

01204211 Discrete Mathematics

Lecture 9a: Spans and Vector Spaces

Jittat Fakcharoenphol

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Review: Linear combinations

Definition

For any scalars

$$\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_m$$

and vectors

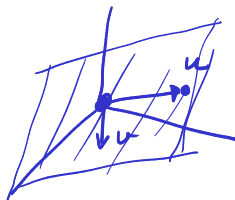
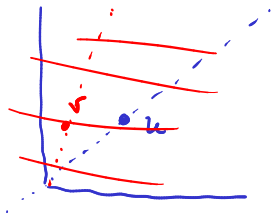
$$\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m,$$

we say that

$$\alpha_1 \mathbf{u}_1 + \alpha_2 \mathbf{u}_2 + \dots + \alpha_m \mathbf{u}_m$$

is a **linear combination** of $\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m$.

Review: Span



Definition

A set of all linear combination of vectors $\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m$ is called the **span** of that set of vectors.

It is denoted by $\text{Span}\{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m\}$.

Example 1

$$\boxed{[1, 2] \quad [0, 5]} - \text{Span} \{[1, 0], [0, 1]\} = \mathbb{R}^2$$

$(x, y) \in \text{Span} \{ \text{---} \}$

Is $\text{Span} \{[1, 2], [2, 5]\}$ $= \mathbb{R}^2$?

บอกว่า สำหรับ $\forall (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$

มี $\alpha_1 \in \mathbb{R}, \alpha_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ ที่

$$\alpha_1 [1, 2] + \alpha_2 [2, 5] = [x, y]$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \hookrightarrow \\ \frac{[1, 0]}{[0, 1]} = \frac{-0.5([2, 5] - 2 \cdot [1, 2])}{\dots \dots \dots} \end{array} \quad \left. \vphantom{\frac{[1, 0]}{[0, 1]}} \right\}$$

Example 2

$$\text{Is Span } \{ \underline{[1, 0, 1]}, \underline{[1, 1, 0]}, \underline{[2, 3, 4]} \} = \underline{\mathbb{R}^3}?$$

2, 1, 1

Example 3

$$\text{Span} \{ [1, 0, 1], [1, 1, 0] \}$$

//

$$\text{Is Span} \{ [1, 0, 1], [1, 1, 0], [4, 2, 2] \} = \mathbb{R}^3?$$

No! \forall vector $[x, y, z] \in \mathbb{R}^3$
"n' $[x, y, z] \notin \text{Span}$ ()

$$\text{From } [4, 2, 3]$$

$$\text{because } [4, 2, 3] \notin \text{Span} \dots$$

Elements in a vector



- ▶ We see examples of vectors over \mathbb{R} .
- ▶ However, elements in a vector can be from other sets with appropriate property. (I.e., they should behave a real numbers.)
- ▶ What do we want from an element in a vector?
 - ▶ We should be able to perform addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.
 - ▶ Operations should be commutative and associative.
 - ▶ Additive and multiplicative identity should exist.
 - ▶ Addition and multiplication should have inverses.
- ▶ We refer to a set with these properties as a **field**.

A field

Definition

A set \mathbb{F} with two operations $+$ and \times (or \cdot) is a **field** iff these operations satisfy the following properties:

- ▶ (Associativity): $(a + b) + c = a + (b + c)$ and $(a \cdot b) \cdot c = a \cdot (b \cdot c)$
- ▶ (Commutativity): $a + b = b + a$ and $a \cdot b = b \cdot a$
- ▶ (Identities): There exist two elements $0 \in \mathbb{F}$ and $1 \in \mathbb{F}$ such that $a + 0 = a$ and $a \cdot 1 = a$
- ▶ (Additive inverse): For every element $a \in \mathbb{F}$, there is an element $-a \in \mathbb{F}$ such that $a + (-a) = 0$
- ▶ (Multiplicative inverse): For every element $a \in \mathbb{F} \setminus \{0\}$, there is an element a^{-1} such that $a \cdot a^{-1} = 1$
- ▶ (Distributive): $a \cdot (b + c) = a \cdot b + a \cdot c$

Another useful field: $GF(2)$

$GF(2) = \{0, 1\}$. I.e., it is a “bit” field.

What are $+$ and \cdot in $GF(2)$?

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What are $+$ and \cdot in $GF(2)$?

- We define $b_1 + b_2$ to be XOR.

$$0 + 0 = 0$$

$$0 + 1 = 1 + 0 = 1$$

$$1 + 1 = 0$$

Another useful field: $GF(2)$

$GF(2) = \{0, 1\}$. I.e., it is a “bit” field.

What are $+$ and \cdot in $GF(2)$?

- ▶ We define $b_1 + b_2$ to be XOR.

$$0 + 0 = 0$$

$$0 + 1 = 1 + 0 = 1$$

$$1 + 1 = 0$$

- ▶ We define $b_1 \cdot b_2$ to be standard multiplication.

$$0 \cdot 0 = 0 \cdot 1 = 1 \cdot 0 = 0$$

$$1 \cdot 1 = 1$$

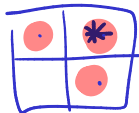
You can check that $GF(2)$ satisfies the axioms of fields.

2 x 2 Lights out

$GF(2)$

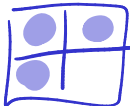
a_1	a_2
a_3	a_4

$$\begin{matrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{matrix} = 1$$



init $[0, 1, 0, 0] = a$

$u_1 = [1, 1, 0, 1]$



$u_2 = [1, 1, 1, 0]$

$u_3 = [0, 1, 1, 1]$

$u_4 = [1, 0, 1, 1]$

init a

for u_1, u_2, \dots, u_4 if u_i is not zero then $a = a + u_i$

Can you solve 2×2 Lights out?

Let $\mathbf{u}_1 = [1, 1, 1, 0]$, $\mathbf{u}_2 = [1, 1, 0, 1]$, $\mathbf{u}_3 = [1, 0, 1, 1]$, and $\mathbf{u}_4 = [0, 1, 1, 1]$.

Given $\mathbf{b} = [b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4]$, can you always find $a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4 \in GF(2)$ such that

$$a_1 \cdot \mathbf{u}_1 + a_2 \cdot \mathbf{u}_2 + a_3 \cdot \mathbf{u}_3 + a_4 \cdot \mathbf{u}_4 = \mathbf{b}?$$

Can you solve 2×2 Lights out?

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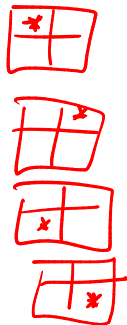
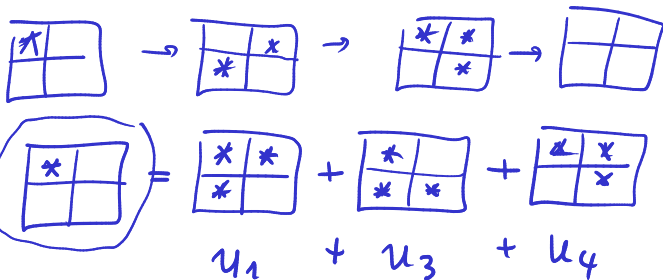
Same question: Is $\text{Span} \{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{u}_3, \mathbf{u}_4\} = GF(2)^4$?

Can you solve 2×2 Lights out?



Let's try with an example. Let $\mathbf{b} = [1, 0, 0, 0]$. Can you find $a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4 \in GF(2)$ such that

$$a_1 \cdot \mathbf{u}_1 + a_2 \cdot \mathbf{u}_2 + a_3 \cdot \mathbf{u}_3 + a_4 \cdot \mathbf{u}_4 = \mathbf{b}?$$



Can you solve 2×2 Lights out?

Since

$$\begin{array}{c} \boxed{\#} \quad \boxed{\times} \quad \boxed{\bullet} \quad \boxed{\heartsuit} \\ \underline{[1, 0, 0, 0]}, \underline{[0, 1, 0, 0]}, \underline{[0, 0, 1, 0]}, \underline{[0, 0, 0, 1]} \in \text{Span } \{\underline{u_1}, \underline{u_2}, \underline{u_3}, \underline{u_4}\}, \end{array}$$


and

Can you solve 2×2 Lights out?

Since

$$[1, 0, 0, 0], [0, 1, 0, 0], [0, 0, 1, 0], [0, 0, 0, 1] \in \text{Span} \{ \underline{u_1}, \underline{u_2}, u_3, u_4 \},$$

and


$$\text{Span} \{ [1, 0, 0, 0], [0, 1, 0, 0], [0, 0, 1, 0], [0, 0, 0, 1] \} = \underline{GF(2)^4},$$

$$[a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4]$$

$$= a_1 [1, \dots]$$

$$\underline{\underline{u_1}}$$

Can you solve 2×2 Lights out?

Since

$$[1, 0, 0, 0], [0, 1, 0, 0], [0, 0, 1, 0], [0, 0, 0, 1] \in \text{Span} \{u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4\},$$

and

$$\text{Span} \{[1, 0, 0, 0], [0, 1, 0, 0], [0, 0, 1, 0], [0, 0, 0, 1]\} = GF(2)^4,$$

what can we say about $\text{Span} \{u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4\}$?

$$= GF(2)^4$$

Generators

Definition

Let \mathcal{V} be a set of vectors. Consider vectors $\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_n$.
If $\text{Span} \{ \mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_n \} = \mathcal{V}$, we say that

- ▶ $\{ \mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_n \}$ is a **generating set** for \mathcal{V}
- ▶ vectors $\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_n$ are **generators** for \mathcal{V}

Generators

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Examples

$[0, 1], [1, 0]$ is generator vs \mathbb{R}^2

$[1, 2], [2, 5]$ is generator vs \mathbb{R}^2

u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4 vs $\text{GF}(2)^4$

Standard generators

Note that $\{[1, 0, 0, 0], [0, 1, 0, 0], [0, 0, 1, 0], [0, 0, 0, 1]\}$ are generators for $GF(2)^4$. Why?

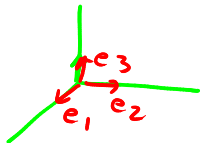
Standard generators

Note that $\{[1, 0, 0, 0], [0, 1, 0, 0], [0, 0, 1, 0], [0, 0, 0, 1]\}$ are generators for $GF(2)^4$. Why?

They are called **standard generators** for $GF(2)^4$, written as e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4 .

Standard generators

$$(x, y, z) \\ = e_1 x + e_2 y + e_3 z.$$



Note that $\{[1, 0, 0, 0], [0, 1, 0, 0], [0, 0, 1, 0], [0, 0, 0, 1]\}$ are generators for $GF(2)^4$. Why?

They are called **standard generators** for $GF(2)^4$, written as e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4 .

For \mathbb{R}^n , we also have

$[1, 0, 0, \dots, 0], [0, 1, 0, \dots, 0], [0, 0, 1, \dots, 0], \dots, [0, 0, 0, \dots, 1]$ as standard generators.

 e_1 e_2 e_n

Generators and spans

Lemma 1

Consider vectors u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n . If v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k are generators for \mathcal{V} , and for each i ,

$$v_i \in \text{Span} \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\},$$

we have that $\mathcal{V} \subseteq \text{Span} \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$.

Goal $\forall x \in \mathcal{V}, x \in \text{Span} \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$

$$\exists \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_k \text{ s.t.}$$

$$\alpha_1 v_1 + \alpha_2 v_2 + \dots + \alpha_k v_k = x$$

(sketch)

Proof idea: $x \in \mathcal{V}$, x is a linear comb. of v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k

$$\text{if we do } \exists \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k \text{ s.t. } x = \alpha_1 v_1 + \alpha_2 v_2 + \dots + \alpha_k v_k$$

$$\text{if we know } v_i \in \text{Span} \{u_1, \dots, u_n\} \text{ } \exists \beta_{i1}, \beta_{i2}, \dots, \beta_{in} \text{ s.t. } v_i = \beta_{i1} u_1 + \beta_{i2} u_2 + \dots + \beta_{in} u_n$$

$$\text{then } x = \alpha_1 (\beta_{11} u_1 + \beta_{12} u_2 + \dots + \beta_{1n} u_n) + \alpha_2 (\dots) \\ = (\alpha_1 \beta_{11} + \alpha_2 \beta_{21} + \alpha_3 \beta_{31} + \dots + \alpha_k \beta_{k1}) u_1 + \dots$$

Adding a vector into a span



Lemma 2

Consider vectors u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n . If $v \in \text{Span} \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$, then

$$\text{Span} \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n, v\} = \text{Span} \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$$

Q: bbz nbn'v $x \in \text{Span} \{u_1, \dots, u_n, v\}$ bbz n' $x \in \text{Span} \{u_1, \dots, u_n\}$

l'bn n $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n, \alpha'$ n'

$$x = \alpha_1 u_1 + \alpha_2 u_2 + \dots + \alpha_n u_n + \alpha' v \quad (1)$$

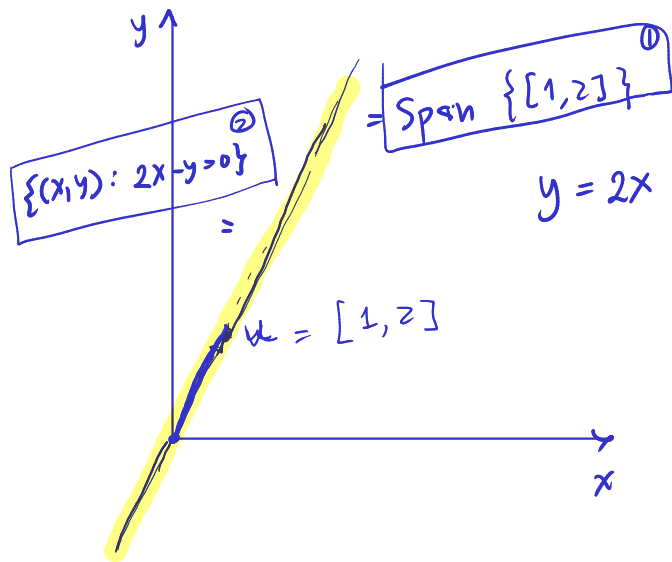
ll' n' $v \in \text{Span } A$ n' n' $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_n$ n'

$$v = \beta_1 u_1 + \beta_2 u_2 + \dots + \beta_n u_n \quad - \text{lin. comb. vcs}$$

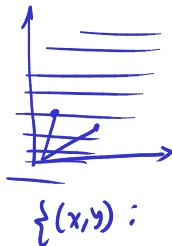
$$x = \alpha_1 u_1 + \dots + \alpha_n u_n + \alpha' (\beta_1 u_1 + \dots + \beta_n u_n) = (\alpha_1 + \alpha' \beta_1) u_1 + (\alpha_2 + \alpha' \beta_2) u_2 + \dots + (\alpha_n + \alpha' \beta_n) u_n$$

z'bn x n' l' n. comb. vcs $u_1, \dots, u_n \Rightarrow x \in \text{Span } A$

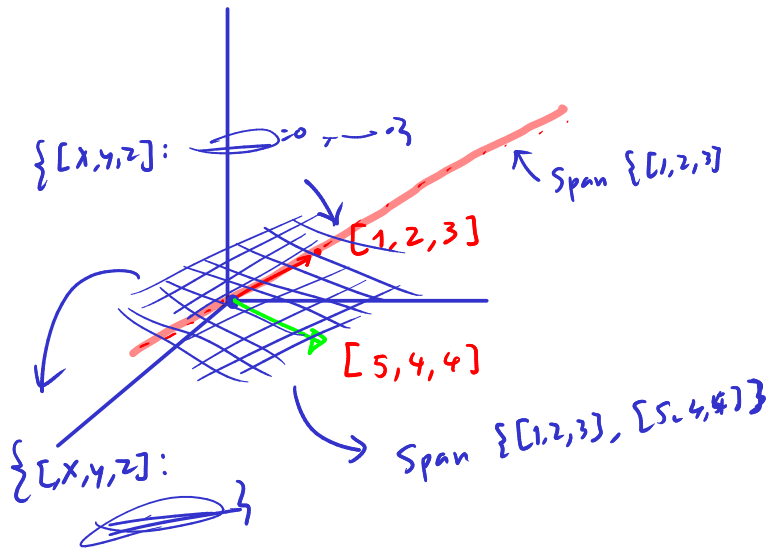
Geometry of spans: in \mathbb{R}^2



$$y = 2x \Leftrightarrow 2x - y = 0$$



Geometry of spans: in \mathbb{R}^3



Two representations

There are two ways to represent a line, a plane, and a (hyper)plane, passing through the origin:

- ▶ as a span of vectors
- ▶ as solutions of a system of homogeneous linear equations

$\mathbf{0} = 0$

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What are common properties of these geometric objects?

Two representations

There are two ways to represent a line, a plane, and a (hyper)plane, passing through the origin:

- ▶ as a span of vectors
- ▶ as solutions of a system of homogeneous linear equations.

What are common properties of these geometric objects?

- ▶ they pass through the origin,
- ▶ if vector u is in the objects, αu for any scalar α is also in the objects, and
- ▶ if u and v are in the objects, $u + v$ is also in the objects.

Vector spaces

Definition

A set \mathcal{V} of vectors over \mathbb{F} is a vector space iff

► (V1) $\mathbf{0} \in \mathcal{V}$,

► (V2) for any $\mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{V}$,

$$\alpha \cdot \mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{V}$$

for any $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}$, and

► (V3) for any $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{V}$,

$$\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{V}.$$

Span of vectors is a vector space

Consider n -vectors $\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m$,

$$\text{Span} \{ \mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m \}$$

is a vector space.

Span of vectors is a vector space $x+y = (\alpha_1 + \beta_1)u_1 + (\alpha_2 + \beta_2)u_2 + \dots + (\alpha_m + \beta_m)u_m$

Consider n -vectors u_1, u_2, \dots, u_m ,

$$\text{Span} \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_m\}$$

is a vector space.

Let's check if properties V1, V2, and V3 are satisfied.

(V1) $0 \in \text{Span} \{u_1, \dots, u_m\}$?

(V2) $x \in \text{Span} \{u_1, \dots, u_m\}$, $x = \alpha_1 u_1 + \alpha_2 u_2 + \dots + \alpha_m u_m$

$$x = \alpha_1 u_1 + \alpha_2 u_2 + \dots + \alpha_m u_m$$

Let scalar β then $\beta x = \beta \alpha_1 u_1 + \beta \alpha_2 u_2 + \dots + \beta \alpha_m u_m$

then $\beta x \in \text{Span} \{u_1, \dots, u_m\}$ \square

(V3)

Solutions to homogeneous linear equations is a vector space

Consider a set S of all n -vectors in the form $[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]$ where

$$\rightarrow a_{11} \cdot x_1 + a_{12} \cdot x_2 + \dots + a_{1n} \cdot x_n = 0$$

$$a_{21} \cdot x_1 + a_{22} \cdot x_2 + \dots + a_{2n} \cdot x_n = 0$$

$$\vdots = \vdots$$

$$a_{m1} \cdot x_1 + a_{m2} \cdot x_2 + \dots + a_{mn} \cdot x_n = 0$$

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} m \text{ homo} \\ \text{gen} \\ \text{equations} \end{array} \right.$

Let's check if properties V1, V2, and V3 are satisfied.

$$(V1) \text{ If } x_1 = x_2 = \dots = x_n = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

$$(V2) a_{11}\alpha x_1 + a_{12}\alpha x_2 + a_{13}\alpha x_3 + \dots = \alpha(\text{---}) = \alpha \cdot 0 = 0$$

$$(V3) \quad \checkmark$$

Dot product

element-wise

Definition

For n -vectors $\mathbf{u} = [u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n]$ and $\mathbf{v} = [v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n]$, the **dot product** of \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} , denoted by $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}$, is

$$u_1 \cdot v_1 + u_2 \cdot v_2 + \dots + u_n \cdot v_n$$

Dot product

$$\mathbf{a}_i = [a_{i1}, a_{i2}, \dots, a_{in}]$$

Definition

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Using dot products, the previous set \mathcal{S} can be written as

$$\{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \underbrace{\mathbf{a}_1 \cdot \mathbf{x} = 0}, \underbrace{\mathbf{a}_2 \cdot \mathbf{x} = 0}, \dots, \underbrace{\mathbf{a}_m \cdot \mathbf{x} = 0}\}$$

and we know that \mathcal{S} is a vector space.

Parity-check code $GF(2)$

error
detection

110 0

1000

Parity-check code

From message $\mathbf{a} = [a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4]$, we compute (in $GF(2)$) the parity check bit

$$\underline{b} = a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + a_4.$$

Parity-check code

From message $\mathbf{a} = [a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4]$, we compute (in $GF(2)$) the parity check bit

$$b = a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + a_4.$$

Now our encoded message becomes

$$[a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5],$$

where $a_5 = b = a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + a_4$. It can detect a single-bit error.

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What can we say about the condition on a_5 ?

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What can we say about the condition on a_5 ?

It is in fact a homogeneous linear equation (in $GF(2)$):

$$a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + a_4 + a_5 = 0$$

Parity-check code

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What can we say about the condition on a_5 ?

It is in fact a homogeneous linear equation (in $GF(2)$):

$$a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + a_4 + a_5 = 0$$

Now, what is the set of all possible codewords?

1D vector space

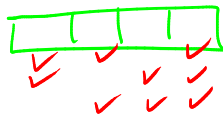
Hamming code

You can detect and correct more errors with Hamming codes. In this version called a $[7, 4]$ Hamming code, you encode 4-bit data $[a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4]$ into a 7-bit codeword $[a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5, a_6, a_7]$.
Using the formula:

$$a_5 = a_1 + a_2 + a_4$$

$$a_6 = a_1 + a_3 + a_4$$

$$a_7 = a_2 + a_3 + a_4$$



Hamming code

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Using the formula:

$$a_5 = a_1 + a_2 + a_4$$

$$a_6 = a_1 + a_3 + a_4$$

$$a_7 = a_2 + a_3 + a_4$$

Let's see how this works.

$$\underline{[1, 1, 1, 0] [0, 0, 0]}$$

Parity check

1 1 1 0 0 0 0

Let

$$s_1 = a_1 + a_2 + a_4 + a_5$$

$$s_2 = a_1 + a_3 + a_4 + a_6$$

$$s_3 = a_2 + a_3 + a_4 + a_7$$

1 0 1 0 0 0 0
1 0 1

Given a codeword $w = [c_1, c_2, \dots, c_7]$, if we compute s_1, s_2, s_3 , we would get all zero's.

Parity check

Let

$$s_1 = a_1 + a_2 + a_4 + a_5$$

$$s_2 = a_1 + a_3 + a_4 + a_6$$

$$s_3 = a_2 + a_3 + a_4 + a_7$$

Given a codeword $\mathbf{w} = [c_1, c_2, \dots, c_7]$, if we compute s_1, s_2, s_3 , we would get all zero's.

What if there is an error? Let's try.

Codewords from Hamming code

Turning the formula for a_5, a_6, a_7 around, we have 3 homogeneous linear equations:

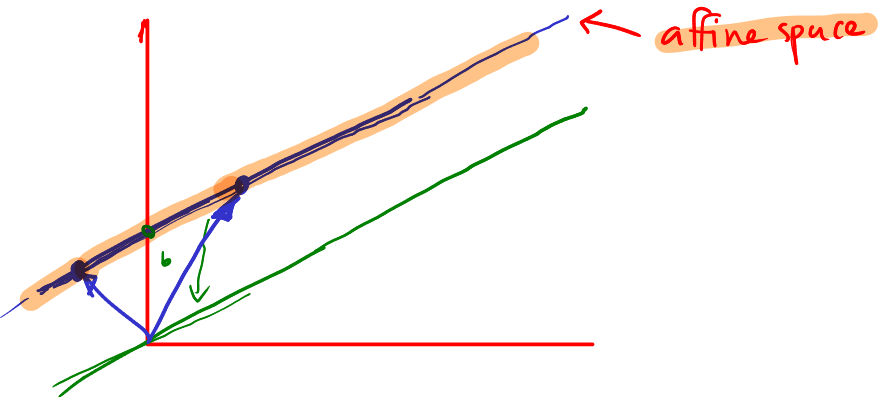
$$a_1 + a_2 + a_4 + a_5 = 0$$

$$a_1 + a_3 + a_4 + a_6 = 0$$

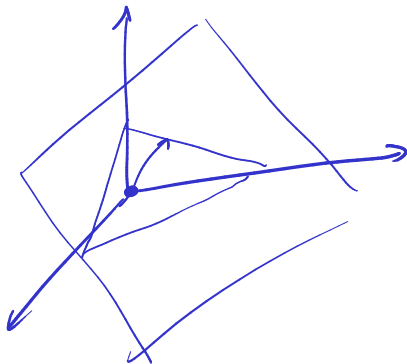
$$a_2 + a_3 + a_4 + a_7 = 0$$

and again the set of all possible codewords \mathcal{W} forms a vector space over $GF(2)$.

An object not passing through the origin: 2 dimensions



An object not passing through the origin: 3 dimensions



Translation

If we have a line or a plane passing through a vector \mathbf{a} , but not through the origin, how can we represent it?

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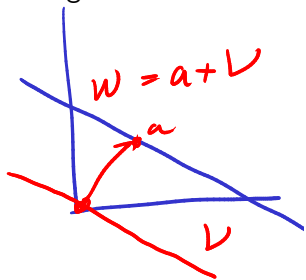
- ▶ Translate the object so that it passes through the origin.
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- ▶ Then we translate it back so that it passes through \mathbf{a} .

Translation

If we have a line or a plane passing through a vector a , but not through the origin, how can we represent it?

- ▶ Translate the object so that it passes through the origin.
- ▶ We obtain a vector space \mathcal{V} .
- ▶ Then we translate it back so that it passes through a .
- ▶ We get the set

$$\mathcal{A} = \{a + u : u \in \mathcal{V}\}$$



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$$\mathcal{A} = \{\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{u} : \mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{V}\}$$

- ▶ *Question:* Is \mathcal{A} a vector space?
- ▶ We also write it as $\mathbf{a} + \mathcal{V}$.

Affine spaces

Definition

If \mathbf{a} is a vector and \mathcal{V} is a vector space, then

$$\mathbf{a} + \mathcal{V}$$

is an **affine space**.

An affine space and convex combination: 2 dimensions

An affine space and convex combination: 3 dimensions

Affine combination

Definition

For any scalars $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_m$ such that

$$\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \dots + \alpha_m = 1$$

and vectors $\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m$, we say that a linear combination

$$\alpha_1 \mathbf{u}_1 + \alpha_2 \mathbf{u}_2 + \dots + \alpha_m \mathbf{u}_m$$

is an **affine combination** of $\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m$.

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Definition

The set of all affine combinations of vectors $\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m$ is called the **affine hull** of $\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m$.

Convex combination: review

Definition

For any scalars $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_m \geq 0$ such that

$$\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \dots + \alpha_m = 1$$

and vectors $\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m$, we say that a linear combination

$$\alpha_1 \mathbf{u}_1 + \alpha_2 \mathbf{u}_2 + \dots + \alpha_m \mathbf{u}_m$$

is a **convex combination** of $\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m$.

Definition

The set of all convex combinations of vectors $\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m$ is called the **convex hull** of $\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m$.

Writing an affine space using a span

Writing an affine space using a span

An affine space

An affine space passing through $\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_n$ is

$$\mathbf{u}_1 + \text{Span} \{ \mathbf{u}_2 - \mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_3 - \mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_n - \mathbf{u}_1 \}.$$

Non-homogeneous linear system

Two linear systems:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{a}_1 \cdot \mathbf{x} &= b_1 \\ \mathbf{a}_2 \cdot \mathbf{x} &= b_2 \\ &\vdots \\ \mathbf{a}_m \cdot \mathbf{x} &= b_m \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{a}_1 \cdot \mathbf{x} &= 0 \\ \mathbf{a}_2 \cdot \mathbf{x} &= 0 \\ &\vdots \\ \mathbf{a}_m \cdot \mathbf{x} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

What can you say about the solution sets of these two related linear systems?

Non-homogeneous linear system

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$$\begin{array}{rcl} \mathbf{a}_1 \cdot \mathbf{x} & = & b_1 \\ \mathbf{a}_2 \cdot \mathbf{x} & = & b_2 \\ & \vdots & \\ \mathbf{a}_m \cdot \mathbf{x} & = & b_m \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{rcl} \mathbf{a}_1 \cdot \mathbf{x} & = & 0 \\ \mathbf{a}_2 \cdot \mathbf{x} & = & 0 \\ & \vdots & \\ \mathbf{a}_m \cdot \mathbf{x} & = & 0 \end{array}$$

What can you say about the solution sets of these two related linear systems?

$\mathbf{0}$ is always a solution to the linear system on the right.

Note: A linear equation whose right-hand-side is zero is called a **homogeneous linear equation**. A system of linear homogeneous equations is called a **homogeneous linear system**.

Solutions of the two systems

Recall that if \mathbf{u}_1 and \mathbf{u}_2 are both solutions to the non-homogeneous linear system, we have that for any i

$$\mathbf{a}_i \mathbf{u}_1 - \mathbf{a}_i \mathbf{u}_2 = b_i - b_i = 0 = \mathbf{a}_i (\mathbf{u}_1 - \mathbf{u}_2).$$

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This implies that $\mathbf{u}_1 - \mathbf{u}_2$ is a solution to the homogeneous linear system.

Suppose that \mathcal{W} is the set of all solution to the non-homogeneous linear system, i.e.,

$$\mathcal{W} = \{\mathbf{x} : \mathbf{a}_i \mathbf{x} = b_i, \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq m\},$$

and let $\mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{W}$ be one of the solutions, we have that

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In other words,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{W} &= \mathbf{u} + \{\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{u} : \mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{W}\} \\ &= \mathbf{u} + \{\mathbf{x} : \mathbf{a}_i \mathbf{x} = 0, \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq m\}, \end{aligned}$$

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i.e., \mathcal{W} is an affine space.

Solutions to a non-homogeneous linear system

Lemma 3

If the solution set of a linear system is not empty, it is an affine space.