

# 05-Bases-Introduction

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```
In [19]: from latools import *
         from sympy import *
         init_printing(use_latex=True)
```

## 1 Example 1

This is an example of a basis in  $\mathbb{R}^2$

Let:

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Is it possible to represent any vector in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  in terms of  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2\}$ ? Equivalently:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = a \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + b \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Matrix formulation:

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

*Keeping the variables straight:* In the system above, we must interpret the variables as follows:

- $x$  and  $y$  are given numbers.
- $a$  and  $b$  are the unknowns in the system, and must be found in terms of  $x$  and  $y$ .

We solve the system in the standard way, but use symbols for the right-hand side:

```
In [20]: x, y = symbols('x, y')
         A = matrix_to_rational([[ 1, -1, x],
                                [ 2,  2, y]])
         A
```

Out [20]:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & x \\ 2 & 2 & y \end{bmatrix}$$

```
In [21]: A1 = rop(A, 'R1*(-2)+R2=>R2')
         A1
```

Out [21]:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & x \\ 0 & 4 & -2x + y \end{bmatrix}$$

In [22]: A2 = rop(A1, 'R2\*(1/4)=>R2')  
A2

Out [22]:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & x \\ 0 & 1 & -\frac{x}{2} + \frac{y}{4} \end{bmatrix}$$

In [23]: A3 = rop(A2, 'R2\*(1)+R1=>R1')  
A3

Out [23]:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \frac{x}{2} + \frac{y}{4} \\ 0 & 1 & -\frac{x}{2} + \frac{y}{4} \end{bmatrix}$$

In [24]: A4 = rop(A3, 'R2\*(2)+R1=>R1')  
A4

Out [24]:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & -\frac{x}{2} + \frac{3y}{4} \\ 0 & 1 & -\frac{x}{2} + \frac{y}{4} \end{bmatrix}$$

Interpreting the result of the computations, we get:

$$a = -\frac{1}{2}x + \frac{1}{2}y, b = \frac{1}{4}x + \frac{1}{4}y$$

Notice that we can write this in terms of matrix multiplication:

$$\begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

Unsurprisingly, the matrix above is the inverse of the original matrix.

## 1.1 Conclusion

Given the vectors:

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

any vector in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  can be expressed in terms of  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2\}$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = a \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + b \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

where:

$$\begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

When this happens, we say that  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2\}$  is a *basis* of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

## 2 Example 2

Let's now to an example in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ . The given vectors are:

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{v}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{v}_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

We want to express an arbitrary vector in  $\mathbb{R}^4$  as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ t \end{bmatrix} = a \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + b \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} + c \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + d \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

This is equivalent to the system:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 3 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ d \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ t \end{bmatrix}$$

Let's solve this system using Gaussian Elimination:

```
In [25]: x, y, z, t = symbols('x, y, z, t')
A = matrix_to_rational([[ 1,  0,  2,  1, x],
                        [ 2,  1,  0,  1, y],
                        [-1,  3,  1,  1, z],
                        [ 1, -1,  1,  1, t]])

A
```

Out [25]:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 & 1 & x \\ 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & y \\ -1 & 3 & 1 & 1 & z \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & 1 & t \end{bmatrix}$$

```
In [26]: A1 = rop(A, 'R1*(-2)+R2=>R2', 'R1*(1)+R3=>R3', 'R1*(-1)+R4=>R4')
A1
```

Out [26]:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 & 1 & x \\ 0 & 1 & -4 & -1 & -2x + y \\ 0 & 3 & 3 & 2 & x + z \\ 0 & -1 & -1 & 0 & t - x \end{bmatrix}$$

```
In [27]: A2 = rop(A1, 'R2*(-3)+R3=>R3', 'R2*(1)+R4=>R4')
A2
```

Out [27]:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 & 1 & x \\ 0 & 1 & -4 & -1 & -2x + y \\ 0 & 0 & 15 & 5 & 7x - 3y + z \\ 0 & 0 & -5 & -1 & t - 3x + y \end{bmatrix}$$

In [28]: A3 = rop(A2, 'R3\*(1/15)=>R3')  
A3

Out [28]:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 & 1 & x \\ 0 & 1 & -4 & -1 & -2x + y \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \frac{1}{3} & \frac{7x}{15} - \frac{y}{5} + \frac{z}{15} \\ 0 & 0 & -5 & -1 & t - 3x + y \end{bmatrix}$$

In [29]: A4 = rop(A3, 'R3\*(-2)+R1=>R1', 'R3\*(4)+R2=>R2', 'R3\*(5)+R4=>R4')  
A4

Out [29]:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{3} & \frac{x}{15} + \frac{2y}{5} - \frac{2z}{15} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \frac{1}{3} & -\frac{2x}{15} + \frac{y}{5} + \frac{4z}{15} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \frac{1}{3} & \frac{7x}{15} - \frac{y}{5} + \frac{z}{15} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{3}{3} & t - \frac{2x}{3} + \frac{z}{3} \end{bmatrix}$$

In [30]: A5 = rop(A4, 'R4\*(3/2)=>R4')  
A5

Out [30]:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{3} & \frac{x}{15} + \frac{2y}{5} - \frac{2z}{15} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \frac{1}{3} & -\frac{2x}{15} + \frac{y}{5} + \frac{4z}{15} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \frac{1}{3} & \frac{7x}{15} - \frac{y}{5} + \frac{z}{15} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & \frac{3t}{2} - x + \frac{z}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

In [31]: A6 = rop(A5, 'R4\*(-1/3)+R1=>R1', 'R4\*(-1/3)+R2=>R2', 'R4\*(-1/3)+R3=>R3')  
A6

Out [31]:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{t}{2} + \frac{2x}{5} + \frac{2y}{5} - \frac{3z}{10} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{t}{2} + \frac{x}{5} + \frac{y}{5} + \frac{z}{10} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -\frac{t}{2} + \frac{4x}{5} - \frac{y}{5} - \frac{z}{10} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & \frac{3t}{2} - x + \frac{z}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

We conclude that it is always possible to find the representation, and:

$$\begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ d \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2}{5} & \frac{2}{5} & -\frac{3}{10} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{5} & \frac{1}{5} & \frac{1}{10} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{4}{5} & -\frac{1}{5} & -\frac{1}{10} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ -1 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ t \end{bmatrix}$$

It follows that the given vectors are a basis of  $\mathbb{R}^4$

### 3 Example 3

Determine if the following vectors form a basis of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ :

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{v}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -2 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

*Solution:* We need to check if an arbitrary vector can be expressed as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = a \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + b \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + c \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -2 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

We set this up as a linear system:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & -2 \\ 3 & 1 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$$

Next, solve the system by Gaussian Elimination:

```
In [32]: x, y, z = symbols('x,y,z')
         A = matrix_to_rational([[ 1, 2, 0, x],
                                [-1, 0, -2, y],
                                [ 3, 1, 5, z]])
         A
```

Out [32]:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & x \\ -1 & 0 & -2 & y \\ 3 & 1 & 5 & z \end{bmatrix}$$

```
In [33]: A1 = rop(A, 'R1*(1)+R2=>R2', 'R1*(-3)+R3=>R3')
         A1
```

Out [33]:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & x \\ 0 & 2 & -2 & x+y \\ 0 & -5 & 5 & -3x+z \end{bmatrix}$$

```
In [34]: A2 = rop(A1, 'R2*(1/2)=>R2')
         A2
```

Out [34]:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & x \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & \frac{x}{2} + \frac{y}{2} \\ 0 & -5 & 5 & -3x+z \end{bmatrix}$$

In [35]: `A3 = rop(A2, 'R2*(-2)+R1=>R1', 'R2*(5)+R3=>R3')`  
A3

Out [35]:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 & -y \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & \frac{x}{2} + \frac{y}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{x}{2} + \frac{5y}{2} + z \end{bmatrix}$$

When we translate this augmented matrix back to system form we get:

$$\begin{aligned} a + 2c &= -y \\ b - c &= \frac{1}{2}x + \frac{1}{2}y \\ 0 &= -\frac{1}{2}x + \frac{5}{2}y + z \end{aligned}$$

The important equation to look here is the third one:

$$0 = -\frac{1}{2}x + \frac{5}{2}y + z$$

There are two possibilities:

- If  $-\frac{1}{2}x + \frac{5}{2}y + z = 0$ , the system has solutions (infinitely many, actually)
- If  $-\frac{1}{2}x + \frac{5}{2}y + z \neq 0$ , the system is inconsistent.

We conclude that *there are* values of  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $z$  for which the system will not have solutions. For example, if:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 6 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

the system has no solutions, since  $-\frac{1}{2}x + \frac{5}{2}y + z = -\frac{1}{2}2 + \frac{5}{2}6 + 0 = 14 \neq 0$ . It follows that it is *not* possible to represent this vector in terms of  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3$ . We conclude that these vectors do not constitute a basis of  $\mathbb{R}^3$

## 4 Provisional Definition of Basis

We say that a set of  $n$  vectors in form a *basis* of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  if it is possible to represent any vector in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  in terms of the vectors in the given set.

In practice: to check if  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$  a basis of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , write the system:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = a_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + a_2 \mathbf{v}_2 + \dots + a_n \mathbf{v}_n$$

- If it is always possible to solve the system, finding values of  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  that represent the vector  $[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]$ , then the set is a basis.
- Otherwise, the set is not a basis.

## 5 Exercises

### 5.1 1

For each set of vectors given below, determine if it is a basis or not.

#### 5.1.1 (a)

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{v}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3$$

In [ ]:

#### 5.1.2 (b)

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 4 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{v}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{v}_4 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^4$$

In [ ]:

#### 5.2 (c)

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 4 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{v}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 5 \\ -8 \\ -10 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{v}_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 8 \\ 4 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^4$$

In [ ]:

## 6 2

Suppose that two vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  are given by:

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} r \\ s \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} t \\ u \end{bmatrix}$$

When are these vectors a basis of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ ? Your answer will be in the form of an algebraic relationship for  $r, s, t, u$ .

*Note:* It is possible to do this symbolically using the computer, but you might find it easier to just use pencil and paper.