

Objective: We will use the concept of a *basis* to define the *dimension* of a subspace

## BASIS FOR SUBSPACES

The  $xy$ -plane in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  is a subspace consisting of all vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with  $z$  coordinate equal to 0.  
Notice that

$$S = \{(1, 0, 0), (0, 1, 0), (1, 1, 0)\}$$

spans the  $xy$ -plane.

recall: the span  
of  $\{\vec{v}_i\}$   
is all possible  
linear combos  
of  $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \vec{v}_3, \dots$

$$(6, 2, 0) = 6(1, 0, 0) + 2(0, 1, 0) + 0(1, 1, 0)$$

↓  
redundant:

notice:  $S$  is linearly  
dependent!

Also notice that if we throw out any one of the vectors in  $S$  and get a new set  $S'$ , the new set still spans the  $xy$ -plane.

$$S' = \{(1, 0, 0), (0, 1, 0)\}$$

$$S'' = \{(0, 1, 0), (1, 1, 0)\}$$

$$(6, 2, 0) = -4(0, 1, 0) + 6(1, 1, 0)$$

$S', S''$  still span  $x$ - $y$  plane.  
both linearly independent

Fact:  $S', S''$  are bases for the  $x$ - $y$  plane  
subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

1. Here  $S$  spans the  $xy$ -plane but is linearly dependent.
2.  $S'$  also spans the  $xy$ -plane but is linearly independent.
3. Sets like  $S'$  are preferred because they are "the most efficient way to describe every element in a subspace".

**Definition.** A **basis** for a subspace  $V$  is a linearly independent spanning <sup>subset</sup> of  $V$ .

**Example.** Find a basis of

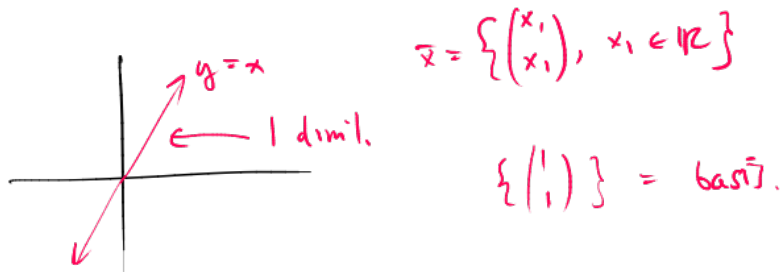
(a) The  $x$ -axis in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .  $= \{ (x, 0, 0) \mid x \in \mathbb{R} \}$ .

one basis is:  $\{ (1, 0, 0) \}$ .

not a basis  $\Rightarrow \{ (1, 1, 0), (0, 1, 0) \}$   
 $\downarrow$  doesn't live in  $x$ -axis.

$\{ (\pi, 0, 0) \}$  is a basis.  
 $\frac{x}{\pi} (\pi, 0, 0) = (x, 0, 0)$   
 $\{ (-1, 0, 0) \}$  is a basis.

(b) The line through  $(0,0)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  intersecting the  $x$ -axis at an angle of  $45^\circ$ .



(c) The  $yz$ -plane in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

$\{ (0, x, y) \mid x, y \in \mathbb{R} \}$  2-dim

$\{ (0, 1, 0), (0, 0, 1) \}$  basis.

The standard unit vectors

$$(1, 0) \text{ and } (0, 1) \in \mathbb{R}^2$$

and

$$(1, 0, 0), (0, 1, 0), (0, 0, 1) \in \mathbb{R}^3$$

are the **standard basis vectors** for  $\mathbb{R}^2$  and  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , respectively. We sometimes call them  $(e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n)$ .

**Theorem** (Row Space Basis). *The nonzero row vectors of a matrix  $M$  in RREF form a basis for the row space of  $M$ .*

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right.$$

row space: all of  $\mathbb{R}^3$   
 basis:  $e_1, e_2, e_3$

row space =  $x$ - $y$  plane in  $\mathbb{R}^3$   
 basis:  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

1. Find a basis for the row space of

Find basis for span of  
 $(0, -1, 2), (1, 2, 3), (1, 1, 5)$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{array}{l} R_2 \\ -R_1 \\ R_2 - R_3 \end{array}$$

$$\rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

basis is  $\{(1, 2, 3), (0, 1, -2)\}$

**Theorem** (Every subspace has a basis). *Although a given subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  can have many different bases, the number of vectors in a basis does not change. In other words, if  $S$  is a fixed subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  any basis for  $S$  will have the same number of vectors. The **dimension** of a subspace is the number of vectors in a basis for the subspace.*

2. What is the dimension of the row space of the matrix above?

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3. Give two different bases for the  $xz$  plane in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

4. Give a basis for the span of the following set of vectors.

$$S = \{(3, -3, 5), (-2, -3, -3), (5, -15, 9)\}.$$

What is the dimension of the  $\text{span}(S)$ ?

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -3 & 5 \\ -2 & -3 & -3 \\ 5 & -15 & 9 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\substack{-5R_1 \quad 3R_2 \quad -1R_3}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -6 & 2 \\ -2 & -3 & -3 \\ 5 & -15 & 9 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} R_1 + R_2 \\ R_2 \\ R_3 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -6 & 2 \\ 0 & -15 & 1 \\ 0 & 15 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\substack{2R_1 + R_2 \\ -5R_1 + R_3}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -6 & 2 \\ 0 & 15 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} \leftarrow \text{ok to use these non-zero rows as basis} \\ R_2 + R_3 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -6 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & -1/15 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{Basis: } \{(1, -6, 2), (0, 1, -1/15)\}$$

$$\dim = 2 = \dim(\text{span}(S))$$

**Example.** The orthogonal complement  $a^\perp$  of the vector  $a = (1, 2, 3)$  is the set of vectors  $\vec{x} = (x_1, x_2, x_3)$  of the form

$$1x_1 + 2x_2 + 3x_3 = 0.$$

What is the dimension of (the Hyperplane)  $a^\perp$ ?

**Theorem (2).** Let  $S$  be a finite set of vectors in a nonzero subspace  $V$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

(a) If  $S$  spans  $V$  but is not linearly dependent you can remove certain vectors from  $S$  to obtain a basis for  $V$ .

(b) If  $S$  is linearly independent but does not span you can add certain vectors to  $S$  to obtain a basis for  $V$ .

**Example.** Apply the theorem above to the following two sets of vectors in the subspace  $\mathbb{R}^3$  of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

(a)  $V = \{(1, 0, 1), (0, 1, 0)\}$

$$\text{span}(V) \neq \mathbb{R}^3.$$

$$\text{span} \left( \{(1, 0, 1), (0, 1, 0), (0, 0, 1)\} \right) = \mathbb{R}^3$$
$$\{(1, 0, 1), (0, 1, 1), (0, 0, 1)\}$$

(b)  $W = \{(1, 0, 1), (0, 1, 0), (0, 1, 1), (1, 1, 0)\}$

$$\text{span}(W) = \mathbb{R}^3$$

if I remove any 1, the new set still spans  $\mathbb{R}^3$

**Theorem** (General statements about bases). (a) Every vector is a basis for some subspace.

$\{(0,0)\}$  is a basis for  $\vec{0}$ .  $\leftarrow$  trivial subspace

$(1,-1,4)$  is a basis for  $W = \{t(1,-1,4) \mid t \in \mathbb{R}\}$

(b) A set of  $k$  linearly independent vectors in a nonzero  $k$ -dimensional subspace is a basis.

(c) A set of  $k$  vectors that span a nonzero  $k$ -dimensional subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  must be linearly independent, hence is a basis.

(d) A set of fewer than  $k$  vectors in a nonzero  $k$ -dimensional subspace cannot span the subspace.

(e) A set with more than  $k$  vectors in a nonzero  $k$ -dimensional subspace is linearly dependent.

(f) If  $B = \{b_1, b_2, b_3\}$  is a basis for  $W$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and  $A$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix with  $\det(A) \neq 0$ , then

$$AB = \{Ab_1, Ab_2, Ab_3\}$$

is also a basis for  $W$ .