

Definition of a vector space over \mathbb{R}

A *vector space over \mathbb{R}* is a set V of vectors together with a distinguished vector $\mathbf{0}$ in V and three functions

$$(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) \mapsto \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} \quad (\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in V)$$

$$\mathbf{v} \mapsto -\mathbf{v} \quad (\mathbf{v} \in V)$$

$$(r, \mathbf{v}) \mapsto r\mathbf{v} \quad (r \in \mathbb{R}, \mathbf{v} \in V)$$

which satisfy

- A1 $(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) + \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w})$ associative law
- A2 $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{u}$ commutative law
- A3 $\mathbf{0} + \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}$ additive identity
- A4 $\mathbf{u} + (-\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{0}$ additive inverse
- S1 $r(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = r\mathbf{u} + r\mathbf{v}$ distributivity
- S2 $(r + s)\mathbf{u} = r\mathbf{u} + s\mathbf{u}$ distributivity
- S3 $r(s\mathbf{u}) = (rs)\mathbf{u}$ associative law
- S4 $1\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}$ scale preservation

for all $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \in V$ and $r, s \in \mathbb{R}$.