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Linear manifold spanned by Y : Let Y be any subset of a linear space S ,and let M be the set of all finite linear combination of vectors extracted from Y .Then M is called the linear manifold spanned by Y (or the linear hull of Y,or the linear envelope of Y) and is denoted by LM (Y) .

Theorem(1):

Let Y be any subset of a linear space S, and let M be the set of all finite linear combination of vectors extracted from Y. Then M is the smallest linear manifold containing Y.

Proof: (a) **M is a linear manifold**: If f and g are two vectors of M , which are therefore the linear combinations

$$f = \sum_{i=1}^n c_i f_i \quad \text{and} \quad g = \sum_{i=1}^m d_i g_i$$

of vectors f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n and

g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n of Y , then

$$af + bg = \sum_{i=1}^n a c_i f_i + \sum_{i=1}^m d_i g_i$$

is also a linear combinations of vectors of Y , and is hence in M

.Therefore M is a Linear Manifold

(b) M is the smallest linear manifold:

If N is any other linear manifold containing Y , then N contains all the finite linear combinations of vectors of Y , so that it contains M as a subset. Hence M is the smallest linear manifold containing Y .

Bases and Dimension:

Base:

A subset B of S is called a Hamel base (or simply base) for S if and only if B is a linearly independent set and $LM(B) = S$.

A linear space S is called finite –dimensional if and only if S has a finite base B , i. e B is a finite set which is a Hamel base. If S is not finite dimensional it is called infinite dimensional.

Dimension:

If S is a finite –dimensional space then its dimension is defined to be the number of elements in any of its Hamel bases.

Example :

C^n has dimension n , $(e_1, e_2, e_3, \dots, e_n)$ is a Hamel Base with n elements.

Theorem(2):

Every linear space S has a Hamel base.

Proof : Let P be the class of all linearly independent subset of S . Then P is non-empty since the empty set lies in P .

Partially order P by set inclusion and let $T = \{L_\alpha\}$ be a totally ordered subset of P . Let $L = \bigcup L_\alpha$ be the union of all the L_α in T . Then L is a linearly independent set.

For, if $Y = \{s_1, s_2, s_3, \dots, s_n\}$ is a finite subset of L then $s_i \in L_{\alpha_i}, 1 \leq i \leq n$. By the total order in T we may arrange by relabeling if necessary, that $L_{\alpha_1} \subset L_{\alpha_2} \subset L_{\alpha_3} \subset \dots \subset L_{\alpha_n}$.

Hence $s_i \in L_{\alpha_i}, 1 \leq i \leq n$, so that Y is linearly independent, being a finite subset of the linearly independent set L_{α_n} . Thus T has L as an upper bound.

By Zorn's lemma, \mathcal{P} has a maximal element, B . Now every f in S is also in $\text{LM}(B)$. For, if not, then there exists an f in S but not in $\text{LM}(B)$, whence $B \cup \{f\}$ is linearly independent. But $B \cup \{f\} \supset B$, strictly, contrary to the fact that B is maximal.

From this we have shown that B is linearly independent and that $\text{LM}(B) = S$. Hence B is the required Hamel base.