

Problem Statement: Show that the solution space of  $x + 2y^2 = 0$  is *not* a subspace of  $\mathcal{R}^2$

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Solution: In order to show that the solution space is not a subspace, it must be shown that the solutions are not closed under addition and scalar multiplication. This is easier if  $\vec{v}$  is defined parametrically. That is:

$$\vec{v} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}_{y=t} = (-2t^2, t)$$

Now two arbitrary vectors in the subset,  $\vec{v}_1$  and  $\vec{v}_2$  can be added together:

$$\vec{v}_1 + \vec{v}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -2t_1^2 \\ t_1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -2t_2^2 \\ t_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -2(t_1^2 + t_2^2) \\ t_1 + t_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Then the values are placed back into the original equation  $x + 2y^2 = 0$ :

$$-2(t_1^2 + t_2^2) + 2t_1 + t_2^2 = 0$$

$$-2t_1^2 - 2t_2^2 + 2t_1^2 + 4t_1t_2 + 2t_2^2 = 0$$

$$4t_1t_2 = 0$$

This equation is true only where  $t_1$  or  $t_2$  is equal to zero, and thus not *any* arbitrary vector. This means that any two vectors in the subset where both  $t_1 \neq 0$  and  $t_2 \neq 0$  will not sum to another vector, thus making the solution space open for addition, and showing it not be a subspace.