

LAST TIME, WE TALKED ABOUT EUCLIDEAN VECTORS, WHICH YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN FAMILIAR WITH FROM PHYSICS. BUT THIS REPRESENTS ONLY ONE TYPE OF VECTOR.

WHAT IS A VECTOR? IT'S ANYTHING IN A VECTOR SPACE.  
BEGS THE QUESTION — WHAT IS A VECTOR SPACE?

A SET  $V$  IS CALLED A VECTOR SPACE IF ALL OF THESE ARE TRUE:

- 1) FOR ALL  $u, v \in V$ ,  $u+v \in V$  (CLOSURE UNDER ADDITION)
- 2)  $u+v = v+u$  (COMMUTATIVITY OF ADDITION)
- 3)  $u+(v+w) = (u+v)+w$  (ASSOCIATIVITY OF ADDITION)
- 4) THERE IS SOME VECTOR  $z$  SUCH THAT  $u+z = z+u = u$  (ADDITIVE IDENTITY)
- 5)  $u+(-u) = z$  (ADDITIVE INVERSE)
- 6) FOR ALL  $k \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $u \in V$ ,  $ku \in V$  (CLOSURE UNDER SCALAR MULT.)
- 7)  $(kl)u = k(lu)$  (ASSOCIATIVITY OF SCALAR MULT.)
- 8)  $1 \cdot u = u$  (MULTIPLICATIVE IDENTITY)
- 9)  $k(u+v) = ku + kv$  (DISTRIBUTIVITY I)
- 10)  $(k+l)u = ku + lu$  (DISTRIBUTIVITY II)

SOME EXAMPLES OF VECTOR SPACES:

- $\mathbb{R}^n$  (n-DIMENSIONAL VECTORS)
- $P_2$  (SET OF ALL QUADRATICS, LINES, AND CONSTANTS)
- $M_{2 \times 3}$  (SET OF  $2 \times 3$  MATRICES)

NOTE: IF IT FAILS ANY ONE OF THE 10 AXIOMS, THEN IT'S NOT A VECTOR SPACE, NO NEED TO CONTINUE.

A SUBSET  $F$  OF A SET  $E$  MEANS THAT EVERYTHING IN  $F$  IS ALSO IN  $E$ , BUT NOT NECESSARILY VICE VERSA.

A SUBSPACE IS A SUBSET THAT IS ALSO A VECTOR SPACE.

THE 3-STEP SUBSPACE TEST:

- 1) CHECK THAT  $V \neq \emptyset$  (i.e.,  $V$  IS NOT EMPTY)
- 2) CHECK CLOSURE UNDER ADDITION (AXIOM 1)
- 3) CHECK CLOSURE UNDER SCALAR MULT. (AXIOM 6)