

form $\Lambda = v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge v_k$. For this we pose the more general problem of determining the minimal linear subspace $W \subset V$ such that Λ is in the image of

$$\Lambda^k W \rightarrow \Lambda^k V.$$

If $\dim W = l$, then $l \geq k$ with equality holding $\Leftrightarrow \Lambda$ is decomposable.

¶ If $l < k$, then $\Lambda^k W = 0$. If $l = k$,

$$\Lambda^k W = \langle w_1 \wedge \dots \wedge w_k \rangle \text{ where } W = \langle w_1, \dots, w_k \rangle.$$

\Rightarrow Obviously, Λ is decomposable if Λ is in the image of $\Lambda^k W \rightarrow \Lambda^k V$.

Conversely, Λ is decomposable $\Rightarrow \Lambda = v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge v_k$.

$\Rightarrow \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k\}$ linearly independent set \Rightarrow

Let $W = \langle v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k \rangle \Rightarrow \dim W = k$ and the image of $\Lambda^k W \rightarrow \Lambda^k V$ contains Λ . Clearly, W is the minimal such space. \square

“Comment: Let $V = \underbrace{\langle e_1, e_2, \dots, e_l \rangle}_W \oplus \underbrace{\langle e_{l+1}, \dots, e_n \rangle}_{V'}$

Suppose $v_1 \wedge v_2 \wedge \dots \wedge v_k \in \Lambda^k V$ and, in particular, $v_1 \wedge v_2 \wedge \dots \wedge v_k \in \Lambda^k W$.

Assume that $\{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$ is linearly independent set.

$$\Rightarrow v_1 = x_{11}e_1 + x_{12}e_2 + \dots + x_{1n}e_n$$

$$v_2 = x_{21}e_1 + x_{22}e_2 + \dots + x_{2n}e_n$$

$$\vdots$$

$$v_k = x_{k1}e_1 + x_{k2}e_2 + \dots + x_{kn}e_n$$

Without loss of generality, we may as-