

Chapter 3 Section 4

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Problem 1. Let $\vec{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\vec{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$. Let $V = \text{span}(\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2)$. Is the vector

$\vec{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 7 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix}$ on the plane V ?

Solution. If the vector \vec{w} is on the plane V , then there exist some $x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\vec{w} = x_1\vec{v}_1 + x_2\vec{v}_2$. This gives us the equations

$$x_1 + x_2 = 5$$

$$x_1 + 2x_2 = 7$$

$$x_1 + 3x_2 = 9$$

We can solve these equations using a matrix.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & | & 5 \\ 1 & 2 & | & 7 \\ 1 & 3 & | & 9 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & | & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & | & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & | & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & | & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & | & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & | & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & | & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & | & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & | & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

This gives us $x_1 = 3$ and $x_2 = 2$.

Thus \vec{w} is on the plane V because $\vec{w} = 3\vec{v}_1 + 2\vec{v}_2$.