

# Linear Algebra Notes

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# Chapter 1

## Vector Spaces

### 1.1 Vector Spaces

#### 1.1.1 Basics

**Definition 1.1.1 (Vector Spaces).** A **vector space** (or **linear space**) over a field  $F$  consists of a set on which two operations (called **addition** and **scalar multiplication**, respectively) are defined so that for each pair of elements  $x, y$ , in  $V$  there is a unique element  $ax$  in  $V$ , such that the following conditions hold:

- (VS 1) For all  $x, y \in V$ ,  $x + y = y + x$  (commutativity of addition).
- (VS 2) For all  $x, y, z \in V$ ,  $(x + y) + z = x + (y + z)$  (associativity of addition).
- (VS 3) There exists an element in  $V$  denoted by  $O$  such that  $x + O = x$  for each  $x \in V$ .
- (VS 4) For each element  $x \in V$ , there exists an element  $y \in V$  such that  $x + y = O$ .
- (VS 5) For each element  $x \in V$ , we have  $1x = x$ .
- (VS 6) For each  $a, b \in F$  and each element  $x \in V$ , then  $(ab)x = a(bx)$ .
- (VS 7) For each element  $a \in F$  and each pair  $x, y \in V$ , we have  $a(x + y) = ax + ay$ .
- (VS 8) For each pair  $a, b \in F$  and each  $x \in V$ , we have  $(a + b)x = ax + bx$ .

The elements  $x + y$  and  $ax$  are called the **sum** of  $x$  and  $y$  and the **product** of  $a$  and  $x$ , respectively.

- The elements of a field  $F$  are called **scalars** and the elements of a vector space  $V$  are called **vectors** (these should not be confused!).
- Every vector space will always be defined over a given field, mostly defined over the real numbers  $\mathbb{R}$  or the complex numbers  $\mathbb{C}$  unless otherwise noted.
- Every vector space should specify the operations of addition and scalar multiplication.

**Definition 1.1.2 (n-tuples).** An object of the form  $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$ , where the entries  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  are elements of a field  $F$ , is called an **n-tuple** with entries from  $F$ . The elements  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  are called **entries** or **components** of the  $n$ -tuple.

**Definition 1.1.3.** We say that two  $n$ -tuples,  $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$  and  $(b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n)$ , are **equal** if  $a_i = b_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .

**Example 1.1.1.** The set of all  $n$ -tuples with entries from a field  $F$  denoted by  $F_n$  is a vector space. To see why, suppose  $u, v \in F_n$  where  $u = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$  and  $v = (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n)$ . If we take term-by-term addition of the entries in both  $u$  and  $v$ , then we end up with

$$u + v = (a_1 + b_1, a_2 + b_2, \dots, a_n + b_n)$$

and likewise,

$$cu = (ca_1, ca_2, \dots, ca_n).$$

These same set of operations define  $\mathbb{R}^3$  as a vector space over  $\mathbb{R}$  and likewise,  $\mathbb{C}^2$  is a vector space over  $\mathbb{C}$ .

- Note that vectors in  $F^n$  can be written as **column vectors**

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{pmatrix}$$

rather than **row vectors**  $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$ .

- 1-tuples are just scalars or are just an element from  $F$ .

**Definition 1.1.4.** An  $m \times n$  **matrix** with entries from a field  $F$  is a rectangular array of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \cdots & a_{mn} \end{pmatrix}$$

where each entry  $a_{ij}$  with  $(1 \leq i \leq m, 1 \leq j \leq n)$  is an element of  $F$ . We call the entries  $a_{ij}$  with  $i = j$  the **diagonal entries** of the matrix. The entries  $a_{i1}, a_{i2}, \dots, a_{in}$  compose the  **$i$ th row** of the matrix, and the entries  $a_{1j}, a_{2j}, \dots, a_{mj}$  compose the  **$j$ th column** of the matrix.

- The rows make a vector space which we denote  $F^n$ .
- Likewise, the columns make a vector space we denote  $F^m$ .

**Definition 1.1.5 (Zero Matrix).** The  $m \times n$  matrix in which each entry equals zero is called the **zero matrix** and is denoted by  $O$ .

**Definition 1.1.6 (Square Matrix).** A matrix is **square** if the number of rows and columns of a matrix are equal.

- Just like our tuple example, the set of all  $m \times n$  matrices with entries from a field  $F$  form a vector space. Denote this vector space as  $M_{m \times n}(F)$  endowed with two operations; that is,



**matrix addition** and **scalar multiplication**. Suppose for  $A, B \in M_{m \times n}(F)$  and  $c \in F$ , we have

$$(A + B)_{ij} = A_{ij} + B_{ij}$$

and

$$(cA)_{ij} = cA_{ij}$$

for  $1 \leq i \leq m$  and  $1 \leq j \leq n$ . In other words, the two operations can be performed entry-wise.

- The operations from our tuple case extends very naturally to  $M_{m \times n}(F)$ . In other words, if we add two matrices  $A_{ij}$  and  $B_{ij}$ , then we would expect to that  $A_{ij} + B_{ij} \in M_{m \times n}(F)$  as well and likewise for the scalar multiplication case.

**Definition 1.1.7 (Set of All Functions).** Let  $S$  be any nonempty set and  $F$  be any field, and let  $\mathcal{F}(S, F)$  denote the set of all functions from  $S$  to  $F$ .

**Definition 1.1.8.** Two functions  $f, g \in \mathcal{F}(S, F)$  are called **equal** if  $f(s) = g(s)$  for each  $s \in S$ .

The set of functions above forms a vector space with the operations of addition and scalar multiplication defined for every  $f, g \in \mathcal{F}(S, F)$  and  $c \in F$  with

$$(f + g)(s) = f(s) + g(s) \text{ and } (cf)(s) = cf(s)$$

**Definition 1.1.9 (Set of All Polynomials).** A **polynomial** with coefficients from a field  $F$  is an expression of the form

$$f(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1 x + a_0,$$

where  $n$  is a nonnegative integer and each  $a_k \in F$  is called the **coefficient** of  $x_k$ .

**Definition 1.1.10 (Zero Polynomial).** We call  $f(x) = 0$  the **zero polynomial** if  $a_n = a_{n-1} = \cdots = a_0 = 0$ .

**Definition 1.1.11 (Degree).** The **degree** of a given polynomial  $f$  is defined to be the largest exponent of  $x$  that appears in the representation

$$f(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1 x + a_0.$$

**Definition 1.1.12 (Equality of Polynomials).** We call two polynomials  $f, g$ , where

$$f(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1 x + a_0$$

and

$$g(x) = b_m x^m + b_{m-1} x^{m-1} + \cdots + b_1 x + b_0,$$

are **equal** if  $m = n$  and  $a_i = b_i$  for all  $i = 0, 1, \dots, n$ .

Suppose we have  $c \in F$  and say we evaluated the polynomial  $f \in F$  at  $c$ . Then we would have the following

$$f(c) = a_n c^n + a_{n-1} c^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1 c + a_0$$

where  $f(c) \in F$ .

**Definition 1.1.13 (Basic Operations of Polynomials).** Define polynomial **addition**  $f + g$  as the following:

$$f(x) + g(x) = (a_n + b_n)x^n + (a_{n-1} + b_{n-1})x^{n-1} + \cdots + (a_1 + b_1)x + (a_0 + b_0).$$

Let  $c \in F$ . Let scalar **multiplication** be defined by

$$cf(x) = ca_nx^n + ca_{n-1}x^{n-1} + \cdots + ca_1x + ca_0.$$

The operations above form a vector space for  $P(F)$  (the set of all polynomials).

**Definition 1.1.14 (Sequences).** A **sequence** in  $F$  is a function  $\sigma : \mathbb{Z}^+ \rightarrow F$ . A given sequence  $\sigma$  such that  $\sigma(n) = a_n$  for  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  is denoted  $(a_n)$ .

Let  $V$  be the set of all sequences  $\sigma(n) \in F$ . For every  $(a_n), (b_n) \in V$  with  $t \in F$ , we have the following operations

$$(a_n) + (b_n) = (a_n + b_n) \text{ and } t(a_n) = (ta_n).$$

### 1.1.2 Non-examples

**Example 1.1.2.** Let  $S = \{(a_1, a_2) : a_1, a_2 \in R\}$  where  $R$  is a field. For every  $(a_1, a_2), (b_1, b_2) \in S$  and  $c \in R$ , define

$$(a_1, a_2) + (b_1, b_2) = (a_1 + b_1, a_2 - b_2) \text{ and } c(a_1, a_2) = (ca_1, ca_2).$$

Note that  $S$  is **NOT** a vector space since (VS 1), (VS 2), and (VS 8) fail.

**Example 1.1.3.** Let  $S$  be the same set as in the last example. For  $(a_1, a_2), (b_1, b_2) \in S$  and  $c \in R$ , define

$$(a_1, a_2) + (b_1, b_2) = (a_1 + b_1, 0)$$

and

$$c(a_1, a_2) = (ca_1, 0).$$

Note that  $S$  is **NOT** a vector space with these operations since (VS 3), (VS 4), and (VS 5) fail.

### 1.1.3 Basic Extensions from Definition

**Theorem 1.1.1 (Cancellation Law for Vector Addition).** If  $x, y, z \in V$  such that  $x + z = y + z$ , then  $x = y$ .

**Proof.** There exists a vector  $v \in V$  such that  $z + v = O$  (VS 4). Thus, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 x &= x + O \\
 &= x + (z + v) \\
 &= (x + z) + v \\
 &= (y + z) + v \\
 &= y + (z + v) \\
 &= y + O \\
 &= y.
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we have  $x = y$ . ■

**Corollary.** The vector described  $O$  described in (VS 3) is unique.

**Proof.** Let  $x \in V$ . Suppose there exists two elements  $O, O' \in V$  such that

$$x + O = x \tag{1}$$

and

$$x + O' = x. \tag{2}$$

Our objective is to show that  $O = O'$ . Equating (1) and (2), we find that

$$x + O = x + O' \tag{3}$$

Using the Cancellation Law for Vector Addition, (3) implies that  $O = O'$ . Hence,  $O$  is a unique vector in  $V$ . ■

**Corollary.** The vector  $y$  described in (VS 4) is unique.

**Proof.** Let  $x \in V$ . Suppose there exists  $y, y' \in V$  such that

$$x + y = O \text{ and } x + y' = O.$$

Equating the two equations above, we get that

$$x + y = x + y'.$$

Applying the Cancellation Law for Vector Addition once again, we get that  $y = y'$ . Hence,  $y$  is a unique vector in  $V$ . ■

**Theorem 1.1.2 (Properties of a Vector Space).** In any vector space  $V$ , the following statements are true:

- (a)  $0x = O$  for any  $x \in V$ .
- (b)  $(-a)x = -(ax) = a(-x)$  for each  $a \in F$  and each  $x \in V$ .
- (c)  $a0 = O$  for any  $a \in F$ .

**Proof.** (a) Using (VS 8), (VS 3), and (VS 1), it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} 0x + 0x &= (0 + 0)x \\ &= 0x \\ &= 0x + O \\ &= O + 0x. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $0x = O$  by Theorem 1.1.

- (b) The vector  $-(ax)$  is the unique element of  $V$  such that  $ax + [-(ax)] = O$ . If we know that  $ax + (-a)x = O$ , we can use Corollary 2 to Theorem 1.1 to state that  $(-a)x = -(ax)$ . But by (VS 8), we have

$$ax + (-ax) = [a + (-a)]x = 0x = O$$

by (a). Hence, we have that  $(-a)x = -(ax)$ . In particular, we have  $(-1)x = -x$ . Thus, (VS 6) implies that

$$a(-x) = a[(-1)x] = [a(-1)]x = (-a)x.$$

- (c) The proof of (c) is similar to the proof of (a). ■

## 1.2 Subspaces

**Definition 1.2.1 (Subspaces).** A subset  $W$  of a vector space  $V$  over a field  $F$  is called a **subspace** of  $V$  if  $W$  is a vector space over  $F$  with the operations of addition and scalar multiplication.

The most simple examples of subspaces of  $V$  is  $V$  itself and the set containing just the zero vector. The latter is denoted as the **zero subspace** of  $V$ .

We don't have to check all the vector space properties to prove that a subset  $W$  of  $V$  is a subspace of  $V$ . This is because vectors in any subset of  $V$  already satisfy all the properties of a vector space. Hence, we need only check that  $W$  is closed under

1. **Addition:**  $x + y \in W$  whenever  $x \in W$  and  $y \in W$ .
2. **Scalar Multiplication:**  $cx \in W$  whenever  $c \in F$  and  $x \in W$ .
3.  $W$  contains a zero vector.
4. Each vector in  $W$  has an additive inverse in  $W$ .

**Theorem 1.2.1 (Subspaces).** Let  $V$  be a vector space and  $W$  a subset of  $V$ . Then  $W$  is a subspace of  $V$  if and only if the following three conditions hold for the operations defined in  $V$ .

- (a)  $O \in W$ .
- (b)  $x + y \in W$  whenever  $x \in W$  and  $y \in W$ .
- (c)  $cx \in W$  whenever  $c \in F$  and  $x \in W$ .

**Proof.** Suppose  $W$  is a subspace of  $V$ . Since  $W$  is also a vector space with the operations of addition and scalar multiplication defined in  $V$ . Hence, we know that  $W$  is closed under addition and scalar multiplication. Note that  $W$  contains a zero vector  $0' \in W$  such that for any  $x \in W$ , we have  $x + 0' = x$ . Since  $x$  is also in  $V$  (since  $W \subseteq V$ ), we know that  $x + 0 = x$ . Using the cancellation, we can see that  $x + 0' = x + 0$  implies  $0' = 0$ . Hence, properties (a), (b), and (c) are satisfied.

Conversely, suppose conditions (a), (b), and (c) hold. We need to show that  $W$  is a subspace. This tells us that  $W$  is closed under addition and scalar multiplication in addition to containing the zero vector. Let  $x \in W$ . Since  $W$  is closed under scalar multiplication, we know that  $(-1)x \in W$ . By part (b) of theorem 2, we know that  $1(-x) = -x \in W$ . Hence,  $W$  contains an additive inverse and we are done. ■

The theorem above provides a simpler way to determine whether a given subset of a vector space is a subspace. Instead of using the definition to show that a give subset is a subspace, it is more common to use the result above.

**Definition 1.2.2 (Transpose).** The **transpose** of  $A^t$  of an  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$  is the  $n \times m$  matrix obtained from  $A$  by interchanging the rows with the columns; that is,  $(A^t)_{ij} = A_{ji}$ .

**Example 1.2.1.**

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 \\ 0 & 5 & -1 \end{pmatrix}^t = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -2 & 5 \\ 3 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}^t = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Definition 1.2.3 (Symmetric Matrices).** A **symmetric matrix** is a matrix  $A$  such that  $A^t = A$ .

- The easiest example of a symmetric matrix would be a square matrix where  $i = j$ .
- The set  $W$  of all symmetric matrices in  $M_{n \times n}(F)$  is a subspace of  $M_{n \times n}(F)$  since the conditions of Theorem 1.3 hold.

We can show that  $W$  is indeed a subspace.

1. The zero matrix is equal to its transpose and hence belongs to  $W$ .
2. Suppose  $A \in W$  and  $B \in W$ . Hence,  $A^t = A$  and  $B^t = B$ . Hence, we have

$$(A + B)^t = A^t + B^t = A + B$$

which implies that  $A + B \in W$ .

3. We have  $A \in W$  implies  $A^t = A$ . Now, let  $a \in F$ . Then we have that  $(aA)^t = aA^t = aA$ . Hence,  $aA \in W$ .

### 1.2.1 Examples of Subspaces

**Example 1.2.2.** Let  $n$  be non-negative integer, and let  $P_n(F)$  consist of all polynomials in  $P(F)$  having degree less than or equal to  $n$ . We get that  $P_n(F)$  is a subspace because:

1. Zero polynomial has degree -1, it is in  $P_n(F)$ .
2. The sum of two polynomials with degrees less than or equal to  $n$  is another a polynomial less than or equal to  $n$ .
3. The product of a scalar and a polynomial of degree less than or equal to  $n$  is a polynomial less than or equal to  $n$ .

This tells us that  $P_n(F)$  is a subspace of the space of all polynomials.

**Example 1.2.3.** Let  $C(\mathbb{R})$  denote the set of all continuous real-valued functions defined on  $\mathbb{R}$ . We know that  $C(\mathbb{R})$  is a subset of the vector space  $\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$  defined in Example 3. We will show that  $C(\mathbb{R})$  is a subspace of  $\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$ .

1. Note that the zero function  $f(x) = 0$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  of  $\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$  is a continuous real-valued function.
2. Let  $f, g \in C(\mathbb{R})$ . Since the sum of  $f$  and  $g$  is also continuous for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , we have that  $f + g \in C(\mathbb{R})$ .
3. Let  $c \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $f \in C(\mathbb{R})$ . We have that for any  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $(cf)(x) = cf(x)$  is a continuous function. Hence, property (c) is satisfied.

Hence,  $C(\mathbb{R})$  is a subspace.

**Definition 1.2.4 (Upper Triangular).** An  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$  is called **upper triangular** if all its entries below the diagonal entries are zero; that is, if  $A_{ij} = 0$  whenever  $i > j$ .

**Example 1.2.4.** Let  $B$  be an upper triangular  $3 \times 4$  matrix

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 0 & 0 & 8 & 9 \end{pmatrix}$$

**Definition 1.2.5 (Diagonal Matrix).** An  $n \times n$  matrix  $M$  is called a **diagonal matrix** if  $M_{ij} = 0$  whenever  $i \neq j$ ; that is, if all its non-diagonal entries are zero.

**Example 1.2.5.** Let  $A$  be diagonal  $3 \times 3$  matrix.

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 8 \end{pmatrix}$$

**Example 1.2.6.** The set of diagonal matrices is a subspace of  $M_{n \times n}(F)$ . To see why, we have

1. Let  $O$  be the zero matrix of  $M_{n \times n}(F)$ . Since  $O$  is also a diagonal matrix, we know that  $O$  must be in the set of diagonal matrices.

2. Let  $A, B$  in the set of diagonal matrices. Let  $i \neq j$  such that

$$(A + B)_{ij} = A_{ij} + B_{ij} = 0 + 0 = 0.$$

Hence,  $A + B$  is a diagonal matrix and so addition is closed.

3. Let  $A$  be a diagonal matrix as before and let  $c \in F$ . Let  $i \neq j$  again, and observe that

$$(cA)_{ij} = cA_{ij} = c \cdot 0 = 0.$$

Hence,  $cA$  is a diagonal matrix and so scalar multiplication is closed.

Since the set of diagonal matrices satisfies all properties of theorem 3, we conclude that it is indeed a subspace of  $M_{n \times n}(F)$ .

**Definition 1.2.6 (Trace).** The **trace** of an  $n \times n$  matrix  $M$ , denoted  $\text{tr}(M)$ , is the sum of the diagonal entries of  $M$ ; that is,

$$\text{tr}(M) = M_{11} + M_{22} + \cdots + M_{nn}.$$

The set of all  $n \times n$  matrices that have a trace equal to zero is a subspace of  $M_{n \times n}(F)$  (proved in Exercise 6).

**Example 1.2.7 (Non-example).** Denote  $V$  as the set of matrices in  $M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{R})$  having non-negative entries. The subset  $V$  is not a subspace because it is not closed under scalar multiplication. We can see this by multiplying any matrix in  $V$  by a negative number and observe that the entries of said matrix are no longer all non-negative.

We can create subspaces out of other subspaces.

## 1.2.2 Constructing Subspaces Out of Existing Subspaces

**Theorem 1.2.2 (Intersection of Subspaces is a Subspace).** Any intersection of subspaces of a vector space  $V$  is a subspace of  $V$ .

**Proof.** Let  $C$  be a collection of subspaces of  $V$ , and let  $W$  denote the intersection of the subspaces in  $C$ . Since every subspace contains the zero vector and the intersection  $W \neq \emptyset$ , the zero vector  $0 \in W$ . Let  $a \in F$  and  $x, y \in W$ . Since each subspace of  $C$  is closed under addition and scalar multiplication, it follows that  $x + y$  and  $ax$  are contained each subspace in  $C$  and hence  $W$  must be closed under addition and closed under scalar multiplication. Thus,  $W$  is a subspace of  $V$  by theorem 3. ■

A natural question to ask is whether or not the union of subspaces of a vector space  $V$  is a subspace of  $V$  too. We can see that indeed the union of subspaces of  $V$  satisfy the first first and third property of theorem 3. However, property 2 need not be satisfied all the time. In fact, the union can only be a subspace of  $V$  if and only if one the subspaces is a subset of the other.

## 1.3 Linear Combinations and Systems of Linear Equations

### 1.3.1 Linear Combinations

**Definition 1.3.1 (Linear Combinations).** Let  $V$  be a vector space and  $S$  a nonempty subset of  $V$ . A vector  $v \in V$  is called **linear combination** of vectors of  $S$  if there exist a finite number of vectors  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n \in S$  and scalars  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in F$  such that

$$v = a_1u_1 + a_2u_2 + \dots + a_nu_n.$$

In this case, we say that  $v$  is a linear combination of  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n \in V$  and call  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in F$  the **coefficients** of the linear combination.

- An easy example of a vector expressed as a linear combination is the zero vector  $O$  where  $0v = O$  for each  $v \in V$ .
- Determining whether a vector is a linear combination of other vectors often involves solving a system of linear equations.

**Example 1.3.1.** Suppose we wanted to express the vector  $(2, 6, 8) \in \mathbb{R}^3$  as a linear combination of

$$u_1 = (1, 2, 1), u_2 = (-2, -4, -2), u_3 = (0, 2, 3), u_4 = (2, 0, -3), \text{ and } u_5 = (-3, 8, 16).$$

Our goal is to find scalars  $a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4$  and  $a_5$  such that

$$(2, 6, 8) = a_1u_1 + a_2u_2 + a_3u_3 + a_4u_4 + a_5u_5.$$

Doing a bit of algebra, we would need to solve the following system of linear equations

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 - 2a_2 + 2a_4 - 3a_5 &= 2 \\ 2a_1 - 4a_2 + 2a_3 + 8a_5 &= 6 \\ a_1 - 2a_2 + 3a_3 + 16a_5 &= 8 \end{aligned}$$

Solving the system of equations above involves three types of operations:

1. Interchanging the order of any two equations in the system;
2. multiplying any equation in the system by some non-zero constant;
3. adding a constant multiple of any equation to another equation in the system.

We will learn in a later section that the operations listed above do not change the set of solutions to the original system.

**Example 1.3.2.** We claim that

$$2x^3 - 2x^2 + 12x - 6$$

is a linear combination of

$$x^3 - 2x^2 - 5x - 3 \text{ and } 3x^3 - 5x^2 - 4x - 9$$

in  $P_3(\mathbb{R})$ , but that

$$3x^3 - 2x^2 + 7x + 8$$



is not. In the first case we wish to find scalars  $a$  and  $b$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} 2x^3 - 2x^2 + 12x - 6 &= a(x^3 - 2x^2 - 5x - 3) \\ &\quad + b(3x^3 - 5x^2 - 4x - 9) \\ &= (a + 3b)x^3 + (-2a - 5b)x^2 \\ &\quad + (-5a - 4b)x + (-3a - 9b). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we have the following system of linear equations:

$$\begin{aligned} a + 3b &= 2 \\ -2a - 5b &= -2 \\ -5a - 4b &= 12 \\ -3a - 9b &= -6. \end{aligned}$$

Adding the appropriate multiples of the first equation to the others in order to eliminate  $a$ , we find that

$$\begin{aligned} a + 3b &= 2 \\ b &= 2 \\ 11b &= 22 \\ 0b &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Then we get that  $a = -4, b = 2, 0 = 0, 0 = 0$ . Hence, we have

$$2x^3 - 2x^2 + 12x - 6 = -4(x^3 - 2x^2 - 5x - 3) + 2(3x^3 - 5x^2 - 4x - 9).$$

Looking at the second case now, we observe that using the preceding technique leads us to the following system of linear equations

$$\begin{aligned} a + 3b &= 3 \\ -2a - 5b &= -2 \\ -5a - 4b &= 7 \\ -3a - 9b &= 8. \end{aligned}$$

Eliminating  $a$  as before yields the following:

$$\begin{aligned} a + 3b &= 3 \\ b &= 4 \\ 11b &= 22 \\ 0 &= 17. \end{aligned}$$

The presence of the non-sensical result in the last equality tells us that there are no solutions to the system and that the second polynomial cannot be written as a linear combination of the two polynomials.

We can denote the set of all linear combinations of some set of vectors in the following:

### 1.3.2 The Span

**Definition 1.3.2 (Span).** Let  $S$  be a nonempty subset of a vector space  $V$ . The **span** of  $S$ ,

denoted  $\text{span}(S)$ , is the set consisting of all linear combinations of the vectors in  $S$ . For convenience, we define  $\text{span}(\emptyset) = \{0\}$ .

Some immediate examples of spans are:

**Example 1.3.3.** In  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , the span of the set  $S = \{(1, 0, 0), (0, 1, 0)\}$  consist of all vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  such that for some scalars  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ , we have

$$a(1, 0, 0) + b(0, 1, 0) = (a, b, 0).$$

This tells us that  $S$  contains all the points in the  $xy$ -plane. One can show that  $S$  is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

**Theorem 1.3.1 (The Span of Subset is a Subspace).** The span of any subset  $S$  of a vector space  $V$  is a subspace of  $V$  that contains  $S$ . Moreover, any subspace of  $V$  that contains  $S$  must also contain the span of  $S$ .

**Proof.** Suppose  $S = \emptyset$ . Then the span of  $S$  is just  $\text{span}(\emptyset) = \{0\}$  which is a subspace in which  $S$  is contained in. Moreover,  $\text{span}(\emptyset) = \{0\}$  is always contained in any subspace  $X$  of  $V$  because every subspace contains the zero vector  $0$ . Suppose  $S \neq \emptyset$ , then  $S$  contains a vector  $z$ . We need to show that  $\text{span}(S)$  is a subspace of  $V$ .

- (a) Since  $S \neq \emptyset$ , we know that  $S$  contains a vector  $v$  such that  $0v = 0$ . Hence,  $0 \in \text{span}(S)$ .
- (b) Let  $x, y \in \text{span}(S)$ . We need to show that  $x + y \in \text{span}(S)$ . If  $x \in \text{span}(S)$ , then we can find  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in F$  and  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \in S$  such that

$$a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + \dots + a_nx_n.$$

Likewise,  $y \in \text{span}(S)$  implies that we can find scalars  $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_m$  and vectors  $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_m$  such that

$$b_1y_1 + b_2y_2 + \dots + b_my_m.$$

Then

$$x + y = a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + \dots + a_nx_n + b_1y_1 + b_2y_2 + \dots + b_my_m$$

is a linear combination and thus  $x + y \in \text{span}(S)$ .

- (c) Note that  $c \in F$  implies that

$$\begin{aligned} cx &= c(a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + \dots + a_nx_n) \\ &= (ca_1)x_1 + (ca_2)x_2 + \dots + (ca_n)x_n \end{aligned}$$

is a linear combination and thus  $cx \in \text{span}(S)$ .

Hence,  $\text{span}(S)$  is a subspace of  $V$ . Now we need to show that  $S$  is contained within  $\text{span}(S)$ ; that is,  $S \subseteq \text{span}(S)$ . Let  $v \in S$ . Then using (VS 5), we can see that  $1 \cdot v = v$  is a linear combination; so we have  $v \in \text{span}(S)$  and hence, the span of  $S$  contains  $S$ .

Now let  $W$  be any subspace of  $V$  that contains  $S$ . We need to show that  $\text{span}(S) \subseteq W$ . Let  $v \in \text{span}(S)$ . Then we can find scalars  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in F$  and  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \in S$  such that

$$v = a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + \cdots + a_nx_n.$$

Since  $S \subseteq W$ , we know that  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \in W$ . Using exercise 20 from section 1.3 and using the same set of scalars  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in F$ , we have  $v = a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + \cdots + a_nx_n \in W$ . Hence,  $\text{span}(S) \subseteq W$ . ■

### 1.3.3 Generating a Vector Space

**Definition 1.3.3 (Generating/Spinning Sets).** A subset  $S$  of a vector space  $V$  **generates** (or **spans**)  $V$  if  $\text{span}(S) = V$ . In this case, we also say that the vectors of  $S$  generates (or span)  $V$ .

**Example 1.3.4 (Vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ).** The vectors  $(1, 1, 0), (1, 0, 1), (0, 1, 1)$  generate  $\mathbb{R}^3$  since any given vector  $v \in \mathbb{R}^3$  is a linear combination of the three given vectors. Furthermore, there exists scalars  $r, s, t \in \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$r(1, 1, 0) + s(1, 0, 1) + t(0, 1, 1) = (a_1, a_2, a_3) = v$$

where

$$r = \frac{1}{2}(a_1 + a_2 - a_3), s = \frac{1}{2}(a_1 - a_2 + a_3) \text{ and } t = \frac{1}{2}(-a_1 + a_2 + a_3).$$

**Example 1.3.5 (Polynomials).** The polynomials  $x^2 + 3x - 2, 2x^2 + 5x - 3$ , and  $-x^2 - 4x + 4$  generate  $P_2(\mathbb{R})$  because each of the three given polynomials belongs to  $P_2(\mathbb{R})$  and each polynomial  $ax^2 + bx + c \in P_2(\mathbb{R})$  is a linear combination of these three. It can be shown that we can find  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$a(x^2 + 3x - 2) + b(2x^2 + 5x - 3) + c(-x^2 - 4x + 4) = ax^2 + bx + c.$$

**Example 1.3.6 (Matrices).** Note that the matrices

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ and } \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

generate  $M_{2 \times 2}(\mathbb{R})$  because an every  $A \in M_{2 \times 2}(\mathbb{R})$  can be expressed as a linear combination of the four given matrices found below where there exists scalars  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix} = a \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + b \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + c \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + d \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

where it can be show that

$$\begin{aligned} a &= \frac{1}{3}a_{11} + \frac{1}{3}a_{12} + \frac{1}{3}a_{21} - \frac{2}{3}a_{22} \\ b &= \frac{1}{3}a_{11} + \frac{1}{3}a_{12} - \frac{2}{3}a_{21} + \frac{1}{3}a_{22} \\ c &= \frac{1}{3}a_{11} - \frac{2}{3}a_{12} + \frac{1}{3}a_{21} + \frac{1}{3}a_{22} \\ d &= -\frac{2}{3}a_{11} + \frac{1}{3}a_{12} + \frac{1}{3}a_{21} + \frac{1}{3}a_{22}. \end{aligned}$$

A non-example set of matrices are

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ and } \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

do not generate  $M_{2 \times 2}(\mathbb{R})$  since all of the matrices have equal diagonal entries. Thus, every the set of matrices above cannot generate every  $A \in M_{2 \times 2}(\mathbb{R})$ .

## 1.4 Linear Dependence and Linear Independence

### 1.4.1 Motivation

Suppose  $V$  is a vector space over a field  $F$  and that  $W \subseteq V$  is a subspace of  $V$ .

- Suppose we have a set  $S$  that will generate every vector in  $V$  as a linear combination of vectors in  $S$ .
- It is desirable to find a subset of  $S$  that is as small as possible or rather just enough to generate each vector in  $V$ .
- The reason for this is to reduce the amount of computations done to represent a vector in  $V$ .
- Finding this subset is a matter of expressing one of the vectors in the spanning set as a linear combination of the other vectors in  $S$ .
- This will naturally lead to a system of linear equations for which we have to solve for the coefficients.
- The answer to the question is whether this system of equations leads to a solution or not.
- An easier way to answer this question is to find coefficients (not all zero) for which the zero vector can be written as a linear combination of vectors in  $S$ .
- Doing this, guarantees that we can write any one of the vectors in  $S$  as a linear combination of the others.

**Definition 1.4.1 (Linearly Dependence).** A subset  $S$  of a vector space  $V$  is called **linearly dependent** if there exists a finite number of distinct vectors in  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n \in S$  and scalars  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  not all zero, such that

$$a_1u_1 + a_2u_2 + \dots + a_nu_n = 0.$$

In this case, we also say that the vectors of  $S$  are linearly dependent.

- The **trivial representation** of 0 is a linear combination of scalars  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in F$  and distinct vectors  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n \in S$  where for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , we have  $a_i = 0$ .
- This tells us that our definition of **linear dependence** implies that 0 is a non-trivial linear combination.
- Any subset of  $V$  that contains the zero vector is subsequently linearly dependent since 0 can be written as non-trivial representation; that is,  $1 \cdot 0 = 0$ .

### 1.4.2 Examples of Linearly Dependent Sets

**Example 1.4.1.** Consider a subset in  $\mathbb{R}^4$  defined by

$$S = \{(1, 3, -4, 2), (2, 2, -4, 0), (1, -3, 2, -4), (-1, 0, 1, 0)\}.$$

To show that  $S$  is a linear dependent set, we need to find scalars  $a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4 \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $a_i$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq 4$  not all zero such that

$$a_1(1, 3, -4, 2) + a_2(2, 2, -4, 0) + a_3(1, -3, 2, -4) + a_4(-1, 0, 1, 0) = 0.$$

We can represent this as a system of linear equations with each equation being set equal to zero and solving for the scalars. Solving this system of equations leads to the coefficients  $a_1 = 4, a_2 = -3, a_3 = 2$ , and  $a_4 = 0$ . Thus, we have that  $S$  is linearly dependent subset of  $\mathbb{R}^4$  and hence we can write any vector in  $S$  as a linear combination of the other vectors contained in  $S$ .

**Example 1.4.2.** Define a subset of  $M_{2 \times 2}(\mathbb{R})$

$$S = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 & 2 \\ -4 & 0 & 5 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -3 & 7 & 4 \\ 6 & -2 & -7 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 3 & 11 \\ -1 & -3 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \right\}.$$

This set is **linearly dependent** because we can find coefficients  $a_1, a_2, a_3$  such that  $a_1 = 5, a_2 = 3$ , and  $a_3 = -2$  where

$$5 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 & 2 \\ -4 & 0 & 5 \end{pmatrix} + 3 \begin{pmatrix} -3 & 7 & 4 \\ 6 & -2 & -7 \end{pmatrix} - 2 \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 3 & 11 \\ -1 & -3 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

**Definition 1.4.2 (Linear Independence).** A subset  $S$  of a vector space that is not linearly dependent is called **linearly independent**. As before, we also say that the vectors of  $S$  are linearly independent.

Whereas linear dependence requires solutions that are not all zero, linear independence **requires** all the solutions to be zero. This provides us an easy way to determine if a finite set is linearly independent.

### 1.4.3 Examples of Linear Independent Sets

Some facts about linearly independent sets include:

- The empty set is linearly independent since we don't have any vectors to take linear combinations of.

- A set consisting of only one non-zero vector; that is,  $\{v\}$  is linearly independent.
- If  $\{v\}$  is linearly dependent, then it the singleton has to be the zero vector 0. This is because  $au = 0$

$$u = 1 \cdot u = (a^{-1}a)u = a^{-1}(au) = a^{-1} \cdot 0 = 0.$$

**Example 1.4.3** (A Set of Vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ ). It can be shown that the set

$$S = \{(1, 0, 0, -1), (0, 1, 0, -1), (0, 0, 1, -1), (0, 0, 0, 1)\}$$

is linearly independent by showing that all the coefficients of the linear combination of 0 represent the trivial representation; that is, we have scalars  $a_1 = a_2 = a_3 = a_4 = 0$ .

**Example 1.4.4.** For  $k = 0, 1, \dots, n$ , let  $p_k = x^k + x^{k+1} + \dots + x^n$ . The set

$$\{p_0(x), p_1(x), \dots, p_n(x)\}$$

is linearly independent in  $P_n(F)$ . It can be shown that for some scalars  $a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n \in F$ , the following equation

$$a_0 + (a_0 + a_1 + a_2)x^2 + \dots + (a_0 + a_1 + \dots + a_n)x^n = 0$$

has the trivial-representation; that is,  $a_i = 0$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$ .

**Theorem 1.4.1** (Linearly Dependent Subsets). Let  $V$  be a vector space, and let  $S_1 \subseteq S_2 \subseteq V$ . If  $S_1$  is linearly dependent, then  $S_2$  is linearly dependent.

**Proof.** Let  $V$  be a vector space. Suppose  $S_1$  is linearly dependent. Then there exists a finite number of distinct vectors  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n \in S_1$  and scalars  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in F$  not all zero such that

$$a_1v_1 + a_2v_2 + \dots + a_nv_n = 0.$$

Since  $S_1 \subseteq S_2$ , we must have  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n \in S_2$  as well. If these vectors are linearly dependent, then these vectors are also linearly dependent in  $S_2$ ; that is, we have scalars  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in F$  not all zero such that

$$a_1v_1 + a_2v_2 + \dots + a_nv_n = 0.$$

Hence,  $S_2$  is linearly dependent. ■

**Corollary** (Linearly Independent Subsets). Let  $V$  be a vector space, and let  $S_1 \subseteq S_2 \subseteq V$ . If  $S_2$  is linearly independent, then  $S_1$  is linearly independent.

**Proof.** Note that this corollary is just the contrapositive of the theorem before it. Hence,  $S_1$  is linearly independent. ■

- Determining whether there exists a minimal generating set for the span of  $S$  is related to solving the problem of finding whether some vector in  $S$  that can be written in terms of a linear combination of other vectors in  $S$ .
- We can see that in a given subset of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  defined by

$$S = \{u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4\}$$

where  $u_1 = (2, -1, 4)$ ,  $u_2 = (1, -1, 3)$ ,  $u_3 = (1, 1, -1)$ , and  $u_4 = (1, -2, 1)$ . Note that this  $S$  is linearly dependent. This tells us that any vector in  $S$  can be written as a linear combination of the others. Suppose we pick  $u_3$  and write as a linear combination of the vectors  $u_1, u_2$ , and  $u_4$ . We would find that the span of these three vectors (denote this set as  $S'$ ) generates the same spanning set  $S$  but with a cardinality one less than  $S$ ; that is,  $\text{span}(S) = \text{span}(S')$ .

- If we find that there does not exist a proper subset that is equivalent to the span of  $S$ , then  $S$  must be a linearly independent set.

**Theorem 1.4.2 (Adjoining Elements not in Linearly Independent Sets).** Let  $S$  be a linearly independent subset of a vector space  $V$ , and let  $v \in V$  but not in  $S$ . Then  $S \cup \{v\}$  is linearly dependent if and only if  $v \in \text{span}(S)$ .

**Proof.** ( $\Rightarrow$ ) Suppose  $S \cup \{v\}$  is a linearly dependent set. Then there exists a finite number of scalars  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in F$  and vectors  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n \in S \cup \{v\}$  such that

$$a_1 u_1 + a_2 u_2 + \dots + a_n u_n = 0.$$

Since  $S$  is a linearly independent set, we must have  $u_i = v$  for some  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Choose  $i = 1$  (any choice of  $i$  will do) such that

$$a_1 v + a_2 u_2 + \dots + a_n u_n = 0.$$

Solving for  $v$  by subtracting  $a_1 v$  on both sides, multiplying by  $a_1^{-1}$  on both sides of the equation, and distributing by  $a_1^{-1}$  yields the following:

$$v = (-a_1^{-1} a_2) u_2 + (-a_1^{-1} a_3) u_3 + \dots + (-a_1^{-1} a_n) u_n.$$

Since  $v$  is a linear combination of vectors  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n \in S$ , we know that  $v \in \text{span}(S)$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Conversely, suppose  $v \in \text{span}(S)$ . This implies that there exists a finite amount of scalars  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in F$  and  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n \in S$  such that

$$v = a_1 u_1 + a_2 u_2 + \dots + a_n u_n.$$

Subtracting  $v$  from both sides of the equation above gives us the following equation:

$$a_1 u_1 + a_2 u_2 + \dots + a_n u_n - v = 0.$$

Note that  $v$  is not contained in  $S$ , so  $v \neq u_i$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Since  $S$  is a linearly independent set, we know that  $a_i = 0$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . This implies that the only coefficient that is non-zero is with  $-v = -1v$ . Hence, the set of vectors  $S' = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n, v\}$  is linearly dependent. Since  $S' \subseteq S \cup \{v\}$ , we know that  $S \cup \{v\}$  is also linearly dependent by Theorem 6. ■

## 1.5 Bases And Dimension

### 1.5.1 Bases

- Recall that  $S$  is a generating set for a subspace  $W$  and no proper subset of  $S$  is a generating set for  $W$ , then  $S$  must be linearly independent.

- Linearly independent sets possess the unique property that every vector that its spanning set generates is unique.
- This property is what allows generating sets to be the building blocks of vector spaces.

**Definition 1.5.1 (Basis).** A **basis**  $\beta$  for a vector space  $V$  is linearly independent subset of  $V$  that generates  $V$ . If  $\beta$  is a basis for  $V$ , we also say that the vectors of  $\beta$  form a basis for  $V$ .

**Example 1.5.1.** • Recall that the empty set  $\emptyset$  is linearly independent and that  $\text{span}(\emptyset) = \{0\}$ . The empty set  $\emptyset$  in this case is the basis for the zero vector space.

- Note that in  $F^n$ , the vectors  $e_1 = (1, 0, \dots, 0)$ ,  $e_2 = (0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $e_n = (0, 0, \dots, 0, 1)$  form a basis for  $F^n$ .
- The basis for  $M_{m \times n}(F)$  is the set of matrices  $E^{ij}$  such that the only nonzero entry is a 1 in the  $i$ th and  $j$ th column.
- As we have seen in the last section, the set  $\{1, x, x^2, \dots, x^n\}$  is a basis for  $P_n(F)$ .
- In  $P(F)$ , the set  $\{1, x, x^2, \dots\}$  is a basis. *Bases are not limited to finite sets. They can be infinite.*

**Theorem 1.5.1 (Unique Linear Combinations from Bases).** Let  $V$  be a vector space and  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$  be distinct vectors in  $V$ . Then  $\beta = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$  is a basis for  $V$  if and only if each  $v \in V$  can be uniquely expressed as a linear combination of vectors in  $\beta$ , that is, expressed in the form

$$v = a_1 u_1 + a_2 u_2 + \dots + a_n u_n$$

for unique scalars  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$ .

**Proof.** ( $\Rightarrow$ ) Suppose  $\beta = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$  is a basis for  $V$ . Then  $\text{span}(\beta) = V$ . If  $v \in V$ , then  $v \in \text{span}(\beta)$ . Hence, we can write  $v$  as a linear combination of vectors in  $\beta$  such that choosing scalars  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in F$  leads to

$$v = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i u_i.$$

Suppose there exists another representation of  $v \in V$  such that

$$v = \sum_{i=1}^n b_i u_i$$

Hence, observe that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^n a_i u_i &= \sum_{i=1}^n b_i u_i \\ \Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^n (a_i - b_i) u_i &= 0. \end{aligned}$$



Since  $\beta$  is linearly independent, we know that  $a_i - b_i = 0$  which implies  $a_i = b_i$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Hence,  $v$  can be expressed as a unique linear combination of vectors in  $\beta$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Conversely, let  $v \in V$  be expressed as a unique linear combination of vectors in  $\beta$  such that

$$v = a_1u_1 + a_2u_2 + \cdots + a_nu_n \quad (1)$$

for unique scalars  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$ . We want to show that  $\beta$  is a basis for  $V$ ; that is, we want to show that  $\beta$  is a spanning set for  $V$  and  $\beta$  is linearly independent. To show that  $\beta$  is a spanning set for  $V$ , we need to show that  $\text{span}(\beta) \subseteq V$  and  $V \subseteq \text{span}(\beta)$ . Note that  $\beta \subseteq V$  and  $\text{span}(\beta)$  is a subspace for  $V$ . Hence,  $\text{span}(\beta) \subseteq V$ . On the other hand,  $V \subseteq \text{span}(\beta)$  follows immediately from (1). To show that  $\beta$  is linearly independent, we need to show that for scalars  $\delta_1, \delta_2, \dots, \delta_n$ , we have

$$\delta_1u_1 + \delta_2u_2 + \cdots + \delta_nu_n = 0$$

such that  $u_i = 0$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Note that  $v + 0 = v$ . Hence, we can write

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^n a_iu_i + \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_iu_i &= \sum_{i=1}^n a_iu_i \\ \sum_{i=1}^n (a_i + \delta_i)u_i &= \sum_{i=1}^n a_iu_i \end{aligned}$$

Equating each term in the equation above yields the following equality:

$$a_i + \delta_i = a_i \Rightarrow \delta_i = 0$$

for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . But this tells us that  $\beta$  is linearly independent and we are done.  $\blacksquare$

- Any vector  $v \in V$  can be written as a linear combination of vectors from the basis containing  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n \in V$ .
- This determines a unique  $n$ -tuple of scalars  $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$  and conversely, each  $n$ -tuple of scalars determines a unique vector  $v \in V$  such that each coefficient from the linear combination of  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$  is an entry from said tuple.
- For example, in our vector space  $F^n$ ,  $n$  is the number of vectors that should be in the basis for  $F^n$  which is indeed the case.
- In this book, we are only concerned with finite bases.

**Theorem 1.5.2 (Finite Spanning Set For a Vector Space).** If a vector space  $V$  is generated by a finite set  $S$ , then some subset of  $S$  is a basis for  $V$ . Hence,  $V$  has a finite basis.

**Proof.** Suppose  $S = \emptyset$  or  $S = \{0\}$ , then  $V = \{0\}$  and  $\emptyset$  is a subset of  $S$  that is a basis for  $V$ . If  $S$  neither of these choices, then  $S$  must contain at least one nonzero vector  $u_1$ ; that is,  $S = \{u_1\}$ . Since  $u_1$  is nonzero, it follows that  $S$  is a linearly independent set. We can continue this process of adding vectors  $u_2, \dots, u_k$  into  $S$  such that  $S$  is a linearly independent set of  $k$  vectors. Since  $S$  is a finite set, we must end with the linearly independent set  $\beta = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$ . There are two cases for which this occurs, either  $\beta = S$  or  $\beta \subseteq S$ :

- (i) Suppose that  $\beta = S$  (remember that  $\beta$  is a finite set by construction). Then we have  $S$  is a linearly independent set and spanning set for  $V$  (since  $S$  is a finite set that generates  $V$ ). Hence,  $S$  is a finite basis for  $V$ .
- (ii) Suppose  $\beta \subseteq S$  is a linearly independent set such that adding  $v \in S$  where  $v \notin \beta$  makes a linearly dependent set. We claim that  $\beta$  is the desired subset of  $S$  that is a basis for  $V$ . Then we have two cases; that is, either  $v \in \beta$  or  $v \notin \beta$ . Since  $\beta \subseteq S$ , we know by Theorem 1.5 that  $\text{span}(\beta) \subseteq S$  (This applies for both cases). It suffices to show that  $S \subseteq \text{span}(\beta)$ . If  $v \in \beta$ , then surely  $v \in \text{span}(\beta)$ . Hence, we have  $S \subseteq \text{span}(\beta)$ . Suppose  $v \notin \beta$ . Since  $\beta$  is a linearly independent set, then by Theorem 1.7, we have that  $\beta \cup \{v\}$  being linearly dependent implies that  $v \in \text{span}(\beta)$ . Hence,  $S \subseteq \text{span}(\beta)$ . Thus, that both cases implies that  $\beta$  is a spanning set for  $V$ . ■

This theorem tells us that any spanning set of a vector space  $V$  can be reduced to a finite basis for  $V$ . This is illustrated in the following examples.

**Example 1.5.2.** Define

$$S = \{(2, -3, 5), (8, -12, 20), (1, 0, -2), (0, 2, -1), (7, 2, 0)\}$$

which can be shown to generate  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . The idea is to create a proper subset of  $S$  such that none of the vectors in  $\beta$  are multiples of each other. In other words, we want a set that is linearly independent; that is, our choices of vectors determine whether a set will be linearly dependent or independent (we want the latter to hold). Say, we pick  $(2, -3, 5)$  as our first vector in our subset  $\beta$ . Right away, we can exclude  $(8, -12, 20)$  since it is a multiple of  $(2, -3, 5)$ . Otherwise, including it would make  $\beta$  linearly dependent (see exercise 9 from section 1.5). Next, add the vectors  $(1, 0, -2)$  and  $(0, 2, -1)$  since they are not multiples of the other. Narrowing down our set to

$$\beta = \{(2, -3, 5), (1, 0, -2), (0, 2, -1)\}.$$

Note that adding the vector  $(7, 2, 0)$  makes  $\beta$  linearly dependent, so  $(7, 2, 0)$  is excluded from the list. Hence, we have arrived at a subset of  $S$  such that  $\beta \subseteq S$  is both a linearly independent set and spanning set for  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

The following theorem and its corollaries are the most important results in the Chapter 1.

## 1.5.2 Dimensions

**Theorem 1.5.3 (Replacement Theorem).** Let  $V$  be a vector space that is generated by a set  $G$  containing exactly  $n$  vectors, and let  $L$  be a linearly independent subset of  $V$  containing exactly  $m$  vectors. Then  $m \leq n$  and there exists a subset  $H$  of  $G$  containing exactly  $n - m$  vectors such that  $L \cup H$  generates  $V$ .

**Proof.** Let us proceed the proof via induction on  $m$ . Let  $m = 0$  be our base case. Then we find that  $L = \emptyset$  is linearly independent set with exactly 0 vectors. Letting  $H = G$  gives us the desired result (since  $G$  contains exactly  $n$  vectors). Now suppose that the theorem is holds for some integer  $m \geq 0$ . We will show that the theorem holds for the  $m+1$  case. Let  $L = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{m+1}\}$  be a linearly independent subset of  $V$  consisting of exactly  $m+1$  vectors. By the corollary to Theorem 1.6, we find that  $L' = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m\}$  is a linearly independent set (because  $L' \subseteq L$  and  $L$  is linearly independent). Using our induction hypothesis, we

can conclude that  $m \leq n$  and that there exists a subset  $H' = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{n-m}\}$  of  $G$  such that  $L' \cup H'$  generates  $V$ . Thus there exists scalars  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m, b_1, b_2, \dots, b_{n-m}$  such that

$$v_{m+1} = a_1 v_1 + a_2 v_2 + \dots + a_m v_m + b_1 u_1 + b_2 u_2 + \dots + b_{n-m} u_{n-m}. \quad (1)$$

Note that  $n-m > 0$ , **unless**  $v_{m+1}$  is a linear combination of  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m$  which by Theorem 1.7 contradicts the assumption that  $L$  is a linearly independent set. Hence,  $n > m$ ; that is,  $n \geq m+1$ . Furthermore, some  $b_i$ , say  $b_1$  is nonzero, for otherwise we obtain the same contradiction. Solving (1) for  $u_1$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} u_1 = & (-b_1^{-1} a_1) v_1 + (-b_1^{-1} a_2) v_2 + \dots + (-b_1^{-1}) v_m + (b_1^{-1}) v_{m+1} \\ & + (-b_1^{-1} b_2) u_2 + \dots + (-b_1^{-1} b_{n-m}) u_{n-m}. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $H = \{u_2, u_3, \dots, u_{n-m}\}$ . Then  $u_1 \in \text{span}(L \cup H)$  and because  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m, u_2, \dots, u_{n-m}$  are clearly in  $\text{span}(L \cup H)$ , we have that

$$L' \cup H' \subseteq \text{span}(L \cup H).$$

Since  $L' \cup H'$  generates  $V$  and the fact that  $L' \cup H' \subseteq \text{span}(L \cup H)$  (note that  $\text{span}(L \cup H)$  is also a subspace), we know by Theorem 1.5 that  $\text{span}(L' \cup H') \subseteq \text{span}(L \cup H)$ . Since  $\text{span}(L' \cup H')$  generates  $V$ , we know that  $V \subseteq \text{span}(L' \cup H') \subseteq \text{span}(L \cup H)$ . Observe that  $\text{span}(L \cup H) \subseteq V$  is true by default. Hence,  $\text{span}(L \cup H)$  generates  $V$  and that  $H$  contains  $(n-m) - 1 = n - (m+1)$  vectors which concludes our induction proof. ■

**Corollary.** Let  $V$  be a vector space having a finite basis. Then all bases for  $V$  are finite, and every basis for  $V$  contains the same number of vectors.

**Proof.** Let  $\beta$  be a finite basis for  $V$  that contains exactly  $n$  vectors. Let  $\gamma$  be any other basis that contains more than  $n$  vectors. Suppose we pick a subset  $S$  of  $\gamma$  such that this subset contains exactly  $n+1$  vectors. Since  $\beta$  is a finite basis for  $V$ , we know that  $\beta$  is a linearly independent set. By Theorem 1.6, we know that  $S$  is also a linearly independent set. By Replacement Theorem, we have that  $n+1 \leq n$  which is a contradiction. Therefore, we must have  $\gamma$  is finite, and  $\gamma$  contains exactly  $m$  amount of vectors in  $\gamma$  which satisfies  $m \leq n$ . To show that  $n \leq m$ , we can reverse the roles of  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  and use the same argument as above. Hence,  $n \leq m$  and thus  $m = n$ . ■

The main takeaway from the corollary above is that the number of vectors in any basis for  $V$  is an inherent property of  $V$ .

**Definition 1.5.2 (Finite-dimensional).** A vector space is **finite-dimensional** if it has a basis consisting of a finite number of vectors.

**Definition 1.5.3 (Dimension of a Vector Space).** The unique integer  $n$  such that every basis for  $V$  contains exactly  $n$  elements is called the **dimension** of  $V$  and is denoted by  $\dim(V)$ .

**Definition 1.5.4 (Infinite-dimensional).** A vector space that is not finite-dimensional is called **infinite-dimensional**.

**Example 1.5.3.** • The vector space  $\{0\}$  has dimension zero. This is because  $\{0\}$  is

generated by the empty set  $\emptyset$ .

- The vector space  $F^n$  has dimension  $n$ .
- The vector space  $M_{m \times n}(F)$  has dimension  $mn$ .
- The vector space  $P_n(F)$  has dimension  $n + 1$ .

It turns out that the dimension of a vector space depends on the choice of the field it's defined on.

- Example 1.5.4.**
- Over the field of complex numbers, the vector space of complex numbers has dimension 1. (A basis is  $\{1\}$ ).
  - On the other hand, if  $\mathbb{C}$  is defined over the real numbers  $\mathbb{R}$ , then the vector space has dimension 2.

The first conclusion of the replacement theorem states that given a finite-dimensional vector space, a linearly independent subset of  $V$  cannot contain no more than  $\dim(V)$  amount of vectors.

**Example 1.5.5 (Example of an Infinite-Dimensional Vector Space).** The vector space  $P(F)$  is infinite-dimensional since it contains a linearly independent set  $\{1, x, x^2, \dots\}$  that is infinite. This is peculiar because all of the results in this section thus far does not guarantee that an infinite-dimensional vector space containing a basis. In fact, it is proven in section 1.7 that infinite-dimensional vector space are guaranteed to have a basis.

The next corollary from the Replacement Theorem refers to the size of the generating set.

**Corollary.** Let  $V$  be a vector space with dimension  $n$ .

- (a) Any finite generating set for  $V$  contains at least  $n$  vectors, and a generating set for  $V$  that contains exactly  $n$  vectors is a basis for  $V$ .
- (b) Any linearly independent subset of  $V$  that contains exactly  $n$  vectors is a basis for  $V$ .
- (c) Every linearly independent subset of  $V$  can be extended to a basis for  $V$ , that is, if  $L$  is a linearly independent subset of  $V$ , then there is a basis  $\beta$  of  $V$  such that  $L \subseteq \beta$ .

**Proof.** Let  $\beta$  be a basis for  $V$ .

- (a) Let  $\beta$  be a finite generating set for  $V$ . By Theorem 1.9,  $\beta$  contains a subset  $S$  such that  $S$  is a finite basis for  $V$ . Since  $V$  is a vector space with dimension  $n$ , we know that  $S$  contains exactly  $n$  vectors. This means that  $\beta$  must contain at least  $n$  vectors since  $S \subseteq \beta$ .
- (b) Let  $L$  be a linearly independent subset of  $V$  that contains exactly  $n$  vectors. Since  $\beta$  is a generating set for  $V$ , the Replacement Theorem states that we can find a subset of  $\beta$ , say  $L'$ , such that  $L' \cup L$  contains exactly  $n - n = 0$  vectors implies that  $L' = \emptyset$  and  $L \cup L' = L \cup \emptyset = L$  generates  $V$ . Since  $L$  is also linearly independent, we conclude that  $L$  is a basis for  $V$ .
- (c) Let  $L$  be a linearly independent subset of  $V$  containing  $m$  vectors. Then the Replacement Theorem implies that there exists  $H \subseteq \beta$  containing  $n - m$ , where  $\beta$  is the generating set of  $V$  with exactly  $n$  amount of vectors, such that  $L \cup H$  generates  $V$  and is finite. This implies that  $L \cup H$  must contain at most  $n$  vectors, but part (a)

also tells us that  $L \cup H$  contains at least  $n$  vectors, so  $L \cup H$  must contain exactly  $n$  vectors. Hence,  $L \cup H$  is a basis for  $V$ . ■

**Example 1.5.6.** • In Example 1.3.5 the set

$$\{x^2 + 3x - 2, 2x^2 + 5x - 3, -x^2 - 4x + 4\}$$

is a generating set for  $P_2(\mathbb{R})$  that contains exactly 3 vectors. Hence, the set above is a basis for  $P_2(\mathbb{R})$  by part (a).

- It follows from Example 1.3.6 and (a) of the second corollary to the Replacement Theorem that the set

$$\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

is a basis for  $M_{2 \times 2}(\mathbb{R})$ .

- The set in Example 1.4.3 is a basis for  $\mathbb{R}^4$ .
- See Example 1.4.4. This set is a basis for  $P_n(F)$ .

### 1.5.3 An Overview of Dimension and Its Consequences

The main takeaways from our results are:

- We can reduce a finite generating set into a basis for a vector space  $V$ .
- A finite generating set contains at least  $n$  amount of vectors.
- A linearly independent set of vectors contain at most  $n$  amount of vectors.
- We can Extend a linearly independent set into a basis for  $V$ .
- A finite basis for  $V$  must contain exactly  $n$  vectors.
- Any basis for  $V$  contains the same number of vectors. In other words, if a basis for  $V$ , say  $\beta$ , contains  $n$  amount of vectors then any other basis must contain the same amount.
- The number of vectors in a basis is the dimension of a vector space.

### 1.5.4 The Dimension of Subspaces

We can relate the dimension of a vector space  $V$  to a subspace of  $V$ .

**Theorem 1.5.4 (Dimension of Subspaces).** Let  $W$  be a subspace of a finite-dimensional vector space  $V$ . Then  $W$  is a finite-dimensional and  $\dim(W) \leq \dim(V)$ . Moreover, if  $\dim(V) = \dim(W)$ , then  $V = W$ .

**Proof.** Let  $\dim(V) = n$  since  $V$  is finite-dimensional. Suppose  $W = \{0\}$ . Then  $W$  contains the empty set  $\emptyset$  such that  $\text{span}(\emptyset) = W$  and  $\emptyset$  is linearly independent. Hence,  $\emptyset$  is a subset of  $W$  that is a basis for  $W = \{0\}$  that contains 0 vectors. Hence,  $W$  is finite-dimensional. Otherwise,  $W$  contains a nonzero vector  $= x_1$  such that  $W' = \{x_1\}$  is a linearly independent set. Continue this process of adding vectors  $x_2, x_3, \dots, x_k$  into  $W'$  such that  $W'$  is linearly

independent. Since no linearly independent subset of  $V$  cannot contain no more than  $n$  vectors, this process must stop at  $k \leq n$ . Note adding a vector from  $w \in W$  into  $W'$  such that  $w \notin W'$  will make a linearly dependent set. By Theorem 1.4.2, we get that  $w \in \text{span}(W')$ . Hence,  $W'$  is a basis for  $W$  and that  $\dim(W) = k \leq n = \dim(V)$ . Suppose  $\dim(W) = n$ , then there exists a basis  $\beta$  for  $W$  such that  $\beta$  contains exactly  $n$  amount of vectors. Since  $\beta$  is also linearly independent and contains the same amount of vectors as a basis for  $V$ , then we must have that  $\beta$  must also be a basis for  $V$  by Corollary 2 of the Replacement Theorem. Hence,  $W = \text{span}(\beta) = V$ . ■

**Example 1.5.7.** • Let

$$W = \{(a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5) \in F^5 : a_1 + a_3 + a_5 = 0, a_2 = a_4\}.$$

It can be easily shown that  $W$  is a subspace of  $F^5$  having

$$\{(-1, 0, 1, 0, 0), (-1, 0, 0, 0, 1), (0, 1, 0, 1, 0)\}$$

as a basis. Hence,  $\dim(W) = 3$

- The set of diagonal  $n \times n$  matrices is a subspace  $W$  of  $M_{n \times n}(F)$ . A basis for  $W$  is the following set

$$\{E^{11}, E^{22}, \dots, E^{nn}\},$$

where  $E^{ij}$  is the matrix in which the only nonzero entry is a 1 in the  $i$ th row and  $j$ th column. Thus, we have  $\dim(W) = n$ .

**Corollary.** If  $W$  is a subspace of a finite-dimensional vector space  $V$ , then any basis for  $W$  can be extended to a basis for  $V$ .

**Proof.** Let  $\beta$  be a basis for the subspace  $W$ . Since  $\beta \subseteq W \subseteq V$  is a linearly independent subset of  $V$ , we know that  $\beta$  can be extended as a basis for  $V$  by Corollary 2 of the Replacement Theorem. ■

### 1.5.5 Geometrical View of Subspaces in Euclidean Space

- The subspaces of  $\mathbb{R}^2$  include  $\{0\}$  of dimension 0,  $\mathbb{R}$  of dimension 1, and  $\mathbb{R}^2$  itself.
  - The set  $\{0\}$  of zero dimension can be visualized as the origin in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .
  - The set  $\mathbb{R}$  is the field itself and can be visualized as the line  $y = cx$  with  $c \in \mathbb{R}$  where  $x \in \mathbb{R}^2$ .
  - The set  $\mathbb{R}^2$  is the whole cartesian space itself.
- The subspaces of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  must have subspaces with dimensions 0, 1, 2, or 3. The same logic can be followed from the three bullet points above.

## Chapter 2

# Linear Transformations and Matrices

### 2.1 Linear Transformations, Null Spaces, and Ranges

Suppose we have a function  $T$  with domain  $V$  and codomain  $W$  denoted by  $T : V \rightarrow W$ .

**Definition 2.1.1 (Linear Transformation).** Let  $V$  and  $W$  be vector spaces (over  $F$ ). We call a function  $T : V \rightarrow W$  a **linear transformation from  $V$  to  $W$** , for all  $x, y \in V$  and  $c \in F$ , we have

(a)  $T(x + y) = T(x) + T(y)$  and

(b)  $T(cx) = cT(x)$ .

**Remark.** If  $F = \mathbb{Q}$ , then (a) implies (b) in the definition above. Otherwise, (a) and (b) are logically independent statements.

The following are a list of properties for linear functions:

**Proposition 2.1.1.** Let  $V$  and  $W$  be vector spaces (over  $F$ ). If  $T : V \rightarrow W$  is a **linear transformation from  $V$  to  $W$** , then the following properties hold:

(a) If  $T$  is linear, then  $T(0) = 0$ .

(b)  $T$  is linear if and only if  $T(x + y) = T(x) + T(y)$  for all  $x, y \in V$  and  $c \in F$ .

(c) If  $T$  is linear, then  $T(x - y) = T(x) - T(y)$  for all  $x, y \in V$ .

(d)  $T$  is linear if and only if, for  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \in V$  and  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in F$ , we have

$$T\left(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i x_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i T(x_i).$$

**Proof.** Let  $V$  and  $W$  be vector spaces such that  $T : V \rightarrow W$ .

(a) If  $T$  is linear, then  $T(0) = 0$ . Suppose  $T$  is linear, then  $T(0 \cdot 0) = 0T(0) = 0$ .

(b) We have  $T$  is linear if and only if  $T(cx + y) = cT(x) + T(y)$  for all  $x, y \in V$  and  $c \in F$ . Suppose  $T$  is linear. Let  $x, y \in V$  and  $c \in F$ . Then

$$T(cx + y) = T(cx) + T(y) = cT(x) + T(y).$$

Conversely, if  $c = 1$  then

$$T(x + y) = T(x) + T(y).$$

If  $y = 0$ , then

$$T(cx) = cT(x).$$

Hence,  $T$  is a linear transformation.

- (c) If  $T$  is linear, then  $T(x - y) = T(x) - T(y)$  for all  $x, y \in V$ . Let  $x, y \in V$ . Suppose  $T$  is linear, then

$$T(x - y) = T(x) + T(-y) = T(x) - T(y).$$

- (d)  $T$  is linear if and only if, for  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \in V$  and  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in F$ , we have

$$T\left(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i x_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i T(x_i).$$

Suppose  $T$  is linear. Let  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \in V$  and  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in F$  such that

$$v = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i x_i.$$

Then observe that

$$T\left(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i x_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n T(a_i x_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i T(x_i).$$

Conversely, for  $i = 2$  and denote  $a_i x_i = y_i$ . Then

$$T\left(\sum_{i=1}^2 a_i x_i\right) = T(a_1 x_1) + T(a_2 x_2) = T(y_1) + T(y_2)$$

and so property 1 is satisfied. If  $i = 1$ , then

$$T\left(\sum_{i=1}^1 a_i x_i\right) = a_1 T(x_1)$$

and so property 2 is satisfied. Hence,  $T$  is a linear transformation. ■

**Example 2.1.1.** Define

$$T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 \text{ by } T(a_1, a_2) = (2a_1 + a_2, a_1).$$

Show that  $T$  is linear. Let  $c \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , where  $x = (a_1, a_2)$  and  $y = (b_1, b_2)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} cx + y &= c(a_1, a_2) + (b_1, b_2) \\ &= (ca_1, ca_2) + (b_1, b_2) \\ &= (ca_1 + b_1, ca_2 + b_2). \end{aligned}$$



So, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
T(cx + y) &= T(ca_1 + b_1, ca_2 + b_2) \\
&= (2(ca_1 + b_1) + ca_2 + b_2, ca_1 + b_1) \\
&= ((2ca_1 + ca_2) + (2b_1 + b_2), ca_1 + b_1) \\
&= (2ca_1 + ca_2, ca_1) + (2b_1 + b_2, b_1) \\
&= c(2a_1 + a_2, a_1) + (2b_1 + b_2, b_1) \\
&= cT(a_1, a_2) + T(b_1, b_2) \\
&= cT(x) + T(y).
\end{aligned}$$

Hence, we have that  $T(cx + y) = cT(x) + T(y)$  so  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  is a linear.

### 2.1.1 Examples of Linear Transformations

The most common linear transformations come from geometry:

- Rotations:  $T_\theta(a_1, a_2) = (a_1, a_2)$  by performing a counter-clockwise rotation by an angle  $\theta$  if  $(a_1, a_2) \neq (0, 0)$ . This is called **rotation by  $\theta$**  and  $T_\theta(0, 0) = (0, 0)$  otherwise.
- Reflections about the  $x$ -axis:  $T(a_1, a_2) = (a_1, -a_2)$ .
- Projections on the  $x$ -axis:  $T(a_1, a_2) = (a_1, 0)$ .

**Example 2.1.2 (Rotations).** Define the rotation transformation above by  $T_\theta : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  by  $T_\theta(a_1, a_2)$  where it is described as above. Our goal in this example is to define an explicit formula of this transformation. Let us fix a nonzero vector  $(a_1, a_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ . Let  $\alpha$  be the angle such that  $(a_1, a_2)$  makes with the positive  $x$ -axis, and let  $r = \sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2}$ . Then using some trigonometry, we get that  $a_1 = r \cos(\alpha)$  and  $a_2 = r \sin(\alpha)$ . Note that  $T_\theta(a_1, a_2)$  has length  $r$  and makes an angle  $\alpha + \theta$  with the positive  $x$ -axis. Using some trigonometric identities, we get that

$$\begin{aligned}
T_\theta(a_1, a_2) &= (r \cos(\alpha + \theta), r \sin(\alpha + \theta)) \\
&= (r \cos(\alpha) \cos(\theta) - r \sin(\alpha) \sin(\theta), r \cos(\alpha) \sin(\theta) + r \sin(\alpha) \cos(\theta)) \\
&= (a_1 \cos(\theta) - a_2 \sin(\theta), a_1 \sin(\theta) + a_2 \cos(\theta)).
\end{aligned}$$

Observe that this formula holds for  $(a_1, a_2) = (0, 0)$ . One can show that  $T_\theta$  is linear.

**Example 2.1.3 (Transpose).** Define  $T : M_{m \times n}(F) \rightarrow M_{n \times m}(F)$  by  $T(A) = A^t$ , where  $A^t$  is the transpose of  $A$ , defined in Section 1.3.

**Example 2.1.4 (Derivatives of Polynomials).** Define  $T : P_n(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow P_{n-1}(\mathbb{R})$  by  $T(f(x)) = f'(x)$ , where  $f'(x)$  denotes the derivative of  $f(x)$ . We can show that  $T$  is linear. Let  $g(x), h(x) \in P_n(\mathbb{R})$  and  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ . Assuming that the differentiation rules holds for any  $T$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
T(ag(x) + h(x)) &= (ag(x) + h(x))' \\
&= ag'(x) + h'(x) \\
&= aT(g(x)) + T(h(x)).
\end{aligned}$$

By the second property of linearity, we have that  $T$  is linear.

**Example 2.1.5 (Integrals).** Let  $V = C(\mathbb{R})$  be the vector space of continuous real-valued functions on  $\mathbb{R}$ . Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $a < b$ . Define  $T : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by

$$T(f) = \int_a^b f(t) dt$$

for all  $f \in V$ . We know that  $T$  is a linear transformation because the definite integral of a linear combination of functions is the same as the linear combination of the definite integrals of the functions; that is,

$$\int_a^b \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i f(t_i) dt = \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i \int_a^b f(t_i) dt = \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i T(f_i)$$

for scalars  $\gamma_i$  where  $1 \leq i \leq n$  and

$$T(f_i) = \int_a^b f(t_i) dt.$$

### 2.1.2 Identity and Zero Transformations

**Remark.** Two very important examples of linear transformations are the **identity** and **zero transformations**.

**Definition 2.1.2 (Identity Transformation).** The **identity transformation** is denoted by  $I_V : V \rightarrow V$  by  $I_V(x) = x$  for all  $x \in V$ . From now on, we will denote this transformation as  $I$  instead of  $I_V$ .

**Definition 2.1.3 (Zero Transformation).** The **zero transformation** is denoted by  $T_0 : V \rightarrow W$  by  $T_0(x) = 0$  for all  $x \in V$ .

### 2.1.3 Range and Null Spaces

The *Range* and *Null* spaces give us important insights on the intrinsic properties of a linear transformation.

**Definition 2.1.4 (Null Space).** Let  $V$  and  $W$  be vector spaces, and let  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be linear. The **null space** (or **kernel**), denoted by  $N(T)$  of  $T$ , is the set of all vectors  $x \in V$  such that  $T(x) = 0$ ; that is,  $N(T) = \{x \in V : T(x) = 0\}$ .

**Definition 2.1.5 (Range).** Let  $V$  and  $W$  be vector spaces, and let  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be linear. The **range** (or **image**)  $R(T)$  of  $T$  is the subset of  $W$  consisting of all images (under  $T$ ) of vectors in  $V$ ; that is,  $R(T) = \{T(x) : x \in V\}$ .

**Example 2.1.6.** Let  $V$  and  $W$  be vector spaces, and let  $I : V \rightarrow V$  and  $T_0 : V \rightarrow W$  be the identity and zero transformations, respectively. Then  $N(I) = \{0\}$ ,  $R(I) = V$ ,  $N(T_0) = V$ , and  $R(T_0) = \{0\}$ .

**Example 2.1.7.** Let  $T : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  be the linear transformation defined by

$$T(a_1, a_2, a_3) = (a_1 - a_2, 2a_3).$$

One can verify that

$$N(T) = \{(a, a, 0) : a \in \mathbb{R}\} \text{ and } R(T) = \mathbb{R}^2.$$

**Theorem 2.1.1 (The Null and Range are Both Subspaces).** Let  $V$  and  $W$  be vector spaces and  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be linear. Then  $N(T)$  and  $R(T)$  are subspaces of  $V$  and  $W$ , respectively.

**Proof.** Let  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be linear. First, we show that  $N(T)$  is a subspace of  $V$ .

- (a) Note that  $0_V \in V$  implies that  $T(0_V) = 0_W$  since  $T$  is linear (property (1) of linearity). Hence,  $0_V \in N(T)$ .
- (b) Let  $x, y \in N(T)$ . By definition, of the null space we have  $T(x) = 0_W$  and  $T(y) = 0_W$ . Since  $T$  is linear, we get that

$$T(x + y) = T(x) + T(y) = 0_W + 0_W = 0_W \Rightarrow x + y \in N(T).$$

Hence,  $N(T)$  is closed under addition.

- (c) Let  $x \in N(T)$  and let  $c \in F$ . Then

$$T(cx) = cT(x) = c0_W = 0_W \Rightarrow cx \in N(T).$$

Hence, Theorem 1.3 tells us that  $N(T)$  is a subspace of  $V$ . Now, we will show that  $R(T)$  is a subspace of  $W$ .

- (a) Note that  $0_V \in V$  implies that  $T(0_V) = 0_W \in R(T)$  by property (1) of linearity. So,  $0_W \in R(T)$ .
- (b) Now let  $x, y \in R(T)$ . Then there exists elements  $z, w \in W$  such that  $T(x) = z$  and  $T(y) = w$ . Then by linearity, we have  $T(x + y) = T(x) + T(y) = z + w \in W$ . Hence, we must have  $x + y \in R(T)$  and thus  $R(T)$  is closed under addition.
- (c) Let  $x \in R(T)$  and  $c \in F$ . Then we have  $T(cx) = cT(x) \in W$  since  $T(x) \in W$ . Hence,  $cx \in R(T)$ .

Thus, Theorem 1.3 also tells us that  $R(T)$  is a subspace of  $W$ . ■

The next theorem allows us to find a spanning set for the range of a linear transformation.

**Theorem 2.1.2 (Spanning Set for a Linear Transformation).** Let  $V$  and  $W$  be vector spaces, and let  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be linear. If  $\beta = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  is a basis for  $V$ , then

$$R(T) = \text{span}(T(\beta)) = \text{span}(\{T(v_1), T(v_2), \dots, T(v_n)\}).$$

**Proof.** Let  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be linear where  $V$  and  $W$  are vector spaces. To show that  $T(\beta)$  generates  $R(T)$ ; we need to show that

$$\text{span}(T(\beta)) \subseteq R(T) \text{ and } R(T) \subseteq \text{span}(T(\beta)).$$

Observe that  $T(v_i) \in R(T)$  for all  $i$ . Hence,  $T(\beta) \subseteq R(T)$ . By theorem 1.5, we know that  $R(T)$  also contains the span of  $T(\beta)$ . Hence,  $\text{span}(T(\beta)) \subseteq R(T)$ .

Let  $w \in R(T)$ . Then for some  $v \in W$ , we have  $T(v) = w$ . Since  $\beta$  is a basis for  $V$ , we choose scalars  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n$  such that

$$v = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i v_i.$$

Since  $T$  is linear, we have that

$$w = T(v) = T\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i v_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i T(v_i).$$

This tells us that  $v \in \text{span}(T(\beta))$ . Hence,  $T(\beta)$  generates  $R(T)$ . ■

**Example 2.1.8.** Define the linear transformation  $T : P_2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow M_{2 \times 2}(\mathbb{R})$  by

$$T(f(x)) = \begin{pmatrix} f(1) - f(2) & 0 \\ 0 & f(0) \end{pmatrix}.$$

Note that

$$\beta = \{1, x, x^2\} \text{ is a basis for } P_2(\mathbb{R}) \text{ and } T(\beta) = \{T(1), T(x), T(x^2)\}.$$

Then observe that

$$\begin{aligned} R(T) &= \text{span}(T(\beta)) \\ &= \text{span}\left(\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}\right). \end{aligned}$$

This tells us that  $R(T)$  contains the basis found in the second equality above. Hence, we must have  $\dim(R(T)) = 2$ .

**Example 2.1.9.** Let  $T : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  be the linear transformation defined by

$$T(a_1, a_2, a_3) = (a_1 - a_2, 2a_3).$$

One can show that

$$N(T) = \{(a, a, 0) : a \in \mathbb{R}\} \text{ and } R(T) = \mathbb{R}^2.$$

Just like how the 'size' of a given subspace is denoted by its dimension, we can also determine the size of a null spaces and ranges. However, we will attach some special names associated with these sets.

**Definition 2.1.6 (Nullity).** Let  $V$  and  $W$  be vector spaces, and let  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be linear. If  $N(T)$  is finite-dimensional, then we define **nullity** of  $T$  by  $\text{nullity}(T)$  to be the dimension of  $N(T)$ .

**Definition 2.1.7 (Rank).** Let  $V$  and  $W$  be vector spaces, and let  $T : V \rightarrow W$ . If  $R(T)$  is finite-dimensional, then we denote the **rank** of  $T$  by  $\text{rank}(T)$  to be the dimension of  $R(T)$ .

From these definitions, we can intuit the following relationships between Nullity and Rank of a linear transformation:

- The larger the nullity, the smaller the rank of a linear transformation.
- the larger the rank, the smaller the nullity.

This relationship between the two spaces is encompassed in the next theorem.

#### 2.1.4 Dimension Theorem

**Theorem 2.1.3 (Dimension Theorem).** Let  $V$  and  $W$  be vector spaces, and let  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be linear. If  $V$  is finite-dimensional, then

$$\text{nullity}(T) + \text{rank}(T) = \dim(V).$$

**Proof.** Suppose  $\dim(V) = n$  and  $\dim(N(T)) = k$ , and  $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_k\}$  is a basis for  $N(T)$ . By corollary to Theorem 1.11  $\beta$  can be extended to be a basis for  $V$ . Denote this basis as

$$\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}.$$

We claim that that  $S = \{T(u_{k+1}), T(u_{k+2}), \dots, T(u_n)\}$  is a basis for  $R(T)$ . First, we show that  $S$  generates  $R(T)$ . Using The Theorem 2.1 and the fact that  $T(u_i) = 0$  for  $1 \leq i \leq k$ , we get that

$$\begin{aligned} R(T) &= \text{span}(\{T(u_1), T(u_2), \dots, T(u_n)\}) \\ &= \text{span}(\{T(u_{k+1}), T(u_{k+2}), \dots, T(u_n)\}) \\ &= \text{span}(T(S)). \end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $S$  generates  $R(T)$ .

Now, we want to show that  $S$  is linearly independent. Then choose scalars  $\alpha_{k+1}, \alpha_{k+2}, \dots, \alpha_n$  such that

$$\sum_{i=k+1}^n \alpha_i T(u_i) = 0. \quad (1)$$

Since  $T$  is linear, we can re-write (1) into the following form

$$T\left(\sum_{i=k+1}^n \alpha_i u_i\right) = 0.$$

Hence, we find that

$$\sum_{i=k+1}^n \alpha_i u_i \in N(T). \quad (2)$$

Since  $N(T)$  contains  $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_k\}$  as a basis, we can express (2) as a linear combination of vectors in this set. Hence, we have

$$\sum_{i=k+1}^n \alpha_i u_i = \sum_{i=1}^k \beta_i u_i \quad (3)$$

for some scalars  $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_k$ . Now, we have

$$\sum_{i=k+1}^n \alpha_i u_i - \sum_{i=1}^k \beta_i u_i = 0.$$

Since  $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$  is linearly independent, we find that both  $\alpha_i$ 's and  $\beta_i$ 's are all zero. Hence,  $S$  is also linearly independent. Thus,  $S$  is a basis for  $R(T)$  and that  $\text{rank}(T) = n - k$  and so we get our desired result

$$\dim(V) = \text{rank}(T) + \text{nullity}(T).$$

■

Applying the dimension theorem to example 9 allows us to conclude that  $\text{nullity}(T) + 2 = 3$  implies  $\text{nullity}(T) = 1$ .

Before we move on, let us recall two key definitions needed for the next topic.

**Definition 2.1.8 (Injective Functions).** Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and  $x, y \in A$ . We call  $f$  **one-to-one** if  $f(x) = f(y)$  implies  $x = y$  or, equivalently, if  $x \neq y$  implies  $f(x) \neq f(y)$  (this latter part is the contrapositive of the definition).

**Definition 2.1.9 (Surjective Functions).** Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$ . We call  $f$  **onto** if  $f(A) = B$ ; that is, for any  $y \in B$ , there exists an  $x \in A$  such that  $f(x) = y$ .

As we will see, these two definitions will give insights into the nullity and rank of linear transformations.

**Theorem 2.1.4 (Injectivity  $\Leftrightarrow$  Null Space is  $\{0\}$ ).** Let  $V$  and  $W$  be vector spaces, and let  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be linear. Then  $T$  is **one-to-one** if and only if  $N(T) = \{0\}$ .

**Proof.** ( $\Rightarrow$ ) Suppose  $T$  is injective. Let  $x \in V$  be arbitrary. Then  $T(x) = T(0_V)$  implies  $x = 0_V$ . This tells us that  $N(T) = \{0\}$ . ( $\Leftarrow$ ) Conversely, let  $N(T) = \{0\}$ . Let  $x, y \in V$  be arbitrary and assume  $T(x) = T(y)$ . By using linearity, we have

$$\begin{aligned} T(x) = T(y) &\Leftrightarrow T(x) - T(y) = 0_W \\ &\Leftrightarrow T(x - y) = 0_W \end{aligned}$$

Since  $x - y \in N(T)$  and  $N(T) = \{0\}$ , we have  $x - y = 0$  if and only if  $x = y$ . Hence,  $T$  is an injective transformation. ■

Referring back to example 9, we find that  $\text{nullity}(T) = 1$  implies that example 9 is not injective.

**Theorem 2.1.5 (Equal Finite Dimensions Between Vector Spaces).** Let  $V$  and  $W$  be vector spaces of equal (finite) dimension, and let  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be linear. Then the following are equivalent.

- (a)  $T$  is injective.
- (b)  $T$  is surjective.
- (c)  $\text{rank}(T) = \dim(V)$ .

**Proof.** Using the dimension theorem, we have

$$\text{nullity}(T) + \text{rank}(T) = \dim(V).$$

By theorem 2.5, We know that  $T$  is injective if and only if  $N(T) = \{0\}$ . By definition, we have  $\text{nullity}(T) = 0$ . By the dimension theorem, this is true if and only if

$$\text{rank}(T) = \dim(V) \Leftrightarrow \text{rank}(T) = \dim(W)$$

where  $V$  and  $W$  have equal dimensions. This is true if and only if  $\dim(R(T)) = \dim(W)$ . This is true if and only if  $R(T) = W$  by theorem 1.11. By definition, we know that  $T$  is surjective. ■

**Remark.** If  $V$  is not finite-dimensional then we find that neither (a) nor (b) follows from each other.

**Example 2.1.10.** Let  $T : P_2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow P_3(\mathbb{R})$  be the linear transformation defined by

$$T(f(x)) = 2f'(x) + \int_0^x 3f(t) dt.$$

Observe that

$$R(T) = \text{span}(T(1), T(x), T(x^2)) = \text{span}(\{3x, 2 + \frac{3}{2}x^2, 4x + x^3\}).$$

One can show that the set  $\{3x, 2 + \frac{3}{2}x^2, 4x + x^3\}$  is linearly independent and that  $\text{rank}(T) = 3$ . Since  $\text{rank}(T) \neq \dim(P_3(\mathbb{R}))$ , we have that  $T$  is not surjective. Since  $\dim(P_2(\mathbb{R})) = 3$ , we know that

$$\text{rank}(T) = \dim(P_2(\mathbb{R}))$$

by the Dimension Theorem. Thus,  $\text{nullity}(T) = \{0\}$  and hence  $T$  is injective.

**Example 2.1.11.** Let  $T : F^2 \rightarrow F^2$  be the linear transformation defined by

$$T(a_1, a_2) = (a_1 + a_2, a_1).$$

One can show that  $T$  is injective so that  $N(T) = \{0\}$ . The dimension theorem tells us that  $T$  must also be onto.

**Example 2.1.12.** Let  $T : P_2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  be the linear transformation defined by

$$T(a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2) = (a_0, a_1, a_2).$$

One can easily show that  $T$  is linear and one-to-one. We find that  $S = \{2 - x + 3x^2, x + x^2, 1 - 2x^2\}$  is linearly independent in  $P_2(\mathbb{R})$  since

$$T(S) = \{(2, -1, 3), (0, 1, 1), (1, 0, -2)\}$$

is linearly independent in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

**Theorem 2.1.6 (Unique Linear Transformations).** Let  $V$  and  $W$  be vector spaces over  $F$ , and suppose that  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  is a basis for  $V$ . For  $w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n \in W$ , there exists exactly one linear transformation  $T : V \rightarrow W$  such that  $T(v_i) = w_i$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$ .

**Proof.** Let  $x \in V$ . Since  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  is a basis for  $V$ , we have

$$x = \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i v_i$$

for some scalars  $\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \dots, \gamma_n$ . Define the map  $T : V \rightarrow W$  by

$$T(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i w_i$$

for  $w_i \in W$  and  $x \in V$ .

First, we show that  $T$  is linear. Let  $x, y \in V$ . Then

$$x = \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i v_i$$

and

$$y = \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_i v_i$$

for some scalars  $\gamma_i$  and  $\delta_i$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Then by definition of  $T$ , we get that

$$T(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i w_i$$

and

$$T(y) = \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_i w_i.$$

By definition of  $T$ , we get that

$$T(x + y) = \sum_{i=1}^n (\gamma_i + \delta_i) w_i = \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i w_i + \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_i w_i = T(x) + T(y).$$

Hence, the first property of linearity holds. For the second property, let  $c \in F$  and observe that

$$T(cx) = \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i (cw_i) = c \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i w_i = cT(x).$$

Hence, the second property of linearity holds. We conclude that  $T$  is linear and that  $T(v_i) = w_i$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$ .

Now suppose there exists another linear map  $U : V \rightarrow W$  such that  $U(v_i) = w_i$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$  defined by.

$$U(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i U(v_i).$$



Then observe that

$$U(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i U(v_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i w_i = T(x).$$

Thus,  $U = T$  for all  $x \in V$  and so, we conclude that  $T$  is a unique linear map. ■

**Corollary.** Let  $V$  and  $W$  be vector spaces, and suppose that  $V$  has a finite basis  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$ . If  $U, T : V \rightarrow W$  are linear and  $U(v_i) = T(v_i)$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , then  $U = T$ .

**Example 2.1.13.** Let  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  be the linear transformation defined by

$$T(a_1, a_2) = (2a_2 - a_1, 3a_1)$$

and suppose that  $U : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  is linear. Let  $\{(1, 2), (1, 1)\}$  be a basis for  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . If  $U(1, 2) = (3, 3)$  and  $U(1, 1) = (1, 3)$ , then we find that  $U(x_i) = T(x_i)$   $i = 1, 2$ . Thus  $U = T$  from the corollary to theorem 2.6.

## 2.2 The Matrix Representation of a Linear Transformation

In this section, we will develop a one-to-one correspondence between matrices and linear transformations so that we may study the properties of one utilizing the properties of another. Before we do this, we shall develop the concept of an *ordered basis* for a vector space  $V$ .

**Definition 2.2.1 (Ordered Bases).** Let  $V$  be a finite-dimensional vector space. An **ordered basis** for  $V$  is a basis for  $V$  endowed with a specific order; that is, an ordered basis for  $V$  is a finite sequence of linearly independent vectors in  $V$  that generates  $V$ .

**Example 2.2.1.** In  $F^3$ , let  $\beta = \{e_1, e_2, e_3\}$  be an ordered basis for  $F^3$ . If we take another set, say,  $\gamma = \{e_2, e_1, e_3\}$ , be a basis for  $F^3$ , we will see that even though these two bases are equal in terms of the vectors within it, we still end up with different ORDERED bases.

- Note that  $e_i$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$  are the **standard basis vectors** for  $F^n$ . The set  $\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n\}$  in  $F^n$  is the **standard ordered basis** for  $F^n$ . Likewise,  $\{1, x, \dots, x^n\}$  is the **standard ordered basis** for  $P_n(F)$ .
- We can now identify vectors in some finite-dimensional vector space of dimension  $n$  by using  $n$ -tuples.
- This is done through what is called *coordinate vectors*.

**Definition 2.2.2 (Coordinate Vectors).** Let  $\beta = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$  be an ordered basis for a finite-dimensional vector space  $V$ . For  $x \in V$ , let  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  be the unique scalars such that

$$x = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i u_i.$$

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We define the **coordinate vector of  $x$  relative to  $\beta$** , denoted  $[x]_\beta$ , by

$$[x]_\beta = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{pmatrix}.$$

- In our definition of standard basis vectors, we see that  $[u_i]_\beta = e_i$ .
- It is quite easy to show that  $x \rightarrow [x]_\beta$  provides us with a linear transformation from  $T : V \rightarrow F^n$ .