

1. Recall the definition for the notion of *subspaces of \mathbb{R}^n* :

Let W be a set of vectors in \mathbb{R}^n .

W is said to constitute a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n if and only if the statements (S1), (S2), (S3) hold:

(S1) $\mathbf{0}_n \in W$.

(S2) For any vectors $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, if $\mathbf{u} \in W$ and $\mathbf{v} \in W$ then $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} \in W$.

(S3) For any vector $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, for any $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$, if $\mathbf{u} \in W$ then $\alpha\mathbf{u} \in W$.

Also recall Theorem (E):

Let W be a set of vectors in \mathbb{R}^n .

Suppose W is a non-empty set of vectors.

Then

W is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n

if and only if

every linear combination of vectors in W belongs to W .

2. Question.

Suppose we are given a set of vectors in \mathbb{R}^n , say, T .

What do we mean when we say that T is not a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n ?

Answer.

(a) According to Theorem (E), when the set T is non-empty, T will fail to be a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n exactly when it happens that

some linear combination of some vectors in T fails to ‘stay in T ’.

When T is the empty set, T certainly fails to be a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n according to definition.

(b) More formally, according to logic and the definition to the notion of *subspace of \mathbb{R}^n* , such a set T would be a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n exactly when all three statements (S1), (S2), (S3) would hold simultaneously:

(S1) $\mathbf{0}_n \in T$.

(S2) For any vectors $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, if $\mathbf{u} \in T$ and $\mathbf{v} \in T$ then $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} \in T$.

(S3) For any vector $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, for any $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$, if $\mathbf{u} \in T$ then $\alpha\mathbf{u} \in T$.

Therefore, T fails to be a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n exactly when

at least one amongst the statements (S1), (S2), (S3) fails to hold.

(c) In other words, T fails to be a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n exactly when at least one amongst $(\sim\text{S1})$, $(\sim\text{S2})$, $(\sim\text{S3})$ holds:

$(\sim\text{S1})$ $\mathbf{0}_n \notin T$.

$(\sim\text{S2})$ There are some vectors $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $\mathbf{u} \in T$ and $\mathbf{v} \in T$ and $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} \notin T$.

$(\sim\text{S3})$ There are some vector $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and some $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\mathbf{u} \in T$ and $\alpha\mathbf{u} \notin T$.

The statements $(\sim\text{S1})$, $(\sim\text{S2})$, $(\sim\text{S3})$ are called the respective negations of the statements (S1), (S2), (S3).

3. Further question.

Suppose we are given a set of vectors in \mathbb{R}^n , say, T .

What shall we do when we guess that T is not a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n and want to indeed verify that T is not a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n ?

Answer to further question.

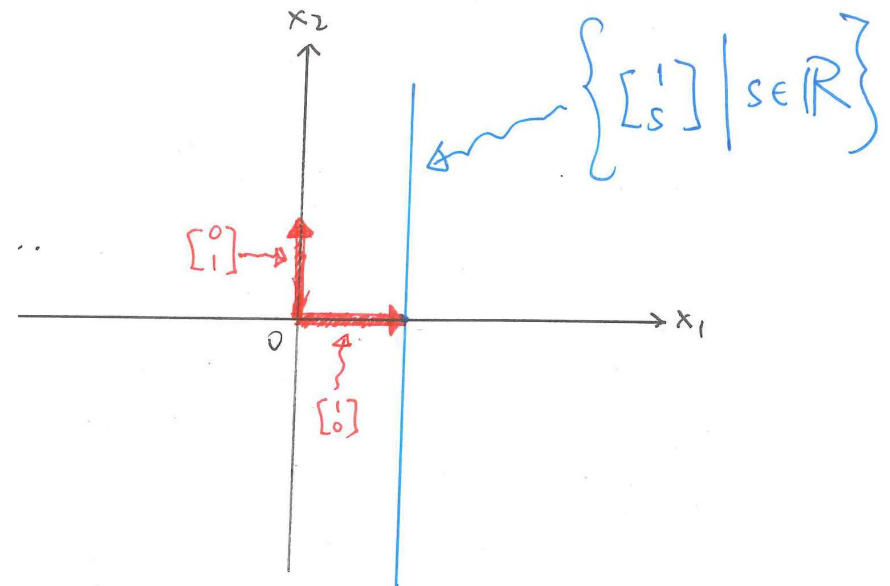
- (a) It suffices to verify any one of $(\sim S1)$, $(\sim S2)$, $(\sim S3)$.
- (b) If it is apparent to us which of $(\sim S1)$, $(\sim S2)$, $(\sim S3)$ holds, we just proceed to verify it.
- (c) However, when it is not immediately clear which of $(\sim S1)$, $(\sim S2)$, $(\sim S3)$ holds, we tend to proceed as described below (due to the relative ‘complexities’ in the logical structure of the statements):
 - **Step 1.** Check whether $(\sim S1)$ holds.
If *yes*, done.
If *no*, proceed to Step 2.
 - **Step 2.** Check whether $(\sim S3)$ holds.
If *yes*, done.
If *no*, proceed to Step 3.
 - **Step 3.** Check whether $(\sim S2)$ holds.
If *yes*, done.
If *no*, go back to examine T again to see whether we wrongly guessed that T was *not* a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n .

4. Non-examples of subspaces of \mathbb{R}^2 , from sets of vectors in \mathbb{R}^2 .

In each of these examples, we can visualize the set of vectors concerned as a 'portion of the coordinate plane'. Through such a picture, we see immediately why the set of vectors concerned will fail to satisfy one of (S1), (S2), (S3).

(a) Let $W = \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2 : \begin{array}{l} \text{There exists some } s \in \mathbb{R} \\ \text{such that } \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ s \end{bmatrix} \end{array} \right\}$.

Claim: W is not a subspace of \mathbb{R}^2 .



Justification.

[Reminder: If W were a subspace of \mathbb{R}^2 , then it would happen that $\mathbf{0} \in W$.]

Suppose $\mathbf{0} \in W$.

Then there would be some $s \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\mathbf{0} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ s \end{bmatrix}$.

Therefore $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{0} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ s \end{bmatrix}$. Then $0 = 1$ (by comparison of the respective first entries).

Contradiction arises.

4. Non-examples of subspaces of \mathbb{R}^2 , from sets of vectors in \mathbb{R}^2 .

In each of these examples, we can visualize the set of vectors concerned as a 'portion of the coordinate plane'. Through such a picture, we see immediately why the set of vectors concerned will fail to satisfy one of (S1), (S2), (S3).

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Claim: W is not a subspace of \mathbb{R}^2 .

Ask: Does it happen that $\mathbf{0} \notin W$?

If no, ask: Does it happen that there are some $u \in \mathbb{R}^2$ and some $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $u \in W$ and $\alpha u \notin W$?

If no, ask: Does it happen that there are some $u, v \in \mathbb{R}^2$ such that $u \in W$ and $v \in W$ and $u+v \notin W$?

Justification.

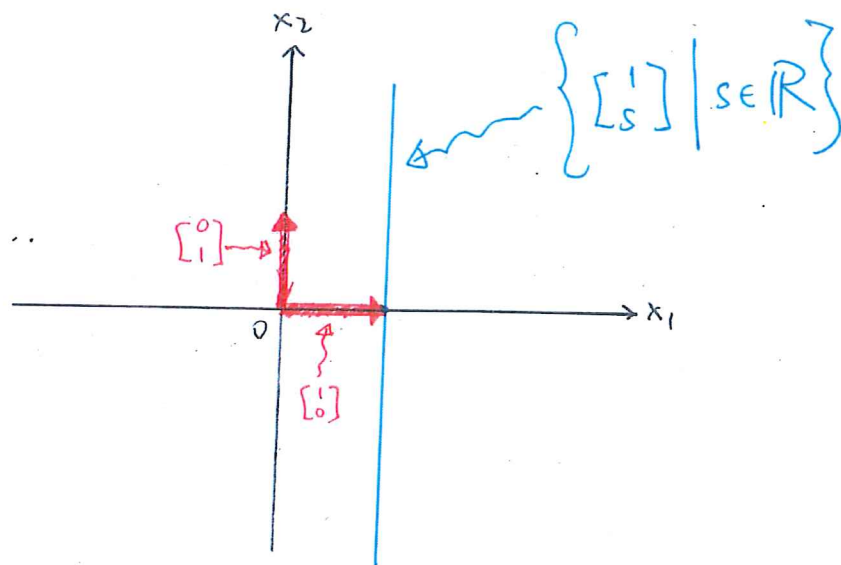
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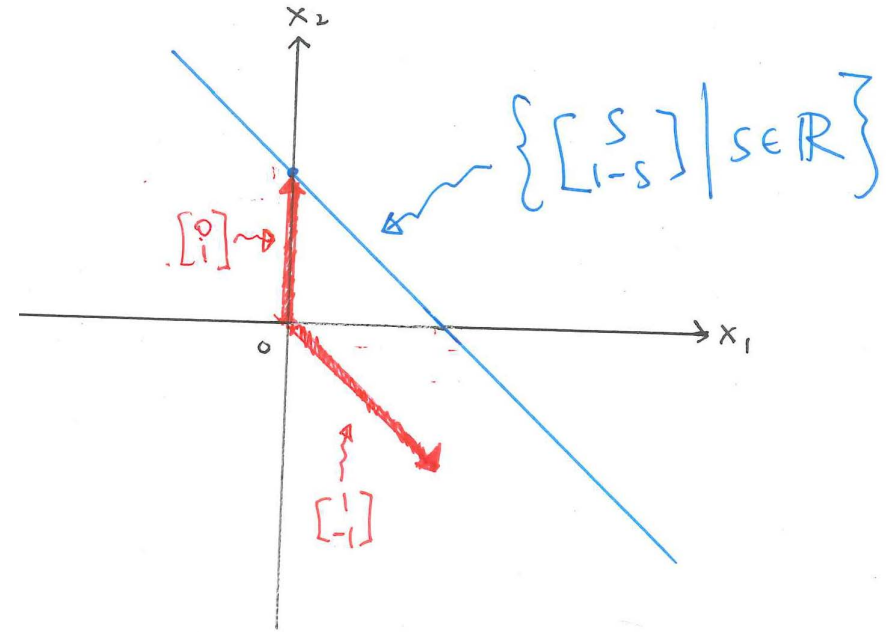
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Contradiction arises.



(b) Let $W = \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2 : \begin{array}{l} \text{There exists some } s \in \mathbb{R} \\ \text{such that } \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} s \\ 1-s \end{bmatrix} \end{array} \right\}$.

Claim: W is not a subspace of \mathbb{R}^2 .



Justification.

[Reminder: If W were a subspace of \mathbb{R}^2 , then it would happen that $\mathbf{0} \in W$.]

Suppose $\mathbf{0} \in W$.

Then there would be some $s \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\mathbf{0} = \begin{bmatrix} s \\ 1-s \end{bmatrix}$.

Therefore $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{0} = \begin{bmatrix} s \\ 1-s \end{bmatrix}$. Then $0 = s$ and $1 = s$ (by comparison of the respective entries). Hence $0 = s = 1$.

Contradiction arises.

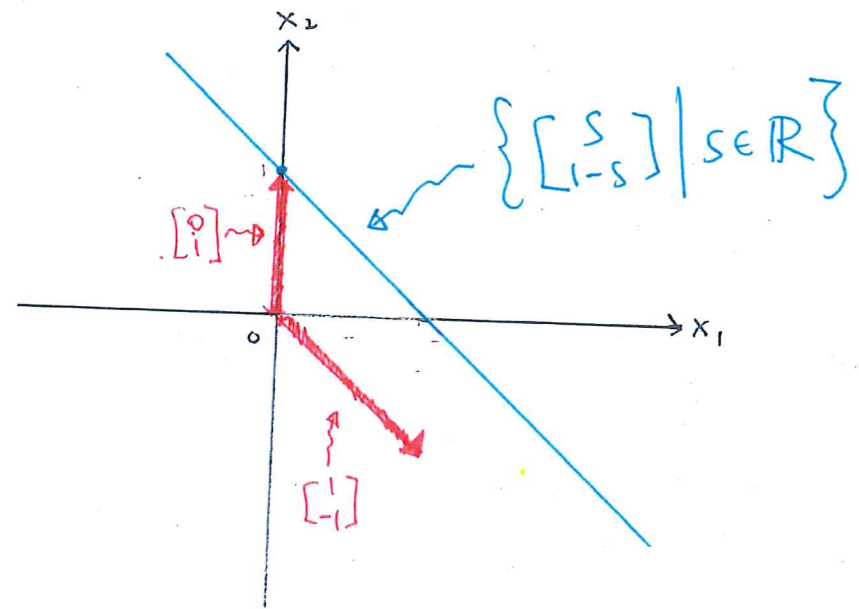
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Justification.

[Reminder: If W were a subspace of \mathbb{R}^2 , then it would happen that $\mathbf{0} \in W$.]

Suppose $\mathbf{0} \in W$.

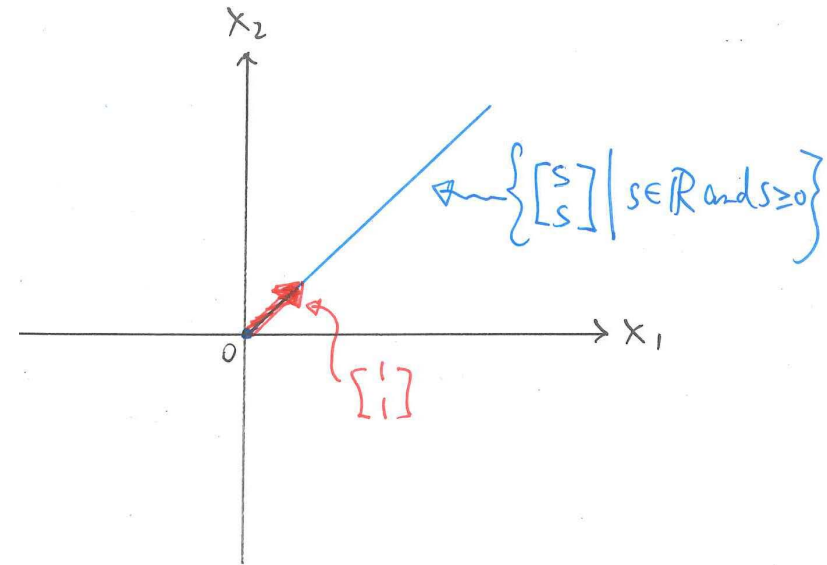
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Contradiction arises.

(c) Let $W = \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2 : \begin{array}{l} \text{There exists some } s \in \mathbb{R} \\ \text{such that } s \geq 0 \text{ and } \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} s \\ s \end{bmatrix} \end{array} \right\}$.

Claim: W is not a subspace of \mathbb{R}^2 .



Justification.

[Reminder: If W were a subspace of \mathbb{R}^2 , then whenever $\mathbf{x} \in W$ and $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$, it would happen that $\alpha\mathbf{x} \in W$.]

Take $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$. We have $1 \geq 0$. Then $\mathbf{x} \in W$.

Take $\alpha = -1$. We have $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$.

[Reminder: If W were a subspace of \mathbb{R}^2 , then $\alpha\mathbf{x} \in W$.]

We verify that $\alpha\mathbf{x} \notin W$:

* Suppose it were true that $\alpha\mathbf{x} \in W$.

We have $\alpha\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$. Since $\alpha\mathbf{x} \in W$, we would have $-1 \geq 0$.

Contradiction arises.

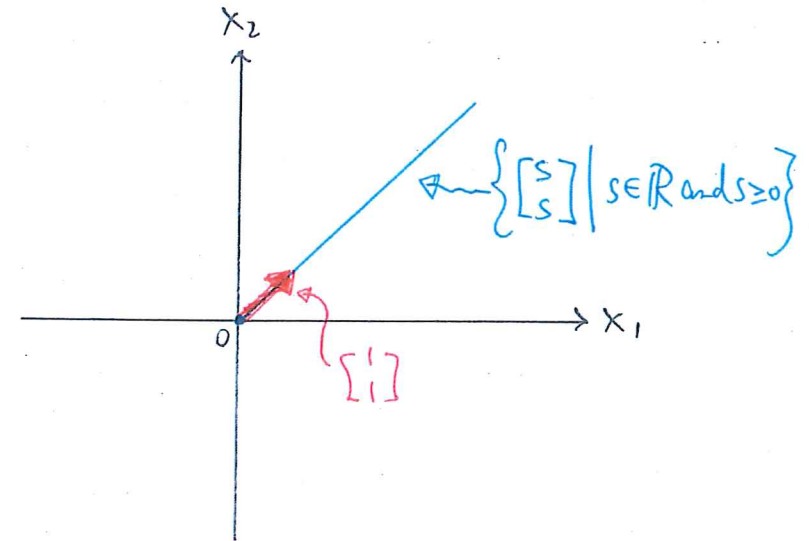
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Claim: W is not a subspace of \mathbb{R}^2 .

Ask: Does it happen that $\mathbf{0}_2 \notin W$?

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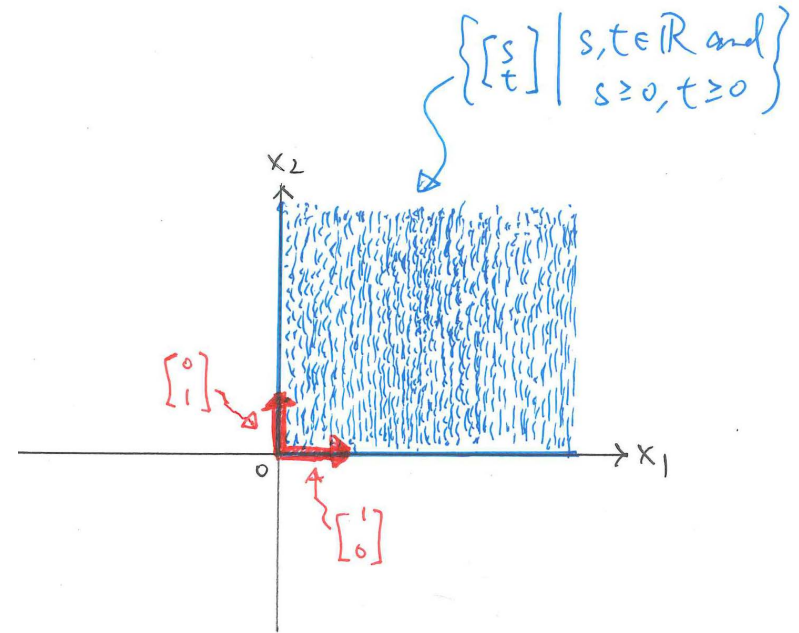
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Contradiction arises.

$$(d) \text{ Let } W = \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2 : \begin{array}{l} \text{There exist some} \\ s, t \in \mathbb{R} \text{ such that} \\ s \geq 0, t \geq 0 \text{ and } \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} s \\ t \end{bmatrix} \end{array} \right\}.$$

Claim: W is not a subspace of \mathbb{R}^2 .



Justification.

[Reminder: If W were a subspace of \mathbb{R}^2 , then whenever $\mathbf{x} \in W$ and $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$, it would happen that $\alpha\mathbf{x} \in W$.]

Take $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$. We have $1 \geq 0$. Then $\mathbf{x} \in W$.

Take $\alpha = -1$. We have $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$.

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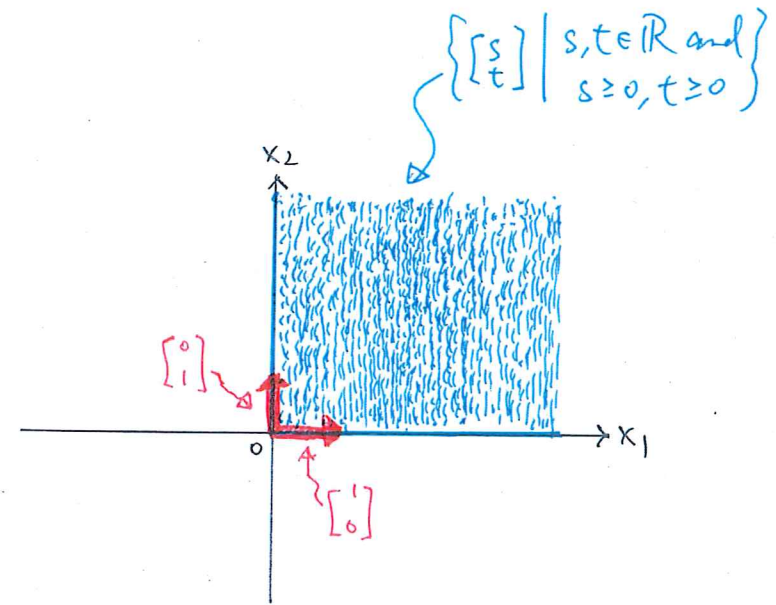
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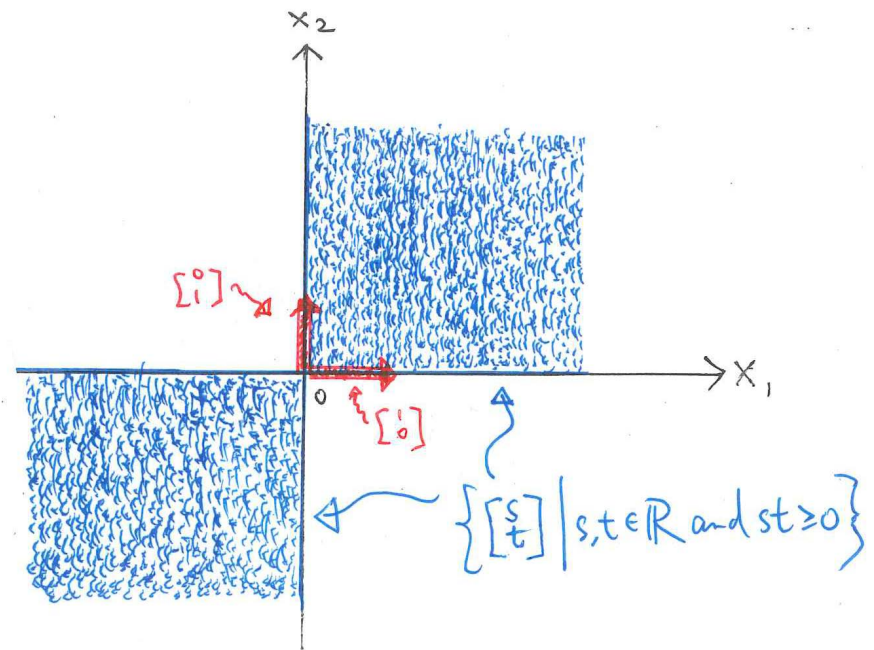
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$$(e) \text{ Let } W = \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2 : \begin{array}{l} \text{There exist some} \\ s, t \in \mathbb{R} \text{ such that} \\ st \geq 0 \text{ and } \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} s \\ t \end{bmatrix} \end{array} \right\}.$$

Claim: W is not a subspace of \mathbb{R}^2 .



Justification.

[Reminder: If W were a subspace of \mathbb{R}^2 , then whenever $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in W$, it would happen that $\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} \in W$.]

Take $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$.

We have $1 \cdot 0 = 0 \geq 0$. Then $\mathbf{x} \in W$. We have $0 \cdot (-1) = 0 \geq 0$. Then $\mathbf{y} \in W$.

[Reminder: If W were a subspace of \mathbb{R}^2 , then $\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} \in W$.]

We verify that $\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} \notin W$:

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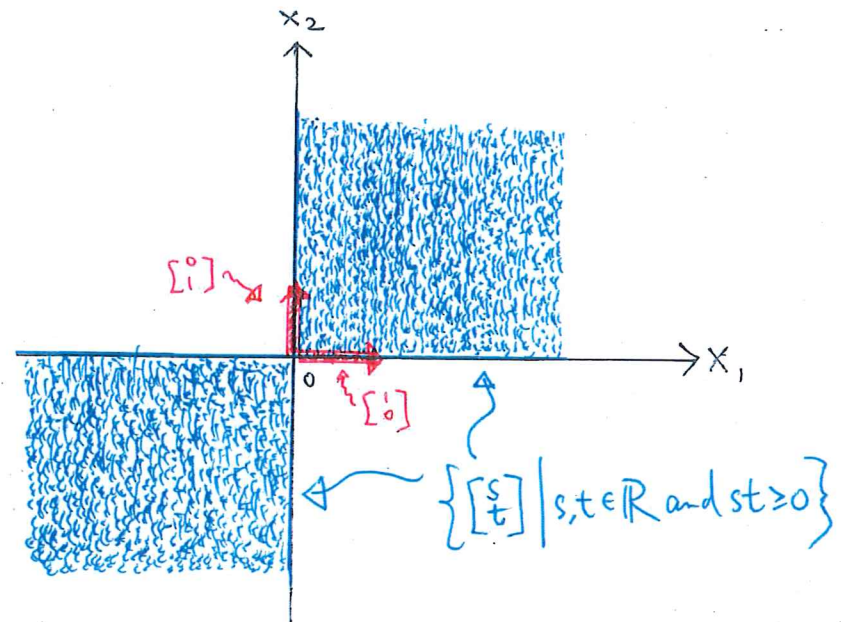
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[Reminder: If W were a subspace of \mathbb{R}^2 , then whenever $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in W$, it would happen that $\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} \in W$.]

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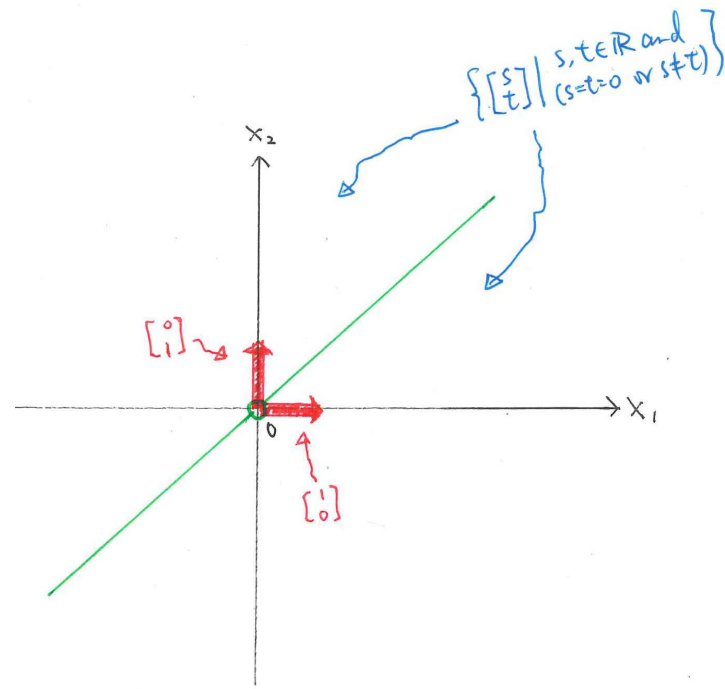
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We have $\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$. Since $\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} \in W$, we would have $1 \cdot (-1) \geq 0$. Then $-1 \geq 0$.

Contradiction arises.

$$(f) \text{ Let } W = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}, \\ \text{or there exist some} \\ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2 : s, t \in \mathbb{R} \text{ such that} \\ s \neq t \text{ and } \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} s \\ t \end{bmatrix} \end{array} \right\}.$$

Claim: W is not a subspace of \mathbb{R}^2 .



Justification.

[Reminder: If W were a subspace of \mathbb{R}^2 , then whenever $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in W$, it would happen that $\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} \in W$.]

Take $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$. Note that $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$ and $\mathbf{y} \neq \mathbf{0}$.

We have $1 \neq 0$. Then $\mathbf{x} \in W$ and $\mathbf{y} \in W$.

[Reminder: If W were a subspace of \mathbb{R}^2 , then $\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} \in W$.]

We verify that $\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} \notin W$:

* Suppose it were true that $\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} \in W$.

We have $\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \neq \mathbf{0}$.

Since $\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} \in W$, we would have $1 \neq 1$.

Contradiction arises.

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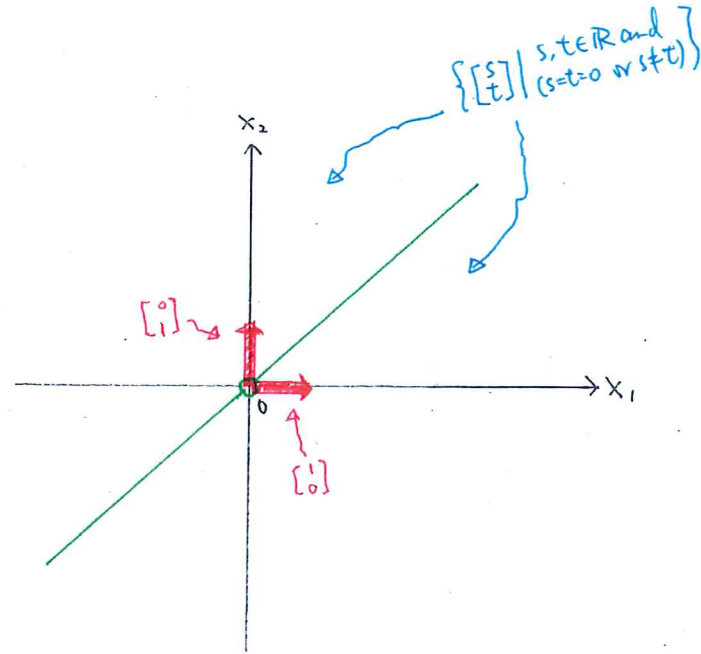
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Since $\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} \in W$, we would have $1 \neq 1$.

Contradiction arises.



(g) Let $W = \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2 : \text{There exist some } s, t \in \mathbb{R} \text{ such that } s^2 + t^2 = 1 \text{ and } \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} s \\ t \end{bmatrix} \right\}$.

Claim: W is not a subspace of \mathbb{R}^2 .

Justification. We have $\mathbf{0} \notin W$. (Fill in the detail.)

(h) Let $W = \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2 : \text{There exist some } s, t \in \mathbb{R} \text{ such that } s^2 - t^2 = 1 \text{ and } \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} s \\ t \end{bmatrix} \right\}$.

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Justification. We have $\mathbf{0} \notin W$. (Fill in the detail.)

(i) Let $W = \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2 : \text{There exist some } s, t \in \mathbb{R} \text{ such that } s = t^2 \text{ and } \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} s \\ t \end{bmatrix} \right\}$.

Claim: W is not a subspace of \mathbb{R}^2 .

Justification. Take $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$. We have $\mathbf{x} \in W$ and $2\mathbf{x} \notin W$. (Fill in the detail.)

(j) Let $W = \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2 : \text{There exist some } s, t \in \mathbb{R} \text{ such that } s^2 = t^2 \text{ and } \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} s \\ t \end{bmatrix} \right\}$.

Claim: W is not a subspace of \mathbb{R}^2 .

Justification. Take $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$, $\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$.

We have $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in W$ and $\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} \notin W$. (Fill in the detail.)

5. **Non-examples of subspaces of \mathbb{R}^3 , from sets of vectors of \mathbb{R}^3 .**

$$(a) \text{ Let } W = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{There exist some } r, s, t \in \mathbb{R} \text{ such that} \\ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3 : r^2 + s^2 + t^2 = 1 \text{ and } \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} r \\ s \\ t \end{bmatrix} \end{array} \right\}.$$

Claim: W is not a subspace of \mathbb{R}^3 .

Justification. We have $\mathbf{0} \notin W$. (Fill in the detail.)

$$(b) \text{ Let } W = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{There exist some } r, s, t \in \mathbb{R} \text{ such that} \\ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3 : r = st \text{ and } \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} r \\ s \\ t \end{bmatrix} \end{array} \right\}.$$

Claim: W is not a subspace of \mathbb{R}^3 .

Justification. Take $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\alpha = 2$.

We have $\mathbf{x} \in W$ and $\alpha\mathbf{x} \notin W$. (Fill in the detail.)

$$(c) \text{ Let } W = \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3 : \begin{array}{l} \text{There exist some } r, s, t \in \mathbb{R} \text{ such that} \\ r^2 = st \text{ and } \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} r \\ s \\ t \end{bmatrix} \end{array} \right\}.$$

Claim: W is not a subspace of \mathbb{R}^3 .

Justification. Take $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

We have $\mathbf{x} \in W$ and $\mathbf{y} \in W$ and $\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} \notin W$. (Fill in the detail.)

$$(d) \text{ Let } W = \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3 : \begin{array}{l} \text{There exist some } r, s, t \in \mathbb{R} \text{ such that} \\ r^2 = s^2 + t^2 \text{ and } \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} r \\ s \\ t \end{bmatrix} \end{array} \right\}.$$

Claim: W is not a subspace of \mathbb{R}^3 .

Justification. Take $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

We have $\mathbf{x} \in W$ and $\mathbf{y} \in W$ and $\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} \notin W$. (Fill in the detail.)

6. Non-examples of subspaces of \mathbb{R}^4 , from sets of vectors of \mathbb{R}^4 .

Give the justification for the claims below.

In practice, it is easiest to first start with seeing whether (S1) fails to hold. If necessary, continue with seeing whether (S3) fails to hold. If necessary, continue with seeing whether (S2) fails to hold.

$$(a) \text{ Let } W = \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^4 : \text{There exist some } a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R} \text{ such that } a + b + c + d = 1 \text{ and } \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ d \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

W is not a subspace of \mathbb{R}^4 .

$$(b) \text{ Let } W = \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^4 : \text{There exist some } a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R} \text{ such that } a^2 - b^2 + c^2 - d^2 = 1 \text{ and } \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ d \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

W is not a subspace of \mathbb{R}^4 .

$$(c) \text{ Let } W = \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^4 : \text{There exist some } a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R} \text{ such that } a = bcd \text{ and } \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ d \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

W is not a subspace of \mathbb{R}^4 .

$$(d) \text{ Let } W = \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^4 : \text{There exist some } a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R} \text{ such that } a^2 = bcd \text{ and } \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ d \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

W is not a subspace of \mathbb{R}^4 .

$$(e) \text{ Let } W = \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^4 : \text{There exist some } a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R} \text{ such that } a + b = c^2 + d^2 \text{ and } \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ d \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

W is not a subspace of \mathbb{R}^4 .

$$(f) \text{ Let } W = \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^4 : \text{There exist some } a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R} \text{ such that } ab = cd \text{ and } \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ d \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

W is not a subspace of \mathbb{R}^4 .

$$(g) \text{ Let } W = \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^4 : \text{There exist some } a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R} \text{ such that } a^2 + b^2 = c^2 + d^2 \text{ and } \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ d \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

W is not a subspace of \mathbb{R}^4 .

$$(h) \text{ Let } W = \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^4 : \text{There exist some } a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R} \text{ such that } abcd = 0 \text{ and } \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ d \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

W is not a subspace of \mathbb{R}^4 .