

3.3

#9. $V = \{ p(t) = a_0 + a_1 t + a_2 t^2 : p(0) + 2p'(0) + 3p''(0) = 0 \}$

• First we show that V is a Vector space by showing it's a subspace of the space of all real-valued functions:

① if $p(t) = 0$ then $p(0) + 2p'(0) + 3p''(0) = 0 \Rightarrow 0 \in V$.

② if $p(t), q(t) \in V$, then $p(0) + 2p'(0) + 3p''(0) = 0$ and $q(0) + 2q'(0) + 3q''(0) = 0$.

for $p+q$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & (p+q)(0) + 2(p+q)'(0) + 3(p+q)''(0) \\ &= p(0) + q(0) + 2p'(0) + 2q'(0) + 3(p''(0) + q''(0)) \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus V is closed under addition.

③ if $p(t) \in V$, ~~$c \in \mathbb{R}$~~ then $p(0) + 2p'(0) + 3p''(0) = 0$.

For any constant $c \in \mathbb{R}$, $(cp)(0) + 2(cp)'(0) + 3(cp)''(0)$

$$\begin{aligned} &= c p(0) + 2c p'(0) + 3c p''(0) \\ &= c (p(0) + 2p'(0) + 3p''(0)) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus V is closed under scalar multiplication.

Therefore V is a subspace of the space of all functions. V is a vector space.

(You can also 'translate' the condition $p(0) + 2p'(0) + 3p''(0) = 0$

into $a_0 + 2a_1 + 6a_2 = 0$, as we did in the next part,

and show that all polynomials $a_0 + a_1 t + a_2 t^2$ with $a_0 + 2a_1 + 6a_2 = 0$

form a vector space. This is equivalent.)

• Next we find a basis for V .

First, by plugging in $p(t) = a_0 + a_1 t + a_2 t^2$ to $p(0) + 2p'(0) + 3p''(0) = 0$,

we get: $p(0) = a_0$, $p'(t) = a_1 + 2a_2 t$, $p'(0) = a_1$,

$$p''(t) = 2a_2, \quad p''(0) = 2a_2$$

$$\Rightarrow p(0) + 2p'(0) + 3p''(0) = 0 \text{ is equivalent to } a_0 + 2a_1 + 6a_2 = 0.$$

Thus the vector space

$$V = \{ p(t) = a_0 + a_1 t + a_2 t^2 : a_0 + 2a_1 + 6a_2 = 0 \}$$

$$= \{ a_0 + a_1 t + a_2 t^2 : a_0 = -2a_1 - 6a_2 \}$$

since we notice that $a_0 + 2a_1 + 6a_2 = 0$ restricts the coefficients such that one of them can be completely determined by the others.

Thus $V = \{ a_0 + a_1 t + a_2 t^2 : a_0 = -2a_1 - 6a_2 \}$

$$= \{ (-2a_1 - 6a_2) + a_1 t + a_2 t^2 \}$$

$$= \{ a_1 (-2 + t) + a_2 (t^2 - 6) \}$$

Thus any $p(t) \in V$ can be represented as

$$p(t) = a_1 (t-2) + a_2 (t^2-6),$$

or to say, $p(t)$ is a linear combination of $(t-2)$, (t^2-6) .

Since $(t-2)$ and (t^2-6) are linearly independent, (you can verify this by $c_1(t-2) + c_2(t^2-6) = 0$ or by observing that they are not scalar multiples of each other), they form a basis for V .

Thus V is a vector space with dimension 2, and a set of basis for V is $\{ t^2-6, t-2 \}$.

* We can also write $a_1 = -\frac{1}{2}a_0 - 3a_2$ or $a_2 = -\frac{1}{6}a_0 - \frac{1}{3}a_1$

$$\text{and } p(t) = a_0 + a_1 t + a_2 t^2 = a_0 + a_1 t + \left(-\frac{1}{6}a_0 - \frac{1}{3}a_1\right)t^2 \\ = a_0 \left(1 - \frac{1}{6}t^2\right) + a_1 \left(t - \frac{1}{3}t^2\right)$$

then $p(t)$ is a linear combination of $\left(1 - \frac{1}{6}t^2\right)$, $\left(t - \frac{1}{3}t^2\right)$

Thus $\left\{ 1 - \frac{1}{6}t^2, t - \frac{1}{3}t^2 \right\}$ is also a set of basis for V .

* You can also observe that V has dimension 2 (since one of the coefficients is determined by the other 2),

then find two arbitrary polynomials in V such that they are linearly independent. For example, since $a_0 + 2a_1 + 6a_2 = 0$,

try $a_0 = 1, a_1 = -\frac{1}{2}, a_2 = 0 \Rightarrow p_1(t) = 1 - \frac{1}{2}t.$

$a_0 = 0, a_1 = 0, a_2 = -\frac{1}{6} \Rightarrow p_2(t) = 1 - \frac{1}{6}t^2.$

Since p_1, p_2 are linearly independent and $\dim V = 2$, they form a basis of V .

* You must notice that $p(0) + 2p'(0) + 3p''(0) = 0$ is not a differential equation. It is not the same as $y + 2y' + 3y'' = 0$, since that means $y(t) + 2y'(t) + 3y''(t) = 0$ for all t , not only for $t = 0$. The vector space V is not the space of solutions to the differential equation $y + 2y' + 3y'' = 0$.