

# Linearly independent and dependent

## Linearly independent

A subset  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  of a vector space  $V$  is said to be linearly independent if whenever  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n \in R$  such that  $c_1v_1 + c_2v_2 + \dots + c_nv_n = 0$  then  $c_1 = c_2 = \dots = c_n = 0$

## Linearly dependent

A non empty finite subset  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  of a vector space  $V$  is said to be linearly dependent if there exists scalars  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n \in R$  (**not all zero**) such that  $c_1v_1 + c_2v_2 + \dots + c_nv_n = 0$

**Ex 1** if  $v_1 =$  zero vector, then the set is linearly dependent. we may choose  $c_1 = 1$  and all other  $c_i = 0$ , this is a non trivial combination that produces zero.

i.e.  $1v_1 + 0v_2 + \dots + 0v_n = 1 \times 0 + 0 + \dots + 0 = 0$

**Ex 2 :** The Column of the Matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 3 & 2 \\ 2 & 6 & 9 & 5 \\ -1 & -3 & 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

are linearly dependent, since the 2nd column is 3 times the first, the combination of columns with weights -3, 1, 0, 0 gives the zero vector. i.e. say  $A = [C_1 \ C_2 \ C_3 \ C_4]$ , then  $-3C_1 + 1C_2 + 0C_3 + 0C_4 = 0$

The rows are also linearly dependent, row 3 is two times row 2 minus five times row 1. i.e. say

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} R_1 \\ R_2 \\ R_3 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ then } R_3 - 2R_2 + 5R_1 = 0$$

## EX 3

The Column of this Triangular Matrix are Linearly Independent

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 4 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Consider a linear combination of the columns that makes zero

**Solve**  $Ac = 0$

$$c_1 \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + c_2 \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + c_3 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 4 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ c_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

it means  $3c_1 + 4c_2 + 2c_3 = 0$ ,  $0c_1 + 1c_2 + 5c_3 = 0$ ,  $0c_1 + 0c_2 + 2c_3 = 0$  i.e.

$$c_3 = 0, c_2 = 0, c_1 = 0$$

So column of A are Linearly Dependent.

and **null space of A contains only zero vector**

A similar reasoning applies to the rows of A, which are also independent. Suppose

$$c_1(3, 4, 2) + c_2(0, 1, 5) + c_3(0, 0, 2) = (0, 0, 0)$$

. From the first components we find  $3c_1 = 0$  or  $c_1 = 0$ . Then the second components give  $c_2 = 0$ , and finally  $c_3 = 0$ .

**Note :** The columns of A are independent exactly when  $N(A) = \{\text{zerovector}\}$

**Note :** It is the columns with pivots that are guaranteed to be independent

**Ex 4** The columns of the n by n identity matrix are independent:

$$I = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdot & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \cdot & 0 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Note :** To check any set of vectors  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  for independence, put them in the columns of A. Then solve the system  $Ac = 0$ ;

1. The vectors are dependent if there is a solution other than  $c = 0$ .
2. With no free variables (rank n), there is no nullspace except  $c = 0$ ; (i.e.  $N(A) = \{0\}$ ) the vectors are independent.
3. If the rank is less than n, at least one free variable can be nonzero and the columns are dependent.

**Note :** A set of n vectors in  $R^m$  must be linearly dependent if  $n > m$ .

**Ex 5** These three column in  $R^2$  can not be independent:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Sol : To find the combination of the columns producing zero we solve  $Ac = 0$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - R_1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = U$$

If we give the value 1 to the free variable  $c_3$ , then back-substitution in  $Uc = 0$  gives  $c_2 = -1$ ,  $c_1 = 1$

i.e. if  $A = [C_1, C_2, C_3]$  then  $C_1 - C_2 + C_3 = 0$

**Exercise 2.3.1:** Choose three independent columns of  $V$ , then make two other choices. Do the same for  $A$ . You have found bases for which spaces?

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 \\ 0 & 6 & 7 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 9 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 \\ 0 & 6 & 7 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 9 \\ 4 & 6 & 8 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Solution:** Let  $U = [U_1 \ U_2 \ U_3 \ U_4]$   $A = [C_1 \ C_2 \ C_3 \ C_4]$  Consider,  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 \\ 0 & 6 & 7 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 9 \\ 4 & 6 & 8 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_4 \rightarrow R_4 - 2R_1}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 \\ 0 & 6 & 7 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 9 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = U$$

i.e.  $U$  is echelon form of  $A$ .

**Note:** Columns of  $A$  which have pivot are linearly independent.

**Case (i)**  $U_1, U_2, U_4$  are L.I. (using the note).

**Case (ii)**  $U_1, U_3, U_4$  are L.I.

as consider  $aU_1 + bU_3 + cU_4 = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} a \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + b \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 7 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + c \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 9 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 2a + 4b + c \\ 0a + 7b + 0c \\ 0a + 0b + 9c \\ 0a + 0b + 0c \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{aligned} 9c &= 0 & c &= 0 \\ 7b &= 0 & b &= 0 \\ 2a + 4b + c &= 0 & a &= 0 \end{aligned} \end{aligned}$$

**Case (iii)**  $U_1, U_3, U_4$  are L.I.

as consider  $aU_2 + bU_3 + cU_4 = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} a \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + b \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 7 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + c \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 9 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 3a + 4b + c \\ 6a + 7b + 0c \\ 0a + 0b + 9c \\ 0a + 0b + 0c \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{aligned} 9c &= 0 & c &= 0 \\ 6a + 7b &= 0 & b &= 0 \\ 3a + 4b + c &= 0 & a &= 0 \end{aligned} \end{aligned}$$

**Note:** Columns of a matrix A are linearly independent which are corresponding to the pivot column of echelon matrix of A.

**Case (i)**  $C_1, C_2, C_4$  are L.I. (using the note).

**Case (ii)**  $C_1, C_3, C_4$  are L.I.

as we can see consider  $aC_1 + bC_3 + cC_4 = 0$

$$a \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} + b \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 7 \\ 0 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix} + c \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 9 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 1 \\ 0 & 7 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 9 \\ 4 & 8 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad i.e. \quad S \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{Aug. matrix} = [S|0] \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 1 & | & 0 \\ 0 & 7 & 0 & | & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 9 & | & 0 \\ 4 & 8 & 2 & | & 0 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_4 \rightarrow R_4 - 2R_1} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 1 & | & 0 \\ 0 & 7 & 0 & | & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 9 & | & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & | & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2a + 4b + c &= 0 & c &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow 7b &= 0 & \Rightarrow b &= 0 \\ 9c &= 0 & a &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

**Case (iii)**  $C_2, C_3, C_4$  are L.I.

consider  $aC_2 + bC_3 + cC_4 = 0$

$$[C_2 \ C_3 \ C_4] \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{say } B \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{Aug. matrix} = [B|0] \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 4 & 1 & | & 0 \\ 0 & 6 & 7 & | & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 9 & | & 0 \\ 6 & 8 & 2 & | & 0 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_4 \rightarrow R_4 - 2R_1} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 4 & 1 & | & 0 \\ 0 & 6 & 7 & | & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 9 & | & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & | & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 3a + 4b + c &= 0 & c &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow 6b + 7c &= 0 & \Rightarrow b &= 0 \\ 9c &= 0 & a &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

The all three cases, we found bases for  $R^{4 \times 3}$  space.

**Exercise 2.3.3 :** Decide the dependence or independence of

(a) the vectors  $(1,3,2)$ ,  $(2,1,3)$  and  $(3,2,1)$

(b) the vectors  $(1,3,-2)$ ,  $(2,1,-3)$  and  $(-3,2,1)$ .

**Solution:**

(a)

$$a \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + b \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + c \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{say } A \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{Aug. matrix} = [A|0] \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow[R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - 2R_1]{R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - 3R_1} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & -5 & -7 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & -5 & 0 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{R_3 \rightarrow -5R_3 + R_2} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & -5 & -7 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 18 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned} 1a + 2b + 3c &= 0 & c &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow -5b - 7c &= 0 & \Rightarrow b &= 0 \\ 18c &= 0 & a &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Vectors are L.I.

(b) Consider  $1(1, -3, 2) + 1(2, 1, -3) + 1(-3, 2, 1) = (1 + 2 - 3, -3 + 1 + 2, 2 - 3 + 1) = (0, 0, 0)$   
 $\Rightarrow$  Vectors are L.D.

**Exercise 2.3.5 :** If  $w_1, w_2, w_3$  are independent vectors, show that the differences  $v_1 = w_2 - w_3$ ,  $v_2 = w_1 - w_3$  and  $v_3 = w_1 - w_2$  are dependent. find a combination of  $v$ 's gives zero.

**Solution:** Consider  $av_1 + bv_2 + cv_3 = 0$   
 $a(w_2 - w_3) + b(w_1 - w_3) + c(w_1 - w_2) = 0$   
 $(b + c)w_1 + (a - c)w_2 + (-a - b)w_3 = 0$

Since  $w_1, w_2, w_3$  are L.I.

So  $b + c = 0$ ,  $a - c = 0$ ,  $-a - b = 0$

$b = -c$ ,  $a = c$ ,  $b = -a$

$a = -b = c$  take  $a = 1$ ,  $b = -1$ ,  $c = 1$

$v_1 - v_2 + v_3 = 0$

**Exercise 2.3.8 :** Suppose  $v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4$  are vectors in  $R^3$ .

(a) these four vectors are dependent because .....

(b) The two vector  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  will be dependent if .....

(c) The vectors  $v_1$  and  $(0,0,0)$  are dependent because .....

**Solution:** (a) Since  $\dim(R^3) = 3$

Therefore each base of  $R^3$  contains exactly 3 vectors.

So collection of vectors which are more than 3 are linearly dependent.

So four vectors are L.D.

(b) Let  $av_1 + bv_2 = 0$  for  $\{v_1, v_2\}$  should be dependent.

So atleast one of  $a$  or  $b$  is nonzero.

say  $a \neq 0$

So  $v_1 = \frac{-b}{a}v_2$  So  $v_1, v_2$  are dependent if  $\exists \alpha \neq 0$  s.t.  $v_1 = \alpha v_2$

(C) Consider  $0.v_1 + 1(0, 0, 0) = (0, 0, 0)$   $a = 0, b = 1 \neq 0$

So  $v_1$  and  $(0,0,0)$  are L.D .