



## Why

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## Definition

A *basis* for a vector space is a set of linearly independent vectors whose span is the set of vectors of the space. For any vector in the space, there exists a linear combination of the basis vectors whose result is that vector. In this case, it is common to say that any vector in the space “can be written as a linear combination of the basis vectors.”

Since the basis is a linearly independent set, the linear combination of basis vectors is unique. We consider the

If we have a basis of  $n$  vectors for  $(V, \mathbf{F})$  then each vector  $v \in V$  can be written uniquely as a linear combination of the vectors in the basis. If we take the vector in the field which is these coefficients, then this is an isomorphism with the vector space  $(\mathbf{F}^n, \mathbf{F})$ . We call this the *coordinate vector*.

## Characterizations

**Prop. 1.** *A set of vectors is a basis if and only if no proper superset of it is linearly independent.*

**Prop. 2.** *A set of vectors that spans the space is a basis if and only if no proper subset of it spans the space.*

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<sup>1</sup>Future editions will include.



