

# LECTURE-4(B)

## COURSE TITLE LINEAR ALGEBRA & GEOMETRY (MT-272)

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# SPANNING SETS

- **Spanning Set:**

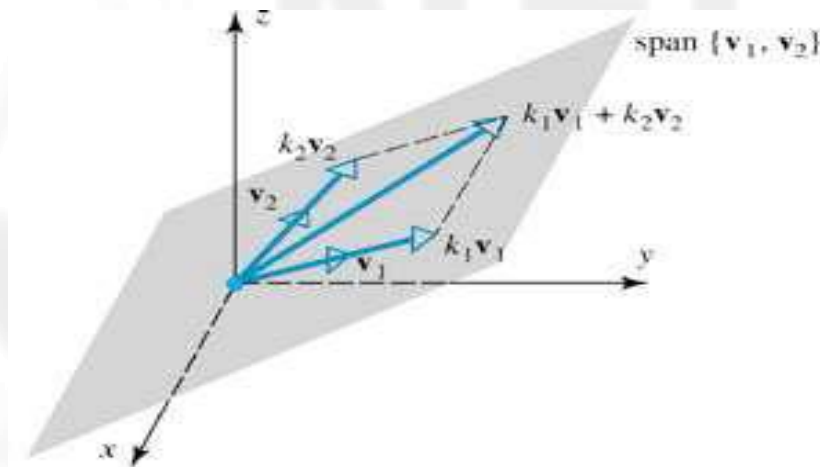
If  $S = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k\}$  is a set of vectors in a vector space  $W$  of  $V$  consisting of all linear combinations of the vectors in  $S$  is called space spanned by  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k$  and we say that the vectors  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k$  span  $W$ . It is denoted by

$$W = \text{Span}(S) \text{ or } W = \text{Span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k\}$$

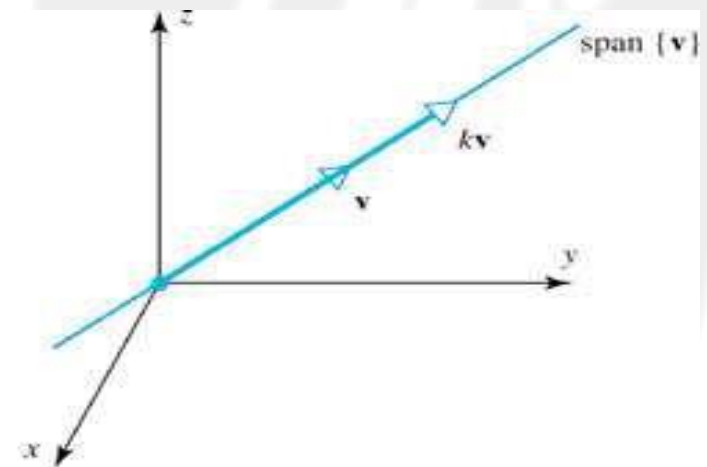
# SPANNING SETS ...Con'd

- The span of a set:  $\text{span}(S)$

If  $S = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k\}$  is a set of vectors in a vector space  $V$ , then the span of  $S$  is the set of all linear combinations of the vectors in  $S$ .



(a)  $\text{Span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2\}$  is the plane through the origin determined by  $\mathbf{v}_1$  and  $\mathbf{v}_2$ .



(b)  $\text{Span}\{\mathbf{v}\}$  is the line through the origin determined by  $\mathbf{v}$ .

# SPANNING SETS ...Con'd

- **Alternative definition of a spanning set of a vector space:**

If every vector in a given vector space  $V$  can be written as a linear combination of vectors in a set  $S$ , then  $S$  is called a **spanning set** of the vector space  $V$ .

- **Note: The above statement can be expressed as follows**

$$\text{span}(S) = V$$

$$\Leftrightarrow S \text{ spans (generates) } V$$

$$\Leftrightarrow V \text{ is spanned (generated) by } S$$

$$\Leftrightarrow S \text{ is a spanning set of } V$$

## EXAMPLE-1

Ex 1:

(a) The set  $S = \{(1, 0, 0), (0, 1, 0), (0, 0, 1)\}$  spans  $R^3$  because any vector

$\mathbf{u} = (u_1, u_2, u_3)$  in  $R^3$  can be written as

$$\mathbf{u} = u_1(1, 0, 0) + u_2(0, 1, 0) + u_3(0, 0, 1)$$

(b) The set  $S = \{1, x, x^2\}$  spans  $P_2$  because any polynomial function

$p(x) = a + bx + cx^2$  in  $P_2$  can be written as

$$p(x) = a(1) + b(x) + c(x^2)$$

## EXAMPLE-2

Ex 2: A spanning set for  $R^3$

Show that the set  $S = \{(1, 2, 3), (0, 1, 2), (-2, 0, 1)\}$  spans  $R^3$

Sol:

We must examine whether any vector  $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, u_2, u_3)$  in  $R^3$  can be expressed as a linear combination of  $\mathbf{v}_1 = (1, 2, 3)$ ,  $\mathbf{v}_2 = (0, 1, 2)$ , and  $\mathbf{v}_3 = (-2, 0, 1)$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{If } \mathbf{u} = c_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + c_2 \mathbf{v}_2 + c_3 \mathbf{v}_3 &\Rightarrow (u_1, u_2, u_3) = c_1(1, 2, 3) + c_2(0, 1, 2) + c_3(-2, 0, 1) \\ &\Rightarrow (u_1, u_2, u_3) = (c_1 - 2c_3, 2c_1 + c_2, 3c_1 + 2c_2 + c_3)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}&c_1 - 2c_3 = u_1 \\ \Rightarrow &2c_1 + c_2 = u_2 \\ &3c_1 + 2c_2 + c_3 = u_3\end{aligned}$$

## EXAMPLE-2 ...Con'd

Note: (1) If  $A$  is an invertible matrix, then the system of linear equations  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  has a unique solution ( $\mathbf{x} = A^{-1}\mathbf{b}$ ) given any  $\mathbf{b}$   
(2) From , a square matrix  $A$  is invertible (nonsingular) if and only if  $\det(A) \neq 0$

The above problem thus reduces to determine whether this system is consistent for all values of  $u_1$ ,  $u_2$ , and  $u_3$

$$\because |A| = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 & -2 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{vmatrix} \neq 0$$

$\therefore A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{u}$  has exactly one solution for every  $\mathbf{u}$

$$\Rightarrow \text{span}(S) = R^3$$



## EXAMPLE-3

**Ex 3:** Determine whether the given vectors spans  $\mathbb{R}^3$

$$\mathbf{v}_1=(3,1,4), \mathbf{v}_2=(2,-3,5), \mathbf{v}_3=(5,-2,9), \mathbf{v}_4=(1,4,-1)$$

**Sol:**

We must examine whether any vector  $\mathbf{u}=(u_1,u_2,u_3)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  can be expressed as a linear combination of  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3$ , and  $\mathbf{v}_4$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{If } \mathbf{u} &= c_1\mathbf{v}_1 + c_2\mathbf{v}_2 + c_3\mathbf{v}_3 + c_4\mathbf{v}_4 \Rightarrow \\ & \begin{aligned} 3c_1 + 2c_2 + 5c_3 + c_4 &= u_1 \\ c_1 - 3c_2 - 2c_3 + 4c_4 &= u_2 \\ 4c_1 + 5c_2 + 9c_3 - c_4 &= u_3 \end{aligned} \end{aligned}$$

The Augmented Matrix is

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cccc|c} 3 & 2 & 5 & 1 & u_1 \\ 1 & -3 & -2 & 4 & u_2 \\ 4 & 5 & 9 & -1 & u_3 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{R_1 \leftrightarrow R_2} \left[ \begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & -3 & -2 & 4 & u_2 \\ 3 & 2 & 5 & 1 & u_1 \\ 4 & 5 & 9 & -1 & u_3 \end{array} \right]$$

### EXAMPLE-3 ...Con'd

$$\xrightarrow{\text{By row operations}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 & -2 & 4 & & u_2 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -1 & \frac{u_1 - 3u_2}{11} & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{u_3 - 4u_2}{17} - \frac{u_1 - 3u_2}{11} & \end{bmatrix}$$

Thus the system is inconsistent unless the last entry in the last row of the above matrix is zero. Since this is not the case for all values of  $u_1$ ,  $u_2$ , and  $u_3$ , the given vectors do not span  $R^3$ .