

Topic 6 -  
Vector Spaces


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# HW 6 Topic - Vector Spaces

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We are going to generalize  
what a scalar/number is. ] Field

Then we will generalize  
what a vector is. ] vector  
space

Def: A field consists of a set  $F$  of "scalars" or "numbers" and two operations  $+$  and  $\cdot$  such that if  $x$  and  $y$  are scalars in  $F$  then there exists unique elements  $x+y$  and  $x \cdot y$  in  $F$ . Also the following properties must hold: (2)

(F1) If  $a, b, c$  are in  $F$ , then:

$$a+b = b+a$$

$$a \cdot b = b \cdot a$$

$$a+(b+c) = (a+b)+c$$

$$a \cdot (b \cdot c) = (a \cdot b) \cdot c$$

$$a \cdot (b+c) = a \cdot b + a \cdot c$$

$$(b+c) \cdot a = b \cdot a + c \cdot a$$

(F2) There exist unique elements  $0$  and  $1$  in  $F$  where

$$x+0 = 0+x = x \quad \text{and} \quad 1 \cdot x = x \cdot 1 = x$$

for all  $x$  in  $F$ .

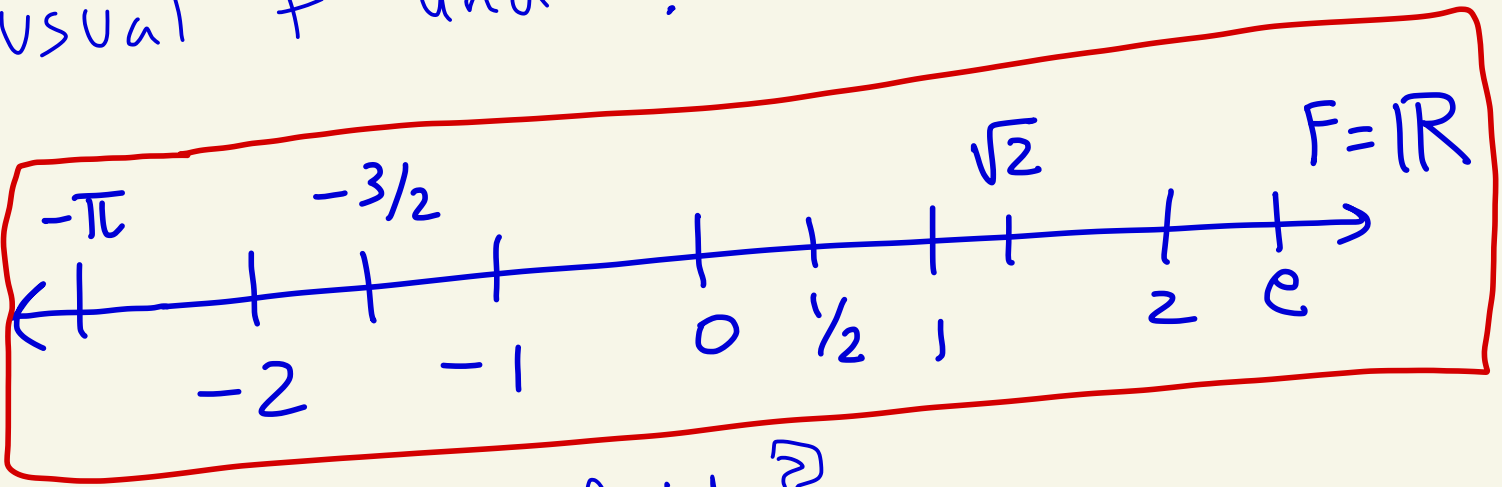
(F3) Let  $x$  be in  $F$ .

Then there exists a unique element  $-x$  in  $F$  where  $x+(-x) = 0$  and  $(-x)+x = 0$ .

In addition if  $x \neq 0$ , then there exists a unique element  $x^{-1}$  in  $F$  where  $x \cdot (x^{-1}) = 1$  and  $(x^{-1}) \cdot x = 1$ .

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Ex:  $F = \mathbb{R}$ , the set of real numbers, is a field using the usual  $+$  and  $\cdot$ .



Why is  $\mathbb{R}$  a field?

• Adding and multiplying real numbers gives a real number.

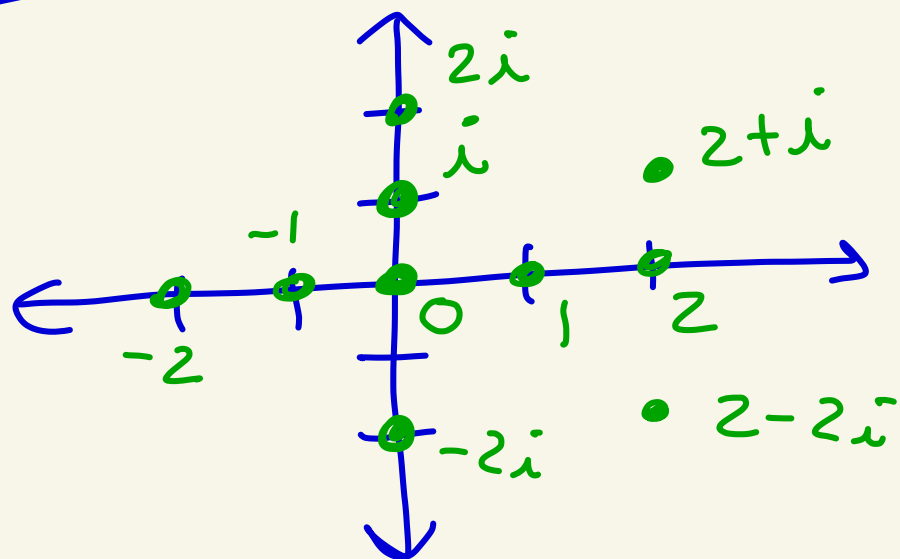
① All the properties from  $(F1)$  are true in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

②  $\mathbb{R}$  has elements  $0$  and  $1$  that behave as in  $(F2)$ .

③ We have  $(F3)$  is true.

Note: In our class,  $\mathbb{R}$  is the only field that we will use. But let's see some others just to see.

Ex: The set of complex numbers  $\mathbb{C}$  is a field. Pg 4



We won't use this field in this class.

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Ex: There even exist fields that are finite in size. You get these by "modular arithmetic".

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For our class, we will always use  $\mathbb{R}$  as our field.

But I will state theorems for general fields.

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Now we generalize what a "vector" is.

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Def: A vector space  $V$  over a field  $F$  consists of a set of "vectors"  $V$  and a field  $F$  with two operations, "vector addition"  $+$  and "vector scaling"  $\cdot$ , such that if  $\vec{v}, \vec{w}, \vec{z}$  are vectors in  $V$  and  $\alpha, \beta$  are scalars from  $F$  then the following must hold:

- ①  $\vec{v} + \vec{w}$  is in  $V$ .
- ②  $\alpha \cdot \vec{v}$  is in  $V$
- ③  $\vec{v} + \vec{w} = \vec{w} + \vec{v}$
- ④  $\vec{v} + (\vec{w} + \vec{z}) = (\vec{v} + \vec{w}) + \vec{z}$
- ⑤ there exists a unique vector  $\vec{0}$  in  $V$  such that  $\vec{0} + \vec{y} = \vec{y} + \vec{0} = \vec{y}$  for any  $\vec{y}$  in  $V$ .
- ⑥ there exists a vector  $-\vec{v}$  in  $V$  where  $\vec{v} + (-\vec{v}) = \vec{0}$  and  $(-\vec{v}) + \vec{v} = \vec{0}$
- ⑦  $1 \cdot \vec{v} = \vec{v}$
- ⑧  $(\alpha\beta) \cdot \vec{v} = \alpha \cdot (\beta \cdot \vec{v})$
- ⑨  $\alpha \cdot (\vec{v} + \vec{w}) = \alpha \cdot \vec{v} + \alpha \cdot \vec{w}$
- ⑩  $(\alpha + \beta) \cdot \vec{v} = \alpha \cdot \vec{v} + \beta \cdot \vec{v}$

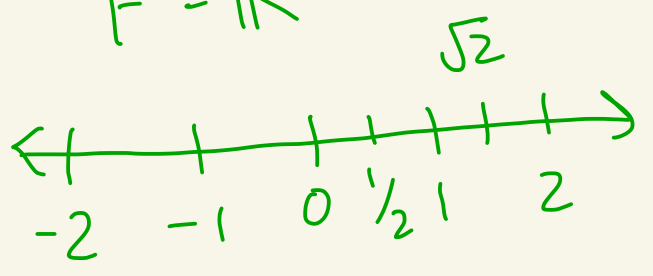
**Ex:** Let  $V = \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $F = \mathbb{R}$

$\mathbb{R}^n$  is a vector space over the field  $\mathbb{R}$  using the usual vector addition and scalar multiplication.

**Ex:**  $n=2$

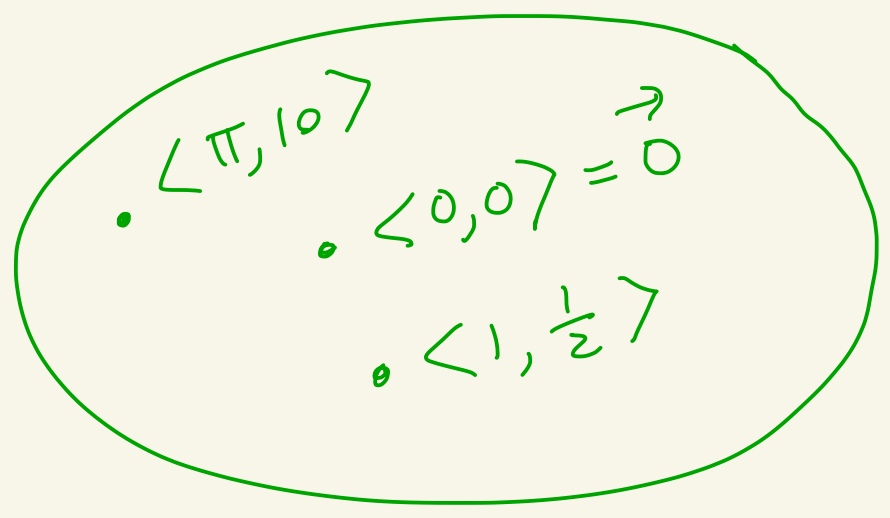
Field

$F = \mathbb{R}$



Vectors

$V = \mathbb{R}^2$



vector addition:

$$\langle 1, \frac{1}{2} \rangle + \langle 0, -5 \rangle = \langle 1, -\frac{9}{2} \rangle$$

scalar multiplication:

$$5 \cdot \langle 1, -2 \rangle = \langle 5, -10 \rangle$$



One can check that this example satisfies all 10 properties of being a vector space. Some we did in class and HW in earlier topics.

Ex: Let

$$V = M_{2,2} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \mid a, b, c, d \text{ are real numbers} \right\}$$

$$= \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 5 & \pi \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ 5 & 3 \end{pmatrix}, \dots \right\}$$

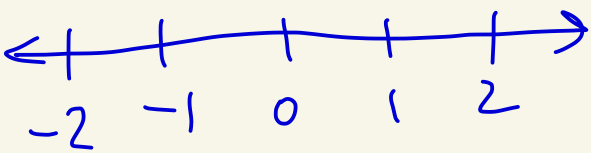
these are the "vectors"

infinitely many more

scalars

and  $F = \mathbb{R}$

field  $F = \mathbb{R}$



vectors  $V = M_{2,2}$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 5 & -1 \\ \frac{1}{2} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \pi & \pi \\ \pi & \pi \end{pmatrix}$$

We will use the usual addition

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} e & f \\ g & h \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a+e & b+f \\ c+g & d+h \end{pmatrix}$$

and scalar multiplication

$$\alpha \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha a & \alpha b \\ \alpha c & \alpha d \end{pmatrix}$$

One can check that the 10 vector space properties hold.

Here the zero vector is

$$\vec{0} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

and the additive inverse of  $\vec{v} = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$

$$\text{is } -\vec{v} = \begin{pmatrix} -a & -b \\ -c & -d \end{pmatrix}$$

So,  $V = M_{2,2}$  is a vector space over the field  $F = \mathbb{R}$ .

Ex: Pick some integer  $n \geq 0$

(So,  $n$  can be  $0, 1, 2, 3, 4, \dots$ )

Let  $V$  be the set of all polynomials of degree  $\leq n$ , denoted by  $P_n$ .

So,

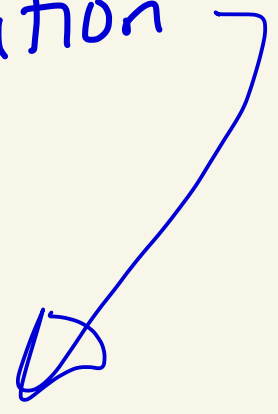
**"vectors"**

$V = P_n$

$= \left\{ a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + \dots + a_nx^n \mid \left. \begin{matrix} a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n \\ \text{are real} \\ \text{numbers} \end{matrix} \right\}$

Let  $F = \mathbb{R}$ . **Scalars**

Define vector addition as the usual polynomial addition



That is,

$$(a_0 + a_1x + \dots + a_nx^n) + (b_0 + b_1x + \dots + b_nx^n) \\ = (a_0 + b_0) + (a_1 + b_1)x + \dots + (a_n + b_n)x^n$$

Scalar multiplication is

$$\alpha (a_0 + a_1x + \dots + a_nx^n) \\ = (\alpha a_0) + (\alpha a_1)x + \dots + (\alpha a_n)x^n$$

Two polynomials are defined to be equal if they have the same coefficients. That is,

$$a_0 + a_1x + \dots + a_nx^n = b_0 + b_1x + \dots + b_nx^n$$

if and only if

$$a_0 = b_0, a_1 = b_1, \dots, a_n = b_n$$

Here,

$$\vec{0} = 0 + 0x + 0x^2 + \dots + 0x^n$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & - (a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + \dots + a_nx^n) \\ & = (-a_0) + (-a_1)x + (-a_2)x^2 + \dots + (-a_n)x^n \end{aligned}$$

One can verify that properties  
① - ⑩ are true and hence

$V = P_n$  is a vector space  
over  $F = \mathbb{R}$ .

Ex:  $F = \mathbb{R}$  ← Scalars

$V = P_3$  ← vectors

$= \{ a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 \mid a_0, a_1, a_2, a_3 \text{ are in } \mathbb{R} \}$

$= \{ 1 - x, \vec{0}, 10, \dots \}$

$1 + (-1)x + 0x^2 + 0x^3$

$10 + 0x + 0x^2 + 0x^3$

$0 + 0x + 0x^2 + 0x^3$

$1 + x - x^2 + x^3, x^3, \dots$

$0 + 0x + 0x^2 + 1 \cdot x^3$

infinitely many more

Examples of adding & scaling:

$(1 - x) + (1 + x - x^2 + x^3) = 2 - x^2 + x^3$

$5(1 + x - x^2 + x^3) = 5 + 5x - 5x^2 + 5x^3$

Notice that  $P_3$  behaves like  $\mathbb{R}^4$ . The powers of  $x$  are like placeholders.

$$(1 + 2x - x^2 + x^3) + (5 - x + x^2 + 2x^3) = 6 + x + 3x^3$$

This is like

$$\langle 1, 2, -1, 1 \rangle + \langle 5, -1, 1, 2 \rangle = \langle 6, 1, 0, 3 \rangle$$

and scaling

$$3 \cdot (1 + x - x^2 + 5x^3) = 3 + 3x - 3x^2 + 15x^3$$

that's like

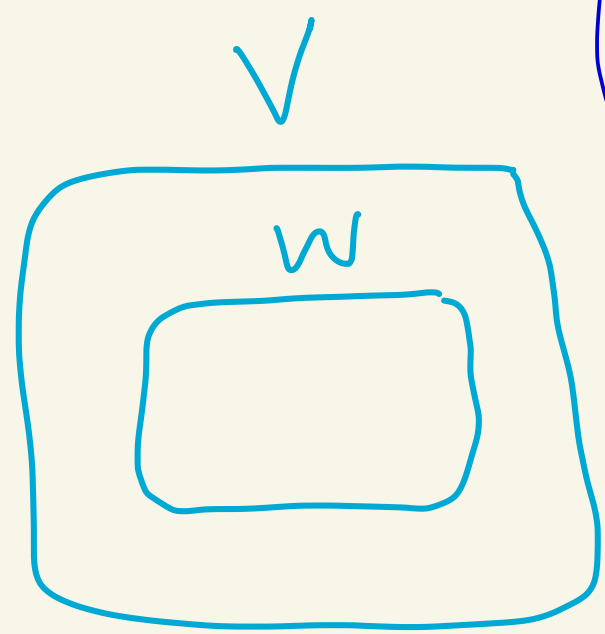
$$3 \langle 1, 1, -1, 5 \rangle = \langle 3, 3, -3, 15 \rangle$$



Def: Let  $V$  be a vector space over a field  $F$ . Let  $W$  be a subset of  $V$ .

We say that  $W$  is a subspace of  $V$

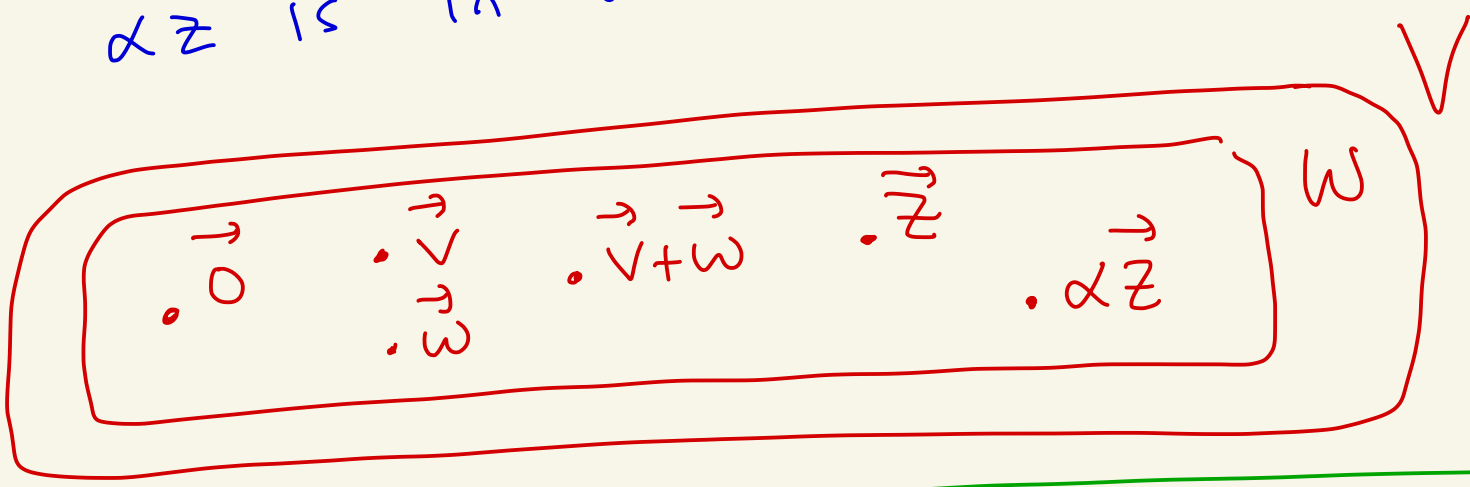
if the following three conditions hold:



- ①  $\vec{0}$  is in  $W$ .
- ② If  $\vec{v}$  and  $\vec{w}$  are in  $W$ , then  $\vec{v} + \vec{w}$  is in  $W$ .
- ③ If  $\vec{z}$  is in  $W$  and  $\alpha$  is in  $F$ , then  $\alpha \vec{z}$  is in  $W$ .

W is closed under vector addition

W is closed under scalar multiplication



Note: One can show that if  $W$  is a subspace of  $V$  if and only if  $W$  itself is a vector space living inside of  $V$ .

Ex: Consider the vector space  $V = \mathbb{R}^2$  over the field  $F = \mathbb{R}$ .

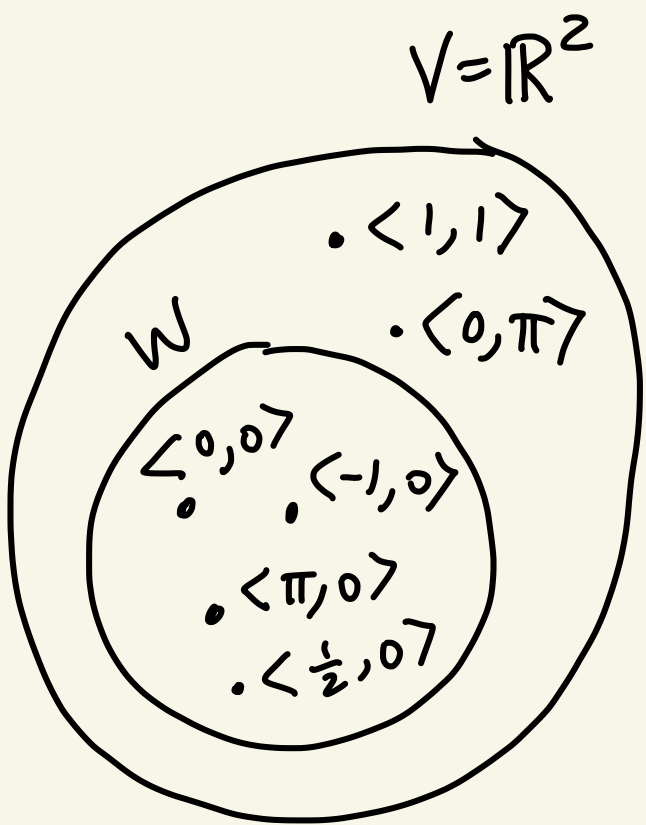
Let

$$W = \{ \langle x, 0 \rangle \mid x \in \mathbb{R} \}$$

$$= \{ \langle 0, 0 \rangle, \langle -1, 0 \rangle, \langle \pi, 0 \rangle, \dots \}$$

$x=0$                        $x=-1$                        $x=\pi$

infinitely many more



Let's prove that  $W$  is a subspace of  $V$ .

proof:

① Set  $x=0$  in  $\langle x, 0 \rangle$  and we get that  $\langle 0, 0 \rangle = \vec{0}$  is in  $W$ .

② Let  $\vec{v}, \vec{w}$  be in  $W$ .  
Then,  $\vec{v} = \langle x_1, 0 \rangle$  and  $\vec{w} = \langle x_2, 0 \rangle$   
where  $x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Then,  $\vec{v} + \vec{w} = \langle x_1 + x_2, 0 \rangle$   
which is an element of  $W$ .

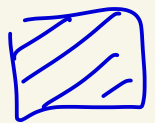
③ Let  $\vec{z}$  be in  $W$  and  $\alpha$  be in  $F = \mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $\vec{z}$  is in  $W$  we know that

$$\vec{z} = \langle x, 0 \rangle \text{ where } x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Then,  $\alpha \vec{z} = \alpha \langle x, 0 \rangle = \langle \alpha x, 0 \rangle$   
which is an element of  $W$ .

By ①, ②, and ③ we have that  $W$  is a subspace of  $V = \mathbb{R}^2$



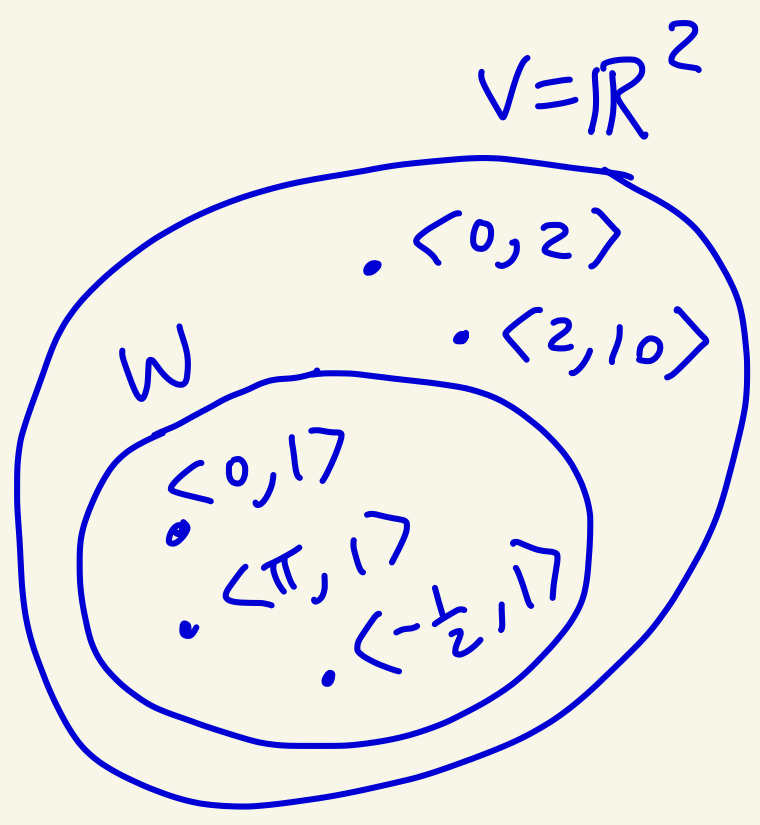
Ex: Consider the vector space  $V = \mathbb{R}^2$  over  $F = \mathbb{R}$ .

Consider

$$W = \{ \langle x, 1 \rangle \mid x \in \mathbb{R} \}$$

$$= \{ \underbrace{\langle 0, 1 \rangle}_{x=0}, \underbrace{\langle \pi, 1 \rangle}_{x=\pi}, \underbrace{\langle -\frac{1}{2}, 1 \rangle}_{x=-\frac{1}{2}}, \dots \}$$

↑  
infinitely many more



If turns out that  $W$  is not a subspace of  $V = \mathbb{R}^2$ .

For example:

① Note that  $\vec{0} = \langle 0, 0 \rangle$  is not of the form  $\langle x, 1 \rangle$ . Thus,  $\vec{0} \notin W$ .  
So  $W$  is not a subspace of  $V = \mathbb{R}^2$ .

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One could also show that ② or ③ don't hold for  $W$ .

For example:

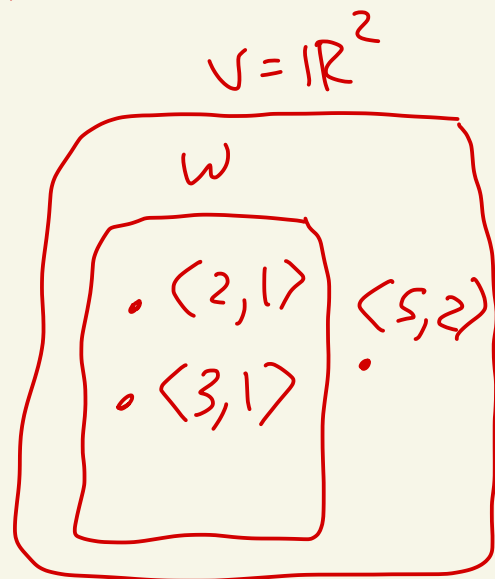
② Let  $\vec{v} = \langle 2, 1 \rangle$  and  $\vec{w} = \langle 3, 1 \rangle$ .

Then  $\vec{v}, \vec{w}$  are both in  $W$ .

$$\text{However, } \vec{v} + \vec{w} = \langle 2, 1 \rangle + \langle 3, 1 \rangle = \langle 5, 2 \rangle$$

which isn't in  $W$ .

Thus, condition ② doesn't hold and  $W$  is not a subspace of  $V = \mathbb{R}^2$ .



Ex: Let  $F = \mathbb{R}$  and

$$V = M_{2,2} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \mid a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

$$= \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 5 & \pi \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \dots \right\}$$



infinitely many more

We talked about how  $M_{2,2}$  is vector space

where vector addition is given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} e & f \\ g & h \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a+e & b+f \\ c+g & d+h \end{pmatrix}$$

and scalar multiplication is given by

$$\alpha \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha a & \alpha b \\ \alpha c & \alpha d \end{pmatrix}$$

$\alpha$  in  $F = \mathbb{R}$

Let

$$W = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \mid d = a + b, a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

$$= \left\{ \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}}_{2 = 1 + 1}, \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 5 & -10 \\ \frac{1}{2} & -5 \end{pmatrix}}_{-5 = 5 - 10}, \dots \right\}$$

↑  
 infinitely many more

Before we prove  $W$  is a subspace:

$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in W$  because  $0 = 0 + 0$ .

$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 5 & -10 \\ \frac{1}{2} & -5 \end{pmatrix} \in W$  and  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 5 & -10 \\ \frac{1}{2} & -5 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 6 & -9 \\ \frac{3}{2} & -3 \end{pmatrix} \in W$   
 because  $-3 = 6 - 9$

$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \in W$  and  $3 \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 3 \\ 3 & 6 \end{pmatrix} \in W$   
 because  $6 = 3 + 3$

Let's prove that  $W$  is a subspace of  $V = M_{2,2}$ .

proof: We need to check the 3 criteria from the previous theorem.

① Is  $\vec{0} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  in  $W$  ?

Yes, if we set  $a=b=c=d=0$   
then  $\vec{0} = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\frac{d=a+b}{0=0+0}$

② Is  $W$  closed under vector addition ?

Let  $\vec{v}$  and  $\vec{w}$  be in  $W$ .  
Then,  $\vec{v} = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & b_1 \\ c_1 & d_1 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\vec{w} = \begin{pmatrix} a_2 & b_2 \\ c_2 & d_2 \end{pmatrix}$   
where  $a_1, b_1, c_1, d_1, a_2, b_2, c_2, d_2 \in \mathbb{R}$   
and  $\frac{d_1 = a_1 + b_1}{\text{since } \vec{v} \in W}$  and  $\frac{d_2 = a_2 + b_2}{\text{since } \vec{w} \in W}$



Then,

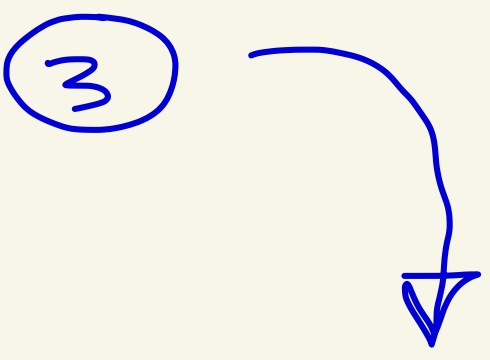
$$\vec{v} + \vec{w} = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 + a_2 & b_1 + b_2 \\ c_1 + c_2 & d_1 + d_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Adding  $d_1 = a_1 + b_1$  and  $d_2 = a_2 + b_2$   
 gives  $d_1 + d_2 = a_1 + b_1 + a_2 + b_2$

Regrouping gives

$$d_1 + d_2 = (a_1 + a_2) + (b_1 + b_2) \quad (*)$$

(\*) tells us that  $\vec{v} + \vec{w}$  is in  $W$ .  
 So,  $W$  is closed under vector addition.



③ Let's show that  $W$  is closed under scalar multiplication.

Let  $\vec{z} \in W$  and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$   
 $F = \mathbb{R}$

Since  $\vec{z} \in W$  we know that  
 $\vec{z} = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$  where  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R}$   
and  $d = a + b$ .

Then,  
 $\alpha \vec{z} = \alpha \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha a & \alpha b \\ \alpha c & \alpha d \end{pmatrix}$

Multiplying  $d = a + b$  by  $\alpha$  gives  
 $(\alpha d) = (\alpha a) + (\alpha b)$  (\*\*)

And (\*\*) tells us that  
 $\alpha \vec{z} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha a & \alpha b \\ \alpha c & \alpha d \end{pmatrix}$  is in  $W$ .

Thus,  $W$  is closed under scalar multiplication.

Since  $W$  satisfies properties

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①, ②, and ③ above,

$W$  is a subspace of  $V = M_{2,2}$ .

