



Lesson concepts:

- Vectors
- Vector operations
- Linear combinations
- Matrix vector multiplication



- Some quantities arising in applications can be expressed as single numbers, called “scalars”
  - Speed of a car on a highway  $v = 35$  mph
  - A person’s height  $H = 183$  cm
- Many other quantities require more than one number:
  - Position in a city: “Intersection of 86<sup>th</sup> St and 3<sup>rd</sup> Av”
  - Position in 3D space:  $(x, y, z)$
  - Velocity in 3D space:  $(u, v, w)$



**Definition.** A **vector** is a grouping of  $m$  scalars

$$\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_m \end{bmatrix} \in S^m, v_i \in S$$

- The scalars usually are naturals ( $S = \mathbb{N}$ ), integers ( $S = \mathbb{Z}$ ), rationals ( $S = \mathbb{Q}$ ), reals ( $S = \mathbb{R}$ ), or complex numbers ( $S = \mathbb{C}$ )
- We often denote the dimension and set of scalars as  $\mathbf{v} \in S^m$ , e.g.  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^m$
- Sets of vectors are denoted as

$$\mathcal{V} = \left\{ \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_m \end{bmatrix}, v_i \in S \right\} \quad (1)$$

- A vector can also be interpreted as a function from a subset of  $\mathbb{N}$  to  $S$

$$v: \{1, 2, \dots, m\} \rightarrow S$$

- **Vector addition.** Consider two vectors  $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{V}$ . We define the sum of the two vectors as the vector containing the sum of the components

$$\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ \vdots \\ u_m \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_m \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 + v_1 \\ u_2 + v_2 \\ \vdots \\ u_m + v_m \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ \vdots \\ w_m \end{bmatrix}$$

```
>> u=[1 2 3]; v=[-2 1 2]; u+v
```

- **Scalar multiplication.** Consider  $\alpha \in S$ ,  $\mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{V}$ . We define the multiplication of vector  $\mathbf{u}$  by scalar  $\alpha$  as the vector containing the product of each component of  $\mathbf{u}$  with the scalar  $\alpha$

$$\mathbf{w} = \alpha \mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha u_1 \\ \alpha u_2 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha u_m \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ \vdots \\ w_m \end{bmatrix}$$

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```
>> u=[1 2 3]; v=[-2 1 2]; u+v
```

```
( -1 3 5 )
```

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$$\mathbf{w} = \alpha \mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha u_1 \\ \alpha u_2 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha u_m \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ \vdots \\ w_m \end{bmatrix}$$

- **Linear combination.** Let  $\alpha, \beta \in S$ ,  $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{V}$ . Define a linear combination of two vectors by

$$\mathbf{w} = \alpha \mathbf{u} + \beta \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha u_1 \\ \alpha u_2 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha u_m \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \beta v_1 \\ \beta v_2 \\ \vdots \\ \beta v_m \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha u_1 + \beta v_1 \\ \alpha u_2 + \beta v_2 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha u_m + \beta v_m \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ \vdots \\ w_m \end{bmatrix}$$

- Linear combination of  $n$  vectors

$$\mathbf{b} = x_1 \mathbf{a}_1 + x_2 \mathbf{a}_2 + \cdots + x_n \mathbf{a}_n = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 a_{11} + x_2 a_{12} + \cdots + x_n a_{1n} \\ x_1 a_{21} + x_2 a_{22} + \cdots + x_n a_{2n} \\ \vdots \\ x_1 a_{m1} + x_2 a_{m2} + \cdots + x_n a_{mn} \end{bmatrix}$$



"Start at the center of town. Go east 3 blocks and north 2 blocks. What is your final position?"

$$\mathbf{s} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{e}_E = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{e}_N = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\alpha_E = 3, \alpha_N = 2$$

$$\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{s} + \alpha_E \mathbf{e}_E + \alpha_N \mathbf{e}_N = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + 3 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + 2 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Linear combinations allow us to express a position in space using a standard set of directions.  
Questions:

- How many standard directions are needed?
- Can any position be specified as a linear combination?
- How to find the scalars needed to express a position as a linear combination?



Seek a more compact notation for the linear combination

$$a \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + b \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + c \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a - b + 2c \\ 2a \\ 3a + b + c \end{bmatrix}$$

- Group the vectors together to form a “matrix”

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Group the scalars together to form a vector

$$\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}$$



- Define matrix-vector multiplication

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a - b + 2c \\ 2a \\ 3a + b + c \end{bmatrix}$$

- In general

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \cdots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix} = [\mathbf{a}_1 \ \mathbf{a}_2 \ \cdots \ \mathbf{a}_n], \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = x_1\mathbf{a}_1 + x_2\mathbf{a}_2 + \cdots + x_n\mathbf{a}_n = \begin{bmatrix} x_1a_{11} + x_2a_{12} + \cdots + x_na_{1n} \\ x_1a_{21} + x_2a_{22} + \cdots + x_na_{2n} \\ \vdots \\ x_1a_{m1} + x_2a_{m2} + \cdots + x_na_{mn} \end{bmatrix}$$

- Construct linear combination of vectors  $\mathbf{u} = [1 \ -1 \ 2]$ ,  $\mathbf{v} = [2 \ 1 \ -1]$  scaled by  $\alpha = 2$  and  $\beta = 3$ , respectively

```
>> u=[1 -1 2]; v=[2 1 -1]; alpha=2; beta=3;
```

```
>> alpha*u+beta*v
```

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```
 $\begin{pmatrix} 8 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ 
```

```
>>
```



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```
>> A=[u v]; x=[alpha; beta]; A*x
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```
>>
```