

# Lecture 1: Vector spaces

## Field

Definition: A field is a set  $F$  along with two binary operations:

$+$  (addition) and  $\cdot$  (multiplication) such that:

- For  $\forall x, y \in F$ ,  $x + y = y + x$  and  $x \cdot y = y \cdot x$
- For  $\forall x, y, z \in F$ ,  $(x + y) + z = x + (y + z)$  and  $(x \cdot y) \cdot z = x \cdot (y \cdot z)$
- For  $\forall x, y, z \in F$ ,  $x \cdot (y + z) = x \cdot y + x \cdot z$
- $\exists!$  element  $0 \in F \ni \forall x \in F$ ,  $x + 0 = x$
- $\exists!$  element  $1 \in F \ni \forall x \in F$ ,  $x \cdot 1 = x$
- For  $\forall x \in F$ ,  $\exists$  an element  $(-x) \in F \ni x + (-x) = 0$
- For  $\forall x \in F$  (excluding  $x = 0$ ),  $\exists$  an element  $x^{-1} \in F \ni x \cdot x^{-1} = 1$

Remark: • We often write  $xy$  for  $x \cdot y$

• If  $F$  is finite, we say it is a finite field

## Examples of field

1.  $F = \mathbb{R}$

2.  $F = \mathbb{C}$

} Most often considered in Math 2078.

3.  $F = \{ \text{Rational numbers} \} = \{ P/Q : P, Q \in \mathbb{Z} \}$

4. Finite field of order  $p$  (where  $p$  is a prime number)

Define  $F_p = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, p-1\}$  and  $+ / \cdot$  are defined as:

$+$  : for  $\forall x, y \in F_p$ ,  $x+y$  are performed modulo  $p$ .

That is,  $x+y$  is the remainder of  $(x+y)/p$

$\cdot$  : for  $\forall x, y \in F_p$ ,  $x \cdot y$  is the remainder of  $x \cdot y / p$ .

$F_2 = \{0, 1\}$  is the binary field (important for information theories)

# Vector Space

Goal: Build an abstract space (space of objects) simulating  $\mathbb{R}^n$  or  $\mathbb{C}^n$  (with addition and multiplication/scaled)

Definition: A **vector space over  $F$**  is a set  $V$  equipped w/ two operations:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(addition)} \quad + : V \times V &\rightarrow V, & \begin{matrix} \downarrow \in V \\ (x, y) \end{matrix} &\mapsto \bar{x} + \bar{y} \in V \\ \text{(Scalar multiplication)} \quad \cdot : F \times V &\rightarrow V, & \begin{matrix} \downarrow \in F \\ (a, \bar{x}) \end{matrix} &\mapsto a\bar{x} \in V \end{aligned}$$

satisfying 8 properties:

- + { (VS1) :  $\vec{x} + \vec{y} = \vec{y} + \vec{x} \quad \forall \vec{x}, \vec{y} \in V$
- (VS2) :  $(\vec{x} + \vec{y}) + \vec{z} = \vec{x} + (\vec{y} + \vec{z}) \quad \forall \vec{x}, \vec{y}, \vec{z} \in V$
- (VS3) :  $\exists \vec{0} \in V \text{ s.t. } \vec{x} + \vec{0} = \vec{x} \quad \forall \vec{x} \in V$
- (VS4) :  $\forall \vec{x} \in V, \exists \vec{y} \in V \text{ s.t. } \vec{x} + \vec{y} = \vec{0} \text{ (inverse)}$
- { (VS5) :  $1 \vec{x} = \vec{x} \quad \forall \vec{x} \in V$
- (VS6) :  $(a b) \vec{x} = a (b \vec{x}) \quad \forall a, b \in F, \forall \vec{x} \in V$
- + { (VS7) :  $a (\vec{x} + \vec{y}) = a \vec{x} + a \vec{y} \quad \forall a \in F, \forall \vec{x}, \vec{y} \in V$
- (VS8) :  $(a + b) \vec{x} = a \vec{x} + b \vec{x} \quad \forall a, b \in F, \forall \vec{x} \in V$

Remark: an element in  $F$  is called scalar.  
 an element in  $V$  is called vector.

## Examples of vector spaces

- $F^n = \{ (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) : x_j \in F \text{ for } j=1, 2, \dots, n \}$  w/  
 $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) + (y_1, \dots, y_n) = (x_1 + y_1, \dots, x_n + y_n)$   
 $a(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (ax_1, ax_2, \dots, ax_n)$
- $M_{m \times n}(F) = \{ m \times n \text{ matrices w/ entries in } F \}$   
w/ matrix addition and scalar multiplication
- $P(F) = \{ \text{polynomials w/ coefficients in } F \}$   
w/ polynomial addition and scalar multiplication.
- $F^\infty = \{ (x_1, x_2, \dots) : x_j \in F, j=1, 2, \dots \}$   
w/ component-wise addition and scalar multiplication

•  $\text{Sym}_{n \times n}(F) = \{n \times n \text{ symmetric matrices } A \text{ w/ entries in } F = A^T = A\}$

• Let  $S$  be any non-empty set.

Then:  $\mathcal{F}(S, F) = \{\text{functions } f: S \rightarrow F\}$

is a vector space over  $F$  under:

$$\underbrace{(f+g)}_{\mathcal{F}(S,F)}(s) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \underbrace{f(s)}_{\mathcal{F}(S,F)} + \underbrace{g(s)}_{\mathcal{F}(S,F)}; \quad \underbrace{(af)}_{\mathcal{F}(S,F)}(s) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} a \underbrace{f(s)}_{\mathcal{F}(S,F)}$$

•  $\mathbb{C}$  is a vector space over  $F = \mathbb{C}$

Question: Is  $V = \mathbb{R}$  a vector space over  $F = \mathbb{C}$ ??

- Consider the differential equation:

$$(*) \quad \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + a \frac{dy}{dx} + by = 0 \quad (a, b \in \mathbb{R})$$

Let  $S$  be the set of twice differentiable functions on  $\mathbb{R}$  satisfying  $(*)$ .

Then  $S$  is a vector space under usual addition and scalar multiplication is a vector space.

Proposition: Let  $V$  be a vector space over  $F$ . Then:

(a) The element  $\vec{0}$  in (VS3) is unique, called zero vector

(b)  $\forall \vec{x} \in V$ , the element  $\vec{y}$  in (VS4) is unique, called the additive inverse (Denoted as  $-\vec{x}$ )

(c)  $\vec{x} + \vec{z} = \vec{y} + \vec{z} \Rightarrow \vec{x} = \vec{y}$  (Cancellation law)

(d)  $\underset{F}{0} \vec{x} = \vec{0} \quad \forall \vec{x} \in V$

(e)  $\underset{F}{(-a)} \vec{x} = -(\underset{F}{a} \vec{x}) = a(-\vec{x}), \quad \forall a \in F, \forall \vec{x} \in V$

(f)  $\underset{F}{a} \vec{0} = \vec{0} \quad \forall a \in F$



## Subspace

Definition: A subset  $W$  of a vector space  $V$  over a field  $F$  is called a subspace of  $V$  if  $W$  is a vector space over  $F$  under the same addition and scalar multiplication inherited from  $V$ .

Proposition: Let  $V$  be a vector space  $V$  over  $F$ . A subset  $W \subset V$  is a subspace **iff** the following 3 conditions hold:

(a)  $\vec{0}_V \in W$

(b)  $\vec{x} + \vec{y} \in W$ ,  $\forall \vec{x}, \vec{y} \in W$  (closed under +)

(c)  $a\vec{x} \in W$ ,  $\forall a \in F$ ,  $\forall \vec{x} \in W$  (closed under  $\cdot$ )

Examples:

- For any vector space  $V$  over  $F$ ,  
 $\{\vec{0}\} \subset V$  ;  $V \subset V$  (trivial subspaces)  
" zero subspace

- For  $V = M_{n \times n}(F)$ ,

$W_1 = \{ \text{diagonal matrices} \} \subset V$  subspace

$W_2 = \{ A \in M_{n \times n}(F) : \det(A) = 0 \} \subset V$

$W_3 = \{ A \in M_{n \times n}(F) : \text{tr}(A) = 0 \} \subset V$   
subspace

• For  $V = P(F)$

$P_n(F) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ f \in P(F) : \deg(f) \leq n \}$  is a subspace

$W \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ f \in P(F) : \deg(f) = n \}$

• Consider  $V = F^n = \{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) : x_j \in F \text{ for } j=1, 2, \dots, n\}$

Consider linear system:  $\vec{x}^T$

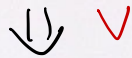
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n = b_1 \\ a_{21}x_1 + \dots + a_{2n}x_n = b_2 \\ \vdots \\ a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \dots + a_{mn}x_n = b_m \end{array} \right. \Leftrightarrow A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$$

gives a subset, the solution set  $S \subset V$

Is  $S$  a subspace?

Theorem: Any intersection of subspaces of a vector space  $V$  is a subspace of  $V$ .

Question:  $W_1 = \text{subspace}$  ;  $W_2 = \text{subspace}$



$W_1 \cap W_2$  is subspace

Is  $W_1 \cup W_2$  a subspace ??





## Linear combination and Span

Definition: Let  $V$  be a vector space over  $F$  and  $S \subset V$  a non-empty subset.

- We say a vector  $\vec{v} \in V$  is a linear combination of vectors of  $S$  if  $\exists \vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2, \dots, \vec{u}_n \in S$  and  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in F$  such that:

$$\vec{v} = a_1 \vec{u}_1 + a_2 \vec{u}_2 + \dots + a_n \vec{u}_n.$$

Remark:  $\vec{v}$  is usually called a linear combination of  $\vec{u}_1, \dots, \vec{u}_n$  and  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  are the coefficients of the linear combination.

- The span of  $S$ , denoted as  $\text{Span}(S)$ , is the set of all linear combination of vectors of  $S$ .

$$\text{Span}(S) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left\{ a_1 \vec{u}_1 + a_2 \vec{u}_2 + \dots + a_n \vec{u}_n : a_j \in F, \vec{u}_j \in S \text{ for } j=1,2,\dots,n, n \in \mathbb{N} \right\}$$

Remark: • By convention,  $\text{span}(\emptyset) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\vec{0}\}$ .  
"empty set"

e.g.  $1 \in \text{Span}(\{1+x^2, 1-x^2\})$   
 ~~$x$~~   
 $x$



Example: •  $F^n = \text{Span}(\{\vec{e}_1, \vec{e}_2, \dots, \vec{e}_n\})$  where  $\vec{e}_j = (0, 0, \dots, \underset{j^{\text{th}}}{1}, 0, \dots, 0)$

•  $P(F) = \text{Span}(\{1, x, x^2, \dots, x^n, \dots\})$

•  $M_{n \times n}(F) = \text{Span}(S)$

$$S = \left\{ \bar{E}_{ij} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & 1 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & \dots \end{pmatrix} : 1 \leq i, j \leq n \right\}$$

*(Red arrows point to the 1 in the i-th row and j-th column of the matrix)*

• Given  $\vec{u}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} \\ a_{21} \\ \vdots \\ a_{n1} \end{pmatrix}, \vec{u}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} a_{12} \\ a_{22} \\ \vdots \\ a_{n2} \end{pmatrix}, \dots, \vec{u}_n = \begin{pmatrix} a_{1n} \\ a_{2n} \\ \vdots \\ a_{nn} \end{pmatrix}$

Then:  $\vec{v} \in \text{Span}(\{\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2, \dots, \vec{u}_n\})$  iff  $\begin{cases} a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n = v_1 \\ a_{21}x_1 + \dots + a_{2n}x_n = v_2 \\ \vdots \\ a_{n1}x_1 + \dots + a_{nn}x_n = v_n \end{cases}$  has a sol.

*(Note:  $\vec{v} = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{pmatrix}$ )*

Theorem: Let  $S \subset V$  be a subset of a vector space  $V$  over  $F$ .

Then,  $\text{span}(S)$  is the **Smallest** **subspace** of  $V$  consisting  $S$ .

( If  $W$  is a subspace containing  $S$ , then  $\text{span}(S) \subset W$  )

## Linear independence

Definition: Let  $V$  be a vector space over  $F$ . A subset  $S \subset V$  is said to be **linearly dependent** if  $\exists$  distinct  $\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2, \dots, \vec{u}_n \in S$  and scalars  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in F$ , not all zero, s.t.

$$a_1 \vec{u}_1 + a_2 \vec{u}_2 + \dots + a_n \vec{u}_n = \vec{0}$$

Otherwise, it is said to be **linearly independent**.

e.g. • The empty set  $\emptyset \subset V$  is linearly independent.

• If  $\vec{0} \in S$ , the  $S$  is linearly dependent

• If  $S = \{\vec{u}\}$  and  $\vec{u} \neq \vec{0}$ , then  $S$  is linearly independent.

$$\left( \begin{array}{l} \lambda \vec{u} = \vec{0} \\ \Rightarrow \lambda = 0 \end{array} \right) \quad \begin{array}{l} \neq \vec{0} \\ (S \vec{0} = \vec{0}) \\ \uparrow \\ S \end{array}$$

Proposition: Let  $S \subset V$  be a subset of a vector space  $V$ . Then, the following are equivalent.

(1)  $S$  is linearly independent

(2) Each  $\vec{x} \in \text{span}(S)$  can be expressed in a unique way as a linear combination of vectors of  $S$ .

(3) The only representations of  $\vec{0}$  as linear combinations of vectors of  $S$  are trivial representations, i.e., if

$$\vec{0} = a_1 \vec{u}_1 + \dots + a_n \vec{u}_n \quad \text{for}$$

some  $\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2, \dots, \vec{u}_n \in S$ ,  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in F$ , then we

must have  $a_1 = a_2 = \dots = a_n = 0$

Example: For  $k=0, 1, 2, \dots, n$ , let  $f_k(x) = 1 + x + x^2 + \dots + x^k$ .

Then:  $S = \{f_0^{(x)}, f_1^{(x)}, f_2^{(x)}, \dots, f_n^{(x)}\} \subset P_n(F)$  is a linearly independent subset.

$$\begin{aligned} 0 = \vec{0} &= a_0 f_0(x) + a_1 f_1(x) + \dots + a_n f_n(x) \\ &= a_0 + a_1(1+x) + a_2(1+x+x^2) + \dots + a_n(1+x+\dots+x^n) \\ &= (a_0 + a_1 + \dots + a_n)1 + (a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n)x \\ &\quad + (a_2 + a_3 + \dots + a_n)x^2 + \dots + a_n x^n \end{aligned}$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} a_0 + a_1 + \dots + a_n &= 0 \\ a_1 + \dots + a_n &= 0 \\ a_2 + \dots + a_n &= 0 \\ &\vdots \\ a_n &= 0 \end{aligned} \right\} \Rightarrow a_1 = a_2 = \dots = a_n = 0.$$

Theorem: Let  $S$  be a linearly independent subset of a vector space  $V$ .  
Let  $\vec{v} \in V \setminus S$ . Then:  $S \cup \{\vec{v}\}$  is linearly dependent iff  
 $\vec{v} \in \text{Span}(S)$ .

Definition: A **basis** for a vector space  $V$  is a subset  $\beta \subset V$  such that:

- $\beta$  is linearly independent and
- $\beta$  spans  $V$ , i.e.  $\text{Span}(\beta) = V$ .

e.g.  $F^n$ :  $\{\vec{e}_1 = (1, 0, \dots, 0), \vec{e}_2 = (0, 1, 0, \dots, 0), \dots, \vec{e}_i = (0, \dots, 0, \overset{i\text{-th}}{1}, 0, \dots, 0), \dots, \vec{e}_n = (0, 0, \dots, 1)\}$   
is a basis for  $F^n$ .

•  $M_{2 \times 2}(F) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \subset M_{2 \times 2}(F)$   
is a basis for  $M_{2 \times 2}(F)$  (Standard basis)

•  $\{1, x, x^2, \dots, x^n\}$  is a basis for

•  $\{1, x, x^2, \dots\}$  is a basis for

Theorem: Let  $V$  be a vector space and  $\beta = \{\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2, \dots, \vec{u}_n\} \subset V$ .

Then:  $\beta$  is basis for  $V$  if and only if:  $\forall \vec{v} \in V, \exists!$  (Unique)  
(for all) (in) (there exist)

$a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in \bar{F}$  such that:

$$\vec{v} = a_1 \vec{u}_1 + a_2 \vec{u}_2 + \dots + a_n \vec{u}_n.$$

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Lemma: Let  $S$  be a linearly dependent subset of a vector space  $V$ .

Then:  $\exists \vec{v} \in S$  such that  $\text{span}(S \setminus \{\vec{v}\}) = \text{span}(S)$ .

Theorem: Suppose  $S$  is a finite spanning set for a vector space  $V$ .

Then:  $\exists \beta \subset S$  which is a basis for  $V$ .

(A finite spanning set can be reduced to a basis)

Theorem: Let  $V$  be a vector space.

Let  $G \subset V$  be a spanning set for  $V$  consisting of  $n$  vectors.

and  $L \subset V$  be a linearly independent subset consisting of  $m$  vectors.

Then,  $m \leq n$  and  $\exists H \subset G$  consisting of exactly  $n-m$  vectors

such that  $L \cup H$  spans  $V$ .

(Replacement thm)

## Dimension

Cor 1: Let  $V$  be a vector space having a finite basis.

Then, every basis of  $V$  contains the same number of vectors.

Definition: A vector space  $V$  is called finite-dimensional if it has a finite basis. The dimension of  $V$ , denoted as  $\dim(V)$ , is the number of vectors in a basis for  $V$ .

A vector space which is not finite-dimensional is called infinite-dimensional

Example: •  $F^n$  is  $n$ -dimensional

•  $\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$  is infinite-dimensional