

MAT224 Linear Algebra II

Lecture Notes

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1 Vector Spaces

1.1 Bases And Dimension (Jan 17)

Definition A subset S of vector space V is called a *basis* of V if $V = \text{Span}(S)$ and S is linearly independent.

Examples

1. the standard basis $S = \{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$ in \mathbb{R}^n , since every vector $(a_1, \dots, a_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ may be written as the linear combination $(a_1, \dots, a_n) = a_1 e_1 + \dots + a_n e_n$
2. The vector space \mathbb{R}^n has many other bases as well. e.g., in \mathbb{R}^2 , consider the set $S = \{(1, 2), (1, -1)\}$, which is l.i.
3. Let $V = P_n(\mathbb{R})$ and consider $S = \{1, x, x^2, \dots, x^n\}$, which is a basis of V .

proof: It is clear that S spans V . For independence, consider

$$a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + \dots + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + a_n x^n = \mathbf{0}$$

Take the derivative of both sides,

$$\frac{d^n}{dx^n} (a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + \dots + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + a_n x^n) = \frac{d^n}{dx^n} (0)$$

$$n! a_n = 0 \implies a_n = 0$$

Similarly, we have $a_i = 0$ for all i , as wanted.

4. The empty subset, \emptyset , is a basis of the vector space consisting only of a zero vector, $\{\mathbf{0}\}$.

Theorem 1.6.3 Let V be a vector space, and let S be a nonempty subset of V . Then S is a basis of V iff every vector $\mathbf{x} \in V$ may be written uniquely as a linear combination of the vectors in S .

Proof: \rightarrow : Assume S is a basis of V , then given $\mathbf{x} \in V$, there are scalars $a_i \in \mathbb{R}$ and vectors $x_i \in S$ s.t. $\mathbf{x} = a_1 x_1 + \dots + a_n x_n$. To show this linear combination is unique, consider a possible second linear combination of vectors in S which also adds up to \mathbf{x} : $\mathbf{x} = b_1 x_1 + \dots + b_n x_n$. Subtracting these two expressions for \mathbf{x} , we find that

$$\mathbf{0} = a_1 x_1 + \dots + a_n x_n - (b_1 x_1 + \dots + b_n x_n)$$

$$= (a_1 - b_1)x_1 + \dots + (a_n - b_n)x_n$$

Since S is linearly independent, the equation implies that $a_i = b_i$ for all i .

\leftarrow : Assume every vector $\mathbf{x} \in V$ may be written uniquely as a linear combination of the vectors in S . This implies $\text{Span}(S) = V$. We must show that S is l.i. Consider an equation

$$a_1x_1 + \dots + a_nx_n = \mathbf{0}$$

Note that it is also the case that

$$0\mathbf{x} = 0(x_1 + \dots + x_n) = \mathbf{0}$$

Since we assumed that every \mathbf{x} has a unique representation in S , then it must be true that $a_i = 0$ for all i . Hence S is l.i.

Theorem 1.6.6 Let V be a vector space that has a finite spanning set, and let S be a linearly independent subset of V . Then there exists a basis S' of V , with $S \subset S'$

Lemma 1.6.8 Let S be a linearly independent subset of V and let $x \in V$, but $x \notin S$. Then $S \cup \{\mathbf{x}\}$ is l.i. iff $\mathbf{x} \notin \text{Span}(S)$.

Insight the number of vectors in a basis is, in a rough sense, a measure of "how big" the space is.

Theorem 1.6.10 (Basis Theorem) Let V be a vector space and let S be a spanning set for V , which has m elements. Then no linearly independent set in V can have more than m elements.

proof: It suffices to show that every set in V with more than m elements is linearly dependent. Write $S = y_1, \dots, y_m$ and suppose $S' = x_1, \dots, x_n$ is a subset of V with $n > m$ vectors. Consider an equation

$$(1) a_1x_1 + \dots + a_nx_n = \mathbf{0}$$

Our goal is to show that a_i not all 0. Since S spans V , there are scalars b_{ij} s.t. for each i ,

$$x_i = b_{i1}y_1 + \dots + b_{im}y_m$$

Substituting these equations into (1), we get

$$a_1(b_{11}y_1 + \dots + b_{1m}y_m) + \dots + a_n(b_{n1}y_1 + \dots + b_{nm}y_m) = \mathbf{0}$$

Collecting terms and rearranging,

$$(a_1b_{11} + \dots + a_nb_{n1})y_1 + \dots + (a_1b_{1m} + \dots + a_nb_{nm})y_m = \mathbf{0}$$

Since S is l.i., this is equivalent to solving the system

$$b_{11}a_1 + \dots + b_{n1}a_n = 0$$

$$\cdot$$

$$\cdot$$

$$\cdot$$

$$b_{1m}a_1 + \dots + b_{nm}a_n = 0$$

But this is a system with n unknowns and m equations and $n > m$, so there must exist a non-trivial solution $\{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$, which is what we wanted to show. QED

Corollary 1.6.11 Let V be a vector space and let S and S' be two bases of V , with m and m' elements, respectively. Then $m = m'$.

proof:

Since S is a spanning set of V and S' is l.i., we have $m' \leq m$. Since S' is a spanning set of V and S is l.i. we have $m \leq m'$. Hence $m = m'$. QED

Definitions 1.6.12

1. If V is a vector space with some finite basis (possibly empty), we say V is finite-dimensional.
2. Let V be a finite-dimensional vector space. The dimension of V , denoted $\dim(V)$, is the number of vectors in a (hence any) basis of V .
3. If $V = \{\mathbf{0}\}$, we define $\dim(V) = 0$.
4. $\dim(\text{span}\{(1, 2, 3), (4, 5, 6), (7, 8, 9)\}) = 2$

Examples

1. For each n , $\dim(\mathbb{R}^n) = n$, since the standard basis contains n vectors.
2. $\dim(P_n(\mathbb{R})) = n + 1$, since a basis for $P_n(\mathbb{R})$ contains $n + 1$ functions.
3. The vector spaces $P(\mathbb{R})$, $C^1(\mathbb{R})$ and $C(\mathbb{R})$ are not finite-dimensional. We say that such spaces are infinite-dimensional.

Corollary 1.6.14 Let W be a subspace of a finite-dimensional vector space V . Then $\dim(W) \leq \dim(V)$. Furthermore, $\dim(W) = \dim(V)$ iff $W = V$.

Corollary 1.6.15 Let W be a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n defined by a system of homogeneous linear equations. Then $\dim(W)$ is equal to the number of free variables in the corresponding echelon form system.

Theorem 1.6.18 Let W_1 and W_2 be finite-dimensional subspaces of a vector space V . Then

$$\dim(W_1 + W_2) = \dim(W_1) + \dim(W_2) - \dim(W_1 \cap W_2)$$

Remark Analogous to the Principle of Inclusion-Exclusion

proof: Result obvious if either W_1 or W_2 is $\{\mathbf{0}\}$.

Therefore, we assume that neither W_1 nor W_2 is $\{\mathbf{0}\}$. Starting from a basis S of $W_1 \cap W_2$. We can always find sets T_1 and T_2 (disjoint from S) such that $S \cup T_1$ is a basis for W_1 and $S \cup T_2$ is a basis for W_2 . We claim that $U = S \cup T_1 \cup T_2$ is a basis for $W_1 + W_2$, since

$$U = S \cup T_1 \cup T_2 = (S \cup T_1) \cup (S \cup T_2)$$

$$\text{Span}(U) = \text{Span}((S \cup T_1) \cup (S \cup T_2)) = W_1 + W_2$$

Next, prove that U is linearly independent. Any potential linear dependence among the vectors in U must have the form

$$\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}_1 + \mathbf{w}_2 = \mathbf{0}$$

where $\mathbf{v} \in \text{Span}(S) = W_1 \cap W_2$, $\mathbf{w}_1 \in \text{Span}(T_1) \subset W_1$, $\mathbf{w}_2 \in \text{Span}(T_2) \subset W_2$. (slice the linear combination into the sum of the vectors from 3 vector spaces). It suffices to prove that in any such potential linear dependence, we must have $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{w}_1 = \mathbf{w}_2 = \mathbf{0}$ (each vector is a lin comb, and equals $\mathbf{0}$). Consider $\mathbf{w}_2 = -\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{w}_1$. Since $-\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{w}_1 \in W_1$, $\mathbf{w}_2 \in W_2$, we must have $\mathbf{w}_2 \in W_1 \cap W_2$. By definition, $\mathbf{w}_2 \in \text{Span}(T_2)$. But $S \cap T_2 = \emptyset$, hence $\text{Span}(S) \cap \text{Span}(T_2) = \{\mathbf{0}\}$. Therefore we must have $\mathbf{w}_2 = \mathbf{0}$. So then $-\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{w}_1 \in W_1 \cap W_2$. Since $S \cap T_1 = \emptyset$, $\text{Span}(S) \cap \text{Span}(T_1) = \{\mathbf{0}\}$ and we have $\mathbf{w}_1 = \mathbf{0}$, so $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$ as well. So U is independent.

$$\begin{aligned} |U| &= |S| + |T_1| + |T_2| \\ &= \dim W_1 \cap W_2 + (\dim W_1 - \dim W_1 \cap W_2) + (\dim W_2 - \dim W_1 \cap W_2) \\ &= \dim(W_1) + \dim(W_2) - \dim(W_1 \cap W_2) \end{aligned}$$

Exercises for 1.4 1.(k), 7

Exercises for 1.6 1.(d)(e)(f), 3, 4, 16

2 Linear Transformations

2.1 Linear Transformations

A function T from V to W is denoted by $T : V \rightarrow W$. The vector $\mathbf{w} = T(\mathbf{v})$ in W is called the image of \mathbf{v} under the function T . Loosely speaking, we want our functions to turn the algebraic operations of addition and scalar multiplication in V into addition and scalar multiplication in W .

Definition 2.1.1 A function $T : V \rightarrow W$ is called a *linear mapping* or a *linear transformation* if it satisfies

1. $T(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = T(\mathbf{u}) + T(\mathbf{v})$ for all \mathbf{u} and $\mathbf{v} \in V$
2. $T(a\mathbf{v}) = aT(\mathbf{v})$ for all $a \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\mathbf{v} \in V$

V is called the *domain* of T and W is called the *target* of T .

We say that a linear transformation preserves the operations of addition and scalar multiplication.

Property A linear mapping always takes the zero vector in the domain vector space to the zero vector in the target vector space.

Proposition 2.1.2 A function $T : V \rightarrow W$ is a linear transformation if and only if for all a and $b \in \mathbb{R}$ and all \mathbf{u} and $\mathbf{v} \in V$

$$T(a\mathbf{u} + b\mathbf{v}) = aT(\mathbf{u}) + bT(\mathbf{v})$$

Corollary 2.1.3 A function $T : V \rightarrow W$ is a linear transformation if and only if for all $a_1, \dots, a_k \in \mathbb{R}$ and for all $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k \in V$:

$$T\left(\sum_{i=1}^k a_i \mathbf{v}_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^k a_i T(\mathbf{v}_i)$$

Examples

1. Let V be any vector space, and let $W = V$. The *underidentity transformation* $I : V \rightarrow V$ is defined by $I(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{v}$ for all $\mathbf{v} \in V$.
2. Let V and W be any vector spaces, and let $T : V \rightarrow W$ be the mapping that takes every vector in V to the zero vector in W :

$$T(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{0}_W$$

for all $\mathbf{v} \in V$. T is called zero transformation.

3. $T(\mathbf{x}) = a_1x_1 + \dots + a_nx_n$

4. *Differentiation, definite integration*

Remark The inner product plays a crucial role in linear algebra in that it provides a bridge between algebra and geometry, which is the heart of the more advanced material that appears later in the text.

Proposition 2.1.14 If $T : V \rightarrow W$ is a linear transformation and V is finite-dimensional, then T is uniquely determined by its values on the members of a basis of V .

proof: Show that if S and T are linear transformations that take the same values on each member of a basis for V , then in fact $S = T$.

$$\begin{aligned} T(v) &= T(a_1v_1 + \dots + a_kv_k) \\ &= a_1T(v_1) + \dots + a_kT(v_k) \\ &= a_1S(v_1) + \dots + a_kS(v_k) \\ &= S(a_1v_1 + \dots + a_kv_k) \\ &= S(v) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, S and T are equal as mappings from V to W . ■

2.2 Linear Transformations Between Finite-Dimensional Vector Spaces

Proposition 2.2.1 Let $T : V \rightarrow W$ be a linear transformation between the finite-dimensional vector spaces V and W . If $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k\}$ is a basis for V and $\{\mathbf{w}_1, \dots, \mathbf{w}_l\}$ is a basis for W , then $T : V \rightarrow W$ is uniquely determined by the $l \cdot k$ scalars used to express $T(\mathbf{v}_j)$, $j = 1, \dots, k$, in terms of $\mathbf{w}_1, \dots, \mathbf{w}_l$.

Definition 2.2.6 Let $T : V \rightarrow W$ be a linear transformation between the finite-dimensional vector spaces V and W , and let $\alpha = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k\}$ and $\beta = \{\mathbf{w}_1, \dots, \mathbf{w}_l\}$, respectively, be any bases for V and W . Let a_{ij} , $1 \leq i \leq l$ and $1 \leq j \leq k$ be the $l \cdot k$ scalars that determine T with respect to the bases α and β . The matrix whose entries are the scalars a_{ij} , $1 \leq i \leq l$ and $1 \leq j \leq k$, is called the *matrix of the linear transformation T with respect to the bases α for V and β for W* . This matrix is denoted by $[T]_{\alpha}^{\beta}$.

Remark The basis vectors in the domain and target spaces are written in some particular order.

Definition of coordinate vectors If $\mathbf{v} = a_1\mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + a_k\mathbf{v}_k$ and $\mathbf{w} = b_1\mathbf{w}_1 + \dots + b_l\mathbf{w}_l$, we can express \mathbf{v} and \mathbf{w} in coordinates, respectively, as a $k \times 1$ matrix and as an $l \times 1$ matrix, with respect to the chosen bases. These coordinate vectors will be denoted by $[\mathbf{v}]_\alpha$ and $[\mathbf{w}]_\beta$, respectively. Thus

$$[\mathbf{v}]_\alpha = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ \vdots \\ a_k \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } [\mathbf{w}]_\beta = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ \vdots \\ b_l \end{bmatrix}$$

Proposition 2.2.15 Let $T : V \rightarrow W$ be a linear transformation between vector spaces V of dimension k and W of dimension l . Let $\alpha = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k\}$ be a basis for V and $\beta = \{\mathbf{w}_1, \dots, \mathbf{w}_l\}$ be a basis for W . Then for each $\mathbf{v} \in V$,

$$[T(\mathbf{v})]_\beta = [T]_\alpha^\beta [\mathbf{v}]_\alpha$$

proof: Let $\mathbf{v} = x_1\mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + x_k\mathbf{v}_k \in V$. Then if $T(\mathbf{v}_j) = a_{1j}\mathbf{w}_1 + \dots + a_{lj}\mathbf{w}_l$

$$\begin{aligned} T(\mathbf{v}) &= \sum_{j=1}^k x_j T(\mathbf{v}_j) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^k x_j \left(\sum_{i=1}^l a_{ij} \mathbf{w}_i \right) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^l \left(\sum_{j=1}^k x_j a_{ij} \right) \mathbf{w}_i \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the i th coefficient of $T(\mathbf{v})$ in terms of β is $\sum_{j=1}^k x_j a_{ij}$ and $[T(\mathbf{v})]_\beta =$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sum_{j=1}^k x_j a_{1j} \\ \vdots \\ \sum_{j=1}^k x_j a_{lj} \end{bmatrix} \text{ which is precisely } [T(\mathbf{v})]_\beta = [T]_\alpha^\beta [\mathbf{v}]_\alpha. \quad \blacksquare$$

Proposition 2.2.19 Let $\alpha = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k\}$ be a basis for V and $\beta = \{\mathbf{w}_1, \dots, \mathbf{w}_l\}$ be a basis for W , and let $\mathbf{v} = x_1\mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + x_k\mathbf{v}_k \in V$

1. If A is an $l \times k$ matrix, then the function

$$T(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{w}$$

where $[\mathbf{w}]_\beta = A[\mathbf{v}]_\alpha$ is a linear transformation.

2. If $A = [S]_{\alpha}^{\beta}$ is the matrix of a transformation $S : V \rightarrow W$, then the transformation T constructed from $[S]_{\alpha}^{\beta}$ is equal to S .
3. If T is the transformation of (1) constructed from A , then $[T]_{\alpha}^{\beta} = A$

Proposition 2.2.20 Let V and W be finite-dimensional vector spaces. Let α be a basis for V and β a basis for W . Then the assignment of a matrix to a linear transformation from V to W given by T goes to $[T]_{\alpha}^{\beta}$ is injective and surjective.

Notes

1. When proving a function T is not a linear transformation, can consider $T(\mathbf{0}) \neq \mathbf{0}$.

2.3 Kernel and Image

Definition 2.3.1 The *kernel* of T , denoted $\text{Ker}(T)$, is the subset of V consisting of all vectors $\mathbf{v} \in V$ such that $T(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{0}$.

Remark Kernel is different from null spaces. A null space is about a matrix, and it is something in \mathbb{R}^n .

Proposition 2.3.2 Let $T : V \rightarrow W$ be a linear transformation. $\text{Ker}(T)$ is a subspace of V .

Examples

1. Let $V = P_3(\mathbb{R})$. Define $T : V \rightarrow V$ by $T(p(x)) = \frac{d}{dx}p(x)$. $\text{Ker}(T)$ only consists constant polynomials.
2. Let $V = W = \mathbb{R}^2$. Let T be a rotation R_{θ} . Then $\text{Ker}(T) = \{\mathbf{0}\}$.

Proposition 2.3.7 Let $T : V \rightarrow W$ be a linear transformation of finite-dimensional vector spaces, and let α and β be bases for V and W , respectively. Then $\mathbf{x} \in \text{Ker}(T)$ if and only if the coordinate vector of \mathbf{x} , $[\mathbf{x}]_{\alpha}$, satisfies the system of equations

$$\begin{aligned} a_{11}x_1 + \dots + a_{1k}x_k &= 0 \\ &\vdots \\ a_{l1}x_1 + \dots + a_{lk}x_k &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

where the coefficients a_{ij} are the entries of the matrix $[T]_{\alpha}^{\beta}$.

Remark This says

$$x \in \ker(T) \iff [x]_{\alpha} \in \text{Nul}[T]_{\alpha}^{\beta}$$

Proposition 2.3.8 Independence is Basis-Independent Let V be a finite-dimensional vector space, and let $\alpha = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k\}$ be a basis for V . Then the vectors $\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_m \in V$ are linearly independent iff their corresponding coordinate vectors $[\mathbf{x}_1]_{\alpha}, \dots, [\mathbf{x}_m]_{\alpha}$ are linearly independent.

Definition 2.3.10 The subset of W consisting of all vectors $\mathbf{w} \in W$ for which there exists a $\mathbf{v} \in V$ such that $T(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{w}$ is called the *image* of T and is denoted by $\text{Im}(T)$.

Proposition 2.3.11 Let $T : V \rightarrow W$ be a linear transformation. The image of T is a subspace of W .

Proposition 2.3.12 If $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_m\}$ is any set that spans V (in particular, it could be a basis of V), then $\{T(\mathbf{v}_1), \dots, T(\mathbf{v}_m)\}$ spans $\text{Im}(T)$.

Corollary 2.3.13 If $\alpha = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k\}$ is a basis for V and $\beta = \{\mathbf{w}_1, \dots, \mathbf{w}_l\}$ is a basis for W , then the vectors in W , whose coordinate vectors (in terms of β) are the columns of $[T]_{\alpha}^{\beta}$, span $\text{Im}(T)$.

Rank-Nullity Theorem 2.3.17 If V is finite-dimensional vector space and $T : V \rightarrow W$ is a linear transformation, then

$$\dim(\text{Ker}(T)) + \dim(\text{Im}(T)) = \dim(V)$$

Equivalently,

$$\text{Nullity}(T) + \text{Rank}(T) = \dim(V)$$

2.4 Applications of the Dimension Theorem

Proposition 2.4.2 A linear transformation $T : V \rightarrow W$ is injective iff $\dim(\text{Ker}(T)) = 0$, or $\dim(\text{Im}(T)) = \dim(V)$.

Remark Analogously, in MAT223 we said that a matrix is one-to-one if all the columns are l.i.

Corollary 2.4.3 A linear mapping $T : V \rightarrow W$ on a finite-dimensional vector space V is injective iff $\dim(\text{Im}(T)) = \dim(V)$.

Corollary 2.4.4 If $\dim(W) < \dim(V)$ and $T : V \rightarrow W$ is a linear mapping, then T is not injective.

proof:

$$\begin{aligned} \dim(\text{Im}(T)) &\leq \dim(W) < \dim(V) \\ \implies \dim(\text{Ker}(T)) &> 0 \end{aligned}$$

Proposition 2.4.7 If W is finite-dimensional, then a linear mapping $T : V \rightarrow W$ is surjective iff $\dim(\text{Im}(T)) = \dim(W)$

Remark Analogously, in MAT223 we said that a matrix is onto if all the rows are l.i.

Corollary 2.4.8 If V and W are finite-dimensional, with $\dim(V) < \dim(W)$, then there is no surjective linear mapping $T : V \rightarrow W$

proof: $\dim(\text{Im}(T)) \leq \dim(V) < \dim(W) \implies T$ is not surjective

Corollary 2.4.9 A linear mapping $T : V \rightarrow W$ can be surjective iff

$$\dim(V) \geq \dim(W)$$

Proposition 2.4.10 Let $\dim(V) = \dim(W)$. A linear transformation $T : V \rightarrow W$ is injective iff it is surjective.

Proposition 2.4.11 Let $T : V \rightarrow W$ be a linear transformation, and let $w \in \text{Im}(T)$. Let v_1 be any fixed vector with $T(v_1) = w$. Then every vector $v_2 \in T^{-1}(\{w\})$ can be written uniquely as $v_2 = v_1 + u$, where $u \in \text{Ker}(T)$

Remark In this situation $T^{-1}(\{w\})$ is a subspace of V iff $w = 0$.

Corollary 2.4.15 Let $T : V \rightarrow W$ be a linear transformation of finite-dimensional vector spaces, and let $w \in W$. Then there is a unique vector $v \in V$ such that $T(v) = w$ iff

1. $w \in \text{Im}(T)$, and
2. $\dim(\text{Ker}(T)) = 0$

Proposition 2.4.16 With notation as before

1. The set of solutions of the system of linear equations $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ is the subset $T^{-1}(\{\mathbf{b}\})$ of $V = \mathbb{R}^n$
2. The set of solutions of the system of linear equations $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ is a subspace of V iff the system is homogeneous, in which case the set of solutions is $\text{Ker}(T)$.

Corollary 2.4.17

1. The number of free variables in the homogeneous system $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ (or its echelon form equivalent) is equal to $\dim(\text{Ker}(T))$
2. The number of basic variables of the system is equal to $\dim(\text{Im}(T))$

Definition 2.4.18 Given an inhomogeneous system of equations, $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$, any single vector \mathbf{x} satisfying the system (necessarily $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$) is called a particular solution of the system of equations.

Proposition 2.4.19 Let \mathbf{x}_p be a particular solution of the system $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$. Then every other solution to $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ is of the form $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}_p + \mathbf{x}_h$, where \mathbf{x}_h is a solution of the corresponding homogeneous system of equations $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$. Furthermore, given \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{x}_p , there is a unique \mathbf{x}_h such that $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}_p + \mathbf{x}_h$.

Corollary 2.4.20 The system $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ has a unique solution iff $\mathbf{b} \in \text{Im}(T)$ and the only solution to $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ is the zero vector.