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We can write vectors as combinations of other vectors.

$$v = \sum_i \alpha_i v_i$$

A subset which spans the vector space, and which is also linearly independent, is a basis of the vector space.

For an arbitrary vector of size n , we cannot use less than n elementary vectors. We could use more, but these would be redundant.

If we use n elementary vectors, there is a unique solution of weights of elementary vectors.

If we use more than n elementary vectors, there will be linear dependence, and so there will not be a unique solution.