

**M20580 L.A. and D.E. Tutorial**  
**Vector spaces, subspaces and linear transformations**

1. The next 3 problems concern the spanning set theorem(4.3) in abstract vector spaces. Consider the space spanned by the given polynomials  $p_1, \dots, p_5$ , inside the vector space of polynomials with highest power  $\leq 3$ .

$$p_1 = 1 - 3t^2 + 2t^3, p_2 = t + 2t^2 - 3t^3, p_3 = -3 - 4t + t^2 + 6t^3, p_4 = 1 - 3t - 8t^2 + 7t^3, p_5 = 2 + t - 6t^2 + 9t^3$$

1. Find a basis for the space  $\text{span}\{p_1, \dots, p_5\}$ <sup>1</sup>.
2. Are the polynomials  $p_2, p_3, p_4$  linearly dependent?
3. Explain why the polynomials  $p_1, p_3, p_5$  form a basis of this space.

**Solution:**  $\mathbb{P}_3$  is *isomorphic* to  $\mathbb{R}^4$ : A polynomial is determined by its coefficients, and the collection of coefficients associated to a polynomial is a vector in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ . Another way of saying the same thing - the set  $\{1, t, t^2, t^3\}$  is a basis of  $\mathbb{P}_3$ . The coordinates associated to this basis are elements of  $\mathbb{R}^4$  and lets us regard our ambient space of polynomials as  $\mathbb{R}^4$ .

<sup>1</sup>It might be helpful to look at last week's problem:

Find a basis for the space spanned by the given vectors  $\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_5$ .

$$\mathbf{u}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{u}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{u}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ -4 \\ 1 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{u}_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -3 \\ -8 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{u}_5 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -6 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Solution:** We want a maximal linearly independent subset of these vectors. We may choose the pivot columns of  $[\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{u}_3, \mathbf{u}_4, \mathbf{u}_5]$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \begin{bmatrix} \boxed{1} & 0 & -3 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & -4 & -3 & 1 \\ -3 & 2 & 1 & -8 & -6 \\ 2 & -3 & 6 & 7 & 9 \end{bmatrix} & \sim & \begin{bmatrix} \boxed{1} & 0 & -3 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & \boxed{1} & -4 & -3 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & -8 & -5 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & 12 & 5 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \\
 &\sim \begin{bmatrix} \boxed{1} & 0 & -3 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & \boxed{1} & -4 & -3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \boxed{1} & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -4 & 8 \end{bmatrix} & \sim & \begin{bmatrix} \boxed{1} & 0 & -3 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & \boxed{1} & -4 & 0 & -5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \boxed{1} & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

This row echelon form shows that we have 3 pivot columns and hence a linearly independent (pivot columns are independent) set which spans  $\text{Col } A$  (a free column is always in the span of the ones to the left of it) is  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_4\}$ . Alternative choices include any two of the first 3 and either of the last two.

1. The columns  $u_1, u_2, u_4$  form a basis for the column space  $\text{span}\{u_1, u_2, u_4\}$  because they are the pivot columns in this matrix.
2.  $u_2, u_3, u_4$  are linearly independent - if you make a matrix just from the columns  $u_2, u_3, u_4$  and row reduce that matrix you will get

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

. Since there is a pivot in every column (in the matrix we just created), the vectors are linearly independent.

3. The columns  $u_1, u_3, u_5$  are linearly independent because if we make a matrix from just those columns and row reduce that matrix, you will get  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ .

There are 3 linearly independent vectors here and the basis we found in the first part has 3 elements. This means that these 3 linearly independent vectors  $u_1, u_3, u_5$  actually form a basis.

2. Let  $V$  be a vector space. Let  $\{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4\}$  be a linearly independent subset of  $V$ . Consider the subspace of  $V$  spanned by the vectors

$$w_1 = v_1 - 3v_3 + 2v_4, w_2 = v_2 + 2v_3 - 3v_4, w_3 = -3v_1 - 4v_2 + v_3 + 6v_4$$

$$w_4 = v_1 - 3v_2 - 8v_3 + 7v_4, w_5 = 2v_1 + v_2 - 6v_3 + 9v_4$$

1. Find a basis of  $\text{Span}\{w_1, \dots, w_5\}$
2. Is  $\{w_2, w_3, w_4\}$  a linearly dependent subset of  $V$ ?
3. Explain why the vectors  $w_1, w_3, w_5$  form a basis of  $\text{Span}\{w_1, \dots, w_5\}$
4. Do  $w_1, w_3, w_5$  form a basis for  $V$ ?

**Solution:** This problem is word for word the same as the last one.  $v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4$  is a basis for  $\text{span } v_1, \dots, v_4$ . The coordinates associated to this basis are elements of  $\mathbb{R}^4$  and lets us regard  $\text{span } v_1, \dots, v_4$  as  $\mathbb{R}^4$ . Under this correspondence  $w_1, \dots, w_5$  will correspond to  $u_1, \dots, u_5$ . The problem is finished just as above.

Let  $V$  be a vector space. Recall that a subset  $W$ , of  $V$  is called a **subspace** of  $V$  if it satisfies some other nice properties:

- $W$  has the zero vector of  $V$ .
  - The sum of any two vectors in  $W$  is still in  $W$ .
  - If I scale a vector's length by a positive or negative scalar, the vector is still in  $W$ .
3. (Homework question 4.1.4) Let  $V = \mathbb{R}^2$  and  $W'$  be a line not going through the origin. Why is the subset  $W'$ , not a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ ? How many of the above requirements are violated?<sup>(2)</sup>

**Solution:** The origin plays the role of the zero vector in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .  $W'$  doesn't go through the origin. So  $W'$  doesn't contain the zero vector. The sum of two vectors in  $W'$  will lie in a line parallel (and hence not intersecting)  $W'$ . Same thing happens if we scale a vector by a scalar (that isn't = 1). In particular there is some scalar which makes things go bad.

4. Let  $W$  be a subspace of  $V$  and let  $v$  be a fixed vector not in  $W$ . Let  $W'$  be the subset of vectors of the form  $v + w$  where  $w$  is in  $W$ . ( $W'$  is like the line not going through the origin above). Why is the subset  $W'$  not a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ ? How many of the above requirements are violated?

**Solution:** We imitate the reasoning above. All the requirements miserably fail again:

- $W'$  doesn't go through the origin: Here's a proof by contradiction. Suppose a vector of the form  $v + w$  is  $= 0$ . Then  $v = -w$ .  $-w$  is in  $W$  because  $w$  is in  $W$ . So  $v$  is in  $W$ . Contradiction.

This confirms our intuition that  $W'$  looks like a plane that doesn't go through the zero vector in  $V$ .

- Suppose I have a vector of the form  $v + w_1$  and another vector  $v + w_2$ . The sum will be  $2v + w_1 + w_2$ . Suppose that  $2v + w_1 + w_2$  is  $=$  to something of the form  $v + w_3$ . Then  $v = w_3 - w_2 - w_1$ . Hence  $v$  is in  $W$ . Contradiction.
- We'll show that when we scale a vector  $v + w_1$  in  $W'$  Suppose that  $c(v + w_1) = v + w_2$ . Then  $(c - 1)v = w_2 - cw_1$ . Let  $c$  be any scalar not equal to 1 (so we can divide out  $(c - 1)$ ). Then  $v = (w_2 - cw_1)/(c - 1)$  so  $v$  is in  $W$ . Contradiction.

5. (Homework question 4.1.15) Let  $V = \mathbb{R}^3$ . Let  $W$  be the subset of all vectors of the form  $a \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + b \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}$ . Let  $W'$  be the subset of all vectors of the form  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + a \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} +$

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<sup>2</sup>Hint: All of them

$b \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}$ . Why isn't  $W'$  a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ?

**Solution:** This is true because of the general fact above. Here  $W$  is the subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  spanned by  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ .  $v$  is the vector  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ .

6. Fun fact: The last two requirements of being a subspace imply the first requirement -

If  $w$  is a random vector<sup>3</sup> in  $W$ ,  $-w = (-1)w$  is in  $W$ . (**WHY?**).  $w + (-w)$  is also in  $W$  (**WHY?**).  $w + -w = 0$ . Hence 0 is automatically contained in  $W$ .

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<sup>3</sup>A technicality is that the subset  $W$  can't be the empty subset. Don't worry about it.

Now let  $W$  and  $V$  be two random vector spaces. Recall that a linear transformation  $T$  from  $W$  to  $V$  is a map of sets from  $W$  to  $V$ <sup>4</sup>, satisfying some other nice properties:

- $T(0) = 0$
- $T(v_1 + v_2) = T(v_1) + T(v_2)$
- $T(cv) = cT(v)$

7. Let  $W = \mathbb{R}^2$  and  $V = \mathbb{R}^3$ . Consider the map sending  $\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$ . It is a map from  $\mathbb{R}^2$  to  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . Why is this map a linear transformation?

**Solution:** The map is a linear transformation because matrix multiplication is a linear transformation. Matrix multiplication is linear transformation because of the distributive properties of the real numbers.

8. Now consider the map sending  $\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ . Why isn't this map a linear transformation. How many of the above requirements are violated?

**Solution:** All of them!

1.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \neq \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

2.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -5 \end{pmatrix} \left( \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} x_2 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix} \right) \neq \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_2 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

3.

$$c \left( \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \right) \neq \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -5 \end{pmatrix} c \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$$

9. Show that the first requirement for linear transformations is implied by the other two requirements. *Hint: This is similar to question 6*

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<sup>4</sup>notation -  $T : W \rightarrow V$

**Solution:** We have that  $T(0) = T(0 + 0) = T(0) + T(0)$ . Subtracting  $T(0)$  from both sides gives  $T(0) = 0$ .

10. Let  $W$  and  $V$  be random vector spaces again and let  $T$  be a linear transformation from  $W$  to  $V$ . Let  $v$  be a nonzero vector. Let  $T' = T + v$ . Is  $T'$  a linear transformation?

**Solution:** No it isn't. All the properties of being a linear transformation fail.

1.  $T'(0) = v + T(0) = v + 0 = v$ . So  $T'(0) \neq 0$
2.  $T'(w_1 + w_2) = v + T(w_1 + w_2) = v + T(w_1) + T(w_2)$ . On the other hand  $T'(w_1) + T'(w_2) = 2v + T(w_1) + T(w_2)$ . These expressions differ by a  $v$  so they are not the same.
3.  $T'(cw) = v + T(cw) = v + cT(w)$ . On the other hand,  $cT'(w) = cv + cT(w)$ . The difference of these two expressions is  $(c - 1)v$ . If I pick  $c \neq 1$  then this is not zero, so these two things are not the same.

**(Fun remark)** You might have noticed that there is a lot in common between the notion of a linear transformation and the notion of a subspace. Here's the reason.

11. Let  $T$  be a linear transformation from  $W$  to  $V$ .

1. Let  $w_1, w_2$  be two vectors in  $W$ . Show that if I add two vectors of the form  $T(w_1), T(w_2)$  that the result is  $T(\text{something})$ .

**Solution:** This is a definition

2. Show that  $T(cw) = cT(w)$

**Solution:** This is a definition

3. Conclude that the image/columnspace<sup>5</sup> of  $T$  is a subspace of  $V$ .

**Solution:** These two requirements are the requirements of being a subspace.

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<sup>5</sup>these are the vectors that are  $T(\text{something})$