

Definition of vector space:- Let, V be a non-empty set and F be a field. If there exists an internal binary operation $(+)$, called vector addition such that -

V_1 \rangle $(V, +)$ is an abelian group i.e.

(i) $x + y \in V, \forall x, y \in V$

(ii) $x + (y + z) = (x + y) + z, \forall x, y, z \in V$

(iii) $\exists \bar{0} \in V$ such that

$$x + \bar{0} = \bar{0} + x = x, \forall x \in V.$$

(iv) for any $x \in V, \exists -x \in V$ such that

$$x + (-x) = (-x) + x = \bar{0}$$

(v) $x + y = y + x, \forall x, y \in V$

Again there exists an external binary operation (\cdot) , called scalar multiplication such that

V_2 \rangle $\alpha(x + y) = \alpha \cdot x + \alpha \cdot y, \forall x, y \in V \text{ \& } \forall \alpha \in F$

V_3 \rangle $(\alpha + \beta) \cdot x = \alpha \cdot x + \beta \cdot x, \forall x \in V \text{ \& } \forall \alpha, \beta \in F$

V_4 \rangle $(\alpha\beta) \cdot x = \alpha(\beta x), \forall x \in V, \forall \alpha, \beta \in F$

V_5 \rangle $1 \cdot x = x, \forall x \in V$

where 1 is the multiplicative identity of the field F

Then V is said to be a vector space over F and it is denoted by $V(F)$.

Note:- 1. If $V(F)$ is a vector space then the elements of V are said to be vectors which are generally denoted by, x, y, z or u, v, w etc., where as the element of the field F are said to be the scalar and are generally denoted by α, β, γ or a, b, c etc.

2. The additive identity of V is denoted by $\bar{0}$ or θ where as the additive identity of the field F is denoted by 0 .

Some Example of vector space

1. Let \mathbb{R}^n denotes the set consisting of all ordered n tuples of real numbers of the form $x = (x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n)$.
Define suitable vector addition and scalar multiplication and show that \mathbb{R}^n is a vector space over the field \mathbb{R} .

Solⁿ Let us define vector addition and scalar multiplication by,

i. Vector addition :- $x + y = (x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n) + (y_1, y_2, y_3, \dots, y_n)$
 $= (x_1 + y_1, x_2 + y_2, x_3 + y_3, \dots, x_n + y_n)$
 $\forall x = (x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$
 $y = (y_1, y_2, y_3, \dots, y_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$

ii. Scalar multiplication :- $\alpha x = \alpha(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n)$
 $= (\alpha x_1, \alpha x_2, \alpha x_3, \dots, \alpha x_n)$
 $\forall \alpha \in \mathbb{R} \text{ \& } x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$

we now show that $\mathbb{R}^n(\mathbb{R})$ is a vector space.

(i) From the definition it is clear that,
 $x + y \in \mathbb{R}^n, \forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

(ii) we now have

$$\begin{aligned} x + (y + z) &= (x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n) + \{(y_1, y_2, y_3, \dots, y_n) + (z_1, z_2, \dots, z_n)\} \\ &= (x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n) + \{(y_1 + z_1, y_2 + z_2, \dots, y_n + z_n)\} \\ &= (x_1 + (y_1 + z_1), x_2 + (y_2 + z_2), \dots, x_n + (y_n + z_n)) \\ &= ((x_1 + y_1) + z_1, (x_2 + y_2) + z_2, \dots, (x_n + y_n) + z_n) \\ &= (x_1 + y_1, x_2 + y_2, \dots, x_n + y_n) + (z_1, z_2, \dots, z_n) \\ &= \{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) + (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n)\} + z \\ &= (x + y) + z, \forall x, y, z \in \mathbb{R}^n. \end{aligned}$$

(iii) Clearly $\bar{0} = (0, 0, 0, \dots, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^n$

We now have -

$$\begin{aligned}x + \bar{0} &= (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) + (0, 0, \dots, 0) \\&= (x_1 + 0, x_2 + 0, \dots, x_n + 0) \\&= (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \\&= x\end{aligned}$$

Similarly we can show that

$$\bar{0} + x = x$$

$$\therefore x + \bar{0} = \bar{0} + x = x, \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

This shows that $\bar{0}$ is the additive identity of \mathbb{R}^n .

(iv) For any $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$, we have

$$-x = (-x_1, -x_2, \dots, -x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$\begin{aligned}\therefore x + (-x) &= (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) + (-x_1, -x_2, \dots, -x_n) \\&= (x_1 + (-x_1), x_2 + (-x_2), \dots, x_n + (-x_n)) \\&= (0, 0, \dots, 0) \\&= \bar{0}\end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore x + (-x) = \bar{0}$$

Similarly we can show that

$$(-x) + x = \bar{0}$$

$$x + (-x) = (-x) + x = \bar{0}$$

This shows that $-x$ is the additive inverse of x .

(v) Again we have -

$$\begin{aligned}x + y &= (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) + (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n) \\&= (x_1 + y_1, x_2 + y_2, \dots, x_n + y_n)\end{aligned}$$

$$= (y_1 + x_1, y_2 + x_2, \dots, y_n + x_n) \quad [\text{by commutativity in } \mathbb{R}]$$

$$= (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n) + (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$$

$$= y + x$$

$$\therefore x + y = y + x, \quad \forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

\therefore Hence, \mathbb{R}^n is an additive abelian group.