

SECTION 3.2
EXERCISE #5

3.2.5 Determine whether the indicated subset is a subspace of the given vector space:

The set S of all functions f in the vector space W of differentiable functions mapping \mathbb{R} into \mathbb{R} such that $f'(2) = 0$.

Solution

We apply Theorem 3.2 ("Test for a Subspace") to see if S is a subspace.

First, we test for closure under vector addition. Let $f, g \in S$ (so that $f'(2) = g'(2) = 0$).

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } \frac{d}{dx} [f(x) + g(x)] \Big|_{x=2} &= (f'(x) + g'(x)) \Big|_2 \\ &= f'(2) + g'(2) = 0 + 0 = 0, \end{aligned}$$

so $f + g \in S$ and S is closed under vector addition.

Second, let $r \in \mathbb{R}$ be a scalar. Then

$$\frac{d}{dx} [rf(x)] \Big|_{x=2} = r f'(x) \Big|_{x=2} = r f'(2) = r \cdot 0 = 0$$

and so $rf \in S$ and S is closed under scalar multiplication.

So, by Theorem 3.2, S is a subspace of W . \square