

Definitions - Module V Part 2 - Class Day 8

Definition 8.3 A **linear combination** of a set of vectors $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_m\}$ is given by $c_1\mathbf{v}_1 + c_2\mathbf{v}_2 + \dots + c_m\mathbf{v}_m$ for any choice of scalar multiples c_1, c_2, \dots, c_m .

For example, we say $\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$ is a linear combination of the vectors $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ since

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} = 2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + 1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Definition 8.4 The **span** of a set of vectors is the collection of all linear combinations of that set:

$$\text{span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_m\} = \{c_1\mathbf{v}_1 + c_2\mathbf{v}_2 + \dots + c_m\mathbf{v}_m : c_i \text{ is a real number}\}$$