

# ECON2125/8013

## Lecture 6

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Semester 1, 2015

# Announcements

- None

## New Topic

# LINEAR ALGEBRA

# Motivation

Linear algebra is used to study linear models

Foundational for many disciplines related to economics

- Economic theory
- Econometrics and statistics
- Finance
- Operations research

## Example

Equilibrium in a single market with price  $p$

$$q_d = a + bp$$

$$q_s = c + dp$$

$$q_s = q_d$$

What price  $p$  clears the market, and at what quantity  $q = q_s = q_d$ ?

Remark: Here  $a, b, c, d$  are the model **parameters** or **coefficients**

Treated as fixed for a single computation but might vary between computations to better fit the data

## Example

Determination of income

$$C = a + b(Y - T)$$

$$E = C + I$$

$$G = T$$

$$Y = E$$

Solve for  $Y$  as a function of  $I$  and  $G$

Bigger, more complex systems found in problems related to

- Regression and forecasting
- Portfolio analysis
- Ranking systems
- Etc., etc. — any number of applications

A general system of equations:

$$\begin{aligned}a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \cdots + a_{1K}x_K &= b_1 \\a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \cdots + a_{2K}x_K &= b_2 \\&\vdots \\a_{N1}x_1 + a_{N2}x_2 + \cdots + a_{NK}x_K &= b_N\end{aligned}$$

Typically

- the  $a_{nm}$  and  $b_n$  are exogenous / given / parameters
- the values  $x_n$  are endogenous

Key question

- What values of  $x_1, \dots, x_K$  solve this system?



We often write this in **matrix form**

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1K} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2K} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{N1} & a_{N2} & \cdots & a_{NK} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_K \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_K \end{pmatrix}$$

or

$$\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$$

And we solve it on a computer

---

```
In [1]: import numpy as np
```

```
In [2]: from scipy.linalg import solve
```

```
In [3]: A = [[0, 2, 4],  
...:         [1, 4, 8],  
...:         [0, 3, 7]]
```

```
In [4]: b = (1, 2, 0)
```

```
In [5]: A, b = np.asarray(A), np.asarray(b)
```

```
In [6]: solve(A, b)
```

```
Out[6]: array([ 0. ,  3.5, -1.5])
```

---

This tells us that the solution is

---

```
array([ 0. ,  3.5, -1.5])
```

---

That is,

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 3.5 \\ -1.5 \end{pmatrix}$$

Hey, this is easy — what do we need to study for?

But now let's try this similar looking problem

---

```
In [1]: import numpy as np
```

```
In [2]: from scipy.linalg import solve
```

```
In [3]: A = [[0, 2, 4],  
...:        [1, 4, 8],  
...:        [0, 3, 6]]
```

```
In [4]: b = (1, 2, 0)
```

```
In [5]: A, b = np.asarray(A), np.asarray(b)
```

```
In [6]: solve(A, b)
```

---

This is the output that we get

```
LinAlgError          Traceback (most recent call last)
<ipython-input-8-4fb5f41eaf7c> in <module>()
----> 1 solve(A, b)
/home/john/anaconda/lib/python2.7/site-packages/scipy/linalg
      97         return x
      98     if info > 0:
---> 99         raise LinAlgError("singular matrix")
     100     raise ValueError('illegal value in %d-th argument')
LinAlgError: singular matrix
```

What does this mean? How can we fix it?

Moral: We still need to understand the concepts

# Vector Space

Recall that  $\mathbb{R}^N :=$  set of all  $N$ -vectors

An  $N$ -vector  $\mathbf{x}$  is a tuple of  $N$  real numbers:

$$\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_N) \quad \text{where} \quad x_n \in \mathbb{R} \text{ for each } n$$

We can also write  $\mathbf{x}$  vertically, like so:

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_N \end{pmatrix}$$

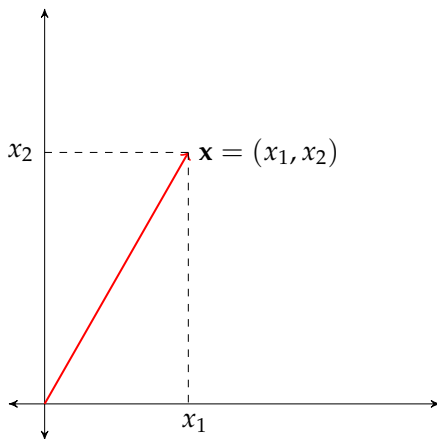


Figure : Visualization of vector  $\mathbf{x}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2$

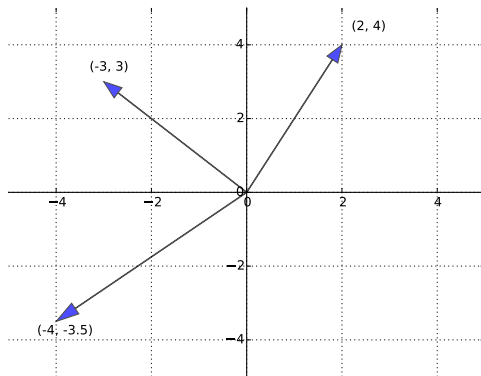


Figure : Three vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^2$



The vector of ones will be denoted  $\mathbf{1}$

$$\mathbf{1} := \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Vector of zeros will be denoted  $\mathbf{0}$

$$\mathbf{0} := \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Linear Operations

Two fundamental algebraic operations:

1. Vector addition
2. Scalar multiplication

1. **Sum** of  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N$  and  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^N$  defined by

$$\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} := \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_N \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_N \end{pmatrix} := \begin{pmatrix} x_1 + y_1 \\ x_2 + y_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_N + y_N \end{pmatrix}$$

Example 1:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 6 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix} := \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ 9 \\ 12 \end{pmatrix}$$

Example 2:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} := \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

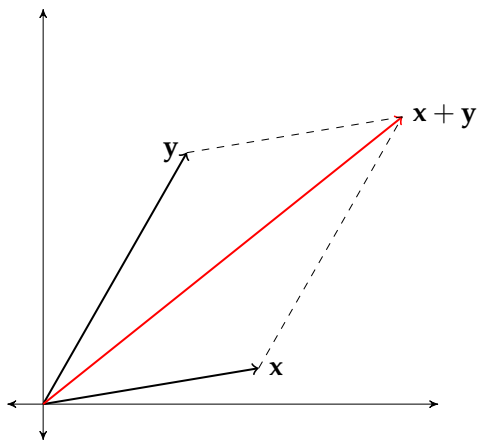


Figure : Vector addition

2. **Scalar product** of  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N$  defined by

$$\alpha \mathbf{x} = \alpha \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_N \end{pmatrix} := \begin{pmatrix} \alpha x_1 \\ \alpha x_2 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha x_N \end{pmatrix}$$

Example 1:

$$0.5 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} := \begin{pmatrix} 0.5 \\ 1.0 \\ 1.5 \\ 2.0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Example 2:

$$-1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} := \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -2 \\ -3 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix}$$

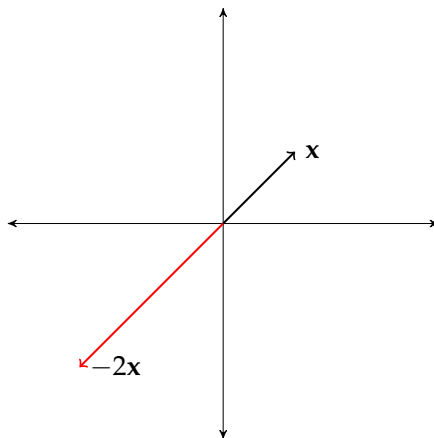


Figure : Scalar multiplication

Subtraction performed element by element, analogous to addition

$$\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y} := \begin{pmatrix} x_1 - y_1 \\ x_2 - y_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_N - y_N \end{pmatrix}$$

Def can be given in terms of addition and scalar multiplication:

$$\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y} := \mathbf{x} + (-1)\mathbf{y}$$



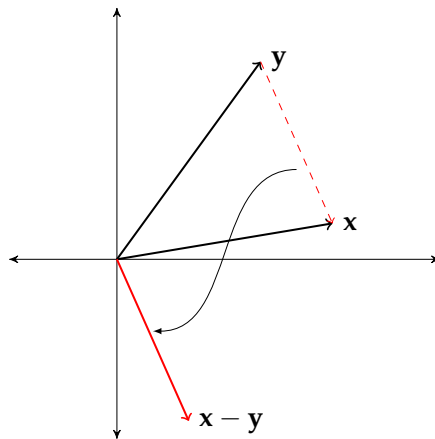


Figure : Difference between vectors

Incidentally, most high level numerical libraries treat vector addition and scalar multiplication in the same way — elementwise

---

```
In [1]: import numpy as np
```

```
In [2]: x = np.array((2, 4, 6))
```

```
In [3]: y = np.array((10, 10, 10))
```

```
In [4]: x + y  # Vector addition
```

```
Out[4]: array([12, 14, 16])
```

```
In [6]: 2 * x  # Scalar multiplication
```

```
Out[6]: array([ 4,  8, 12])
```

---

A **linear combination** of vectors  $\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_K$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  is a vector

$$\mathbf{y} = \sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_k \mathbf{x}_k = \alpha_1 \mathbf{x}_1 + \dots + \alpha_K \mathbf{x}_K$$

where  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_K$  are scalars

Example.

$$0.5 \begin{pmatrix} 6.0 \\ 2.0 \\ 8.0 \end{pmatrix} + 3.0 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1.0 \\ -1.0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3.0 \\ 4.0 \\ 1.0 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Inner Product

The **inner product** of two vectors  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{y}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  is

$$\mathbf{x}'\mathbf{y} := \sum_{n=1}^N x_n y_n$$

Example:  $\mathbf{x} = (2, 3)$  and  $\mathbf{y} = (-1, 1)$  implies that

$$\mathbf{x}'\mathbf{y} = 2 \times (-1) + 3 \times 1 = 1$$

Example:  $\mathbf{x} = (1/N)\mathbf{1}$  and  $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_N)$  implies

$$\mathbf{x}'\mathbf{y} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N y_n$$

---

```
In [1]: import numpy as np
```

```
In [2]: x = np.array((1, 2, 3, 4))
```

```
In [3]: y = np.array((2, 4, 6, 8))
```

```
In [6]: np.sum(x * y)  # Inner product
```

```
Out[6]: 60
```

---

**Fact.** For any  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$  and any  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ , the following statements are true:

1.  $\mathbf{x}'\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{y}'\mathbf{x}$
2.  $(\alpha\mathbf{x})'(\beta\mathbf{y}) = \alpha\beta(\mathbf{x}'\mathbf{y})$
3.  $\mathbf{x}'(\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{z}) = \mathbf{x}'\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{x}'\mathbf{z}$

For example, item 2 is true because

$$(\alpha\mathbf{x})'(\beta\mathbf{y}) = \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha x_n \beta y_n = \alpha\beta \sum_{n=1}^N x_n y_n = \alpha\beta(\mathbf{x}'\mathbf{y})$$

**Ex.** Use above rules to show that  $(\alpha\mathbf{y} + \beta\mathbf{z})'\mathbf{x} = \alpha\mathbf{x}'\mathbf{y} + \beta\mathbf{x}'\mathbf{z}$

The next result is a generalization

**Fact.** Inner products of linear combinations satisfy

$$\left( \sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_k \mathbf{x}_k \right)' \left( \sum_{j=1}^J \beta_j \mathbf{y}_j \right) = \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{j=1}^J \alpha_k \beta_j \mathbf{x}_k' \mathbf{y}_j$$

# Norms and Distance

The (Euclidean) **norm** of  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N$  is defined as

$$\|\mathbf{x}\| := \sqrt{\mathbf{x}'\mathbf{x}} = \left( \sum_{n=1}^N x_n^2 \right)^{1/2}$$

Interpretation:

- $\|\mathbf{x}\|$  represents the “length” of  $\mathbf{x}$
- $\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|$  represents distance between  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{y}$



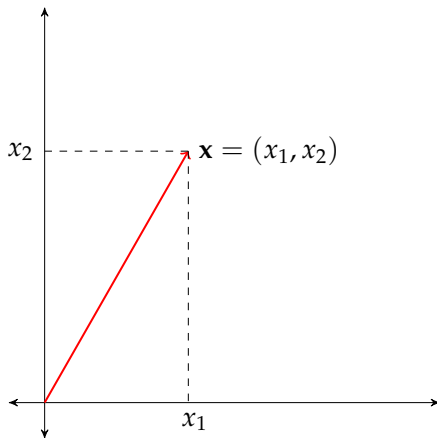
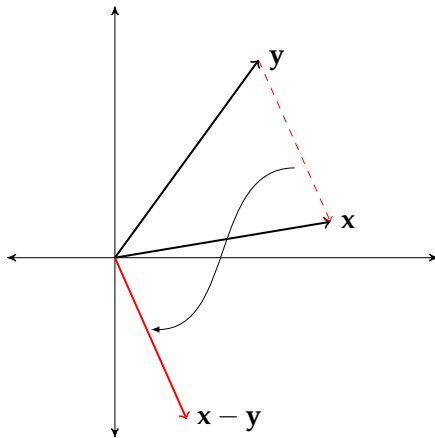


Figure : Length of red line =  $\sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2} =: \|\mathbf{x}\|$

$\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|$  represents distance between  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{y}$



**Fact.** For any  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  and any  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ , the following statements are true:

1.  $\|\mathbf{x}\| \geq 0$  and  $\|\mathbf{x}\| = 0$  if and only if  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$
2.  $\|\alpha\mathbf{x}\| = |\alpha|\|\mathbf{x}\|$
3.  $\|\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y}\| \leq \|\mathbf{x}\| + \|\mathbf{y}\|$  (**triangle inequality**)
4.  $|\mathbf{x}'\mathbf{y}| \leq \|\mathbf{x}\|\|\mathbf{y}\|$  (**Cauchy-Schwarz inequality**)

For example, let's show that  $\|\mathbf{x}\| = 0 \iff \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$

First let's assume that  $\|\mathbf{x}\| = 0$  and show  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$

Since  $\|\mathbf{x}\| = 0$  we have  $\|\mathbf{x}\|^2 = 0$  and hence  $\sum_{n=1}^N x_n^2 = 0$

That is  $x_n = 0$  for all  $n$ , or, equivalently,  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$

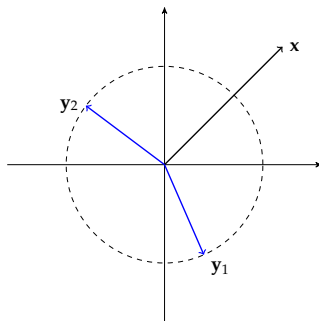
Next let's assume that  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  and show  $\|\mathbf{x}\| = 0$

This is immediate from the definition of the norm

**Fact.** If  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N$  is nonzero, then the solution to the optimization problem

$$\max_{\mathbf{y}} \mathbf{x}'\mathbf{y} \quad \text{subject to} \quad \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^N \text{ and } \|\mathbf{y}\| = 1$$

is  $\hat{\mathbf{x}} := \mathbf{x} / \|\mathbf{x}\|$



Proof: Fix nonzero  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N$

Let  $\hat{\mathbf{x}} := \mathbf{x} / \|\mathbf{x}\| := \alpha \mathbf{x}$  when  $\alpha := 1 / \|\mathbf{x}\|$

Evidently  $\|\hat{\mathbf{x}}\| = 1$

Pick any other  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^N$  satisfying  $\|\mathbf{y}\| = 1$

The Cauchy-Schwarz inequality yields

$$\mathbf{y}'\mathbf{x} \leq |\mathbf{y}'\mathbf{x}| \leq \|\mathbf{y}\|\|\mathbf{x}\| = \|\mathbf{x}\| = \frac{\mathbf{x}'\mathbf{x}}{\|\mathbf{x}\|} = \hat{\mathbf{x}}'\mathbf{x}$$

Hence  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  is the maximizer, as claimed

# Span

Let  $X \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  be any nonempty set

Set of all possible linear combinations of elements of  $X$  is called the **span** of  $X$ , denoted by  $\text{span}(X)$

For finite  $X := \{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_K\}$  the span can be expressed as

$$\text{span}(X) := \left\{ \text{all } \sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_k \mathbf{x}_k \text{ such that } (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_K) \in \mathbb{R}^K \right\}$$

We are mainly interested in the span of finite sets...

## Example

Let's start with the span of a singleton

Let  $X = \{\mathbf{1}\} \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ , where  $\mathbf{1} := (1, 1)$

The span of  $X$  is all vectors of the form

$$\alpha \mathbf{1} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \alpha \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{with} \quad \alpha \in \mathbb{R}$$

Constitutes a line in the plane that passes through

- the vector  $\mathbf{1}$  (set  $\alpha = 1$ )
- the origin  $\mathbf{0}$  (set  $\alpha = 0$ )



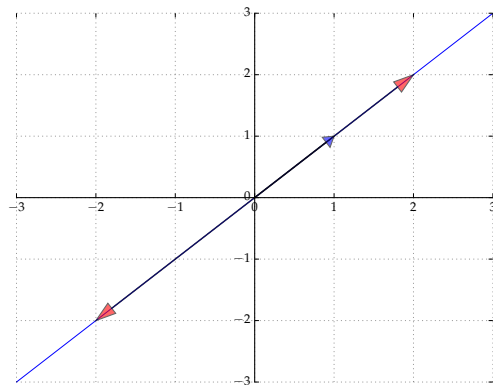


Figure : The span of  $\mathbf{1} := (1, 1)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2$

## Example

Let  $\mathbf{x}_1 = (3, 4, 2)$  and let  $\mathbf{x}_2 = (3, -4, 0.4)$

By definition, the span is all vectors of the form

$$\mathbf{y} = \alpha \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} + \beta \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -4 \\ 0.4 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{where } \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$$

It turns out to be a plane that passes through

- the vector  $\mathbf{x}_1$
- the vector  $\mathbf{x}_2$
- the origin  $\mathbf{0}$

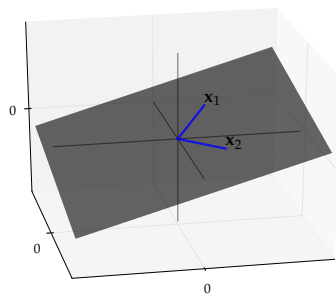
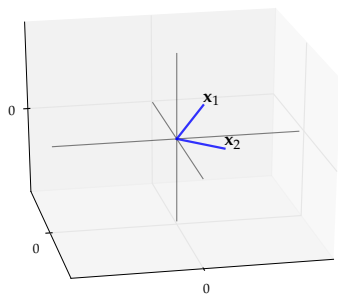


Figure : Span of  $x_1, x_2$

**Fact.** If  $X \subset Y$ , then  $\text{span}(X) \subset \text{span}(Y)$

To see this, pick any nonempty  $X \subset Y \subset \mathbb{R}^N$

Letting  $\mathbf{z} \in \text{span}(X)$ , we have

$$\mathbf{z} = \sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_k \mathbf{x}_k \text{ for some } \mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_K \in X, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_K \in \mathbb{R}$$

Since  $X \subset Y$ , each  $\mathbf{x}_k$  is also in  $Y$ , giving us

$$\mathbf{z} = \sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_k \mathbf{x}_k \text{ for some } \mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_K \in Y, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_K \in \mathbb{R}$$

Hence  $\mathbf{z} \in \text{span}(Y)$

Let  $Y$  be any subset of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , and let  $X := \{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_K\}$

If  $Y \subset \text{span}(X)$ , we say that the vectors in  $X$  **span the set**  $Y$

Alternatively, we say that  $X$  is a **spanning set** for  $Y$

A nice situation:  $Y$  is large but  $X$  is small

$\implies$  large set  $Y$  “described” by the small number of vectors in  $X$

## Example

Consider the vectors  $\{\mathbf{e}_1, \dots, \mathbf{e}_N\} \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ , where

$$\mathbf{e}_1 := \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{e}_2 := \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \dots, \quad \mathbf{e}_N := \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

That is,  $\mathbf{e}_n$  has all zeros except for a 1 as the  $n$ -th element

Vectors  $\mathbf{e}_1, \dots, \mathbf{e}_N$  called the **canonical basis vectors** of  $\mathbb{R}^N$

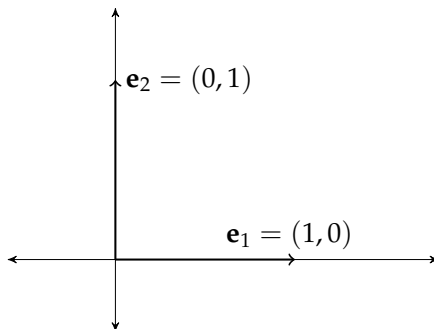


Figure : Canonical basis vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^2$

**Fact.** The span of  $\{\mathbf{e}_1, \dots, \mathbf{e}_N\}$  is equal to all of  $\mathbb{R}^N$

Proof for  $N = 2$ :

Pick any  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^2$

We have

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{y} &:= \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ y_1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= y_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + y_2 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = y_1 \mathbf{e}_1 + y_2 \mathbf{e}_2\end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $\mathbf{y} \in \text{span}\{\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2\}$

Since  $\mathbf{y}$  arbitrary, we have shown that  $\text{span}\{\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2\} = \mathbb{R}^2$



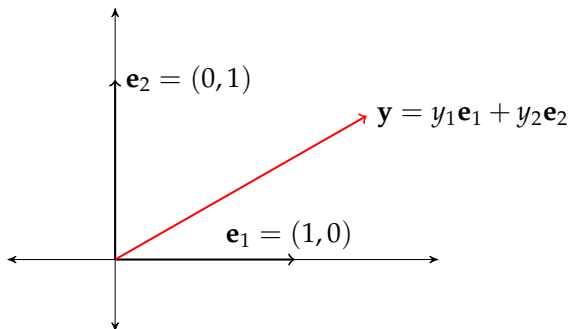
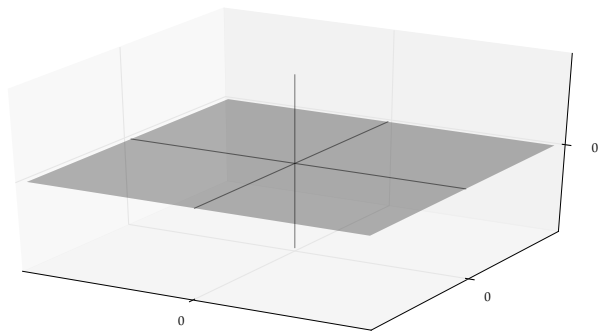


Figure : Canonical basis vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^2$

**Example.** Consider the set

$$P := \{(x_1, x_2, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

Graphically,  $P$  = flat plane in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , where height coordinate = 0



Let  $\mathbf{e}_1$  and  $\mathbf{e}_2$  be the canonical basis vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^3$

Claim:  $\text{span}\{\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2\} = P$

Proof:

Let  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, 0)$  be any element of  $P$

We can write  $\mathbf{x}$  as

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = x_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + x_2 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = x_1 \mathbf{e}_1 + x_2 \mathbf{e}_2$$

In other words,  $P \subset \text{span}\{\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2\}$

Conversely (check it) we have  $\text{span}\{\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2\} \subset P$

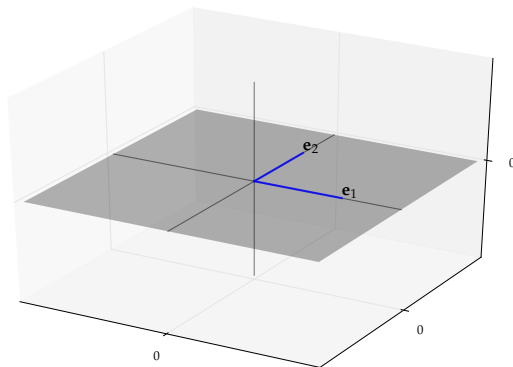


Figure :  $\text{span}\{\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2\} = P$

# Linear Subspaces

A nonempty  $S \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  called a **linear subspace** of  $\mathbb{R}^N$  if

$$\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in S \text{ and } \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R} \implies \alpha \mathbf{x} + \beta \mathbf{y} \in S$$

In other words,  $S \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  is “closed” under vector addition and scalar multiplication

Note: Sometimes we just say **subspace**...

**Example.**  $\mathbb{R}^N$  itself is a linear subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^N$

## Example

Fix  $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{R}^N$  and let  $A := \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N : \mathbf{a}'\mathbf{x} = 0\}$

**Fact.** The set  $A$  is a linear subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^N$

Proof: Let  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in A$  and let  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$

We must show that  $\mathbf{z} := \alpha\mathbf{x} + \beta\mathbf{y} \in A$

Equivalently, that  $\mathbf{a}'\mathbf{z} = 0$

True because

$$\mathbf{a}'\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{a}'(\alpha\mathbf{x} + \beta\mathbf{y}) = \alpha\mathbf{a}'\mathbf{x} + \beta\mathbf{a}'\mathbf{y} = 0 + 0 = 0$$

**Fact.** If  $Z$  is a nonempty subset of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , then  $\text{span}(Z)$  is a linear subspace

Proof: If  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \text{span}(Z)$ , then  $\exists$  vectors  $\mathbf{z}_k$  in  $Z$  and scalars  $\gamma_k$  and  $\delta_k$  such that

$$\mathbf{x} = \sum_{k=1}^K \gamma_k \mathbf{z}_k \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{y} = \sum_{k=1}^K \delta_k \mathbf{z}_k$$

$$\therefore \quad \alpha \mathbf{x} = \sum_{k=1}^K \alpha \gamma_k \mathbf{z}_k \quad \text{and} \quad \beta \mathbf{y} = \sum_{k=1}^K \beta \delta_k \mathbf{z}_k$$

$$\therefore \quad \alpha \mathbf{x} + \beta \mathbf{y} = \sum_{k=1}^K (\alpha \gamma_k + \beta \delta_k) \mathbf{z}_k$$

This vector clearly lies in  $\text{span}(Z)$

**Fact.** If  $S$  and  $S'$  are two linear subspaces of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , then  $S \cap S'$  is also a linear subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ .

Proof: Let  $S$  and  $S'$  be two linear subspaces of  $\mathbb{R}^N$

Fix  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in S \cap S'$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$

We claim that  $\mathbf{z} := \alpha\mathbf{x} + \beta\mathbf{y} \in S \cap S'$

- Since  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in S$  and  $S$  is a linear subspace we have  $\mathbf{z} \in S$
- Since  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in S'$  and  $S'$  is a linear subspace we have  $\mathbf{z} \in S'$

Therefore  $\mathbf{z} \in S \cap S'$



## Other examples of linear subspaces

- The singleton  $\{\mathbf{0}\}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N$
- Lines through the origin in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  and  $\mathbb{R}^3$
- Planes through the origin in  $\mathbb{R}^3$

**Ex.** Let  $S$  be a linear subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . Show that

1.  $\mathbf{0} \in S$
2. If  $X \subset S$ , then  $\text{span}(X) \subset S$
3.  $\text{span}(S) = S$