

SECTION ONE.III.2: LINEAR COMBINATION LEMMA

**Definition:** A linear combination of  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  is

$$c_1 x_1 + c_2 x_2 + c_3 x_3 + \dots + c_n x_n$$

where  $c_i \in \mathbb{R}$ .

**Definition:** A linear combination of vectors  $\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2, \dots, \vec{u}_n$  is

$$c_1 \vec{u}_1 + c_2 \vec{u}_2 + \dots + c_n \vec{u}_n \quad \text{where } c_i \in \mathbb{R}$$

**Example:** Write three distinct linear combination of the vectors  $\vec{u}_1 = (1, 2, 3)$  and  $\vec{u}_2 = (1, -1, 1)$ .

**Example:** Is  $\vec{v} = (2, -1, 2)$  a linear combination of  $\vec{u}_1 = (1, 2, 3)$  and  $\vec{u}_2 = (1, -1, 1)$ ?

$$2 \vec{u}_1 + 3 \vec{u}_2 = 2(1, 2, 3) + 3(1, -1, 1) = (2, 4, 6) + (3, -3, 3) = \underline{(5, 1, 9)}$$

$$1 \vec{u}_1 + 0 \vec{u}_2 = (1, 2, 3)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{2} \vec{u}_1 - \pi \vec{u}_2 &= \sqrt{2}(1, 2, 3) - \pi(1, -1, 1) = (\sqrt{2}, 2\sqrt{2}, 3\sqrt{2}) - (\pi, -\pi, \pi) \\ &= (\sqrt{2} - \pi, 2\sqrt{2} + \pi, 3\sqrt{2} - \pi) \end{aligned}$$

→ added sheet

**Example:** Do two steps of Gauss-Jordan reduction on the matrix below but record the steps as linear combinations of rows.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 8 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow[\textcircled{1}]{r_1 + r_2 \mapsto r_2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 4 & 1 \\ 3 & 0 & 8 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow[\textcircled{2}]{r_3 - 3r_1 \mapsto r_3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 4 & 1 \\ 0 & -6 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\textcircled{1} \begin{bmatrix} r_1 \\ r_1 + r_2 \\ r_3 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow[\textcircled{2}]{} \begin{bmatrix} r_1 \\ r_1 + r_2 \\ r_3 - 3r_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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Example: Is  $\vec{v} = (2, -1, 2)$  a linear combination of  $\vec{u}_1 = (1, 2, 3)$  and  $\vec{u}_2 = (1, -1, 1)$ ?

Find  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  so that

$$c_1 \vec{u}_1 + c_2 \vec{u}_2 = (2, -1, 2)$$

$$c_1(1, 2, 3) + c_2(1, -1, 1) = (2, -1, 2)$$

So  $(c_1 + c_2, 2c_1 - c_2, 3c_1 + c_2) = (2, -1, 2)$

So  $\left. \begin{array}{l} c_1 + c_2 = 2 \\ 2c_1 - c_2 = -1 \\ 3c_1 + c_2 = 2 \end{array} \right\} \text{SOLE to solve.}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & -1 & -1 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{rref}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

As a SOLE,  
this has no solution.  
So...

Answer:  $\vec{v}$  is NOT a linear combination of  $\vec{u}_1$  and  $\vec{u}_2$ .

### True or False

If the matrix  $B$  is the reduced row echelon form of matrix  $A$ , then the rows of  $B$  are linear combinations of the rows of  $A$ .

True!

Elementary row operations are linear combinations of the rows of the matrix.

In echelon form, no nonzero row can be a linear combination of any of the other nonzero rows.

True!

All of these would have to be multiplied by zero.

Can this be a linear combination of the other rows?

These are all zero.

There are no ways to get this entry.