

Determine a basis for a subspace

- Find one basis for the subspace $F = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : y - 3x + 5z = 0\}$.

Remember: A subset A of a vector space V is a basis of V if A is a linearly independent set and A spans V .

We have $y - 3x + 5z = 0 \Leftrightarrow y = 3x - 5z$. So, $(x, 3x - 5z, z)$ represents any vector of F .

Like $(x, 3x - 5z, z) = x(1, 3, 0) + z(0, -5, 1)$, we conclude the vectors $(1, 3, 0)$ and $(0, -5, 1)$ spans F .

Now, we must verify if $(1, 3, 0)$ and $(0, -5, 1)$ are linearly independents.

$$c_1(1, 3, 0) + c_2(0, -5, 1) = (0, 0, 0)$$

$$\begin{cases} c_1 &= 0 \\ 3c_1 - 5c_2 &= 0 \\ c_2 &= 0 \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} c_1 &= 0 \\ 0 &= 0 \\ c_2 &= 0 \end{cases}$$

We conclude the vectors $(1, 3, 0)$ and $(0, -5, 1)$ are linearly independents.

Thus, $\{(1, 3, 0), (0, -5, 1)\}$ spans F and is a linearly independent set.

Conclusion: $\{(1, 3, 0), (0, -5, 1)\}$ is a basis of F .

We can say, $\dim(F) = 2$.

- Find one basis for the subspace $H = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a+b & -3b \\ 2c-4a & c \end{bmatrix} \in M(\mathbb{R})_{2 \times 2} \right\}$.

Notice that

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} a+b & -3b \\ 2c-4a & c \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} a & 0 \\ -4a & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} b & -3b \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 2c & c \end{bmatrix} \\ &= a \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -4 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + b \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + c \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

We conclude $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -4 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ spans H .

We must verify if $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -4 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ are linearly independents:

$$c_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -4 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + c_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + c_3 \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Multiplying by the scalar and adding the matrices we have,

$$\begin{bmatrix} c_1 + c_2 & -3c_2 \\ -4c_1 + 2c_3 & c_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Since the matrices are equal if their corresponding entries are equal, we have

$$\begin{cases} c_1 + c_2 & = & 0 \\ -3c_2 & = & 0 \\ -4c_1 + 2c_3 & = & 0 \\ c_3 & = & 0 \end{cases}$$

Solving the system, we obtain $c_1 = c_2 = c_3 = 0$. Thus, $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -4 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ are linearly independents.

Thus, $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -4 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ spans H and is a linearly independent set.

Conclusion: $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -4 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ is a basis of H .

We can say, $\dim(H) = 3$.

To think: Find another bases for F and H subspaces!

Remember that any basis of a subspace always has the same number of vectors.