

Sect 4.5: Dimension of a Basis

Goal: In the previous lectures, we have introduced the idea of a basis, a linearly independent set of vectors spanning a subspace.

↳ a basis is the smallest spanning set for a subspace.

↳ a basis is the largest linearly independent set of vectors for a subspace.

Def:

The number of vectors, p , in a basis is known as a subspace's dimension.

Theorem

If $\mathcal{B} = \{b_1, \dots, b_p\}$ is a basis for the subspace H , then any set of more than p vectors is linearly dependent.

↳ if # vectors is greater than the dimension of the subspace, p , then the set is linearly dependent.

↳ every linearly independent set has $\leq p$ vectors.

Theorem

If \mathcal{B} is a basis for H , and \mathcal{B} has p vectors, then every basis for H has exactly p vectors.

↳ if we find one basis, all the others must be the same size.

Ex

$$e_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad e_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \mathcal{B}_1 = \{e_1, e_2\} \text{ is a basis for } \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$b_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad b_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \mathcal{B}_2 = \{b_1, b_2\} \text{ is a basis for } \mathbb{R}^2$$

or, the columns a_1, a_2 of any invertible 2×2 matrix $A = [a_1, a_2]$ form a basis for \mathbb{R}^2

⇒ All the bases for \mathbb{R}^2 have dimension 2.

Categories of Dimension

1.) $H = \{0\}$ - the zero subspace is defined as having dimension $\dim H = 0$

2.) A subspace H with basis $\mathcal{B} = \{b_1, \dots, b_p\}$ for some integer p is called a finite-dimensional basis. with $\dim H = p$.

Ex $\mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{R}^3, \dots, \mathbb{R}^n$, and all the subspaces we've seen in this class.

3.) A subspace H not spanned by a finite set of vectors is infinite-dimensional

Ex The vector of all polynomials of any degree, denoted \mathbb{P} , is infinite-dimensional

$$0 = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + \dots$$

(can keep going $x^{1000}, x^{10000}, x^{100000} \dots \rightarrow \infty$)

The infinite-dimensional standard basis for \mathbb{P} is

$$\mathcal{B} = \{1, x, x^2, x^3, \dots\}$$

Ex

Find the dimension of the subspace

$$H = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a - 3b + 6c \\ 5a + 4d \\ b - 2c - d \\ 5d \end{pmatrix} \text{ for } a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

First, we separate to get

$$\begin{pmatrix} a - 3b + 6c \\ 5a + 4d \\ b - 2c - d \\ 5d \end{pmatrix} = a \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + b \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + c \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 0 \\ -2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + d \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 4 \\ -1 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$\underline{v}_1 \quad \underline{v}_2 \quad \underline{v}_3 \quad \underline{v}_4$

We know $\{\underline{v}_1, \underline{v}_2, \underline{v}_3, \underline{v}_4\}$ span H , but we need a lin. ind. spanning set.

• add $\underline{v}_1 \neq 0$

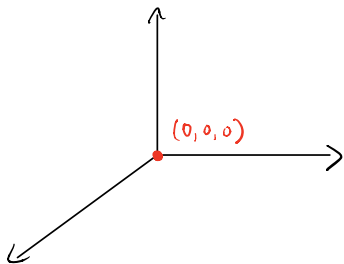
• add \underline{v}_2 because \underline{v}_2 not a multiple of \underline{v}_1

- throw out \underline{v}_3 because $\underline{v}_3 = -2\underline{v}_2$
- add \underline{v}_4 because it is not in $\text{span}\{\underline{v}_1, \underline{v}_2\}$

\Rightarrow So, $\{\underline{v}_1, \underline{v}_2, \underline{v}_4\}$ is a linearly independent, spanning set, and therefore a basis.

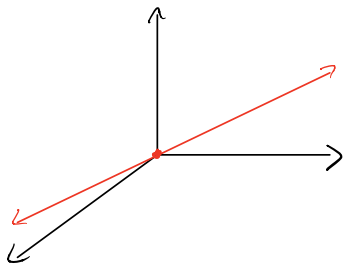
Ex Different dimensional subspaces for \mathbb{R}^3

0-dimensional



Only the zero-vector
 $H = \{0\}$

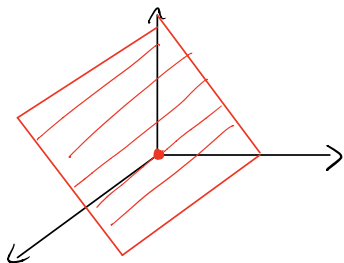
1-dimensional subspace



Any line through the origin,
 the span of a single vector

$$H = \text{span}\{\underline{v}_1\}$$

2-dimensional subspace



Any plane through the origin,
 span of two vectors

$$H = \text{span}\{\underline{v}_1, \underline{v}_2\}$$

3-dimensional subspace

$$\text{All of } \mathbb{R}^3, H = \{\underline{v}_1, \underline{v}_2, \underline{v}_3\}$$

Theorem

Let H be a subspace of finite-dimensional vector space V . Any linearly independent set in H can be expanded, if necessary, to a basis for H . Also, H is finite-dimensional and

$$\dim H \leq \dim V$$

↳ \dim of subspace $\leq \dim$ of vector space

↳ we can always add vectors to get a basis.

Theorem

Let V be a p -dimensional vector space with $p \geq 1$. Any linearly independent set with exactly p vectors in V is a basis.

Also, any set with exactly p vectors that spans the space is a basis.

↳ if we know $\dim V = p$, then we only need to check one criteria or the other for a set of p vectors to be a basis.

Dimension of $\text{Nul } A$ and $\text{Col } A$

Facts:

- The dimension of $\text{Nul } A$ is the number of free variables in the system $A\underline{x} = \underline{0}$
- The dimension of $\text{Col } A$ is the number of pivot columns in A .

Ex Find the dimensions for $\text{Nul } A$ and $\text{Col } A$ of

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & 6 & -1 & 1 & -7 \\ 1 & -2 & 2 & 3 & -1 \\ 2 & -4 & 5 & 8 & -4 \end{bmatrix}$$

We row reduce the augmented system

$$\left[A \mid \underline{0} \right] = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & 6 & -1 & 1 & -7 & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & 2 & 3 & -1 & 0 \\ 2 & -4 & 5 & 8 & -4 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 2 & 3 & -1 & 0 \\ -3 & 6 & -1 & 1 & -7 & 0 \\ 2 & -4 & 5 & 8 & -4 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 2 & 3 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & 10 & -10 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & -2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 2 & 3 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

2 pivot columns $\Rightarrow \dim(\text{Col } A) = 2$

3 free variables $\Rightarrow \dim(\text{Nul } A) = 3$