Span and Intersection of Subspaces

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• Given vectors u_1, u_2, \ldots, u_m in a vector space V, their linear span is the set of all linear combinations: $span(u_1, u_2, \ldots, u_m) = \{a_1u_1 + a_2u_2 + \cdots + a_mu_m \mid a_i \in \mathbb{K}\}$

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• The zero vector always belongs to the span.

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- Theorem:
 - (i) $\operatorname{span}(S)$ is a subspace of V that contains S.
 - (ii) If W is a subspace of V containing S, then $\operatorname{span}(S) \subseteq W$.

• Example 1: Span of $u_1 = (1,0)$ and $u_2 = (0,1)$ in \mathbb{R}^2 is the entire plane \mathbb{R}^2 .

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- Example 4: Span of $u_1 = (1, 1, 1)$, $u_2 = (0, 1, 2)$, $u_3 = (1, 0, 1)$ in \mathbb{R}^3 is the entire space \mathbb{R}^3 .

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- Example 5: Span of the rows of matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$ is the line defined by (1,2) because the second row is a multiple of the first.

• Let U and W be subspaces of a vector space V.

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- Let $u, v \in U \cap W$, so $u, v \in U$ and $u, v \in W$.



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- The zero vector belongs to both U and W, so $0 \in U \cap W$.
- Let $u, v \in U \cap W$, so $u, v \in U$ and $u, v \in W$.
- Since U and W are subspaces, $au + bv \in U$ and $au + bv \in W$ for all scalars $a, b \in K$.

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- Since U and W are subspaces, $au + bv \in U$ and $au + bv \in W$ for all scalars $a, b \in K$.
- Therefore, $au + bv \in U \cap W$.
- Hence, $U \cap W$ is a subspace of V.

Theorem

The intersection of any number of subspaces of a vector space V is a subspace of V.

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• In \mathbb{R}^2 : $U = \operatorname{span}\{(1,0)\}, W = \operatorname{span}\{(0,1)\}$

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- Intersection: $U \cap W = \{(0,0)\}$

• In \mathbb{R}^3 : $U = \operatorname{span}\{(1,0,0), (0,1,0)\}$

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Numerical Example 3



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• Let's assume B lies in the column space of A, so the intersection is: span $\{(1,2,3)^T\}$

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• U =span $\{(1, 2, 3), (4, 5, 6)\}$

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- U =span $\{(1, 2, 3), (4, 5, 6)\}$
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- W =span $\{(1,0,0), (0,1,0)\}$
- The intersection lies in the XY-plane; the exact intersection can be found by solving the system.

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Thank You!