Module S: Structure of vector spaces

What structure do vector spaces have?

Readiness Assurance Outcomes

Before beginning this module, each student should be able to...

- Add Euclidean vectors and multiply Euclidean vectors by scalars.
- Perform basic manipulations of augmented matrices and linear systems **E1,E2,E3**.
- Apply linear combinations and spanning sets **V3,V4**.

The following resources will help you prepare for this module.

- Adding and subtracting Euclidean vectors (Khan Acaemdy): `http://bit.ly/2y8AOwa`
- Linear combinations of Euclidean vectors (Khan Academy): `http://bit.ly/2nK3wne`
- Adding and subtracting complex numbers (Khan Academy): `http://bit.ly/1PE3ZMQ`
- Adding and subtracting polynomials (Khan Academy): `http://bit.ly/2d5SLGZ`

Module S Section 1

Activity S.1.1 *(∼10 min)*
Consider the two sets

$$S = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \qquad T = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ -11 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

Which of the following is true?

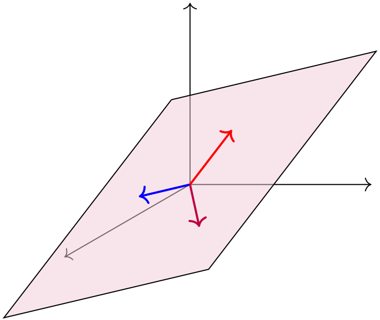
(A) span S is bigger than span T.

(B) span S and span T are the same size.

(C) span S is smaller than span T.

Definition S.1.2

We say that a set of vectors is **linearly dependent** if one vector in the set belongs to the span of the others. Otherwise, we say the set is **linearly independent**.



You can think of linearly dependent sets as containing a redundant vector, in the sense that you can drop a vector out without reducing the span of the set. In the above image, all three vectors lay on the same planar subspace, but only two vectors are needed to span the plane, so the set is linearly dependent.

Activity S.1.3 *(∼10 min)*

Let $\vec{\mathbf{u}}, \vec{\mathbf{v}}, \vec{\mathbf{w}}$ be vectors in $\mathbb{R}^n$. Suppose $3\vec{\mathbf{u}} - 5\vec{\mathbf{v}} = \vec{\mathbf{w}}$, so the set $\{\vec{\mathbf{u}}, \vec{\mathbf{v}}, \vec{\mathbf{w}}\}$ is linearly dependent. Which of the following is true of the vector equation $x\vec{\mathbf{u}} + y\vec{\mathbf{v}} + z\vec{\mathbf{w}} = \vec{\mathbf{0}}$?

(A) It is consistent with one solution

(B) It is consistent with infinitely many solutions

(C) It is inconsistent.

Fact S.1.4

For any vector space, the set $\{\vec{\mathbf{v}}_1, \dots \vec{\mathbf{v}}_n\}$ is linearly dependent if and only if $x_1\vec{\mathbf{v}}_1 + \cdots + x_n\vec{\mathbf{v}}_n = \vec{\mathbf{z}}$ is consistent with infinitely many solutions.

Activity S.1.5 *(∼10 min)*

Find

$$\mathrm{RREF}\left[\begin{array}{ccccc|c} 2 & 2 & 3 & -1 & 4 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 13 & 10 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 7 & 7 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 3 & 16 & 14 & 2 & 0 \end{array}\right]$$

and mark the part of the matrix that demonstrates that

$$S = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 13 \\ 7 \\ 16 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 10 \\ 7 \\ 14 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

is linearly dependent (the part that shows its linear system has infinitely many solutions).

Fact S.1.6

A set of Euclidean vectors $\{\vec{\mathbf{v}}_1, \dots \vec{\mathbf{v}}_n\}$ is linearly dependent if and only if RREF $\begin{bmatrix} \vec{\mathbf{v}}_1 & \dots & \vec{\mathbf{v}}_n \end{bmatrix}$ has a column without a pivot position.

Activity S.1.7 *(∼5 min)*

Is the set of Euclidean vectors $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 10 \\ 10 \\ 2 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 7 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ linearly dependent or linearly independent?

Activity S.1.8 *(∼10 min)*

Is the set of polynomials $\left\{x^3 + 1, x^2 + 2x, x^2 + 7x + 4\right\}$ linearly dependent or linearly independent?

Activity S.1.9 *(∼5 min)*

What is the largest number of vectors in $\mathbb{R}^4$ that can form a linearly independent set?

(a) 3

(b) 4

(c) 5

(d) You can have infinitely many vectors and still be linearly independent.

Activity S.1.10 *(∼5 min)*

What is the largest number of vectors in

$$\mathcal{P}^4 = \left\{ ax^4 + bx^3 + cx^2 + dx + e \,\middle|\, a, b, c, d, e \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

that can form a linearly independent set?

(a) 3

(b) 4

(c) 5

(d) You can have infinitely many vectors and still be linearly independent.

Activity S.1.11 *(∼5 min)*
What is the largest number of vectors in

$$\mathcal{P} = \{f(x) \mid f(x) \text{ is any polynomial}\}$$

that can form a linearly independent set?

(a) 3
(b) 4
(c) 5
(d) You can have infinitely many vectors and still be linearly independent.

Module S Section 2

Definition S.2.1

A **basis** is a linearly independent set that spans a vector space.

The **standard basis** of $\mathbb{R}^n$ is the set $\{\vec{\mathbf{e}}_1, \ldots, \vec{\mathbf{e}}_n\}$ where

$$\vec{\mathbf{e}}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \qquad \vec{\mathbf{e}}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \qquad \cdots \qquad \vec{\mathbf{e}}_n = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

For $\mathbb{R}^3$, these are the vectors $\vec{\mathbf{e}}_1 = \hat{\imath} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \vec{\mathbf{e}}_2 = \hat{\jmath} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$, and $\vec{\mathbf{e}}_3 = \hat{k} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

Observation S.2.2

A basis may be thought of as a collection of building blocks for a vector space, since every vector in the space can be expressed as a unique linear combination of basis vectors.

For example, in many calculus courses, vectors in $\mathbb{R}^3$ are often expressed in their component form

$$(3, -2, 4) = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -2 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

or in their standard basic vector form

$$3\vec{\mathbf{e}}_1 - 2\vec{\mathbf{e}}_2 + 4\vec{\mathbf{e}}_3 = 3\hat{\imath} - 2\hat{\jmath} + 4\hat{k}.$$

Since every vector in $\mathbb{R}^3$ can be uniquely described as a linear combination of the vectors in $\{\vec{\mathbf{e}}_1, \vec{\mathbf{e}}_2, \vec{\mathbf{e}}_3\}$, this set is indeed a basis.

Activity S.2.3 *(∼15 min)*

Label each of the sets A, B, C, D, E as

- SPANS $\mathbb{R}^4$ or DOES NOT SPAN $\mathbb{R}^4$
- LINEARLY INDEPENDENT or LINEARLY DEPENDENT
- BASIS FOR $\mathbb{R}^4$ or NOT A BASIS FOR $\mathbb{R}^4$

by finding RREF for their corresponding matrices.

$$A = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \qquad B = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

$$C = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 13 \\ 7 \\ 16 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 10 \\ 7 \\ 14 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \qquad D = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ 1 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

$$E = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

Activity S.2.4 *(∼10 min)*

If $\{\vec{\mathbf{v}}_1, \vec{\mathbf{v}}_2, \vec{\mathbf{v}}_3, \vec{\mathbf{v}}_4\}$ is a basis for $\mathbb{R}^4$, that means $\mathrm{RREF}[\vec{\mathbf{v}}_1\ \vec{\mathbf{v}}_2\ \vec{\mathbf{v}}_3\ \vec{\mathbf{v}}_4]$ doesn't have a non-pivot column, and doesn't have a row of zeros. What is $\mathrm{RREF}[\vec{\mathbf{v}}_1\ \vec{\mathbf{v}}_2\ \vec{\mathbf{v}}_3\ \vec{\mathbf{v}}_4]$?

$$\mathrm{RREF}[\vec{\mathbf{v}}_1\ \vec{\mathbf{v}}_2\ \vec{\mathbf{v}}_3\ \vec{\mathbf{v}}_4] = \begin{bmatrix} ? & ? & ? & ? \\ ? & ? & ? & ? \\ ? & ? & ? & ? \\ ? & ? & ? & ? \end{bmatrix}$$

Fact S.2.5

The set $\{\vec{\mathbf{v}}_1, \ldots, \vec{\mathbf{v}}_m\}$ is a basis for $\mathbb{R}^n$ if and only if $m = n$ and

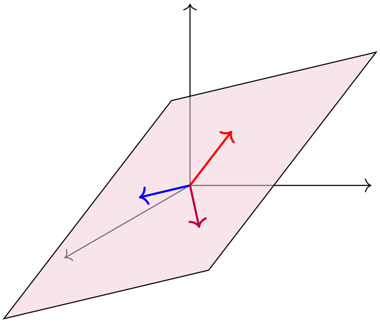
$$\mathrm{RREF}[\vec{\mathbf{v}}_1 \ \ldots \ \vec{\mathbf{v}}_n] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \ldots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \ldots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \ldots & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

That is, a basis for $\mathbb{R}^n$ must have exactly n vectors and its square matrix must row-reduce to the so-called **identity matrix** containing all zeros except for a downward diagonal of ones. (We will learn where the identity matrix gets its name in a later module.)

Observation S.2.6

Recall that a **subspace** of a vector space is a subset that is itself a vector space.

One easy way to construct a subspace is to take the span of set, but a linearly dependent set contains "redundant" vectors. For example, only two of the three vectors in the following image are needed to span the planar subspace.



Activity S.2.7 *(∼10 min)*

Consider the subspace $W = \operatorname{span}\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 2 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ of $\mathbb{R}^4$.

Activity S.2.7 *(∼10 min)*

Consider the subspace $W = \text{span}\left\{\begin{bmatrix}2\\3\\0\\1\end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix}2\\0\\1\\-1\end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix}2\\-3\\2\\-3\end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix}1\\5\\-1\\0\end{bmatrix}\right\}$ of $\mathbb{R}^4$.

Part 1: Mark the part of RREF $\begin{bmatrix}2 & 2 & 2 & 1\\3 & 0 & -3 & 5\\0 & 1 & 2 & -1\\1 & -1 & -3 & 0\end{bmatrix}$ that shows that W's spanning set is linearly dependent.

Activity S.2.7 *(∼10 min)*

Consider the subspace $W = \text{span}\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 2 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ of $\mathbb{R}^4$.

Part 1: Mark the part of RREF $\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 & 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 0 & -3 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & -3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ that shows that W's spanning set is linearly dependent.

Part 2: Find a basis for W by removing a vector from its spanning set to make it linearly independent.

Fact S.2.8

Let $S = \{\vec{\mathbf{v}}_1, \dots, \vec{\mathbf{v}}_m\}$. The easiest basis describing span S is the set of vectors in S given by the pivot columns of RREF$[\vec{\mathbf{v}}_1 \ \dots \ \vec{\mathbf{v}}_m]$.

Put another way, to compute a basis for the subspace span S, simply remove the vectors corresponding to the non-pivot columns of RREF$[\vec{\mathbf{v}}_1 \ \dots \ \vec{\mathbf{v}}_m]$.

Activity S.2.9 *(∼10 min)*

Let W be the subspace of $\mathbb{R}^4$ given by

$$W = \operatorname{span}\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

Find a basis for W.

Activity S.2.10 *(∼10 min)*
Let W be the subspace of $\mathcal{P}^3$ given by

$$W = \text{span}\left\{x^3+3x^2+x-1, 2x^3-x^2+x+2, 4x^3+5x^2+3x, 3x^3+2x^2+2x+1\right\}$$

Find a basis for W.

Module S Section 3

Observation S.3.1

In the previous section, we learned that computing a basis for the subspace $\operatorname{span}\{\vec{\mathbf{v}}_1, \dots, \vec{\mathbf{v}}_m\}$, is as simple as removing the vectors corresponding to the non-pivot columns of $\operatorname{RREF}[\vec{\mathbf{v}}_1 \ \dots \ \vec{\mathbf{v}}_m]$.

For example, since

$$\operatorname{RREF}\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & -2 & -2 \\ -3 & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

the subspace $W = \operatorname{span}\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -2 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ has $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ as a basis.

Activity S.3.2 *(∼10 min)*

Let

$$S = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 2 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \text{ and } T = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 2 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

Activity S.3.2 *(∼10 min)*
Let

$$S = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 2 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \quad \text{and} \quad T = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 2 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

Part 1: Find a basis for $\operatorname{span} S$.

Activity S.3.2 *(∼10 min)*
Let

$$S = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 2 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \text{ and } \quad T = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 2 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

Part 1: Find a basis for span S.
Part 2: Find a basis for span T.

Observation S.3.3

Even though we found different bases for them, span S and span T are exactly the same subspace of $\mathbb{R}^4$, since

$$S = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix}2\\3\\0\\1\end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix}2\\0\\1\\-1\end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix}2\\-3\\2\\-3\end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix}1\\5\\-1\\0\end{bmatrix} \right\} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix}2\\0\\1\\-1\end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix}2\\-3\\2\\-3\end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix}1\\5\\-1\\0\end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix}2\\3\\0\\1\end{bmatrix} \right\} = T$$

Fact S.3.4

Any non-trivial vector space has infinitely-many different bases, but all the bases for a given vector space are exactly the same size.

For example,

$$\{\vec{\mathbf{e}}_1, \vec{\mathbf{e}}_2, \vec{\mathbf{e}}_3\} \text{ and } \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \text{ and } \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -2 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

are all valid bases for $\mathbb{R}^3$, and they all contain three vectors.

Definition S.3.5
The **dimension** of a vector space is equal to the size of any basis for the vector space.

As you'd expect, $\mathbb{R}^n$ has dimension n. For example, $\mathbb{R}^3$ has dimension 3 because any basis for $\mathbb{R}^3$ such as

$$\{\vec{\mathbf{e}}_1, \vec{\mathbf{e}}_2, \vec{\mathbf{e}}_3\} \text{ and } \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \text{ and } \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -2 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

contains exactly three vectors.

Activity S.3.6 *(∼10 min)*
Find the dimension of each subspace of $\mathbb{R}^4$ by finding RREF for each corresponding matrix.

$$\operatorname{span}\left\{\begin{bmatrix}2\\3\\0\\-1\end{bmatrix},\begin{bmatrix}2\\0\\0\\3\end{bmatrix},\begin{bmatrix}4\\3\\0\\2\end{bmatrix},\begin{bmatrix}-3\\0\\1\\3\end{bmatrix}\right\} \quad \operatorname{span}\left\{\begin{bmatrix}2\\3\\0\\-1\end{bmatrix},\begin{bmatrix}2\\0\\0\\3\end{bmatrix},\begin{bmatrix}3\\13\\7\\16\end{bmatrix},\begin{bmatrix}-1\\10\\7\\14\end{bmatrix},\begin{bmatrix}4\\3\\0\\2\end{bmatrix}\right\}$$

$$\operatorname{span}\left\{\begin{bmatrix}2\\3\\0\\-1\end{bmatrix},\begin{bmatrix}4\\3\\0\\2\end{bmatrix},\begin{bmatrix}-3\\0\\1\\3\end{bmatrix},\begin{bmatrix}3\\6\\1\\5\end{bmatrix}\right\} \quad \operatorname{span}\left\{\begin{bmatrix}5\\3\\0\\-1\end{bmatrix},\begin{bmatrix}-2\\1\\0\\3\end{bmatrix},\begin{bmatrix}4\\5\\1\\3\end{bmatrix}\right\}$$

Fact S.3.7

Every vector space with finite dimension, that is, every vector space V with a basis of the form $\{\vec{\mathbf{v}}_1, \vec{\mathbf{v}}_2, \ldots, \vec{\mathbf{v}}_n\}$ is said to be **isomorphic** to a Euclidean space $\mathbb{R}^n$, since there exists a natural correspondance between vectors in V and vectors in $\mathbb{R}^n$:

$$c_1\vec{\mathbf{v}}_1 + c_2\vec{\mathbf{v}}_2 + \cdots + c_n\vec{\mathbf{v}}_n \leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ \vdots \\ c_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Observation S.3.8

We've already been taking advantage of the previous fact by converting polynomials and matrices into Euclidean vectors. Since $\mathcal{P}^3$ and $M_{2,2}$ are both four-dimensional:

$$4x^3 + 0x^2 - 1x + 5 \leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 \\ -1 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

Observation S.3.9

The space of polynomials $\mathcal{P}$ (of *any* degree) has the basis $\{1, x, x^2, x^3, \ldots\}$, so it is a natural example of an infinite-dimensional vector space.

Since $\mathcal{P}$ and other infinite-dimensional spaces cannot be treated as an isomorphic finite-dimensional Euclidean space $\mathbb{R}^n$, vectors in such spaces cannot be studied by converting them into Euclidean vectors. Fortunately, most of the examples we will be interested in for this course will be finite-dimensional.

Definition S.3.10
A **homogeneous** system of linear equations is one of the form:

$$\begin{aligned}
a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \ldots + a_{1n}x_n &= 0 \\
a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \ldots + a_{2n}x_n &= 0 \\
\vdots \qquad \vdots \qquad\qquad \vdots \quad &\;\; \vdots \\
a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \ldots + a_{mn}x_n &= 0
\end{aligned}$$

This system is equivalent to the vector equation:

$$x_1\vec{\mathbf{v}}_1 + \cdots + x_n\vec{\mathbf{v}}_n = \vec{\mathbf{0}}$$

and the augmented matrix:

$$\left[\begin{array}{cccc|c}
a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} & 0 \\
a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} & 0 \\
\vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\
a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \cdots & a_{mn} & 0
\end{array}\right]$$

Activity S.3.11 *(∼5 min)*

Note that if $\begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{bmatrix}$ and $\begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ \vdots \\ b_n \end{bmatrix}$ are solutions to $x_1\vec{\mathbf{v}}_1 + \cdots + x_n\vec{\mathbf{v}}_n = \vec{\mathbf{0}}$ so is $\begin{bmatrix} a_1 + b_1 \\ \vdots \\ a_n + b_n \end{bmatrix}$, since

$$a_1\vec{\mathbf{v}}_1 + \cdots + a_n\vec{\mathbf{v}}_n = \vec{\mathbf{0}} \text{ and } b_1\vec{\mathbf{v}}_1 + \cdots + b_n\vec{\mathbf{v}}_n = \vec{\mathbf{0}}$$

implies

$$(a_1 + b_1)\vec{\mathbf{v}}_1 + \cdots + (a_n + b_n)\vec{\mathbf{v}}_n = \vec{\mathbf{0}}.$$

Similarly, if $c \in \mathbb{R}$, $\begin{bmatrix} ca_1 \\ \vdots \\ ca_n \end{bmatrix}$ is a solution. Thus the solution set of a homogeneous system is...

a) A basis for $\mathbb{R}^n$.

b) A subspace of $\mathbb{R}^n$.

c) The empty set.

Activity S.3.12 *(∼10 min)*

Consider the homogeneous system of equations

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 + 2x_2 \phantom{{}-x_3} + x_4 &= 0 \\ 2x_1 + 4x_2 - x_3 - 2x_4 &= 0 \\ 3x_1 + 6x_2 - x_3 - x_4 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Activity S.3.12 *(∼10 min)*
Consider the homogeneous system of equations

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 + 2x_2 \phantom{{}-x_3} + x_4 &= 0 \\ 2x_1 + 4x_2 - x_3 - 2x_4 &= 0 \\ 3x_1 + 6x_2 - x_3 - x_4 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Part 1: Find its solution set (a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^4$).

Activity S.3.12 *(∼10 min)*

Consider the homogeneous system of equations

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 + 2x_2 \phantom{{}- x_3} + x_4 &= 0 \\ 2x_1 + 4x_2 - x_3 - 2x_4 &= 0 \\ 3x_1 + 6x_2 - x_3 - x_4 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Part 1: Find its solution set (a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^4$).

Part 2: Rewrite this solution space in the form

$$\left\{ a \begin{bmatrix} ? \\ ? \\ ? \\ ? \end{bmatrix} + b \begin{bmatrix} ? \\ ? \\ ? \\ ? \end{bmatrix} \middle|\, a, b \in \mathbb{R} \right\}.$$

Fact S.3.13

The coefficients of the free variables in the solution set of a linear system always yield linearly independent vectors.

Thus if

$$\left\{ a \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + b \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 0 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \,\middle|\, a, b \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

is the solution space for a homoegeneous system, then

$$\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 0 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

is a basis for the solution space.

Activity S.3.14 *(∼10 min)*

Consider the homogeneous system of equations

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 - 3x_2 + 2x_3 \qquad\quad &= 0 \\ 2x_1 - 6x_2 + 4x_3 + 3x_4 &= 0 \\ -2x_1 + 6x_2 - 4x_3 - 4x_4 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Find a basis for its solution space.

Activity S.3.15 *(∼5 min)*

Suppose W is a subspace of $\mathcal{P}^8$, and you know that it contains a **linearly independent** set of 3 vectors. What can you conclude about W?

(a) The dimension of W is at most 3.

(b) The dimension of W is exactly 3.

(c) The dimension of W is at least 3.

Activity S.3.16 *(∼5 min)*

Suppose W is a subspace of $\mathcal{P}^8$, and you know that it contains a **spanning set** of 3 vectors. What can you conclude about W?

(a) The dimension of W is at most 3.

(b) The dimension of W is exactly 3.

(c) The dimension of W is at least 3.