

MATH 200C: Linear Algebra



Linear
Combination of
Independent Vector



Spanning
the vector space

Class 21: Friday, April 3, 2026



- ▶ Notes on Assignment 19
- ▶ Linearly Independent Sets and Bases



Exam 2: Wednesday, April 8
7 PM – ?

No Calculators, Computers, Phones, Smart Watches, ...

BUT One Sheet of Notes

Vector Spaces

Null Spaces, Column Spaces, Row Spaces, and Linear Transformations (Review)

Definition: The **null space** of an $m \times n$ matrix A , written as $\text{Nul } A$, is the set of all solutions of the homogeneous equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$

$$\text{Nul } A = \{\mathbf{x} : \mathbf{x} \text{ is in } \mathbb{R}^n \text{ and } A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}\}$$

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Theorem 1: The null space of an $m \times n$ matrix A is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n .

Equivalently, the set of all solutions to a system $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ of m homogenous equations in n unknowns is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n .

Definition: The **column space** of an $m \times n$ matrix A , written as $\text{Col } A$, is the set of all linear combinations of the columns of A .
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Theorem 2: The column space of an $m \times n$ matrix A is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^m .

The column space of an $m \times n$ matrix A is all of \mathbb{R}^m if and only if the equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ has a solution for all \mathbf{b} in \mathbb{R}^m .

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Theorem: The row space of an $m \times n$ matrix A is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n and is equal to the column space of the transpose of A .

Old Definition: [Section 1.8] A **linear transformation T from \mathbb{R}^n into \mathbb{R}^m** is a rule that assigns to each vector \mathbf{x} in \mathbb{R}^n a unique vector $T(\mathbf{x})$ in \mathbb{R}^m such that

$$T(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = T(\mathbf{u}) + T(\mathbf{v}) \text{ for all } \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^n \text{ and}$$
$$T(c\mathbf{u}) = cT(\mathbf{u}) \text{ for all } \mathbf{u} \text{ in } V \text{ and all scalars } c.$$

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Principal Example : Matrix Transformations

Let A be any $m \times n$ matrix. Then $T(\mathbf{u}) = A\mathbf{u}$ for \mathbf{u} in \mathbb{R}^n .

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Specific Example $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & -3 \\ 5 & -1 & 7 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \end{pmatrix}.$

$$T(\mathbf{u}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1u_1 + 2u_2 - 3u_3 \\ 5u_1 - 1u_2 + 7u_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} u_1 + \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} u_2 + \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix} u_3$$

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Definition: A **linear transformation T from a vector space V into a vector space W** is a rule that assigns to each vector \mathbf{x} in

V a unique vector $T(\mathbf{x})$ in W such that

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- ▶ Calculus Example: V is set of differentiable functions on $[-10,10]$ and W is set of functions on $[-10,10]$ with $T(f) = f'$.

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- ▶ Calculus: Let V be set of continuous functions on $[0,10]$ and $W = V$ with $T(f)$ defined as the antiderivative G of f with $G(0) = 0$.
Note $T(\cos x) = \sin x$ while $T(\sin x) = -\cos x + 1$.

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- ▶ Let V be vector space of all 3×5 matrices and W the vector space of all 2×7 matrices. Define $T : V \rightarrow W$ by the following:

Let $M = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 3 & 20 & 26 \\ 7 & 4 & 17 & 76 \end{pmatrix}$ and $T(A) = [MA|O]$ where O is the 2×2 zero matrix.

Vector Spaces

Linearly Independent Sets and Bases

Definition: An indexed set of vectors $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$ in a vector space V is **linearly independent** if the equation

$$(1) \quad c_1 v_1 + c_2 v_2 + \cdots + c_p v_p = 0$$

has only the trivial solution, $c_1 = 0, \dots, c_p = 0$

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The set $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$ is said to be **linearly dependent** if (1) has a nontrivial solution, that is, if there are some weights, c_1, \dots, c_p , not all zero, such that (1) holds.

In such a case, (1) is called a **linear dependence relation** among $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p$

Theorem 4: An indexed set $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$ of two or more vectors, with $\mathbf{v}_1 \neq 0$, is linearly dependent if and only if some \mathbf{v}_j (with $j > 1$) is a linear combination of the preceding vectors, $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_{j-1}$

Definition Let H be a subspace of a vector space V . A set of vectors \mathcal{B} in V is a **basis** for H if

- (i) \mathcal{B} is a linearly independent set, and
- (ii) the subspace spanned by \mathcal{B} coincides with H ;
that is, $H = \text{Span } \mathcal{B}$.

Theorem 5: The Spanning Set Theorem: Let $S = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$ be a set in a vector space V , and let $H = \text{Span} \{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$. If one of the vectors in S — say, v_k — is a linear combination of the remaining vectors in S , then the set formed from S by removing \mathbf{v}_k still spans H .

If $H \neq 0$, some subset of S is a basis for H .

Theorem 6: The pivot columns of a matrix A form a basis for $\text{Col } A$.

Theorem 7: If two matrices A and B are row equivalent, then their row spaces are the same.

If B is in echelon form, the nonzero rows of B form a basis for the row space of A as well as for that of B .

If f and g are two ordinary functions, how do you add them?

$$(f + g)(x) = f(x) + g(x)$$

How do you multiply a function by a scalar c ?

$$(cf)(x) = c \times f(x)$$

Let V and W be a fixed pair of vector spaces.

Let \mathbb{T} be the set of all linear transformations from V to W

Suppose S and T are members of \mathbb{T} Then

$$(S + T)(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = S(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) + T(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v})$$

(definition of addition of functions)

$$= S(\mathbf{u}) + S(\mathbf{v}) + T(\mathbf{u}) + T(\mathbf{v})$$

(each of S and T is a linear transformation)

$$= S(\mathbf{u}) + T(\mathbf{u}) + S(\mathbf{v}) + T(\mathbf{v})$$

(commutative law in W)

$= (S + T)(\mathbf{u}) + (S + T)(\mathbf{v})$ Similarly, if α and c are any scalars,

$$\text{then } (\alpha S)(c\mathbf{u}) = \alpha \times S(c\mathbf{u}) = \alpha \times cS(\mathbf{u})$$