

Section 1.7

1.7 Linear Independence

**Definition 1.11.** A set of vectors  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is said to be **Linearly Dependent** if there exists a set of constants  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n$ , not all zero, such that

$$\rightarrow c_1 v_1 + c_2 v_2 + \dots + c_n v_n = 0.$$

Ex;  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$   $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$   
 $2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

The set is **Linearly Independent** otherwise.

**Example 1.7.1.** Are the vectors  $v_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $v_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $v_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -6 \\ 12 \end{bmatrix}$  linearly independent? If possible find a dependence relation among them.

$c_1 v_1 + c_2 v_2 + c_3 v_3 = 0$  ?

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 4 & 0 \\ -3 & 1 & -6 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 12 & 0 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{RR} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 6 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

$c_1 + 4c_3 = 0$   
 $c_2 + 6c_3 = 0$   
 $c_3 = c_3$

nonzero constants that add up to 0

**Dependent**

$$\begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ c_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ -6 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} c_3$$

$$-4v_1 - 6v_2 + v_3 = 0$$

Sometimes we talk about the linear independence of the matrix columns. ← same question as ex 1.7.1

**Theorem 1.5.** The columns of matrix  $A = [a_1 \ a_2 \ \dots \ a_n]$  are linearly dependent if  $Ax = 0$  has a nontrivial solution.

**Example 1.7.2.** Determine if the columns of matrix  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 5 & 4 \\ 2 & -8 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  are linearly dependent.

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 0 & 0 & -3 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 & 4 & 0 \\ 2 & -8 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{R_1 \leftrightarrow R_3} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 2 & -8 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 & 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -3 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

consistent & has only the zero solution

$$\xrightarrow{RREF} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right] \begin{matrix} c_1 = 0 \\ c_2 = 0 \\ c_3 = 0 \end{matrix}$$

Linearly Independent

**Theorem 1.6.** Some characterizations of linearly dependent sets:

1. One vector is always independent
2. Two vectors are dependent if one is a multiple of the other.
3. A set of vectors  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  is linearly dependent if at least one can be written as a multiple of the others.

$$v_i = c_1 v_1 + \dots + c_{i-1} v_{i-1} + c_{i+1} v_{i+1} + \dots + c_n v_n.$$

**Example 1.7.3.** Let  $u = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $v = \begin{bmatrix} -6 \\ 1 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $w = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -5 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $z = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 7 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix}$ .

- (a) Is  $w$  a linear combination of  $u, v,$  and  $z$ ?  $\rightarrow$  solve  $x_1 u + x_2 v + x_3 z = w$   
Is the set  $\{u, v, w, z\}$  linearly independent?

?  $\downarrow$  one vector written as a multiple of the others.

$$\rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -6 & 3 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 7 & -5 \\ -4 & 7 & -5 & 2 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\frac{1}{3}R_1} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 7 & -5 \\ -4 & 7 & -5 & 2 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\begin{array}{l} R_2 - 2R_1 \\ R_3 + 4R_1 \end{array}} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 & 5 & -5 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 & 2 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\begin{array}{l} R_2 + 5R_3 \\ -R_3 \end{array} \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -2 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \text{No answer so } w \text{ is NOT a combination of } u, v \text{ \& } z.$$

$$x_1 u + x_2 v + x_3 z + x_4 w = 0 \quad \left[ \begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow x_3 \text{ is a free variable so } \infty \text{ solutions so Dependent}$$

**Theorem 1.7.** If a set contains more vectors than there are entries in each vector then the set is linearly dependent.

**Theorem 1.8.** If a set  $S = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  contains the zero vector it is linearly dependent.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad 0 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + 7 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

**Example 1.7.4.** Each statement is either true (in all cases) or false (for at least one example). If false, construct a specific example, called a counterexample, to show that the statement is not always true. If true, give a justification, not just a specific example

1. The columns of a matrix  $A$  are linearly independent if the equation  $Ax = 0$  has the trivial solution.

False  $Ax=0$  always has  $x=0$  as solution.

2. If  $S$  is a linearly dependent set, then each vector is a linear combination of the other vectors in  $S$ .

False by example 1.7.3

3. The columns of a  $4 \times 5$  matrix are linearly dependent.

True  $\begin{bmatrix} x & x & x & x & x \\ x & x & x & x & x \\ x & x & x & x & x \\ x & x & x & x & x \end{bmatrix}$  more vectors (5) than entries in the vector (4) so dependent.

4. If  $x$  and  $y$  are linearly independent and if  $\{x, y, z\}$  is linearly dependent, then  $z$  is in  $\text{Span}\{x, y\}$ .

$\text{Span}\{x, y\} = c_1x + c_2y = 0$  when  $c_1$  &  $c_2$  are zero so  $c_1x + c_2y + c_3z = 0$

5. If  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  are in  $\mathbb{R}^4$  and  $v_2$  is not a scalar multiple of  $v_1$ , then  $\{v_1, v_2\}$  is linearly independent.

True If two vectors are dependent then  $v_2 = cv_1$

$c_1, c_2$  &  $c_3$  are not all zero.  $z$  is a combination of  $x$  &  $y$

6. If  $v_1, \dots, v_4$  are in  $\mathbb{R}^4$  and  $v_3$  is not a linear combination of  $v_1, v_2, v_4$ , then  $\{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4\}$  is linearly independent.

False only one has to be, not all of them.

7. If  $v_1, \dots, v_4$  are linearly independent vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ , then  $\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$  is also linearly independent.

True  $c_1v_1 + c_2v_2 + c_3v_3 + c_4v_4 = 0$  only when  $c_1 = c_2 = c_3 = c_4 = 0$

**Example 1.7.5.** Determine by inspection if the given set is linearly independent.

1.  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$

Dependent, more vectors than entries

also true for any subset of  $\{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4\}$

2.  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -2 \\ 6 \\ v_1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ -3 \\ 9 \\ v_2 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$

$\frac{3}{2}v_1 = v_2$

3.  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 5 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 5 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$

Dependent b/c 0 vector.

**Example 1.7.6.** Justify your answers.

1. For what values of  $h$  is  $v_3$  in  $\text{Span}\{v_1, v_2\}$ ?

$$c_1 v_1 + c_2 v_2 = v_3$$

(solve that)

2. For what values of  $h$  is  $\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$  linearly dependent?

$$v_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -5 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad v_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 10 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}, \quad v_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -9 \\ h \end{bmatrix}$$

same question