

## Lecture 9 : Intersection, sum of subspaces & Quotient Space

Proposition : Let  $P$  and  $Q$  be two subspaces of a vector space  $V$ . Then

(i)  $P \cap Q$  is a subspace of  $V$ ,

(ii)  $P + Q := \{a + b : a \in P, b \in Q\}$  is a subspace of  $V$ .

Proof : (i) Let  $x, y \in P \cap Q \Rightarrow x, y \in P \text{ \& } Q$   
 $\Rightarrow \alpha x + \beta y \in P \text{ \& } Q$   
 $\forall \alpha, \beta \in K$  (set of scalars)  
 $\Rightarrow \alpha x + \beta y \in P \cap Q$

(ii) Let  $x, y \in P + Q$  then  
 $x = a_1 + b_1, y = a_2 + b_2$  for some

$$a_1, a_2 \in P \\ \& b_1, b_2 \in Q$$

$$\alpha x + \beta y = (\alpha a_1 + \beta a_2) + (\alpha b_1 + \beta b_2)$$

$$\in P + Q \quad \text{for all } \alpha, \beta \in K.$$

□



Examples: (1) Let  $P = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : x - y - z = 0\}$   
 &  $Q = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : x + 2y + 5z = 0\}$

If  $(x, y, z) \in P \cap Q$ , then  $x = y + z$  &  $x = -(2y + 5z)$

$$\Rightarrow y + z = -(2y + 5z)$$

$$\Rightarrow y = -2z$$

$$\& \quad x = -2z + z = -z$$

$$\therefore (-z, -2z, z) \in P \cap Q.$$

$$\text{So, } P \cap Q = \{x(-1, -2, 1) : x \in \mathbb{R}\}$$
$$= L(\{(-1, -2, 1)\})$$

&  $\{(-1, -2, 1)\}$  is L.I.

$\Rightarrow \{(-1, -2, 1)\}$  is a basis of  $P \cap Q$

&  $\dim(P \cap Q) = 1$ ,  $P \cap Q$  represents  
line in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

(2) Let  $P = \{(x, y, z, s, t) : x + 2y - z = 0\}$

$Q = \{(x, y, z, s, t) : y + s - t = 0\}$

$R = \{(x, y, z, s, t) : z + s + t = 0\}$

We want to find basis of  $P \cap Q \cap R$ .

Let  $(x, y, z, s, t) \in P \cap Q \cap R$

$$y = t - s, \quad z = -s - t$$

$$x = -2y + z = -2(t - s) - s - t = s - 3t$$



$$(x, y, z, s, t) = (s - 3t, -s + t, -s - t, s, t) \\ = s(1, -1, -1, 1) + t(-3, 1, -1, 1)$$

$$\Rightarrow P \cap Q \cap R = L(\{(1, -1, -1, 1), (-3, 1, -1, 1)\}) \\ \neq \{(1, -1, -1, 1), (-3, 1, -1, 1)\} \text{ is L.I. (check)} \\ \dim(P \cap Q \cap R) = 2.$$

$$(3) \text{ Let } P = \{(x, y, z, s, t) : x - y + z = 0\} \\ Q = \{(x, y, z, s, t) : y + s + t = 0\}$$

$$(x, y, z, s, t) \in P \Rightarrow x = y - z \\ \Rightarrow (y - z, y, z, s, t) \in P$$

$$\Rightarrow y(1, 1, 0, 0, 0) + z(-1, 0, 1, 0, 0) \\ + s(0, 0, 0, 1, 0) + t(0, 0, 0, 0, 1) \in P$$

$$\Rightarrow \{(1, 1, 0, 0, 0), (-1, 0, 1, 0, 0), (0, 0, 0, 1, 0), \\ (0, 0, 0, 0, 1)\} \text{ is a basis of } P$$

$$\Rightarrow \dim(P) = 4$$

$$\text{Similarly, } \{(1, 0, 0, 0, 0), (0, -1, 0, 1, 0), (0, -1, 0, 0, 1), \\ (0, 0, 0, 0, 1)\} \text{ is a basis of } Q:$$



$$\text{Let } (x, y, z, s, t) \in P \cap Q$$

$$x = y - z, \quad y = -s - t$$

$$\Rightarrow x = -s - t - z$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore (x, y, z, s, t) &= (-s - t - z, -s - t, z, s, t) \\ &= s(-1, -1, 0, 1, 0) + t(-1, -1, 0, 0, 1) \\ &\quad + z(-1, 0, 1, 0, 0) \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \{(-1, -1, 0, 1, 0), (-1, -1, 0, 0, 1), (-1, 0, 1, 0, 0)\}$$

is a basis of  $P \cap Q$ .

Note that  $\{(1, 1, 0, 0, 0), (-1, 0, 1, 0, 0), (0, 0, 0, 1, 0), (0, 0, 0, 0, 1), (1, 0, 0, 0, 0), (0, -1, 0, 1, 0), (0, -1, 0, 0, 1)\}$  spans  $P + Q$ .

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_{15}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{\substack{R_2 + R_1 \\ R_7 - R_1}}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow[\substack{R_6 + R_5 \\ R_7 + R_5}]{} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$\downarrow \begin{matrix} R_7 - R_4, \\ R_6 - R_3 \end{matrix}$

first five row  
vectors form a  
basis of  $P+Q$ .  $\Leftarrow$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\dim(P+Q) = 5$$

$$\text{Note that } \dim(P+Q) = \dim(P) + \dim(Q) - \dim(P \cap Q).$$

This fact is true in general, we will  
prove this using concept of quotient space.



Theorem:- Let  $V$  be a finite dimensional vector space &  $P, Q$  are subspaces of  $V$ . Then

$$\dim(P+Q) = \dim(P) + \dim(Q) - \dim(P \cap Q)$$

Proof:- Let  $m = \dim(P \cap Q)$  &  $\{e_1, \dots, e_m\}$  be a basis of  $P \cap Q$ .

• Extend  $\{e_1, \dots, e_m\}$  to a basis

$$S_1 = \{e_1, \dots, e_m, f_{m+1}, \dots, f_k\} \text{ of } P$$

• Extend  $\{e_1, \dots, e_m\}$  to a basis

$$S_2 = \{e_1, \dots, e_m, g_{m+1}, \dots, g_l\} \text{ of } Q.$$

$$S_1 \cup S_2 = \{e_1, \dots, e_m, f_{m+1}, \dots, f_k, g_{m+1}, \dots, g_l\}$$

$$\text{Note that } V = L(S_1 \cup S_2)$$

Claim:  $S_1 \cup S_2$  is L.I.

$$\text{Let } \sum_{i=1}^m a_i e_i + \sum_{j=1}^k b_j f_{m+j} + \sum_{r=1}^l c_r g_{m+r} = 0 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

Where  $a_1, \dots, a_m, b_1, \dots, b_k, c_1, \dots, c_l$  are scalars.

$$\text{Let } x = \sum_{j=1}^k b_j f_{m+j} \text{ & } y = \sum_{r=1}^l c_r g_{m+r}$$

$$\text{then from (1) } x + y = - \sum_{i=1}^m a_i e_i \in P \cap Q$$



$$\& \quad x \in P \quad \& \quad y \in Q$$

$$\& \quad x \in P \quad \& \quad x+y \in P \cap Q \Rightarrow y \in P$$

$$\& \quad y \in Q \quad \& \quad x+y \in P \cap Q \Rightarrow x \in Q$$

$$\text{So, } x, y \in P \cap Q$$

$$\therefore x = \sum_{j=1}^m b_j f_{m+j} = \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i e_i$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i e_i - \sum_{j=1}^k b_j f_{m+j} = 0$$

$$\{e_1, \dots, e_m, f_{m+1}, \dots, f_k\} \text{ is L.I.}$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha_1 = \dots = \alpha_m = 0 = b_1 = \dots = b_k$$

$$\text{So, } b_1 = \dots = b_k = 0,$$

$$\text{Similarly, } c_1 = \dots = c_k = 0$$

$$\text{Now, } \sum_{i=1}^m a_i e_i = 0 \Rightarrow a_1 = \dots = a_m = 0 \quad \text{as } \{e_1, \dots, e_m\} \text{ is L.I.}$$

$$\therefore S_1 \cup S_2 \text{ is L.I.}$$

$$\text{Hence } S_1 \cup S_2 \text{ is a basis of } P+Q.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \dim(P+Q) &= |S_1 \cup S_2| = k+l-m \\ &= \dim(P) + \dim(Q) \\ &\quad - \dim(P \cap Q) \quad \square \end{aligned}$$



Quotient Space: Let  $V$  be a finite dimensional vector space and  $W$  be a subspace of  $V$  (over  $K = \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$ ).

Define  $V/W := \{a + W : a \in V\}$  (It is collection of subsets of  $V$ ;  $a + W = \{a + x : x \in W\}$ )

Note  $a + W = b + W \iff a - b \in W$

Define addition  $\oplus$  on  $V/W$  as follows:

$$(p + W) \oplus (q + W) := (p + q) + W$$

Check that  $\oplus$  is well defined.

Define scalar multiplication:  $\lambda \cdot (a + W) := \lambda a + W$   
where  $\lambda \in K$ .

Under these operations,  $V/W$  becomes a vector space over  $K$ .

Let  $\{u_1, \dots, u_m\}$  be a basis of  $W$ , then it can be extended to a basis of  $V$ . Let the extended basis be  $\{u_1, \dots, u_m, u_{m+1}, \dots, u_n\}$

Claim:  $\{u_{m+1} + W, \dots, u_n + W\}$  is basis of  $V/W$ .

$$\text{Let } a + W \in V/W, \quad a = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i u_i$$

$$a + W = \underbrace{(\alpha_1 u_1 + \dots + \alpha_m u_m)}_{\in W} + (\alpha_{m+1} u_{m+1} + \dots + \alpha_n u_n) + W.$$



$$a + w = \alpha_{m+1} u_{m+1} + \dots + \alpha_n u_n + w$$

$$= \alpha_{m+1} (u_{m+1} + w) + \dots + \alpha_n (u_n + w)$$

$$\Rightarrow \{u_{m+1} + w, \dots, u_n + w\} \text{ spans } V/W.$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i (u_{m+i} + w) = 0 + w \quad (\Rightarrow \text{zero element of } w)$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i u_{m+i} \in w$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i u_{m+i} = \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_j u_j$$

$$\Rightarrow \beta_1 u_1 + \dots + \beta_m u_m - \lambda_1 u_{m+1} - \dots - \lambda_n u_{m+n} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \beta_1 = \dots = \beta_m = \lambda_1 = \dots = \lambda_n = 0$$

$\Rightarrow \{u_{m+1} + w, \dots, u_n + w\}$  is also l.i. & hence it forms a basis of  $V/W$ .

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\dim(V/W) = n - m = \dim(V) - \dim(w)}$$

Next we will prove that

$$\dim(P + Q / Q) = \dim(P / P \cap Q)$$

Where  $P, Q$  are subspaces of finite dimensional vector space.



Define a map  $\phi: P+Q/Q \rightarrow P/P \cap Q$  as follows:

$$\phi(x+y+Q) = x + P \cap Q \text{ where } x \in P, y \in Q$$

$$\begin{aligned} \phi \text{ is well defined: } x_1 + y_1 + Q &= x_2 + y_2 + Q, \quad x_i \in P \\ &\Rightarrow x_1 + Q = x_2 + Q \quad y_i \in Q, \quad i=1,2 \\ &\Rightarrow x_1 - x_2 \in Q \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\Rightarrow x_1 - x_2 \in P \cap Q, \text{ since } x_1, x_2 \in P \\ &\Rightarrow x_1 + P \cap Q = x_2 + P \cap Q \end{aligned}$$

$$\phi \text{ is injective: } \phi(x_1 + y_1 + Q) = \phi(x_2 + y_2 + Q)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\Rightarrow x_1 + P \cap Q = x_2 + P \cap Q \\ &\Rightarrow x_1 - x_2 \in P \cap Q \subseteq Q \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 + Q = x_2 + Q$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 + y_1 + Q = x_2 + y_2 + Q$$

$$\phi \text{ is surjective: let } x + P \cap Q \in P/P \cap Q$$

$$\text{let } y \in Q \text{ then}$$

$$\phi(x + y + Q) = x + P \cap Q$$

$\therefore \phi$  is bijective.

$\phi$  preserves algebraic structure i.e.

$$\phi((a+Q) \oplus (b+Q)) = \phi(a+Q) \oplus \phi(b+Q)$$

$$\& \quad \phi(\lambda \cdot (a+Q)) = \lambda \phi(a+Q)$$



As  $\phi$  is bijective & preserves algebraic structure,  $\phi$  takes basis of  $P+Q/Q$  to a basis of  $P/P \cap Q$

$$\Rightarrow \dim(P+Q/Q) = \dim(P/P \cap Q)$$

$$\Rightarrow \dim(P+Q) - \dim(Q) = \dim(P) - \dim(P \cap Q)$$

Thus, we have proved the following

theorem:

Th.  $\boxed{\dim(P+Q) = \dim(P) + \dim(Q) - \dim(P \cap Q)}$   $\square$