



1.31 The number  $-1$  times a vector

$$(-1)v = -v \text{ for every } v \in V.$$

Proof For  $v \in V$ , we have

$$v + (-1)v = 1v + (-1)v = (1 + (-1))v = 0v = 0.$$

This equation says that  $(-1)v$ , when added to  $v$ , gives  $0$ . Thus  $(-1)v$  is the additive inverse of  $v$ , as desired. ■

## EXERCISES 1.B

- 1 Prove that  $-(-v) = v$  for every  $v \in V$ .  
*By definition we know  $(-v) + (-(-v)) = 0$ ,  $(-v) + v = 0$ , so  $(-(-v)) = v$  □*
- 2 Suppose  $a \in \mathbf{F}$ ,  $v \in V$ , and  $av = 0$ . Prove that  $a = 0$  or  $v = 0$ .  
*If  $a = 0$ , we have proved. If  $a \neq 0$ , suppose  $v \neq 0$ , then  $a^{-1} \cdot av = a^{-1} \cdot 0 = 0$ , but  $a^{-1} \cdot av$  also  $= (a^{-1} \cdot a) \cdot v = v$ . Contradiction. So  $v = 0$ . □*
- 3 Suppose  $v, w \in V$ . Explain why there exists a unique  $x \in V$  such that  $v + 3x = w$ .  
*Let  $x = \frac{w-v}{3}$ , so  $v + 3x = v + (w-v) = w$ . This shows the existence. Suppose we have another vector  $x'$  such that  $v + 3x' = w$ , so  $3(x - x') = (w-v) - (w-v) = 0$ . This shows the uniqueness. □*
- 4 The empty set is not a vector space. The empty set fails to satisfy only one of the requirements listed in 1.19. Which one?  
*In fact, all the requirements are not satisfied. Additive identity: 'There exists an element  $0 \in V$  such that  $v + 0 = v$  for all  $v \in V$ ' that shows*
- 5 Show that in the definition of a vector space (1.19), the additive inverse condition can be replaced with the condition that

We assume  $0v = 0$  for all  $v \in V$ , then:  $v + (-1)v = (1v) + (-1)v = 0v = 0$ .  
 $0v = 0$  for all  $v \in V$ .

This shows the existence of additive inverse, i.e. the additive inverse condition. □  
Here the  $0$  on the left side is the number  $0$ , and the  $0$  on the right side is the additive identity of  $V$ . (The phrase "a condition can be replaced" in a definition means that the collection of objects satisfying the definition is unchanged if the original condition is replaced with the new condition.)

- ★ Let  $\infty$  and  $-\infty$  denote two distinct objects, neither of which is in  $\mathbf{R}$ . Define an addition and scalar multiplication on  $\mathbf{R} \cup \{\infty\} \cup \{-\infty\}$  as you could guess from the notation. Specifically, the sum and product of two real numbers is as usual, and for  $t \in \mathbf{R}$  define

*If it is a vector over  $\mathbf{R}$ , we will have  $\infty = (2 + (-1))\infty = 2\infty + (-1)\infty = \infty + (-\infty) = 0$ . Thus, for any  $t \in \mathbf{R}$ , one has  $t\infty = \infty$  if  $t > 0$ ,  $t\infty = 0$  if  $t = 0$ ,  $t\infty = -\infty$  if  $t < 0$ . So the  $0$  is not unique, contradiction. □*

$$t\infty = \begin{cases} -\infty & \text{if } t < 0, \\ 0 & \text{if } t = 0, \\ \infty & \text{if } t > 0, \end{cases} \quad t(-\infty) = \begin{cases} \infty & \text{if } t < 0, \\ 0 & \text{if } t = 0, \\ -\infty & \text{if } t > 0, \end{cases}$$

$$t + \infty = \infty + t = \infty, \quad t + (-\infty) = (-\infty) + t = -\infty,$$

$$\infty + \infty = \infty, \quad (-\infty) + (-\infty) = -\infty, \quad \infty + (-\infty) = 0.$$

Is  $\mathbf{R} \cup \{\infty\} \cup \{-\infty\}$  a vector space over  $\mathbf{R}$ ? Explain. *Isn't.*

*Associativity: Note that  $\infty + \infty + (-\infty) = (\infty + \infty) + (-\infty) = \infty + (-\infty) = 0$ . But also  $\infty + \infty + (-\infty) = \infty + (\infty + (-\infty)) = \infty + 0 = \infty$ . So  $0 = \infty$ , contradiction. □*



If  $u \in U$ , then  $-u$  [which equals  $(-1)u$  by 1.31] is also in  $U$  by the third condition above. Hence every element of  $U$  has an additive inverse in  $U$ .

The other parts of the definition of a vector space, such as associativity and commutativity, are automatically satisfied for  $U$  because they hold on the larger space  $V$ . Thus  $U$  is a vector space and hence is a subspace of  $V$ . ■

The three conditions in the result above usually enable us to determine quickly whether a given subset of  $V$  is a subspace of  $V$ . You should verify all the assertions in the next example.

### 1.35 Example subspaces

- (a) If  $b \in \mathbf{F}$ , then  $\{(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) \in \mathbf{F}^4 : x_3 = 5x_4 + b\}$  is a subspace of  $\mathbf{F}^4$  if and only if  $b = 0$ .  
*(0, 0, 0, 0) is in it if and only if  $b = 0$ . Obviously, it satisfies closed under addition and scalar multiplication.* □

- (b) The set of continuous real-valued functions on the interval  $[0, 1]$  is a subspace of  $\mathbf{R}^{[0,1]}$ . *Similar to (a)*

- (c) The set of differentiable real-valued functions on  $\mathbf{R}$  is a subspace of  $\mathbf{R}^{\mathbf{R}}$ . *Similar to (a)*

- (d) The set of differentiable real-valued functions  $f$  on the interval  $(0, 3)$  such that  $f'(2) = b$  is a subspace of  $\mathbf{R}^{(0,3)}$  if and only if  $b = 0$ .

- (e) The set of all sequences of complex numbers with limit 0 is a subspace of  $\mathbf{C}^\infty$ . *Obviously  $(0, 0, \dots)$  is an element of it. Closed under addition: Consider  $(a_1, a_2, \dots)$  and  $(b_1, b_2, \dots)$*

Verifying some of the items above shows the linear structure underlying parts of calculus. For example, the second item above requires the result that the sum of two continuous functions is continuous. As another example, the fourth item above requires the result that for a constant  $c$ , the derivative of  $cf$  equals  $c$  times the derivative of  $f$ .

The subspaces of  $\mathbf{R}^2$  are precisely  $\{0\}$ ,  $\mathbf{R}^2$ , and all lines in  $\mathbf{R}^2$  through the origin. The subspaces of  $\mathbf{R}^3$  are precisely  $\{0\}$ ,  $\mathbf{R}^3$ , all lines in  $\mathbf{R}^3$  through the origin, and all planes in  $\mathbf{R}^3$  through the origin. To prove that all these objects are indeed subspaces is easy—the hard part is to show that they are the only subspaces of  $\mathbf{R}^2$  and  $\mathbf{R}^3$ . That task will be easier after we introduce some additional tools in the next chapter.

Clearly  $\{0\}$  is the smallest subspace of  $V$  and  $V$  itself is the largest subspace of  $V$ . The empty set is not a subspace of  $V$  because a subspace must be a vector space and hence must contain at least one element, namely, an additive identity.

*closed under scalar multiplication? Consider  $(a_1, a_2, \dots)$  such that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$ . Thus,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lambda a_n (\lambda \in \mathbf{R}) = \lambda \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \lambda \cdot 0 = 0$*  □