

Math 2550-03

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# Topic 7 - Bases

This topic is about creating coordinate systems for vector spaces.

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Def: Let  $V$  be a vector space over a field  $F$ .

Let  $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n$  be vectors in  $V$ .

① We say that a vector  $\vec{v}$  is in the span of  $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n$  if we can write

$$\vec{v} = c_1 \vec{v}_1 + c_2 \vec{v}_2 + \dots + c_n \vec{v}_n$$

this is called a linear combination of  $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n$

where  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n$  are scalars from  $F$ .

(2) The span of  $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n$  is

the set

$$\text{span}(\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n\})$$

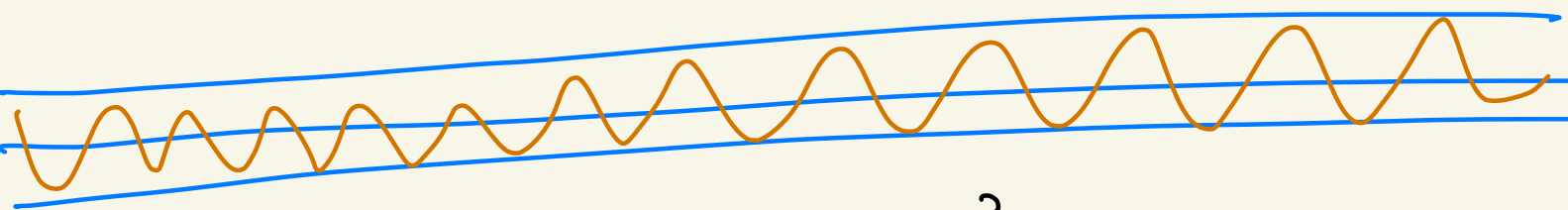
name of the set

$$= \left\{ c_1 \vec{v}_1 + c_2 \vec{v}_2 + \dots + c_n \vec{v}_n \mid c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n \text{ are in } F \right\}$$

set of all linear combos of  $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n$

(3) If  $W = \text{span}(\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n\})$  then we say that  $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n$

span  $W$ .



Ex: Let  $V = \mathbb{R}^2$ ,  $F = \mathbb{R}$ .

Let  $\vec{v}_1 = \langle 1, 0 \rangle$ .

Q: Is  $\vec{w} = \langle 7, 0 \rangle$  in the span of  $\vec{v}_1$ ?

That is, can we write

$$\langle 7, 0 \rangle = c_1 \langle 1, 0 \rangle$$
$$\vec{w} = c_1 \vec{v}_1$$

Yes,  $\langle 7, 0 \rangle = 7 \langle 1, 0 \rangle$

That is,  $\vec{w} = 7\vec{v}_1$ .

So,  $\vec{w}$  is in the span of  $\vec{v}_1$ .

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Q: Is  $\vec{z} = \langle 6, -4 \rangle$  in the span of  $\vec{v}_1 = \langle 1, 0 \rangle$  ?

That is, can we write

$$\langle 6, -4 \rangle = c_1 \langle 1, 0 \rangle$$

$$\vec{z} = c_1 \vec{v}_1$$

No, because you would need

$$\langle 6, -4 \rangle = \langle c_1, 0 \rangle$$

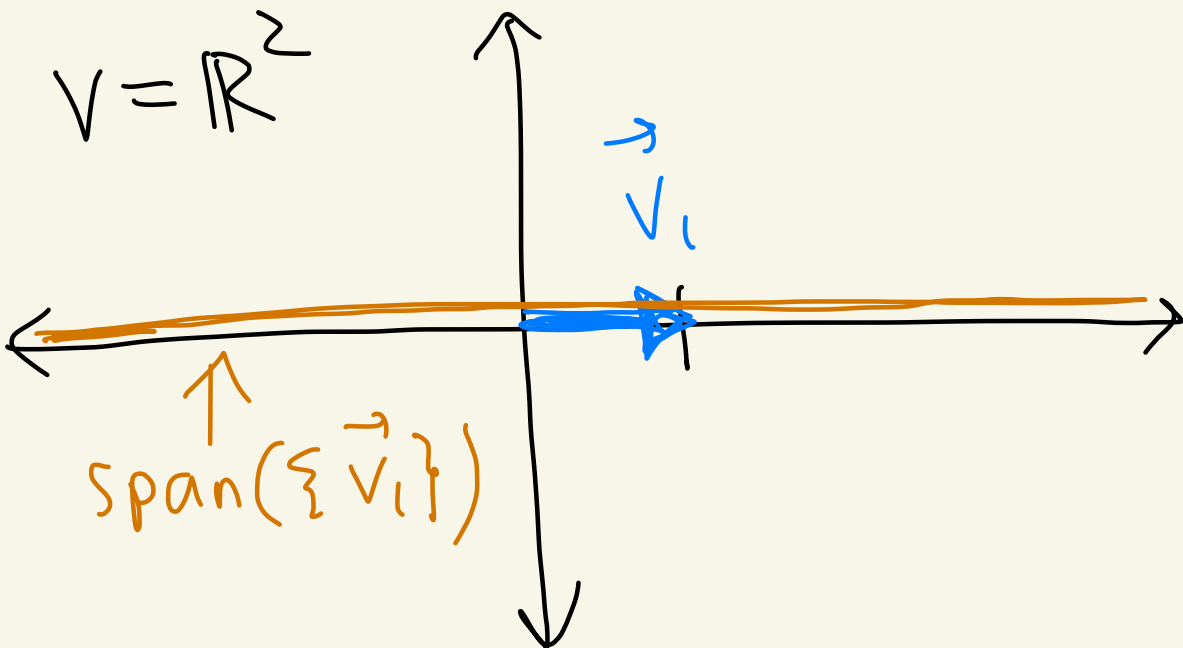
no way since  $-4 \neq 0$ !

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Q: What is the span of  $\vec{v}_1 = \langle 1, 0 \rangle$  ?

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Span}(\{\vec{v}_1\}) &= \{c_1 \vec{v}_1 \mid c_1 \in \mathbb{R}\} \\ &= \{c_1 \langle 1, 0 \rangle \mid c_1 \in \mathbb{R}\} \\ &= \{\langle c_1, 0 \rangle \mid c_1 \in \mathbb{R}\}\end{aligned}$$

So, the span of  $\vec{v}_1$  consists of all vectors of the form  $\langle c_1, 0 \rangle$ .



Ex: Let  $V = \mathbb{R}^2$ ,  $F = \mathbb{R}$

Let  $\vec{v}_1 = \langle 1, 0 \rangle$ ,  $\vec{v}_2 = \langle 0, 1 \rangle$ .

Q: Is  $\vec{w} = \langle 2, -1 \rangle$  in the span of  $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2$  ?

Yes, because

$$\langle 2, -1 \rangle = 2 \cdot \langle 1, 0 \rangle + (-1) \cdot \langle 0, 1 \rangle$$

$$\vec{w} = c_1 \vec{v}_1 + c_2 \vec{v}_2$$

$$\vec{w} = 2 \cdot \vec{v}_1 - 1 \cdot \vec{v}_2$$

Q: What is the span of  $\vec{v}_1 = \langle 1, 0 \rangle$ ,  $\vec{v}_2 = \langle 0, 1 \rangle$  ?

$$\begin{aligned}
& \text{Span}(\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2\}) \\
&= \{c_1 \langle 1, 0 \rangle + c_2 \langle 0, 1 \rangle \mid c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}\} \\
&\quad \underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{c_1 \vec{v}_1 + c_2 \vec{v}_2} \\
&= \{ \langle c_1, 0 \rangle + \langle 0, c_2 \rangle \mid c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R} \} \\
&= \{ \langle c_1, c_2 \rangle \mid c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R} \} \\
&= \mathbb{R}^2
\end{aligned}$$

Another way to see that any vector  $\langle a, b \rangle$  is in the span of  $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2$  is with the formula

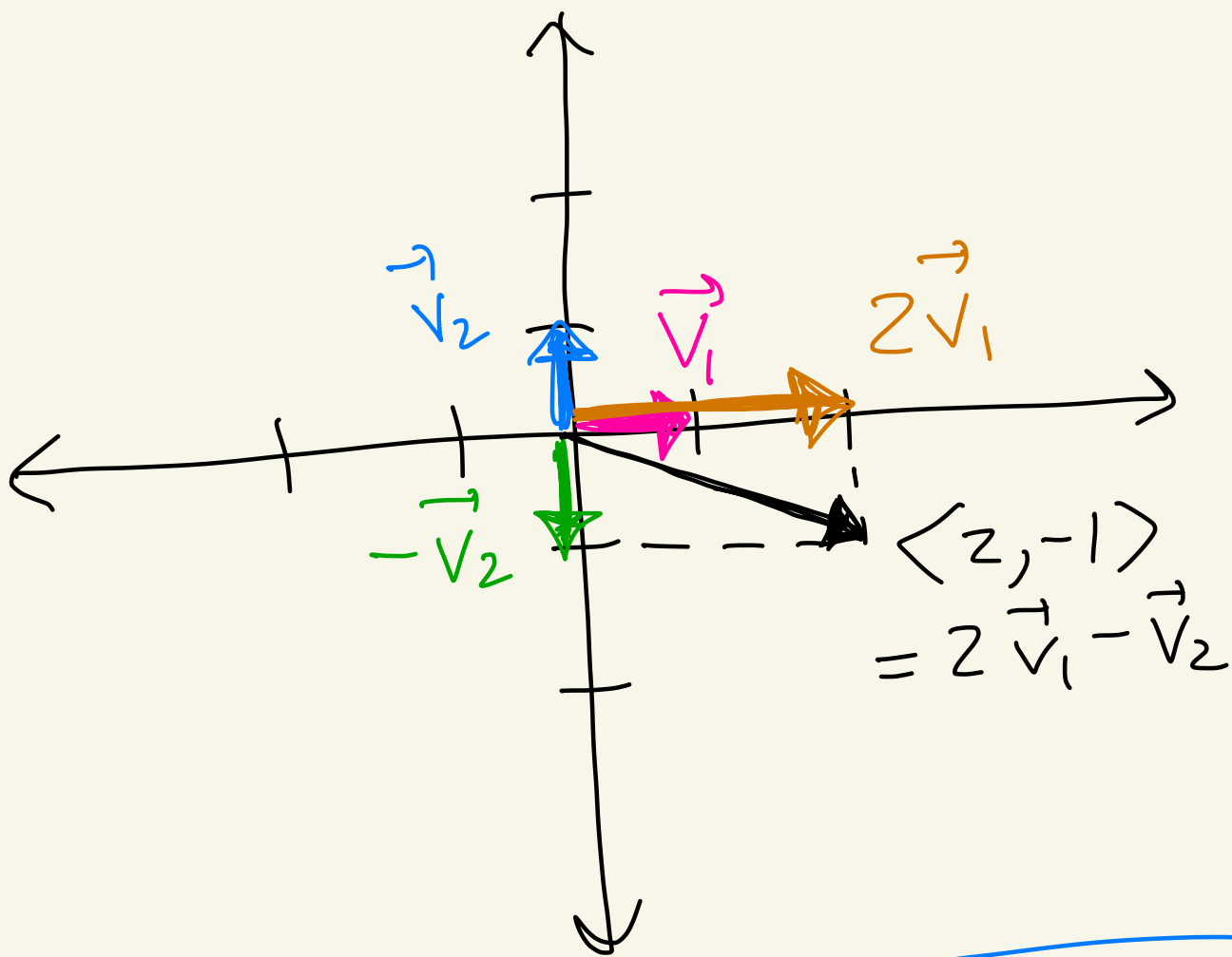
$$\langle a, b \rangle = a \cdot \langle 1, 0 \rangle + b \cdot \langle 0, 1 \rangle$$

$$\langle a, b \rangle = a \cdot \vec{v}_1 + b \cdot \vec{v}_2$$



Thus,  $\vec{v}_1 = \langle 1, 0 \rangle$ ,  $\vec{v}_2 = \langle 0, 1 \rangle$   
Span all of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

picture of  $\langle 2, -1 \rangle = 2\vec{v}_1 - 1\vec{v}_2$

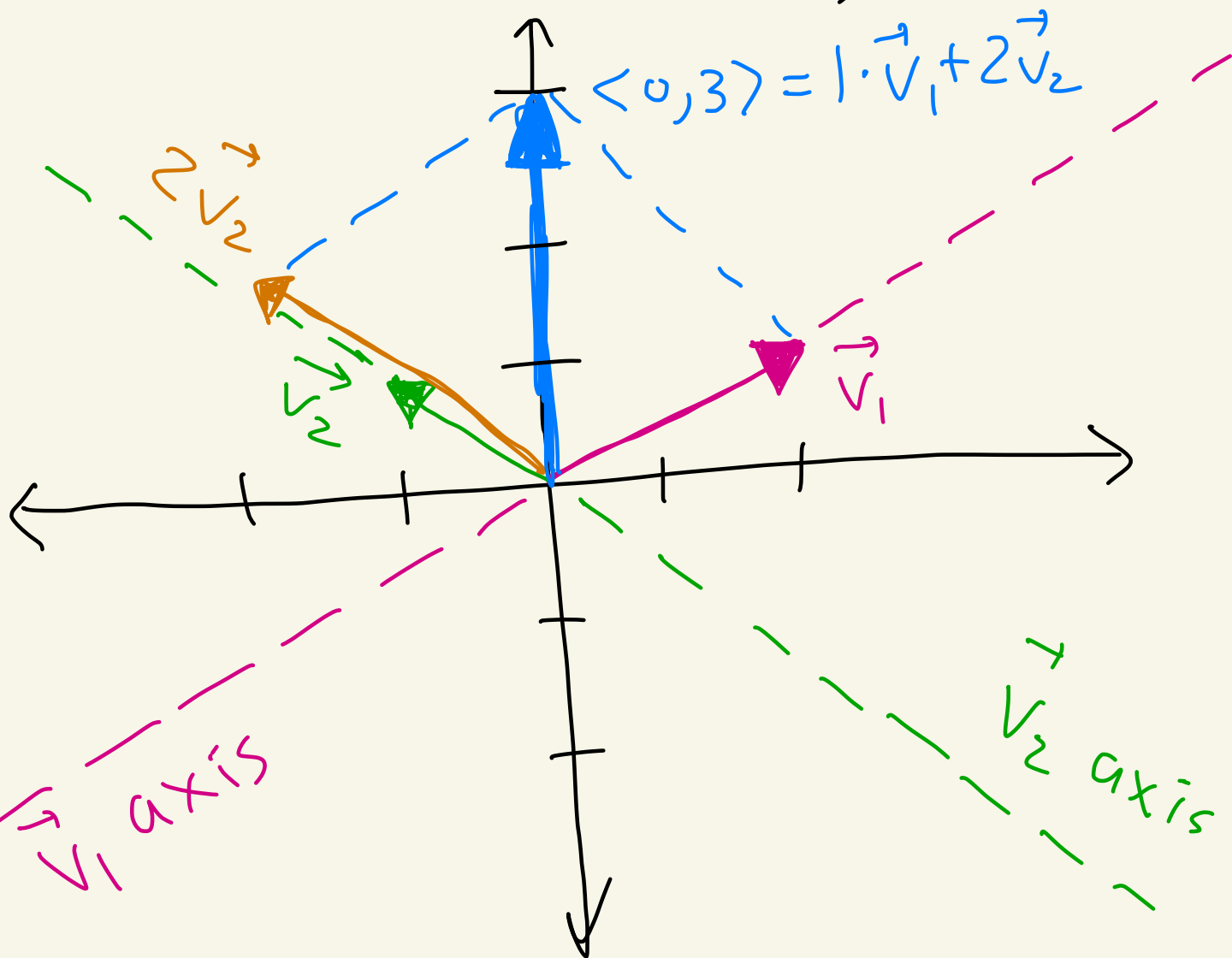


Ex: Let  $V = \mathbb{R}^2$ ,  $F = \mathbb{R}$

Let  $\vec{v}_1 = \langle 2, 1 \rangle$ ,  $\vec{v}_2 = \langle -1, 1 \rangle$

An example vector in the span  
of  $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2$  is

$$1 \cdot \vec{v}_1 + 2 \cdot \vec{v}_2 = \langle 2, 1 \rangle + \langle -2, 2 \rangle \\ = \langle 0, 3 \rangle$$



Claim: Every vector in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  is in the span of  $\vec{v}_1 = \langle 2, 1 \rangle$  and  $\vec{v}_2 = \langle -1, 1 \rangle$ . That is,  $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2$  span all of  $\mathbb{R}^2$

proof: Let  $\langle a, b \rangle$  be some vector from  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . Let's show that can write

$$\langle a, b \rangle = c_1 \langle 2, 1 \rangle + c_2 \langle -1, 1 \rangle$$

$c_1 \vec{v}_1 + c_2 \vec{v}_2$

This equation becomes

$$\langle a, b \rangle = \langle 2c_1, c_1 \rangle + \langle -c_2, c_2 \rangle$$

which gives

$$\langle a, b \rangle = \langle 2c_1 - c_2, c_1 + c_2 \rangle$$

This gives

$$\begin{cases} 2c_1 - c_2 = a \\ c_1 + c_2 = b \end{cases}$$

Let's solve:

$$\left( \begin{array}{cc|c} 2 & -1 & a \\ 1 & 1 & b \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{R_1 \leftrightarrow R_2} \left( \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 1 & b \\ 2 & -1 & a \end{array} \right)$$

$$\xrightarrow{-2R_1 + R_2 \rightarrow R_2} \left( \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 1 & b \\ 0 & -3 & a - 2b \end{array} \right)$$

$$\xrightarrow{-\frac{1}{3}R_2 \rightarrow R_2} \left( \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 1 & b \\ 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{3}a + \frac{2}{3}b \end{array} \right)$$

This gives:

$$\begin{aligned} c_1 + c_2 &= b & \textcircled{1} \\ c_2 &= -\frac{1}{3}a + \frac{2}{3}b & \textcircled{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad c_2 = -\frac{1}{3}a + \frac{2}{3}b$$

$$\begin{aligned} \textcircled{1} \quad c_1 &= b - c_2 = b - \left(-\frac{1}{3}a + \frac{2}{3}b\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{3}a + \frac{1}{3}b \end{aligned}$$

Plugging back into

$$\langle a, b \rangle = c_1 \langle 2, 1 \rangle + c_2 \langle -1, 1 \rangle$$

gives

$$\langle a, b \rangle = \left(\frac{1}{3}a + \frac{1}{3}b\right) \langle 2, 1 \rangle + \left(-\frac{1}{3}a + \frac{2}{3}b\right) \langle -1, 1 \rangle$$

Thus, every vector  $\langle a, b \rangle$  is in the span of  $\vec{v}_1 = \langle 2, 1 \rangle, \vec{v}_2 = \langle -1, 1 \rangle$

claim

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Ex:  $\langle a, b \rangle = \langle 0, 2 \rangle$

$$\langle 0, 2 \rangle = \left( \frac{1}{3} \cdot 0 + \frac{1}{3} \cdot 2 \right) \cdot \langle 2, 1 \rangle + \left( -\frac{1}{3} \cdot 0 + \frac{2}{3} \cdot 2 \right) \cdot \langle -1, 1 \rangle$$

$$\langle 0, 2 \rangle = \frac{2}{3} \cdot \langle 2, 1 \rangle + \frac{4}{3} \cdot \langle -1, 1 \rangle$$

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Theorem: Let  $V$  be a vector space over a field  $F$ .

Let  $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n$  be in  $V$ .

Then,  $\text{span}(\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n\})$  is a subspace of  $V$ .

picture when  $n=3$

$V$

$\text{span}(\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \vec{v}_3\})$

$$\vec{v}_1 = 1 \cdot \vec{v}_1 + 0 \cdot \vec{v}_2 + 0 \cdot \vec{v}_3$$

$$\vec{v}_2 = 0 \cdot \vec{v}_1 + 1 \cdot \vec{v}_2 + 0 \cdot \vec{v}_3$$

$$\vec{0} = 0 \cdot \vec{v}_1 + 0 \cdot \vec{v}_2 + 0 \cdot \vec{v}_3$$

$$100\vec{v}_1 + \frac{1}{2}\vec{v}_2 + \frac{1}{10}\vec{v}_3$$

$$\vec{v}_1 - \vec{v}_2$$