


Linear dependency of a set of vectors

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Practice Assignment • 15 min

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1. In the lecture videos you saw that vectors are linearly dependent if it is possible to write one vector as a linear combination of the others. For example, the vectors **a**, **b** and **c** are linearly dependent if $\mathbf{a} = q_1 \mathbf{b} + q_2 \mathbf{c}$ where q_1 and q_2 are scalars.

1 / 1 point

Are the following vectors linearly dependent?

$$\mathbf{a} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

☒ Yes☐ No **Correct**

When there are two vectors we only need to check if one can be written as a scalar multiple of the other. We can see that the vectors are linearly dependent because $\mathbf{a} = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{b}$.

2. We say that two vectors are linearly independent if they are *not* linearly dependent, that is, we cannot write one of the vectors as a linear combination of the others. Be careful not to mix the two definitions up!

1 / 1 point

Are the following vectors linearly independent?

$$\mathbf{a} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$