

# VS-02 Question Bank

## Linear Independence, Basis and Dimension

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Prove that in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , three vectors  $\vec{A}, \vec{B}, \vec{C}$  are linearly independent if and only if  $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} \times \vec{C} \neq 0$ .

How does this result generalize to vector space  $\mathbb{C}^n$ ?

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Prove that the set of matrices

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

is a basis in the real vector space of all  $2 \times 2$  real matrices.

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[1] Show that the three Pauli matrices  $\sigma_x, \sigma_y, \sigma_z$  do not form a basis in the complex vector space of all  $2 \times 2$  complex matrices by giving an example of matrix which cannot be written as a linear combination of Pauli matrices.

[2] Describe the linear span of the three Pauli matrices in words.

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Do the vectors  $(1, 1, 1, -1), (1, 1, -1, 1), (1, -1, 1, 1), (-1, 1, 1, 1)$  form a basis in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ ? If your answer is 'YES' give a proof, if your answer is 'NO' give an example of a vector which is not a linear combination of these vectors.

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Check if the vectors  $(1, 1, 1, -1)$ ,  $(1, 1, -1, 1)$ ,  $(1, -1, 1, 1)$ , in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ , are linearly independent. Do they form a basis in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ ? If your answer is 'YES' give a proof, if your answer is 'NO' give an example of a vector which is not a linear combination of these vectors.

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- (a) Consider the vector space of all real numbers with field of all real numbers. Is the set  $\{1, \sqrt{2}\}$  linearly independent? Does it form a basis? Give an explanation of your answer.
- (b) Let  $\mathcal{V}$  be the vector space of all real numbers with the set  $\mathbb{Q}$  as the field. Is the set  $\{1, \sqrt{2}\}$  linearly independent? Why? Does it form a basis?

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- (a) Give an example of a basis in the complex vector space  $\mathbb{C}$  over the field of all complex numbers.
- (b) Let  $\mathcal{V}$  be the vector space of all complex numbers with the set  $\mathbb{R}$  as the field of scalars. Is the set  $S = \{1 + i, 1 - i\}$  linearly independent? Does it form a basis? What is the linear span of  $S$ ?

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