

## Module S: Structure of vector spaces

# What structure do vector spaces have?

At the end of this module, students will be able to...

- S1. Linear independence.** ... determine if a set of Euclidean vectors is linearly dependent or independent.
- S2. Basis verification.** ... determine if a set of Euclidean vectors is a basis of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .
- S3. Basis computation.** ... compute a basis for the subspace spanned by a given set of Euclidean vectors.
- S4. Dimension.** ... compute the dimension of a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .
- S5. Abstract vector spaces.** ... solve exercises related to standards V3-S4 when posed in terms of polynomials or matrices.
- S6. Basis of solution space.** ... find a basis for the solution set of a homogeneous system of equations.

## 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 **V2,V3**.

The following resources will help you prepare for this module.

- Adding and subtracting Euclidean vectors (Khan Academy):  
<http://bit.ly/2y8A0wa>
- 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** (*~15 min*)

In the previous module, we considered

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

and showed that  $\text{span } S \neq \mathbb{R}^4$ . Find two vectors from this set that are linear combinations of the other three vectors.

## 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**.



**Activity S.1.3** (*~10 min*)

Suppose  $3\mathbf{v}_1 - 5\mathbf{v}_2 = \mathbf{v}_3$ , so the set  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3\}$  is linearly dependent. Is the vector equation  $x_1\mathbf{v}_1 + x_2\mathbf{v}_2 + x_3\mathbf{v}_3 = \mathbf{0}$  consistent with one solution, consistent with infinitely many solutions, or inconsistent?

**Fact S.1.4**

The set  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$  is linearly dependent if and only if  $x_1\mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + x_n\mathbf{v}_n = \mathbf{0}$  is consistent with infinitely many solutions.

**Activity S.1.5** (*~10 min*)

Find

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

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.

**Fact S.1.6**

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

**Activity S.1.7** ( $\sim 5$  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  $\{x^3 + 1, x^2 + 2, 4 - 7x, 2x^3 + x\}$  linearly dependent or linearly independent?

## Module S Section 2

**Activity S.2.1** (*~10 min*)

Last time we saw that  $\{x^3 + 1, x^2 + 2, 4 - 7x, 2x^3 + x\}$  is linearly independent. Show that it spans  $\mathcal{P}^3$ .



## Definition S.2.2

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

## Observation S.2.3

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.

**Activity S.2.4** (*~15 min*)Which of the following sets are bases for  $\mathbb{R}^4$ ?

$$\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

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

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

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

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

**Activity S.2.5** (*~10 min*)

If  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3, \mathbf{v}_4\}$  is a basis for  $\mathbb{R}^4$ , that means  $\text{RREF}[\mathbf{v}_1 \ \mathbf{v}_2 \ \mathbf{v}_3 \ \mathbf{v}_4]$  doesn't have a column without a pivot position, and doesn't have a row of zeros. What is  $\text{RREF}[\mathbf{v}_1 \ \mathbf{v}_2 \ \mathbf{v}_3 \ \mathbf{v}_4]$ ?

## Fact S.2.6

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

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

That is, a basis for  $\mathbb{R}^n$  must have exactly  $n$  vectors and its square matrix must row-reduce to the **identity matrix** containing all zeros except for a downward diagonal of ones.

**Activity S.2.7** ( $\sim 10$  min)

Consider the set  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 2 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$

**Activity S.2.7** ( $\sim 10$  min)

Consider the set  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 2 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$

*Part 1:* Use RREF  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 & 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 0 & -3 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & -3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  to identify which vector may be removed to make the set linearly independent.

**Activity S.2.7** ( $\sim 10$  min)

Consider the set  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 2 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$

*Part 1:* Use RREF  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 & 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 0 & -3 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & -3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  to identify which vector may be removed to make the set linearly independent.

*Part 2:* Find a basis for  $\text{span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 2 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$



## Module S Section 3

### Fact S.3.1

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

**Activity S.3.2** ( $\sim 10$  min)

Find all subsets of  $S = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 2 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  that are a basis for  $\text{span } S$  by changing the order of the vectors in  $S$ .

**Activity S.3.3** (*~10 min*)

Assume  $\mathbf{w}_1 \neq \mathbf{w}_2$  are distinct vectors in  $V$ , which has a basis containing a single vector:  $\{\mathbf{v}\}$ . Could  $\{\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2\}$  be a basis?

## Fact S.3.4

All bases for a vector space are the same size.

## Definition S.3.5

The **dimension** of a vector space is given by the cardinality/size of any basis for the vector space.

**Activity S.3.6** (*~15 min*)Find the dimension of each subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^4$ .

$$\text{span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

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

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

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

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

**Activity S.3.7** ( $\sim 5$  min)

What is the dimension of the vector space of 7th-degree (or less) polynomials  $\mathcal{P}^7$ ?

a) 6

b) 7

c) 8

d) infinite



**Activity S.3.8** ( $\sim 5$  min)

What is the dimension of the vector space of all polynomials  $\mathcal{P}$ ?

a) 6

b) 7

c) 8

d) infinite

## Observation S.3.9

Several interesting vector spaces are infinite-dimensional:

- The space of polynomials  $\mathcal{P}$  (consider the set  $\{1, x, x^2, x^3, \dots\}$ ).
- The space of continuous functions  $C(\mathbb{R})$  (which contains all polynomials, in addition to other functions like  $e^x = 1 + x + x^2/2 + x^3/3 + \dots$ ).
- The space of real number sequences  $\mathbb{R}^\infty$  (consider the set  $\{(1, 0, 0, \dots), (0, 1, 0, \dots), (0, 0, 1, \dots), \dots\}$ ).

**Fact S.3.10**

Every vector space with finite dimension, that is, every vector space with a basis of the form  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$  is isomorphic to a Euclidean space  $\mathbb{R}^n$ :

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