

LECTURE-4(A)

COURSE TITLE LINEAR ALGEBRA & GEOMETRY (MT-272)

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LINEAR COMBINATION IN A VECTOR SPACE

A vector \mathbf{u} in a vector space V is called a linear combination of the vectors $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k$ in V if \mathbf{u} can be written in the form

$$\mathbf{u} = c_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + c_2 \mathbf{v}_2 + \dots + c_k \mathbf{v}_k,$$

where c_1, c_2, \dots, c_k are real-number scalars

EXAMPLE-1

Ex 1: Every vector $\mathbf{v} = (a, b, c)$ in \mathbb{R}^3 is expressible as a linear combination of the standard basis vectors

$$\hat{i} = (1, 0, 0), \hat{j} = (0, 1, 0), \hat{k} = (0, 0, 1)$$

Since $\mathbf{v} = (a, b, c)$

$$\text{or } \mathbf{v} = a(1, 0, 0) + b(0, 1, 0) + c(0, 0, 1)$$

$$\text{or } \mathbf{v} = a\hat{i} + b\hat{j} + c\hat{k}$$

It means \mathbf{v} is a linear combination of \hat{i} , \hat{j} & \hat{k}

EXAMPLE-2

Ex 2: Finding a linear combination

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = (1,2,3) \quad \mathbf{v}_2 = (0,1,2) \quad \mathbf{v}_3 = (-1,0,1)$$

Prove (a) $\mathbf{w} = (1,1,1)$ is a linear combination of $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3$

(b) $\mathbf{w} = (1, -2, 2)$ is not a linear combination of $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3$

Sol: (a) $\mathbf{w} = c_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + c_2 \mathbf{v}_2 + c_3 \mathbf{v}_3$ (1)

$$\begin{aligned} (1,1,1) &= c_1(1,2,3) + c_2(0,1,2) + c_3(-1,0,1) \\ &= (c_1 - c_3, 2c_1 + c_2, 3c_1 + 2c_2 + c_3) \end{aligned}$$

On comparing both sides we get

$$\begin{aligned} c_1 - c_3 &= 1 \\ \Rightarrow 2c_1 + c_2 &= 1 \\ 3c_1 + 2c_2 + c_3 &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

EXAMPLE-2 ...Con'd

The Augmented Matrix $\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\xrightarrow{\begin{matrix} -2R_1+R_2 \\ -3R_1+R_3 \end{matrix}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & 4 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{-2R_2+R_3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Retransform into linear equations,

$$c_1 - c_3 = 1 \quad \& \quad c_2 + 2c_3 = -1$$

$$\Rightarrow c_1 = 1+t, \quad c_2 = -1-2t, \quad c_3 = t \quad (\text{infinitely many solutions})$$

Putting values of c's in eq.(1), $\mathbf{w} = (1+t) \mathbf{v}_1 + (-1-2t) \mathbf{v}_2 + t \mathbf{v}_3$

$$\stackrel{t=1}{\Rightarrow} \mathbf{w} = 2\mathbf{v}_1 - 3\mathbf{v}_2 + \mathbf{v}_3$$

$$\stackrel{t=2}{\Rightarrow} \mathbf{w} = 3\mathbf{v}_1 - 5\mathbf{v}_2 + 2\mathbf{v}_3$$

$$\vdots$$

EXAMPLE-2 ...Con'd

Sol: (b) For linear combination, vector equation is $\mathbf{w} = c_1\mathbf{v}_1 + c_2\mathbf{v}_2 + c_3\mathbf{v}_3$ (1)

Since $\mathbf{w} = (1, -2, 2)$

$$\therefore (1, -2, 2) = c_1(1, 2, 3) + c_2(0, 1, 2) + c_3(-1, 0, 1)$$

$$(1, -2, 2) = (c_1 - c_3, 2c_1 + c_2, 3c_1 + 2c_2 + c_3)$$

On comparing both sides we get system of linear eq.

$$\begin{array}{rcl} c_1 - c_3 & = & 1 \\ 2c_1 + c_2 & = & -2 \\ 3c_1 + 2c_2 + c_3 & = & 2 \end{array} \quad \text{The Augmented Matrix} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 & -2 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \xrightarrow{-2R_1+R_2} \\ \xrightarrow{-3R_1+R_3} \end{array} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & -4 \\ 0 & 2 & 4 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{-2R_2+R_3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & -4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

EXAMPLE-2 ...Con'd

From last row of matrix we have

$$0c_1 + 0c_2 + 0c_3 = 7$$

$\Rightarrow 0 = 7$ Mathematically it is false statement.

\Rightarrow System is inconsistent.

\Rightarrow eq. (1) is false

Consequently, ' \mathbf{w} ' can not be written as a linear combination of vectors \mathbf{v}_1 , \mathbf{v}_2 , & \mathbf{v}_3 .

EXAMPLE-3

Ex 3: Express $\mathbf{w} = -9 - 7x - 15x^2$ as linear combination of $\mathbf{p}_1 = 2 + x + 4x^2$, $\mathbf{p}_2 = 1 - x + 3x^2$, and $\mathbf{p}_3 = 3 + 2x + 5x^2$

Sol: For linear combination, the vector equation is $\mathbf{w} = c_1\mathbf{p}_1 + c_2\mathbf{p}_2 + c_3\mathbf{p}_3 \dots (1)$

Since $\mathbf{w} = -9 - 7x - 15x^2$

$$\therefore -9 - 7x - 15x^2 = c_1(2 + x + 4x^2) + c_2(1 - x + 3x^2) + c_3(3 + 2x + 5x^2)$$

$$\text{Or } -9 - 7x - 15x^2 = (2c_1 + c_2 + 3c_3) + (c_1 - c_2 + 2c_3)x + (4c_1 + 3c_2 + 5c_3)x^2$$

On comparing both sides we get system of linear eq.

$$\begin{aligned} 2c_1 + c_2 + 3c_3 &= -9 \\ c_1 - c_2 + 2c_3 &= -7 \\ 4c_1 + 3c_2 + 5c_3 &= -15 \end{aligned} \quad \text{The Augmented Matrix} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 3 & -9 \\ 1 & -1 & 2 & -7 \\ 4 & 3 & 5 & -15 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\xrightarrow{\frac{1}{2}R_1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & -\frac{9}{2} \\ 1 & -1 & 2 & -7 \\ 4 & 3 & 5 & -15 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\begin{matrix} -R_1 + R_2 \\ -4R_1 + R_3 \end{matrix}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & -\frac{9}{2} \\ 0 & -\frac{3}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{5}{2} \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

EXAMPLE-3 ...Con'd

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\xrightarrow{-\frac{2}{3}R_2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & -\frac{9}{2} \\ 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{5}{3} \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{-R_2+R_3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & -\frac{9}{2} \\ 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{5}{3} \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{2}{3} & \frac{4}{3} \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{-\frac{3}{2}R_3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & -\frac{9}{2} \\ 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{5}{3} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \\
 &\xrightarrow{\begin{matrix} -\frac{3}{2}R_3+R_1 \\ -\frac{1}{3}R_3+R_2 \end{matrix}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & -\frac{3}{2} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{-\frac{1}{2}R_2+R_1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

Retransform into linear equations,

$$c_1 = -2, \quad c_2 = 1 \quad \& \quad c_3 = -2$$

Therefore, $\mathbf{w} = -2\mathbf{p}_1 + \mathbf{p}_2 - 2\mathbf{p}_3$ Or $-9 - 7x - 15x^2 = -2\mathbf{p}_1 + \mathbf{p}_2 - 2\mathbf{p}_3$

Hence, \mathbf{w} is linear combination of \mathbf{p}_1 , \mathbf{p}_2 , & \mathbf{p}_3 .

EXAMPLE-4

Ex 4: Determine whether $\begin{bmatrix} 6 & -8 \\ -1 & -8 \end{bmatrix}$ is a linear combination of $\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 \\ -2 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$, $\mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$, & $\mathbf{C} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$ or not?

Sol: For linear combination, the vector equation is

$$\begin{bmatrix} 6 & -8 \\ -1 & -8 \end{bmatrix} = c_1 \mathbf{A} + c_2 \mathbf{B} + c_3 \mathbf{C} \quad \text{.....(1)}$$

$$\text{or } \begin{bmatrix} 6 & -8 \\ -1 & -8 \end{bmatrix} = c_1 \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 \\ -2 & -2 \end{bmatrix} + c_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} + c_3 \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{or } \begin{bmatrix} 6 & -8 \\ -1 & -8 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4c_1 & 0 \\ -2c_1 & -2c_1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} c_2 & -c_2 \\ 2c_2 & 3c_2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2c_3 \\ c_3 & 4c_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{or } \begin{bmatrix} 6 & -8 \\ -1 & -8 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4c_1 + c_2 & -c_2 + 2c_3 \\ -2c_1 + 2c_2 + c_3 & -2c_1 + 3c_2 + 4c_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

EXAMPLE-4 ...Con'd

On comparing corresponding elements of matrices both sides we get system of linear eq.

$$4c_1 + c_2 = 6$$

$$-c_2 + 2c_3 = -8$$

$$-2c_1 + 2c_2 + c_3 = -1$$

$$-2c_1 + 3c_2 + 4c_3 = -8$$

The Augmented Matrix is

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 4 & 1 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & -8 \\ -2 & 2 & 1 & -1 \\ -2 & 3 & 4 & -8 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{G.-J. \text{ Elim.}} \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

From last row of matrix we have $c_1 = 1$, $c_2 = 2$ & $c_3 = -3$

$$\text{Eq. (1)} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 6 & -8 \\ -1 & -8 \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{A} + 2\mathbf{B} - 3\mathbf{C}$$

Hence, $\begin{bmatrix} 6 & -8 \\ -1 & -8 \end{bmatrix}$ is linear combination of \mathbf{A} , \mathbf{B} , & \mathbf{C} .