

## Lecture 22: §5.3 Subspaces of abstract vector spaces

Last time: We defined abstract vector spaces:  $(\mathbb{V}, +, \cdot)$

• We need a set  $\mathbb{V}$ . We call each element of  $\mathbb{V}$  a vector  $\vec{v}$

• We need to have two operations on  $\mathbb{V}$ :

① Addition:  $+ : \mathbb{V} \times \mathbb{V} \longrightarrow \mathbb{V}$  (add two vectors to get a new vector)  
 $(\vec{u}, \vec{v}) \longmapsto \vec{u} + \vec{v}$

② Scalar Multiplication:  $\cdot : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{V} \longrightarrow \mathbb{V}$   $\alpha \vec{v}$  is a new vector  
 $(\alpha, \vec{v}) \longrightarrow \alpha \vec{v}$   
scalar  $\nearrow$        $\nwarrow$  vector

• We need  $+$  &  $\cdot$  to have nice properties (10 total, Assoc, Distrib,  $\vec{0}$  = neutral elem, Additive inverse) (usual + & .)

Examples:

- ①  $\mathbb{R}^n$  & subspaces  $\mathbb{V}$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$
- ②  $\text{Mat}_{n \times m}(\mathbb{R})$  =  $n \times m$  matrices with real entries
- ③ Polynomials  $\mathbb{P}_n = \{ a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + \dots + a_nx^n : a_0, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{R} \}$   
(+ &  $\cdot$  = coeff-by-coeff)

# Useful Properties

## ① Cancellation Laws:

(1) If  $\vec{u} + \vec{v} = \vec{u} + \vec{w}$ , then  $\vec{v} = \vec{w}$

Why? Take  $\vec{u}' = -\vec{u}$  (additive inverse)

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \vec{u}' + (\vec{u} + \vec{v}) &= (\vec{u}' + \vec{u}) + \vec{v} = \vec{0} + \vec{v} = \vec{v} \\ &\quad \parallel \quad \text{Assoc} \quad \vec{0}' \text{ neutral elem} \\ \vec{u}' + (\vec{u} + \vec{w}) &= (\vec{u}' + \vec{u}) + \vec{w} = \vec{0} + \vec{w} = \vec{w} \end{aligned} \right\} \text{ gives } \vec{v} = \vec{w}$$

(2) If  $\vec{v} + \vec{u} = \vec{w} + \vec{u}$  then  $\vec{v} = \vec{w}$  (Use (1) + Commutative prop)

② Theorem! (1) The zero vector  $\vec{0}$  (=neutral element) is unique

(2) The additive inverse  $-\vec{v}$  for  $\vec{v}$  is unique &  $-\vec{v} = (-1) \cdot \vec{v}$ .

(3)  $0 \cdot \vec{v} = \vec{0}$  for all  $\vec{v}$ .

(4)  $\alpha \cdot \vec{0} = \vec{0}$  for all  $\alpha$  scalar.

(5) If  $\alpha \cdot \vec{v} = \vec{0}$  then either  $\alpha = 0$  or  $\vec{v} = \vec{0}$ .

For (5) If  $\alpha \neq 0$  :  $\vec{v} = 1 \cdot \vec{v} = \left(\frac{1}{\alpha} \alpha\right) \vec{v} \stackrel{\text{Assoc}}{=} \frac{1}{\alpha} (\alpha \vec{v}) = \frac{1}{\alpha} \vec{0} \stackrel{(4)}{=} \vec{0}$

(1) The zero vector  $\vec{0}$  (=neutral element) is unique.

If we have 2 neutral elements  $\vec{0}$  &  $\vec{0}'$ , then  $\vec{0} = \vec{0} + \vec{0}' = \vec{0}'$   
 $\vec{0}' \downarrow \text{Neutral}$        $\vec{0} \downarrow \text{Neutral}$

(2) The additive inverse  $-\vec{v}$  for  $\vec{v}$  is unique &  $-\vec{v} = (-1) \cdot \vec{v}$ .

• If we have 2 inverses  $\vec{u}, \vec{u}'$  ( $\vec{u} + \vec{v} = \vec{u}' + \vec{v} = \vec{0}$ ), then

$$\vec{u} = \vec{u} + \vec{0} = \vec{u} + (\vec{u}' + \vec{v}) \underset{\text{Comm}}{=} \vec{u} + (\vec{v} + \vec{u}') \underset{\text{Assoc}}{=} (\vec{u} + \vec{v}) + \vec{u}' = \vec{0} + \vec{u}' = \vec{u}'$$

$$\bullet (-1) \vec{v} \text{ satisfies } \vec{v} + (-1) \vec{v} = 1 \cdot \vec{v} + (-1) \vec{v} \underset{\text{Dist}}{=} (1-1) \vec{v} = 0 \cdot \vec{v} = \vec{0}$$

So  $(-1) \vec{v}$  works as an inverse. (3)

(3)  $0 \cdot \vec{v} = \vec{0}$  for all  $\vec{v}$ .

$$\vec{0} + 0 \cdot \vec{v} = 0 \cdot \vec{v} = (0+0) \cdot \vec{v} \underset{\text{Dist}}{=} 0 \cdot \vec{v} + 0 \cdot \vec{v} \rightsquigarrow \vec{0} = 0 \cdot \vec{v}$$

$\vec{0} \downarrow \text{Neutral}$        $\text{Dist}$        $\text{Cancellation}$

(4)  $\alpha \cdot \vec{0} = \vec{0}$  for all  $\alpha$  scalar.

$$\vec{0} + \alpha \cdot \vec{0} = \alpha \cdot \vec{0} = \alpha \cdot (\vec{0} + \vec{0}) \underset{\text{Distrib}}{=} \alpha \cdot \vec{0} + \alpha \cdot \vec{0} \rightsquigarrow \vec{0} = \alpha \cdot \vec{0}$$

$\text{Distrib}$        $\text{Cancellation}$

# Subspaces

Next step: Find subsets  $\mathbb{W}$  of a vector space  $\mathbb{V}$  that are also a vector space (with the same operations  $+$  &  $\cdot$ ). This means we need to check the 10 properties for  $\mathbb{W}$  to be a vector space.

Q: What happened for  $\mathbb{W} = \mathbb{R}^n$ ?

A: Most of the 10 properties for  $\mathbb{W}$  were inherited from those of  $\mathbb{V}$  except

Closure Prop (c1)  $\vec{u}, \vec{v}$  in  $\mathbb{W}$ , then  $\vec{u} + \vec{v}$  must be in  $\mathbb{W}$

———— (c2)  $\vec{u}$  in  $\mathbb{W}$  &  $\alpha$  scalar, then  $\alpha \cdot \vec{u}$  must be in  $\mathbb{W}$

Neutral Elem (A3)  $\vec{0}$  must be in  $\mathbb{W}$  (Here  $\vec{0}$  = Neutral elem in  $\mathbb{V}$ , which we know is unique)

Theorem 2: A subset  $\mathbb{W}$  of  $\mathbb{V}$  is a subspace of  $\mathbb{V}$  if and only if

(S1)  $\vec{0}$  lies in  $\mathbb{W}$ . ( $\vec{0}$  = the unique neutral element in  $\mathbb{V}$ )

(S2)  $\vec{x} + \vec{y}$  lies in  $\mathbb{W}$  whenever  $\vec{x}, \vec{y}$  are in  $\mathbb{W}$

(S3)  $\alpha \vec{x}$  \_\_\_\_\_  $\vec{x}$  is in  $\mathbb{W}$  and  $\alpha$  is any scalar

# Examples

- ①  $C[0,1] = \{ f: [0,1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ continuous} \}$  with pointwise  $+$  &  $\cdot$ .
- $f, g \in C[0,1] \rightsquigarrow f+g$  is a function with  $(f+g)(x) = \underbrace{f(x)}_{\text{number}} + \underbrace{g(x)}_{\text{number}}$   
(continuous!)
  - $f \in C[0,1]$  &  $\alpha$  scalar  $\rightsquigarrow \alpha \cdot f$  is a function with  $(\alpha \cdot f)(x) = \alpha \cdot \underbrace{f(x)}_{\text{number}}$   
(continuous!)
  - $\vec{0} = \text{constant zero function}$  ( $\vec{0}(x) = 0 \forall x \in [0,1]$ ; so cont.)

All 10 properties for vector spaces are satisfied, so  $C[0,1]$  is a vector space

Q: Subspaces?  $\mathcal{P}_2 = \{ a + bx + cx^2 : a, b, c \}$  View polynomials as functions!

Eg  $P(x) = 1 - 4x + 5x^2$ ,  $P(1) = 1 - 4 \cdot 1 + 5 \cdot 1^2 = 1 - 4 + 5 = 2$ , etc)

Polynomials are continuous,  $\vec{0} = 0 + 0 \cdot x + 0 \cdot x^2$  is constant zero function

+ &  $\cdot$  defined coeff-by-coefficient is the pointwise + &  $\cdot$  we defined above

So (s1), (s2) & (s3) hold for  $\mathcal{P}_2$ . Same will be true for  $\mathcal{P}_n = \{ a_0 + a_1x + \dots + a_nx^n \mid a_0, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{R} \}$

(2)  $\mathbb{V} = \mathcal{P}_2$ ,  $\mathbb{W} = \{ P(x) \in \mathcal{P}_2 : P'(0) = 0 \}$  is a subspace of  $\mathcal{P}_2$ .

(s1)  $\vec{0} = 0 + 0 \cdot x + 0 \cdot x^2 \in \mathbb{W}$ , then  $(\vec{0})'_{(x)} = 0$  also constant, so  $(\vec{0})'_{(0)} = 0$ .  
&  $\vec{0}$  is in  $\mathbb{W}$ .

(s2)  $P, Q$  with  $P'(0) = Q'(0) = 0$ , then  $(P+Q)'_{(0)} = (P'+Q')_{(0)} = 0+0=0$   
so  $P+Q$  lies in  $\mathbb{W}$

(s3)  $P$  in  $\mathbb{W}$ ,  $\alpha$  scalar, then  $(\alpha P)'_{(0)} = (\alpha P')_{(0)} = \alpha P'_{(0)} = \alpha \cdot 0 = 0$ .  
so  $\alpha P$  lies in  $\mathbb{W}$

Alternative:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} P(x) = a + bx + cx^2 \\ \text{in } \mathbb{W} \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \leadsto P'(x) = b + 2cx \\ 0 = P'(0) = b \end{array} \leadsto P(x) = a + cx^2.$$

So  $\mathbb{W} = \{ a + cx^2 : a, c \in \mathbb{R} \}$  (no  $x$  term) =  $\text{Sp}(1, x^2)$

This is clearly closed under  $+$  &  $\cdot$ . &  $\vec{0} = 0 + 0 \cdot x^2$  is in  $\mathbb{W}$ .

(3)  $\mathbb{V} = \mathcal{P}_2$   $\mathbb{W} = \{ P(x) \in \mathcal{P}_2 : P(0) = 1 \}$  is not a subspace

$\vec{0}$  is not in  $\mathbb{W}$ , so (s1) fails.

④  $W = \text{Mat}_{2 \times 3}(\mathbb{R}) = 2 \times 3$  matrices is a vector space ( $\mathbf{0} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ )

$W = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & 0 & a_{13} \\ 0 & a_{22} & 0 \end{pmatrix} : a_{11}, a_{13}, a_{22} \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$  is a subspace of  $W$

(S1)  $\mathbf{0} \in W$  (take  $a_{11} = a_{13} = a_{22} = 0$ )

(S2)  $A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & 0 & a_{13} \\ 0 & a_{22} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$   
 $B = \begin{pmatrix} b_{11} & 0 & b_{13} \\ 0 & b_{22} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  }  $\implies (A+B) = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11}+b_{11} & 0+0 & a_{13}+b_{13} \\ 0+0 & a_{22}+b_{22} & 0+0 \end{pmatrix}$   
 $= \begin{pmatrix} a_{11}+b_{11} & 0 & a_{13}+b_{13} \\ 0 & a_{22}+b_{22} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in W$

(S3)  $A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & 0 & a_{13} \\ 0 & a_{22} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$   
 $\alpha$  scalar }  $\implies \alpha \cdot A = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha a_{11} & 0 & \alpha a_{13} \\ 0 & \alpha a_{22} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in W$ .

⑤  $W = \text{Mat}_{2 \times 3}(\mathbb{R})$   $W = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \end{pmatrix} : a_{11}a_{22} - a_{12}a_{21} = 0 \right\}$   
is NOT a subspace

(S2) fails  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in W$

$B = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in W$

but  $A+B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  is NOT in  $W$ .

## Spanning Sets

Fix  $W =$  vector space

We use the same definition / constructions as in  $\mathbb{R}^n$

Def: A vector  $\vec{v}$  in  $W$  is a linear combination of  $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_r$  in  $W$  if  $\vec{v} = \alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \alpha_2 \vec{v}_2 + \dots + \alpha_r \vec{v}_r$  for some  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r$ .

Write  $W = \text{Sp}(\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_r)$  for the set of all linear comb of  $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_r$   
 $= \{ \alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_r \vec{v}_r : \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r \text{ in } \mathbb{R} \}$

Example:  $\mathcal{P}_2 = \{ a + bx + cx^2 : a, b, c \text{ in } \mathbb{R} \} = \text{Sp}(1, x, x^2)$

Def: A set of vectors  $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_r$  spans  $W$  if  $W = \text{Sp}(\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_r)$

**⚠** Not all vector spaces have finite spanning sets

Ex:  $C[0, 1]$  has no spanning set We'll need  $1, x, x^2, x^3, \dots$   
and more!



Examples: ①  $\text{Mat}_{2 \times 3}(\mathbb{R}) = \text{Sp} \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right)$

$E_{11} \quad E_{12} \quad E_{13} \quad E_{21} \quad E_{22} \quad E_{23}$

Why?  $\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \end{bmatrix} = a_{11} E_{11} + a_{12} E_{12} + a_{13} E_{13} + a_{21} E_{21} + a_{22} E_{22} + a_{23} E_{23}$

← scalars →

②  $\mathbb{W} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & 0 & a_{13} \\ 0 & a_{22} & 0 \end{bmatrix} : a_{11}, a_{13}, a_{22} \in \mathbb{R} \right\} = \text{Sp} (E_{11}, E_{13}, E_{22})$

Theorem 3: If  $\mathbb{W}$  is a vector space &  $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_r$  are vectors in  $\mathbb{W}$ , then

$\mathbb{W} = \text{Sp} (\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_r)$  is a subspace of  $\mathbb{W}$ .

Proof: (S1)  $\vec{0} = \underbrace{\vec{0} + \vec{0} + \dots + \vec{0}}_{r \text{ times}} = 0 \cdot \vec{v}_1 + 0 \cdot \vec{v}_2 + \dots + 0 \cdot \vec{v}_r$  ↑  
Thm 1

(S2)  $\begin{aligned} \vec{v} &= \alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_r \vec{v}_r && \text{in } \mathbb{W} \\ \vec{w} &= \beta_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \beta_r \vec{v}_r && \text{in } \mathbb{W} \end{aligned}$

In (\*) we secretly use Commutative, Distrib & Assoc properties in  $\mathbb{W}$ .

$\vec{v} + \vec{w} = (\alpha_1 + \beta_1) \vec{v}_1 + \dots + (\alpha_r + \beta_r) \vec{v}_r$  is also in  $\mathbb{W}$ . (\*)

(S3)  $\alpha \cdot \vec{w} = (\alpha \beta_1) \vec{v}_1 + \dots + (\alpha \beta_r) \vec{v}_r$  so also in  $\mathbb{W}$  (\*)