

resulting set remains a basis of V . The following

Cases may arise:

(i) $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_r$ all come to the basis, new basis containing some α 's. In this case $r < n$

(ii) β_1, \dots, β_r exhaust all α 's and form a new basis. In this case $r = n$

It can not happen that $r > n$. Because, then by

replacement theorem, n vectors $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_n$ will come to the basis replacing all α 's one after another and $\{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_n\}$ becomes a new basis of V . So, the remaining vectors, $\beta_{n+1}, \beta_{n+2}, \dots, \beta_r$ of V will each be a linear combination of β_1, \dots, β_n showing that the set $\{\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_n, \beta_{n+1}, \dots, \beta_r\}$ is linearly dependent, a contradiction.

So, $r \leq n$. This completes the proof

~~Proposition~~ Corollary 2.2.4 Any two bases of a finite dimensional vector space V have the same number of vectors.

Proof: Let $\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n\}$ and $\{\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_m\}$ be two

bases of a finite dimensional vector space V .

Since $\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n\}$ is a basis of V and $\{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_m\}$

is a linearly independent set of vectors in V ,

so, $m \leq n$. Since $\{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_m\}$ is a basis of V

and $\{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n\}$ is linearly independent in V , so $n \leq m$

Hence $n = m$.

Definition 2.2.5. The number of vectors in a basis of a vector space V is said to be the dimension of V and is denoted by $\dim V$. The null space $\{0\}$ is said to be of dimension zero.

Examples 1. $\dim \mathbb{R}^2 = 2$ as $E = \{(1,0), (0,1)\}$ is a basis of \mathbb{R}^2

The dimension of \mathbb{R}^n is n as

$E = \{(1,0,0,\dots,0), (0,1,0,\dots,0), \dots, (0,0,\dots,0,1)\}$ forms a basis of \mathbb{R}^n

2. The dimension of the vector space $M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{R})$ is of all $m \times n$ real matrices is mn since the set

$\{E_{ij} : i=1, \dots, m; j=1, \dots, n\}$ forms a basis

of $M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{R})$ where E_{ij} is an $m \times n$ matrix having 1 as the ij th element and all other elements are 0.

3. The dimension of $P_n(\mathbb{R})$, the vector space of all real polynomials of degree at most n , is $n+1$ as $\{1, x, x^2, \dots, x^n\}$ forms a basis of $P_n(\mathbb{R})$

Theorem 2.2.6 Let V be a vector space of dimension n over a field F . Then any linearly independent set of n vectors is a basis of V

Proof: Let $\{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n\}$ be a linearly independent set of vectors in V . Let β be an arbitrary vector

in V and $\beta \neq \alpha_i, i=1, 2, \dots, n$. Since $\dim V = n$, any basis of V contains n vectors and the set $\{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n, \beta\}$ which contains $n+1$ vectors is linearly dependent. So, \exists scalars c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n, c not all zero, in F such that

$$\sum_{i=1}^n c_i \alpha_i + c \beta = \theta \quad \dots (i)$$

We assert that $c \neq 0$.

Because, if $c=0$ implies $\sum_{i=1}^n c_i \alpha_i = \theta$ where c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n are not all zero, this implies the linear dependence of $\{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n\}$, a contradiction.

Since $c \neq 0$, $c^{-1} \in F$ and $c^{-1}c = 1$, 1 being the unity in F .

From (i), $\beta = \sum_{i=1}^n (-c^{-1}c_i) \alpha_i = \sum_{i=1}^n d_i \alpha_i$ where

$$d_i = -c^{-1}c_i, i=1, \dots, n$$

This shows that β is a linear combination of $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n$. If however $\beta = \alpha_i$, for some i ,

then β is a linear combination of $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n$.

$$\text{Hence } L(\{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n\}) = V$$

So, $\{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n\}$ is a basis of V .

Theorem 2.2.7 Let V be a vector space of dimension n over a field F . Then any subset of n vectors of V that generates V , is a basis of V .

Proof: Since $\dim V = n$, any basis of V contains n vectors. Let $S = \{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n\}$ be a generating set of V , i.e., $L(S) = V$. We prove that S is linearly independent in V .

If S be linearly dependent, then by deletion theorem, \exists a proper subset S_1 of S such that S_1 is linearly independent in V and $L(S_1) = V$. So, S_1 is a basis of V containing less than n vectors of V and that contradicts the fact that $\dim V = n$.

So, S is linearly independent. So, S is a basis of V as $L(S) = V$.

Theorem 2.2.8 Let S be a linearly independent subset of a vector space V , and let v be a vector in V that is not in S . Then $S \cup \{v\}$ is linearly dependent if and only if $v \in L(S)$.

Proof: If $S \cup \{v\}$ is linearly dependent then there are vectors u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n in $S \cup \{v\}$ such that

$$\sum_{i=1}^n c_i u_i = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{for non-zero scalars } c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n \text{ not all zero.}$$

Because S is linearly independent, one of the u_i 's, say u_1 , equals v . So, $c_1 v + \sum_{i=2}^n c_i u_i = \mathbf{0}$.

$$\text{So, } v = \sum_{i=2}^n (-c_i^{-1} c_1) u_i \text{ as } c_1 \neq 0 \text{ (In fact all}$$

of c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n are non-zero.)