

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE  
Department of Mathematics

AY2021, Semester 1 MA1508E Linear Algebra for Engineering Tutorial 6

Solutions

1. For each of the following sets of vectors  $S$ ,

- (i) Determine if  $S$  is linearly independent.
- (ii) If  $S$  is linearly dependent, express one of the vectors in  $S$  as a linear combination of the others.

(a)  $S = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} \right\}.$

$S$  is linearly dependent since it contains 4 vectors from  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 2 & 3 \\ -1 & 3 & 4 & 6 \\ 0 & 2 & 3 & 6 \end{pmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \frac{9}{2} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \frac{15}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

So

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{9}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{15}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} - 3 \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

(b)  $S = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \right\}.$

$S$  is linearly independent since  $S$  has only two vectors which are not multiples of each other.

(c)  $S = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}.$

Any set containing the zero vector is linearly dependent.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + 0 \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

(d)  $S = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}.$

Solving  $a \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + b \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + c \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix},$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \end{array} \right) \longrightarrow \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right).$$

So  $a \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + b \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + c \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$  has only the trivial solution and  $S$  is a linearly independent set.

2. For each of the following subspaces  $V$ , write down a basis for  $V$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{(a) } V &= \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a+b \\ a+c \\ c+d \\ b+d \end{pmatrix} \mid a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R} \right\} \\
 V &= \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a+b \\ a+c \\ c+d \\ b+d \end{pmatrix} \mid a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R} \right\} \\
 &= \left\{ a \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + b \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + c \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + d \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \mid a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R} \right\} \\
 &= \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \\
 &\quad \left( \begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right) \longrightarrow \left( \begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right).
 \end{aligned}$$

This means that the fourth vector is redundant. It is easy to see that the first three vectors are linearly independent. So

$$\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

is a basis for  $V$ .

$$\text{(b) } V = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}.$$

Since the set contains 4 vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , it cannot be linearly independent. One can check that  $\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$  is linearly independent. Hence it is a basis for  $V = \mathbb{R}^3$ .

(c)  $V$  is the solution space of the following homogeneous linear system

$$\begin{cases} a_1 & + & a_3 & + & a_4 & - & a_5 & = & 0 \\ & a_2 & + & a_3 & + & 2a_4 & + & a_5 & = & 0 \\ a_1 & + & a_2 & + & 2a_3 & + & a_4 & - & 2a_5 & = & 0 \end{cases}$$

Solving the homogeneous system:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccccc|c} 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 & -2 & 0 \end{array} \right) \longrightarrow \left( \begin{array}{ccccc|c} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

So the solution set is

$$\left\{ s \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \mid s, t \in \mathbb{R} \right\}.$$

It is easy to see that  $\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$  is linearly independent, and is thus a

basis for  $V$ .

3. Let  $\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\mathbf{v}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\mathbf{v}_4 = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$ .

(a) Express  $\mathbf{u}$  as a linear combination of  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3, \mathbf{v}_4$  in two distinct ways.

Solving  $a \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + b \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + c \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + d \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix},$

$$\left( \begin{array}{cccc|c} 3 & 1 & 1 & 4 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 2 & 2 \end{array} \right) \longrightarrow \left( \begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

This means that  $\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ d \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + s \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$  for any  $s \in \mathbb{R}$ . In other words,

$$\begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = (1-s) \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + (2-s) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + s \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ for any } s \in \mathbb{R}.$$

So we may choose  $s = 0$  and  $s = 1$ .

(b) Is it possible to express  $\mathbf{u}$  as a linear combination of  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3$  in two distinct ways?

It is not possible. Solving  $a \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + b \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + c \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & 1 & 1 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 2 \end{array} \right) \longrightarrow \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

The solution is unique. It corresponds to the choice of  $s = 0$  in (a).

This question demonstrates that a vector  $\mathbf{u} \in \text{span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k\}$  has a unique linear combination expression if and only if the set  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k\}$  is linearly independent.

4. (a) For what values of  $a$  will  $\mathbf{u}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\mathbf{u}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ a \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\mathbf{u}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ a \end{pmatrix}$  form a basis for  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ?

(b)

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} a & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & a & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & a & 0 \end{array} \right) & \xrightarrow{R_1 \leftrightarrow R_2} \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & a & -1 & 0 \\ a & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & a & 0 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{\begin{array}{l} R_2 - aR_1 \\ R_3 + R_1 \end{array}} \\ \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & a & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 - a^2 & 1 + a & 0 \\ 0 & 1 + a & a - 1 & 0 \end{array} \right) & \xrightarrow{-R_2} \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & a & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 + a^2 & -1 - a & 0 \\ 0 & 1 + a & a - 1 & 0 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{R_3 - \frac{1+a}{1+a^2}R_2} \\ & \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & a & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 + a^2 & -1 - a & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{a(a^2+3)}{1+a^2} & 0 \end{array} \right) \end{aligned}$$

So  $\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{u}_3$  will form a basis for  $\mathbb{R}^3$  if and only if  $a \neq 0$ .

- (c) For what values of  $a$  will the determinant of  $\begin{pmatrix} a & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & a & -1 \\ -1 & 1 & a \end{pmatrix}$  be nonzero?

The determinant is  $a(a^2 + 3)$ , which is 0 if and only if  $a = 0$ .

- (d) Base on your results in (a) and (b), make a conjecture.

A set of  $n$  vectors  $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_n\}$  is a basis for  $\mathbb{R}^n$  if and only if the determinant of the matrix  $A = (\mathbf{u}_1 \cdots \mathbf{u}_n)$  is nonzero.

5. For each of the following cases, find the coordinate vector of  $\mathbf{v}$  relative to the basis  $S = \{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{u}_3\}$ .

(a)  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\mathbf{u}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\mathbf{u}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\mathbf{u}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$ .

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 & -2 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 6 \end{array} \right) \longrightarrow \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -\frac{3}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \frac{8}{3} \end{array} \right)$$

$$\text{So } (\mathbf{v})_S = \frac{1}{6} \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ -9 \\ 16 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$(b) \quad \mathbf{v} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{u}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{u}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{u}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 & | & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 3 & | & 0 \\ 2 & -2 & 3 & | & 1 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & | & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & | & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & | & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{So } (\mathbf{v})_S = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

## Supplementary Problems

6. In computers, information is stored and processed in the form of strings of binary digits, 0 and 1. For this exercise, we will work in the “world” of binary digits

$$\mathbb{B} = \{0, 1\}.$$

Addition in  $\mathbb{B}$  works just as it does in  $\mathbb{R}$ , save for one special rule:

$$1 + 1 = 0.$$

We can similarly perform scalar multiplication in  $\mathbb{B}$ —however, note that in our “binary world”, we only have two possible scalars: 0 and 1 (as opposed to any real number).

*Remark.* The special rule for binary addition is equivalent to performing our standard operations **modulo 2**. That is, in our “binary world,” we evaluate a sum according to its remainder when divided by 2: if the remainder is 0 (i.e., when a number is even), then it corresponds to the binary digit 0, and if the remainder is 1 (i.e., when a number is odd), then it corresponds to the binary digit 1.

- (a) Using the rules on the basic operations in  $\mathbb{B}$ , complete the addition and multiplication tables below.

+	0	1
0		
1		

×	0	1
0		
1		

+	0	1
0	0	1
1	1	0

×	0	1
0	0	0
1	0	1

- (b) Recall that we created the Euclidean space  $\mathbb{R}^n$  by taking the set of all  $n$ -vectors with real components (i.e., with components in  $\mathbb{R}$ ). We can create the set  $\mathbb{B}^n$  in a similar fashion, by taking the set of all  $n$ -vectors whose components are binary digits, 0 or 1. Observe, then, that the basic properties of addition and scalar multiplication in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  directly apply to  $\mathbb{B}^n$ , as long as we remember that  $1 + 1 = 0$  and the only scalars we are allowed to multiply by are 0 and 1.

- i. Consider the Euclidean 3-space  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , which has infinitely many vectors. How many vectors does  $\mathbb{B}^3$  have?

We can list out the vectors in  $\mathbb{B}^3$ , noting that the elements of each vector can only either be a 0 or a 1.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

We find that  $\mathbb{B}^3$  only contains eight vectors.

- ii. A *byte*—the fundamental unit of data used by many computers—is a string of 8 binary digits. Observe that we can treat each byte as a vector in  $\mathbb{B}^8$ . How many distinct bytes exist; that is, how many vectors are there in  $\mathbb{B}^8$ ? How does this compare to Euclidean 8-space  $\mathbb{R}^8$ ?

For an arbitrary string of 8 binary digits, we have two choices for each of the vector's entries: either 0 or 1. There are thus a total of  $2^8 = 256$  different ways we can create a byte, and the set  $\mathbb{B}^8$  contains 256 vectors, as opposed to the infinitely many vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^8$ .

- iii. The Euclidean  $n$ -space  $\mathbb{R}^n$  has infinitely many vectors. More generally, how many vectors are there in  $\mathbb{B}^n$ ?

The set  $\mathbb{B}^n$  has  $2^n$  vectors.

For the purposes of this exercise, you may assume that  $\mathbb{B}^n$  has all the properties of a subspace—that is,  $\mathbb{B}^n$  is closed under addition and scalar multiplication. (Try to prove this yourself!)

- (c) To get a sense of how vectors work in  $\mathbb{B}^n$ , we take a simple example. Let's begin by working in  $\mathbb{B}^3$ —the set of all 3-vectors whose components are binary digits.

- i. Let  $S = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$  be the set of standard unit vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

Show that  $S$  forms a basis for  $\mathbb{B}^3$ .

To show that  $S$  is a basis for  $\mathbb{B}^3$ , we need to show that  $\text{span}(S) = \mathbb{B}^3$  and that  $S$  is linearly independent. To show that  $S$  spans  $\mathbb{B}^3$ , consider the vector equation

$$c_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + c_2 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + c_3 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} \text{ where } x, y, z \in \mathbb{B}.$$

Simplifying the left-hand side of the equation, we have

$$(c_1, c_2, c_3) = (x, y, z).$$

Note that we are taking the scalars  $c_1, c_2, c_3$  from  $\mathbb{B} = \{0, 1\}$  as well; thus,  $S$  spans  $\mathbb{B}$ . In the case when  $x = y = z = 0$ , we require that  $c_1 = c_2 = c_3 = 0$ . Thus,  $S$  must be linearly independent as well.

- ii. Show that the set  $T = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$  forms a basis for  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . Does  $T$  form a basis for  $\mathbb{B}^3$ ?

Observe that  $T$  is a set of 3 vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . Thus, to show that  $T$  is basis for  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , it suffices to show that either  $\text{span}(T) = \mathbb{R}^3$  or  $T$  is linearly independent. We show that  $T$  is linearly independent: consider the vector equation

$$c_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + c_2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + c_3 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{0}.$$

We can row-reduce the corresponding augmented matrix using MATLAB:

```
>> rref([1 1 0 0; 0 1 1 0; 1 0 1 0])
```

In particular, we find that

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right) \longrightarrow \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right).$$

Thus, the vector equation has only the trivial solution, and  $T$  is a linearly independent set of 3 vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

Now, we consider  $T$  as a subset of  $\mathbb{B}^3$ : observe that

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

In particular, the third vector in  $T$  is a linear combination of the first two. Thus,  $T$  is linearly dependent in  $\mathbb{B}^3$  and is hence not a basis for  $\mathbb{B}^3$ .

(d) The *Hamming matrix* with  $n$  rows,  $\mathbf{H}_n$ , is formed by collecting all the nonzero vectors in  $\mathbb{B}^n$  as columns of a matrix.

i. How many columns does  $\mathbf{H}_n$  have?

$\mathbb{B}^n$  has  $2^n$  vectors, including the zero vector. Thus,  $\mathbf{H}_n$  has  $2^n - 1$  columns.

ii. Suppose we write  $\mathbf{H}_3$  as

$$\mathbf{H}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Show that the solution set  $S$  of  $\mathbf{H}_3 \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  is a subspace of  $\mathbb{B}^7$  by expressing it as a linear span  $S = \text{span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k\}$ , where  $\mathbf{v}_i \in \mathbb{B}^7$  for  $i = 1, \dots, k$ . Hence, find a basis for  $S$ .

Observe that  $\mathbf{H}_3$  is already in reduced row-echelon form. We assign arbitrary parameters to  $x_4 = q, x_5 = r, x_6 = s, x_7 = t$  for  $q, r, s, t \in \mathbb{B}$ . Then,

the solution set  $\mathbf{H}_3\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  is

$$\left\{ q \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + r \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + s \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \mid q, r, s, t \in \mathbb{R} \right\}.$$

By the addition rule  $1 + 1 = 0$ , we have  $1 = -1$ . Hence,

$$S = \text{span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3, \mathbf{v}_4\} = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}.$$

We can observe that the set  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3, \mathbf{v}_4\}$  is linearly independent: for each  $\mathbf{v}_i$ , there is a 1 in the  $(i + 3)$ -th entry, whereas the other vectors contain a 0 in that same entry. Thus,  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3, \mathbf{v}_4\}$  forms a basis for  $S$ .

(e) Create the matrix  $\mathbf{M}$  by taking the vectors  $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k$  as its columns.

i. What is the size of  $\mathbf{M}$ ?

$\mathbf{M}$  is the  $7 \times 4$  matrix given by

$$\mathbf{M} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

ii. For an arbitrary vector  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{B}^4$ , what can you say about  $\mathbf{H}_3(\mathbf{M}\mathbf{x})$ ?

*Hint:* MATLAB can take a number  $x$  and calculate its value modulo 2. To do this, we may simply key in

```
>> mod(x,2)
```

What might happen if we replace the number  $x$  with an entire matrix?

Since matrix multiplication is associative,  $\mathbf{H}_3(\mathbf{M}\mathbf{x}) = (\mathbf{H}_3\mathbf{M})\mathbf{x}$ .

We may use MATLAB to calculate the matrix product  $\mathbf{H}_3\mathbf{M}$ , modulo 2:

```
>> H =[1 0 0 1 0 1 1; 0 1 0 1 1 0 1; 0 0 1 1 1 1 0];
```

```
>> v1= [1 1 1 1 0 0 0]';
```



```
>> v2= [0 1 1 0 1 0 0]';
```

```
>> v3= [1 0 1 0 0 1 0]';
```

```
>> v4= [1 1 0 0 0 0 1]';
```

```
>> M=[v1 v2 v3 v4];
```

```
>> mod(H*M,2)
```

We find that the matrix product  $\mathbf{H}_3\mathbf{M}$  is simply the  $3 \times 4$  zero matrix, which implies that for all  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{B}^4$ ,

$$\mathbf{H}_3(\mathbf{M}\mathbf{x}) = (\mathbf{H}_3\mathbf{M})\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}.$$

In next week's tutorial, we will see how working with binary vectors can help us detect—and potentially, correct—errors in information transmitted between computers.

7. Let  $S = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$  be a basis for a vector space  $V$ . Let  $\mathbf{u}$  be a vector in  $V$  and let  $c$  be a scalar. Prove the following:

(a)  $(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v})_S = (\mathbf{u})_S + (\mathbf{v})_S$ .

We first write  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  in terms of the basis vectors, say

$$\mathbf{u} = c_1\mathbf{v}_1 + c_2\mathbf{v}_2 + \dots + c_n\mathbf{v}_n \text{ and } \mathbf{v} = d_1\mathbf{v}_1 + d_2\mathbf{v}_2 + \dots + d_n\mathbf{v}_n.$$

Then

$$\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} = (c_1 + d_1)\mathbf{v}_1 + (c_2 + d_2)\mathbf{v}_2 + \dots + (c_n + d_n)\mathbf{v}_n$$

which implies

$$(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v})_S = \begin{pmatrix} c_1 + d_1 \\ c_2 + d_2 \\ \vdots \\ c_n + d_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ \vdots \\ c_n \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} d_1 \\ d_2 \\ \vdots \\ d_n \end{pmatrix} = (\mathbf{u})_S + (\mathbf{v})_S.$$

(b)  $(c\mathbf{u})_S = c(\mathbf{u})_S$ .

Similarly,

$$c\mathbf{u} = (cc_1)\mathbf{v}_1 + (cc_2)\mathbf{v}_2 + \dots + (cc_n)\mathbf{v}_n \Rightarrow (c\mathbf{u})_S = \begin{pmatrix} cc_1 \\ cc_2 \\ \vdots \\ cc_n \end{pmatrix} = c \begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ \vdots \\ c_n \end{pmatrix} = c(\mathbf{u})_S.$$

Suppose  $\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_k$  are vectors in  $V$ . Note that for each  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ ,  $(\mathbf{u}_i)_S$  is a vector in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . By induction and using (a) and (b), it follows that if  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_k \in \mathbb{R}$ , then

$$(c_1 \mathbf{u}_1 + c_2 \mathbf{u}_2 + \dots + c_k \mathbf{u}_k)_S = c_1 (\mathbf{u}_1)_S + c_2 (\mathbf{u}_2)_S + \dots + c_k (\mathbf{u}_k)_S.$$

Prove the following:

- (c)  $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_k\}$  is linearly independent in  $V$  if and only if  $\{(\mathbf{u}_1)_S, (\mathbf{u}_2)_S, \dots, (\mathbf{u}_k)_S\}$  is linearly independent in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

Assume that  $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_k\}$  is linearly independent in  $V$ . Consider the equation  $c_1 (\mathbf{u}_1)_S + \dots + c_k (\mathbf{u}_k)_S = \mathbf{0}$  which is a vector equation in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . By part (c), the equation above can be rewritten as  $(c_1 \mathbf{u}_1 + c_2 \mathbf{u}_2 + \dots + c_k \mathbf{u}_k)_S = \mathbf{0}$ . So the coordinates of  $c_1 \mathbf{u}_1 + \dots + c_k \mathbf{u}_k$  with respect to the basis  $S$  are all zero, that is,  $c_1 \mathbf{u}_1 + \dots + c_k \mathbf{u}_k = 0\mathbf{v}_1 + 0\mathbf{v}_2 + \dots + 0\mathbf{v}_n = \mathbf{0}$ . As  $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_k\}$  is linearly independent, the equation above implies  $c_1 = c_2 = \dots = c_k = 0$ , so  $\{(\mathbf{u}_1)_S, \dots, (\mathbf{u}_k)_S\}$  is linearly independent.

Conversely, assume  $\{(\mathbf{u}_1)_S, \dots, (\mathbf{u}_k)_S\}$  is a linearly independent set in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Consider the equation

$$c_1 \mathbf{u}_1 + c_2 \mathbf{u}_2 + \dots + c_k \mathbf{u}_k = \mathbf{0}$$

which implies

$$(c_1 \mathbf{u}_1 + c_2 \mathbf{u}_2 + \dots + c_k \mathbf{u}_k)_S = (\mathbf{0})_S = \mathbf{0},$$

Using the result in part (c), we have

$$c_1 (\mathbf{u}_1)_S + \dots + c_k (\mathbf{u}_k)_S = \mathbf{0}$$

and this implies that  $c_1 = c_2 = \dots = c_k = 0$  since  $\{(\mathbf{u}_1)_S, \dots, (\mathbf{u}_k)_S\}$  is linearly independent. Thus we have shown that  $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_k\}$  is a linearly independent set in  $V$ .