

# Lecture 15

188 200

Discrete Mathematics and Linear Algebra

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# Overview

## Topics for today.

- ▶ Solution sets of linear systems
- ▶ Homogeneous linear systems
- ▶ Nonhomogeneous linear systems
- ▶ Parametric vector form
- ▶ Linear independence
- ▶ Linear dependence
- ▶ Special cases

**Reference :** Section 1.5, 1.7

## Solution Sets of Linear Systems

**Homogeneous Linear Systems:** a linear system is said to be **homogeneous** if it can be written in the form

$$A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$$

where  $A$  is  $m \times n$  matrix and  $\vec{0}$  is the zero vector in  $\mathbb{R}^m$ .

**Example 1:** The following linear system is homogeneous.

$$x_1 + 10x_2 = 0$$

$$2x_1 + 20x_2 = 0$$

Corresponding matrix equation is

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 10 \\ 2 & 20 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Solution Sets of Homogeneous Systems

**Homogeneous system**  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$  **always** has at least one solution, namely  $\vec{x} = \vec{0}$ . We call this **trivial solution**.

**Example 2:** From Example 1:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 10 \\ 2 & 20 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

If  $\vec{x} = \vec{0}$  the equation is **true**.

The important question is whether there exist a **nontrivial solution**, i.e. a nonzero vector  $\vec{x}$  that satisfies  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$ .

**Observation:** The homogeneous equation has a nontrivial solution iff the equation has **at least one free variable**.

## Nontrivial Solution, example

**Example 3:** Continue from Example 2, do nontrivial solutions exist in the following equation?

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 10 \\ 2 & 20 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Solution:** We can row reduce the corresponding augmented matrix to echelon form:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 10 & 0 \\ 2 & 20 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 10 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Hence,  $x_2$  is free variable, which implies that the system has infinitely many solutions, which also implies that nontrivial solutions exist.

## Solution Sets for Homogeneous System, Example

**Example 4:** Determine if the following homogeneous system has **nontrivial solution** and then describe the solution set.

$$2x_1 + 4x_2 - 6x_3 = 0$$

$$4x_1 + 8x_2 - 10x_3 = 0$$

**Solution:**

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & -6 & 0 \\ 4 & 8 & 10 & 0 \end{bmatrix} &\sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & -3 & 0 \\ 4 & 8 & -10 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ &\sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & -3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

- ▶  $x_1 = -2x_2$
- ▶  $x_2$  is free
- ▶  $x_3 = 0$

## Example 4, cont.

Recall that  $x_1 = -2x_2$ ,  $x_2$  is free and  $x_3 = 0$ . As a vector the **general solution** of  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$  has the form

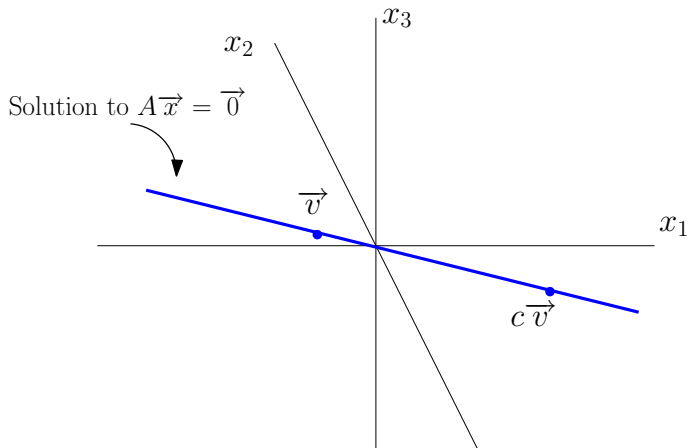
$$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2x_2 \\ x_2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = x_2 \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = x_2 \vec{v}$$

where  $\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ . This shows that every solutions is a scalar multiple of  $\vec{v}$ . And the trivial solution is when  $x_2 = 0$ .

**Note:** Actually, by looking at the linear system you can tell there is **at least one free variable**.

- why?

## Graphical Representation



Solution set =  $\text{span}\{\vec{v}\} = \text{line through } \vec{0} \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^3$

## Homogeneous System, A Single Linear Equation

**Example 5:** A **single linear equation** can be treated as a very simple system of **homogeneous equation**. Describe all solution of the following homogeneous “**system**”

$$10x_1 - 3x_2 - 2x_3 = 0$$

**Solution:**

- ▶  $x_1$  is **basic variable**.  $x_2$  and  $x_3$  are **free variable**.
- ▶ The general solution is  $x_1 = 0.3x_2 + 0.2x_3$ , with  $x_2$  and  $x_3$  are free. The **general solution in term of vector** is

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{x} &= \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.3x_2 + 0.2x_3 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.3x_2 \\ x_2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0.2x_3 \\ 0 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 0.3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_3 \begin{bmatrix} 0.2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{with } x_2, x_3 \text{ free}\end{aligned}$$



## Parametric Vector Form

From the previous example,

$$10x_1 - 3x_2 - 2x_3 = 0$$

is an **implicit** description of the plane.

The **explicit** description of the plane is the set spanned by  $\vec{u}$  and  $\vec{v}$ .

$$\vec{x} = x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 0.3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_3 \begin{bmatrix} 0.2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

is called **parametric vector equation**. It has a general form as

$$\vec{x} = s\vec{u} + t\vec{v} \quad \text{where } s, t \text{ in } \mathbb{R}$$

## Nonhomogeneous System

When a **nonhomogeneous system** has **many solutions**, the general solutions can be written in parametric vector form as **one vector plus arbitrary linear combination of vector that satisfying homogeneous system**.

**Example 6:** Describe all solutions of (the LHS is the same as Example 4)

$$2x_1 + 4x_2 - 6x_3 = 0$$

$$4x_1 + 8x_2 - 10x_3 = 4$$

**Solution:**

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & -6 & 0 \\ 4 & 8 & -10 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Exam 6, cont.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

The general solution is

$$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 - 2x_2 \\ x_2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \vec{p} + x_2 v$$

where  $\vec{p}$  is  $\begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ .

## Recap of Example 4 and 6

Solution  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$

$$\vec{x} = x_2 \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = x_2 \vec{v}$$

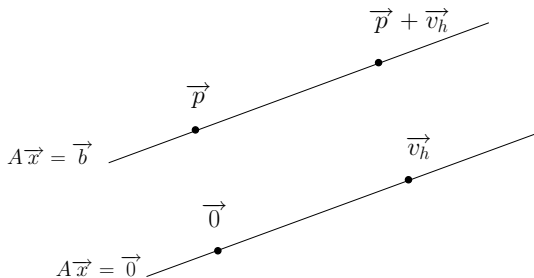
$\vec{x} = x_2 \vec{v} =$  parametric equation of line passing through  $\vec{0}$  and  $\vec{v}$ .

Solution  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$

$$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \vec{p} + x_2 \vec{v}$$

$\vec{x} = \vec{p} + x_2 \vec{v} =$  parametric equation of line passing through  $\vec{p}$  and  $\vec{v}$ .

## Summarizing Example 4 and 6



**Theorem 6** Suppose  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$  is consistent for some given  $\vec{b}$ , and let  $\vec{p}$  be a solution. Then the solution set of  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$  is the set of all vectors of the form  $\vec{w} = \vec{p} + \vec{v}_h$  where  $\vec{v}_h$  is any solution of the homogeneous equation of  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$ .

## Example 7

**Example 7** Describe the solution set of  $2x_1 - 4x_2 - 4x_3 = 0$  compare it to the solution set of  $2x_1 - 4x_2 - 4x_3 = 6$ .

**Solution:** Corresponding augmented matrix to  $2x_1 - 4x_2 - 4x_3 = 0$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & -4 & -4 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & -2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Vector form of the solution:

$$\vec{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2x_2 + 2x_3 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_3 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Example 7, cont.

Corresponding augmented matrix to  $2x_1 - 4x_2 - 4x_3 = 6$ :

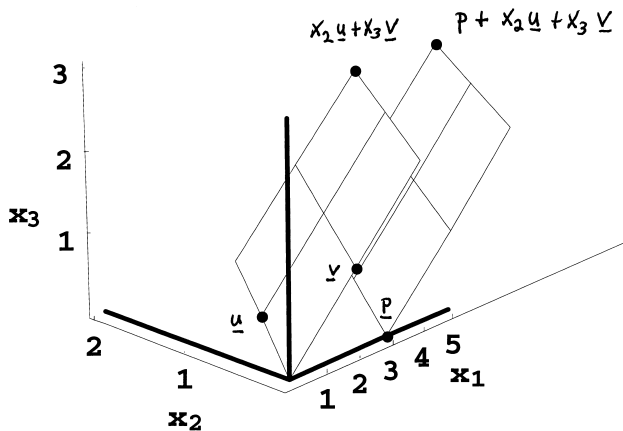
$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & -4 & -4 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & -2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Vector form of the solution:

$$\vec{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2x_2 + 2x_3 + 3 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_3 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Hence,  $\vec{v}_2 = \vec{v}_1 + \vec{p}$  where  $\vec{p} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

## Example 7, Graphical Representation



Parallel Solution Sets of  $Ax = 0$  and  $Ax = b$

## Linear Independence, Trivial Solution

A **homogeneous system** can be viewed a **vector equation**.

For example, the system

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & -3 \\ 3 & 5 & 9 \\ 5 & 9 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

can be viewed as a vector equation

$$x_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} + x_3 \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 9 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

The vector equation has the **trivial solution** ( $x_1 = x_2 = x_3 = 0$ ),  
but **is this the only solution?**

## Linearly Independence, Definition

**Definition** A set of vectors  $\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_p\}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is said to be **linear independence** if the vector equation

$$x_1 \vec{v}_1 + x_2 \vec{v}_2 + \dots + x_p \vec{v}_p = \vec{0}$$

has **only the trivial solution**.

The set  $\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_p\}$  is said to be linear dependence if there exists weight  $c_1, \dots, c_p$  **not all zero**, such that

$$c_1 \vec{v}_1 + c_2 \vec{v}_2 + \dots + c_p \vec{v}_p = \vec{0}$$

## Linearly Independence, Example

**Example 8** Let  $\vec{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\vec{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\vec{v}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 9 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$

1. Determine if  $\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \vec{v}_3\}$  is linearly independent.
2. If possible, find a linear dependence relation among  $\vec{v}_1$ ,  $\vec{v}_2$  and  $\vec{v}_3$ .

**Solution: (1)**

$$x_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} + x_3 \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 9 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Augmented matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & -3 & 0 \\ 3 & 5 & 9 & 0 \\ 5 & 9 & 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & -3 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 18 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Example 8, cont.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & -3 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 18 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_3$  is a free variable  $\rightarrow$  there are **nontrivial solutions**.

$\therefore \{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \vec{v}_3\}$  is linearly **dependent** set.

**(2)** The general solution is

$$x_1 = -33x_3$$

$$x_2 = 18x_3$$

$x_3$  is free

Let  $x_3 = 1$ . Then  $x_1 = -33$  and  $x_2 = 18$ .

## Example 8, cont. 2

$$(-33) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} + (18) \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} + (1) \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 9 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Or

$$(-33)\vec{v}_1 + (18)\vec{v}_2 + (1)\vec{v}_3 = \vec{0}$$

This is **one possible** linear dependence relation among  $\vec{v}_1$ ,  $\vec{v}_2$  and  $\vec{v}_3$  (out of infinitely many linear dependence relation)

## Linear Independence of Matrix Columns

A linear dependence relation such as

$$(-33) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} + (18) \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} + (1) \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 9 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

can be written as

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & -3 \\ 3 & 5 & 9 \\ 5 & 9 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -33 \\ 18 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Each linear dependence relation among the columns of  $A$  corresponds to a nontrivial solution to  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$ .

**Note:** The columns of matrix  $A$  are **linearly independence** iff the equation  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$  has **only the trivial solution**.

## Special Case

Let's see some special case where the number of vectors is restricted.

### A set of one vector

Consider the set containing one vector:  $\{\vec{v}_1\}$ .

$\{\vec{v}_1\}$  is **linear independence** iff  $\vec{v}_1$  is **nonzero**.

Because  $x_1 \vec{v}_1 = \vec{0}$  has the trivial solution when  $\vec{v}_1 = \vec{0}$ . And if  $\vec{v}_1 = \vec{0}$ ,  $\{\vec{v}_1\}$  is **linear dependence** since  $x_1 \vec{v}_1 = \vec{0}$  has many nontrivial solutions.

## A Set of Two Vectors

**Example 9** Let

$$\vec{u}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \vec{u}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \vec{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \vec{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

1. Determine if  $\{\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2\}$  is a linearly dependent or a linearly independent set.
2. Determine if  $\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2\}$  is a linearly dependent or a linearly independent set.

**Solution:** (1) Notice that  $\vec{u}_1 = 2\vec{u}_2$ . Therefore

$$2\vec{u}_1 + (-1)\vec{u}_2 = \vec{0}$$

This means that  $\{\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2\}$  is **linear dependence**.

## Example 9 cont.

(2) Suppose that

$$c\vec{v}_1 + d\vec{v}_2 = \vec{0}$$

- ▶ Then we have  $\vec{v}_1 = (-d/c)\vec{v}_2$  if  $c \neq 0$ .
- ▶ But this is impossible since  $\vec{v}_1$  is not a multiple of  $\vec{v}_2$
- ▶ This means  $c = 0$ .

Similarly,  $\vec{v}_2 = (-c/d)\vec{v}_1$  if  $d \neq 0$

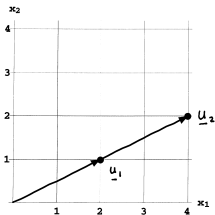
- ▶ But this is impossible since  $\vec{v}_2$  is not a multiple of  $\vec{v}_1$ , so  $d = 0$ .

This means that  $\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2\}$  is a linearly **independent** set.

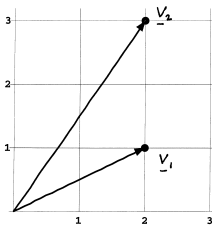
**Observation:** A set of two vectors is linearly **dependent** iff **at least one** vector is a multiple of the other.

**Observation:** A set of two vectors is linearly **independent** iff **neither** of the vectors is a multiple of the other.

## Example 9, Graphical Representation



linearly dependent



linearly independent

## A Set Containing $\vec{0}$

**Theorem** A set of vectors  $S = \{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_p\}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  containing the zero vector is linearly dependent.

**Proof:** Renumber the vectors so that  $\vec{v}_1 = \vec{0}$ . Then

$$(1)\vec{v}_1 + (0)\vec{v}_2 + \dots + (0)\vec{v}_p = \vec{0}$$

This shows that  $S$  is linear **dependent**.

## A Set Containing Too Many Vectors

**Theorem:** If a set contains **more vectors than there are entries** in each vector, the the set is linearly **dependent**. In other words, any set  $\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_p\}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is linearly dependent if  $p > n$ .

- ▶  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$  has more variables than equations.
- ▶  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$  has nontrivial solutions.
- ▶ columns of  $A$  are linearly dependent.

## Sets of Two or More Vectors

**Theorem:**  $S = \{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_p\}$  is linearly **dependent** iff  $\exists \vec{v}_j$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq p$  such that  $\vec{v}_j$  is a linear combination of other vectors.

In fact, if  $S$  is linearly **dependent** and  $\vec{v}_1 \neq \vec{0}$ , then some  $\vec{v}_j$ ,  $j > 1$  is a linear combination of the preceding vectors,  $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_{j-1}$

**Example 10:** Let  $\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 6 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ . Describe why a vector  $\vec{w}$  is in  $\text{Span}\{\vec{u}, \vec{v}\}$  iff  $\{\vec{u}, \vec{v}, \vec{w}\}$  is **linearly dependent**.

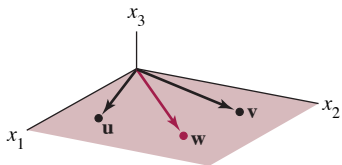
**Solution:**

- ▶  $\vec{u}$  and  $\vec{v}$  are linearly **independent**.
  - Since they are **not** multiple of the other.
  - So they **span**  $\mathbb{R}^3$

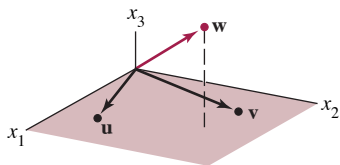
## Example 10, cont.

### Solution (cont.):

- ▶ If  $\vec{w}$  is a **linear combination** of  $\vec{u}$  and  $\vec{v}$ , then by the previous Theorem  $\{\vec{u}, \vec{v}, \vec{w}\}$  is **linear independent**.
- ▶ Conversely, suppose  $\{\vec{u}, \vec{v}, \vec{w}\}$  is **linearly dependent**. Then by the previous Theorem, **there is at least one vector in the set that is a linear combination of the preceding vectors**.
- ▶ That vector must be  $\vec{w}$  since  $\vec{v}$  is not a multiple of  $\vec{u}$ .



Linearly dependent,  
 $\mathbf{w}$  in  $\text{Span}\{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}\}$



Linearly independent,  
 $\mathbf{w}$  not in  $\text{Span}\{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}\}$

## Practice Example

**Example 11:** With the least amount of work possible, decide which of the following sets of vectors are **linearly independent** or **linearly dependence** and give a reason for each answer.

## Recap

- ▶ Solution sets of linear systems
- ▶ Homogeneous linear systems
- ▶ Nonhomogeneous linear systems
- ▶ Parametric vector form
- ▶ Linear independence
- ▶ Linear dependence
- ▶ Special case

Next time we will close the first chapter with **linear transformation**.