

1. If possible, express  $\vec{b}$  as a linear combination of  $\vec{a}_1$  and  $\vec{a}_2$ .

$$\vec{a}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \vec{a}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \vec{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} -2 & 7 & 8 \\ 5 & -3 & 9 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{2R_1 + R_2 \rightarrow R_2} \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} -2 & 7 & 8 \\ 1 & 11 & 25 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\xrightarrow{R_1 \leftrightarrow R_2} \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 11 & 25 \\ -2 & 7 & 8 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{2R_1 + R_2 \rightarrow R_2} \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 11 & 25 \\ 0 & 29 & 58 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow x_2 = 2, x_1 = 3 \text{ (via back-substitution)}$$

$$\text{Thus, } \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} = 3 \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} + 2 \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

4 points

2. Determine if the columns of  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 4 & 6 \\ 2 & -1 & -6 \end{bmatrix}$  span  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . If they don't, find a vector outside their span.

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 3 & 4 & 0 \\ 1 & 4 & 6 & 0 \\ 2 & -1 & -6 & 1 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\substack{-R_1 + R_2 \rightarrow R_2 \\ -2R_1 + R_3 \rightarrow R_3}} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 3 & 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & -7 & -14 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\xrightarrow{7R_2 + R_3 \rightarrow R_3} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 3 & 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

No pivot in  
3rd row  $\Rightarrow$  columns  
don't span  $\mathbb{R}^3$ !

4 points

would be to see that

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ is not}$$

in the span of  
the columns of  $A$ .

2 points