

Recall: •  $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_m$  vectors

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Span}(\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_m) &= \{\text{linear combinations} \\ &\quad \text{of the vectors } \vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_m\} \\ &= \{c_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + c_m \vec{v}_m \mid c_1, \dots, c_m \text{ scalars}\}\end{aligned}$$

•  $T: \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $T(\vec{x}) = A\vec{x}$  linear transformation. If

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} | & & | \\ \vec{v}_1 & \dots & \vec{v}_m \\ | & & | \end{bmatrix} \text{ then}$$

$$\text{im } T = \text{Span}(\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_m)$$

$$\text{ker } T = \{\vec{x} \mid A\vec{x} = \vec{0}\}$$

### §3.2 Subspaces

We saw last time that  $\text{im } T$  and  $\text{ker } T$  contains  $\vec{0}$ , are closed under addition & closed under scalar multiplication.

Def: A subset  $W \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is called a subspace if

- ①  $W$  contains the zero vector  $\vec{0}$
  - ②  $W$  is closed under addition, meaning: if  $W$  contains  $\vec{w}_1$  and  $\vec{w}_2$ , then it also contains  $\vec{w}_1 + \vec{w}_2$
  - ③  $W$  is closed under scalar multiplication, meaning: if  $W$  contains  $\vec{w}$  then it contains  $k\vec{w}$  for any scalar  $k$ .
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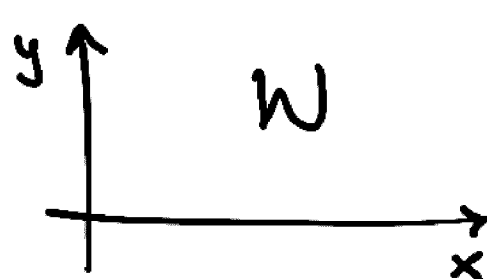
Last time we saw that for a linear transformation

$$T: \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n,$$

- $\text{im } T$  is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$
  - $\text{ker } T$  is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^m$
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Example: Consider the set

$$W = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^2 \mid x \geq 0 \text{ and } y \geq 0 \right\}$$

 Is this a subspace?

①  $W$  contains  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  ✓

② If  $W$  contains  $\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ y_2 \end{bmatrix}$  then it means  $x_1, x_2 \geq 0$  and  $y_1, y_2 \geq 0$ .

$$\text{So now } \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ y_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 + x_2 \\ y_1 + y_2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

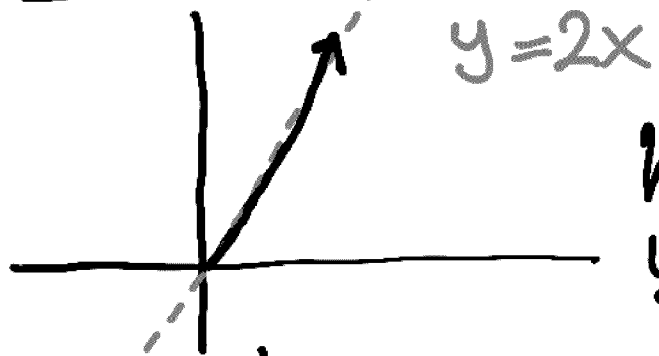
Since  $x_1 + x_2 \geq 0$  and  $y_1 + y_2 \geq 0$ , then the sum also belongs to  $W$ . ✓

③ If  $W$  contains  $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$  and  $k$  is any scalar, does  $k \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} kx \\ ky \end{bmatrix}$  belong to  $W$ ? In other words, is  $kx \geq 0$  and  $ky \geq 0$ ? The answer is no, because we may choose  $k < 0$ .

So  $W$  is not a subspace.

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Ex: Let  $W = \text{Span} \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \right)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2$



$W$  is the line

$$y=2x.$$

Is it a subspace?

- ①  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = 0 \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ , so  $W$  contains  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  ✓
- ② If  $W$  contains  $\vec{w}_1$  and  $\vec{w}_2$ , then  $\vec{w}_1 = k_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\vec{w}_2 = k_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$  for some scalars  $k_1, k_2$ . Then  $\vec{w}_1 + \vec{w}_2 = k_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + k_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{(k_1 + k_2)}_{\text{scalar}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$  so  $W$  contains  $\vec{w}_1 + \vec{w}_2$ . ✓

- ③ If  $W$  contains  $\vec{w} = k \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ , and  $\ell$  is a scalar, then  $\ell \vec{w} = \underbrace{\ell k}_{\text{scalar}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ , so  $W$  contains  $\ell \vec{w}$ . ✓

Conclusion is that  $W$  is a subspace.

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Ex:  $W = \{\vec{0}\}$ .

- ①  $W$  contains  $\vec{0}$  ✓
- ②  $\vec{0} + \vec{0} = \vec{0}$ , so  $W$  is closed under addition
- ③  $k\vec{0} = \vec{0}$  for any scalar  $k$ , so  $W$  is closed under scalar multiplication.

$\Rightarrow W$  is a subspace.

Note that we never specified what size  $\vec{0}$  is, so  $W$  is a subspace in any  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

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The only subspaces of  $\mathbb{R}^2$  are:  
 $\{\vec{0}\}$ ,  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , any line through the origin.

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It's a fun exercise to prove that the span of any collection of vectors is a subspace.

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## Bases & linear dependence:

Ex: Consider  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$ .

Recall by our characterization of the image that

$$\text{im } A = \text{Span}\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}\right)$$

Can we describe the image with fewer vectors than 4?

Note  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = 2 \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  so

$$\text{Span}\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}\right) = \text{Span}\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}\right)$$

It's less obvious, but note

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ so the last vector}$$

is also redundant:

$$\text{Span}\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}\right) = \text{Span}\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}\right)$$

Since these vectors are not parallel, we can not reduce the span anymore.

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Let  $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_m$  be vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

(a) we say  $\vec{v}_i$  is redundant in the list  $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_m$  if

$\vec{v}_i$  is a linear combination of the vectors  $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_{i-1}$ .

(b)  $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_m$  are linearly independent if none of them are redundant. If at least one vector is redundant, they are linearly dependent.

(c)  $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_m$  in a subspace  $V$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  form a basis if they are linearly independent, and if they span  $V$ .

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Ex: Consider  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$  again.

$\text{im } A = \text{Span} \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \right)$  we found two redundant vectors:  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$ , which means

$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$  are linearly dependent

After removing the redundant vectors

$$\begin{aligned} \text{im } A &= \text{Span} \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \right) \\ &= \text{Span} \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \right) \end{aligned}$$

We found that  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$  is a basis for  $\text{im } A$ .

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Generally, to find a basis for  $\text{im } T$ , we first list the columns of the matrix and then find and remove the redundant vectors.

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In the previous example we were "lucky" when we found the redundant vectors.

Ex:  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 7 \\ 2 & 5 & 8 \\ 3 & 6 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$ . Let's find a basis for  $\text{im } A = \text{Span}\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 8 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix}\right)$ .

Need to find redundant vectors.

$\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$  is not a multiple of  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$ .

Is  $\begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 8 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix}$  a linear combination of  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$ ?

Can we write  $\begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 8 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} = c_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + c_2 \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$  for

some scalars  $c_1, c_2$ ? This is a system of linear equations that we can solve:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 \\ 2 & 5 \\ 3 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 8 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix}; \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 4 & 7 \\ 2 & 5 & 8 \\ 3 & 6 & 9 \end{array} \right] \begin{array}{l} \leftarrow \\ \leftarrow \\ \leftarrow \end{array} \right]^{-2} \leftarrow^{-3}$$

$$\rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 4 & 7 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 \\ 0 & -6 & -12 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{-2} \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 4 & 7 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\cdot -\frac{1}{3}}$$

$$\rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 4 & 7 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{-4} \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow C_1 = -1, C_2 = 2.$$

$$\text{So } \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 8 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} = -\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + 2\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ and}$$

$$\text{in } A = \text{Span}\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 8 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix}\right) = \text{Span}\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}\right)$$


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The idea of a basis of a subspace  $W$  is that any vector in  $W$  can be expressed in a unique way as a linear combination of its basis vectors.