 3i, 5 + 4i, -6 + 7i) = (12 - 5i, 7 + 22i, -32 - 9i).$$

Solution

By contradiction, suppose there exists a complex number $\lambda = a + ib$ such that

$$\lambda(2 - 3i, 5 + 4i, -6 + 7i) = (12 - 5i, 7 + 22i, -32 - 9i)$$

Then, we would get the following system of equation:

$$\begin{cases} \lambda(2 - 3i) = 12 - 5i \\ \lambda(5 + 4i) = 7 + 22i \\ \lambda(-6 + 7i) = -32 - 9i \end{cases}$$

which is equivalent to

$$\begin{cases} \lambda = 3 + 2i \\ \lambda = 3 + 2i \\ \lambda = \frac{129}{85} + i\frac{278}{85} \end{cases}$$

We clearly have a contradiction since $3 + 2i \neq \frac{129}{85} + i\frac{278}{85}$. Therefore, there doesn't exist such a complex number λ .

Exercise 11

Show that $(x + y) + z = x + (y + z)$ for all $x, y, z \in \mathbf{F}^n$.

Solution

First, write

$$x = (x_1, \dots, x_n), \quad y = (y_1, \dots, y_n) \quad \text{and} \quad z = (z_1, \dots, z_n)$$

Since addition is commutative in \mathbf{F} , we get

$$\begin{aligned} (x + y) + z &= [(x_1, \dots, x_n) + (y_1, \dots, y_n)] + (z_1, \dots, z_n) \\ &= (x_1 + y_1, \dots, x_n + y_n) + (z_1, \dots, z_n) \\ &= ([x_1 + y_1] + z_1, \dots, [x_n + y_n] + z_n) \\ &= (x_1 + [y_1 + z_1], \dots, x_n + [y_n + z_n]) \\ &= (x_1, \dots, x_n) + (y_1 + z_1, \dots, y_n + z_n) \\ &= (x_1, \dots, x_n) + [(y_1, \dots, y_n) + (z_1, \dots, z_n)] \\ &= x + (y + z) \end{aligned}$$

which proves that addition is associative in \mathbf{F}^n .

Exercise 12

Show that $(ab)x = a(bx)$ for all $x \in \mathbf{F}^n$ and all $a, b \in \mathbf{F}$.

Solution

First, write $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$. Using associativity of multiplication in \mathbf{F} , we get

$$\begin{aligned} (ab)x &= (ab)(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ &= ((ab)x_1, \dots, (ab)x_n) \\ &= (a(bx_1), \dots, a(bx_n)) \\ &= a(bx_1, \dots, bx_n) \\ &= a[b(x_1, \dots, x_n)] \\ &= a(bx) \end{aligned}$$

which proves the desired formula for all $x \in \mathbf{F}^n$ and all $a, b \in \mathbf{F}$.

Exercise 13

Show that $1x = x$ for all $x \in \mathbf{F}^n$.

Solution

Let $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbf{F}^n$. Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} 1x &= 1(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ &= (1 \cdot x_1, \dots, 1 \cdot x_n) \\ &= (x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ &= x \end{aligned}$$

which proves the desired formula for all $x \in \mathbf{F}^n$.

Exercise 14

Show that $\lambda(x + y) = \lambda x + \lambda y$ for all $\lambda \in \mathbf{F}$ and $x, y \in \mathbf{F}^n$.

Solution

Let $\lambda \in \mathbf{F}$ and $x, y \in \mathbf{F}^n$ with $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ and $y = (y_1, \dots, y_n)$. Using distributivity in \mathbf{F} , we get

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda(x + y) &= \lambda[(x_1, \dots, x_n) + (y_1, \dots, y_n)] \\ &= \lambda(x_1 + y_1, \dots, x_n + y_n) \\ &= (\lambda(x_1 + y_1), \dots, \lambda(x_n + y_n)) \\ &= (\lambda x_1 + \lambda y_1, \dots, \lambda x_n + \lambda y_n) \\ &= (\lambda x_1, \dots, \lambda x_n) + (\lambda y_1, \dots, \lambda y_n) \\ &= \lambda(x_1, \dots, x_n) + \lambda(y_1, \dots, y_n) \\ &= \lambda x + \lambda y \end{aligned}$$

which proves the desired formula.

Exercise 15

Show that $(a + b)x = ax + bx$ for all $a, b \in \mathbf{F}$ and all $x \in \mathbf{F}^n$.

Solution

Let $a, b \in \mathbf{F}$ and $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbf{F}^n$. Using distributivity in \mathbf{F} , we get

$$\begin{aligned} (a + b)x &= (a + b)(x_1, \dots, x_n) &= ((a + b)x_1, \dots, (a + b)x_n) \\ &= (ax_1 + bx_1, \dots, ax_n + bx_n) \\ &= (ax_1, \dots, ax_n) + (bx_1, \dots, bx_n) \\ &= a(x_1, \dots, x_n) + b(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ &= ax + bx \end{aligned}$$

which proves the desired formula.

1B Definition of Vector Space

Exercise 1

Prove that $-(-v) = v$ for every $v \in V$.

Solution

Let $v \in V$, by definition, we know that by definition, $-v$ is defined as the only vector in V satisfying

$$v + (-v) = 0$$

which is equivalent to

$$(-v) + v = 0$$

by commutativity of addition in V . However, notice that by definition, $-(-v)$ is the unique vector satisfying

$$(-v) + [-(-v)] = 0$$

But since v itself also satisfies this equation, we get $-(-v) = v$ by uniqueness.

Exercise 2

Suppose $a \in \mathbf{F}$, $v \in V$, and $av = 0$. Prove that $a = 0$ or $v = 0$.

Solution

Suppose that $a \neq 0$, then by properties of \mathbf{F} , the inverse a^{-1} exists. Hence, if we multiply by a^{-1} on both sides, we get

$$\begin{aligned} av = 0 &\implies a^{-1}(av) = a^{-1}0 \\ &\implies (a^{-1}a)v = 0 \\ &\implies 1v = 0 \\ &\implies v = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we either have $a = 0$ or $v = 0$.

Exercise 3

Suppose $v, w \in V$. Explain why there exists a unique $x \in V$ such that $v + 3x = w$.

Solution

By properties of vector spaces, since $v \in V$, then $-v \in V$. Similarly, since w and $-v$ are in V , then $w + (-v) \in V$. Finally, since $w + (-v) \in V$, then $3^{-1}(w + (-v)) \in V$. Thus, define x_0 as the vector $3^{-1}(w + (-v))$ in V . Notice that

$$\begin{aligned} v + 3x_0 &= v + 3[3^{-1}(w + (-v))] \\ &= v + (3 \cdot 3^{-1})(w + (-v)) \\ &= v + 1(w + (-v)) \\ &= v + (w + (-v)) \\ &= v + ((-v) + w) \\ &= (v + (-v)) + w \\ &= 0 + w \\ &= w \end{aligned}$$

which shows that the equation has at least one solution. To prove uniqueness, let $x_1 \in V$ be an arbitrary solution to the equation, then we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 v + 3x_1 = w &\implies (-v) + (v + 3x_1) = (-v) + w \\
 &\implies ((-v) + v) + 3x_1 = w + (-v) \\
 &\implies 0 + 3x_1 = w + (-v) \\
 &\implies 3x_1 = w + (-v) \\
 &\implies 3^{-1}(3x_1) = 3^{-1}(w + (-v)) \\
 &\implies (3^{-1}3)x_1 = x_0 \\
 &\implies 1x_1 = x_0 \\
 &\implies x_1 = x_0
 \end{aligned}$$

which proves that x_0 is the unique solution to the equation.

Exercise 4

The empty set is not a vector space. The empty set fails to satisfy only one of the requirements listed in the definition of a vector space. Which one?

Solution

The empty set doesn't satisfy the axiom that states that there must be an additive identity since the empty set is empty by definition.

Exercise 5

Show that in the definition of a vector space, the additive inverse condition can be replaced with the condition that

$$0v = 0 \text{ for all } v \in V.$$

Here, the 0 on the left side is the number 0, and the 0 on the right side is the additive identity of V .

Solution

We already know that the axioms of a vector space imply that $0v = 0$ for all $v \in V$. Hence, it suffices to prove that if we assume the axioms of a vector space without the additive inverse condition, then we can prove the additive inverse condition if we also assume the property that $0v = 0$ for all $v \in V$. Let $v \in V$, then by the distributive condition, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 0v = 0 &\implies (1 + (-1))v = 0 \\
 &\implies 1v + (-1)v = 0 \\
 &\implies v + (-1)v = 0
 \end{aligned}$$

which proves that v has an additive inverse for all $v \in V$.

Exercise 6

Let ∞ and $-\infty$ denote two distinct objects, neither of which is in \mathbf{R} . Define an addition and scalar multiplication on $\mathbf{R} \cup \{\infty, -\infty\}$ as you could guess from the

notation. Specifically, the sum and product of two real numbers is as usual, and for $t \in \mathbf{R}$ define

$$t\infty = \begin{cases} -\infty & \text{if } t < 0, \\ 0 & \text{if } t = 0, \\ \infty & \text{if } t > 0, \end{cases} \quad t(-\infty) = \begin{cases} \infty & \text{if } t < 0, \\ 0 & \text{if } t = 0, \\ -\infty & \text{if } t > 0, \end{cases}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} t + \infty &= \infty + t = \infty + \infty = \infty \\ t + (-\infty) &= (-\infty) + t = (-\infty) + (-\infty) = -\infty \\ \infty + (-\infty) &= (-\infty) + \infty = 0 \end{aligned}$$

With these operations of addition and scalar multiplication, is $\mathbf{R} \cup \{\infty, -\infty\}$ a vector space over \mathbf{R} ? Explain.

Solution

With these operations of addition and scalar multiplication, $\mathbf{R} \cup \{\infty, -\infty\}$ cannot be a vector space since

$$((-\infty) + \infty) + \infty = 0 + \infty = \infty$$

and

$$(-\infty) + (\infty + \infty) = (-\infty) + \infty = 0$$

which proves that addition isn't associative under this operation.

Exercise 7

Suppose S is a nonempty set. Let V^S denote the set of functions from S to V . Define a natural addition and scalar multiplication on V^S , and show that V^S is a vector space with these definitions.

Solution

For any f and g in V^S , define $f + g : S \rightarrow V$ by $s \mapsto f(s) + g(s)$ for all $s \in S$. Similarly, for all $\alpha \in \mathbf{F}$ and $f \in V^S$, define $\alpha f : S \rightarrow V$ by $s \mapsto \alpha f(s)$ for all $s \in S$. With these definitions, let's prove that V^S is a vector space.

- **(commutativity)** Let $f, g \in V^S$, let's show that $f + g = g + f$. Let $s \in S$, then by commutativity in V , we obviously have

$$(f + g)(s) = f(s) + g(s) = g(s) + f(s) = (g + f)(s)$$

Since it holds for all s , then $f + g = g + f$.

- **(associativity)** Let $f, g, h \in V^S$ and $s \in S$, then by associativity in V , we have

$$\begin{aligned} [(f + g) + h](s) &= (f + g)(s) + h(s) \\ &= [f(s) + g(s)] + h(s) \\ &= f(s) + [g(s) + h(s)] \\ &= f(s) + (g + h)(s) \\ &= [f + (g + h)](s) \end{aligned}$$

Since it holds for all $s \in S$, then $(f + g) + h = f + (g + h)$.

Let now $f \in V^S$, $a, b \in \mathbf{F}$ and $s \in S$, then by associativity in V , we get:

$$\begin{aligned} [(ab)f](s) &= (ab)f(s) \\ &= a(bf(s)) \\ &= a(bf)(s) \\ &= [a(bf)](s) \end{aligned}$$

Since it holds for all $s \in S$, then $(ab)f = a(bf)$.

- **(additive identity)** Let's denote by 0_{V^S} the zero function in V^S , then for all $f \in V^S$ and $s \in S$, we have

$$(f + 0_{V^S})(s) = f(s) + 0_{V^S}(s) = f(s) + 0 = f(s)$$

Since it holds for all $s \in S$, then $f + 0_{V^S} = f$ for all $f \in V^S$.

- **(additive inverse)** Again, let's denote by 0_{V^S} the zero function in V^S , then for all $f \in V^S$, we can define the function $g = (-1)f \in V^S$. Hence, for all $s \in S$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} (f + g)(s) &= f(s) + g(s) \\ &= f(s) + (-1)f(s) \\ &= f(s) + (-f(s)) \\ &= 0 \\ &= 0_{V^S}(s) \end{aligned}$$

Since it holds for all $s \in S$, then $f + g = 0_{V^S}$.

- **(multiplicative identity)** Let $f \in V^S$, then for all $s \in S$, we have

$$(1f)(s) = 1f(s) = f(s)$$

Since it holds for all $s \in S$, then $1f = f$.

- **(distributive property)** Let $f, g \in V^S$, $a \in \mathbf{F}$ and $s \in S$, then

$$\begin{aligned} [a(f + g)](s) &= a(f + g)(s) \\ &= a(f(s) + g(s)) \\ &= af(s) + ag(s) \\ &= (af)(s) + (ag)(s) \\ &= (af + ag)(s) \end{aligned}$$

Since it holds for all $s \in S$, then $a(f + g) = af + ag$. Similarly, for all $f \in V^S$, $a, b \in \mathbf{F}$ and $s \in S$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} [(a + b)f](s) &= (a + b)f(s) \\ &= af(s) + bf(s) \\ &= (af)(s) + (bf)(s) \\ &= (af + bf)(s) \end{aligned}$$

Since it holds for all $s \in S$, then $(a + b)f = af + bf$.

Therefore, V^S is a vector space under these definitions.

Exercise 8

Suppose V is a real vector space.

- The *complexification* of V , denoted by $V_{\mathbf{C}}$, equals $V \times V$. An element of $V_{\mathbf{C}}$ is an ordered pair (u, v) , where $u, v \in V$, but we write this as $u + iv$.
- Addition on $V_{\mathbf{C}}$ is defined by

$$(u_1 + iv_1) + (u_2 + iv_2) = (u_1 + u_2) + i(v_1 + v_2)$$

for all $u_1, v_1, u_2, v_2 \in V$.

- Complex scalar multiplication on $V_{\mathbf{C}}$ is defined by

$$(a + ib)(u + iv) = (au - bv) + i(av + bu)$$

for all $a, b \in \mathbf{R}$ and all $u, v \in V$.

Prove that with these definitions of addition and scalar multiplication as above, $V_{\mathbf{C}}$ is a complex vector space.

Solution

- **(commutativity)** Let $u_1, v_1, u_2, v_2 \in V$, then by commutativity in V , we have

$$\begin{aligned} (u_1 + iv_1) + (u_2 + iv_2) &= (u_1 + u_2) + i(v_1 + v_2) \\ &= (u_2 + u_1) + i(v_2 + v_1) \\ &= (u_2 + iv_2) + (u_1 + iv_1) \end{aligned}$$

which proves that addition is commutative.

- **(associativity)** Let $u_1, v_1, u_2, v_2, u_3, v_3 \in V$, then by associativity in V , we have

$$\begin{aligned} [(u_1 + iv_1) + (u_2 + iv_2)] + (u_3 + iv_3) &= [(u_1 + u_2) + i(v_1 + v_2)] + (u_3 + iv_3) \\ &= ([u_1 + u_2] + u_3) + i([v_1 + v_2] + v_3) \\ &= (u_1 + [u_2 + u_3]) + i(v_1 + [v_2 + v_3]) \\ &= (u_1 + iv_1) + [(u_2 + u_3) + i(v_2 + v_3)] \\ &= (u_1 + iv_1) + [(u_2 + iv_2) + (u_3 + iv_3)] \end{aligned}$$

Let now $a, b, c, d \in \mathbf{R}$ and $u, v \in V$, then we get:

$$\begin{aligned} [(a + bi)(c + di)](u + iv) &= [(ac - bd) + i(ad + bc)](u + iv) \\ &= [(ac - bd)u - (ad + bc)v] + i[(ac - bd)v + (ad + bc)u] \\ &= [acu - bdu - adv - bcv] + i[acv - bdv + adu + bcu] \\ &= [a(cu - dv) - b(cv + du)] + i[a(cv + du) + b(cu - dv)] \\ &= (a + ib)[(cu - dv) + i(cv + du)] \\ &= (a + ib)[(c + id)(u + iv)] \end{aligned}$$

which proves the associativity condition.

- **(additive identity)** For all $u, v \in V$,

$$(u + iv) + (0 + i0) = (u + 0) + i(v + 0) = u + iv$$

which proves that $0 + i0$ is an additive identity.

- **(additive inverse)** Let $u, v \in V$, then since $(-u), (-v) \in V$, we get

$$(u + iv) + ([-u] + i[-v]) = (u + [-u]) + i(v + [-v]) = 0 + i0$$

which proves that every element has an additive inverse.

- **(multiplicative identity)** Let $u, v \in V$, then

$$(1 + i0)(u + iv) = (1u - 0v) + i(1v + 0u) = u + iv$$

which proves that $1 = 1 + i0$ is a multiplicative identity.

- **(distributive property)** Let $a, b \in \mathbf{R}$ and $u_1, v_1, u_2, v_2 \in V$, then

$$\begin{aligned} (a + ib)[(u_1 + iv_1) + (u_2 + iv_2)] &= (a + ib)([u_1 + u_2] + i[v_1 + v_2]) \\ &= (a[u_1 + u_2] - b[v_1 + v_2]) + i(a[v_1 + v_2] + b[u_1 + u_2]) \\ &= (au_1 + au_2 - bv_1 - bv_2) + i(av_1 + av_2 + bu_1 + bu_2) \\ &= ([au_1 - bv_1] + [au_2 - bv_2]) + i([av_1 + bu_1] + [av_2 + bu_2]) \\ &= [(au_1 - bv_1) + i(av_1 + bu_1)] + [(au_2 - bv_2) + i(av_2 + bu_2)] \\ &= [(a + ib)(u_1 + iv_1)] + [(a + ib)(u_2 + iv_2)] \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, for all $a, b, c, d \in \mathbf{R}$, and $u, v \in \mathbf{R}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} [(a + ib) + (c + id)](u + iv) &= ([a + c] + i[b + d])(u + iv) \\ &= ([a + c]u - [b + d]v) + i([a + c]v + [b + d]u) \\ &= (au + cu - bv - dv) + i(av + cv + bu + du) \\ &= ([au - bv] + [cu - dv]) + i([av + bu] + [cv + du]) \\ &= [(au - bv) + i(av + bu)] + [(cu - dv) + i(cv + du)] \\ &= (a + ib)(u + iv) + (c + id)(u + iv) \end{aligned}$$

which proves the distributive property.

Therefore, $V_{\mathbf{C}}$ is a vector space under these definitions.

1C Subspaces

Exercise 1

For each of the following subsets of \mathbf{F}^3 , determine whether it is a subspace of \mathbf{F}^3 .

- (a) $\{(x_1, x_2, x_3) \in \mathbf{F}^3 : x_1 + 2x_2 + 3x_3 = 0\}$
- (b) $\{(x_1, x_2, x_3) \in \mathbf{F}^3 : x_1 + 2x_2 + 3x_3 = 4\}$
- (c) $\{(x_1, x_2, x_3) \in \mathbf{F}^3 : x_1x_2x_3 = 0\}$
- (d) $\{(x_1, x_2, x_3) \in \mathbf{F}^3 : x_1 = 5x_3\}$

Solution

- (a) First, define

$$U = \{(x_1, x_2, x_3) \in \mathbf{F}^3 : x_1 + 2x_2 + 3x_3 = 0\}$$

Let's prove that it is indeed a subspace of \mathbf{F}^3 . Since $0 + 2 \cdot 0 + 3 \cdot 0 = 0$, then $0 = (0, 0, 0) \in U$. Now, let $x, y \in U$ be two arbitrary elements where $x = (x_1, x_2, x_3)$ and $y = (y_1, y_2, y_3)$, then by definition:

$$\begin{cases} x_1 + 2x_2 + 3x_3 &= 0 \\ y_1 + 2y_2 + 3y_3 &= 0 \end{cases}$$

Adding the two equations gives us

$$(x_1 + y_1) + 2(x_2 + y_2) + 3(x_3 + y_3) = 0 + 0 = 0$$

which proves that $x + y = (x_1 + y_1, x_2 + y_2, x_3 + y_3) \in U$. Similarly, let $x = (x_1, x_2, x_3)$ be an arbitrary element in U and α an arbitrary scalar in \mathbf{F} , then by definition of U :

$$x_1 + 2x_2 + 3x_3 = 0$$

Multiplying by α on both sides gives us

$$(\alpha x_1) + 2(\alpha x_2) + 3(\alpha x_3) = \alpha \cdot 0 = 0$$

which proves that $\alpha x \in U$. Therefore, U is a subspace of \mathbf{F}^3 .

- (b) Since $0 = (0, 0, 0)$ doesn't satisfy $x_1 + 2x_2 + 3x_3 = 4$, then the set of such vectors cannot be a subspace since it doesn't contain the zero vector.
- (c) Let $U = \{(x_1, x_2, x_3) \in \mathbf{F}^3 : x_1x_2x_3 = 0\}$ and notice that that both $x = (1, 1, 0)$ and $y = (0, 0, 1)$ are in U . However, $x + y$ is obviously not in U since $x + y = (1, 1, 1)$ and $1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 = 1$. Therefore, U is not a subspace of \mathbf{F}^3 .
- (d) Define $U = \{(x_1, x_2, x_3) \in \mathbf{F}^3 : x_1 = 5x_3\}$ and let's show that it is a subspace of \mathbf{F}^3 . First, since $0 = 5 \cdot 0$, then $0 = (0, 0, 0) \in U$. To prove that U is closed under addition, let $x = (x_1, x_2, x_3)$ and $y = (y_1, y_2, y_3)$ be two arbitrary elements of U , then by definition:

$$\begin{cases} x_1 = 5x_3 \\ y_1 = 5y_3 \end{cases}$$

By adding the two equations together, we get

$$x_1 + y_1 = 5(x_3 + y_3)$$

Thus, $x + y = (x_1 + y_1, x_2 + y_2, x_3 + y_3) \in U$. Finally, to prove that U is closed under scalar multiplication, let $x = (x_1, x_2, x_3)$ be an element of U and $\alpha \in \mathbf{F}$, then

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 = 5x_3 &\implies \alpha x_1 = \alpha(5x_3) \\ &\implies \alpha x_1 = 5(\alpha x_3) \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $\alpha x = (\alpha x_1, \alpha x_2, \alpha x_3) \in U$. Therefore, U is a subspace of \mathbf{F}^3 .

Exercise 2

Verify all assertions about subspaces in Example 1.35:

- (a) If $b \in \mathbf{F}$, then

$$\{(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) \in \mathbf{F}^4 : x_3 = 5x_4 + b\}$$

is a subspace of \mathbf{F}^4 if and only if $b = 0$.

- (b) The set of continuous real-valued functions on the interval $[0,1]$ is a subspace of $\mathbf{R}^{[0,1]}$.
- (c) The set of differentiable real-valued functions on \mathbf{R} is a subspace of $\mathbf{R}^{\mathbf{R}}$.
- (d) The set of differentiable real-valued functions f on the interval $(0,3)$ such that $f'(2) = b$ is a subspace of $\mathbf{R}^{(0,3)}$ if and only if $b = 0$.
- (e) The set of all sequences of complex numbers with limit 0 is a subspace of \mathbf{C}^∞ .

Solution

- (a) Define $U_b = \{(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) \in \mathbf{F}^4 : x_3 = 5x_4 + b\}$ for all $b \in \mathbf{F}$ and suppose first that U is a subspace of \mathbf{F}^4 , then it must contain the zero vector. Hence, since $(0, 0, 0, 0) \in U$, then by definition:

$$0 = 5 \cdot 0 + b$$

which is equivalent to $b = 0$.

For the converse, let's show that U_0 is a subspace of \mathbf{F}^4 . Since $0 = 5 \cdot 0$, then $0 = (0, 0, 0, 0) \in U_0$. If $x = (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$ and $y = (y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4)$ are arbitrary elements of U_0 , then $x_3 = 5x_4$ and $y_3 = 5y_4$. By adding these two equations and by distributivity, we get

$$x_3 + y_3 = 5(x_4 + y_4)$$

which implies that $x + y \in U_0$. Similarly, if $x = (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) \in U_0$ and $\alpha \in \mathbf{F}$, then we get

$$x_3 = 5x_4 \implies \alpha x_3 = 5(\alpha x_4)$$

which implies that $\alpha x \in U_0$. Thus, U_0 is a subspace of \mathbf{F}^4 . Therefore, U_b is a subspace of \mathbf{F}^4 if and only if $b = 0$.

- (b) Let C denote the set of real-valued continuous functions on the interval $[0,1]$ and $0_{\mathbf{R}^{[0,1]}}$ the zero function which acts as the additive identity in $\mathbf{R}^{[0,1]}$. Since the constant zero function is continuous, then $0_{\mathbf{R}^{[0,1]}} \in C$. Similarly, since the sum of two continuous functions is continuous and the multiplication of a continuous function with a scalar is still continuous, then C is closed under addition and scalar multiplication. Therefore, C is a subspace of $\mathbf{R}^{[0,1]}$.
- (c) The proof is similar to part (b). The constant zero function is differentiable on \mathbf{R} . Moreover, differentiable functions are closed under addition and scalar multiplication. Therefore, the set of differentiable real-valued functions on \mathbf{R} is a subspace of $\mathbf{R}^{\mathbf{R}}$.
- (d) Define $U_b = \{f : (0,3) \rightarrow \mathbf{R} \text{ differentiable} : f'(2) = b\}$ for all $b \in \mathbf{R}$. Suppose that U_b is a subspace of $\mathbf{R}^{(0,3)}$, then we must have $0_{(0,3)} \in U_b$ where $0_{(0,3)}$ denotes the constant zero function on $(0,3)$. By definition of U_b , it implies that $0'_{(0,3)}(2) = b$. However, we know that $0'_{(0,3)}(2) = 0$. Thus, $b = 0$.
Conversely, let's show that U_0 is a subspace of $\mathbf{R}^{(0,3)}$. First, the constant zero function $0_{\mathbf{R}^{(0,3)}}$ on $(0,3)$ which acts as the additive identity in $\mathbf{R}^{(0,3)}$, is differentiable on $(0,3)$ and its derivative at 2 is 0. Hence, $0_{\mathbf{R}^{(0,3)}} \in U_0$. Now, let $f, g \in U_0$, then $f + g$ is differentiable on $(0,3)$ and

$$(f + g)'(2) = f'(2) + g'(2) = 0 + 0 = 0$$

so $f + g \in U_0$. Similarly, for any $f \in U_0$ and $\alpha \in \mathbf{F}$, the function αf is still differentiable on $(0,3)$ and

$$(\alpha f)'(2) = \alpha f'(2) = \alpha \cdot 0 = 0$$

so $\alpha f \in U_0$. Thus, U_0 is a subspace of $\mathbf{R}^{(0,3)}$. Therefore, U_b is a subspace if and only if $b = 0$.

- (e) Let S be the set of sequences of complex numbers with limit 0. Since the additive identity $(0, 0, \dots)$ of C^∞ converges to 0, then it is in S . Let $(a_n)_n, (b_n)_n \in S$, then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = 0$$

which implies

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (a_n + b_n) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = 0 + 0 = 0$$

Thus, $(a_n)_n + (b_n)_n \in S$. Similarly, for all $(a_n)_n \in S$ and $\alpha \in \mathbf{C}$, we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \alpha a_n = \alpha \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \alpha \cdot 0 = 0$$

so $\alpha(a_n)_n \in S$. Therefore, S is a subspace of \mathbf{C}^∞ .

Exercise 3

Show that the set of differentiable real-valued functions f on the interval $(-4, 4)$ such that $f'(-1) = 3f(2)$ is a subspace of $\mathbf{R}^{(-4,4)}$.

Solution

Define the set $U = \{f : (-4, 4) \rightarrow \mathbf{R} \text{ differentiable} : f'(-1) = 3f(2)\}$ and let's show that it is a subspace of $\mathbf{R}^{(-4,4)}$. First, denote by f_0 to constant zero function on $(-4, 4)$ which is also the additive identity in $\mathbf{R}^{(-4,4)}$. We know that f_0 is differentiable on $(-4, 4)$ with $f'_0 = f_0$. Hence, $f'_0(-1) = 0 = 3f_0(2)$ which proves that $f_0 \in U$. To show that it is closed under addition, let $f, g \in U$, then by definition, f and g are differentiable on $(-4, 4)$ and

$$\begin{cases} f'(-1) = 3f(2) \\ g'(-1) = 3g(2) \end{cases}$$

If we add these two equations, we get

$$(f + g)'(-1) = 3(f + g)(2)$$

which proves that $f + g \in U$ since $f + g$ is differentiable on $(-4, 4)$.

To prove that it is closed under scalar multiplication, let $f \in U$ and $\alpha \in \mathbf{R}$, then

$$\begin{aligned} f'(-1) = 3f(2) &\implies \alpha f'(-1) = \alpha \cdot 3f(2) \\ &\implies (\alpha f)'(-1) = 3(\alpha f)(2) \end{aligned}$$

which proves that $\alpha f \in U$ since αf is differentiable on $(-4, 4)$. Therefore, U is a subspace of $\mathbf{R}^{(-4,4)}$.

Exercise 4

Suppose $b \in \mathbf{R}$. Show that the set of continuous real-valued functions f on the interval $[0, 1]$ such that $\int_0^1 f = b$ is a subspace of $\mathbf{R}^{[0,1]}$ if and only if $b = 0$.

Solution

Let $b \in \mathbf{R}$ and define $I = \{f : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbf{R} \text{ continuous} : \int_0^1 f = b\}$. Suppose that I is a subspace of $\mathbf{R}^{[0,1]}$, then the additive identity $0 : x \mapsto 0$ must be in I so $\int_0^1 0 = b$. But we know that $\int_0^1 0 = 0$ so it follows that $b = 0$.

Conversely, let's show that I is a subspace of $\mathbf{R}^{[0,1]}$ when $b = 0$. First, the additive identity 0 is obviously continuous with $\int_0^1 0 = 0$ so $0 \in I$. Now, let $f, g \in I$, then f and g are continuous and

$$\int_0^1 f = \int_0^1 g = 0$$

It follows that $f + g$ is a continuous function that satisfies

$$\int_0^1 (f + g) = \int_0^1 f + \int_0^1 g = 0$$

Hence, $f + g \in I$. Similarly, if $f \in I$ and $\alpha \in \mathbf{R}$, then f is continuous and

$$\int_0^1 f = 0$$

which implies that αf is also continuous and

$$\int_0^1 (\alpha f) = \alpha \int_0^1 f = \alpha \cdot 0 = 0$$

Hence, $\alpha f \in I$. Therefore, I is a subspace of $\mathbf{R}^{[0,1]}$.

Exercise 5

Is \mathbf{R}^2 a subspace of the complex vector space \mathbf{C}^2 ?

Solution

No, it isn't because it is not closed under scalar multiplication since the scalars are complex numbers. For example, $(1, 1) \in \mathbf{R}^2$ but $i(1, 1) = (i, i) \notin \mathbf{R}^2$. Therefore, \mathbf{R}^2 is not a subspace of the complex vector space \mathbf{C}^2 .

Exercise 6

(a) Is $\{(a, b, c) \in \mathbf{R}^3 : a^3 = c^3\}$ a subspace of \mathbf{R}^3 ?

(b) Is $\{(a, b, c) \in \mathbf{C}^3 : a^3 = c^3\}$ a subspace of \mathbf{C}^3 ?

Solution

(a) In \mathbf{R} , the function $x \mapsto x^3$ is bijective so if we define $I = \{(a, b, c) \in \mathbf{R}^3 : a^3 = c^3\}$, then we actually have $I = \{(a, b, c) \in \mathbf{R}^3 : a = c\}$. Hence, it is easier now to show that I is a subspace of \mathbf{R}^3 . Obviously, $(0, 0, 0) \in I$ since $0 = 0$. Moreover, if (x_1, x_2, x_3) and (y_1, y_2, y_3) are in I , then $x_1 = x_3$ and $y_1 = y_3$ which implies that $x_1 + y_1 = x_3 + y_3$. Hence, $(x_1 + y_1, x_2 + y_2, x_3 + y_3)$ is in I . Similarly, for $(x_1, x_2, x_3) \in I$ and $\alpha \in \mathbf{R}$, we must have $x_1 = x_3$ which implies that $\alpha x_1 = \alpha x_3$. Thus, $(\alpha x_1, \alpha x_2, \alpha x_3) \in I$. Therefore, I is a subspace of \mathbf{R}^3 .

(b) If we let $I = \{(a, b, c) \in \mathbf{R}^3 : a^3 = c^3\}$, notice that $(\frac{-1+\sqrt{3}i}{2}, 0, 1)$ and $(\frac{-1-\sqrt{3}i}{2}, 0, 1)$ are both elements of I . However, their sum is not in I since

$$\left(\frac{-1+\sqrt{3}i}{2}, 0, 1\right) + \left(\frac{-1-\sqrt{3}i}{2}, 0, 1\right) = (-1, 0, 2) \notin I$$

Therefore, it is not a subspace of \mathbf{C}^3 since it is not closed under addition.

Exercise 7

Prove or give a counterexample: If U is a nonempty subset of \mathbf{R}^2 such that U is closed under addition and under taking inverses (meaning $-u \in U$ whenever $u \in U$), then U is a subspace of \mathbf{R}^2 .

Solution

Consider the set $U = \{(k, k) : k \in \mathbf{Z}\}$ which is obviously closed under addition and taking inverses. Notice that U is not a subspace because it is not closed under scalar multiplication: $(1, 1) \in U$ and $\pi \in \mathbf{R}$ but $\pi(1, 1) = (\pi, \pi) \notin U$.

Exercise 8

Give an example of a nonempty subset U of \mathbf{R}^2 such that U is closed under scalar

multiplication, but U is not a subspace of \mathbf{R}^2 .

Solution

Consider the set $U = \{(x, y) \in \mathbf{R}^2 : xy \geq 0\}$, let's first show that it is closed under scalar multiplication. Given $(x, y) \in U$ and $\alpha \in \mathbf{R}$, we know by definition of U that $xy \geq 0$. Moreover, since α is a real number, then $\alpha^2 \geq 0$. Hence,

$$(\alpha x)(\alpha y) = \alpha^2 xy \geq 0$$

Thus, $(\alpha x, \alpha y) \in U$ so U is indeed closed under scalar multiplication. To show that U is not a subspace, consider the elements $(-1, 0)$ and $(0, 1)$ in U and notice that their addition cannot be in U since $(-1) \cdot 1 \not\geq 0$. Thus, U is not closed under addition which proves that it is not a subspace.

Exercise 9

A function $f : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ is called *periodic* if there exists a positive number p such that $f(x + p) = f(x)$ for all $x \in \mathbf{R}$. Is the set of periodic functions from \mathbf{R} to \mathbf{R} a subspace of $\mathbf{R}^{\mathbf{R}}$? Explain.

Solution

Let's prove that this set is not a subspace of $\mathbf{R}^{\mathbf{R}}$ by showing that it is not closed under addition. To do so, consider the functions $x \mapsto \cos(x)$ and $x \mapsto \cos(\pi x)$ defined on \mathbf{R} . Obviously, both are periodic since the first one has period 2π and the second one has period 2. Consider their sum $f : \cos(x) + \cos(\pi x)$ and suppose by contradiction that there exists a $p > 0$ such that

$$f(x) = f(x + p) \tag{1}$$

for all $x \in \mathbf{R}$. Notice that

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) = 2 &\implies \cos(x) + \cos(\pi x) = 2 \\ &\implies \cos(x) = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \cos(\pi x) = 1 \\ &\implies x \in 2\pi\mathbf{Z} \quad \text{and} \quad x \in 2\mathbf{Z} \\ &\implies x = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, f is equal to 2 if and only if $x = 0$. Thus, if we plug-in $x = 0$ in equation (1), we get

$$f(p) = f(0) = 2$$

which implies that $p = 0$, a contradiction since $p > 0$. Therefore, f is not periodic which proves that periodic functions are not closed under addition. With a similar argument, periodic functions are not closed under multiplication either.

Exercise 10

Suppose V_1 and V_2 are subspaces of V . Prove that $V_1 \cap V_2$ is a subspace of V .

Solution

Let's show that $V_1 \cap V_2$ satisfies the three subspace conditions:

- **(additive identity)** Since V_1 and V_2 are subspaces, then they both contain the additive identity 0 of V . It follows that $0 \in V_1 \cap V_2$ since it is contained in both sets.

- **(closed under addition)** Let u and v be two vectors in $V_1 \cap V_2$, then u and v must be contained in V_1 . Since V_1 is a subspace, then it is closed under addition so $u + v$ must also be an element of V_1 . Similarly, u and v are contained in V_2 so for the same reasons, $u + v$ must be an element of V_2 . Thus, $u + v \in V_1 \cap V_2$ since $u + v \in V_1$ and $u + v \in V_2$.
- **(closed under scalar multiplication)** Let $a \in \mathbf{F}$ and $u \in V_1 \cap V_2$, then u must be contained in V_1 . Since V_1 is a subspace, then it is closed under scalar multiplication so au must also be an element of V_1 . Similarly, u is contained in V_2 so for the same reasons, au must be an element of V_2 . Thus, $au \in V_1 \cap V_2$ since $au \in V_1$ and $au \in V_2$.

Therefore, $V_1 \cap V_2$ is a subspace of V .

Exercise 11

Prove that the intersection of every collection of subspaces of V is a subspace of V .

Solution

Let $\{V_i\}_{i \in I}$ be an arbitrary collection of subspaces of V , let's show that $\cap_{i \in I} V_i$ is also a subspace of V by proving the three subspace conditions:

- **(additive identity)** Since V_i is a subspace of V , then $0 \in V_i$ for all $i \in I$. It follows that $0 \in \cap_{i \in I} V_i$.
- **(closed under addition)** Let u and v be two vectors in $\cap_{i \in I} V_i$, then u and v must be contained in V_i for all $i \in I$. For any $i \in I$, V_i is a subspace so it is closed under addition, hence $u + v \in V_i$. It follows that $u + v \in \cap_{i \in I} V_i$.
- **(closed under scalar multiplication)** Let $a \in \mathbf{F}$ and $v \in \cap_{i \in I} V_i$. For all $i \in I$, since $u \in V_i$ and V_i is a subspace, then $au \in V_i$. It follows that $au \in \cap_{i \in I} V_i$ since $au \in V_i$ for all $i \in I$.

Therefore, $\cap_{i \in I} V_i$ is a subspace of V .

Exercise 12

Prove that the union of two subspaces of V is a subspace of V if and only if one of the subspaces is contained in the other.

Solution

Let V_1 and V_2 be subspaces of V . If $V_1 \subset V_2$ or $V_2 \subset V_1$, then $V_1 \cup V_2$ must be a subspace of V as well. To show the converse, suppose now that $V_1 \cup V_2$ is a subspace of V and that $V_1 \not\subset V_2$. Then there exists a vector $u_1 \in V_1$ such that $u_1 \notin V_2$. Let's prove that $V_2 \subset V_1$ in that case. Let $v \in V_2$ be arbitrary, since u_1 and v are both vectors in $V_1 \cup V_2$, then $u_1 + v \in V_1 \cup V_2$ since it is a subspace. But this implies that $u_1 + v$ is either in V_1 or in V_2 . If $u_1 + v \in V_2$, then we must have

$$u_1 = (u_1 + v) - v \in V_2$$

since $v \in V_2$ and V_2 is a subspace. A contradiction since $u_1 \notin V_2$. It follows that $u_1 + v \in V_1$. But again, since V_1 is a subspace and $u_1 \in V_1$, then

$$v = (u_1 + v) - u_1 \in V_1$$

which proves that $V_2 \subset V_1$. Therefore, if $V_1 \cup V_2$ is a subspace, then we either have $V_1 \subset V_2$ or $V_2 \subset V_1$.

Exercise 13

Prove that the union of three subspaces of V is a subspace of V if and only if one of the subspaces contains the other two.

Solution

Let V_1, V_2 and V_3 be three subspaces of V . Obviously, if one contains the other two, then $V_1 \cup V_2 \cup V_3$ is also a subspace of V since it is either equal to V_1, V_2 or V_3 .

To show the converse, suppose that $V_1 \cup V_2 \cup V_3$ is a subspace of V . To prove that one subspace contains the other two, suppose that $V_1 \not\supset V_2 \cup V_3$ and $V_2 \not\supset V_1 \cup V_3$, then it suffices to show that V_3 contains $V_1 \cup V_2$. Notice that $V_1 \not\supset V_2 \cup V_3$ and $V_2 \not\supset V_1 \cup V_3$ implies the existence of vectors $v_1, v_2 \in V$ such that

$$\begin{cases} v_1 \in V_1 \cup V_3 \\ v_1 \notin V_2 \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{cases} v_2 \in V_2 \cup V_3 \\ v_2 \notin V_1 \end{cases}$$

To show that $V_3 \supset V_1 \cup V_2$, let's proceed by cases:

- Suppose that $V_1 \cup V_2 \leq V$, then by the previous exercise, we must have $V_1 \cup V_2 \subset V_3$ or $V_3 \leq V_1 \cup V_2$. By contradiction, suppose that $V_3 \subset V_1 \cup V_2$. Since $V_1 \cup V_2 \leq V$, then again, by the previous exercise, $V_1 \subset V_2$ or $V_2 \subset V_1$. If $V_1 \subset V_2$, then $v_1 \in V_1 \cup V_3 \subset V_2 \cup V_3$. But, $v_1 \notin V_2$ so $v_1 \in V_3$. However, $V_3 \subset V_1 \cup V_2 = V_2$ so $v_1 \in V_2$. A contradiction that shows that $V_1 \not\subset V_2$. Similarly, we can prove in the same way using v_2 that $V_2 \not\subset V_1$. Thus, by contradiction, we get that V_3 is not a subset of $V_1 \cup V_2$. It follows that $V_1 \cup V_2 \subset V_3$.
- Suppose now that $V_1 \cup V_2$ is not a subspace of V , then by the previous exercise, $V_1 \not\subset V_2$ and $V_2 \not\subset V_1$. It follows that there exist vectors $u_1, u_2 \in V$ such that

$$\begin{cases} u_1 \in V_1 \\ u_1 \notin V_2 \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{cases} u_2 \in V_2 \\ u_2 \notin V_1 \end{cases}$$

Consider now the vector $\alpha_1 u_1 + \alpha_2 u_2$ where α_1 and α_2 are non-zero scalars. Since $\alpha_1 u_1 \in V_1 \subset V_1 \cup V_2 \cup V_3$, $\alpha_2 u_2 \in V_2 \subset V_1 \cup V_2 \cup V_3$ and $V_1 \cup V_2 \cup V_3$ is a subspace of V , then $\alpha_1 u_1 + \alpha_2 u_2 \in V_1 \cup V_2 \cup V_3$. If $\alpha_1 u_1 + \alpha_2 u_2 \in V_1$, then using the fact that $\alpha_1 u_1 \in V_1$ and that V_1 is a subspace gives us

$$\alpha_2 u_2 = (\alpha_1 u_1 + \alpha_2 u_2) - \alpha_1 u_1 \in V_1$$

Multiplying by α_2^{-1} implies that $u_2 \in V_1$, a contradiction. Similarly, if $\alpha_1 u_1 + \alpha_2 u_2 \in V_2$, then we can show in the same way that $u_1 \in V_2$, another contradiction. Thus, we must have $\alpha_1 u_1 + \alpha_2 u_2 \in V_3$.

Using the fact that $2 \neq 0$, we get that $u_1 + u_2, 2u_1 + u_2$ and $u_1 + 2u_2$ are in V_3 . Thus,

$$u_1 = (2u_1 + u_2) - (u_1 + u_2) \in V_3$$

and

$$u_2 = (u_1 + 2u_2) - (u_1 + u_2) \in V_3$$

We are now ready to show that $V_1 \cup V_2 \subset V_3$ in that case. To do so, let $w \in V_1 \cup V_2$ and proceed again by cases:

- Suppose that $w \in V_1 \setminus V_2$ and consider the vector $w + u_2 \in V_1 \cup V_2 \cup V_3$. If $w + u_2 \in V_1$, then $u_2 \in V_1$, a contradiction. Similarly, if $w + u_2 \in V_2$, then $w \in V_2$, a contradiction. Hence, $w + u_2 \in V_3$. But since $u_2 \in V_3$, then $w \in V_3$.
- Suppose that $w \in V_2 \setminus V_1$ and consider the vector $w + u_1 \in V_1 \cup V_2 \cup V_3$. If $w + u_1 \in V_1$, then $w \in V_1$, a contradiction. Similarly, if $w + u_1 \in V_2$, then $u_1 \in V_2$, a contradiction. Hence, $w + u_1 \in V_3$. But since $u_1 \in V_3$, then $w \in V_3$.
- Suppose that $w \in V_1 \cap V_2$ and consider the vector $w + u_1 + u_2 \in V_1 \cup V_2 \cup V_3$. If $w + u_1 + u_2 \in V_1$, then $u_2 \in V_1$, a contradiction. Similarly, if $w + u_1 + u_2 \in V_2$, then $u_1 \in V_2$, a contradiction. Hence, $w + u_1 + u_2 \in V_3$. But since $u_1 + u_2 \in V_3$, then $w \in V_3$.

Thus, $V_1 \cup V_2 \subset V_3$.

Hence, in all possible cases, we get that $V_1 \cup V_2 \subset V_3$. Therefore, the union of three subspaces is a subspace if and only if one of the subspaces contains the other two.

Exercise 14

Suppose

$$U = \{(x, -x, 2x) \in \mathbf{F}^3 : x \in \mathbf{F}\} \quad \text{and} \quad W = \{(x, x, 2x) \in \mathbf{F}^3 : x \in \mathbf{F}\}$$

Describe $U + W$ using symbols, and also give a description of $U + W$ that uses no symbols.

Solution

By definition, we have

$$\begin{aligned} U + W &= \{(x, -x, 2x) \in \mathbf{F}^3 : x \in \mathbf{F}\} + \{(x, x, 2x) \in \mathbf{F}^3 : x \in \mathbf{F}\} \\ &= \{(x + y, -x + y, 2x + 2y) \in \mathbf{F}^3 : x, y \in \mathbf{F}\} \\ &= \{(x + y, -x + y, 2(x + y)) \in \mathbf{F}^3 : x, y \in \mathbf{F}\} \end{aligned}$$

From this expression, let's prove that

$$U + W = \{(a, b, 2a) \in \mathbf{F}^3 : a, b \in \mathbf{F}\}$$

Obviously, $U + W \subset \{(a, b, 2a) \in \mathbf{F}^3 : a, b \in \mathbf{F}\}$ because for any vector $(x + y, -x + y, 2(x + y)) \in \mathbf{F}^3$, if we let $a = x + y$ and $b = -x + y$, we can rewrite this vector as $(a, b, 2a)$ which is in $\{(a, b, 2a) \in \mathbf{F}^3 : a, b \in \mathbf{F}\}$. Similarly, given an arbitrary vector $(a, b, 2a) \in \mathbf{F}^3$, if we let

$$x = \frac{a - b}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad y = \frac{x + y}{2}$$

then we can rewrite the vector as $(x + y, -x + y, 2(x + y))$ which is obviously in $U + W$. It follows that the sets are equal. Without symbols, this just means that $U + W$ is precisely the set of vectors in V such that the third component is twice the first component.

Exercise 15

Suppose U is a subspace of V . What is $U + U$?

Solution

Let's show that $U = U + U$. An arbitrary element in $U + U$ is of the form $x + y$ where x and y are in U . Since U is a subspace, then it is closed under addition which implies that $x + y \in U$. It follows that $U + U \subset U$.

For the reverse inclusion, take an arbitrary $u \in U$ and notice that we can write $u = u + 0$. Again, since U is a subspace of V , then $0 \in U$. Thus, in the expression $u + 0$, both vectors are in U . It follows that $u = u + 0 \in U + U$. Therefore, $U = U + U$.

Exercise 16

Is the operation of addition on the subspaces of V commutative? In other words, if U and W are subspaces of V , is $U + W = W + U$?

Solution

Let U and W be subspaces of V . Then by commutativity of addition in V , we get

$$\begin{aligned} U + W &= \{u + w : u \in U \text{ and } w \in W\} \\ &= \{w + u : w \in W \text{ and } u \in U\} \\ &= W + U \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the operation of addition on subspaces of V is commutative.

Exercise 17

Is the operation of addition on the subspaces of V associative? In other words, if V_1 , V_2 and V_3 are subspaces of V , is

$$(V_1 + V_2) + V_3 = V_1 + (V_2 + V_3)?$$

Solution

Let V_1 , V_2 and V_3 are subspaces of V and let's show that

$$(V_1 + V_2) + V_3 = V_1 + (V_2 + V_3)$$

First, take an arbitrary $x + y \in (V_1 + V_2) + V_3$ where $x \in V_1 + V_2$ and $y \in V_3$. Since $x \in V_1 + V_2$, then there exist vectors $a \in V_1$ and $b \in V_2$ such that $x = a + b$. It follows from the associativity of addition in V that

$$x + y = (a + b) + y = a + (b + y)$$

Since $b \in V_2$ and $y \in V_3$, then $b + y \in V_2 + V_3$. Hence, $a + (b + y) \in V_1 + (V_2 + V_3)$ using the fact that $a \in V_1$. Thus, the arbitrary $x + y \in (V_1 + V_2) + V_3$ is in $V_1 + (V_2 + V_3)$ as well so

$$(V_1 + V_2) + V_3 \subset V_1 + (V_2 + V_3)$$

The reverse inclusion has the same proof. The desired equality follows.

Exercise 18

Does the operation of addition on subspaces of V have an additive identity? Which subspaces have additive inverses?

Solution

First, let's show that indeed, the operation of addition on subspaces of V has an additive identity. Define $I = \{0\}$, the subspace of V containing the zero vector only. Take an arbitrary subspace U of V and notice that

$$\begin{aligned} U + I &= \{u + i : u \in U \text{ and } i \in I\} \\ &= \{u + 0 : u \in U \text{ and } i \in I\} \\ &= \{u : u \in U\} \\ &= U \end{aligned}$$

By commutativity of addition of subspaces of V , we also have $I + U = U$. Therefore, I is an additive identity for the addition on subspaces of V .

Concerning additive inverses, let's determine which subspaces of V have an additive inverse by taking an arbitrary subspace U of V and supposing that there is a subspace W of V such that $U + W = I$. Since W is a subspace of V , then $0 \in W$. It follows that for all $u \in U$,

$$u = u + 0 \in U + W = I = \{0\}$$

In other words, $U = \{0\} = I$. Since I obviously has an additive inverse (itself), then the unique subspace having an additive inverse is I .

Exercise 19

Prove or give a counterexample: If V_1, V_2, U are subspaces of V such that

$$V_1 + U = V_2 + U,$$

then $V_1 = V_2$.

Solution

Consider the following counterexample. Let $V_1 = U = V$ and $V_2 = \{0\}$. We know from Exercise 15 of this section that

$$V_1 + U = V + V = V$$

Moreover, from Exercise 19, we also have

$$V_2 + U = \{0\} + V = V$$

Thus,

$$V_1 + U = V_2 + U$$

but $V_1 \neq V_2$.

Exercise 20

Suppose

$$U = \{(x, x, y, y) \in \mathbf{F}^4 : x, y \in \mathbf{F}\}.$$

Find a subspace W of \mathbf{F}^4 such that $\mathbf{F}^4 = U \oplus W$.

Solution

Consider the subspace

$$W = \{(0, a, 0, b) \in \mathbf{F}^4 : a, b \in \mathbf{F}\}$$

and the sum $U + W$. First, let's show that the sum is direct by proving that $(0, 0, 0, 0)$ has a unique representation in this sum. Suppose $(x, x, y, y) \in U$ and $(0, a, 0, b) \in W$ satisfy

$$(0, 0, 0, 0) = (x, x, y, y) + (0, a, 0, b)$$

This is equivalent to the system of equation

$$\begin{cases} x = 0 \\ a + x = 0 \\ y = 0 \\ b + y = 0 \end{cases}$$

which clearly has the following unique solution

$$\begin{cases} x = 0 \\ a = 0 \\ y = 0 \\ b = 0 \end{cases}$$

Therefore, in $U + W$, the zero vector can only be written as the sum of two zero vectors. It follows that the sum is direct.

Let's now show that $U \oplus W = \mathbf{F}^4$ by taking an arbitrary vector (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) . Consider the vectors

$$u = (x_1, x_1, x_3, x_3) \in U \quad \text{and} \quad w = (0, x_2 - x_1, 0, x_4 - x_3) \in W$$

and notice that

$$\begin{aligned} u + w &= (x_1, x_1, x_3, x_3) + (0, x_2 - x_1, 0, x_4 - x_3) \\ &= (x_1, x_1 + x_2 - x_1, x_3, x_3 + x_4 - x_3) \\ &= (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) \end{aligned}$$

which shows that $(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) \in U \oplus W$. Thus, $\mathbf{F}^4 \subset U \oplus W$. Since U and W are subspaces of \mathbf{F}^4 , then $U \oplus W$ must also be a subspace of \mathbf{F}^4 : $U \oplus W \subset \mathbf{F}^4$. Therefore, we get $U \oplus W = \mathbf{F}^4$.

Exercise 21

Suppose

$$U = \{(x, y, x + y, x - y, 2x) \in \mathbf{F}^5 : x, y \in \mathbf{F}\}.$$

Find subspace W of \mathbf{F}^5 such that $\mathbf{F}^5 = U \oplus W$.

Solution

Consider the subspace

$$W = \{(0, 0, a, b, c) \in \mathbf{F}^5 : a, b, c \in \mathbf{F}\}$$

and consider the sum $U + W$. Let's first prove that it is actually a direct sum by focusing on the vector zero. Let $(x, y, x + y, x - y, 2x) \in U$ and $(0, 0, a, b, c) \in W$ be two vectors such that

$$(0, 0, 0, 0) = (x, y, x + y, x - y, 2x) + (0, 0, a, b, c)$$

This translates to the following system of equation:

$$\begin{cases} x = 0 \\ y = 0 \\ x + y + a = 0 \\ x - y + b = 0 \\ 2x + c = 0 \end{cases}$$

which is equivalent to

$$\begin{cases} x = 0 \\ y = 0 \\ a = 0 \\ b = 0 \\ c = 0 \end{cases}$$

Therefore, since the zero vector can only be written as the sum of two zero vectors, the sum is direct.

Let's now show that $U \oplus W = \mathbf{F}^5$. Obviously, since $U \oplus W$ is a subspace of \mathbf{F}^5 , we have $U \oplus W \subset \mathbf{F}^5$. Moreover, for any $(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5) \in \mathbf{F}^5$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5) \\ &= (x_1, x_2, [x_1 + x_2] + [x_3 - x_2 - x_1], [x_1 - x_2] + [x_4 + x_2 - x_1], 2x_1 + [x_5 - 2x_1]) \\ &= (x_1, x_2, x_1 + x_2, x_1 - x_2, 2x_1) + (0, 0, x_3 - x_2 - x_1, x_4 + x_2 - x_1, x_5 - 2x_1) \\ &= (x, y, x + y, x - y, 2x) + (0, 0, a, b, c) \\ &\in U \oplus W \end{aligned}$$

where $x = x_1$, $y = x_2$, $a = x_3 - x_2 - x_1$, $b = x_4 + x_2 - x_1$ and $c = x_5 - 2x_1$. Thus, $\mathbf{F}^5 \subset U \oplus W$. Therefore, $U \oplus W = \mathbf{F}^5$.

Exercise 22

Suppose

$$U = \{(x, y, x + y, x - y, 2x) \in \mathbf{F}^5 : x, y \in \mathbf{F}\}.$$

Find three subspaces W_1 , W_2 , W_3 of \mathbf{F}^5 , none of which equals $\{0\}$, such that $\mathbf{F}^5 = U \oplus W_1 \oplus W_2 \oplus W_3$.

Solution

Consider the subspaces

$$W_1 = \{(0, 0, a, 0, 0) \in \mathbf{F}^5 : a \in \mathbf{F}\}$$

$$W_2 = \{(0, 0, 0, b, 0) \in \mathbf{F}^5 : b \in \mathbf{F}\}$$

$$W_3 = \{(0, 0, 0, 0, c) \in \mathbf{F}^5 : c \in \mathbf{F}\}$$

and their sum $U + W_1 + W_2 + W_3$. Let's first prove that it is actually a direct sum by focusing on the zero vector. Let

$$u = (x, y, x + y, x - y, 2x) \in U$$

$$w_1 = (0, 0, a, 0, 0) \in W_1$$

$$w_2 = (0, 0, 0, b, 0) \in W_2$$

$$w_3 = (0, 0, 0, 0, c) \in W_3$$

be arbitrary vectors in their respective sets such that

$$(0, 0, 0, 0, 0) = u + w_1 + w_2 + w_3$$

This can be rewritten into the following system of equation:

$$\begin{cases} x = 0 \\ y = 0 \\ x + y + a = 0 \\ x - y + b = 0 \\ 2x + c = 0 \end{cases}$$

which is equivalent to

$$\begin{cases} x = 0 \\ y = 0 \\ a = 0 \\ b = 0 \\ c = 0 \end{cases}$$

Hence, $u = w_1 = w_2 = w_3 = (0, 0, 0, 0, 0)$. Therefore, since the zero vector can only be written as the sum of zero vectors, the sum is direct.

Let's now show that $U \oplus W_1 \oplus W_2 \oplus W_3 = \mathbf{F}^5$. Obviously, since $U \oplus W_1 \oplus W_2 \oplus W_3$ is a subspace of \mathbf{F}^5 , we have $U \oplus W_1 \oplus W_2 \oplus W_3 \subset \mathbf{F}^5$. Moreover, for any $(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5) \in \mathbf{F}^5$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5) \\ &= (x_1, x_2, [x_1 + x_2] + [x_3 - x_2 - x_1], [x_1 - x_2] + [x_4 + x_2 - x_1], 2x_1 + [x_5 - 2x_1]) \\ &= (x_1, x_2, x_1 + x_2, x_1 - x_2, 2x_1) + (0, 0, x_3 - x_2 - x_1, x_4 + x_2 - x_1, x_5 - 2x_1) \\ &= (x, y, x + y, x - y, 2x) + (0, 0, a, b, c) \\ &= (x, y, x + y, x - y, 2x) + (0, 0, a, 0, 0) + (0, 0, 0, b, 0) + (0, 0, 0, 0, c) \\ &\in U \oplus W \end{aligned}$$

where $x = x_1$, $y = x_2$, $a = x_3 - x_2 - x_1$, $b = x_4 + x_2 - x_1$ and $c = x_5 - 2x_1$. Thus, $\mathbf{F}^5 \subset U \oplus W_1 \oplus W_2 \oplus W_3$. Therefore, $U \oplus W_1 \oplus W_2 \oplus W_3 = \mathbf{F}^5$.

Exercise 23

Prove or give a counterexample: If V_1, V_2, U are subspaces of V such that

$$V = V_1 \oplus U \quad \text{and} \quad V = V_2 \oplus U,$$

then $V_1 = V_2$.

Solution

Consider the following counterexample:

$$\begin{aligned} V &= \mathbf{R}^2 \\ V_1 &= \{(0, x) : x \in \mathbf{R}\} \\ V_2 &= \{(x, x) : x \in \mathbf{R}\} \\ U &= \{(x, 0) : x \in \mathbf{R}\} \end{aligned}$$

I will not prove that V_1, V_2 and U are subspaces of V because it is not goal of this exercise. Notice that

$$V_1 + U = \{(x, y) : x, y \in \mathbf{R}\} = \mathbf{R}^2 = V$$

Moreover, for any arbitrary $u = (0, y) \in V_1$ and $v = (x, 0) \in U$, if

$$(0, 0) = u + v = (x, y)$$

then it follows that $u = v = (0, 0)$ since $x = y = 0$. Hence, $V_1 \oplus U = V$. Similarly, let's show that $V_2 \oplus U = V$. To do so, let's first prove that $V_2 + U = V$. Since $V_2 + U \subset V$, it suffices to prove that $V \subset V_2 + U$. Let (a, b) be an arbitrary element in V , then we have

$$(x, y) = (x - y, 0) + (y, y) \in V_2 + U$$

Hence, $V_2 + U = V$. To prove that the sum is direct, let $(x, x) \in V_2$ and $(y, 0) \in U$ such that

$$(x + y, x) = (x, x) + (y, 0) = (0, 0)$$

Since it follows that $x = 0$ and $y = 0$, then it follows that the zero vector can only be written as a sum of two zero vectors in $V_2 + U$. Thus, $V_2 \oplus U = V$. However, notice that $V_1 \neq V_2$ since $(1, 1) \in V_2$ but $(1, 1) \notin V_1$.

Exercise 24

A function $f : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ is called *even* if

$$f(-x) = f(x)$$

for all $x \in \mathbf{R}$. A function $f : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ is called *odd* if

$$f(-x) = -f(x)$$

for all $x \in \mathbf{R}$. Let V_e denote the set of real-valued even functions on \mathbf{R} and V_o denote the set of real-valued odd functions on \mathbf{R} . Show that $\mathbf{R}^{\mathbf{R}} = V_e \oplus V_o$.

Solution

First, let's show that $\mathbf{R}^{\mathbf{R}} = V_e \oplus V_o$. Since $V_e \oplus V_o \subset \mathbf{R}^{\mathbf{R}}$, then it suffices to prove that $\mathbf{R}^{\mathbf{R}} \subset V_e \oplus V_o$. Given an arbitrary function $f \in \mathbf{R}^{\mathbf{R}}$, define

$$f_e(x) = \frac{f(x) + f(-x)}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad f_o(x) = \frac{f(x) - f(-x)}{2}$$

for all $x \in \mathbf{R}$. Notice that for all $x \in \mathbf{R}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} f_e(-x) &= \frac{f((-x)) + f(-(-x))}{2} \\ &= \frac{f(-x) + f(x)}{2} \\ &= f_e(x) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} f_o(-x) &= \frac{f((-x)) - f(-(-x))}{2} \\ &= \frac{f(-x) - f(x)}{2} \\ &= -\frac{f(x) - f(-x)}{2} \\ &= f_o(x) \end{aligned}$$

which proves that $f_e \in V_e$ and $f_o \in V_o$. Moreover, for all $x \in \mathbf{R}$

$$f_e(x) + f_o(x) = \frac{f(x) + f(-x)}{2} + \frac{f(x) - f(-x)}{2} = f(x)$$

so $f = f_e + f_o \in V_e + V_o$. Therefore, $\mathbf{R}^{\mathbf{R}} = V_e + V_o$ since we just proved that $\mathbf{R}^{\mathbf{R}} \subset V_e + V_o$. Let's now show that the sum is direct by proving that the zero function can be represented as $f_e + f_o$ where $f_e \in V_e$ and $f_o \in V_o$ only when $f_e = f_o \equiv 0$. To prove this, consider two arbitrary functions $f_e \in V_e$ and $f_o \in V_o$ such that

$$f_e(x) + f_o(x) = 0$$

for all $x \in \mathbf{R}$. Then, given any $y \in \mathbf{R}$, we have

$$f_e(y) + f_o(y) = 0$$

and

$$f_e(-y) + f_o(-y) = 0 \implies f_e(y) - f_o(y) = 0$$

by plugging-in $x = y$ and $x = -y$ into our previous equation. Adding the two equations gives us

$$\begin{aligned} [f_e(y) + f_o(y)] + [f_e(y) - f_o(y)] &= 0 \implies 2f_e(y) = 0 \\ &\implies f_e(y) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

It follows that $f_o(y) = 0$ as well since $f_e(y) + f_o(y) = 0$. Thus, since it holds for all $y \in \mathbf{R}$, then $f_e = f_o \equiv 0$. Therefore, $\mathbf{R}^{\mathbf{R}} = V_e \oplus V_o$.

Chapter 2

Finite-Dimensional Vector Spaces

2A Span and Linear Independence

Exercise 1

Find a list of four distinct vectors in \mathbf{F}^3 whose span equals

$$\{(x, y, z) \in \mathbf{F}^3 : x + y + z = 0\}.$$

Solution

Consider the following list of vectors: $(-1, 0, 1)$, $(0, -1, 1)$, $(1, 1, -2)$ and $(-1, 1, 0)$. To prove that it spans the given set, take an arbitrary $(x, y, z) \in \mathbf{F}^3$ such that $x + y + z = 0$ and notice that

$$(x, y, z) = (-x)(-1, 0, 1) + (-y)(0, -1, 1) + 0(1, 1, -2) + 0(-1, 1, 0)$$

Hence, the given set is in the span of the four vectors. Moreover, any element in the span of the four vectors is in the given set since the four vectors are in the set and the set is closed under linear combinations.

Exercise 2

Prove or give a counterexample: If v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4 spans V , then the list

$$v_1 - v_2, v_2 - v_3, v_3 - v_4, v_4$$

also spans V .

Solution

Let's prove it. Define the vectors

$$u_1 = v_1 - v_2$$

$$u_2 = v_2 - v_3$$

$$u_3 = v_3 - v_4$$

$$u_4 = v_4$$

and B as the set containing these four vectors. To show that B spans V , we need to prove that for any element $v \in V$, there exists a linear combination of the elements

in B equal to v . To do so, let $v \in V$, since v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4 spans V , then there exist coefficients $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \alpha_4 \in \mathbf{F}$ such that

$$v = \alpha_1 v_1 + \alpha_2 v_2 + \alpha_3 v_3 + \alpha_4 v_4$$

Now, notice that we can write v_1 as $u_1 + u_2 + u_3 + u_4$, v_2 as $u_2 + u_3 + u_4$, v_3 as $u_3 + u_4$ and v_4 simply as u_4 . Hence:

$$\begin{aligned} v &= \alpha_1 v_1 + \alpha_2 v_2 + \alpha_3 v_3 + \alpha_4 v_4 \\ &= \alpha_1(u_1 + u_2 + u_3 + u_4) + \alpha_2(u_2 + u_3 + u_4) + \alpha_3(u_3 + u_4) + \alpha_4 u_4 \\ &= \alpha_1 u_1 + (\alpha_1 + \alpha_2)u_2 + (\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3)u_3 + (\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 + \alpha_4)u_4 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we get that v can be written as a linear combination of the vectors in B . Therefore, B spans V .

Exercise 3

Suppose v_1, \dots, v_m is a list of vectors in V . For $k \in \{1, \dots, m\}$, let

$$w_k = v_1 + \dots + v_k.$$

Show that $\text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_m) = \text{span}(w_1, \dots, w_m)$.

Solution

First, notice that for all $k \in \{2, \dots, m\}$, we have

$$v_k = w_k - w_{k-1} \in \text{span}(w_1, \dots, w_m)$$

(for $k = 1$, $v_1 = w_1 \in \text{span}(w_1, \dots, w_m)$). Hence, since $\text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_m)$ is the smallest subspace containing the vectors v_1, \dots, v_m , and $\text{span}(w_1, \dots, w_m)$ is a subspace that contains the vectors v_1, \dots, v_m , then $\text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_m) \subset \text{span}(w_1, \dots, w_m)$.

Similarly, by definition, for all $k \in \{1, \dots, m\}$, we have

$$w_k = v_1 + \dots + v_k \in \text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_m)$$

Hence, since $\text{span}(w_1, \dots, w_m)$ is the smallest subspace containing the vectors w_1, \dots, w_m , and $\text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_m)$ is a subspace that contains the vectors w_1, \dots, w_m , then $\text{span}(w_1, \dots, w_m) \subset \text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_m)$. Therefore, $\text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_m) = \text{span}(w_1, \dots, w_m)$.

Exercise 4

- (a) Show that a list of length one in a vector space is linearly independent if and only if the vector in the list is not 0.
- (b) Show that a list of length two in a vector space is linearly independent if and only if neither of the two vectors in the list is a scalar multiple of the other.

Solution

- (a) Consider the list containing the single vector v_0 . By definition, the list is linearly independent if and only if the only choice of scalars in a linear combination of the vectors in the list that is equal to zero is all of the scalars being equal to zero. In our case, this is equivalent to saying that $\alpha v_0 = 0$ only when $\alpha = 0$. However, if it holds, then v_0 cannot be the zero vector since otherwise, $\alpha v_0 = 0$ even when $\alpha \neq 0$. Similarly, if v_0 is not the zero vector then $\alpha v_0 = 0$ can only happen when $\alpha = 0$. Thus, $\alpha v_0 = 0$ only when $\alpha = 0$ is equivalent to $v_0 \neq 0$. Therefore, the list is linearly independent if and only if v_0 is not the zero vector.
- (b) For this one, let's prove the converse equivalence: the list is linearly dependent if and only if one vector is a scalar multiple of the other. To do so, suppose that the list is linearly dependent, then there exist scalars $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbf{F}$ such that

$$\alpha v_1 + \beta v_2 = 0$$

but not all scalars are zero. Suppose without loss of generality that $\alpha \neq 0$, then we can rewrite the previous equation as

$$v_1 = -\frac{\beta}{\alpha}v_2$$

Thus, v_1 is a scalar multiple of v_2 .

For the reverse implication, suppose that one of the vectors is a multiple of the other. Without loss of generality, suppose that v_1 is a scalar multiple of v_2 , then there exists a scalar $\alpha \in \mathbf{F}$ such that $v_1 = \alpha v_2$. But notice that we can rewrite the previous equation as follows:

$$(1)v_1 + (-\alpha)v_2 = 0$$

Since $1 \neq 0$, then there exists a non-trivial linear combination of the vectors in that list that is equal to zero. Thus, the list is linearly dependent.

Exercise 5

Find a number t such that

$$(3, 1, 4), (2, -3, 5), (5, 9, t)$$

is not linearly independent in \mathbf{R}^3 .

Solution

If we take $t = 55/2$, then we can write the vector $(5, 9, t)$ as $\alpha(3, 1, 4) + \beta(2, -3, 5)$ where $\alpha = 15/2$ and $\beta = -1/2$. Hence,

$$\alpha(3, 1, 4) + \beta(2, -3, 5) + (-1)(5, 9, t) = 0$$

is a non-trivial linear combination. Thus, with such a value of t , the three vectors are not linearly independent.

Exercise 6

Show that the list $(2, 3, 1), (1, -1, 2), (7, 3, c)$ is linearly dependent in \mathbf{F}^3 if and only if

$c = 8$.

Solution

(\implies) Suppose that the list $(2,3,1), (1,-1,2), (7,3,c)$ is linearly dependent in \mathbf{F}^3 , then there exist scalars $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \mathbf{F}$ not all zero such that

$$\alpha(2, 3, 1) + \beta(1, -1, 2) + \gamma(7, 3, c) = 0$$

If $\gamma = 0$, then we get that $(2,3,1)$ and $(1,-1,2)$ are linearly dependent. However, this is impossible since $(2,3,1)$ is not a scalar multiple of $(1,-1,2)$ and vice versa. Thus, γ must be non-zero. Thus:

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha(2, 3, 1) + \beta(1, -1, 2) + \gamma(7, 3, c) = 0 &\implies \gamma(7, 3, c) = -\alpha(2, 3, 1) - \beta(1, -1, 2) \\ &\implies (7, 3, c) = -\frac{\alpha}{\gamma}(2, 3, 1) - \frac{\beta}{\gamma}(1, -1, 2) \end{aligned}$$

Hence, if we let $a = -\alpha/\gamma$ and $b = -\beta/\gamma$, then

$$(7, 3, c) = a(2, 3, 1) + b(1, -1, 2)$$

which can be written as the following system of equation:

$$\begin{cases} 2a + b = 7 \\ 3a - b = 3 \\ a + 2b = c \end{cases}$$

To solve the system, we can add equation 1 and 2 to get $5a = 10$. It follows that $a = 2$. If we plug-in $a = 2$ in equation 2, we get $6 - b = 3$ so $b = 3$. Thus, we get that $c = a + 2b = 2 + 2 \cdot 3 = 8$.

(\impliedby) Suppose that $c = 8$. Using our work from the previous implication gives us

$$(7, 3, c) = 2(2, 3, 1) + 3(1, -1, 2)$$

which can be rearranged as

$$2(2, 3, 1) + 3(1, -1, 2) + (-1)(7, 3, c) = 0$$

Thus, since there exists a non-trivial linear combination that is equal to zero, then the three vectors are linearly dependent.

Exercise 7

- (a) Show that if we think of \mathbf{C} as a vector space over \mathbf{R} , then the list $1 + i, 1 - i$ is linearly independent.
- (b) Show that if we think of \mathbf{C} as a vector space over \mathbf{C} , then the list $1 + i, 1 - i$ is linearly dependent.

Solution

- (a) By contradiction, suppose that $1 + i, 1 - i$ is linearly dependent, then using Exercise 4.(b), we know that there is a scalar $\alpha \in \mathbf{R}$ such that

$$1 + i = \alpha(1 - i) = \alpha + (-\alpha)i$$

But by the unique representation of complex numbers in the form $a + ib$, we get that $\alpha = 1$ and $-\alpha = 1$, a contradiction. Thus, the list $1 + i, 1 - i$ is linearly independent.

- (b) Simply notice that

$$(1 + i) + (-i)(1 - i) = 0$$

even if the scalars are not all zero. Therefore, the list $1 + i, 1 - i$ is linearly dependent.

Exercise 8

Suppose v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4 is linearly independent in V . Prove that

$$v_1 - v_2, v_2 - v_3, v_3 - v_4, v_4$$

is also linearly independent.

Solution

To prove that $v_1 - v_2, v_2 - v_3, v_3 - v_4, v_4$ is linearly independent, take arbitrary scalars $a, b, c, d \in \mathbf{F}$ such that

$$a(v_1 - v_2) + b(v_2 - v_3) + c(v_3 - v_4) + dv_4 = 0$$

and prove that $a = b = c = d = 0$. First, notice that we can rearrange the previous equation as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & a(v_1 - v_2) + b(v_2 - v_3) + c(v_3 - v_4) + dv_4 = 0 \\ \implies & av_1 - av_2 + bv_2 - bv_3 + cv_3 - cv_4 + dv_4 = 0 \\ \implies & av_1 + (b - a)v_2 + (c - b)v_3 + (d - c)v_4 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

But since the list v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4 is linearly independent, then all coefficients in the last equation must be zero. Hence, we get the following system of equation:

$$\begin{cases} a = 0 \\ b - a = 0 \\ c - b = 0 \\ d - c = 0 \end{cases}$$

which is equivalent to

$$\begin{cases} a = 0 \\ a = b = c = d \end{cases}$$

It follows that $a = b = c = d = 0$. Therefore, the given list is linearly independent.

Exercise 9

Prove or give a counterexample: If v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m is a linearly independent list of vectors in V , then

$$5v_1 - 4v_2, v_2, v_3, \dots, v_m$$

is linearly independent.

Solution

To prove that $5v_1 - 4v_2, v_2, v_3, \dots, v_m$ is linearly independent, take arbitrary scalars $a_1, \dots, a_m \in \mathbf{F}$ such that

$$a_1(5v_1 - 4v_2) + a_2v_2 + a_3v_3 + \dots + a_mv_m = 0$$

and prove that $a_1 = a_2 = \dots = a_m = 0$. First, notice that we can rearrange the previous equation as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & a_1(5v_1 - 4v_2) + a_2v_2 + a_3v_3 + \dots + a_mv_m = 0 \\ \implies & 5a_1v_1 - 4a_1v_2 + a_2v_2 + a_3v_3 + \dots + a_mv_m = 0 \\ \implies & 5a_1v_1 + (a_2 - 4a_1)v_2 + a_3v_3 + \dots + a_mv_m = 0 \end{aligned}$$

But since the list v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m is linearly independent, then all coefficients in the last equation must be zero. Hence, we get the following system of equation:

$$\begin{cases} 5a_1 = 0 \\ a_2 - 4a_1 = 0 \\ a_3 = 0 \\ \vdots \\ a_m = 0 \end{cases}$$

which is equivalent to $a_1 = a_2 = \dots = a_m = 0$ by solving the system. Therefore, the given list is linearly independent.

Exercise 10

Prove or give a counterexample: If v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m is a linearly independent list of vectors in V and $\lambda \in \mathbf{F}$ with $\lambda \neq 0$, then $\lambda v_1, \lambda v_2, \dots, \lambda v_m$ is linearly independent.

Solution

To prove that $\lambda v_1, \lambda v_2, \dots, \lambda v_m$ is linearly independent, take arbitrary scalars $a_1, \dots, a_m \in \mathbf{F}$ such that

$$a_1\lambda v_1 + a_2\lambda v_2 + \dots + a_m\lambda v_m = 0$$

and prove that $a_1 = a_2 = \dots = a_m = 0$. But since the list v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m is linearly independent, then all coefficients in front of the a_i 's the last equation must be zero. Hence, we get the following system of equation:

$$\begin{cases} \lambda a_1 = 0 \\ \lambda a_2 = 0 \\ \vdots \\ \lambda a_m = 0 \end{cases}$$

Using the fact that $\lambda \neq 0$, we can divide each equation in the system to get $a_1 = a_2 = \dots = a_m = 0$. Therefore, the given list is linearly independent.

Exercise 11

Prove or give a counterexample: If v_1, \dots, v_m and w_1, \dots, w_m are linearly independent lists of vectors in V , then $v_1 + w_1, \dots, v_m + w_m$ is linearly independent.

Solution

Consider the following counterexample: take any list v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m of linearly independent vectors. We know from Exercise 10 that if we take $\lambda = -1$, then $-v_1, -v_2, \dots, -v_m$ is also linearly independent. However, the list $v_1 + (-v_1), \dots, v_m + (-v_m)$ is precisely equal to the list containing m zero vectors. Thus, $v_1 + (-v_1), \dots, v_m + (-v_m)$ is not linearly independent since any linear combination of the vectors in that list gives the zero vector, even if some scalars are non-zero.

Exercise 12

Suppose v_1, \dots, v_m is linearly independent in V and $w \in V$. Prove that if $v_1 + w, \dots, v_m + w$ is linearly dependent, then $w \in \text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_m)$.

Solution

Suppose that $v_1 + w, \dots, v_m + w$ is linearly dependent, then there must be some scalars $a_1, \dots, a_m \in \mathbf{F}$ not all zero such that

$$a_1(v_1 + w) + a_2(v_2 + w) + \dots + a_m(v_m + w) = 0$$

But notice that we can rewrite the previous equation as follows:

$$(a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_m)w = a_1(-v_1) + a_2(-v_2) + \dots + a_m(-v_m)$$

Define $\alpha = a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_m$ so we can rewrite again the equation as

$$\alpha w = a_1(-v_1) + a_2(-v_2) + \dots + a_m(-v_m)$$

and suppose by contradiction that $\alpha = 0$. If $\alpha = 0$, then the previous equation becomes:

$$a_1(-v_1) + a_2(-v_2) + \dots + a_m(-v_m) = 0$$

Using Exercise 10, by linear independence of v_1, \dots, v_m and by taking $\lambda = -1$, we get that the list $-v_1, \dots, -v_m$ is linearly independent as well. Hence, the previous equation implies that $a_1 = a_2 = \dots = a_m = 0$. But this is a contradiction with the fact that the scalars a_1, \dots, a_m are not all zero. Thus, by contradiction, $\alpha \neq 0$. Hence:

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha w &= a_1(-v_1) + a_2(-v_2) + \dots + a_m(-v_m) \\ \implies w &= \left(-\frac{a_1}{\alpha}\right)v_1 + \left(-\frac{a_2}{\alpha}\right)v_2 + \dots + \left(-\frac{a_m}{\alpha}\right)v_m \end{aligned}$$

which proves that $w \in \text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_m)$.

Exercise 13

Suppose v_1, \dots, v_m is linearly independent in V and $w \in V$. Show that

$$v_1, \dots, v_m, w \text{ is linearly independent} \iff w \notin \text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_m).$$

Solution

(\implies) By contrapositive, suppose that $w \in \text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_m)$, then there exist coefficients $a_1, \dots, a_m \in \mathbf{F}$ such that

$$w = a_1v_1 + \dots + a_mv_m$$

which can be rewritten as

$$a_1v_1 + \dots + a_mv_m + (-1)w = 0$$

Notice that not all scalars in this linear combination are zero. It follows that the list v_1, \dots, v_m, w is linearly dependent.

(\impliedby) Again, by contrapositive, suppose that v_1, \dots, v_m, w is linearly dependent, then there exist coefficients $a_1, \dots, a_m, \alpha \in \mathbf{F}$ not all zero such that

$$a_1v_1 + \dots + a_mv_m + \alpha w = 0$$

By contradiction, if $\alpha = 0$, then we get

$$a_1v_1 + \dots + a_mv_m = 0$$

which implies, by linear independence of v_1, \dots, v_m that all coefficients are zero. A contradiction since we know that at least one of them is non-zero. Thus, by contradiction, we have that $\alpha \neq 0$:

$$\begin{aligned} & a_1v_1 + \dots + a_mv_m + \alpha w = 0 \\ \implies & -\alpha w = a_1v_1 + \dots + a_mv_m \\ \implies & w = \left(-\frac{a_1}{\alpha}\right)v_1 + \left(-\frac{a_2}{\alpha}\right)v_2 + \dots + \left(-\frac{a_m}{\alpha}\right)v_m \end{aligned}$$

which proves that $w \in \text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_m)$.

Exercise 14

Suppose v_1, \dots, v_m is a list of vectors in V . For $k \in \{1, \dots, m\}$, let

$$w_k = v_1 + \dots + v_k.$$

Show that the list v_1, \dots, v_m is linearly independent if and only if the list w_1, \dots, w_m is linearly independent.

Solution

(\implies) Suppose that v_1, \dots, v_m is linearly independent, then for any scalars $a_1, \dots, a_m \in \mathbf{F}$ such that

$$a_1w_1 + \dots + a_mw_m = 0,$$

we can rewrite the previous equation as

$$\begin{aligned} & a_1w_1 + a_1w_2 + \dots + a_mw_m = 0 \\ \implies & a_1v_1 + a_2(v_1 + v_2) + \dots + a_m(v_1 + \dots + v_m) = 0 \\ \implies & a_1v_1 + a_2v_1 + a_2v_2 + \dots + a_mv_1 + \dots + a_mv_m = 0 \\ \implies & (a_1 + \dots + a_m)v_1 + \dots + a_mv_m = 0 \end{aligned}$$

By linear independence of v_1, \dots, v_m , this implies

$$\begin{cases} a_1 + \dots + a_m = 0 \\ a_2 + \dots + a_m = 0 \\ \vdots \\ a_{m-1} + a_m = 0 \\ a_m = 0 \end{cases}$$

We can easily solve this system of equation and get $a_1 = a_2 = \dots = a_m = 0$. Thus, w_1, \dots, w_m is linearly independent.

(\Leftarrow) Suppose that w_1, \dots, w_m is linearly independent, then for any scalars $a_1, \dots, a_m \in \mathbf{F}$ such that

$$a_1 v_1 + \dots + a_m v_m = 0,$$

we can rewrite the previous equation as

$$\begin{aligned} & a_1 v_1 + a_1 v_2 + \dots + a_m v_m = 0 \\ \implies & a_1 w_1 + a_2(w_2 - w_1) \dots + a_m(w_m - w_{m-1}) = 0 \\ \implies & a_1 w_1 + a_2 w_2 - a_2 w_1 \dots + a_m w_m - a_m w_{m-1} = 0 \\ \implies & (a_1 - a_2)w_1 + (a_2 - a_3)w_2 + \dots + a_m w_m = 0 \end{aligned}$$

By linear independence of v_1, \dots, v_m , this implies

$$\begin{cases} a_1 - a_2 = 0 \\ a_2 - a_3 = 0 \\ \vdots \\ a_m = 0 \end{cases}$$

We can easily solve this system of equation and get $a_1 = a_2 = \dots = a_m = 0$. Thus, v_1, \dots, v_m is linearly independent.

Exercise 15

Explain why there does not exist a list of six polynomials that is linearly independent in $\mathcal{P}_4(\mathbf{F})$.

Solution

We already know a list of size 5 that spans $\mathcal{P}_4(\mathbf{F})$: $1, x, x^2, x^3, x^4$. Hence, any list of linearly independent polynomials must have a length smaller than 5. In particular, a linearly independent list of 6 polynomials cannot exist in $\mathcal{P}_4(\mathbf{F})$.

Exercise 16

Explain why no list of four polynomials spans $\mathcal{P}_4(\mathbf{F})$.

Solution

We already know a linearly independent list of size 5 in $\mathcal{P}_4(\mathbf{F})$: $1, x, x^2, x^3, x^4$. Hence, any list of polynomials that spans $\mathcal{P}_4(\mathbf{F})$ must have a length greater or equal

to 5. In particular, a spanning list of 4 polynomials cannot exist in $\mathcal{P}_4(\mathbf{F})$.

Exercise 17

Prove that V is infinite-dimensional if and only if there is a sequence v_1, v_2, \dots of vectors in V such that v_1, \dots, v_m is linearly independent for every positive integer m .

Solution

(\implies) Suppose that V is infinite-dimensional, let's define a sequence v_1, v_2, \dots of vectors recursively as follows. First, V cannot be the trivial vector space $\{0\}$ because the trivial vector space has a list of vectors that spans it: the list containing the zero vector only. Hence, $\{0\}$ is finite-dimensional so it cannot be equal to V . Thus, define the vector $v_1 \in V$ as any non-zero vector. Obviously, the list v_1 of length 1 is linearly independent by Exercise 4.(a).

Recursively, suppose that we have a linearly independent list v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k of vectors in V for some natural number k . Since V is infinite-dimensional, then the given list don't span V . It follows that there exists a vector v_{k+1} such that

$$v_{k+1} \notin \text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_k)$$

Therefore, by Exercise 13, the list $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k, v_{k+1}$ is linearly independent as well. Now that we defined our sequence recursively, notice that by construction, for all positive integer m , the list v_1, \dots, v_m is linearly independent.

(\impliedby) Suppose there is a sequence v_1, v_2, \dots of vectors in V such that v_1, \dots, v_m is linearly independent for every positive integer m . By contradiction, suppose that V is finite-dimensional, then there is a list w_1, \dots, w_N that spans V for some positive integer N . However, if we let $m = N + 1$, then our assumption implies that there is a linearly independent list of length $N + 1$ in V . This is in contradiction with Theorem 2.22 so V must be infinite-dimensional.

Exercise 18

Prove that \mathbf{F}^∞ is infinite-dimensional.

Solution

Consider the sequence v_1, v_2, \dots of sequences in \mathbf{F}^∞ defined as follows: for all positive integer k , define $v_k \in \mathbf{F}^\infty$ as the sequence with all terms equal to 0, except the k th term which is equal to 1. For all positive integer m , consider the list v_1, \dots, v_m . Notice that by construction, for all scalars $a_1, \dots, a_m \in \mathbf{F}$, the linear combination

$$a_1 v_1 + a_2 v_2 + \dots + a_m v_m$$

is simply the sequence with terms $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{m-1}, a_m, 0, 0, 0, \dots)$. It follows that this linear combination is equal to the zero sequence if and only if all the coefficients a_i are zero. Thus, the list v_1, \dots, v_m is linearly independent. Therefore, by Exercise 17, \mathbf{F}^∞ is infinite-dimensional.

Exercise 19

Prove that the real vector space of all continuous real-valued functions on the interval $[0, 1]$ is infinite-dimensional.

Solution

Consider the sequence v_1, v_2, \dots of continuous functions on the interval $[0, 1]$ defined by $v_k : x \mapsto x^k$ for all positive integer k . Let m be a positive integer and consider the list v_1, \dots, v_m . To show that this list is linearly independent, take arbitrary scalars $a_1, \dots, a_m \in \mathbf{R}$ such that

$$a_1v_1 + a_2v_2 + \dots + a_mv_m = 0$$

By definition of the v_i 's, the previous equation implies that

$$a_1x + a_2x^2 + \dots + a_mx^m = 0$$

for all $x \in [0, 1]$. If we consider the function $f : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ defined by $f(x) = a_1x + a_2x^2 + \dots + a_mx^m$, then f is differentiable on $[0, 1]$. Thus, differentiating on both sides gives us

$$a_1 + a_2x + \dots + a_mx^{m-1} = 0$$

for all $x \in [0, 1]$. By plugging-in $x = 0$, we get $a_1 = 0$. If we repeat this process m times, we get $a_1 = a_2 = \dots = a_m = 0$. Thus, the list is linearly independent. Therefore, by Exercise 17, the real vector space of all continuous real-valued functions on the interval $[0, 1]$ is infinite-dimensional.

Exercise 20

Suppose p_0, p_1, \dots, p_m are polynomials in $\mathcal{P}_m(\mathbf{F})$ such that $p_k(2) = 0$ for each $k \in \{0, \dots, m\}$. Prove that p_0, p_1, \dots, p_m is not linearly independent in $\mathcal{P}_m(\mathbf{F})$.

Solution

We already know a list of size $m + 1$ that spans $\mathcal{P}_m(\mathbf{F})$: $1, x, x^2, \dots, x^m$. Hence, any list of linearly independent polynomials must have a length smaller than $m + 1$. By contradiction, suppose that the given list p_0, p_1, \dots, p_m is linearly independent and consider the constant polynomial $p \equiv 1$. Notice that for all scalars $a_0, \dots, a_m \in \mathbf{F}$, the new polynomial

$$a_0p_0 + a_1p_1 + \dots + a_mp_m$$

also vanishes at $x = 2$. Hence, for any linear combination of the list p_0, p_1, \dots, p_m , the polynomial p must be different from this linear combination they don't evaluate to the same number at $x = 2$. It follows that

$$p \notin \text{span}(p_0, p_1, \dots, p_m)$$

Thus, by Exercise 13, the list p_0, \dots, p_m, p is linearly independent. However, this list has length $m + 2$ so we get a contradiction. Therefore, p_0, p_1, \dots, p_m cannot be linearly independent in $\mathcal{P}_m(\mathbf{F})$.

2B Bases

Exercise 1

Find all vector spaces that have exactly one basis.

Solution

Let V be a vector space over the field \mathbf{F} that have exactly one basis. First, let's show that the basis must contain only one vector. To do so, suppose that the basis is the following list: b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n with $n \geq 2$. Consider the new list $b_1, b_1 + b_2, b_3, \dots, b_n$ where b_2 is replaced by $b_1 + b_2$. Notice that this new list is also linearly independent because for all scalars $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \in \mathbf{F}$:

$$\begin{aligned} & \alpha_1 b_1 + \alpha_2 (b_1 + b_2) + \alpha_3 b_3 + \dots + \alpha_n b_n = 0 \\ \implies & (\alpha_1 + \alpha_2) b_1 + \alpha_2 b_2 + \alpha_3 b_3 + \dots + \alpha_n b_n = 0 \\ \implies & \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha_i = 0, \quad i = 2, \dots, n \\ \implies & \alpha_i = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, notice that for all $u \in V$, since b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n is a basis for V , then there exist scalars $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbf{F}$ such that

$$u = a_1 b_1 + a_2 b_2 + \dots + a_n b_n$$

Hence,

$$u = (a_1 - a_2) b_1 + a_2 (b_1 + b_2) + \dots + a_n b_n \in \text{span}(b_1, b_1 + b_2, \dots, b_n)$$

It follows that the new list also spans V . Therefore, the new list is a basis. But since V has a unique basis, then the new list must be equal to the first one. In particular, the vector $b_1 + b_2$ must be in the list b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n as well. Hence, there is a $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ such that $b_1 + b_2 = b_i$. If $i = 1$, then we get $b_2 = 0$, a contradiction with the fact that b_1, \dots, b_n is linearly independent. Similarly, $i = 2$ would lead to the same contradiction. Now, if $i > 2$, then we can rearrange the equation to $b_1 + b_2 - b_i = 0$. Again, this is impossible since the b_j 's are linearly independent. Therefore, by contradiction, the unique basis for V must contain at most 1 vector. Now, we have two cases, either the basis is a list of length 0 or a list of length 1. If the list has length 0, then V must be the trivial vector space $\{0\}$. Indeed, the trivial vector space over any field has a unique basis, the list of length 0.

Suppose now that the basis for V is a list of length 1, call $v_0 \neq 0$ the unique vector in the basis. Let α be a non-zero scalar and consider the list containing the vector αv_0 . Since neither α nor v_0 is zero, then αv_0 is non-zero. Thus, this new list is linearly independent. Moreover, for any $u \in V$, since the list v_0 spans V , then there is a $\lambda \in \mathbf{F}$ such that $u = \lambda v_0$. Thus:

$$u = \frac{\lambda}{\alpha} (\alpha v_0) \in \text{span}(\alpha v_0)$$

It follows that the list αv_0 is also a basis for V . By uniqueness, we must have $\alpha v_0 = v_0$. But since $v_0 \neq 0$:

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha v_0 = v_0 & \implies \alpha v_0 - v_0 \\ & \implies (\alpha - 1) v_0 = 0 \\ & \implies \alpha = 1 \end{aligned}$$

In conclusion, the only non-zero element in \mathbf{F} is 1 so \mathbf{F} must be the field containing two elements.

From these results, we get that the only vector spaces with exactly one basis are either the trivial vector spaces on any field, or the vector spaces over the field with two elements with a basis containing only one element.

Exercise 2

Verify all assertions in Example 2.27.

Solution

- (a) Denote by $e_i \in \mathbf{F}^n$ the vector with all entries equal to zero except the i th entry which is equal to 1. Let's show that the list e_1, \dots, e_n is a basis for \mathbf{F}^n . First, let's show that it spans \mathbf{F}^n . Take an arbitrary $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in \mathbf{F}^n$ and notice that

$$\begin{aligned} (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) &= \alpha_1(1, \dots, 0) + \dots + \alpha_n(0, \dots, 1) \\ &= \alpha_1 e_1 + \dots + \alpha_n e_n \\ &\in \text{span}(e_1, \dots, e_n) \end{aligned}$$

Hence, the list spans \mathbf{F}^n . Moreover, for any scalars $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \in \mathbf{F}$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_1 e_1 + \dots + \alpha_n e_n &= (0, \dots, 0) \\ \implies \alpha_1(1, \dots, 0) + \dots + \alpha_n(0, \dots, 1) &= (0, \dots, 0) \\ \implies (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) &= (0, \dots, 0) \\ \implies \alpha_i &= 0 \text{ for all } i = 1, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the list e_1, \dots, e_n is a basis for \mathbf{F}^n .

- (b) Let's show that the list $(1, 2), (3, 5)$ is a basis of \mathbf{F}^2 . To do so, notice that for all $(a, b) \in \mathbf{F}^2$, we have

$$(a, b) = (3b - 5a)(1, 2) + (2a - b)(3, 5) \in \text{span}((1, 2), (3, 5))$$

so the list spans \mathbf{F}^2 . Moreover, for all scalars $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbf{F}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha(1, 2) + \beta(3, 5) = (0, 0) &\implies (\alpha + 3\beta, 2\alpha + 5\beta) = (0, 0) \\ &\implies \begin{cases} \alpha + 3\beta = 0 \\ 2\alpha + 5\beta = 0 \end{cases} \\ &\implies \alpha = \beta = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the list is linearly independent. Therefore, it is a basis for \mathbf{F}^2 .

- (c) Let's first prove that the list $(1, 2, -4), (7, -5, 6)$ is linearly independent in \mathbf{F}^3 .

Notice that for all scalars $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbf{F}$:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \alpha(1, 2, -4) + \beta(7, -5, 6) = 0 &\implies (\alpha + 7\beta, 2\alpha - 5\beta, -4\alpha + 6\beta) = 0 \\
 &\implies \begin{cases} \alpha + 7\beta = 0 \\ 2\alpha - 5\beta = 0 \\ -4\alpha + 6\beta = 0 \end{cases} \\
 &\implies \begin{cases} \alpha + 7\beta = 0 \\ 4\alpha - 10\beta = 0 \\ -4\alpha + 6\beta = 0 \end{cases} \\
 &\implies \begin{cases} \alpha + 7\beta = 0 \\ 4\beta = 0 \end{cases} \\
 &\implies \begin{cases} \alpha + 7\beta = 0 \\ \beta = 0 \end{cases} \\
 &\implies \alpha = \beta = 0
 \end{aligned}$$

It follows that the list is linearly independent. Now, to show that it doesn't span \mathbf{F}^3 , notice that the standard basis of \mathbf{F}^3 is linearly independent list of length 3. Hence, any spanning list of \mathbf{F}^3 must have length bigger than or equal to 3. Since the given list has length 2, then it cannot span \mathbf{F}^3 .

- (d) First, recall from part (b) of this exercise that the list $(1, 2), (3, 5)$ spans \mathbf{F}^2 . Hence, for all $(a, b) \in \mathbf{F}^2$, there exist scalars $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbf{F}$ such that

$$\begin{aligned}
 (a, b) &= \alpha(1, 2) + \beta(3, 5) \\
 &= \alpha(1, 2) + \beta(3, 5) + 0(4, 13) \\
 &\in \text{span}((1, 2), (3, 5), (4, 13))
 \end{aligned}$$

It follows that the list $(1, 2), (3, 5), (4, 13)$ spans \mathbf{F}^2 . However, it is not linearly independent because the standard basis of \mathbf{F}^2 is a spanning list of \mathbf{F}^2 of length 2. Hence, any linearly independent list in \mathbf{F}^2 must have length lesser than 2. Since our given set has length 3, then it cannot be linearly independent.

- (e) Define the set

$$S = \{(x, x, y) \in \mathbf{F}^3 : x, y \in F\}$$

and notice that it is a subspace of F^3 . Let's show that the list $(1, 1, 0), (0, 0, 1)$ is a basis of S . First, linear independence follows from the fact that for all $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbf{F}$:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \alpha(1, 1, 0) + \beta(0, 0, 1) = 0 &\implies (\alpha, \alpha, \beta) = 0 \\
 &\implies \begin{cases} \alpha = 0 \\ \alpha = 0 \\ \beta = 0 \end{cases} \implies \alpha = \beta = 0
 \end{aligned}$$

To show that the list spans S , let (x, x, y) be an arbitrary element of S where $x, y \in F$, then:

$$(x, x, y) = x(1, 1, 0) + y(0, 0, 1) \in \text{span}((1, 1, 0), (0, 0, 1))$$

Therefore, the given list is a basis of S .

(f) Define the set

$$S = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbf{F}^3 : x + y + z = 0\}$$

and notice that it is a subspace of F^3 . Let's show that the list $(1, -1, 0), (1, 0, -1)$ is a basis of S . First, linear independence follows from the fact that for all $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbf{F}$:

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha(1, -1, 0) + \beta(1, 0, -1) = 0 &\implies (\alpha + \beta, -\alpha, -\beta) = 0 \\ &\implies \begin{cases} \alpha + \beta = 0 \\ -\alpha = 0 \\ -\beta = 0 \end{cases} \implies \alpha = \beta = 0 \end{aligned}$$

To show that the list spans S , let (x, y, z) be an arbitrary element of S , then we know that $x + y + z = 0$ which implies that $z = -x - y$. Hence:

$$(x, y, z) = (-y)(1, -1, 0) + (x + y)(1, 0, -1) \in \text{span}((1, -1, 0), (1, 0, -1))$$

Therefore, the given list is a basis of S .

(g) Consider the list $1, z, \dots, z^m$ as elements of $\mathcal{P}_m(\mathbf{F})$. Notice that for all scalars $\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m \in \mathbf{F}$, we have

$$\alpha_0 + \alpha_1 z + \dots + \alpha_m z^m = 0 \implies \alpha_i = 0, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, m$$

Moreover, given a polynomial $\alpha_0 + \alpha_1 z + \dots + \alpha_m z^m \in \mathcal{P}_m(\mathbf{F})$, it directly follows by the way it is written that it is a linear combination of the given list. Therefore, it is a basis of $\mathcal{P}_m(\mathbf{F})$.

Exercise 3

(a) Let U be the subspace of \mathbf{R}^5 defined by

$$U = \{(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5) \in \mathbf{R}^5 : x_1 = 3x_2 \text{ and } x_3 = 7x_4\}.$$

Find a basis of U .

(b) Extend the basis in (a) to a basis of \mathbf{R}^5 .

(c) Find a subspace W of \mathbf{R}^5 such that $\mathbf{R}^5 = U \oplus W$.

Solution

(a) Consider the list $u_1 = (3, 1, 0, 0, 0), u_2 = (0, 0, 7, 1, 0), u_3 = (0, 0, 0, 0, 1)$ and let's prove that it is a basis for U . First, for any scalars $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \mathbf{R}$:

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha u_1 + \beta u_2 + \gamma u_3 = 0 &\implies (3\alpha, \alpha, 7\beta, \beta, \gamma) = 0 \\ &\implies \begin{cases} 3\alpha = 0 \\ \alpha = 0 \\ 7\beta = 0 \\ \beta = 0 \\ \gamma = 0 \end{cases} \\ &\implies \alpha = \beta = \gamma = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, for any $(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5) \in U$, we now that $x_1 = 3x_2$ and $x_3 = 7x_4$. Hence:

$$\begin{aligned}(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5) &= (3x_2, x_2, 7x_4, x_4, x_5) \\ &= x_2u_1 + x_4u_2 + x_5u_3 \\ &\in \text{span}(u_1, u_2, u_3)\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, it is a basis of U .

- (b) As in the proof of 2.32, consider the list $(3, 1, 0, 0, 0), (0, 0, 7, 1, 0), (0, 0, 0, 0, 1), e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4, e_5$ where e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4, e_5 is the standard basis for \mathbf{R}^5 . This list is spanning \mathbf{R}^5 but it is not linearly independent. Hence, we can reduce it to a basis as follows. First, remove e_5 because it is already in the list. Keep the first three vectors since we know that they are linearly independent. The vector e_1 cannot be written as a linear combination of the first three vectors so keep it in the list. The vector e_2 can be written as

$$e_2 = (3, 1, 0, 0, 0) - 3e_1$$

so we don't keep it in the list. Similarly, e_3 is not in the span of the first four vectors in the list so we keep it, and e_4 can be written as

$$e_4 = (0, 0, 7, 1, 0) - 7e_3$$

so we remove it. Hence, our original list can be extended to a basis by adding the vectors e_1 and e_3 .

- (c) As in the proof of 2.33, take $W = \text{span}(e_1, e_3)$, then it follows that $\mathbf{R}^5 = U \oplus W$.

Exercise 4

- (a) Let U be the subspace of \mathbf{C}^5 defined by

$$U = \{(z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4, z_5) \in \mathbf{C}^5 : 6z_1 = z_2 \text{ and } z_3 + 2z_4 + 3z_5 = 0\}.$$

Find a basis of U .

- (b) Extend the basis in (a) to a basis of \mathbf{C}^5 .
(c) Find a subspace W of \mathbf{C}^5 such that $\mathbf{C}^5 = U \oplus W$.

Solution

- (a) Consider the list $u_1 = (1, 6, 0, 0, 0), u_2 = (0, 0, -2, 1, 0), u_3 = (0, 0, -3, 0, 1)$ and let's prove that it is a basis for U . First, for any scalars $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \mathbf{R}$:

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha u_1 + \beta u_2 + \gamma u_3 = 0 &\implies (\alpha, 6\alpha, -2\beta - 3\gamma, \beta, \gamma) = 0 \\ &\implies \begin{cases} \alpha = 0 \\ 6\alpha = 0 \\ -2\beta - 3\gamma = 0 \\ \beta = 0 \\ \gamma = 0 \end{cases} \\ &\implies \alpha = \beta = \gamma = 0\end{aligned}$$

Moreover, for any $(z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4, z_5) \in U$, we now that $6z_1 = z_2$ and $z_3 + 2z_4 + 3z_5 = 0$. Hence:

$$\begin{aligned}(z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4, z_5) &= (z_1, 6z_1, -2z_4 - 3z_5, z_4, z_5) \\ &= z_1 u_1 + z_4 u_2 + z_5 u_3 \\ &\in \text{span}(u_1, u_2, u_3)\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, it is a basis of U .

- (b) As in the proof of 2.32, consider the list $u_1, u_2, u_3, e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4, e_5$ where e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4, e_5 is the standard basis for \mathbf{C}^5 . This list is spanning \mathbf{C}^5 but it is not linearly independent. Hence, we can reduce it to a basis as follows. First, keep the first three vectors since we know that they are linearly independent. The vector e_1 cannot be written as a linear combination of the first three vectors so keep it in the list. The vector e_2 can be written as

$$e_2 = \frac{1}{6}(u_1 - e_1)$$

so we don't keep it in the list. Similarly, e_3 is not in the span of the first four vectors in the list so we keep it, and e_4 can be written as

$$e_4 = u_2 + 2e_3$$

so we remove it. Again, we also remove e_5 because

$$e_5 = u_3 + 3e_3$$

Hence, our original list can be extended to a basis by adding the vectors e_1 and e_3 .

- (c) As in the proof of 2.33, take $W = \text{span}(e_1, e_3)$, then it follows that $\mathbf{C}^5 = U \oplus W$.

Exercise 5

Suppose V is finite-dimensional and U, W are subspaces of V such that $V = U + W$. Prove that there exists a basis of V consisting of vectors in $U \cup W$.

Solution

Since V is finite-dimensional, then U and W must be finite-dimensional as well by Proposition 2.25. Hence, let u_1, \dots, u_n be a list of vectors spanning U , and w_1, \dots, w_m be a list of vectors spanning W . Consider the list $u_1, \dots, u_n, w_1, \dots, w_m$ of vectors in $U \cup W$. Notice that for all $v \in V = U + W$, there exist vectors $u \in U$ and $w \in W$ such that $v = u + w$. Moreover, since the lists u_1, \dots, u_n and w_1, \dots, w_m are spanning their respective subspaces, then there exist scalars $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \in \mathbf{F}$ and $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_m \in \mathbf{F}$ such that

$$u = \alpha_1 u_1 + \dots + \alpha_n u_n$$

and

$$w = \beta_1 w_1 + \dots + \beta_m w_m$$

It follows that

$$v = \alpha_1 u_1 + \dots + \alpha_n u_n + \beta_1 w_1 + \dots + \beta_m w_m$$

so the list $u_1, \dots, u_n, w_1, \dots, w_m$ spans V . By Proposition 2.30, this list must contain a sublist that is a basis of V . Thus, such a sublist is indeed a basis of V consisting of vectors in $U \cup W$ by construction.

Exercise 6

Prove or give a counterexample: If p_0, p_1, p_2, p_3 is a list in $\mathcal{P}_3(\mathbf{F})$ such that none of the polynomials p_0, p_1, p_2, p_3 has degree 2, then p_0, p_1, p_2, p_3 is not a basis of $\mathcal{P}_3(\mathbf{F})$.

Solution

Consider the following list of polynomials in $\mathcal{P}_3(\mathbf{F})$:

$$\begin{aligned} p_0(x) &= 1 & p_2(x) &= 1 + x + x^2 + x^3 \\ p_1(x) &= x & p_3(x) &= x^3 \end{aligned}$$

and notice that it contains no polynomials of degree 2. Let's show that it is a basis for $\mathcal{P}_3(\mathbf{F})$. To do so, consider the fact that $1, x, x^3 \in \text{span}(p_0, p_1, p_2, p_3)$. Moreover,

$$x^2 = p_2 - p_0 - p_1 - p_3 \in \text{span}(p_0, p_1, p_2, p_3)$$

Hence, $\text{span}(p_0, p_1, p_2, p_3)$ is a subspace that contains the standard basis of $\mathcal{P}_3(\mathbf{F})$. It follows that p_0, p_1, p_2, p_3 spans $\mathcal{P}_3(\mathbf{F})$. To prove the linear independence, simply take scalars $a_0, a_1, a_2, a_3 \in \mathbf{F}$ and notice that

$$\begin{aligned} a_0 p_0 + a_1 p_1 + a_2 p_2 + a_3 p_3 = 0 &\implies a_0 + a_1 x + a_2(1 + x + x^2 + x^3) + a_3 x^3 = 0 \\ &\implies (a_0 + a_2) + (a_1 + a_2)x + a_2 x^2 + (a_3 + a_2)x^3 = 0 \\ &\implies \begin{cases} a_0 + a_2 = 0 \\ a_1 + a_2 = 0 \\ a_2 = 0 \\ a_3 + a_2 = 0 \end{cases} \\ &\implies a_0 = a_1 = a_2 = a_3 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, p_0, p_1, p_2, p_3 is a basis of $\mathcal{P}_3(\mathbf{F})$ even if it contains no polynomials of degree 2.

Exercise 7

Suppose v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4 is a basis of V . Prove that

$$v_1 + v_2, v_2 + v_3, v_3 + v_4, v_4$$

is also a basis of V .

Solution

First, let's prove that it is linearly independent. Take scalars $a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4 \in \mathbf{F}$, by

linear independence of v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4 :

$$\begin{aligned}
 & a_1(v_1 + v_2) + a_2(v_2 + v_3) + a_3(v_3 + v_4) + a_4v_4 = 0 \\
 \implies & a_1v_1 + (a_1 + a_2)v_2 + (a_2 + a_3)v_3 + (a_3 + a_4)v_4 = 0 \\
 \implies & \begin{cases} a_1 = 0 \\ a_1 + a_2 = 0 \\ a_2 + a_3 = 0 \\ a_3 + a_4 = 0 \end{cases} \\
 \implies & a_1 = a_2 = a_3 = a_4 = 0
 \end{aligned}$$

To prove that it spans V , take $v \in V$. Since v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4 spans V , then there exist scalars $a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4 \in \mathbf{F}$ such that

$$u = a_1v_1 + a_2v_2 + a_3v_3 + a_4v_4$$

But since

$$\begin{aligned}
 v_1 &= (v_1 + v_2) - (v_2 + v_3) + (v_3 + v_4) - v_4 \\
 v_2 &= (v_2 + v_3) - (v_3 + v_4) + v_4
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$v_3 = (v_3 + v_4) - v_4,$$

then

$$\begin{aligned}
 u &= a_1v_1 + a_2v_2 + a_3v_3 + a_4v_4 \\
 &= a_1[(v_1 + v_2) - (v_2 + v_3) + (v_3 + v_4) - v_4] \\
 &\quad + a_2[(v_2 + v_3) - (v_3 + v_4) + v_4] \\
 &\quad + a_3[(v_3 + v_4) - v_4] + a_4v_4 \\
 &= a_1(v_1 + v_2) + (a_2 - a_1)(v_2 + v_3) \\
 &\quad + (a_3 - a_2 + a_1)(v_3 + v_4) + (a_4 - a_3 + a_2 - a_1)v_4
 \end{aligned}$$

which proves that it spans V . Therefore, the new list of vectors is also a basis of V .

Exercise 8

Prove or give a counterexample: If v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4 is a basis of V and U is a subspace of V such that $v_1, v_2 \in U$ and $v_3 \notin U$ and $v_4 \notin U$, then v_1, v_2 is a basis of U .

Solution

Consider the following counterexample: Take $V = \mathbf{R}^4$, v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4 be the standard basis and define

$$U = \text{span}(v_1, v_2, (0, 0, 1, 1))$$

Obviously, U is a subspace of V that contains v_1 and v_2 . Moreover, if $v_3 \in U$, then there would be scalars $a, b, c \in \mathbf{R}$ such that

$$(0, 0, 1, 0) = (a, b, c, c) \implies c = 1 \text{ and } c = 0,$$

a contradiction that shows that $v_3 \notin U$. Using a similar argument, $v_4 \notin U$ as well. However, v_1, v_2 is not a basis of U because it doesn't span it. Take for example

$(0, 0, 1, 1) \in U$ which is not in the span of v_1, v_2 .

Exercise 9

Suppose v_1, \dots, v_m is a list of vectors in V . For $k \in \{1, \dots, m\}$, let

$$w_k = v_1 + \dots + v_k.$$

Show that v_1, \dots, v_m is a basis of V if and only if w_1, \dots, w_m is a basis of V .

Solution

Suppose that v_1, \dots, v_m is a basis, then it is linearly independent. By Section 2A Exercise 14, w_1, \dots, w_m must be linearly independent as well. Moreover, since v_1, \dots, v_m is a basis, then $\text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_m) = V$. Again, using Section 2A Exercise 3, we have that $\text{span}(w_1, \dots, w_m) = \text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_m) = V$. It follows that w_1, \dots, w_m spans V . Therefore, w_1, \dots, w_m is a basis of V . All the arguments presented here prove the reverse implication as well.

Exercise 10

Suppose U and W are subspace of V such that $V = U \oplus W$. Suppose also that u_1, \dots, u_m is a basis of U and w_1, \dots, w_n is basis of W . Prove that

$$u_1, \dots, u_m, w_1, \dots, w_n$$

is a basis of V .

Solution

First, let's prove that $u_1, \dots, u_m, w_1, \dots, w_n$ spans V . Take an arbitrary $v \in V$, then there exist vectors $u \in U$ and $w \in W$ such that $v = u + w$. Since u_1, \dots, u_m is a basis of U and w_1, \dots, w_n is basis of W , then there exist scalars $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m, \beta_1, \dots, \beta_n \in \mathbf{F}$ such that

$$u = \alpha_1 u_1 + \dots + \alpha_m u_m$$

and

$$w = \beta_1 w_1 + \dots + \beta_n w_n$$

It follows that

$$v = \alpha_1 u_1 + \dots + \alpha_m u_m + \beta_1 w_1 + \dots + \beta_n w_n \in \text{span}(u_1, \dots, u_m, w_1, \dots, w_n)$$

which proves that the list spans V . Now, to prove the linear independence, take arbitrary scalars $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m, \beta_1, \dots, \beta_n \in \mathbf{F}$ and recall that $u + w = 0 \implies u = w = 0$ for all $u \in U$ and $w \in W$. Hence,

$$\alpha_1 u_1 + \dots + \alpha_m u_m + \beta_1 w_1 + \dots + \beta_n w_n = 0$$

implies

$$\begin{cases} \alpha_1 u_1 + \dots + \alpha_m u_m = 0 \\ \beta_1 w_1 + \dots + \beta_n w_n = 0 \end{cases}$$

But since the lists u_1, \dots, u_m and w_1, \dots, w_n are linearly independent, then we get

$$\alpha_1 = \dots = \alpha_m = \beta_1 = \dots = \beta_n = 0$$

Therefore, the list $u_1, \dots, u_m, w_1, \dots, w_m$ is a basis of V .

Exercise 11

Suppose V is a real vector space. Show that if v_1, \dots, v_n is a basis of V (as a real vector space), then v_1, \dots, v_n is also a basis of the complexification $V_{\mathbf{C}}$ (as a complex vector space).

Solution

First, let's show that v_1, \dots, v_n spans $V_{\mathbf{C}}$. To do so, let $u + iv \in V_{\mathbf{C}}$ be an arbitrary vector. Since $u, v \in V$, then there exist scalars $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n, \beta_1, \dots, \beta_n \in \mathbf{R}$ such that

$$u = \alpha_1 v_1 + \dots + \alpha_n v_n$$

and

$$v = \beta_1 v_1 + \dots + \beta_n v_n.$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} u + iv &= \alpha_1 v_1 + \dots + \alpha_n v_n + i\beta_1 v_1 + \dots + i\beta_n v_n \\ &\in \text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_n) \end{aligned}$$

Thus, v_1, \dots, v_n spans $V_{\mathbf{C}}$. To prove the linear independence, let $\alpha_1 + i\beta_1, \dots, \alpha_n + i\beta_n \in \mathbf{C}$ be complex scalars and notice that

$$\begin{aligned} &(\alpha_1 + i\beta_1)v_1 + \dots + (\alpha_n + i\beta_n)v_n = 0 \\ \implies &[\alpha_1 v_1 + \dots + \alpha_n v_n] + i[\beta_1 v_1 + \dots + \beta_n v_n] = 0 \\ \implies &\begin{cases} \alpha_1 v_1 + \dots + \alpha_n v_n = 0 \\ \beta_1 v_1 + \dots + \beta_n v_n = 0 \end{cases} \\ \implies &\alpha_1 = \dots = \alpha_n = \beta_1 = \dots = \beta_n = 0 \\ \implies &\alpha_1 + i\beta_1 = \dots = \alpha_n + i\beta_n = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the vectors v_1, \dots, v_n are linearly independent in $V_{\mathbf{C}}$. Therefore, it is a basis of $V_{\mathbf{C}}$.

2C Dimension

[Coming soon...]