



## Why

Since every affine set is a translate of a unique subspace, we can represent them by representing the vector and the subspace.

## Definition

Recall that  $M$  is affine means  $M = S + a$  for some subspace  $S$  and vector  $a \in \mathbf{R}^n$ . The dimension of  $M$  is the dimension of the subspace. Suppose  $\dim S = k$ , then there exists  $Q \in \mathbf{R}^{n \times k}$  with  $Q^\top Q = I$ , so that for any  $x \in S$ , there exists unique  $z \in \mathbf{R}^k$  with  $x = Qz$ . Since  $M = S + a$ , we have

$$M = \{y \in \mathbf{R}^n \mid (\exists z \in \mathbf{R}^k)(y = a + Qz)\}$$

We also denote this set  $\{a + Qz \mid z \in \mathbf{R}^k\}$ .



