Math 2311 – Assignment 1

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1. Determine if each of the following sets is a vector space.

   (a) $V = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid x \geq y \right\}$ with the usual scalar multiplication and vector addition from $\mathbb{R}^2$

Answer: No, V is not a vector space.

Proof. let $(x_0, y_0)^T, (x_1, y_1)^T \in V$, and take the vector space operations on V to be the usual operations of *vector* addition and *scalar* multiplication; that is,

$$(x_0, y_0)^T + (x_1, y_1)^T = (x_0 + x_1, y_0 + y_1)^T \tag{1}$$
$$k(x_0, y_0)^T = (kx_0, ky_0)^T \tag{2}$$

V is closed under scalar addition since $x_0 + x_1 \geq y_0 + y_1$

However, by properties of inequalities if the constant, k, is negative, we must reverse the symbol to preserve the inequality relation.
Given that k is negative, $x \geq y \rightarrow kx \leq ky$ □

   (b) Consider the set $W = \{f \in F(-\infty, \infty) \mid f(1) = 0\}$ with the usual scalar multiplication and vector addition from $F(-\infty, \infty)$. Is W a vector space?

Answer: Yes, W is a vector space.

Proof. Since we know that $F(-\infty, \infty)$ (with the usual operations) is a vector space, and since W is a subset of $F(-\infty, \infty)$ (with the same operations), it suffices to prove that W is a subspace of $F(-\infty, \infty)$. To this end we must show three things:

(a) That W is non-empty.
(b) That W is closed under addition.
(c) That W is closed under scalar multiplication.

There exists a function $\mathbf{0}$ in $F(-\infty, \infty)$ defined by $\mathbf{0}(x) = 0$ for all x. Clearly $\mathbf{0}(1) = f(1) = 0$ so W is non-empty.

Now suppose f and g are two functions in W. We must show that $f + g$ is in W.

$$\begin{aligned} (f+g)(1) &= f(1) + g(1) && \text{(definition of addition of functions)} \\ &= 0 && (f \text{ and } g \text{ are in } W) \end{aligned}$$

Finally, to show that W is closed under scalar multiplication, suppose f is in W and k is a scalar, then

$$\begin{aligned} (kf)(1) &= kf(1) && \text{(definition of scalar multiplication on functions)} \\ &= 0 && (f \text{ is in } W) \end{aligned}$$

so (kf) is in W and W is closed under scalar multiplication.

Therefore W is a subspace of $F(-\infty, \infty)$ and hence is a vector space. □

2. Let V be a vector space.

   (a) If k is any scalar, prove that $k\vec{0} = \vec{0}$.

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} k(\vec{0} + \vec{u}) &= k\vec{0} + k\vec{u} && \text{(vector space axiom 7)} \\ k\vec{u} &= k\vec{0} + k\vec{u} && \text{(vector space axiom 4)} \\ k(\vec{u}) + (-k\vec{u}) &= (-k\vec{u}) + (k\vec{0} + k\vec{u}) && \text{(vector space axiom 5)} \\ \vec{0} &= (-k\vec{u}) + (k\vec{0} + k\vec{u}) && \text{(vector space axiom 5)} \\ &= (k\vec{0} + k\vec{u}) + (-k\vec{u}) && \text{(vector space axiom 2)} \\ &= k\vec{0} + (k\vec{u} + (-k\vec{u})) && \text{(vector space axiom 3)} \\ &= k\vec{0} + \vec{0} && \text{(vector space axiom 5)} \\ &= k\vec{0} && \text{(vector space axiom 4)} \end{aligned}$$

□

   (b) Prove that the zero vector in V is unique.

Proof. We must show that there is only one vector, $\vec{0}$, with the property that $\vec{0} + \vec{v} = \vec{v} + \vec{0} = \vec{v}$.

Suppose $\vec{0_1}$ and $\vec{0}$ are both zero (also known as additive identities) of $\vec{v}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{v} &= \vec{0_1} + \vec{v} && \text{(vector space axiom 4)} \\ \vec{v} + (-\vec{v}) &= (-\vec{v}) + (\vec{0_1} + \vec{v}) && \text{(vector space axiom 5)} \\ \vec{0} &= (-\vec{v}) + (\vec{0_1} + \vec{v}) && \text{(vector space axiom 5)} \\ &= (\vec{0_1} + \vec{v}) + (-\vec{v}) && \text{(vector space axiom 2)} \\ &= \vec{0_1} + (\vec{v} + (-\vec{v})) && \text{(vector space axiom 3)} \\ &= \vec{0_1} + \vec{0} && \text{(vector space axiom 5)} \\ &= \vec{0_1} && \text{(vector space axiom 4)} \end{aligned}$$

Since we have shown that any two zero vectors must be equal to each other, we can conclude that $\vec{0}$ is unique. □