

# Linear Algebra (Gilbert Strang): 09. Independence, Basis, and Dimension

## Linear Independence

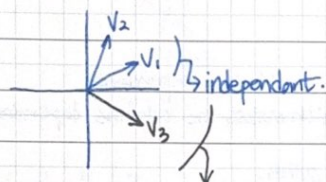
↳ Suppose  $A$  is  $m$  by  $n$  with  $m < n$  (more columns than rows).  
Then there are non-zero solutions to  $Ax = 0$ . (more unknowns than eqns)

Reason: There will be free variables!

$n$  variables, at most  $m$  pivots  
→ at least one free variable.

'Vectors  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  are independent if  
no combination gives zero-vector (except for the zero comb).'

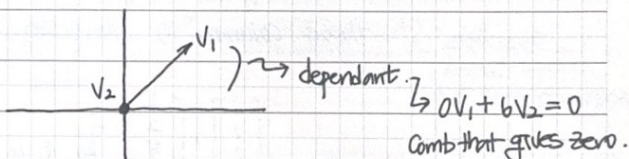
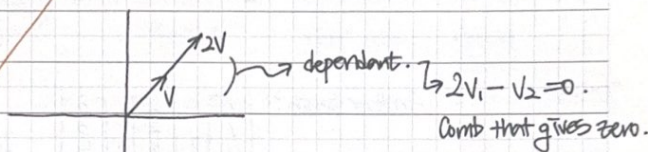
$$c_1 x_1 + c_2 x_2 + \dots + c_n x_n \neq 0.$$



when there is a 3rd  
equation in a 2-D space,  
it is no longer independent.

ex)  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 2.5 \\ 1 & 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ c_3 \end{bmatrix}$

The columns are dependent if there is  
something in the null space.



Repeat: when  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  are columns of  $A$ .

They are independent if nullspace of  $A$  is only the zero-vector. : rank =  $m$ . no free variable

They are dependent if  $A \cdot c = 0$  for some non-zero  $c$ . : rank  $< n$  has free variable

## Span

↳ Vectors  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  span a space means:

→ The space consists of all combs of those vectors.

↓  
"take all linear combinations and put them in a space"



## □ Basis

↳ Basis for a space is a sequence of vectors

$v_1, v_2, \dots, v_d$  with 2 properties.

- 1) they are independent
- 2) they span the space.

ex) space is  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

↳ one basis is  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  → you can't add these up to make 0.  
(only 0 vectors)

Another basis?  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix}$  → no! the 'rows' are dependent!  
→ which makes the columns dependent.

$\mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow n$  vectors give basis if the  $n \times n$  matrix with those columns is invertible.

$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$  → A. Is there a space <sup>for</sup> which this is a basis?



A. Yes. → 1) They are independent.  
2) They are a plane. (span).

\* Given a space:

Every basis for the space has the same number of vectors.

→ which tells you how big the space is.

how many vectors do you have to have to have a basis.

↓  
= Dimension of the space.

Space is  $C(A)$   $N(A)$

$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  → 2 pivots (2 ranks).

Span(0). Not independent.

↓  
 $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$   
→ span of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

$\text{rank}(A) = \#$  of pivot columns

= dimension of the column space.

$N(A)$   
 $\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

$\#$  of free variables  
=  $\#$  of dimension of null space.