

# Lecture 16. Sum of Subspaces

June 2023

## Dimension Theorem for Matrices

The following theorem interprets nullity in the context of a homogeneous linear system and establishes a fundamental relationship between rank and nullity of a matrix.

**THEOREM 16.1 (Dimension Theorem for Matrices)** If  $A$  is a matrix with  $n$  columns, then

$$\text{rank}(A) + \dim \text{null}(A) = n. \quad (1)$$

**Proof.** Since  $A$  has  $n$  columns, the homogeneous linear system  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  has  $n$  unknowns (variables). These fall into two distinct categories: the leading variables and the free variables. Thus,

$$(\text{number of leading variables}) + (\text{number of free variables}) = n$$

But the number of leading variables is the same as the number of leading 1's in any row echelon form of  $A$ , which is the same as the rank of  $A$ .

To complete the proof, we will show that the number of free variables in the general solution of  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  is the same as the nullity of  $A$ , i.e., the dimension of the solution space of  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ .

Let  $\text{rank } A = r$ . Suppose the matrix  $A$  is put into a reduced row-echelon form. On relabelling variables, it can be represented in the following form:

$$\left( \begin{array}{c|c} I_r & C \end{array} \right) = \left( \begin{array}{cccc|cccc} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & c_{1,r+1} & c_{1,r+2} & \dots & c_{1,n} \\ 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 & c_{2,r+1} & c_{2,r+2} & \dots & c_{2,n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 & c_{r,r+1} & c_{r,r+2} & \dots & c_{r,n} \\ \hline 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

This means that the linear system  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  is equivalent to the following:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{lcl} x_1 & + c_{1,r+1}x_{r+1} + c_{1,r+2}x_{r+2} + \dots + c_{1,n}x_n & = 0, \\ x_2 & + c_{2,r+1}x_{r+1} + c_{2,r+2}x_{r+2} + \dots + c_{2,n}x_n & = 0, \\ & \dots & \\ x_r & + c_{r,r+1}x_{r+1} + c_{r,r+2}x_{r+2} + \dots + c_{r,n}x_n & = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

Here  $x_1, \dots, x_r$  represent leading variables, whereas  $x_{r+1}, \dots, x_n$  represent free variables, or parameters. This system can be solved for the leading variables in terms of the parameters as follows:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{lcl} x_1 & = & -c_{1,r+1}x_{r+1} - c_{1,r+2}x_{r+2} - \dots - c_{1,n}x_n, \\ x_2 & = & -c_{2,r+1}x_{r+1} - c_{2,r+2}x_{r+2} - \dots - c_{2,n}x_n, \\ & \dots & \\ x_r & = & -c_{r,r+1}x_{r+1} - c_{r,r+2}x_{r+2} - \dots - c_{r,n}x_n \end{array} \right.$$

or in the vector form as

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_r \\ x_{r+1} \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} = x_{r+1} \begin{pmatrix} -c_{1,r+1} \\ \vdots \\ -c_{r,r+1} \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \cdots + x_n \begin{pmatrix} -c_{1,n} \\ \vdots \\ -c_{r,n} \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2)$$

We assert that the vectors

$$\mathbf{y}_{r+1} = \begin{pmatrix} -c_{1,r+1} \\ \vdots \\ -c_{r,r+1} \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \dots, \quad \mathbf{y}_n = \begin{pmatrix} -c_{1,n} \\ \vdots \\ -c_{r,n} \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

form the basis of  $\text{null } A$ . Indeed, from (2) it follows that the vectors  $\mathbf{y}_{r+1}, \dots, \mathbf{y}_n$  span  $\text{null } A$ . We need to show that these vectors are linearly independent. Consider the vector equation

$$k_{r+1}\mathbf{y}_{r+1} + \cdots + k_n\mathbf{y}_n = \mathbf{0}.$$

Equating coordinates from  $i = r + 1$  to  $n$  implies that  $k_{r+1} = \cdots = k_n = 0$ .

Therefore, the vectors  $\mathbf{y}_{r+1}, \dots, \mathbf{y}_n$  form a basis for  $\text{null } A$ , and so  $\dim \text{null } A = n - r$ . Theorem follows.  $\square$

**THEOREM 16.2 (Fredholm Alternative Theorem)** A system of linear equations  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  is consistent if and only if  $\mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0}$  for every column vector  $\mathbf{y}$  such that  $A^T \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0}$ .

**Proof.** 1) Suppose the system  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  is consistent. This implies, by Consistency Theorem, that  $\mathbf{b}$  is in the column space of  $A$ , that is,  $\mathbf{b} = k_1 \mathbf{c}_1 + \cdots + k_n \mathbf{c}_n$ . If  $A^T \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0}$ , then  $\mathbf{c}_i^T \mathbf{y} = 0$  for every  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . Therefore,

$$\mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{y} = (k_1 \mathbf{c}_1 + \cdots + k_n \mathbf{c}_n)^T \mathbf{y} = k_1 \mathbf{c}_1^T \mathbf{y} + \cdots + k_n \mathbf{c}_n^T \mathbf{y} = 0.$$

2) Conversely, suppose  $\mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{y} = 0$  for every column vector  $\mathbf{y}$  such that  $A^T \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0}$ . This means that two linear systems

$$A^T \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{and} \quad (A|\mathbf{b})^T \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0}$$

have the same null space  $N$ . If  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^m$  and  $\dim N = k$ , then by Dimension Theorem,  $\text{rank}(A^T) + k = m$ . At the same time,  $\text{rank}(A|\mathbf{b})^T + k = m$ . This implies that  $\text{rank}(A^T) = \text{rank}(A|\mathbf{b})^T$  and, by Consistency Theorem, the system  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  is consistent.  $\square$

## Sum and Intersection of Subspaces

If  $U$  and  $W$  are subspaces of a vector space  $V$ , there are three related subsets that are of interest, their **sum**  $U + W$ , **union**  $U \cup W$ , and **intersection**  $U \cap W$ , defined by

$$U + W = \{\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{w} \mid \mathbf{u} \in U, \text{ and } \mathbf{w} \in W\}$$

$$U \cup W = \{\mathbf{v} \in V \mid \mathbf{v} \in U \text{ or } \mathbf{v} \in W\}$$

$$U \cap W = \{\mathbf{v} \in V \mid \mathbf{v} \text{ in both } U \text{ and } W\}$$

**EXAMPLE 16.3** The set  $U \cup W$  is not generally a subspace of  $V$ , since if, say,  $\mathbf{u} \in U$ ,  $\mathbf{u} \notin W$  and  $\mathbf{w} \in W$ ,  $\mathbf{w} \notin U$ , then  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{w} \notin U \cup W$ ; in which case it is not closed under addition. The subset  $U + W$  contains both  $U$  and  $W$ , but is generally much larger.

### THEOREM 16.4

1. The sets  $U + W$  and  $U \cap W$  are subspaces of  $V$ .
2. The set  $U \cap W$  is contained in both  $U$  and  $W$ .
3. The set  $U + W$  is the “smallest” subspace of  $V$  that contains both  $U$  and  $W$ .

**Proof.** The sets  $U + W$  and  $U \cap W$  are subspaces of  $V$  because they are closed under addition and scalar multiplication.

Prove that the set  $U + W$  is the “smallest” subspace of  $V$  that contains both  $U$  and  $W$ . By this, we mean that if  $S$  is a subspace of  $V$  and we have both  $U \subset S$  and  $W \subset S$ , then  $U + W \subset S$ . To see this, we can simply note that for any  $\mathbf{u} \in U$  and any  $\mathbf{w} \in W$ , we will have  $\mathbf{u} \in S$  and  $\mathbf{w} \in S$  and so, because  $S$  is a subspace,  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{w} \in S$ . This shows that any vector of the form  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{w}$  is in  $S$ , which means that  $U + W \subset S$ .  $\square$

We will now prove a useful fact about the dimensions of these spaces. The proof is a good illustration of how the theorems in this lecture are used.

**THEOREM 16.5 (Grassman Formula for Vector Space Dimensions)** Suppose that  $U$  and  $W$  are finite dimensional subspaces of a vector space  $V$ . Then  $U + W$  is finite dimensional and

$$\dim(U + W) = \dim U + \dim W - \dim(U \cap W).$$

**Proof.** Since  $U \cap W \subset U$ , it has a finite basis, say  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_d\}$ . Extend it to a basis  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_d, \mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m\}$  of  $U$ . Similarly extend  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_d\}$  to a basis  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_d, \mathbf{w}_1, \dots, \mathbf{w}_p\}$  of  $W$ . Then

$$U + W = \text{span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_d, \mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m, \mathbf{w}_1, \dots, \mathbf{w}_p\},$$

so  $U + W$  is finite dimensional. For the rest, it suffices to show that  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_d, \mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m, \mathbf{w}_1, \dots, \mathbf{w}_p\}$  is independent. Suppose that

$$r_1\mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + r_d\mathbf{v}_d + s_1\mathbf{u}_1 + \dots + s_m\mathbf{u}_m + t_1\mathbf{w}_1 + \dots + t_p\mathbf{w}_p = 0 \quad (3)$$

where the  $r_i$ ,  $s_j$ , and  $t_k$  are scalars. Then

$$r_1\mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + r_d\mathbf{v}_d + s_1\mathbf{u}_1 + \dots + s_m\mathbf{u}_m = -(t_1\mathbf{w}_1 + \dots + t_p\mathbf{w}_p)$$

is in  $U$  (left side) and also in  $W$  (right side), and so is in  $U \cap W$ . Hence  $(t_1 \mathbf{w}_1 + \cdots + t_p \mathbf{w}_p)$  is a linear combination of  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_d\}$ , so  $t_1 = \cdots = t_p = 0$ , because  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_d, \mathbf{w}_1, \dots, \mathbf{w}_p\}$  is independent. Similarly,  $s_1 = \cdots = s_m = 0$ , so (3) becomes  $r_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \cdots + r_d \mathbf{v}_d = 0$ . It follows that  $r_1 = \cdots = r_d = 0$ , as required.  $\square$

## Direct Sum of Subspaces

A sum of two subspaces is sometimes a direct sum.

**DEFINITION 16.6** A vector space  $V$  is said to be the **direct sum** of subspaces  $U$  and  $W$  if

$$U \cap W = \{\mathbf{0}\} \quad \text{and} \quad U + W = V.$$

In this case we write  $V = U \oplus W$ . Given a subspace  $U$ , any subspace  $W$  such that  $V = U \oplus W$  is called a **complement** of  $U$  in  $V$ .

**EXAMPLE 16.7** Let  $U = \{(x, y, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid x, y \in \mathbb{R}\}$ ,  $W = \{(0, 0, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid z \in \mathbb{R}\}$ . Then  $\mathbb{R}^3 = U \oplus W$ .

However, if instead  $W = \{(0, z, w) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid z, w \in \mathbb{R}\}$ , then  $\mathbb{R}^3 = U + W$  but is not the direct sum of  $U$  and  $W$ .

**EXAMPLE 16.8** Let

$$\begin{aligned} U &= \{p \in P_{2m+1} \mid p(x) = a_0 + a_2 x^2 + \cdots + a_{2m} x^{2m}\}, \\ W &= \{p \in P_{2m+1} \mid p(x) = a_1 x + a_3 x^3 + \cdots + a_{2m+1} x^{2m+1}\}. \end{aligned}$$

Then  $P_{2m+1} = U \oplus W$ .

**THEOREM 16.9** Let  $U, W \subset V$  be subspaces and  $V = U + W$ . Then  $V = U \oplus W$  if either of the conditions hold.

1.  $U \cap W = \{\mathbf{0}\}$ .
2. If  $\mathbf{0} = \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{w}$  with  $\mathbf{u} \in U$  and  $\mathbf{w} \in W$ , then  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0}$ .
3. Every  $\mathbf{v} \in V$  can be uniquely written as  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{w}$  for  $\mathbf{u} \in U$  and  $\mathbf{w} \in W$ .
4.  $\dim(U + W) = \dim U + \dim W$ .
5. If  $B_1$  is a basis of  $U$  and  $B_2$  is a basis of  $W$ , then  $B_1 \cup B_2$  is a basis of  $V$ .

**Proof.**  $1 \Rightarrow 2$ . Suppose  $U \cap W = \{\mathbf{0}\}$ . Assume that  $\mathbf{0} = \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{w}$ , where  $\mathbf{u} \in U$  and  $\mathbf{w} \in W$ . Then  $\mathbf{u} = -\mathbf{w}$  is in both  $U$  and  $W$ . Hence  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0}$ .

$2 \Rightarrow 3$ . Suppose condition 2 holds. Since  $V = U + W$  we have that, for all  $\mathbf{v} \in V$ , there exist  $\mathbf{u} \in U$  and  $\mathbf{w} \in W$  such that  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{w}$ . Suppose  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{u}_1 + \mathbf{w}_1$  with  $\mathbf{u}_1 \in U$  and  $\mathbf{w}_1 \in W$ . Subtracting the two equations, we obtain

$$\mathbf{0} = (\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_1) + (\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}_1),$$

where  $\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_1 \in U$  and  $\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}_1 \in W$ . By condition 2, this implies  $\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_1 = \mathbf{0}$  and  $\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}_1 = \mathbf{0}$ , or equivalently  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_1$  and  $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{w}_1$ , as desired.

$3 \Rightarrow 1$ . Suppose condition 3 holds. If  $\mathbf{u} \in U \cap W$ , then  $\mathbf{0} = \mathbf{u} + (-\mathbf{u})$  with  $\mathbf{u} \in U$  and  $-\mathbf{u} \in W$ . Since  $\mathbf{0}$  can be uniquely written as  $\mathbf{0} = \mathbf{0} + \mathbf{0}$ , we have  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$  and  $-\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$  so that  $U \cap W = \{\mathbf{0}\}$ .

$1 \Rightarrow 5$ . follows from Grassman formula. Actually, if  $U \cap W = \{\mathbf{0}\}$ , then there are no vectors  $\mathbf{v}_i$  in the proof of Grassman formula, and the argument shows that if  $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m\}$  and  $\{\mathbf{w}_1, \dots, \mathbf{w}_p\}$  are bases of  $U$  and  $W$  respectively, then  $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m, \mathbf{w}_1, \dots, \mathbf{w}_p\}$  is a basis of  $U + W$ .

$5 \Rightarrow 4$ . If  $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m\}$  and  $\{\mathbf{w}_1, \dots, \mathbf{w}_p\}$  are bases of  $U$  and  $W$  respectively and  $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m, \mathbf{w}_1, \dots, \mathbf{w}_p\}$  is a basis of  $U + W$ , then  $\dim(U + W) = \dim U + \dim W$ .

$4 \Rightarrow 1$ . If  $\dim(U + W) = \dim U + \dim W$ , then, by Grassman formula,  $\dim(U \cap W) = 0$ , which means that  $U \cap W = \{\mathbf{0}\}$ .  $\square$

The definition of the direct sum of two subspaces can be generalized to  $m$  subspaces  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_m$ .

**EXAMPLE 16.10** Let

$$U_1 = \{(x, y, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^3\}, \quad U_2 = \{(0, 0, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3\}, \quad U_3 = \{(0, y, y) \in \mathbb{R}^3\}.$$

Then certainly  $\mathbb{R}^3 = U_1 + U_2 + U_3$ , but  $\mathbb{R}^3 \neq U_1 \oplus U_2 \oplus U_3$  since, for example,

$$(0, 0, 0) = (0, 1, 0) + (0, 0, 1) + (0, -1, -1).$$

But  $U_1 \cap U_2 = U_1 \cap U_3 = U_2 \cap U_3 = \{\mathbf{0}\}$ .

**THEOREM 16.11** Let  $U_1, \dots, U_m$  be subspaces of  $V$ . Assume  $V = U_1 + \dots + U_m$ ; that is, every  $\mathbf{v}$  in  $V$  can be written (in at least one way) in the form

$$\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{u}_1 + \dots + \mathbf{u}_m, \quad \mathbf{u}_i \in U_i.$$

Then the following conditions are equivalent.

1.  $U_i \cap (U_1 + \dots + U_{i-1} + U_{i+1} + \dots + U_m) = \{\mathbf{0}\}$  for each  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ .
2. If  $\mathbf{u}_1 + \dots + \mathbf{u}_m = \mathbf{0}$ , where  $\mathbf{u}_i$  in  $U_i$ , then  $\mathbf{u}_i = \mathbf{0}$  for each  $i$ .
3. If  $\mathbf{u}_1 + \dots + \mathbf{u}_m = \mathbf{u}'_1 + \dots + \mathbf{u}'_m$ ,  $\mathbf{u}_i$  and  $\mathbf{u}'_i$  in  $U_i$ , then  $\mathbf{u}_i = \mathbf{u}'_i$  for each  $i$ .
4.  $\dim(U_1 + U_2 + \dots + U_m) = \dim U_1 + \dim U_2 + \dots + \dim U_m$ .
5. If  $B_1, B_2, \dots, B_m$  are bases of  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_m$ , respectively, then  $B_1 \cup B_2 \cup \dots \cup B_m$  is a basis of  $V$ .

We will omit the proof of this theorem.

**DEFINITION 16.12** Let  $U_1, \dots, U_m$  be subspaces of  $V$  and assume that

$$V = U_1 + \dots + U_m.$$

Then  $V$  is said to be a **direct sum** of subspaces  $U_1, \dots, U_m$ , if for every  $\mathbf{v} \in V$  there exist unique vectors  $\mathbf{u}_i \in U_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq m$  such that

$$\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{u}_1 + \dots + \mathbf{u}_m.$$

We write  $V = U_1 \oplus U_2 \oplus \dots \oplus U_m$ .

**EXAMPLE 16.13** Find the projection of  $\mathbf{x}$  onto  $V_1 = \text{span}\{\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2\}$  along  $V_2 = \text{span}\{\mathbf{b}\}$  if

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} -6 \\ 5 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{a}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{a}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Solution.** The sum  $V_1 \oplus V_2$  is direct, since the vectors  $\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \mathbf{b}$  are linearly independent. Solving vector equation

$$x_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + x_2 \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} + x_3 \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -6 \\ 5 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

yields  $x_1 = 1, x_2 = 3, x_3 = -1$ . Thus,  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{a}_1 + 3\mathbf{a}_2 - \mathbf{b}$ . The projection of  $\mathbf{x}$  onto  $V_1$  is  $V_1$ -component of this sum, so the answer is  $\mathbf{a}_1 + 3\mathbf{a}_2 = (-2, 6, 7)$ .  $\square$

**EXAMPLE 16.14** Find the dimension and a basis of the sum and the intersection of  $V_1 = \text{span}\{\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \mathbf{a}_3\}$  and  $V_2 = \text{span}\{\mathbf{b}_1, \mathbf{b}_2\}$  if

$$\mathbf{a}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{a}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{a}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Solution.** Form the matrix by  $\mathbf{a}_i$  and  $\mathbf{b}_j$  as columns and reduce it by elementary row operations taking leading 1's from LHS:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|cc} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & -1 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 3 & 1 & 1 & 3 \end{array} \right) \rightarrow \left( \begin{array}{ccc|cc} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right)$$

As it is impossible to take leading 1's of the left, we choose the pivot on the right in position 44 and continue the process. Eventually, we get the matrix

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|cc} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right)$$

We see that  $\dim V_1 = 3, \dim V_2 = 2, \dim(V_1 + V_2) = 4, \dim(V_1 \cap V_2) = 1$ . If we denote the column vectors of the resulting matrix by  $\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2, \mathbf{w}_3, \mathbf{w}_4, \mathbf{w}_5$ , we see that the vector  $\mathbf{w}_5 - \mathbf{w}_4$  is in both  $\text{span}\{\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2, \mathbf{w}_3\}$  and  $\text{span}\{\mathbf{w}_4, \mathbf{w}_5\}$ , so that  $V_1 \cap V_2 = \text{span}\{\mathbf{b}_2 - \mathbf{b}_1\} = \text{span}\{(0, 0, 1, 2)^T\}$ .  $\square$

## Exercises

1. Find the projection of  $\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -7 \\ 5 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$  onto  $\text{span}\{\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2\}$  along  $\text{span}\{\mathbf{b}_1, \mathbf{b}_2\}$  if

$$\mathbf{a}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{a}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -5 \\ 7 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Answer.**  $\mathbf{a}_2 - \mathbf{a}_1 = (2, -6, 6, 1)^T$ .

2. Find the dimension and a basis of the sum and the intersection of  $V_1 = \text{span}\{\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \mathbf{a}_3\}$  and  $V_2 = \text{span}\{\mathbf{b}_1, \mathbf{b}_2, \mathbf{b}_3\}$  if

$$\mathbf{a}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{a}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{a}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Answer.**  $\dim(V_1 + V_2) = 4$ ,  $B_{V_1+V_2} = \{\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \mathbf{b}_1, \mathbf{b}_3\}$ ,  $\dim(V_1 \cap V_2) = 0$ .

3. Find the dimension and a basis of the sum and the intersection of  $V_1 = \text{span}\{\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \mathbf{a}_3, \mathbf{a}_4\}$  and  $V_2 = \text{span}\{\mathbf{b}_1, \mathbf{b}_2, \mathbf{b}_3, \mathbf{b}_4\}$  if

$$\mathbf{a}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{a}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{a}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{a}_4 = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\mathbf{b}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 6 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b}_4 = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Answer.**  $\dim(V_1 + V_2) = 4$ ,  $B_{V_1+V_2} = \{\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \mathbf{a}_3, \mathbf{b}_2\}$ ,  $\dim(V_1 \cap V_2) = 2$ ,  $B_{V_1 \cap V_2} = \{\mathbf{b}_2 + \mathbf{b}_3, \mathbf{b}_1 - \mathbf{b}_2\}$ .