

1 (10 pts).

a. Determine whether the vector $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 12 \\ 25 \end{bmatrix}$ is in the span of the vectors

$$V = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -8 \\ -20 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

b. Based on your work, would you say that the vectors V span \mathbb{R}^3 ? Why or why not?

Solution:

1a.(Source: 1.3.11-12) The question asks whether the vector equation

$$x_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} + x_3 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -8 \\ -20 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 12 \\ 25 \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

is consistent. Augment and perform the forward phase of row reduction:

aug.'d matrix	row op.	result	row op.	result
1 1 0 1	$\mathbf{r}_2 \leftarrow \mathbf{r}_2 - 2\mathbf{r}_1$ $\mathbf{r}_3 \leftarrow \mathbf{r}_3 - \mathbf{r}_1$	1 1 0 1	$\mathbf{r}_3 \leftarrow \mathbf{r}_3 - 3\mathbf{r}_1$	1 1 0 1
2 3 -8 12		0 1 -8 10		0 1 -8 10
1 4 -20 25		0 3 -20 24		0 0 4 -6

End forward phase. The reduced augmented matrix, now in row echelon form, doesn't have a pivot in the last column, so the system (1) is consistent.

1b.(Source: 1.4.19-20)

$$\text{ref} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 3 & -8 \\ 1 & 4 & -20 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -8 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

has a pivot in every row, so V spans \mathbb{R}^3 .

Comment:

If you're asked a question, make sure you answer the question. Don't just stop when you've decided what that answer is. A good solution to part a. should clearly state that the vector *is* in the span of V (as well as the work that leads to that conclusion).

b. If you are asked to explain your answer to a question, be careful that you don't simply explain what the question means. For example,

Question: "Does the equation $x^2 = 1$ have more than one solution? Explain."

Insufficient answer: "Yes, because there's more than one x that satisfies the equation."

Sufficient answer: "Yes. Both $x = 1$ and $x = -1$ satisfy the equation."

1 (10 pts).

a. Determine whether the vector $\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$ is in the span of the vectors

$$V = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 15 \\ 20 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

b. Based on your work, would you say that the vectors V span \mathbb{R}^3 ? Why or why not?

Solution:

1a.(Source: 1.3.11-12) The question asks whether the vector equation

$$x_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} + x_3 \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 15 \\ 20 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \quad (0)$$

is consistent. Augment and perform the forward phase of row reduction:

aug.'d matrix	row op.	result	row op.	result
$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 5 & -1 \\ 2 & 3 & 15 & 0 \\ 1 & 4 & 20 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$	$\mathbf{r}_2 \leftarrow \mathbf{r}_2 - 2\mathbf{r}_1$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 5 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 & 2 \\ 0 & 3 & 15 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$	$\mathbf{r}_3 \leftarrow \mathbf{r}_3 - 3\mathbf{r}_1$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 5 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

End forward phase. The reduced augmented matrix, now in row echelon form, doesn't have a pivot in the last column, so the system (0) is consistent.

1b.(Source: 1.4.19-20)

$$\text{ref} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 5 \\ 2 & 3 & 15 \\ 1 & 4 & 20 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

does not have a pivot in every row, so V does not span \mathbb{R}^3 . (done)

Comment:

If you're asked a question, make sure you answer the question. Don't just stop when you've decided what that answer is. A good solution to part a. should clearly state that the vector *is* in the span of V (as well as the work that leads to that conclusion).

b. If you are asked to explain your answer to a question, be careful that you don't simply explain what the question means. For example,

Question: "Does the equation $x^2 = 1$ have more than one solution? Explain."

Insufficient answer: "Yes, because there's more than one x that satisfies the equation."

Sufficient answer: "Yes. Both $x = 1$ and $x = -1$ satisfy the equation."