

# Dimension and Rank

**Geometric Algorithms**

**Lecture 17**

# Practice Problem

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{v}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{v}_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

*Consider the subspace  $H$  generated by  $\mathbf{v}_1$  and  $\mathbf{v}_2$ .  
Show that  $\mathbf{v}_3$  and  $\mathbf{v}_4$  form a basis for  $H$ .*

*$H$  is 2-dim'l*

*$\mathbf{v}_3, \mathbf{v}_4$  clearly linearly ind.*

*aim: show  $\mathbf{v}_3, \mathbf{v}_4 \in \text{span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2\}$*

# Answer

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{v}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{v}_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Hint. Show that  $\mathbf{v}_3$  and  $\mathbf{v}_4$  are in the span of  $\mathbf{v}_1$  and  $\mathbf{v}_2$

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

$$2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$2\mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_2 = \mathbf{v}_4$$

# Objectives

1. Discuss the coordinate systems.
2. Introduce the fundamental notion of dimension, which quantifies how "large" a space is
3. Relate the dimension of the column space and the null space of a matrix

# Keywords

basis

column space

null space

coordinate system

change of basis

dimension

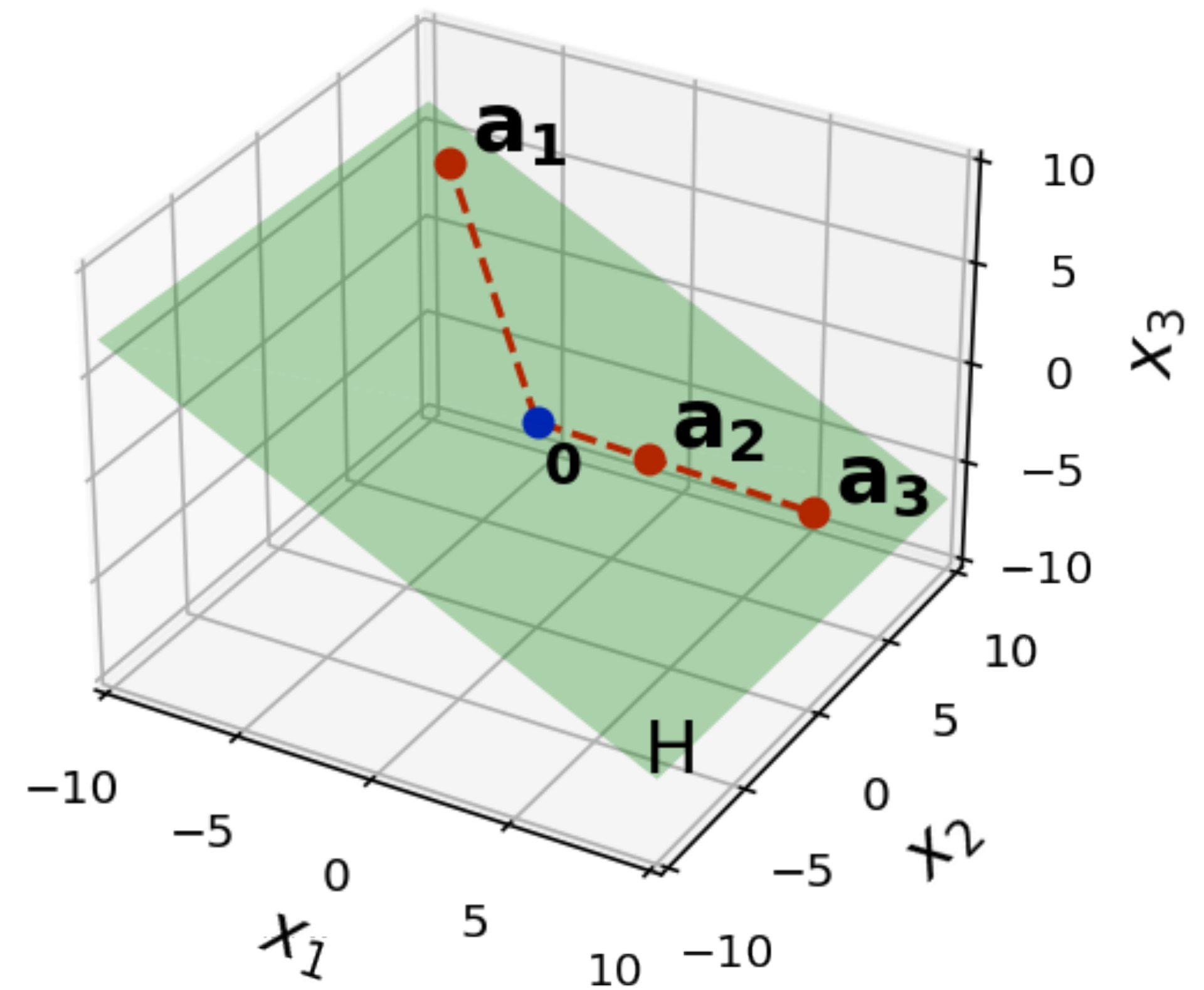
rank

rank theorem

invertible matrix theorem (extended)

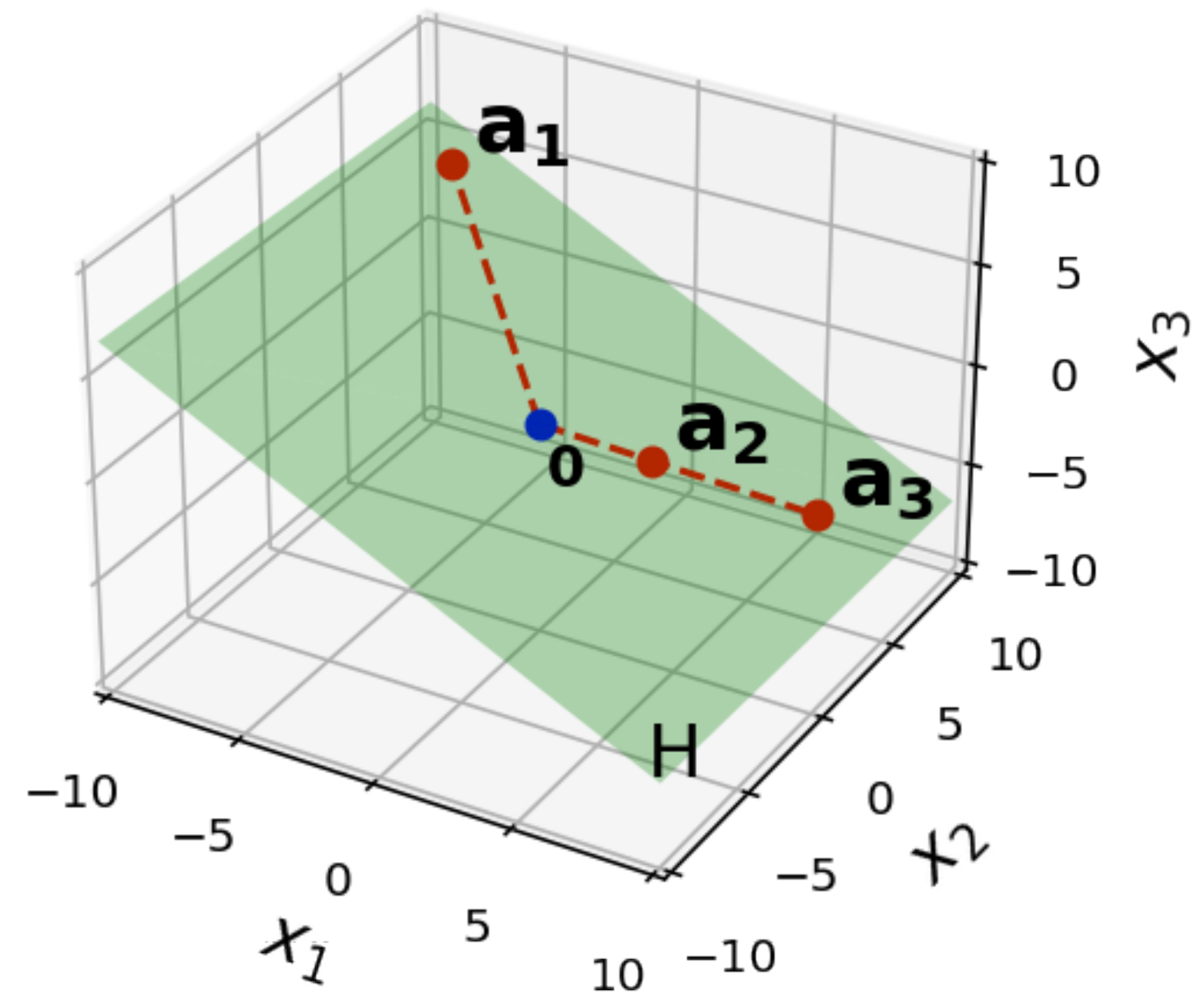
# Recap

# Recall: The Idea Behind Subspaces



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"sub" means "part of" or "below"

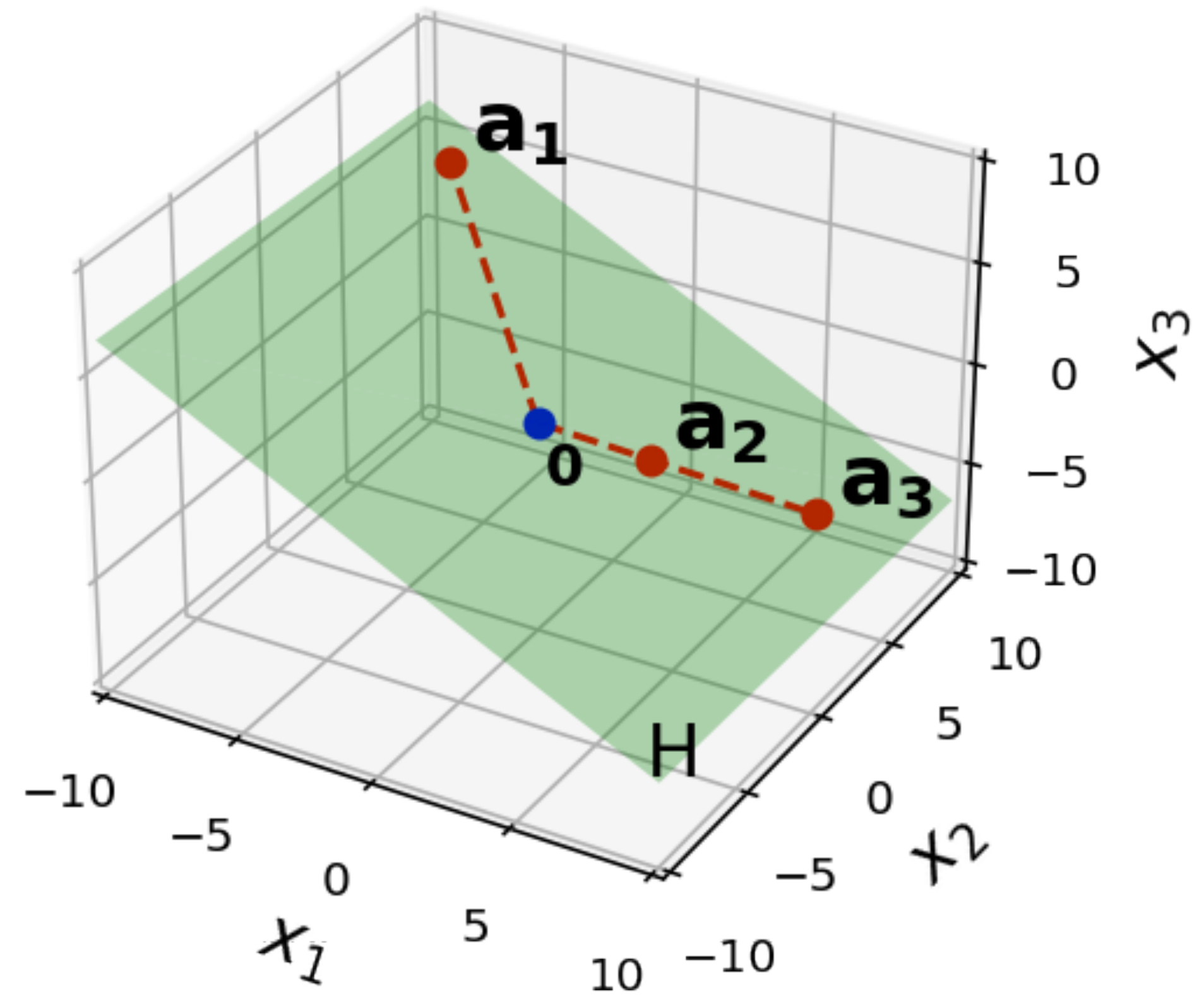




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A plane in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  looks like  
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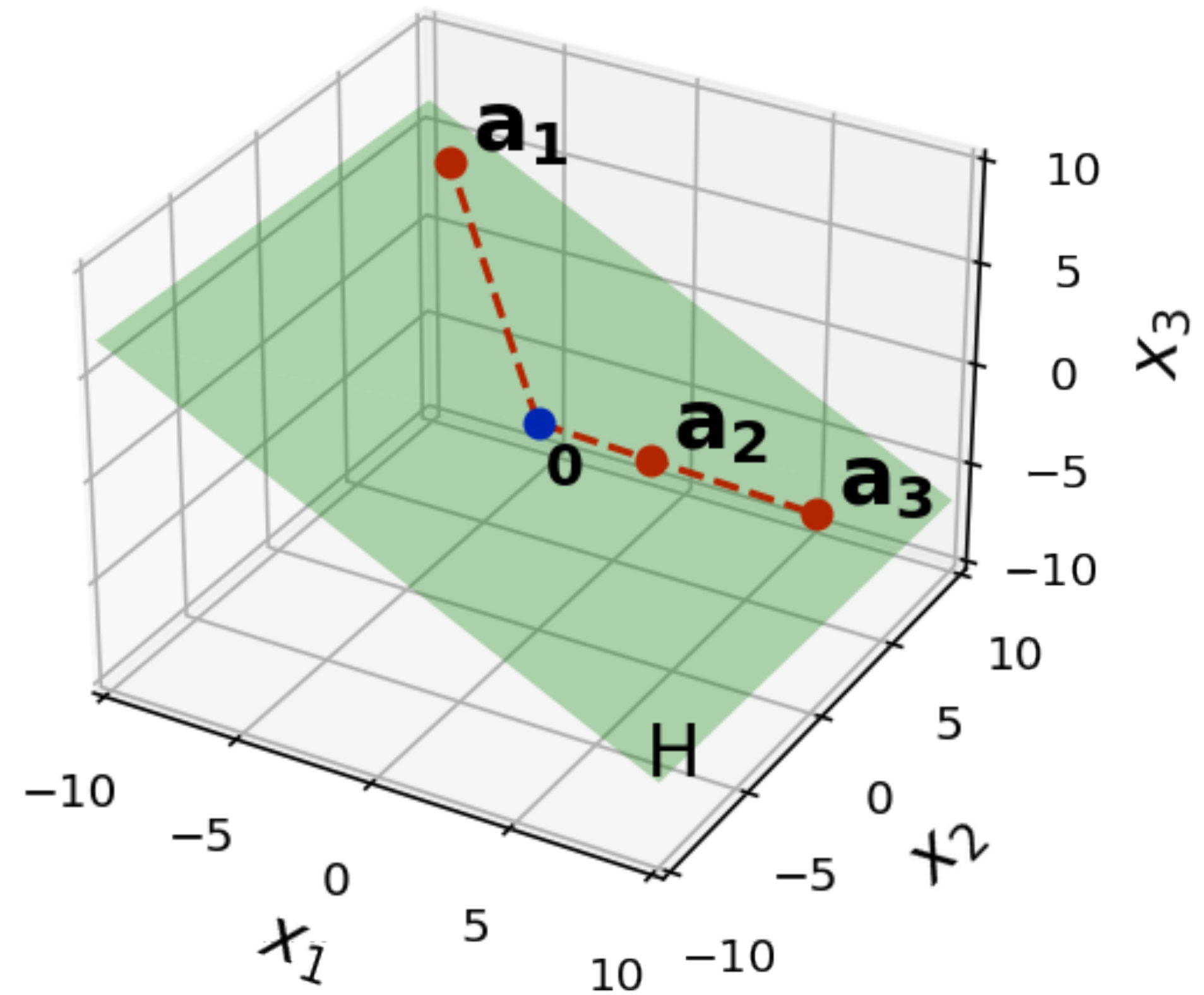


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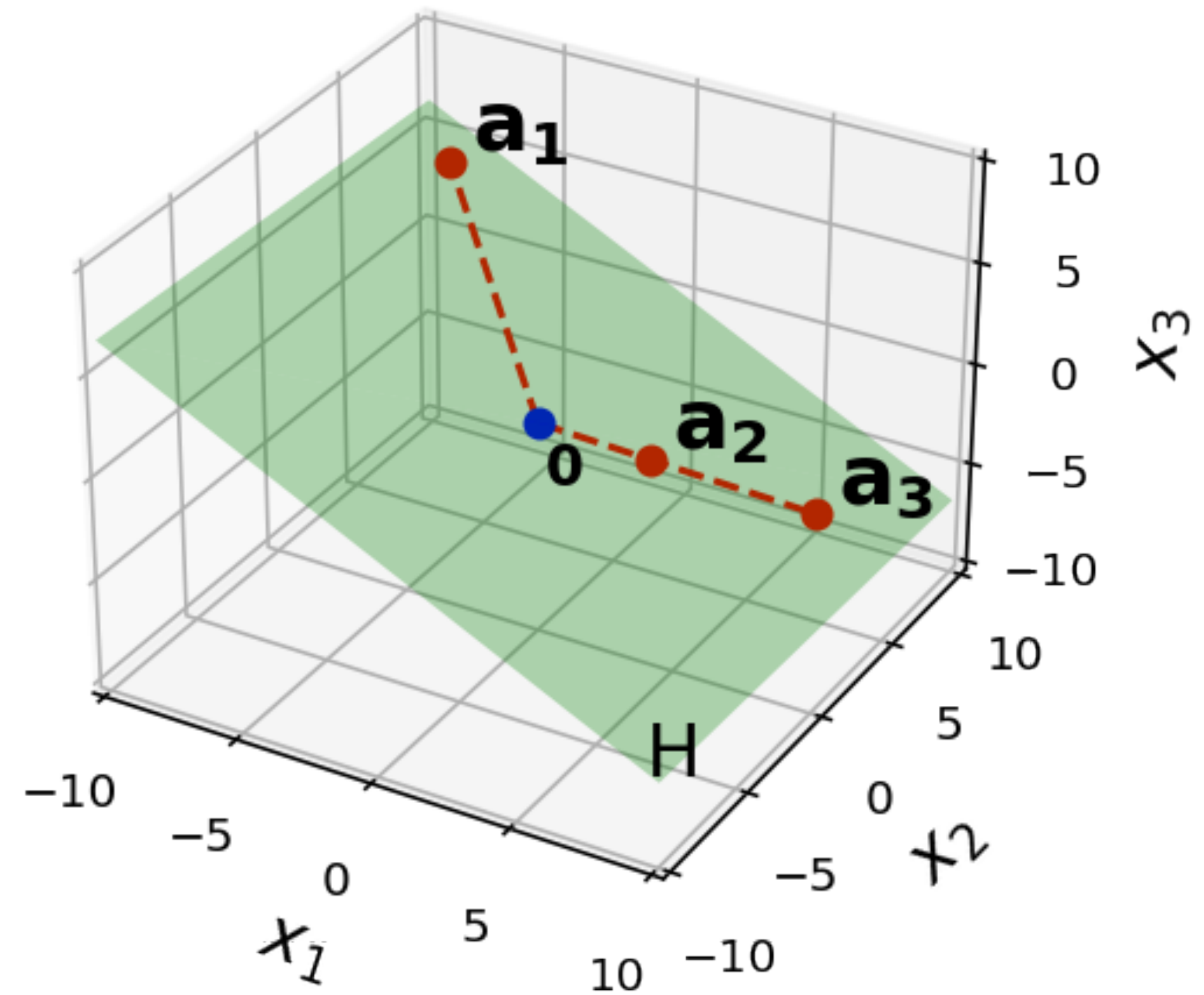
# Recall: The Idea Behind Subspaces

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Subspaces *generalize* of this idea.

For example, there can be a "possibly tilted copy" of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  sitting in  $\mathbb{R}^5$



# Recall: Subspace (Algebraic Definition)

**Definition.** A subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is a set  $H$  of vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  such that

1. for every  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  in  $H$ , the vector  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$  is in  $H$
2. for every  $\mathbf{u}$  in  $H$  and scalar  $c$ , the vector  $c\mathbf{u}$  is in  $H$

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**!! Subspaces must "live" somewhere !!**

# Column Space

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**The column space of a matrix is the range of the linear transformation it implements.**

# Subspace of What?

$$m \left| \begin{array}{ccccc} & & n & & \\ \hline & & & & \\ \mathbf{a}_1 & \mathbf{a}_2 & \cdots & \mathbf{a}_{n-1} & \mathbf{a}_n \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \end{array} \right]$$

$c_1\mathbf{a}_1 + c_2\mathbf{a}_2 + \dots c_n\mathbf{a}_n$  **is a**  
**vector in  $\mathbb{R}^m$**

$\text{Col}(A)$

is a subspace of

$\mathbb{R}^m$

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**The null space of a matrix  $A$  is the set of all vectors that are mapped to the zero vector by  $A$ .**

# Subspace of What?

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{rows } m \\ \left| \begin{array}{c} \overbrace{A}^{n \text{ columns}} \\ \mathbf{v} \end{array} \right. = \mathbf{0} \\ \begin{array}{cc} m \times n & n \times 1 \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} m \times 1 \end{array} \end{array}$$

**v** is a vector  
in  $\mathbb{R}^n$

$\text{Nul}(A)$

is a subspace of

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# Recall: Basis



# Recall: Basis

**Definition.** A **basis** for a subspace  $H$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is a linearly independent set  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k\}$  of vectors that spans  $H$  (in symbols:  $H = \text{span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k\}$ ).

A basis is a *minimal* set of vectors which spans all of  $H$ .

# Recall: Parametric Solutions

We can think of our general form solution as a (linear) transformation.

$$x_1 = 2x_2 + x_4 - 3x_5$$

$x_2$  is free

$$x_3 = (-2)x_4 + 2x_5$$

$x_4$  is free

$x_5$  is free

$\equiv$

$$\begin{bmatrix} s \\ t \\ u \end{bmatrix}$$

$\mapsto$

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**!! in the case of homogeneous equations !!**

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3. The resulting vectors form a basis for  $\text{Nul}(A)$ .



## Recall: Column Space and Reduced Echelon form

$$[\mathbf{a}_1 \quad \mathbf{a}_2 \quad \mathbf{a}_3 \quad \mathbf{a}_4 \quad \mathbf{a}_5] \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 0 & -1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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**The idea.** What if we cover up the non-pivot columns?

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So the pivot columns are linearly independent.

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**Observation.**  $[2 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0]^T$  is a solution to the system  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ .

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**In general, every non-pivot column of  $A$  can be written as a linear combination pivots in front of it.**

This tells us that  $\mathbf{a}_1$  and  $\mathbf{a}_3$  span  $\text{Col}(A)$ .

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**The takeaway.** The pivot columns of  $A$  form a basis for  $\text{Col}(A)$ .

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**The takeaway.** The pivot columns of  $A$  form a basis for  $\text{Col}(A)$ .

**!! IMPORTANT !!**

**Choose the columns of  $A$ .**

*( $\mathbf{e}_1$  and  $\mathbf{e}_2$  do not necessarily form a basis for  $\text{Col}(A)$ )*

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1. Find the pivot columns in an echelon form of  $A$ .
2. The associated columns in  $A$  form a basis for  $\text{Col}(A)$ .



# Example

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 19 & 0 & -4 \\ 1 & 0 & 9 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 14 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 9 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -5 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

*Find a bases for the column space and null space of  $A$ .*

**Answer**

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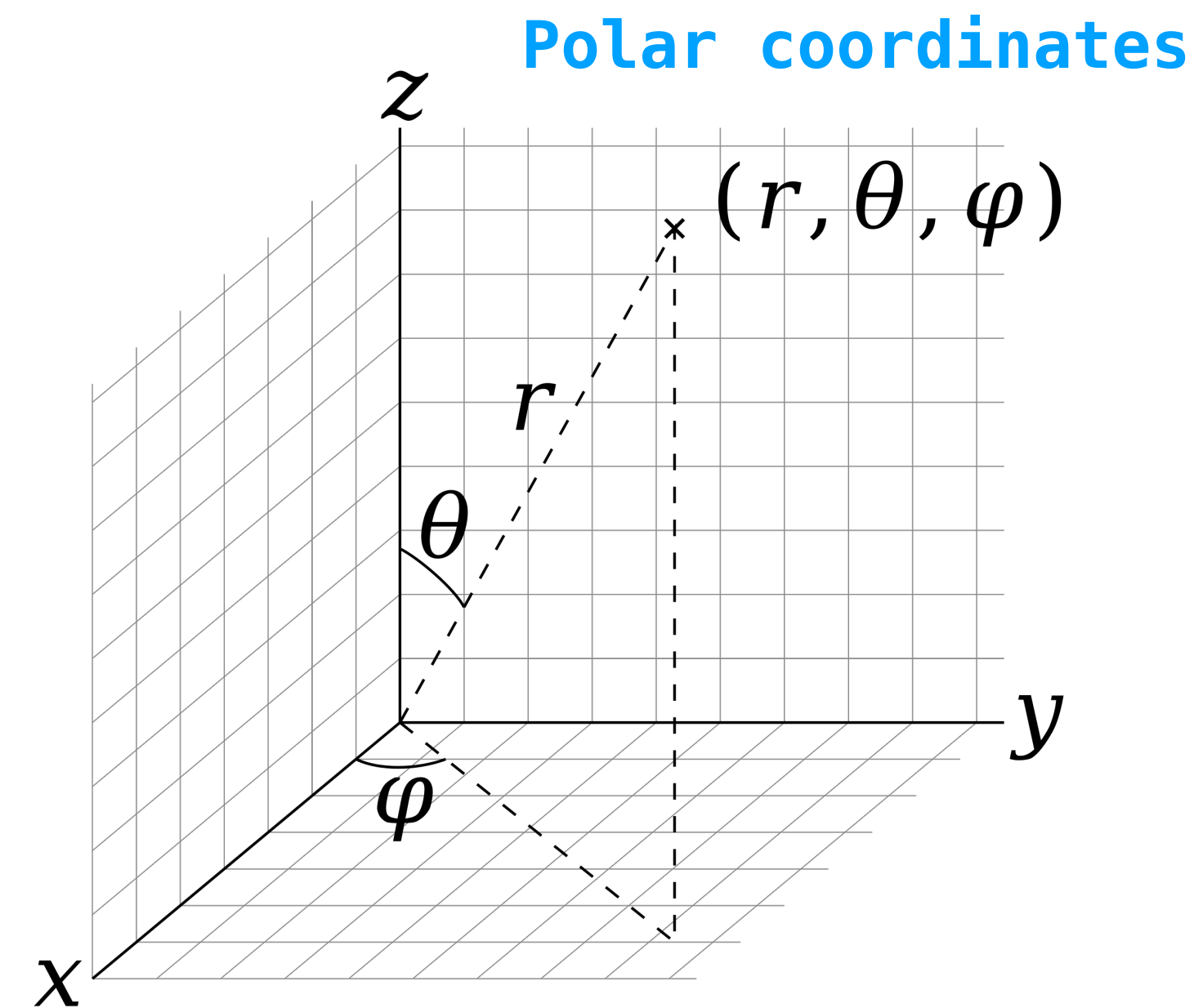
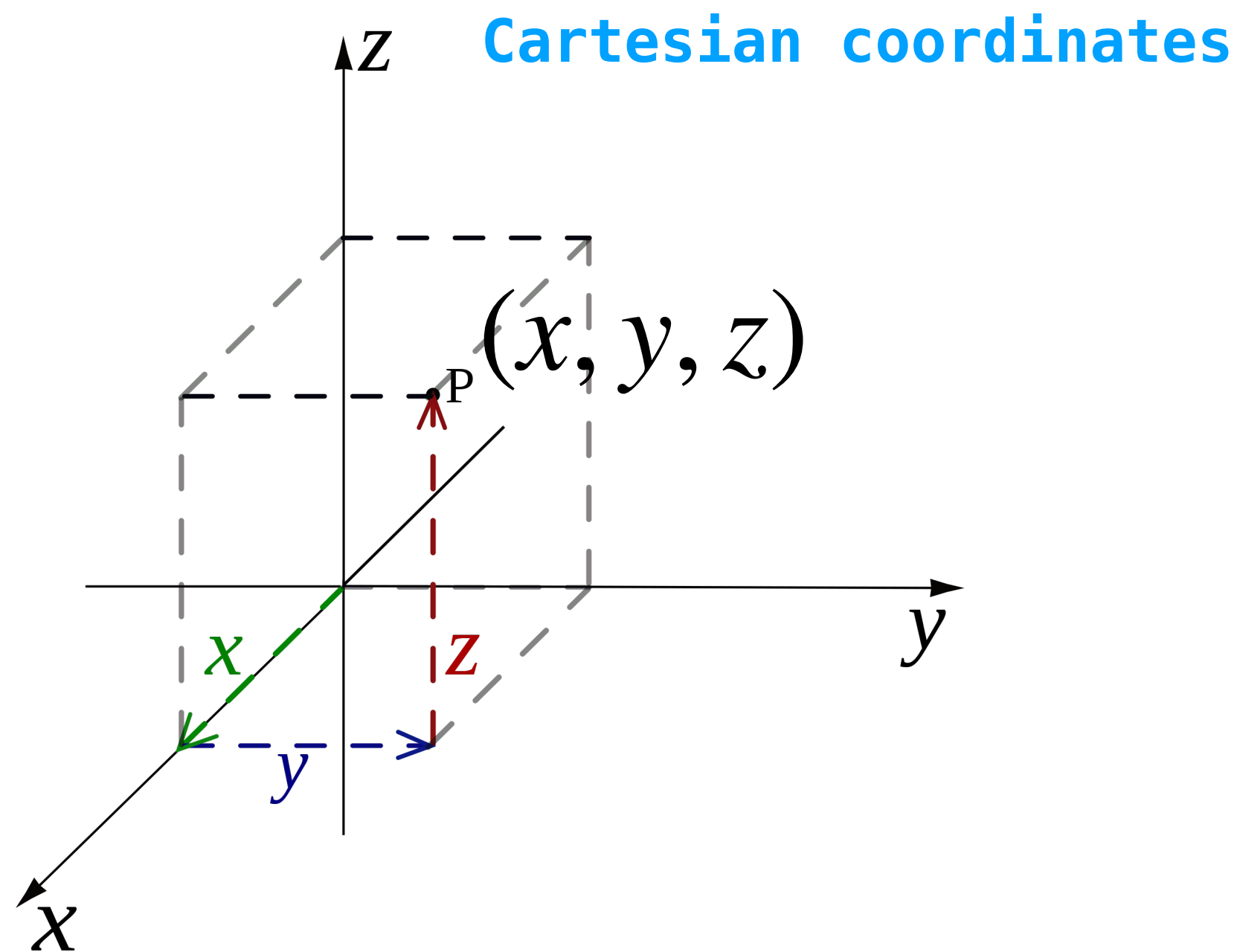
moving on...

# Coordinate Systems

# At a High Level

A coordinate system is a way of representing positions in terms of a sequence of numbers.

Examples.



# Question (Conceptual)\*

\*And a bit of a trick question

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*Is  $(2.3, 0.01, 5)$  a polar coordinate or a cartesian coordinate?*

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**This question is non-sensical.**

It's just a sequence of numbers. We need to be *told* if it should be interpreted in the **polar** coordinate system or the **Cartesian** coordinate system.

# Bases define Coordinate Systems

Given a basis  $\mathcal{B}$  of a subspace  $H$ , there is **exactly one way** to write every vector in  $H$  as a linear combination of vectors in  $\mathcal{B}$ .

Verify:

# Bases define Coordinate Systems

Given a basis  $\mathcal{B}$  of a subspace  $H$ , there is **exactly one way** to write every vector in  $H$  as a linear combination of vectors in  $\mathcal{B}$ .

Every basis provides a way to write down *coordinates* of a vector.

And every time we write down a vector, we are **assuming a coordinate system**.

what do we mean by this?

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Then one day, you get tired of talking about "abstract" vectors, you want to work with *numbers*.



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$$\mathbf{v} = 2\mathbf{b}_1 + 3\mathbf{b}_2 + \dots + (-0.1)\mathbf{b}_n$$

$$\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ \vdots \\ -0.1 \end{bmatrix}$$

and then choose those weights as a representation of  $\mathbf{v}$  as a sequence of numbers

**But wait...**

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$$\mathbf{v} = (-10)\mathbf{c}_1 + (4.3)\mathbf{c}_2 + \dots + 0\mathbf{c}_n = \begin{bmatrix} -10 \\ 4.3 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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**Every basis defined a different coordinate system**

# Standard Basis

The standard basis defines the Cartesian coordinate system for  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{bmatrix} = v_1 \mathbf{e}_1 + v_2 \mathbf{e}_2 + \dots + v_n \mathbf{e}_n$$

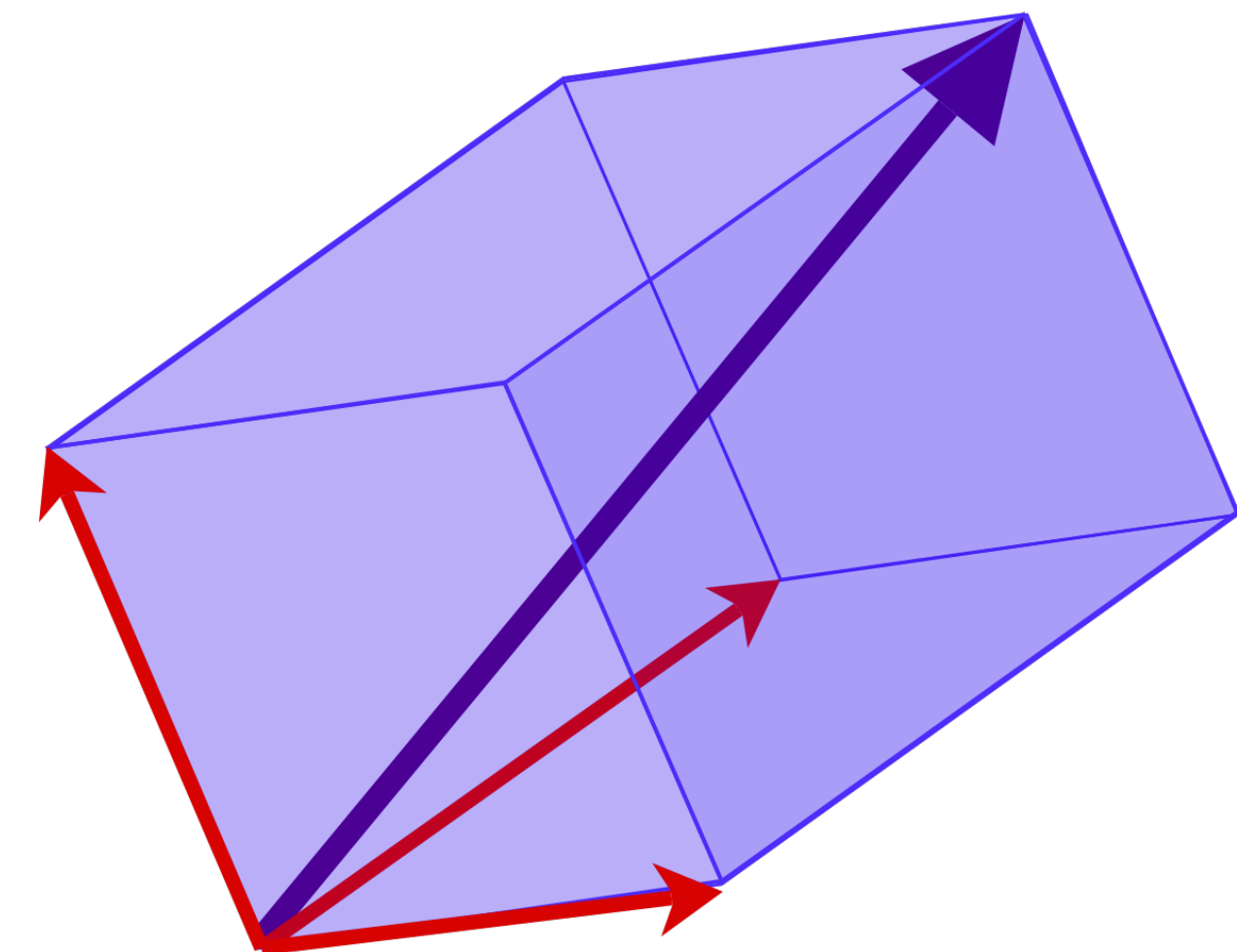
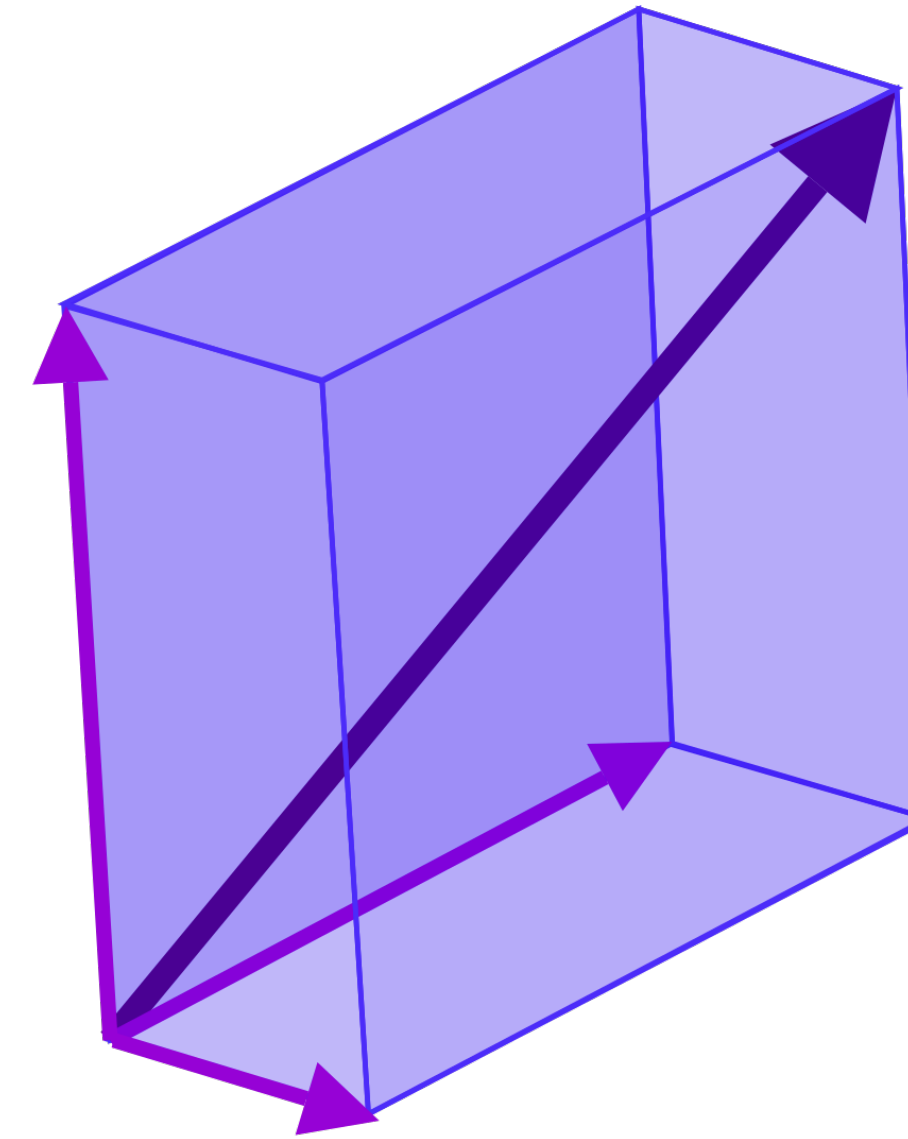
*Column vectors are just weights for a linear combination of the standard basis*

but we can also use  
different coordinate systems

# How to think about this

Changing the coordinate system "warps space".

**The question is:** how do we represent a vector  $\mathbf{v}$  in the warped space if we wanted it to "be in the same place"?



# Coordinate Vectors

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$$[\mathbf{v}]_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ \vdots \\ a_k \end{bmatrix}$$

# Coordinate Vectors and the Standard Basis

When we write down a vector  $\mathbf{v}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , we're really writing down a coordinate vector **relative to the standard basis  $\mathcal{E}$** .

$$[\mathbf{v}]_{\mathcal{E}} = \mathbf{v}$$

# How do we find coordinate vectors?

For an arbitrary basis  $\mathcal{B}$ , to determine  $[\mathbf{v}]_{\mathcal{B}}$ , we need to find weights  $a_1, \dots, a_k$  such that

$$a_1 \mathbf{b}_1 + \dots + a_k \mathbf{b}_k = \mathbf{v}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \vec{\mathcal{B}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ \vdots \\ a_k \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \vec{v} \end{bmatrix}$$

This is just solving a vector equation.

# Example: 2D Case

Write the coordinate vector for  $\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$  relative to the basis  $\mathcal{B} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  for  $\mathbb{R}^2$

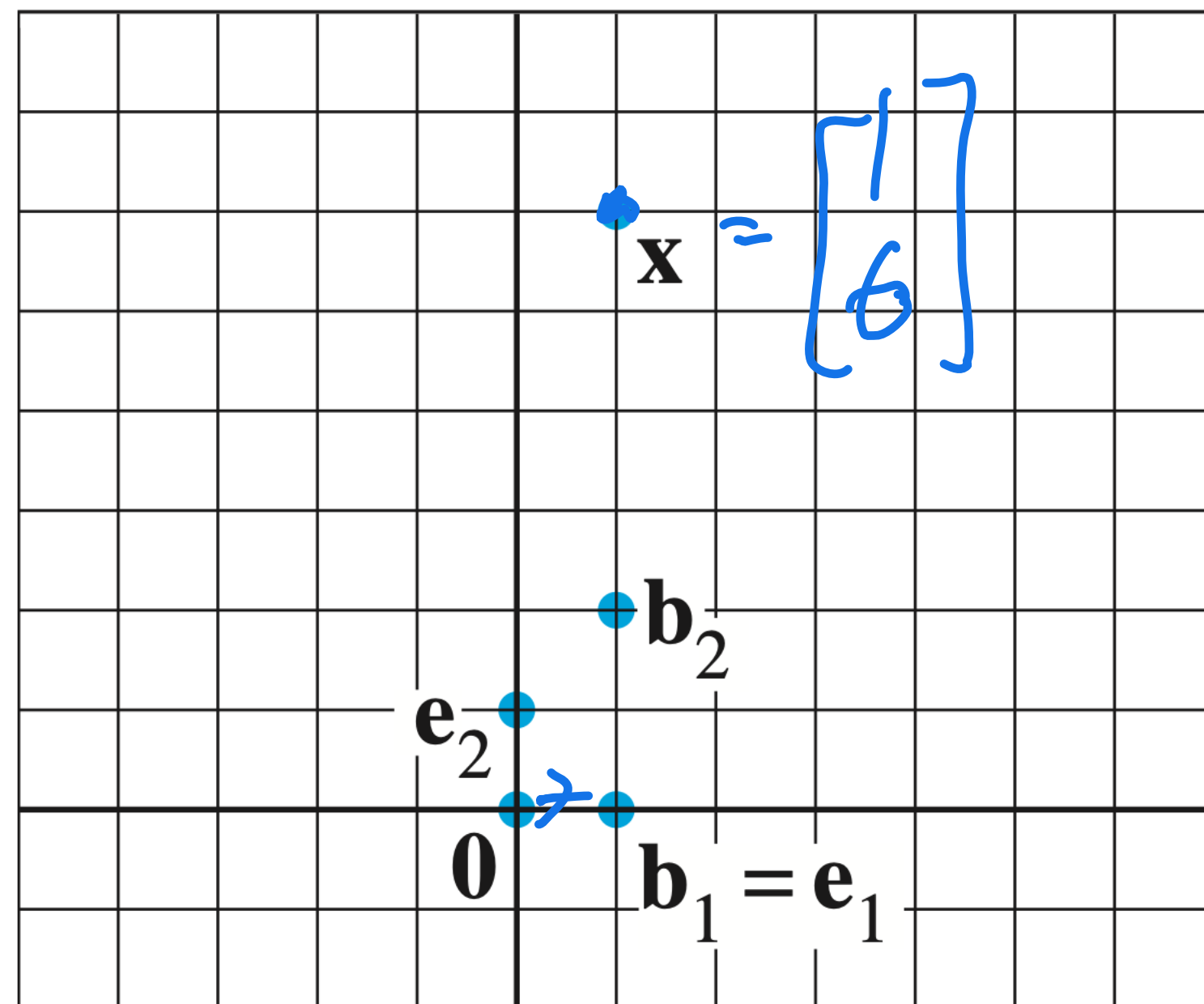
$$[\vec{v}]_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 6 \end{array} \right] \sim \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \end{array} \right] \sim \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \end{array} \right]$$

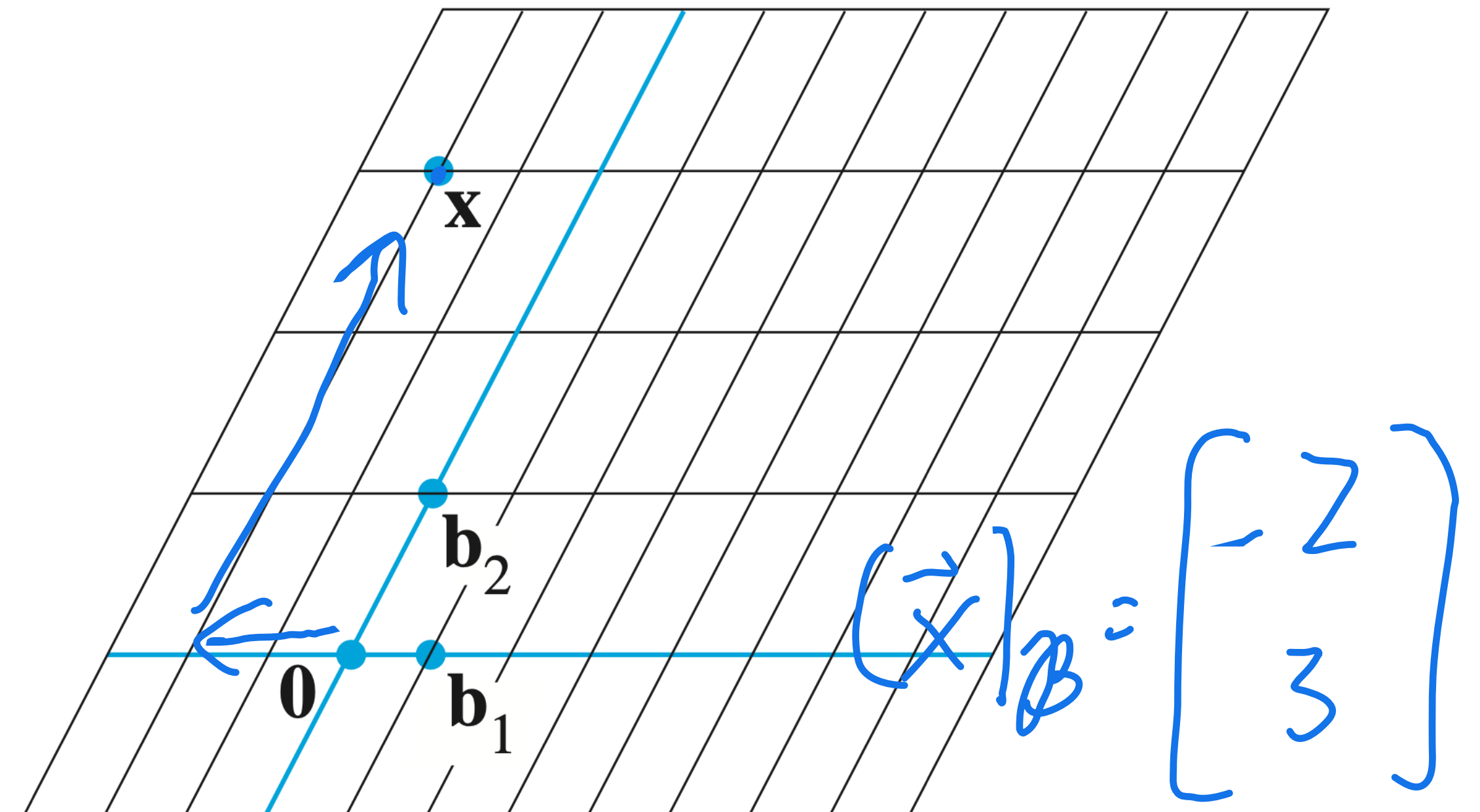
$$\begin{aligned} a_1 &= -2 \\ a_2 &= 3 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} \stackrel{ov}{=} -2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + 3 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Example: 2D Case (Geometrically)



**FIGURE 1** Standard graph paper.



**FIGURE 2**  $\mathcal{B}$ -graph paper.

$\mathcal{B}$  defines a "different grid for our graph paper"

# How To: Coordinate Vectors

**Question.** Find the coordinate vector for  $\mathbf{v}$  in the subspace  $H$  relative to the basis  $\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_k$ .

**Solution.** Solve the vector equation

$$x_1 \mathbf{b}_1 + \dots + x_k \mathbf{b}_k = \mathbf{v}$$

A solution  $(a_1, \dots, a_k)$  means

$$[\mathbf{v}]_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ \vdots \\ a_k \end{bmatrix}$$

# Example: 3D Case

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 12 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

Find the coordinate vector for  $\mathbf{u}$  relative to the basis  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2\}$  of a subspace  $H$  (of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ):

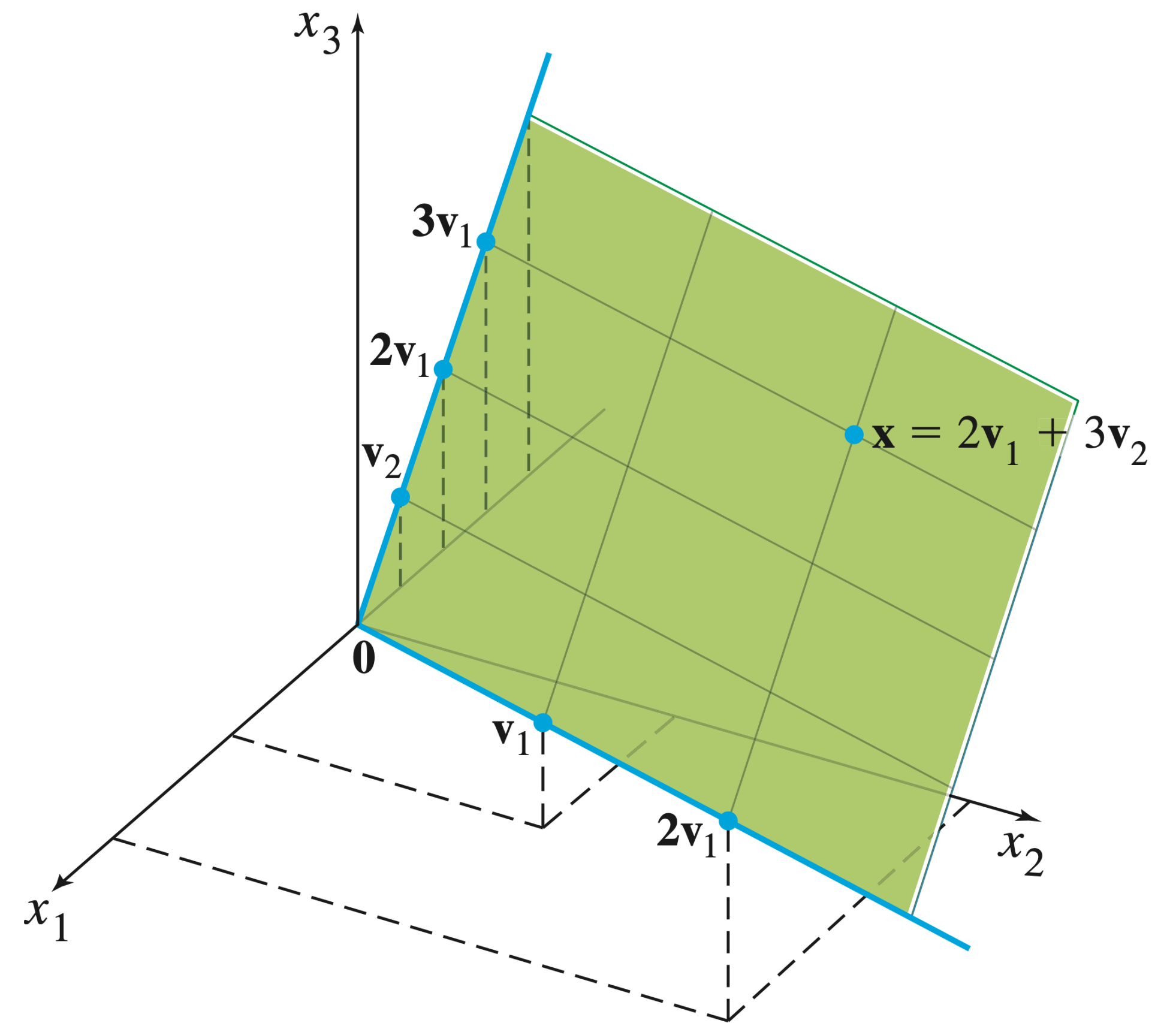
$$[\mathbf{u}]_{\mathcal{B}}$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 3 & -1 & 3 \\ 6 & 0 & 12 \\ 2 & 1 & 7 \end{array} \right] \sim \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & -2 & -4 \\ 6 & 0 & 12 \\ 2 & 1 & 7 \end{array} \right] \sim \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & -2 & -4 \\ 0 & 12 & 36 \\ 0 & 5 & 15 \end{array} \right] \sim \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & -2 & -4 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

$$3 \times 2 \quad (2 \times 1)$$

$$[\mathbf{u}]_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

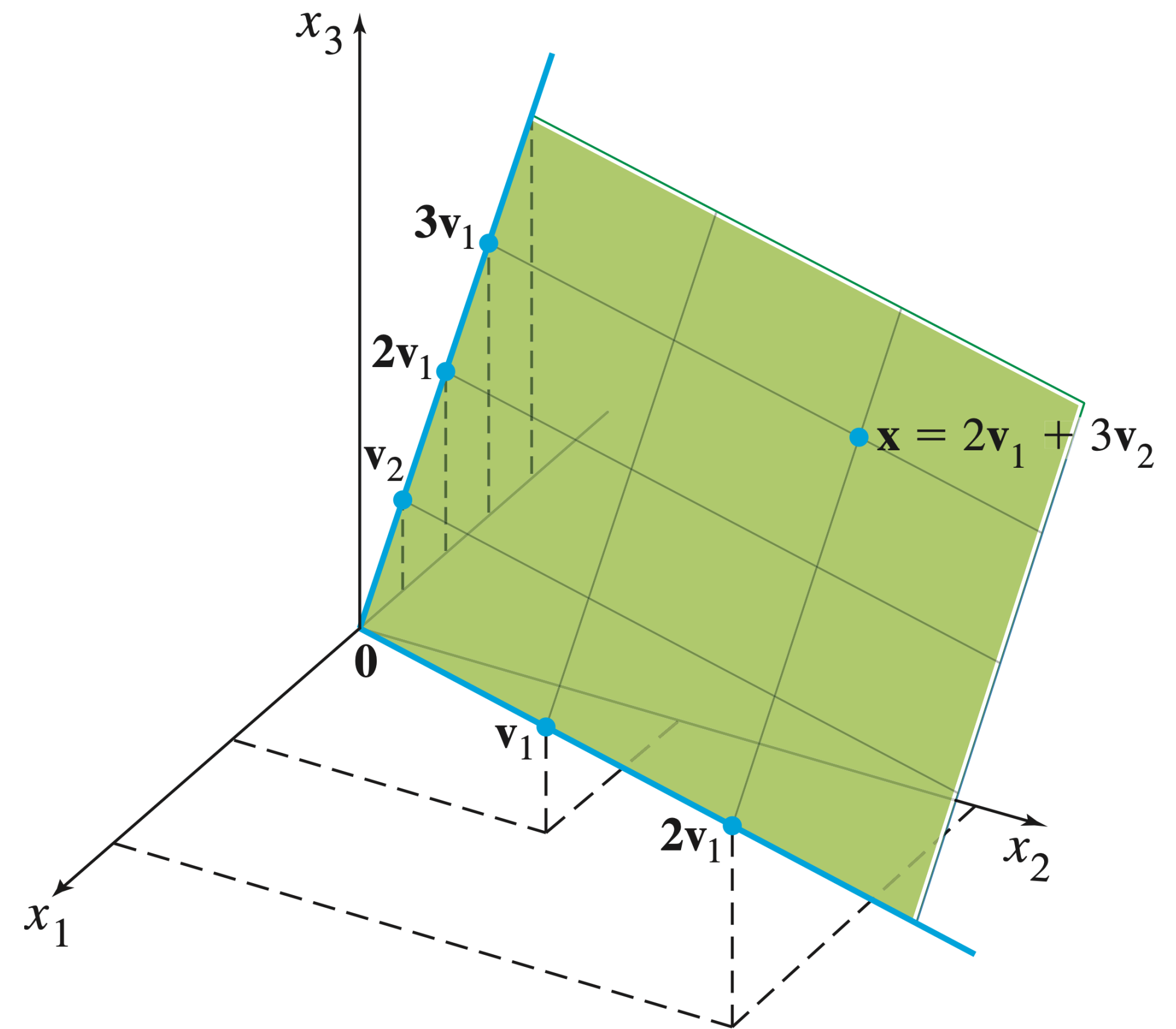
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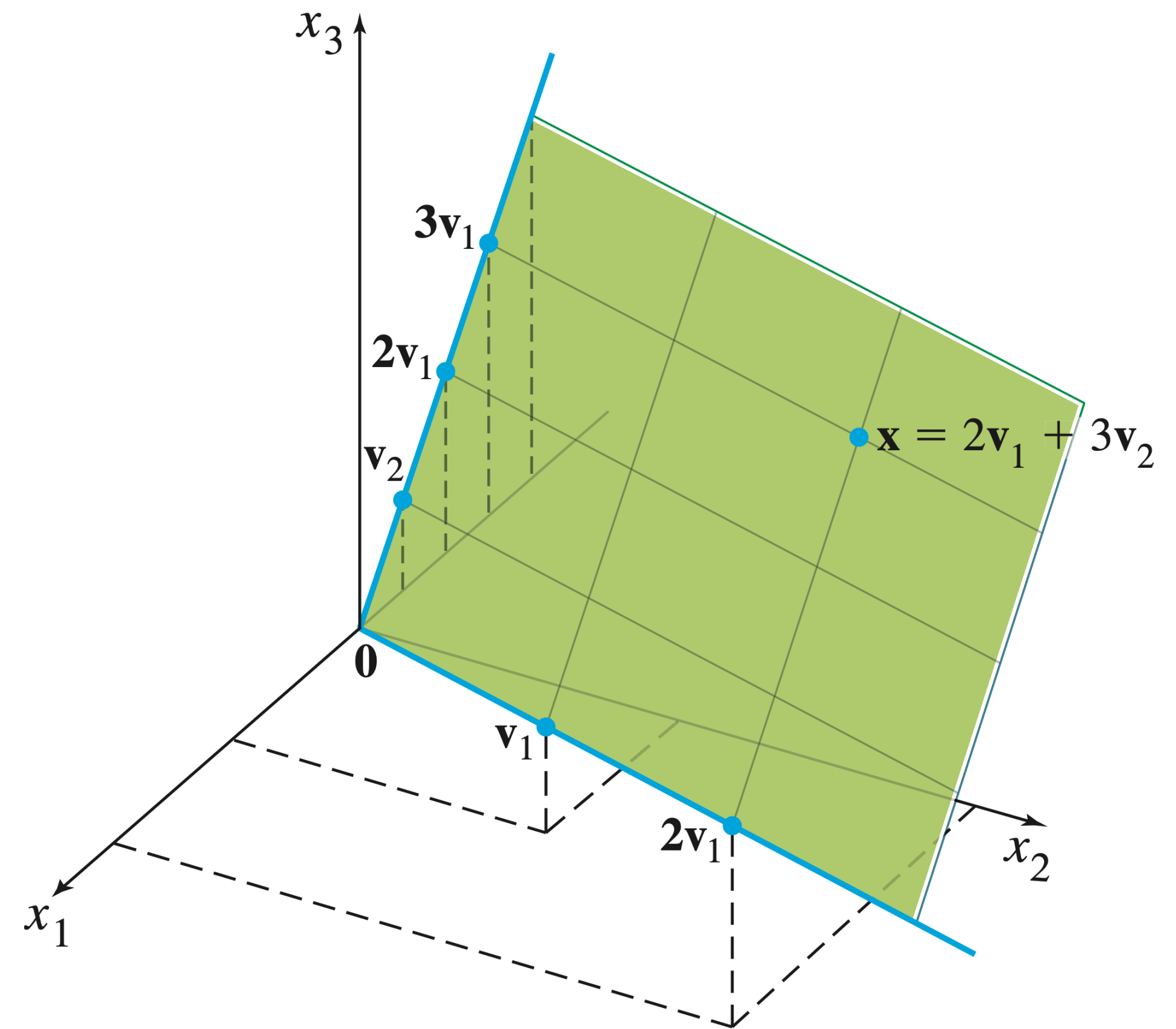
In the previous example  $\mathbf{x} \mapsto [\mathbf{x}]_{\mathcal{B}}$  is a one-to-one correspondence from  $H$  to  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . This is also sometimes called an **isomorphism**.



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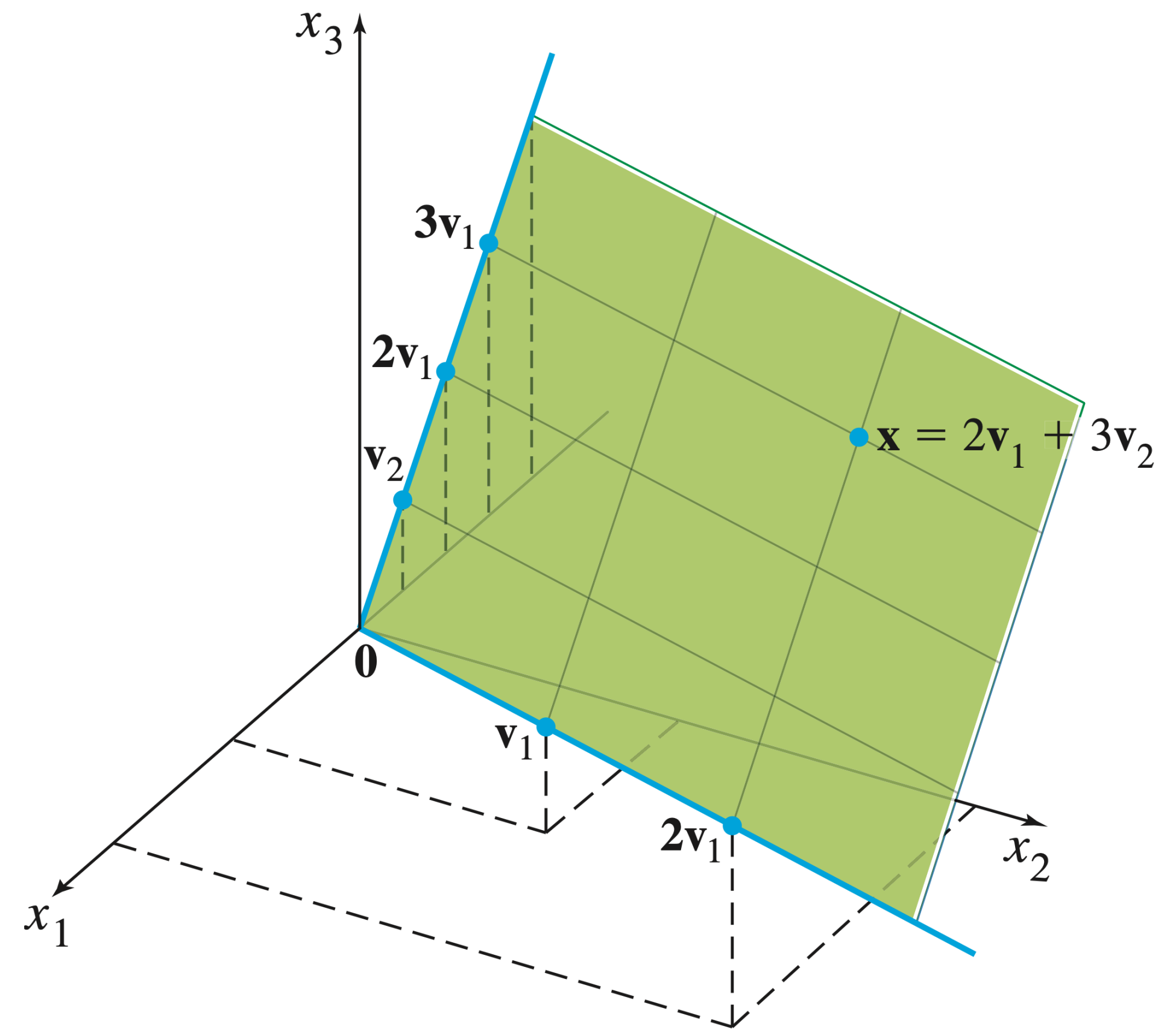


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So  $\text{span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2\}$  is *isomorphic* to  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .



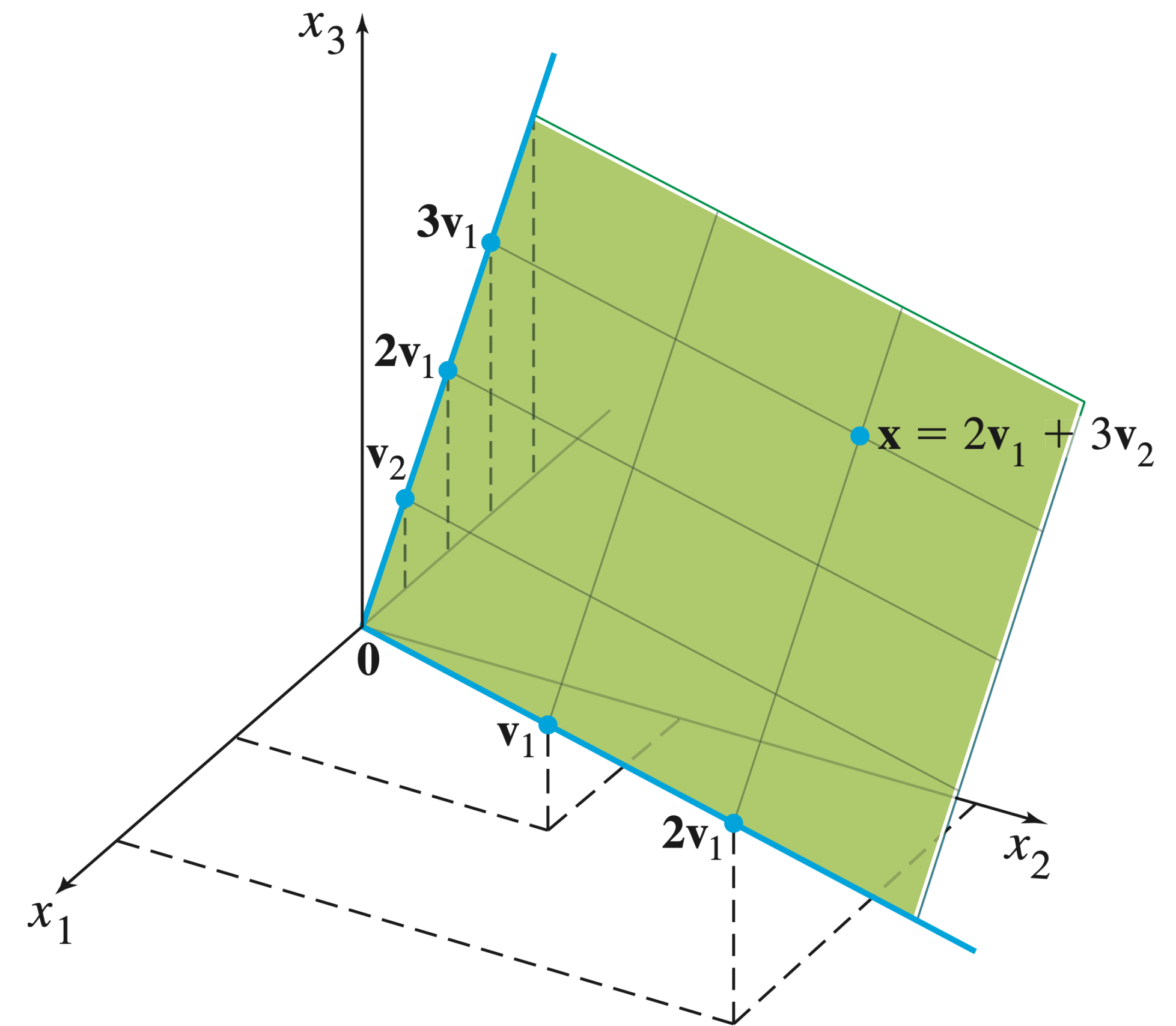
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So  $\text{span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2\}$  is *isomorphic* to  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

This is a formal way of saying that  $\text{span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2\}$  is a "copy of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ ."



# Question

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Suppose  $[\mathbf{u}]_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\rightarrow \vec{u} = 2\vec{v}_1 - 2\vec{v}_2$ , where  $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2\}$ . Find  $\mathbf{u}$ .

$$2v_1 - 2v_2 = 2 \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} - 2 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 12 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Answer**

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$[\mathbf{u}]_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Dimension and Rank

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**This number is a measure of how "large"  $H$  is.**

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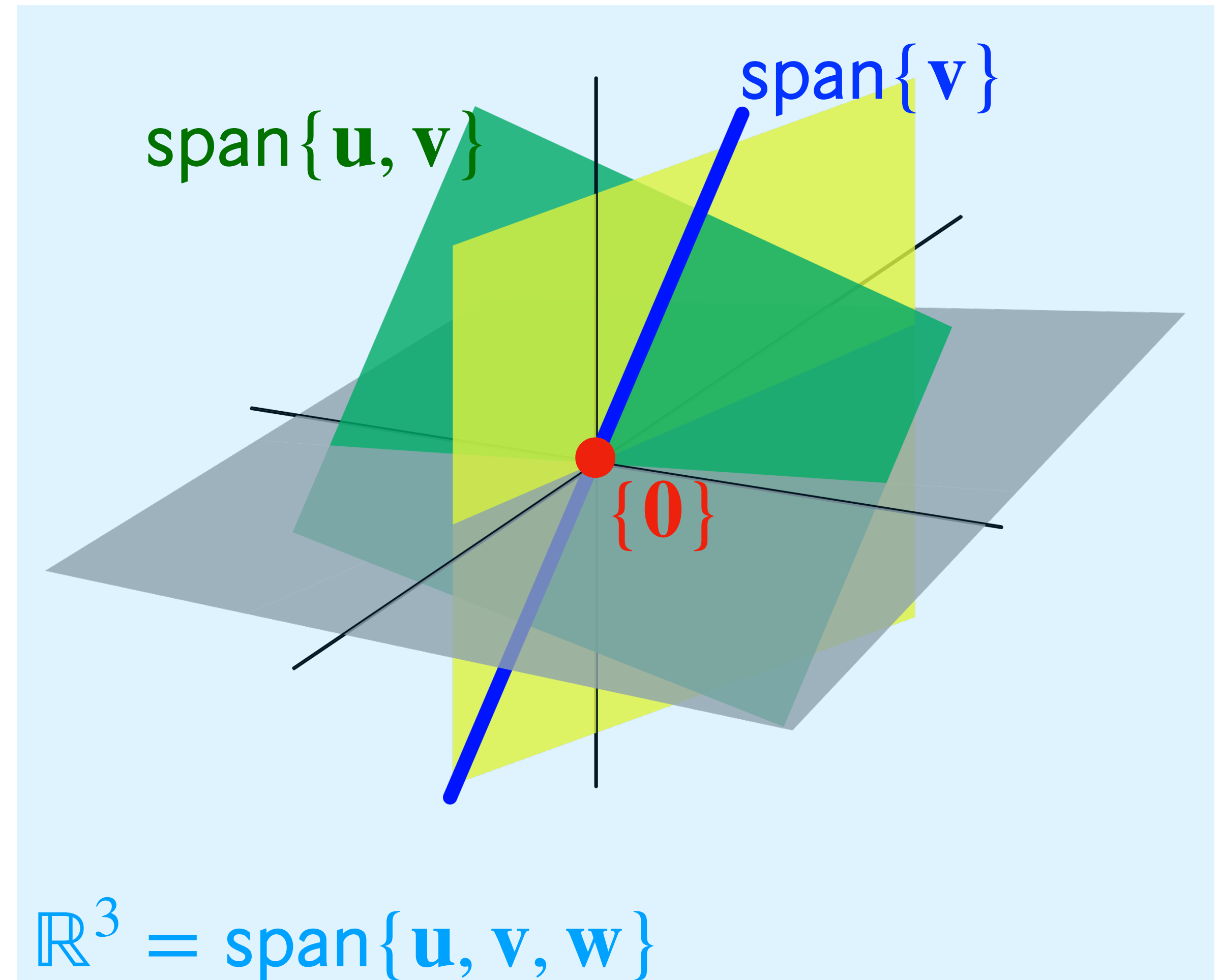
This should confirm our intuitions:

- » a plane (through the origin) is a 2D subspace
- » a line (through the origin) is a 1D subspace

# Recall: Subspace in $\mathbb{R}^3$ (Geometrically)

There are only 4 kinds of subspaces of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ :

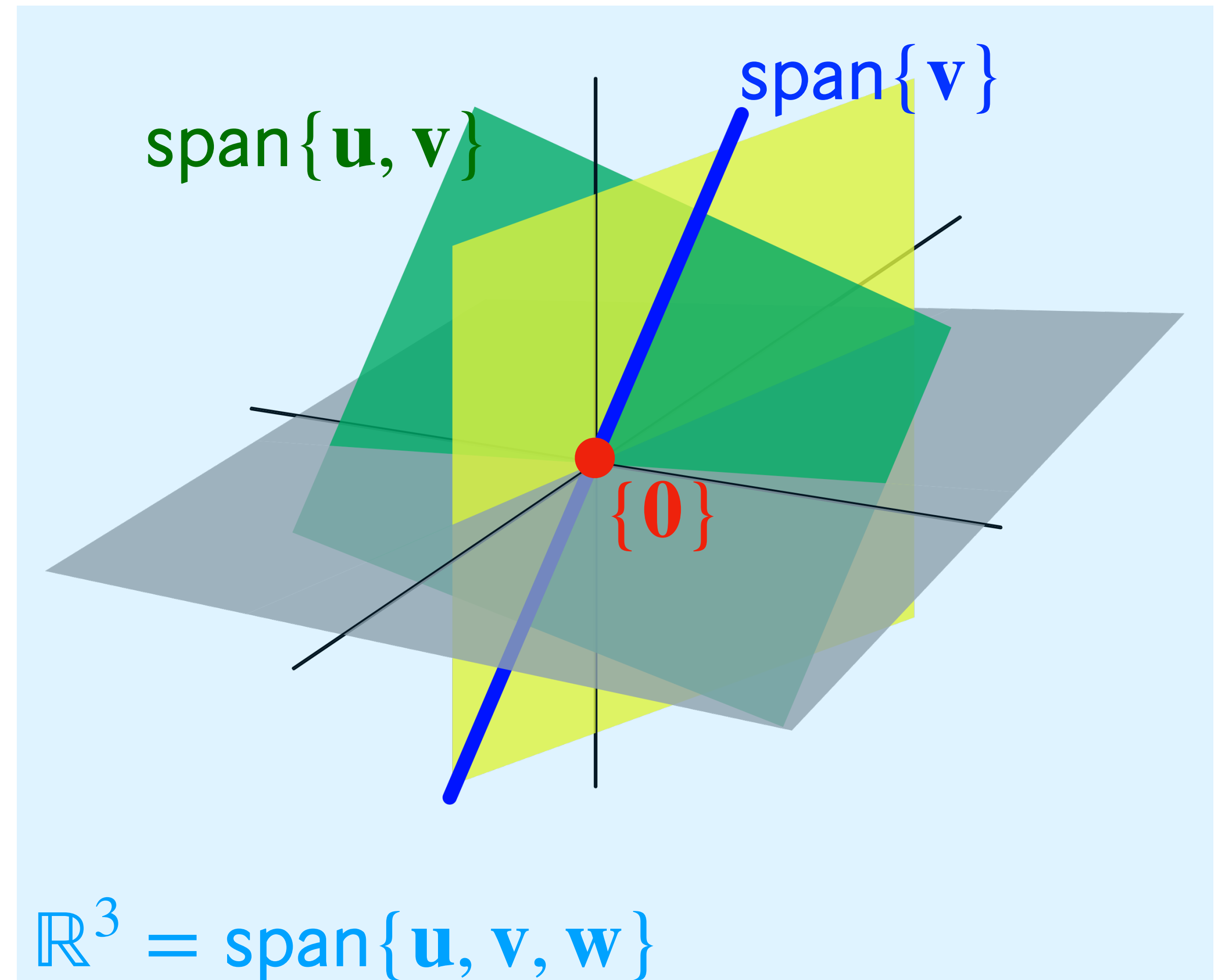
1.  $\{0\}$  just the origin
2. lines (through the origin)
3. planes (through the origin)
4. All of  $\mathbb{R}^3$



# Recall: Subspace in $\mathbb{R}^3$ (Geometrically)

There are only 4 kinds of subspaces of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ :

1. 0-dimensional subspace
2. 1-dimensional subspaces
3. 2-dimensional subspaces
4. 3-dimensional subspace



How does this connect to  
null space and column space?

# Recall: An Observation

The *number* of vectors in the basis we found is the same as the number of free variables in a general form solution.

$$x_1 = 2x_2 + x_4 - 3x_5$$

$x_2$  is free

$$x_3 = (-2)x_4 + 2x_5$$

$x_4$  is free

$x_5$  is free

$\equiv$

$$\begin{bmatrix} s \\ t \\ u \end{bmatrix}$$

$\mapsto$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2s + t - 3u \\ s \\ (-2)t + 2u \\ t \\ u \end{bmatrix}$$

# Dimension of the Null Space

The **dimension** of  $\text{Nul}(A)$  is the number of free variables in a general form solution to  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ .

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# Recall: An Observation

The *number* of vectors in the basis we found is the same as the number of basic variable or equivalently the number of pivot columns.

$$[\mathbf{a}_1 \quad \mathbf{a}_2 \quad \mathbf{a}_3 \quad \mathbf{a}_4 \quad \mathbf{a}_5] \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 0 & -1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Handwritten annotations in blue:

- $\dim(\text{Col } A)$  with arrows pointing to the first and third columns of the matrix.
- $\dim(\text{Nul } A)$  with arrows pointing to the second, fourth, and fifth columns of the matrix.



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# Rank

**Definition.** The rank of a matrix  $A$ , written  $\text{rank}(A)$  or  $\text{rank } A$ , is the dimension of  $\text{Col}(A)$ .

**This is just terminology.**

# Rank-Nullity Theorem

**Theorem.** For an  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$ ,

$$\text{rank}(A) + \dim(\text{Nul}(A)) = n$$

Verify:

**This is incredibly important.**

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For a  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$ , its columns space  $\text{Col}(A)$  *could* have  $n$  dimensions.



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**Example.** If a "line's worth of stuff" is pulled into the null space (and mapped to  $\mathbf{0}$ ) then

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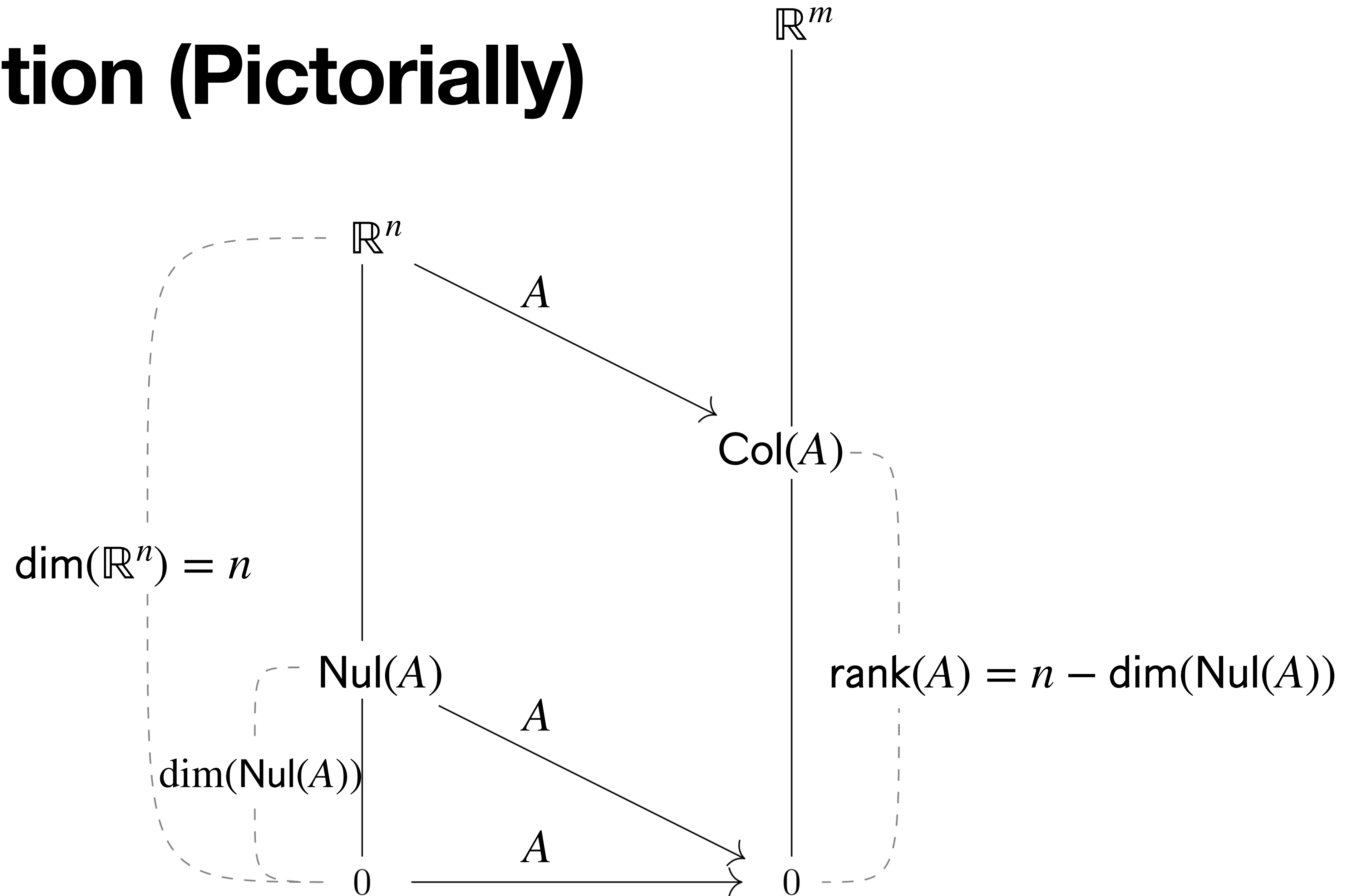
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**The null space "takes away" some of the dimensions of the column space.**

# The Intuition (Pictorially)



# Question (Conceptual)

Let  $A$  be a  $5 \times 7$  matrix such that  $\dim(\text{Nul}(A)) = 3$ .  
What is the dimension of  $\text{Col}(A)$ ?

$$\dim(\text{Col } A) + \dim(\text{Nul } A) = 7$$

$$5 \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \left[ \right] \end{array} \right.$$

max 5

4  
pivot columns  
 $\Rightarrow \dim(\text{Col } A) \leq 5$   
 $\Rightarrow \dim(\text{Nul } A) \geq 2$

**Answer: 4**

# Extending the IMT

**Theorem.** For an  $n \times n$  invertible matrix  $A$ , the following are logically equivalent (they must all be true or all be false).

- »  $\text{Col}(A) = \mathbb{R}^n$
- »  $\dim(\text{Col}(A)) = n$
- »  $\text{rank}(A) = n$
- »  $\text{Nul}(A) = \{\mathbf{0}\}$
- »  $\dim(\text{Nul}(A)) = 0$



# Summary

We can find bases for the column space and null space by looking at the reduced echelon form of a matrix.

Column vectors are written in terms of a coordinate system, which we can change.

Dimension is a measure of how large a space is.