

# Linear Dependence

A set of vectors  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k\}$  is said to be linearly dependent if there exists scalars, at least one non-zero, such that

$$s_1 \vec{v}_1 + s_2 \vec{v}_2 + s_3 \vec{v}_3 + \dots + s_k \vec{v}_k = \vec{0}$$

The set is said to be linearly independent if it is not linearly dependent. ie, if and only if, the only solution is  $s_i$  are all 0.

Non-trivial. linear relation: at least one non-zero scalar

E.g. 1 I  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  is linearly dependent.

$$(2) \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + (-1) \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + (3) \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \left. \vphantom{\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}} \right\} \text{ a non-trivial relation b/w the 3 vectors}$$

$$\begin{aligned} s(2) + t(4) &= 0 & , s=2, t=-1 \\ t(3) + u(1) &= 0 & t=-1, u=3 \end{aligned}$$

$$2s + 4t = 0$$

$$3t + u = 0$$

E.g. 2 I Is  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  linearly dependent?

$$\text{Suppose that } s \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2s + t \\ t \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{matrix} \textcircled{A} \\ \textcircled{B} \end{matrix}$$

$$\textcircled{B} \Rightarrow \textcircled{A} \quad 2s + (0) = 0, s=0 \quad \text{Trivial.}$$

No non-trivial relation b/w  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow$  linearly independent

E.g. 3 Is  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  linearly dependent?

$$\begin{bmatrix} s + 2t + 4u \\ u \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{matrix} \textcircled{A} \\ \textcircled{B} \end{matrix}$$

$$s + 2t = 0$$

$$s = 2, t = -1, u = 0 \quad \leftarrow \text{a non-trivial (non all-zero) solution}$$

A non-trivial linear relation b/w the 3 vectors  $\Rightarrow$  linearly dependent

# Linear Dependence and Independence

A set of vectors  $\{v_1, v_2, v_3, \dots, v_k\}$ ,  $k > 2$  is linearly dependent if and only if, at least one of the vectors can be written as a linear combination of the others.

e.g.  $\{[2, 0], [4, 3], [0, 1]\}$  is linearly dependent

$$2[2, 0] + (-1)[4, 3] + (3)[0, 1] = [0, 0]$$

$$2[2, 0] = [4, 3] + (-3)[0, 1]$$

e.g.  $\{[2, 0], [1, 1]\}$  is linearly independent.  $[2, 0]$  is not a linear comb of  $[1, 1]$  & vice versa

①D  $\{a\}$  is linearly independent if, and only if,  $a \neq 0$

If  $a=0$ , it is linearly dependent as multiplying it with any scalar =  $\vec{0}$

If  $a \neq 0$ , no non-zero scalar can make it =  $\vec{0}$ .

②D  $\{\vec{a}, \vec{b}\}$  is linearly independent if, and only if

① each vector is not a scalar multiple of the other

② are a of  $\square$  spanned by  $\vec{a}, \vec{b} \neq 0$



$$\begin{vmatrix} a_1 & a_2 \\ b_1 & b_2 \end{vmatrix}$$

If the set were linearly dependent, there exists an  $s$  and  $t$  such that

$$s\vec{a} + t\vec{b} = \vec{0}, \text{ and at least one of } s \neq 0, t \neq 0$$

$$s\vec{a} = -t\vec{b}$$

$$\frac{-s\vec{a}}{t} = \vec{b} \Rightarrow \vec{b} \text{ is a scalar multiple of } \vec{a}.$$

③D  $\{\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}\}$  is linearly independent if and only if

① none of the vectors can be expressed as a scalar multiple of the others

② they don't lie on the same plane.



$$\begin{vmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \\ c_1 & c_2 & c_3 \end{vmatrix}$$

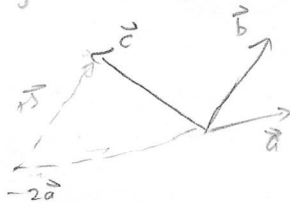
In  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ,  $\{\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}\}$  must be linearly dependent

## Intuition

A set of  $k$  vectors is linearly independent, if and only if, their linear combination forms a  $k$ -dimensional thing. e.g.  $\mathbb{R}^2$ -line,  $\mathbb{R}^3$ -solid

A set of  $n+1$  vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  must be linearly dependent

e.g. 3 vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^2$



$\vec{c}$  is a linear combination of  $\vec{a}$  and  $\vec{b}$ .


# Basis = Base Vectors

A basis of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is a collection of  $n$  vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  that are linearly independent.

$n$  base vectors form a basis.

Together, they can uniquely describe any vector in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  as a linear combination.

Examples:

•  $\hat{i}, \hat{j}, \hat{k}$  

•  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  2 vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^2$   
linearly independent - not scalar multiples of each other.

$\begin{bmatrix} 100 \\ 200 \end{bmatrix}$  can only be expressed as  $100 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + 0 \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$

because  $[1, 2] \perp [3, 4]$  are not colinear.

Non-examples

•  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  3 vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^2$   
automatically linearly dependent

•  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  3 vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  ✓  
Linearly dependent

$a \quad a+b \quad b$

Reasoning: Consider the linear system

$$\begin{bmatrix} | & | & | & \dots & | \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 & \dots & v_n \\ | & | & | & \dots & | \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} | \\ | \\ | \\ \dots \\ | \\ | \end{bmatrix} \dots \quad (*) \quad (i)$$

$\{v_1, v_2, v_3, \dots, v_n\}$  lin indept  $\Rightarrow$  ref of  $(*)$  has no free variables

$\Rightarrow$  ref of  $(*)$  has  $n$  basic variables

( $n$  non-zero rows in unaugmented matrix)

Since  $(*)$  has only  $n$  rows  $\Rightarrow$  ref of  $(*)$  has no room for

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & \dots & 0 & | & * \end{bmatrix} \quad (ii)$$

$\uparrow$  non-zero

(i) & (ii)  $\vec{w}$  can be expressed as a linear combination of  $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \vec{v}_3, \dots, \vec{v}_n$  uniquely.

Determine if the following are linearly independent. Justify.

a)  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  No. 4 vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^3 \Rightarrow$  linearly dependent

b)  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  Yes. ① Not scalar multiples of each other  
②  $\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = -2$ , Area spanned  $\neq 0$

c)  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  Yes. ① Not scalar multiples of each other  
② Non-zero cross product.

Note: The linear combination of the 2 is a plane

d)  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  No.  $[0 \ 0]$  can be expressed as  $0[1 \ 2]$ , or w/ any scalar.  
If  $\vec{0}$  present, linearly dependent

e)  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  No ①  $\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = (-1) - 3(-1) + 2(-1) = 0 \Rightarrow$  linearly dependent  
②  $\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

WW3(2) Is each of the following sets of vectors linearly independent?

a)  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -6 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  Yes, the only  $s$  for  $s\vec{a}$  that makes  $\vec{0}$ , is  $0$ .  
This is a trivial relation so  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -6 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  is linearly independent

b)  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ -8 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -9 \\ 3 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -12 \\ 2 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 11 \\ 12 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  No, it is linearly dependent. 4 vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ; one vector can be described as a linear combination of others

c)  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 9 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ -6 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 7 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$   $\begin{vmatrix} 9 & 20 \\ -4 & -6 \\ 5 & 7 \end{vmatrix} = 0$  Area of parallelepiped = 0  
No, it is linearly dependent.  
Area of parallelogram = 0

d)  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 6 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ -1 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -5 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$   $\begin{vmatrix} 7 & -4 & -5 \\ 6 & -1 & 0 \\ 2 & 8 & 3 \end{vmatrix} = 7(-3) + 4(18) - 5(48+2) \neq 0$   
Yes, it is linearly independent.

e)  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$   $\begin{vmatrix} -3 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = 0$  No, it is linearly dependent.  
 $\begin{bmatrix} 0, 0 \end{bmatrix}$  can be written as  $0 \begin{bmatrix} -3, 2 \end{bmatrix}$   
so that is a linear combination.  
If  $\begin{bmatrix} 0, 0 \end{bmatrix}$  is in the set, linearly dependent

f)  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -5 \\ 1 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 6 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  Yes, cannot be written as scalar multiples of each other  
 $\Rightarrow$  linearly independent

WU 3 (5) Assume all vectors are non-zero below. Decide whether each statement is true in all cases or false in at least one case.

a) If three vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  lie in the same plane in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , they are linearly dependent. Two linearly independent vectors span a 2-D plane (there is some linear combination of them to map to any point in it), so 3<sup>rd</sup> linearly dep. True

b) If  $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \vec{v}_3$  are in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  and  $\vec{v}_1 = \vec{0}$ , then  $\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \vec{v}_3\}$  is linearly dep. True.

c) If  $\{\vec{u}, \vec{v}\}$ ,  $\{\vec{u}, \vec{w}\}$ , and  $\{\vec{v}, \vec{w}\}$  are all linearly independent sets, then  $\{\vec{u}, \vec{v}, \vec{w}\}$  is also linearly independent. False

d) If  $\vec{v}_1$  and  $\vec{v}_2$  are non-zero vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  and  $\vec{v}_2$  is not a scalar multiple of  $\vec{v}_1$ ,  $\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2\}$  is linearly independent. True

e) If  $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \vec{v}_3$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  and  $\vec{v}_3$  is not a linear combination of  $\vec{v}_1$  and  $\vec{v}_2$ ,  $\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \vec{v}_3\}$  is linearly independent. False, see a.

f) If a set in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  is linearly dependent, then the set contains more than 3 vectors. False

? g) If  $S$  is a set of linearly dependent vectors, then each vector is a linear combination of the other vectors in  $S$ . False

? h) If  $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \vec{v}_3$  are a linearly independent set of vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , then  $\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2\}$  is also linearly independent. True

$$\text{WWR 3) } \vec{a} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \vec{b} = \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \vec{c} = \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ 2 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix}$$

Find a non-trivial relation (i.e. not all coefficients are zero) b/w  $\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}$  if they form a linearly dependent set.

check for linear dependence:

$$\begin{vmatrix} 4 & -4 & -4 \\ -2 & 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 & -4 \end{vmatrix} = 4(-12) + 4(4) - 4(-8) = -48 + 16 + 32 = 0$$

$$\Delta_{\text{parallelepiped}} = 0$$

linearly dependent

Express one as a linear combination of the other

$$\vec{a} = s\vec{b} + t\vec{c}$$

$$2 = -2x - 2y \quad \textcircled{A}$$

$$-1 = x + y \quad \textcircled{B} \Rightarrow x = -1 - y$$

$$1 = x - 2y \quad \textcircled{C} \Rightarrow 1 = -1 - 3y \Rightarrow y = -2/3$$

check

$$2 = -2(-1/3) - 2(-2/3) \quad \checkmark$$

$$-1 = -1/3 + (-2/3) \quad \checkmark$$

$$1 = -1/3 - 2(-2/3)$$

$$(x, y) = (-1/3, -2/3)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = -\frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - \frac{2}{3} \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{2}{3} \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

$$3 \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + 2 \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$