In general, you should read a section thoroughly *several* times to absorb an important concept such as linear independence. The notes in the *Study Guide* for this section will help you learn to form mental images of key ideas in linear algebra. For instance, the following proof is worth reading carefully because it shows how the definition of linear independence can be *used*.

PROOF OF THEOREM 7 (Characterization of Linearly Dependent Sets)

If some v_j in S equals a linear combination of the other vectors, then v_j can be subtracted from both sides of the equation, producing a linear dependence relation with a nonzero weight (-1) on v_j. [For instance, if $v_1 = c_2 v_2 + c_3 v_3$, then $0 = (-1)v_1 + c_2 v_2 + c_3 v_3 + 0v_4 + \cdots + 0v_p$.] Thus S is linearly dependent.

Conversely, suppose S is linearly dependent. If v_1 is zero, then it is a (trivial) linear combination of the other vectors in S. Otherwise, $v_1 \neq 0$, and there exist weights $c_1, \ldots, c_p$, not all zero, such that

$$c_1 v_1 + c_2 v_2 + \cdots + c_p v_p = 0$$

Let j be the largest subscript for which $c_j \neq 0$. If $j = 1$, then $c_1 v_1 = 0$, which is impossible because $v_1 \neq 0$. So $j > 1$, and

$$c_1 v_1 + \cdots + c_j v_j + 0v_{j+1} + \cdots + 0v_p = 0$$

$$c_j v_j = -c_1 v_1 - \cdots - c_{j-1} v_{j-1}$$

$$v_j = \left(-\frac{c_1}{c_j}\right) v_1 + \cdots + \left(-\frac{c_{j-1}}{c_j}\right) v_{j-1} \quad \blacksquare$$

PRACTICE PROBLEMS

Let $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix}$, $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} -6 \\ 1 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}$, $\mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -5 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$, and $\mathbf{z} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 7 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix}$.

1. Are the sets $\{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}\}, \{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w}\}, \{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{z}\}, \{\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}\}, \{\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{z}\}$, and $\{\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{z}\}$ each linearly independent? Why or why not?

2. Does the answer to Problem 1 imply that $\{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{z}\}$ is linearly independent?

3. To determine if $\{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{z}\}$ is linearly dependent, is it wise to check if, say, $\mathbf{w}$ is a linear combination of $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}$, and $\mathbf{z}$?

4. Is $\{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{z}\}$ linearly dependent?

1.7 EXERCISES

In Exercises 1–4, determine if the vectors are linearly independent. Justify each answer.

1. $\begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 2 \\ -6 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 9 \\ 4 \\ -8 \end{bmatrix}$ 2. $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ -8 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

3. $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$ 4. $\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ -9 \end{bmatrix}$

In Exercises 5–8, determine if the columns of the matrix form a linearly independent set. Justify each answer.

5. $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -3 & 9 \\ 2 & 1 & -7 \\ -1 & 4 & -5 \\ 1 & -4 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$ 6. $\begin{bmatrix} -4 & -3 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 5 \\ 1 & 1 & -5 \\ 2 & 1 & -10 \end{bmatrix}$

7. $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & -3 & 0 \\ -2 & -7 & 5 & 1 \\ -4 & -5 & 7 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$ 8. $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 & 2 \\ -2 & 4 & -6 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$

In Exercises 9 and 10, (a) for what values of h is v_3 in Span $\{v_1, v_2\}$, and (b) for what values of h is $\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$ linearly *dependent*? Justify each answer.

9. $\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$, $\mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 9 \\ -6 \end{bmatrix}$, $\mathbf{v}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -7 \\ h \end{bmatrix}$

10. $\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -3 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix}$, $\mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 9 \\ 15 \end{bmatrix}$, $\mathbf{v}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -5 \\ h \end{bmatrix}$

In Exercises 11–14, find the value(s) of h for which the vectors are linearly *dependent*. Justify each answer.

11. $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -6 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 2 \\ h \end{bmatrix}$ 12. $\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -6 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} -6 \\ 4 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} 9 \\ h \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$

13. $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ -9 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ h \\ -9 \end{bmatrix}$ 14. $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 7 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ h \end{bmatrix}$

Determine by inspection whether the vectors in Exercises 15–20 are linearly *independent*. Justify each answer.

15. $\begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}$ 16. $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -4 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 6 \\ -12 \end{bmatrix}$

17. $\begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} -7 \\ 2 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$ 18. $\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

19. $\begin{bmatrix} -8 \\ 12 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$ 20. $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \\ -7 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 5 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

In Exercises 21 and 22, mark each statement True or False. Justify each answer on the basis of a careful reading of the text.

21. a. The columns of a matrix A are linearly independent if the equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ has the trivial solution.

    b. If S is a linearly dependent set, then each vector is a linear combination of the other vectors in S.

    c. The columns of any 4×5 matrix are linearly dependent.

    d. If $\mathbf{x}$ and $\mathbf{y}$ are linearly independent, and if $\{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}\}$ is linearly dependent, then $\mathbf{z}$ is in Span $\{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}\}$.

22. a. If $\mathbf{u}$ and $\mathbf{v}$ are linearly independent, and if $\mathbf{w}$ is in Span $\{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}\}$, then $\{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}\}$ is linearly dependent.

    b. If three vectors in $\mathbb{R}^3$ lie in the same plane in $\mathbb{R}^3$, then they are linearly dependent.

    c. If a set contains fewer vectors than there are entries in the vectors, then the set is linearly independent.

    d. If a set in $\mathbb{R}^n$ is linearly dependent, then the set contains more than n vectors.

In Exercises 23–26, describe the possible echelon forms of the matrix. Use the notation of Example 1 in Section 1.2.

23. A is a 2×2 matrix with linearly dependent columns.

24. A is a 3×3 matrix with linearly independent columns.

25. A is a 4×2 matrix, $A = [\mathbf{a}_1 \quad \mathbf{a}_2]$, and $\mathbf{a}_2$ is not a multiple of $\mathbf{a}_1$.

26. A is a 4×3 matrix, $A = [\mathbf{a}_1 \quad \mathbf{a}_2 \quad \mathbf{a}_3]$, such that $\{\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2\}$ is linearly independent and $\mathbf{a}_3$ is not in Span $\{\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2\}$.

27. How many pivot columns must a 6×4 matrix have if its columns are linearly independent? Why?

28. How many pivot columns must a 4×6 matrix have if its columns span $\mathbb{R}^4$? Why?

29. Construct 3×2 matrices A and B such that $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ has a nontrivial solution, but $B\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ has only the trivial solution.

30. a. Fill in the blank in the following statement: "If A is an $m \times n$ matrix, then the columns of A are linearly independent if and only if A has _____ pivot columns."

    b. Explain why the statement in (a) is true.

Exercises 31 and 32 should be solved *without performing row operations*. [*Hint:* Write $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ as a vector equation.]

31. Given $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & 5 \\ -5 & 1 & -4 \\ -3 & -1 & -4 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$, observe that the third column is the sum of the first two columns. Find a nontrivial solution of $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$.

32. Given $A = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 3 & -5 \\ -2 & -2 & 4 \\ -2 & -3 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$, observe that the first column minus three times the second column equals the third column. Find a nontrivial solution of $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$.

Each statement in Exercises 33–38 is either true (in all cases) or false (for at least one example). If false, construct a specific example to show that the statement is not always true. Such an example is called a *counterexample* to the statement. If a statement is true, give a justification. (One specific example cannot explain why a statement is always true. You will have to do more work here than in Exercises 21 and 22.)

33. If $\mathbf{v}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_4$ are in $\mathbb{R}^4$ and $\mathbf{v}_3 = 2\mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_2$, then $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3, \mathbf{v}_4\}$ is linearly dependent.

34. If $\mathbf{v}_1$ and $\mathbf{v}_2$ are in $\mathbb{R}^4$ and $\mathbf{v}_2$ is not a scalar multiple of $\mathbf{v}_1$, then $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2\}$ is linearly independent.

35. If $\mathbf{v}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_5$ are in $\mathbb{R}^5$ and $\mathbf{v}_3 = \mathbf{0}$, then $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3, \mathbf{v}_4, \mathbf{v}_5\}$ is linearly dependent.

36. If $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3$ are in $\mathbb{R}^3$ and $\mathbf{v}_3$ is *not* a linear combination of $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2$, then $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3\}$ is linearly independent.

37. If $\mathbf{v}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_4$ are in $\mathbb{R}^4$ and $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3\}$ is linearly dependent, then $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3, \mathbf{v}_4\}$ is also linearly dependent.

38. If $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_4\}$ is a linearly independent set of vectors in $\mathbb{R}^4$, then $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3\}$ is also linearly independent. [*Hint:* Think about $x_1\mathbf{v}_1 + x_2\mathbf{v}_2 + x_3\mathbf{v}_3 + 0 \cdot \mathbf{v}_4 = \mathbf{0}$.]

39. Suppose A is an $m \times n$ matrix with the property that for all $\mathbf{b}$ in $\mathbb{R}^m$ the equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ has at most one solution. Use the

definition of linear independence to explain why the columns of A must be linearly independent.

40. Suppose an $m \times n$ matrix A has n pivot columns. Explain why for each $\mathbf{b}$ in $\mathbb{R}^m$ the equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ has at most one solution. [*Hint:* Explain why $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ cannot have infinitely many solutions.]

[M] In Exercises 41 and 42, use as many columns of A as possible to construct a matrix B with the property that the equation $B\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ has only the trivial solution. Solve $B\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ to verify your work.

41. $A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -4 & 10 & 7 & -4 \\ -5 & -3 & -7 & -11 & 15 \\ 4 & 3 & 5 & 2 & 1 \\ 8 & -7 & 23 & 4 & 15 \end{bmatrix}$

42. $A = \begin{bmatrix} 12 & 10 & -6 & 8 & 4 & -14 \\ -7 & -6 & 4 & -5 & -7 & 9 \\ 9 & 9 & -9 & 9 & 9 & -18 \\ -4 & -3 & -1 & 0 & -8 & 1 \\ 8 & 7 & -5 & 6 & 1 & -11 \end{bmatrix}$

43. **[M]** With A and B as in Exercise 41, select a column $\mathbf{v}$ of A that was not used in the construction of B and determine if $\mathbf{v}$ is in the set spanned by the columns of B. (Describe your calculations.)

44. **[M]** Repeat Exercise 43 with the matrices A and B from Exercise 42. Then give an explanation for what you discover, assuming that B was constructed as specified.
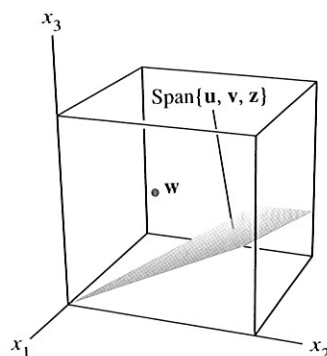
SOLUTIONS TO PRACTICE PROBLEMS

1. Yes. In each case, neither vector is a multiple of the other. Thus each set is linearly independent.
2. No. The observation in Practice Problem 1, by itself, says nothing about the linear independence of $\{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{z}\}$.
3. No. When testing for linear independence, it is usually a poor idea to check if one selected vector is a linear combination of the others. It may happen that the selected vector is not a linear combination of the others and yet the whole set of vectors is linearly dependent. In this practice problem, $\mathbf{w}$ is not a linear combination of $\mathbf{u}$, $\mathbf{v}$, and $\mathbf{z}$.
4. Yes, by Theorem 8. There are more vectors (four) than entries (three) in them.

1.8 INTRODUCTION TO LINEAR TRANSFORMATIONS

The difference between a matrix equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ and the associated vector equation $x_1\mathbf{a}_1 + \cdots + x_n\mathbf{a}_n = \mathbf{b}$ is merely a matter of notation. However, a matrix equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ can arise in linear algebra (and in applications such as computer graphics and signal processing) in a way that is not directly connected with linear combinations of vectors. This happens when we think of the matrix A as an object that "acts" on a vector $\mathbf{x}$ by multiplication to produce a new vector called $A\mathbf{x}$.

For instance, the equations

$$\underset{A}{\begin{bmatrix} 4 & -3 & 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 0 & 5 & 1 \end{bmatrix}} \underset{\mathbf{x}}{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}} = \underset{\mathbf{b}}{\begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix}} \quad \text{and} \quad \underset{A}{\begin{bmatrix} 4 & -3 & 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 0 & 5 & 1 \end{bmatrix}} \underset{\mathbf{u}}{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}} = \underset{\mathbf{0}}{\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}}$$

say that multiplication by A transforms $\mathbf{x}$ into $\mathbf{b}$ and transforms $\mathbf{u}$ into the zero vector. See Fig. 1.