

Basis and Dimension of a Vector Space

$S = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ is a basis for a subspace W if:

- 1) x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n span W
- 2) x_1, \dots, x_n are linearly independent

Determine whether the given set of vectors forms a basis for the given subspaces:

a) $S = \{\underbrace{(1, -1, 0)}_{x_1}, \underbrace{(0, 1, -1)}_{x_2}\}$ for the subspace of \mathbb{R}^3

$$W = \{(x, y, z) : x + y + z = 0\}$$

Step 1: Do the given vectors belong to W ? Yes.

Step 2: $x + y + z = 0 \Rightarrow z = -(x + y)$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{arbitrary vector } x &= c_1 x_1 + c_2 x_2 & \underbrace{(x, y, -(x+y))}_x &= c_1 \underbrace{(1, -1, 0)}_{x_1} + c_2 \underbrace{(0, 1, -1)}_{x_2} \end{aligned}$$

vector form of a system of linear equations

Step 3: $0 = x(1, -1, 0) + (x+y)(0, 1, -1)$ - linear independent

$$\begin{matrix} (0, 0, 0) & x=0 & x+y=0 & c_1 + c_2 = 0 \\ x & y & z & \end{matrix}$$

The set S is linearly independent

Find the basis for subspace W generated by

$$S = \{\underbrace{(0, 1, 2, 0)}_{x_1}, \underbrace{(0, 1, 0, 0)}_{x_2}, \underbrace{(0, 1, 1, 0)}_{x_3}\}$$

$$x = c_1 x_1 + c_2 x_2 + c_3 x_3$$

x belongs to W ($x \in W$)

The set spans W

What is the $\dim W = ?$

$$0 = c_1 x_1 + c_2 x_2 + c_3 x_3$$

$$A = \left(\begin{array}{ccc|c} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{c_1, c_2, c_3} \left(\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) \begin{matrix} c_3 = \text{free variable} \\ \text{echelon form of } A \end{matrix}$$

$$S_1 = \{\underbrace{(0, 1, 2, 0)}_{x_1}, \underbrace{(0, 1, 0, 0)}_{x_2}\}$$

x_3 can be expressed as a lin comb of x_1, x_2