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I: Consider the system of equations

$$\begin{aligned}x - 2y + az &= 2 \\x + y + z &= 0 \\3y + z &= 2\end{aligned}$$

a) (15 points) For which values of a , if any, does this system have a unique solution? Find the solution for any such value of a .

The augmented matrix is

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

which row reduces to

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & a & 2 \\ 0 & 3 & 1-a & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & a & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

We have to make sure that the last column is not a pivotal column. Hence there is a unique solutions for all $a \neq 0$. This solution is

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{8+2a}{3a} \\ -\frac{4-2a}{3a} \\ \frac{4}{a} \end{bmatrix}$$

b) (5 points) For which value of a , if any, does this system have infinitely many solutions? Find all the solutions for any such value of a .

For $a \neq 0$ there is not free variable in this system and hence the solution is always unique.

c) (5 points) For which value of a , if any, does this system have no solutions?

If $a = 0$, since that makes the last column a pivotal column.

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II: Are the following vectors linearly independent?

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 4 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ -4 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ 3 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

For linear independence we have to check that

$$w \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} + x \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 4 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix} + y \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ -4 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + z \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ 3 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

implies that $w = x = y = z = 0$.

We have to row reduce the augmented matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & -3 & -4 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & -4 & 3 & 0 \\ 3 & 4 & 1 & -2 & 0 \\ 4 & -3 & 2 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & -3 & -4 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 & 2 & 11 & 0 \\ 0 & 10 & 10 & 10 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 & 14 & 17 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & -3 & -4 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 & 2 & 11 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 & -12 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 12 & 6 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & -3 & -4 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 & 2 & 11 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 & -12 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 30 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

There is no free variable in this system and hence the solution is unique. This unique solutions is the trivial solution and hence the vectors are linearly independent.

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III: Do the following vectors span R^3 ?

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 10 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

To prove that these vectors span R^3 we have to show that given an arbitrary vector

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

there exist numbers x, y, z so that

$$x \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + y \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + z \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 10 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}$$

Hence we have to row reduce the augmented matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & -1 & a \\ 4 & 1 & 10 & b \\ 2 & 3 & 0 & c \end{bmatrix}$$

which leads to

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & -1 & a \\ 0 & -7 & 14 & b - 4a \\ 0 & -7 & 14 & 7c - 14a \end{bmatrix}$$

and

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & -1 & a \\ 0 & -7 & 14 & b - 4a \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 7c - 10a - b \end{bmatrix}$$

Hence, the vector \vec{b} is in the span of the given vectors if and only if

$$7c - 10a - b = 0$$

These vectors therefore do not span R^3 .

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IV: A linear transformation $T : R^3 \rightarrow R^2$ has the following properties

$$T \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad T \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad T \left(\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Find the matrix associated with T .

We have to find $T(\vec{e}_1), T(\vec{e}_2), T(\vec{e}_3)$. Now,

$$\vec{e}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

and hence

$$T(\vec{e}_1) = T \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) - T \left(\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Next

$$\vec{e}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - \vec{e}_1$$

and hence

$$T(\vec{e}_3) = T \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) - T(\vec{e}_1) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Finally,

$$\vec{e}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - \vec{e}_3$$

and hence

$$T(\vec{e}_2) = T\left(\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}\right) - T(\vec{e}_3) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Therefore, the associated matrix is given by

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

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V: Consider the linear transformation $T : R^3 \rightarrow R^3$ given by

$$T(\vec{e}_1) = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad T(\vec{e}_2) = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad T(\vec{e}_3) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 9 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Is this transformation one-to one?

One to one means that $T(\vec{x}_1) = T(\vec{x}_2)$ implies that $\vec{x}_1 = \vec{x}_2$. Note that

$$T(\vec{x}_1) - T(\vec{x}_2) = T(\vec{x}_1 - \vec{x}_2)$$

and hence by setting $\vec{x} = \vec{x}_1 - \vec{x}_2$ this statement can be rephrased as $T(\vec{x}) = \vec{0}$ implies that $\vec{x} = \vec{0}$. In other words, we have to check that the equation

$$T(\vec{e}_1)x_1 + T(\vec{e}_2)x_2 + T(\vec{e}_3)x_3 = \vec{0}$$

has only the trivial solution.

The matrix associated with T is

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

which row reduces to

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 & 15 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & -3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

It has a free variable and hence it is not one-to-one. In fact all the solutions are given by

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = t \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

where t is an arbitrary number.