

3.4 Basis and Dimension

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Def The vectors $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n$ form a **basis** for a vector space V iff

- ① $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n$ are linearly independent
- ② $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n$ span V

n in this case is the dimension of V and we write $\dim(V) = n$

Exp (standard basis)

① The set $\{\vec{e}_1, \vec{e}_2, \dots, \vec{e}_n\}$ is the standard basis for \mathbb{R}^n

$\Rightarrow \{\vec{e}_1, \vec{e}_2, \vec{e}_3\}$ is the standard basis for \mathbb{R}^3

② The set $\{E_{11}, E_{12}, E_{21}, E_{22}\}$ is the standard basis for $\mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}$

where $E_{11} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $E_{12} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $E_{21} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $E_{22} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

③ The set $\{1, x, x^2, \dots, x^{n-1}\}$ is the standard basis for P_n

Proof ②. If $c_1 E_{11} + c_2 E_{12} + c_3 E_{21} + c_4 E_{22} = 0$ then $\begin{bmatrix} c_1 & c_2 \\ c_3 & c_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

Hence, $E_{11}, E_{12}, E_{21}, E_{22}$ are linearly independent

• If A is any 2×2 matrix then

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} = a_{11} E_{11} + a_{12} E_{12} + a_{21} E_{21} + a_{22} E_{22}$$

Hence, $E_{11}, E_{12}, E_{21}, E_{22}$ span $\mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}$

• Thus, $\{E_{11}, E_{12}, E_{21}, E_{22}\}$ is a basis for $\mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}$

Remark • $\{\vec{e}_1, \vec{e}_2, \vec{e}_3\}$ is the standard basis for \mathbb{R}^3

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Also $\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$ and $\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$

are bases for \mathbb{R}^3 .

• Therefore, there are many bases we can choose for \mathbb{R}^3

• Any Basis for \mathbb{R}^3 must have exactly three elements.

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Exp Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$. Find the basis for $N(A)$

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• First we find $N(A)$: $\left[\begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right] R_2 - 2R_1$

$$\Rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right] -R_2 \Rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & -1 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\text{Let } x_3 = \alpha \text{ and } x_4 = \beta \Rightarrow x_2 = \beta - 2\alpha$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 = \alpha - \beta$$

$$N(A) = \left\{ \vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^4 : x = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha - \beta \\ \beta - 2\alpha \\ \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix}, \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

$$\text{Note that } x = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha - \beta \\ \beta - 2\alpha \\ \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix} = \alpha \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \beta \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

• Hence, any element of $N(A)$ can be written as a linear combination of these two vectors. Hence, they span $N(A)$

And these two vectors are linearly independent

• Hence, $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ form a basis for $N(A) \Rightarrow \dim(N(A)) = 2$

Exp Are the vectors in what follows form a basis for \mathbb{R}^2

① $\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}$ No because they are linearly dependent $\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 3 & 6 \end{vmatrix} = 0$

② $\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$ Yes because they are linearly independent since $\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 \end{vmatrix} \neq 0$ and they span \mathbb{R}^2 since if \vec{v} is any vector in \mathbb{R}^2 then

$$\vec{v} = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{pmatrix} = c_1 \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + c_2 \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{cc|c} 2 & 3 & v_1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2v_2 - v_1 \end{array} \right] \Leftrightarrow \boxed{c_2 = 2v_2 - v_1} \text{ and } c_1 = v_1 - 3c_2 = v_1 - 6v_2 + 3v_1$$

$$\boxed{c_1 = 4v_1 - 6v_2}$$

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* To find the dimension of V , we find linearly independent vectors that span V .

Th 4.1 If $\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n\}$ is a spanning set for a vector space V , then any collection of m vectors in V , where $m > n$, is linearly dependent

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Proof • Let $\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2, \dots, \vec{u}_m$ be a collection of m vectors in V where $m > n$.

• Since $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n$ span $V \Rightarrow \vec{u}_i = a_{i1}\vec{v}_1 + a_{i2}\vec{v}_2 + \dots + a_{in}\vec{v}_n$
 $= \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}\vec{v}_j, i=1, 2, \dots, m$

• To show that $\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2, \dots, \vec{u}_m$ are linearly dependent:

$$\begin{aligned} c_1\vec{u}_1 + c_2\vec{u}_2 + \dots + c_m\vec{u}_m &= c_1 \sum_{j=1}^n a_{1j}\vec{v}_j + c_2 \sum_{j=1}^n a_{2j}\vec{v}_j + \dots + c_m \sum_{j=1}^n a_{mj}\vec{v}_j \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^m \left(c_i \left[\sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}\vec{v}_j \right] \right) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^n \left(\sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij}c_i \right) \vec{v}_j = \vec{0} \text{ if } * \text{ holds} \end{aligned}$$

• But $\sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij}c_i = 0, j=1, 2, \dots, n$ is a homogeneous system with more unknowns m than equations n

\Rightarrow Thus, by Th 2.1 the system must have nontrivial solution

$$(\bar{c}_1, \bar{c}_2, \dots, \bar{c}_m)^T : \bar{c}_1\vec{u}_1 + \bar{c}_2\vec{u}_2 + \dots + \bar{c}_m\vec{u}_m = \vec{0} = \sum_{j=1}^n 0\vec{v}_j$$

• Thus, $\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2, \dots, \vec{u}_m$ are linearly dependent.

$$\begin{array}{l} j=1 \rightarrow \\ j=2 \rightarrow \\ \vdots \\ j=n \rightarrow \end{array} \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{21} & \dots & a_{m1} \\ a_{12} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{m2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{1n} & a_{2n} & \dots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ \vdots \\ c_m \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$n \times m \quad m \times 1 \quad n \times 1$

Corollary 4.2 If both $\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n\}$ and $\{\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2, \dots, \vec{u}_m\}$ are basis for a vector space V , then $n=m$

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Proof: Let $\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n\}$ and $\{\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2, \dots, \vec{u}_m\}$ be bases for V .

$\Rightarrow \vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n$ are linearly independent and span V

$\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2, \dots, \vec{u}_m$ " " " " " " " " " " " "

\Rightarrow By Th 4.1 since

$\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n$ span V and $\vec{u}_1, \dots, \vec{u}_m$ are linearly indep. $\Rightarrow m \leq n$

$\vec{u}_1, \dots, \vec{u}_m$ span V and $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n$ " " " " " " " " " " " " $\Rightarrow m \geq n$

Def. Let V be a vector space.

- If $\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n\}$ form a basis for V , then V has dimension n . And we write $\dim(V) = n$.
- The subspace $\{\vec{0}\}$ of V has dimension 0.
- V is called **finite dimensional** if there is a finite set of vectors that spans V . Otherwise,

V is called **infinite dimensional**.

Exp Consider the vectors $x_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$, $x_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$, $x_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}$

what is the dimension of $\text{span}(x_1, x_2, x_3)$?

Note that x_1 and x_2 are linearly independent vectors in \mathbb{R}^2 ,

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and $\dim(\mathbb{R}^2) = 2$. Hence, x_1 and x_2 span \mathbb{R}^2

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$$\Rightarrow \text{span}(x_1, x_2, x_3) = \text{span}(x_1, x_2)$$

\Rightarrow dimension is 2

- We could choose x_1 and x_3 or x_2 and x_3 in the same manner.

since x_1, x_2, x_3 are linearly dependent. That is

$$\left(-\frac{33}{2}\alpha\right) \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \left(\frac{13}{2}\alpha\right) \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \alpha \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Th 4.3

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Let V be a vector space with $\dim(V) = n > 0$.

Then: (1) any set of n linearly independent vectors spans V

(2) any n vectors span V are linearly independent.

Proof (1). Let $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n$ be linearly independent. Let $\vec{v} \in V$.

• Since $\dim(V) = n \rightarrow V$ has basis of n vectors that span V

• By Th 4.1 $\rightarrow \vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n, \vec{v}$ are linearly dependent

\rightarrow there exists $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n, c_{n+1}$ not all zero s.t.

$$c_1 \vec{v}_1 + c_2 \vec{v}_2 + \dots + c_n \vec{v}_n + c_{n+1} \vec{v} = \vec{0}$$

Note that $c_{n+1} \neq 0$. Since if $c_{n+1} = 0$, then $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n$ will become linearly dependent.

$$\rightarrow \vec{v} = \alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \alpha_2 \vec{v}_2 + \dots + \alpha_n \vec{v}_n, \text{ where } \alpha_i = \frac{c_i}{c_{n+1}} \forall i$$

• Hence, $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n$ span V since \vec{v} was arbitrary.

(2). Suppose $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n$ span V . (Proof by Contradiction)

• If $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n$ are linearly dependent, then one of the \vec{v}_i 's say \vec{v}_n can be written as a linear combination of the others.

• $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_{n-1}$ still span V

• If $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_{n-1}$ are linearly dependent, then we eliminate another vector and the new set will still span V

• We continue eliminating vectors until we arrive

at a linearly independent spanning set $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_k$ with $k < n$.
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• ~~✗~~ since $\dim(V) = n$

• Hence, $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n$ must be linearly independent.

Exp show that $\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$ is a basis for \mathbb{R}^3 .

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• since $\dim(\mathbb{R}^3) = 3$

• It's enough to show either ① or ② from Th 4.3

• We prove ①:
$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 5 & -2 \\ 0 & 6 & -2 \end{vmatrix} = -10 + 12 = 2$$

Hence, the vectors are linearly independent

By Th 4.3 \Rightarrow they span \mathbb{R}^3

\Rightarrow They are basis

Th 4.4 Let V be a vector space s.t $\dim(V) = n > 0$. Then

- ① No set of fewer than n vectors can span V
- ② Any subset of fewer than n linearly independent vectors can be extended to form a basis for V
- ③ Any spanning set containing more than n vectors can be pared down to form a basis for V .

Proof ②. Let $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_k$ be linearly independent where $k < n$.

• by ① $\exists \vec{v}_{k+1} \in V$ s.t $\vec{v}_{k+1} \notin \text{span}(\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_k) \Rightarrow$

$\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_k, \vec{v}_{k+1}$ are linearly independent

• If $k+1 < n$, then $\exists \vec{v}_{k+2} \in V$ s.t $\vec{v}_{k+2} \notin \text{span}(\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_k, \vec{v}_{k+1})$

$\Rightarrow \vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_k, \vec{v}_{k+1}, \vec{v}_{k+2}$ are linearly independent.

• We do extension similarly until $\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_k, \vec{v}_{k+1}, \dots, \vec{v}_n\}$ is obtained. by Th 4.3 this set spans V . Hence, it forms basis.

③. Let $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_m$ be a spanning set for V where $m > n$.

• by Th 4.1 $\Rightarrow \vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_m$ are linearly dependent.

• One of these vectors say \vec{v}_m can be written as a linear combination of the others. Hence, we eliminate \vec{v}_m and remains $m-1$ vectors that still span V .

• If $m-1 > n$, we eliminate another vector, until arriving a spanning set containing n vectors. by Th 4.3 they are LI. Hence they are basis.

Remarks

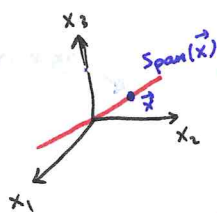
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* If \vec{x} is a nonzero vector in \mathbb{R}^3 , then \vec{x} spans one-dimensional subspace of \mathbb{R}^3 . That is,

$$\rightarrow \text{span}(\vec{x}) = \{ \alpha \vec{x} : \alpha \text{ is a scalar} \}$$

\rightarrow A vector $(a, b, c)^T \in \text{span}(\vec{x})$ iff the point (a, b, c) is on the line determined by $(0, 0, 0)$ and (x_1, x_2, x_3) .

\rightarrow Thus, one-dimensional subspace of \mathbb{R}^3 can be represented geometrically by a line through the origin.



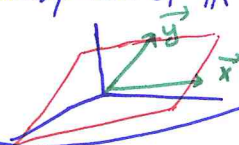
* If \vec{x} and \vec{y} are linearly independent in \mathbb{R}^3 , then

$$\text{Span}(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) = \{ \alpha \vec{x} + \beta \vec{y} : \alpha \text{ and } \beta \text{ are scalars} \}$$

is a two-dimensional subspace of \mathbb{R}^3

\rightarrow A vector $(a, b, c)^T \in \text{Span}(\vec{x}, \vec{y})$ iff (a, b, c) lies on the plane determined by $(0, 0, 0)$, (x_1, x_2, x_3) and (y_1, y_2, y_3) .

\rightarrow Thus, two-dimensional subspace of \mathbb{R}^3 is a plane through the origin.



* If $\vec{x}, \vec{y}, \vec{z}$ are linearly independent in \mathbb{R}^3 , then they form a basis for \mathbb{R}^3 and $\text{Span}(\vec{x}, \vec{y}, \vec{z}) = \mathbb{R}^3$. Hence, any point $(a, b, c)^T \in \text{Span}(\vec{x}, \vec{y}, \vec{z})$

Exp Let P be the vector space of all polynomials. Then $\dim(P) = \infty$

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Proof. If P were finite dimensional, say $\dim(P) = n$, then any set of $n+1$ vectors would be linearly dependent.

• Take $1, x, x^2, \dots, x^n$. But $1, x, x^2, \dots, x^n$ are linearly independent. That is $W(1, x, x^2, \dots, x^n) > 0$. ✗

• Hence, P cannot be of dimension $n \Rightarrow \dim(P) = \infty$.

* Similarly one can show that $C[a, b]$ is infinite dimensional.

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