

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now } u+v &= (\alpha_1 u_1 + \dots + \alpha_n u_n) + (\beta_1 u_1 + \dots + \beta_n u_n) \\ &= (\alpha_1 + \beta_1) u_1 + \dots + (\alpha_n + \beta_n) u_n \\ &= \gamma_1 u_1 + \dots + \gamma_n u_n \in [S] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha u &= \alpha (\alpha_1 u_1 + \dots + \alpha_n u_n) \\ &= \alpha \alpha_1 u_1 + \dots + \alpha \alpha_n u_n \\ &= \gamma_1 u_1 + \dots + \gamma_n u_n \in [S]. \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore [S]$ is a subspace of V . \square

Theorem:-

If S is a non-empty subset of a vector space V , then $[S]$ is the smallest subspace of V containing S .

Proof:-

(i) $[S]$ is subspace of V .

(ii) $S \subseteq [S]$

(iii) $[S] \subseteq W$

Let $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\} = S$

$S \subseteq W$ (Assume)

$\Rightarrow \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\} \subseteq W$

$\Rightarrow \alpha_1 u_1 + \alpha_2 u_2 + \dots + \alpha_n u_n \in W$

$\Rightarrow [S] \subseteq W$.