

1.3 Vectors in $\mathbb{R}^n$

A matrix with only one column is called a column vector. We usually shorten this to just vector. Some examples are

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

and we use the notation $\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ to indicate a vector (text uses bold letters). Some people prefer $\underline{u}$ to get away from the "directed line segment" idea.

The order of entries in a vector is important, thus $\vec{u} = \vec{v}$ implies that $\vec{u}$ and $\vec{v}$ have the same entries in the same order. Of course, this also means they are the same length.

If a vector has 2 ^{real} entries it is in $\underline{\mathbb{R}^2}$, the set of all vectors with 2 real entries

Addition: $\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\vec{u} + \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1+5 \\ 2-1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

or if we take the more general case

$$\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\vec{u} + \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 + v_1 \\ u_2 + v_2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{which is also in } \mathbb{R}^2.$$

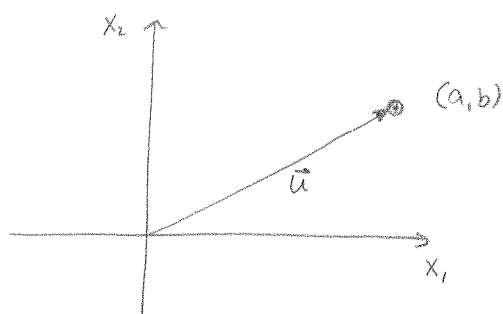
We also can obtain the scalar multiple of a vector. $\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$

$$c\vec{u} = c \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} c \cdot 1 \\ c \cdot 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} c \\ 2c \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{also in } \mathbb{R}^2$$

Ex $\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\vec{u} + 3\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + 3 \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} -6 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 11 \end{bmatrix}$$

Geometric Interpretation



$$\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix}$$

We can also think of $\vec{u}$ as a directed line segment from the origin $(0,0)$ to the point (a,b) .

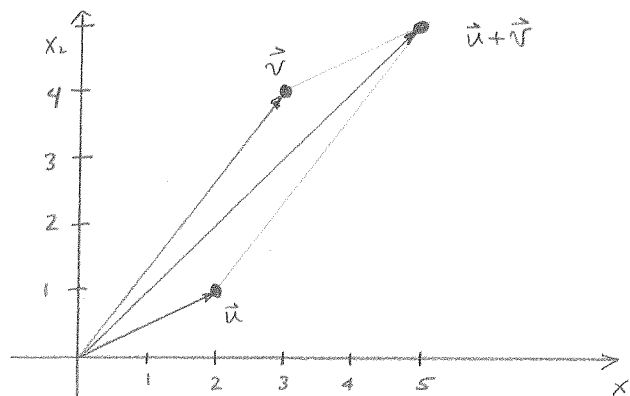
In fact, we often will think of $\vec{u}$ as a point, not a directed line segment. Thus (a,b) and $\begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix}$ can be understood to be equivalent.

The point $(0,0)$ can also be described $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ to which we give the notation

$$\vec{0} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{"the zero vector"}$$

Vectors in $\mathbb{R}^2$ can be added geometrically

$$\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$



Parallelogram rule for addition:

if $\vec{0}$, $\vec{u}$ and $\vec{v}$ are 3 points

in a plane ($\mathbb{R}^2$) then $\vec{u} + \vec{v}$

is also in the plane and is the

4th vertex of the parallelogram whose other 3 vertices are $\vec{0}$, $\vec{u}$, $\vec{v}$.

Consider $c\vec{u}$ where c is any scalar. This product describes the set of points (vectors in $\mathbb{R}^2$) on the line passing through $\vec{0}$ and $\vec{u}$.

Vectors in $\mathbb{R}^3$ are essentially points in 3-dimensional space.

Ex $\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} \quad (3 \text{ entries})$

They can be added geometrically with a "parallelepiped" law.

In general, we can talk about vectors in $\mathbb{R}^n$, these have n entries.

Algebraic Properties of $\mathbb{R}^n$

For all $\vec{u}, \vec{v}, \vec{w}$ in $\mathbb{R}^n$ and all scalars c and d :

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| i) $\vec{u} + \vec{v} = \vec{v} + \vec{u}$ | commutative |
| ii) $(\vec{u} + \vec{v}) + \vec{w} = \vec{u} + (\vec{v} + \vec{w})$ | associative |
| iii) $\vec{u} + \vec{0} = \vec{0} + \vec{u} = \vec{u}$ | additive identity |
| iv) $\vec{u} + (-\vec{u}) = -\vec{u} + \vec{u} = \vec{0}$ | additive inverse |
| v) $c(\vec{u} + \vec{v}) = c\vec{u} + c\vec{v}$ | distributive |
| vi) $(c+d)\vec{u} = c\vec{u} + d\vec{u}$ | distributive |
| vii) $c(d\vec{u}) = (cd)\vec{u}$ | associative |
| viii) $1\vec{u} = \vec{u}$ | multiplicative identity |

Given a collection of vectors $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_p$ in $\mathbb{R}^n$ and scalars $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_p$, we can construct a linear combination of the $\vec{v}_i$ using the c_i

$$\vec{y} = c_1\vec{v}_1 + c_2\vec{v}_2 + \dots + c_p\vec{v}_p$$

THIS IS IMPORTANT - TAPE IT ABOVE
YOUR SINK AND THINK ABOUT IT WHILE
YOU BRUSH YOUR TEETH!

If $\vec{v}_i, i=1 \dots p$, are vectors in $\mathbb{R}^n$, then the set of all possible linear combinations of $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_p$ is called the subset of $\mathbb{R}^n$ spanned by $\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_p\}$ and is denoted by

$$\text{Span} \{ \vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_p \}$$

Ex Show that $\vec{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 10 \\ 24 \end{bmatrix}$ is in the plane spanned by $\vec{a}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\vec{a}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$

For $\vec{b}$ to be in $\text{span}\{\vec{a}_1, \vec{a}_2\}$, there must be 2 constants, x_1 and x_2 , for which

$$x_1 \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 10 \\ 24 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3x_1 \\ 2x_1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ 5x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 10 \\ 24 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3x_1 + x_2 \\ 2x_1 + 5x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 10 \\ 24 \end{bmatrix}$$

therefore $\begin{array}{l} 3x_1 + x_2 = 10 \\ 2x_1 + 5x_2 = 24 \end{array}$ Ahhh...

we see that if values for x_1 and x_2 can be found (i.e. a consistent linear system) then $\vec{b}$ is in $\text{span}\{\vec{a}_1, \vec{a}_2\}$.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 & 10 \\ 2 & 5 & 24 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

so $x_1 = 2, x_2 = 4$.

$\therefore \vec{b}$ is in $\text{span}\{\vec{a}_1, \vec{a}_2\}$

The vector equation $x_1 \vec{a}_1 + x_2 \vec{a}_2 + \dots + x_p \vec{a}_p = \vec{b}$ has the same solution set as the linear system whose augmented matrix is $[\vec{a}_1 \ \vec{a}_2 \ \dots \ \vec{a}_p \ \vec{b}]$.

↑
This is a row vector (or row matrix) whose entries are column vectors. If each $\vec{a}_i$ has n elements (in $\mathbb{R}^n$) then this matrix will be $n \times (p+1)$.