

conversely, let  $W$  be a non-empty subset of  $V(F)$  such that  $\alpha x + \beta y \in W \rightarrow \textcircled{0} \forall \alpha, \beta \in F \ \& \ x, y \in W$   
we now show that  $W$  is a subspace of  $V(F)$ .

Taking  $\alpha = 1$  &  $\beta = -1$ , we get from  $\textcircled{0}$ ,

$$1 \cdot x + (-1) \cdot y \in W$$
$$\Rightarrow x - y \in W, \forall x, y \in W$$

This shows that  $W$  is a subgroup of an additive abelian group  $V$  and consequently  $W$  is an additive abelian group.

Again, since the element of  $W$  is also the element of  $V$  and  $V(F)$  is a vector space,

$$\therefore \alpha(x+y) = \alpha x + \beta y, \forall x, y \in W \ \& \ \forall \alpha \in F.$$

$$(\alpha + \beta)x = \alpha x + \beta x, \forall x \in W \ \& \ \alpha, \beta \in F$$

$$(\alpha\beta)x = \alpha(\beta x), \forall x \in W, \forall \alpha, \beta \in F$$

$$\& \ 1 \cdot x = x, \forall x \in W$$

where  $1$  is the multiplicative identity of  $F$ .

Hence,  $W$  is a vector space over  $F$  and therefore  $W$  is a subspace of  $V(F)$ .

This shows that the condition is sufficient. //

with any other vector space...

Theorem:- Show that the intersection of any number of subspace of a vector space is a subspace. Give an example to show that union of two subspaces of a vector space is not a subspace.

Proof:- Let,  $\{W_i \mid i \in \Delta, \text{ where } \Delta \text{ is an index set}\}$  be any collection of vector subspaces of a vector space  $V(F)$ . We are to show that  $\bigcap_{i \in \Delta} W_i$  is also a subspace of  $V(F)$ .

$$\text{Let, } W = \bigcap_{i \in \Delta} W_i$$

Let,  $x, y \in W$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in F$

Now,  $x, y \in W \Rightarrow x, y \in \bigcap_{i \in \Delta} W_i$

$$\Rightarrow x, y \in W_i, \forall i \in \Delta$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha x + \beta y \in W_i, \forall i \in \Delta$$

[ $\because W_i$ 's are subspace of  $V(F)$ ]

$$\Rightarrow \alpha x + \beta y \in \bigcap_{i \in \Delta} W_i$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha x + \beta y \in W$$

$\therefore \alpha x + \beta y \in W, \forall \alpha, \beta \in F, \forall x, y \in W$

This shows that  $W$  is a subspace of  $V(F)$ .



However union of two subspaces of a vector space may not be a subspace. for this see an example below.

Let us consider the vector space  $\mathbb{R}^2(\mathbb{R})$ .

$$\text{Let, } W_1 = \{(x_1, 0) \mid x_1 \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

$$W_2 = \{(0, y_1) \mid y_1 \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

Clearly  $W_1$  &  $W_2$  both are subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^2(\mathbb{R})$

However,

$$W_1 \cup W_2 = \{(x_1, 0), (0, y_1) \mid x_1, y_1 \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

is not a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^2(\mathbb{R})$ .

For  $(x_1, 0), (0, y_1) \in W_1 \cup W_2$ , but

$$(x_1, 0) + (0, y_1) = (x_1, y_1) \notin W_1 \cup W_2$$

In particular  $(1, 0), (0, 1) \in W_1 \cup W_2$ , but

$$(1, 0) + (0, 1) = (1, 1) \notin W_1 \cup W_2$$

Theorem:- If  $W_1$  &  $W_2$  both are subspaces of  $V(F)$ , then  $W_1 \cup W_2$  is also a subspace of  $V(F)$  if and only if either  $W_1 \subseteq W_2$  or  $W_2 \subseteq W_1$ .

Proof:- Given that  $W_1$  &  $W_2$  both are subspaces of a vector space  $V(F)$ . We are to show that,

$$W_1 \cup W_2 \text{ is a subspace of } V(F) \Leftrightarrow \text{either } W_1 \subseteq W_2 \text{ or } W_2 \subseteq W_1$$

First let,  $W_1 \cup W_2$  is a subspace of  $V(F)$ .

We are to show that either  $W_1 \subseteq W_2$  or  $W_2 \subseteq W_1$ .

Let,  $W_1 \not\subseteq W_2$ , to show  $W_2 \subseteq W_1$

Since,  $W_1 \not\subseteq W_2 \Rightarrow \exists w_1 \in W_1$  s.t.  $w_1 \notin W_2$

Let,  $x$  be any element of  $W_2$

$$\text{Now, } w_1 \in W_1 \text{ \& } x \in W_2$$

$$\Rightarrow w_1, x \in W_1 \cup W_2$$

$$\Rightarrow x + w_1 \in W_1 \cup W_2 \text{ [}\because W_1 \cup W_2 \text{ is a subspace]}$$

$$\Rightarrow x + w_1 \in W_1 \text{ or } x + w_1 \in W_2$$