

Math 2250, Fall 2011, Quiz 3

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Let $\mathbf{a}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$, $\mathbf{a}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{a}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{a}_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$.

1. Show that $\{\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \mathbf{a}_3, \mathbf{a}_4\}$ is linearly dependent by finding a nontrivial linear combination of the vectors which is 0.
2. Find a linearly independent subset of them which contains as many vectors as possible.
3. Express the remaining vector (or vectors) as a linear combination of your linearly independent subset.

1. $c_1\mathbf{a}_1 + c_2\mathbf{a}_2 + c_3\mathbf{a}_3 + c_4\mathbf{a}_4 = 0 \iff \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ c_3 \\ c_4 \end{bmatrix} = 0$ so we now reduce to find a solution.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{-R_1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -4 \\ 0 & 4 & 1 & 8 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{*-\frac{1}{4}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 4 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{+2R_2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{1}{2} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{*-\frac{1}{4}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{1}{4} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{pivot columns}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 + \frac{1}{2}x_3 &= 0 \\ x_2 + \frac{1}{4}x_3 &= 0 \\ x_4 &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = x_3 \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{4} \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

2. Pivots in columns 1, 2, 4 $\Rightarrow \{\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \mathbf{a}_4\}$ is a maximal linearly independent subset.

3. $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{1}{4} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ from the linear combination in problem #1.