

1 Show that $S = \{1 + 2x + x^2, 2 + 9x, 3 + 3x + 4x^2\}$ is a basis for P_2 and write $p = 2 + 17x - 3x^2$ as a linear combination of vectors in S . Finally, write $[p]_S$.

1.a Show that $S = \{1 + 2x + x^2, 2 + 9x, 3 + 3x + 4x^2\}$ is a basis for P_2

Solution: vectors $\{\vec{p}_1, \vec{p}_2, \vec{p}_3\}$ are a basis for P_3

Proof. The set $S = \{\vec{p}_1, \vec{p}_2, \vec{p}_3\}$ in a vector space P_2 , is called a basis if.

- (1) S spans P_2 .
- (2) S is linearly independent.

To prove that the vectors $\text{span}\{S\} = P_2$ we must show that every vector $\vec{p} = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2$ in P_2 can be expressed as $c_1\vec{p}_1 + c_2\vec{p}_2 + c_3\vec{p}_3 = \vec{p}$

$$c_1(1 + 2x + x^2) + c_2(2 + 9x) + c_3(3 + 3x + 4x^2) = \vec{v} \quad (1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} 1c_1 + 2c_2 + 3c_3 &= a_0 \\ 2c_1 + 9c_2 + 3c_3 &= a_1 \\ 1c_1 + 0c_2 + 4c_3 &= a_2 \end{aligned}$$

To prove linear independence we must show that $c_1\vec{p}_1 + c_2\vec{p}_2 + c_3\vec{p}_3 = \vec{0}$ has only the trivial solution.

$$c_1(1 + 2x + x^2) + c_2(2 + 9x) + c_3(3 + 3x + 4x^2) = \vec{0} \quad (2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} 1c_1 + 2c_2 + 3c_3 &= 0 \\ 2c_1 + 9c_2 + 3c_3 &= 0 \\ 1c_1 + 0c_2 + 4c_3 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we have reduced the problem to showing that the homogenous system (2) has only the trivial solution, and that the nonhomogenous system (1) is consistent for all values c_1, c_2, c_3 . The two systems have the same coefficient matrix.

$$A = \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & 0 \\ 2 & 9 & 3 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 4 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

We will prove both results by showing that $\det(A) \neq 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \det(A) &= (1) \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 9 & 3 \end{vmatrix} + (4) \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 9 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= 1[(2)(3) - (3)(9)] + 4[(1)(9) - (2)(2)] = -1. \end{aligned}$$

This proves that $\{\vec{p}_1, \vec{p}_2, \vec{p}_3\}$ is a basis for P_2 . □

1.b Write $\vec{p} = 2 + 17x - 3x^2$ as a linear combination of vectors in S

Solution: $\vec{p} = (1)(1 + 2x + x^2) + (2)(2 + 9x) + (-1)(3 + 3x + 4x^2)$

Proof. The equation $c_1\vec{p}_1 + c_2\vec{p}_2 + c_3\vec{p}_3 = \vec{p}$ which can be written as the linear system

$$\begin{array}{rrrrr} 1c_1 & + & 2c_2 & + & 3c_3 & = & 2 \\ 2c_1 & + & 9c_2 & + & 3c_3 & = & 17 \\ 1c_1 & + & 0c_2 & + & 4c_3 & = & -3 \end{array}$$

is an expression for a vector \vec{p} in terms of the basis S , with scalars c_1, c_2, c_3 being the coordinates of \vec{p} relative to the basis S . Whose augmented matrix has the reduced row echelon form,

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \end{array} \right]$$
$$c_1 = 1, c_2 = 2, c_3 = -1.$$

This gives $\vec{p} = (1)(1 + 2x + x^2) + (2)(2 + 9x) + (-1)(3 + 3x + 4x^2)$

□

1.c Finally, write $[p]_S$.

Solution: $[p]_S = [1 \ 2 \ -1]^T$

Proof. We use c_1, c_2, c_3 from 1.b to construct the coordinate vector $[1 \ 2 \ -1]^T$ of \vec{p} relative to S . □