

MAT 240, Fall 2008  
Solutions to Problem Set 2

1. In this problem we need to determine if given  $V$  is a field.

- (a) If  $V = \{(a_1, a_2) | a_1, a_2 \in \mathbb{R}\}$ ,  $F = \mathbb{R}$ ,  $(a_1, a_2) + (b_1, b_2) = (a_1 + b_1, a_2 + b_2)$  and  $c(a_1, a_2) = (ca_1 + c - 1, ca_2 + c - 1)$ , then  $V$  is not a field since axioms (VS7) and (VS8) fail. Indeed,  $c((a_1, a_2) + (b_1, b_2)) = c(a_1 + b_1, a_2 + b_2) = (c(a_1 + b_1) + c - 1, c(a_2 + b_2) + c - 1)$ , but  $c(a_1, a_2) + c(b_1, b_2) = (ca_1 + c - 1, ca_2 + c - 1) + (cb_1 + c - 1, cb_2 + c - 1) = (c(a_1 + b_1) + 2c - 1, c(a_2 + b_2) + 2c - 1)$ . If we take, for example,  $c = 1$ ,  $a_1 = a_2 = b_1 = b_2 = 1$ , we get that  $c((a_1, a_2) + (b_1, b_2)) = (5, 5) \neq (6, 6) = c(a_1, a_2) + c(b_1, b_2)$ , so the property (VS7) does not hold. Moreover,  $(c+d)(a_1, a_2) = (ca_1 + da_1 + c + d - 1, ca_2 + da_2 + c + d - 1)$  and  $c(a_1, a_2) + d(a_1, a_2) = (ca_1 + da_1 + c + d - 2, ca_2 + da_2 + c + d - 2)$ , which are not equal if we take, for example,  $c = d = 1$ ,  $a_1 = a_2 = 1$ .
- (b) If  $V = P(\mathbb{C})$ ,  $F = \mathbb{C}$ , and  $(f + g)(z) = f(z) + g(z)$ ,  $(cf)(z) = f(cz)$  for  $c \in \mathbb{C}$ , then  $V$  is not a vector space over  $F$  since the axiom (VS8) fails. Indeed, for any  $c, d \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $((c+d)f)(z) = f((c+d)z)$  and  $((cf) + (df))(z) = (cf)(z) + (df)(z) = f(cz) + f(dz)$ . Take, for example,  $f(z) = z^2$  and  $c = d = 1$ , then  $f((c+d)z) = 4z^2 \neq 2z^2 = f(cz) + f(dz)$ .
- (c) If  $V = \{f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} | f(n) > 0 \text{ for all } n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  with addition  $(f + g)(n) = f(n)g(n)$  and scalar multiplication  $(cf)(n) = (f(n))^c$ ,  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $V$  is a vector space over  $\mathbb{R}$ . We check all axioms in their order for any  $f, g, h \in V$  and  $c, d \in \mathbb{R}$ :
- (VS1)  $(f + g)(n) = f(n)g(n) = g(n)f(n) = (g + f)(n)$ , since multiplication is commutative in  $\mathbb{R}$ ;
- (VS2)  $((f + g) + h)(n) = (f + g)(n)h(n) = (f(n)g(n))h(n) = f(n)(g(n)h(n)) = (f + (g + h))(n)$ , since multiplication is associative in  $\mathbb{R}$ ;
- (VS3) zero vector is  $\phi(n) = 1$  since  $(f + \phi)(n) = f(n)\phi(n) = f(n) \cdot 1 = f(n)$  (note,  $1 > 0$ , so  $\phi \in V$ );
- (VS4) let  $(-f)(n) = \frac{1}{f(n)}$  which exists since  $f(n) > 0$  and  $\frac{1}{f(n)} > 0$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , so  $-f \in V$ ; then  $(f + (-f))(n) = 1 = \phi(n)$ ;
- (VS5)  $(1 \cdot f)(n) = f^1(n) = f(n)$ ;
- (VS6)  $((cd)f)(n) = f^{cd}(n) = f^{dc}(n) = (f^d(n))^c = (cf^d)(n) = (c(d \cdot f))(n)$ , since multiplication is commutative in  $\mathbb{R}$ ;
- (VS7)  $(c(f + g))(n) = (f + g)^c(n) = (f(n)g(n))^c = f^c(n)g^c(n) = (cf + cg)(n)$ ;
- (VS8)  $((c + d)f)(n) = f^{c+d}(n) = f^c(n)f^d(n) = (cf + df)(n)$ .
- (d) Let  $V = \{(a_1, a_2) | a_1, a_2 \in \mathbb{F}_5\}$ ,  $F = \mathbb{F}_5$ ,  $(a_1, a_2) + (b_1, b_2) = (a_1 + b_1 \pmod{5}, a_2 + b_2 \pmod{5})$  and  $c(a_1, a_2) = (ca_1 \pmod{5}, ca_2 \pmod{5})$ ,  $c \in \mathbb{F}_5$ . Then,  $V$  is not a vector space over  $F$  since axioms (VS4), (VS7) and (VS8) are not satisfied. We will assume that all operations are done modulo 5. The zero vector is  $(1, 0)$  since for any  $(a_1, a_2) \in V$ ,  $(a_1, a_2) + (1, 0) = (a_1 + 1, a_2 + 0) = (a_1 + 1, a_2)$ . Then any vector of form  $(0, a_2) \in V$  does not have the inverse since for any  $(b_1, b_2) \in V$ ,  $(0, a_2) + (b_1, b_2) = (b_1, a_2 + b_2) \neq (1, 0)$ . Moreover, for any  $c \in \mathbb{F}_5$ , and any  $(a_1, a_2), (b_1, b_2) \in V$ ,  $c((a_1, a_2) + (b_1, b_2)) = (ca_1 + cb_1, ca_2 + cb_2)$  and  $c(a_1, a_2) + c(b_1, b_2) = (ca_1, ca_2) + (cb_1, cb_2) = (c^2 a_1 + cb_1, ca_2 + cb_2)$ . Hence, if we take, for example,  $c = 2$ ,  $a_1 = b_1 = 1$ ,  $a_2 = b_2 = 0$ , we get that  $c((a_1, a_2) + (b_1, b_2)) = (2, 0) \neq$

$(4, 0) = c(a_1, a_2) + c(b_1, b_2)$ . Finally, if we take  $c = d = 1$  and  $(a_1, a_2) = (1, 0)$ , we have that  $(c + d)(a_1, a_2) = 2(1, 0) = (2, 0)$ , but  $c(a_1, a_2) + d(a_1, a_2) = 1(1, 0) + 1(1, 0) = (1, 0)$ . However,  $(2, 0) \neq (1, 0)$ , so axiom (VS8) fails.

- (e) Let  $V = \{f | f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\}$  and  $F = \mathbb{R}$ ,  $(f + g)(t) = \frac{1}{2}(f(t) + f(-t) + g(t) + g(-t))$  and  $(cf)(t) = c \cdot f(t)$ ,  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then  $V$  is not a vector space over  $F$  since axioms (VS3), (VS4), and (VS8) are not satisfied. If there were the zero vector  $\phi$  then for  $f(t) = t + 1$ ,  $(f + \phi)(t) = f(t)$ . So,  $\frac{1}{2}(f(t) + f(-t) + \phi(t) + \phi(-t)) = \frac{1}{2}(2 + \phi(t) + \phi(-t)) = t + 1$ , so  $\frac{1}{2}(\phi(t) + \phi(-t)) = t$ . But then also, if  $g(t) = t^2 + 1$ , we need that  $(g + \phi)(t) = g(t)$ . However,  $(g + \phi)(t) = t^2 + 1 + \frac{1}{2}(\phi(t) + \phi(-t)) = t^2 + t + 1 \neq t^2 + 1$ . Hence, there is no zero vector. If there is not zero vector, we cannot define the additive inverse. Also, if we take  $c = d = 1$  and  $f(t) = t$ , we get that  $((c + d)f)(t) = 2f(t) = 2t$  which is not equal to  $(cf + df)(t) = \frac{1}{2}(ct - ct + dt - dt) \equiv 0$ .
- (f) Given  $V = \{(z_1, z_2) | z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C}\}$ ,  $F = \mathbb{C}$  with addition  $(z_1, z_2) + (z'_1, z'_2) = (z_1 + z'_1, z_2 + z'_2)$  and scalar multiplication  $c(z_1, z_2) = (cz_1, \bar{c}z_2)$  is a vector space. Since addition is inherited from  $\mathbb{C}^2$ , axioms (VS1)-(VS4) hold, and we will not check them here.
- (VS5) Multiplicative identity is 1 since for all  $(z_1, z_2) \in V$ ,  $1 \cdot (z_1, z_2) = (1 \cdot z_1, \bar{1} \cdot z_2) = (1 \cdot z_1, 1 \cdot z_2) = (z_1, z_2)$ .
- (VS6) For any  $c, d \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $(cd)(z_1, z_2) = ((cd)z_1, \overline{cd}z_2) = (c(dz_1), \bar{c}(\bar{d}z_2)) = c(d(z_1, z_2))$ .
- (VS7) For any  $c \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $c((z_1, z_2) + (z'_1, z'_2)) = c(z_1 + z'_1, z_2 + z'_2) = (c(z_1 + z'_1), \bar{c}(z_2 + z'_2)) = (cz_1 + cz'_1, \bar{c}z_2 + \bar{c}z'_2) = (cz_1, \bar{c}z_2) + (cz'_1, \bar{c}z'_2) = c(z_1, z_2) + c(z'_1, z'_2)$ .
- (VS8) For any  $c, d \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $(cd)(z_1, z_2) = ((cd)z_1, \overline{cd}z_2) = (c(dz_1), \bar{c}(\bar{d}z_2)) = c(dz_1, \bar{d}z_2) = c(d(z_1, z_2))$ .

2. Let  $V$  be a vector space over a field  $F$ . We need to show that inverse of a vector is unique. Let  $x \in V$  and assume that there exist  $y_1, y_2 \in V$  such that  $x + y_1 = x + y_2 = 0$ . Then we have that

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_1 &= y_1 + 0 && (0 \text{ is the zero vector in } V) \\
 &= y_1 + (x + y_2) && (\text{by our assumption}) \\
 &= (y_1 + x) + y_2 && (\text{associativity of addition in } V) \\
 &= (x + y_1) + y_2 && (\text{commutativity of addition in } V) \\
 &= 0 + y_2 && (\text{by our assumption}) \\
 &= y_2 + 0 && (\text{commutativity of addition in } V) \\
 &= y_2 && (0 \text{ is the zero vector in } V).
 \end{aligned}$$

3. For a given subset  $W \subset V$ , where  $V = \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $n \geq 3$ , we need to determine if  $W$  is a subspace of  $V$ . In each part of the problem, we will demonstrate that requirements of Theorem 1.3 are either satisfied or not satisfied. Let  $x = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$ , and  $y = (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n)$ .

- (a) The subset  $W = \{x \in V | a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_{n-1} = a_n\}$  is a subspace. Obviously,  $0 = (0, 0, \dots, 0)$  is in  $W$  since  $0 + 0 + \dots + 0 = 0$ . Let  $x, y \in W$ . Then,  $x + y = (a_1 + b_1, a_2 + b_2, \dots, a_n + b_n)$  and  $(a_1 + b_1) + (a_2 + b_2) + \dots + (a_{n-1} + b_{n-1}) = (a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_{n-1}) + (b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_{n-1}) = a_n + b_n$ , since  $x, y \in W$ . So  $x + y \in W$ . Finally, for above  $x$  and  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ , we have that  $cx = (ca_1, ca_2, \dots, ca_n)$  and  $ca_1 + ca_2 + \dots + ca_{n-1} = c(a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_{n-1}) = ca_n$ , since  $x \in W$ . Hence  $cx \in W$ . Therefore, by Theorem 1.3,  $W$  is a subspace of  $V$ .
- (b) If  $W = \{x \in V | a_1^2 a_3 = -a_2\}$ , then  $W$  is not a subspace of  $V$  since. Let  $x \in W$ . Then,  $cx = (ca_1, ca_2, ca_3, \dots, ca_n)$ , and we know that  $a_1^2 a_3 = -a_2$  since  $x \in W$ . However,  $(ca_1)^2 (ca_3) = c^3 a_1 a_3 \neq ca_2$  for, for example,  $c = 2$ ,  $a_1 = a_2 = a_3 = 1$ .
- (c) Let  $W = \{x \in V | a_1 - \sqrt{3}a_2 = 4a_3\}$ . Then  $W$  is a subspace of  $V$ . Indeed,  $0 = (0, 0, \dots, 0) \in W$  since  $0 - \sqrt{3} \cdot 0 = 0 = 4 \cdot 0$ . Let  $x, y \in W$ . Then  $x + y = (a_1 + b_1, a_2 + b_2, \dots, a_n + b_n)$

and  $(a_1 + b_1) - \sqrt{3}(a_2 + b_2) = (a_1 - \sqrt{3}a_2) + (b_1 - \sqrt{3}b_2) = 4a_3 + 4b_3 = 4(b_1 + b_3)$ , so  $x + y \in W$ . Finally, for any  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $cx = (ca_1, ca_2, ca_3, \dots, ca_n)$  and  $(ca_1) - \sqrt{3}(ca_2) = c(a_1 - \sqrt{3}a_2) = c(4a_3) = 4(ca_3)$ , so  $cx \in W$ . By Theorem 1.3,  $W$  is a subspace of  $V$ .

- (d) If  $W = \{x \in V \mid \sqrt{2}a_3 \in \mathbb{Q}\}$ ,  $W$  is not a subspace of  $V$ . Indeed,  $W$  needs to be a vector space over  $\mathbb{R}$ . However, if  $c = \sqrt{3}$ , then  $cx \notin W$  since  $\sqrt{2}(ca_3) = \sqrt{3}(\sqrt{2}a_3) \notin \mathbb{Q}$  because  $\sqrt{2}a_3 \in \mathbb{Q}$ .
- (e) If  $W = \{x \in V \mid a_1 \leq 1\}$ ,  $W$  is not a subspace of  $V$ . Let  $x \in W$  be such that  $0 < a_1 < 1$ . Then take  $c > \frac{1}{a_1} \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then  $ca_1 > \frac{1}{a_1}a_1 > 1$ , so  $cx \notin W$ .

4. Let  $V = P(\mathbb{C})$ . For given  $W \subset V$ , we need to determine if  $W$  is a subspace of  $V$ .

- (a) If  $W = \{f \in V \mid f(1+i) = if(1-i)\}$ ,  $W$  is a subspace of  $V$ . Obviously, zero vector of  $V$  is  $\zeta(z) \equiv 0$  and  $\zeta(1+i) = 0 = i\zeta(1-i)$ , so  $\zeta \in W$ . Assume that  $f, g \in W$ . Then  $(f+g)(1+i) = f(1+i) + g(1+i) = if(1-i) + ig(1-i) = i((f+g)(1-i))$ . Hence,  $f+g \in W$ . Given  $c \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $(cf)(1+i) = c \cdot f(1+i) = c \cdot if(1-i) = i((cf)(1-i))$ , implying that  $cf \in W$ . Therefore, by Theorem 1.3,  $W$  is a subspace of  $V$ .
- (b) If  $W = \{f \in V \mid f(i)^2 = f(-1)^2\}$ , then  $W$  is not a subspace of  $V$ . To show this, let  $f(z) = 1$  and  $g(z) = z^2$ . Then  $f(i)^2 = 1 = f(-1)^2$  and  $g(i)^2 = (-1)^2 = 1 = g(-1)^2$ , so  $f, g \in W$ . However,  $f+g \notin W$ . Indeed,  $(f+g)(z) = 1+z^2$ , so  $(f+g)(i) = 1+i^2 = 0$  and  $(f+g)(-1) = 1+(-1)^2 = 2$ . But  $0^2 \neq 2^2$ .
- (c) Let  $W = \{f \in V \mid f(iz) = if(z) + f(-z)\}$ . To prove that  $W$  is a subspace of  $V$ , first we check that zero function, which is the zero vector in  $P(\mathbb{C})$  belongs to  $W$ . Indeed, if  $\phi(z) = 0$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ , then  $\phi(iz) = 0 = i \cdot 0 + 0 = i\phi(z) + \phi(-z)$ . Hence,  $\phi \in W$ . Then, assume that  $f, g \in W$ , that is  $f(iz) = if(z) + f(-z)$  and  $g(iz) = ig(z) + g(-z)$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ . Then,  $(f+g)(iz) = f(iz) + g(iz) = (if(z) + f(-z)) + (ig(z) + g(-z)) = i(f(z) + g(z)) + (f(-z) + g(-z)) = i((f+g)(z)) + (f+g)(-z)$ , so  $f+g \in W$ . Finally, let  $c \in \mathbb{C}$ . Then  $(cf)(iz) = c \cdot f(iz) = c(if(z) + f(-z)) = icf(z) + cf(-z) = i((cf)(z)) + (cf)(-z)$ , which implies that  $cf \in W$ . By Theorem 1.3,  $W$  is a subspace of  $V$ .
- (d) If  $W = \{f \in V \mid f(1) - \overline{f(i)} = 0\}$ , then  $W$  is not a subspace of  $V$ . To see this, let  $f(z) = (z-1)(z-i)+1$ . It is easy to check that  $f \in W$ . Let  $c = i$ . Then  $(cf)(1) - \overline{(cf)(i)} = i - \overline{i} = i - (-i) = 2i \neq 0$ . Hence,  $cf \notin W$ .
- (e) If  $W = \{f \in V \mid f(z) = a_n z^n + a_{n-1} z^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 z + a_0, \text{ and } a_j = 0 \text{ for all } j \text{ even: } a_0 = a_2 = a_4 = a_6 = \dots = 0\}$ , then  $W$  is a subspace of  $V$ . Obviously, zero function is in  $W$ . Without loss of generality, let  $n \geq m$  and  $f(z) = a_{2m+1} z^{2m+1} + a_{2m-1} z^{2m-1} + \dots + a_3 z^3 + a_1 z$  and  $g(z) = b_{2n+1} z^{2n+1} + b_{2n-1} z^{2n-1} + \dots + b_{2m+1} z^{2m+1} + b_{2m-1} z^{2m-1} + \dots + b_3 z^3 + b_1 z$ , where  $a_{2i+1} \in \mathbb{C}$ , for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, m$ ,  $b_{2j+1} \in \mathbb{C}$ , for  $j = 0, 1, \dots, n$ . Then  $f, g \in W$  and  $(f+g)(z) = b_{2n+1} z^{2n+1} + b_{2n-1} z^{2n-1} + \dots + (a_{2m+1} + b_{2m+1}) z^{2m+1} + (a_{2m-1} + b_{2m-1}) z^{2m-1} + \dots + (a_3 + b_3) z^3 + (a_1 + b_1) z$ , so  $f+g \in W$ . Also,  $(cf)(z) = (ca_{2m+1}) z^{2m+1} + (ca_{2m-1}) z^{2m-1} + \dots + (ca_3) z^3 + (ca_1) z$ , so  $cf \in W$  when  $c \in \mathbb{C}$ .

5. Given  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  subspaces of a vector space  $V$ , we need to prove that  $W_1 \cup W_2 = \{x \in V \mid x \in W_1 \text{ or } x \in W_2\}$  if and only if  $W_1 \subset W_2$  or  $W_2 \subset W_1$ .

$\Leftarrow$ : Without loss of generality, assume that  $W_2 \subset W_1$ . Then,  $W_1 \cup W_2 = W_1$  which is a subspace of  $V$ .

$\Rightarrow$ : We will prove this direction by contra-position. That is, if  $W_1$  is not a subset of  $W_2$  and  $W_2$  is not a subset of  $W_1$ , then  $W_1 \cup W_2$  does not have to be a subspace of  $V$ . Indeed, if  $W_1 \not\subset W_2$ , there exists  $w_1 \in W_1$  such that  $w_1 \notin W_2$ , and if  $W_2 \not\subset W_1$ , there exists  $w_2 \in W_2$

such that  $w_2 \notin W_1$ . Assume that  $W_1 \cup W_2$  is a subspace of  $V$ . Then  $w_1, w_2 \in W_1 \cup W_2$ , so  $w_1 + w_2 \in W_1 \cup W_2$ , so  $w_1 + w_2 \in W_1$  or  $w_1 + w_2 \in W_2$ . Without loss of generality, assume that  $w_1 + w_2 = a \in W_1$ . Then  $w_2 = a + (-w_1)$ . Since  $W_1$  is a subspace of  $V$ , inverse of  $w_1$ ,  $-w_1$ , belongs to  $W_1$ , as well as sum of two vectors from  $W_1$ . So,  $w_2 = a + (-w_1) \in W_1$ , which is a contradiction to  $w_2 \in W_2 \setminus W_1$ . Therefore,  $W_1 \cup W_2$  is not a subspace of  $V$ .

6. Let  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  be subspaces of a vector space  $V$ .

- (a) Then  $W_1 + W_2 = \{x + y | x \in W_1, y \in W_2\}$  is a subspace of  $V$ . Indeed,  $0 \in W_1$  and  $0 \in W_2$  since  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  are subspaces of  $V$ . Hence,  $0 + 0 = 0 \in W_1 + W_2$ . Let  $x_1, x_2 \in W_1$  and  $y_1, y_2 \in W_2$ . Then  $x_1 + y_1, x_2 + y_2 \in W_1 + W_2$  and  $(x_1 + y_1) + (x_2 + y_2) = (x_1 + x_2) + (y_1 + y_2) \in W_1 + W_2$  since  $x_1 + x_2 \in W_1$  and  $y_1 + y_2 \in W_2$ , as  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  are subspaces of  $V$ . Also, if  $c$  is a scalar,  $c(x_1 + y_1) = (cx_1 + cy_1) \in W_1 + W_2$  since  $cx_1 \in W_1$  and  $cy_1 \in W_2$ . Therefore, by Theorem 1.3,  $W_1 + W_2$  is a subspace of  $V$ . Since  $0 \in W_1$ ,  $W_2 = \{y = 0 + y | y \in W_2\} \subset W_1 + W_2$ . Similarly,  $W_1 \subset W_1 + W_2$ .
- (b) Let  $Z$  be a subspace of  $V$  such that  $W_1 \subset Z$  and  $W_2 \subset Z$ . We want to show that  $W_1 + W_2 \subset Z$ . Indeed, since  $W_1 \subset Z$ , for any  $x \in W_1$ , also  $x \in Z$ . Similarly, for any  $y \in W_2$ , also  $y \in Z$ . Hence,  $x + y \in Z$  because  $Z$  is a subspace of  $V$ . But this means that  $W_1 + W_2 = \{x + y | x \in W_1, y \in W_2\} \subset Z$ .