

## Vector spaces and subspaces

- Vectors and Vector equations
- Subspaces of  $R^n$
- Null spaces, Column spaces
- Linear independence, Spanning sets
- Basis and Dimension
- Rank
- Linear transformations, change of basis

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## MA332 LINEAR ALGEBRA

**Vector:** A matrix with only one column.

**Vectors in  $R^n$**  (vectors with  $n$  entries):

$$\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ \vdots \\ u_n \end{bmatrix}$$

**Geometric Description of  $R^2$**

Vector  $\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$  is the point  $(x_1, x_2)$  in the plane.

$R^2$  is the set of all points in the plane.

**Parallelogram rule for addition of two vectors:**

If  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  in  $R^2$  are represented as points in the plane, then  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$  corresponds to the fourth vertex of the parallelogram whose other vertices are  $\mathbf{0}$ ,  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$ . (Note that  $\mathbf{0} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ .)

**EXAMPLE:** Let  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ . Graphs of  $\mathbf{u}$ ,  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$  are given below:

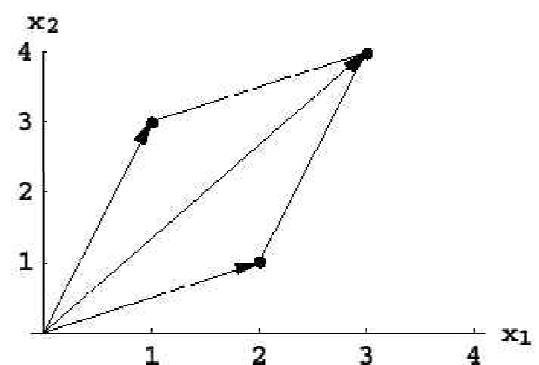
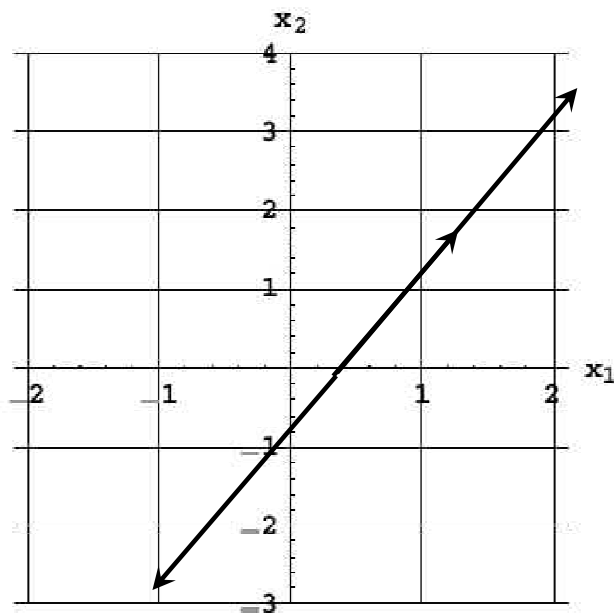


Illustration of the Parallelogram Rule

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**EXAMPLE:** Let  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ . Express  $\mathbf{u}$ ,  $2\mathbf{u}$ , and  $\frac{3}{2}\mathbf{u}$  on a graph.



in  $\mathbb{R}^2$

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## Linear Combinations

### DEFINITION

Given vectors  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and given scalars  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_p$ , the vector  $\mathbf{y}$  defined by

$$\mathbf{y} = c_1\mathbf{v}_1 + c_2\mathbf{v}_2 + \dots + c_p\mathbf{v}_p$$

is called a **linear combination** of  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p$  using weights  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_p$ .

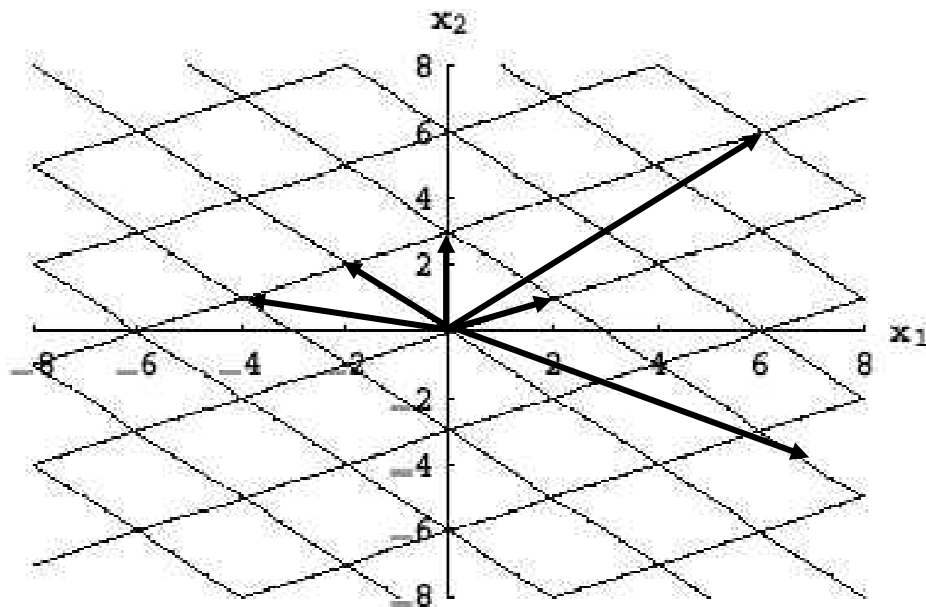
**Examples of linear combinations of  $\mathbf{v}_1$  and  $\mathbf{v}_2$ :**

$$3\mathbf{v}_1 + 2\mathbf{v}_2, \quad \frac{1}{3}\mathbf{v}_1, \quad \mathbf{v}_1 - 2\mathbf{v}_2, \quad \mathbf{0}$$

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**EXAMPLE:** Let  $\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ . Express each of the following as a linear combination of  $\mathbf{v}_1$  and  $\mathbf{v}_2$ :

$$\mathbf{a} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{c} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{d} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix}$$



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**EXAMPLE:** Let  $\mathbf{a}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\mathbf{a}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \\ 14 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\mathbf{a}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ 10 \end{bmatrix}$ ,

and  $\mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 8 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix}$ .

Determine if  $\mathbf{b}$  is a linear combination of  $\mathbf{a}_1$ ,  $\mathbf{a}_2$ , and  $\mathbf{a}_3$ .

**Solution:** Vector  $\mathbf{b}$  is a linear combination of  $\mathbf{a}_1$ ,  $\mathbf{a}_2$ , and  $\mathbf{a}_3$  if can we find weights  $x_1, x_2, x_3$  such that

$$x_1 \mathbf{a}_1 + x_2 \mathbf{a}_2 + x_3 \mathbf{a}_3 = \mathbf{b}.$$

Vector Equation (fill-in):

Corresponding System:

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 + 4x_2 + 3x_3 &= -1 \\ 2x_2 + 6x_3 &= 8 \\ 3x_1 + 14x_2 + 10x_3 &= -5 \end{aligned}$$

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Corresponding Augmented Matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & 6 & 8 \\ 3 & 14 & 10 & -5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{array}{l} x_1 = \underline{\quad} \\ x_2 = \underline{\quad} \\ x_3 = \underline{\quad} \end{array}$$

**Review of the last example:**  $\mathbf{a}_1$ ,  $\mathbf{a}_2$ ,  $\mathbf{a}_3$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  are columns of the augmented matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & 6 & 8 \\ 3 & 14 & 10 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{array}{cccc} \uparrow & \uparrow & \uparrow & \uparrow \\ \mathbf{a}_1 & \mathbf{a}_2 & \mathbf{a}_3 & \mathbf{b} \end{array}$$

Solution to

$$x_1\mathbf{a}_1 + x_2\mathbf{a}_2 + x_3\mathbf{a}_3 = \mathbf{b}$$

is found by solving the linear system whose augmented matrix is

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cccc} \mathbf{a}_1 & \mathbf{a}_2 & \mathbf{a}_3 & \mathbf{b} \end{array} \right].$$

## A vector equation

$$x_1\mathbf{a}_1 + x_2\mathbf{a}_2 + \cdots + x_n\mathbf{a}_n = \mathbf{b}$$

has the same solution set as the linear system whose augmented matrix is

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cccc} \mathbf{a}_1 & \mathbf{a}_2 & \cdots & \mathbf{a}_n & \mathbf{b} \end{array} \right].$$

In particular,  $\mathbf{b}$  can be generated by a linear combination of  $\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n$  if and only if there is a solution to the linear system corresponding to the augmented matrix.

## The span of a set of vectors

### Definition

Suppose  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p$  are in  $\mathbf{R}^n$ ; then

**Span** $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$  = set of all linear combinations of  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p$ .

**Stated another way:** **Span** $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$  is the collection of all vectors that can be written as

$$x_1\mathbf{v}_1 + x_2\mathbf{v}_2 + \dots + x_p\mathbf{v}_p$$

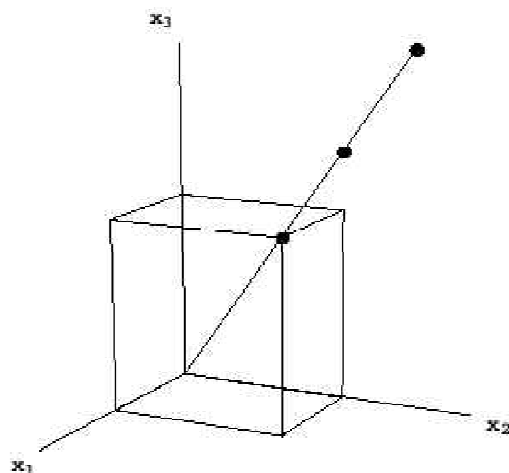
where  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p$  are scalars.

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### A Geometric description of $\text{Span}\{\mathbf{v}\}$ and $\text{Span}\{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}\}$

#### The Span of a Set of Vectors

**EXAMPLE:** Let  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$ . Label the origin  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  together with  $\mathbf{v}$ ,  $2\mathbf{v}$  and  $1.5\mathbf{v}$  on the graph below.



$\mathbf{v}$ ,  $2\mathbf{v}$  and  $1.5\mathbf{v}$  all lie on the same line.  
**Span** $\{\mathbf{v}\}$  is the set of all vectors of the form  $c\mathbf{v}$ .  
 Here, **Span** $\{\mathbf{v}\}$  = a line through the origin.

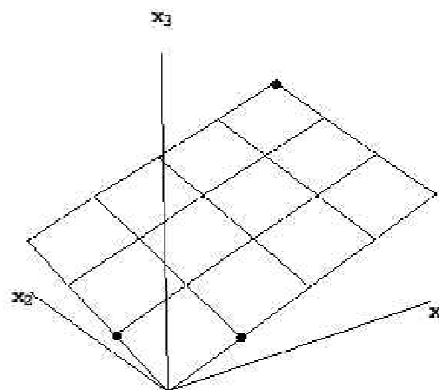
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# MA332 LINEAR ALGEBRA

- $\underline{u}$  and  $\underline{v}$  are nonzero vector in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with  $\underline{v}$  is not a multiple of  $\underline{u}$
- $\text{Span}\{\underline{u}, \underline{v}\}$  is a plane in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  that contains  $\underline{u}$ ,  $\underline{v}$  and  $\underline{0}$
- $\text{Span}\{\underline{u}, \underline{v}\}$  contains the line in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  through  $\underline{u}$  and  $\underline{0}$  and the line in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  through  $\underline{v}$  and  $\underline{0}$

$\underline{u}$ ,  $\underline{v}$ ,  $\underline{u} + \underline{v}$  and  $3\underline{u} + 4\underline{v}$  all lie in the same plane.  
 $\text{Span}\{\underline{u}, \underline{v}\}$  is the set of all vectors of the form  $x_1\underline{u} + x_2\underline{v}$ .  
 Here,  $\text{Span}\{\underline{u}, \underline{v}\} =$  a plane through the origin.

**EXAMPLE:** Label  $\underline{u}$ ,  $\underline{v}$ ,  $\underline{u} + \underline{v}$  and  $3\underline{u} + 4\underline{v}$  on the graph below.



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# MA332 LINEAR ALGEBRA

**EXAMPLE:** Let  $\underline{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\underline{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ .

(a) Find a vector in  $\text{Span}\{\underline{v}_1, \underline{v}_2\}$ .

$$x_1\underline{v}_1 + x_2\underline{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

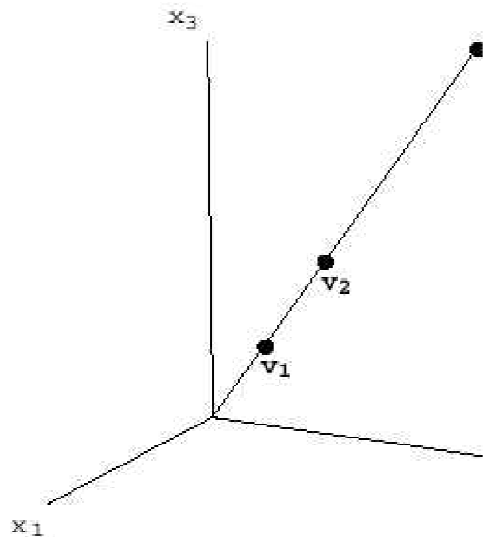
Vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^2$

(b) Describe  $\text{Span}\{\underline{v}_1, \underline{v}_2\}$  geometrically.

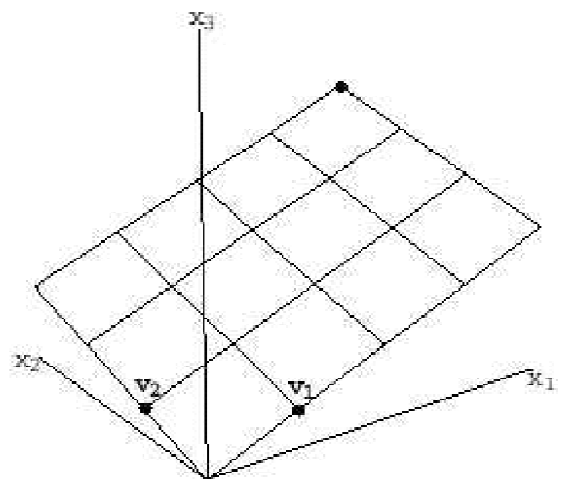
**A line through the origin.**

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Spanning Sets in  $\mathbb{R}^3$



$v_2$  is a multiple of  $v_1$   
 $\text{Span}\{v_1, v_2\} = \text{Span}\{v_1\} = \text{Span}\{v_2\}$   
 (line through the origin)



$v_2$  is not a multiple of  $v_1$   
 $\text{Span}\{v_1, v_2\} = \text{plane through the origin}$

**EXAMPLE:** Let  $v_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $v_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$ . Is

$\text{Span}\{v_1, v_2\}$  a line or a plane?

**A line**  $v_2 = \frac{3}{2}v_1$

**EXAMPLE:** Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $b = \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 3 \\ 17 \end{bmatrix}$ . Is  $b$  in

the plane spanned by the columns of  $A$ ?

**Solution:**

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 3 \\ 17 \end{bmatrix}$$

Do  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  exist so that

Corresponding augmented matrix:

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 2 & 8 \\ 3 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 5 & 17 \end{array} \right] = \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 2 & 8 \\ 0 & -5 & -21 \\ 0 & 5 & 17 \end{array} \right] = \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 2 & 8 \\ 0 & -5 & -21 \\ 0 & 0 & -4 \end{array} \right]$$

So  $b$  is not in the plane spanned by the columns of  $A$ .

Is  $b$  a linear combination of columns of  $A$ ? If it is  $x_1 a_1 + x_2 a_2 = b$  must have solution.

## Vector Spaces and Subspaces

Many concepts concerning vectors in  $\mathbf{R}^n$  can be extended to other mathematical systems.

We can think of a *vector space* in general, as a collection of objects that behave as vectors do in  $\mathbf{R}^n$ . The objects of such a set are called *vectors*.

A **vector space** is a nonempty set  $V$  of objects, called *vectors*, on which are defined two operations, called *addition* and *multiplication by scalars* (real numbers), subject to the ten axioms below. The axioms must hold for all  $\mathbf{u}$ ,  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  in  $V$  and for all scalars  $c$  and  $d$ .

The space  $\mathbf{R}^n$  consists of all column vectors with  $n$  components

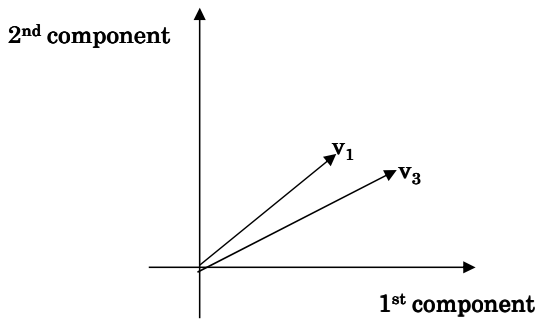
A real vector space is a set of vectors together with rules for vector addition and multiplication by real numbers.

The resulting vector must be within the space.

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1.  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$  is in  $V$ .
2.  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{u}$ .
3.  $(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) + \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w})$
4. There is a vector (called the zero vector)  $\mathbf{0}$  in  $V$  such that  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{u}$ .
5. For each  $\mathbf{u}$  in  $V$ , there is vector  $-\mathbf{u}$  in  $V$  satisfying  $\mathbf{u} + (-\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{0}$ .
6.  $c\mathbf{u}$  is in  $V$ .
7.  $c(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = c\mathbf{u} + c\mathbf{v}$ .
8.  $(c + d)\mathbf{u} = c\mathbf{u} + d\mathbf{u}$ .
9.  $(cd)\mathbf{u} = c(d\mathbf{u})$ .
10.  $1\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}$ .

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**Example** $\mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow$  all 2D real vectors

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \pi \\ e \end{bmatrix}$$

Vector addition?  
Scalar multiplication?

*Every vector spaces got zero vectors in it.*

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**Not a vector space**

Consider all vectors whose components are positive or zero.  
If the original space is the x-y plane  $\mathbb{R}^2$

Vector addition?

Scalar Multiplication? Multiplying a vector (1,3) by  $-2 \rightarrow$   
This  $\frac{1}{4}$  is not closed under scalar multiplication.

The distinction between a subset and a subspace

- ✓ Can you add vectors? and
- ✓ Can you multiply by scalars without leaving the space?

Vector spaces have to be closed by addition and scalar multiplication.

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## Subspaces

Vector spaces may be formed from subsets of other vector spaces. These are called *subspaces*.

A **subspace** of a vector space  $V$  is a subset  $H$  of  $V$  that has three properties:

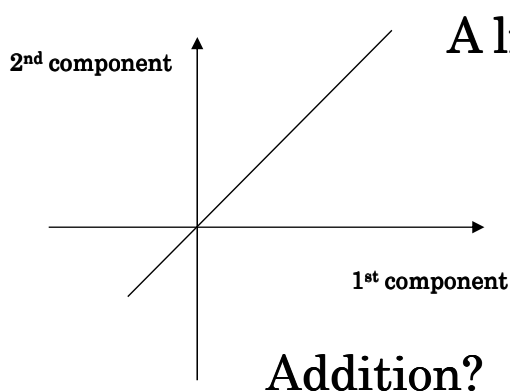
- a. The zero vector of  $V$  is in  $H$ .
- b. For each  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  in  $H$ ,  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$  is in  $H$ . (In this case we say  $H$  is closed under vector addition.)
- c. For each  $\mathbf{u}$  in  $H$  and each scalar  $c$ ,  $c\mathbf{u}$  is in  $H$ . (In this case we say  $H$  is closed under scalar multiplication.)

*If the subset  $H$  satisfies these three properties, then  $H$  itself is a vector space.*

*A subspace is a subset which is closed under addition and multiplication.*

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A vector space inside  $\mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow$  a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^2$



Multiplication?

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The zero dimensional space  $\rightarrow$  a subspace contains only one vector, the zero vector. (the smallest subspace)

Vector addition  $\rightarrow 0+0=0 \rightarrow$  within the subspace

Scalar multiplication  $\rightarrow c \cdot 0=0 \rightarrow$  within the subspace

The largest subspace is the whole of the original space.

### Subspaces of $\mathbb{R}^2$

- $\mathbb{R}^2$  itself
- Any lines through the zero vector (the origin)
- The zero vector

### Subspaces of $\mathbb{R}^3$

- $\mathbb{R}^3$  itself
- Any plane through the zero vector (the origin)
- Any line through the zero vector
- The zero vector

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**EXAMPLE:** Let  $H = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a \\ 0 \\ b \end{bmatrix} : a \text{ and } b \text{ are real} \right\}$ . Show

that  $H$  is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

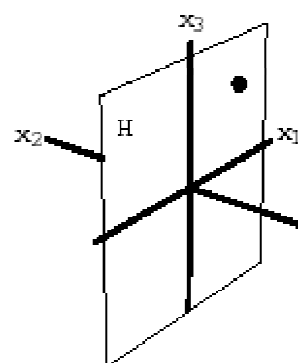
*Solution:* Verify properties a, b and c of the definition of a subspace.

a. The zero vector of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  is in  $H$  (let  $a = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$  and  $b = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ ).

b. Adding two vectors in  $H$  always produces another vector whose second entry is  $\underline{\hspace{2cm}}$  and therefore the sum of two vectors in  $H$  is also in  $H$ . ( $H$  is closed under addition)

c. Multiplying a vector in  $H$  by a scalar produces another vector in  $H$  ( $H$  is closed under scalar multiplication).

Since properties a, b, and c hold,  $H$  is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .



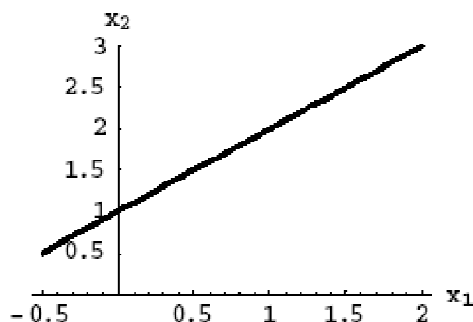
**Note:** Vectors  $(a, 0, b)$  in  $H$  look and act like the points  $(a, b)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

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**EXAMPLE:** Is  $H = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x \\ x+1 \end{bmatrix} : x \text{ is real} \right\}$  a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ ?

I.e., does  $H$  satisfy properties a, b and c?



Graphical Depiction of  $H$

All three properties must hold in order for  $H$  to be a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

Property (a) is not true because

.....Therefore  $H$  is not a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

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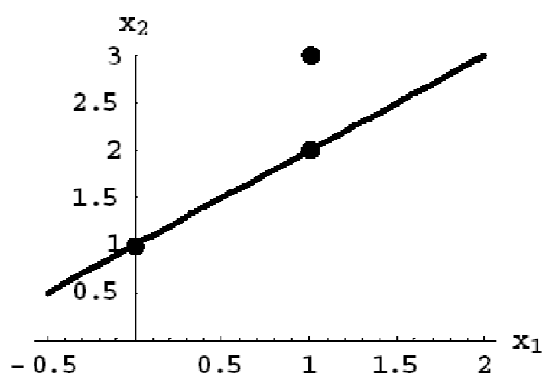
# MA332 LINEAR ALGEBRA

Another way to show that  $H$  is not a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ :

Let

$$\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ then } \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

and so  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$ , which is not in  $H$ . So property (b) fails and so  $H$  is not a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .



Property (b) fails

- A line in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  not through the origin is not a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^2$
- A plane in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  not through the origin is not a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^3$

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$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 4 \\ 4 & 1 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{Columns are in } \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

The **column space** of an  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$  ( $\text{Col } A$ ) is the set of all linear combinations of the columns of  $A$ .

If  $A = [\mathbf{a}_1 \dots \mathbf{a}_n]$ , then

$$\text{Col } A = \text{Span}\{\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n\}$$

The column space of an  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$  is a subspace of  $\mathbf{R}^m$ .

**Column space of  $A$  is a subspace of  $\underline{\mathbf{R}^m}$**   
**What are in this subspace?**

**Subspaces are tied directly to matrix  $A$  and they give information about the system  $\underline{Ax=b}$**

**Connection with linear system  $\underline{Ax=b}$**

- Does  $Ax=b$  have solution for every  $b$ ?
- Which RHS allow this system to be solved?

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 4 \\ 4 & 1 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \\ b_4 \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow u \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} + v \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + w \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \\ b_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

Find numbers  $u, v, w$  that multiply col1, col2, col3 to produce the vector  $b$ . The system is solvable exactly when such coefficient exist.

The subset of attainable RHS  $\mathbf{b}$  is the set of all combinations of the columns of  $A$ .

The equations  $A\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{b}$  can be solved if and only if  $\mathbf{b}$  lies in *the column space of  $A$*

Recall that if  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ , then  $\mathbf{b}$  is a linear combination of the columns of  $A$ . Therefore

$$\text{Col } A = \{ \mathbf{b} : \mathbf{b} = A\mathbf{x} \text{ for some } \mathbf{x} \text{ in } \mathbf{R}^n \}$$

We can also describe the result geometrically.  $A\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{b}$  can be solved if and Only if  $\mathbf{b}$  lies in the plane that is spanned by 2 column vectors

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**EXAMPLE:** Find a matrix  $A$  such that  $W = \text{Col } A$  where

$$W = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x - 2y \\ 3y \\ x + y \end{bmatrix} : x, y \text{ in } \mathbf{R} \right\}.$$

Solution:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x - 2y \\ 3y \\ x + y \end{bmatrix} = x \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + y \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 0 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{Therefore } A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 0 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The column space of an  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$  is all of  $\mathbf{R}^m$  if and only if the equation  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  has a solution for each  $\mathbf{b}$  in  $\mathbf{R}^m$ .

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The **null space** of an  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$ , written as  $\text{Nul } A$ , is the set of all solutions to the homogeneous equation  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ .

$$\text{Nul } A = \{ \mathbf{x} : \mathbf{x} \text{ is in } \mathbf{R}^n \text{ and } A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0} \} \quad (\text{set notation})$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 4 \\ 4 & 1 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Null space is in \_\_\_\_\_

The null space of an  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$  is a subspace of  $\mathbf{R}^n$ .

Equivalently, the set of all solutions to a system  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  of  $m$  homogeneous linear equations in  $n$  unknowns is a subspace of  $\mathbf{R}^n$ .

**Proof:**  $\text{Nul } A$  is a subset of  $\mathbf{R}^n$  since  $A$  has  $n$  columns. Must verify properties a, b and c of the definition of a subspace.

**Property (a)** Show that  $\mathbf{0}$  is in  $\text{Nul } A$ . Since \_\_\_\_\_,  $\mathbf{0}$  is in

Therefore  
 $A(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = \text{_____} + \text{_____} = \text{_____} + \text{_____} = \text{_____}$

**Property (b)** If  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  are in  $\text{Nul } A$ , show that  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$  is in  $\text{Nul } A$ . Since  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  are in  $\text{Nul } A$ ,

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**Property (c)** If  $\mathbf{u}$  is in  $\text{Nul } A$  and  $c$  is a scalar, show that  $c\mathbf{u}$  is in  $\text{Nul } A$ :

$$A(c\mathbf{u}) = \underline{\quad}A(\mathbf{u}) = c\mathbf{0} = \mathbf{0}.$$

Since properties a, b and c hold,  $A$  is a subspace of  $\mathbf{R}^n$ .

Solving  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  yields an **explicit description** of  $\text{Nul } A$ .

**EXAMPLE:** Find an explicit description of  $\text{Nul } A$  where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 6 & 6 & 3 & 9 \\ 6 & 12 & 13 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

*Solution:* Row reduce augmented matrix corresponding to  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ :

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$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 6 & 6 & 3 & 9 & 0 \\ 6 & 12 & 13 & 0 & 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \sim \dots \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 13 & 33 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -6 & -15 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2x_2 - 13x_4 - 33x_5 \\ x_2 \\ 6x_4 + 15x_5 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= x_2 \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_4 \begin{bmatrix} -13 \\ 0 \\ 6 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_5 \begin{bmatrix} -33 \\ 0 \\ 15 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Then

$$\text{Nul } A = \text{span}\{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}\}$$

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**The Contrast Between Nul  $A$  and Col  $A$**

**EXAMPLE:** Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 4 & 7 \\ 3 & 6 & 10 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ .

- (a) The column space of  $A$  is a subspace of  $\mathbf{R}^k$  where  $k = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ .
- (b) The null space of  $A$  is a subspace of  $\mathbf{R}^k$  where  $k = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ .
- (c) Find a nonzero vector in Col  $A$ . (There are infinitely many possibilities.)

$$\underline{\hspace{1cm}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 6 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 7 \\ 10 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \phantom{0} \\ \phantom{0} \\ \phantom{0} \\ \phantom{0} \end{bmatrix}$$

- (d) Find a nonzero vector in Nul  $A$ . Solve  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  and pick one solution.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 0 \\ 2 & 4 & 7 & 0 \\ 3 & 6 & 10 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ row reduces to } \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= -2x_2 \\ x_2 &\text{ is free} \\ x_3 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Let  $x_2 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$  and then

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \phantom{0} \\ \phantom{0} \\ \phantom{0} \end{bmatrix}$$

**Review**

A **subspace** of a vector space  $V$  is a subset  $H$  of  $V$  that has three properties:

- a. The zero vector of  $V$  is in  $H$ .
- b. For each  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  in  $H$ ,  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$  is in  $H$ . (In this case we say  $H$  is closed under vector addition.)
- c. For each  $\mathbf{u}$  in  $H$  and each scalar  $c$ ,  $c\mathbf{u}$  is in  $H$ . (In this case we say  $H$  is closed under scalar multiplication.)

If the subset  $H$  satisfies these three properties, then  $H$  itself is a vector space.

If  $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p$  are in a vector space  $V$ , then  $\text{Span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$  is a subspace of  $V$ .

The null space of an  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$  is a subspace of  $\mathbf{R}^n$ .

The column space of an  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$  is a subspace of  $\mathbf{R}^m$ .

$$(b) V = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} : \begin{array}{l} x - y = 0 \\ y + z = 0 \end{array} \right\}$$

*Solution:* Rewrite  $x - y = 0$  as  
 $y + z = 0$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

So  $V = \text{Nul } A$  where  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ . Since  $\text{Nul } A$  is a subspace of  $\mathbf{R}^3$ ,  $V$  is a vector space.

$$(c) S = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x + y \\ 2x - 3y \\ 3y \end{bmatrix} : x, y, z \text{ are real} \right\}$$

*One Solution:* Since

$$\begin{bmatrix} x + y \\ 2x - 3y \\ 3y \end{bmatrix} = x \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + y \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$S = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \right\}; \text{ therefore } S \text{ is a vector space by}$$

*Another Solution:* Since

$$\begin{bmatrix} x + y \\ 2x - 3y \\ 3y \end{bmatrix} = x \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + y \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$S = \text{Col } A \text{ where } A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & -3 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}; \text{ therefore } S \text{ is a vector space,}$$

since a column space is a vector space.