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# Dimension of a vector space and Rank

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# The Dimension of a Vector Space

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## THEOREM

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*If a vector space  $V$  has a basis  $\mathfrak{B} = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ , then any set in  $V$  containing more than  $n$  vectors is linearly dependent.*

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## PROOF.

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Let us fix some set  $S = \{u_1, \dots, u_p\}$  with  $p > n$ .  
In this proof we denote  $[u]_{\mathfrak{B}}$  by  $T(u)$  ( $T: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ ).

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Hence, there are  $d_1, \dots, d_p$  such that  $d_1 T(u_1) + \dots + d_p T(u_p) = 0$ .  
Since it is a linear transformation  $T(d_1 u_1 + \dots + d_p u_p) = 0$ .

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Since it is a linear transformation  $T(d_1 u_1 + \dots + d_p u_p) = 0$ .

But kernel of this transformation is 0. Hence  $d_1 u_1 + \dots + d_p u_p = 0$ .  $\square$

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## DEFINITION

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If a vector space  $V$  is spanned by a finite set, then  $V$  is a **finite-dimensional** space and the **dimension** of  $V$ , written as  $\dim V$ , is a number of elements in a basis of  $V$ .

We define dimension of  $\{0\}$  space as 0.

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# Subspaces of a Finite-Dimensional Space

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## THEOREM

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*Let  $H$  be a subspace of a finite-dimensional space  $V$ .*

- ▶ *Any linearly independent set in  $H$  can be expanded to a basis of  $V$  and*
- ▶  $\dim H \leq \dim V$ .

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**PROOF.**

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If  $H = \{0\}$  then by definition  $\dim H \leq \dim V$ .

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But  $S$  is a subset of  $V$ , hence  $|S| \leq n$ . Hence eventually  $S$  will span  $H$  and be a basis of  $H$ . □

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Note that it the same as  $\text{Col } A^T$ .

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## THEOREM

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- ▶ *If two matrices  $A$  and  $B$  are row equivalent, then  $\text{Row } A = \text{Row } B$ .*
- ▶ *If a matrix  $A$  is in echelon form, then nonzero rows form basis of  $\text{Row } A$ .*

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We prove earlier, that number of that rank  $A$  is equal to number of pivot columns in  $A$ .

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We prove earlier, that number of that rank  $A$  is equal to number of pivot columns in  $A$ . Hence rank  $A$  is a number of pivot positions in echelon form  $B$  of  $A$ . For each pivot position of  $B$  the corresponding row is not zero and all these rows form a basis. As a result  $\text{rank } A = \dim \text{Row } A$ . □

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# Applications to Systems of Equations

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## EXAMPLE

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Let us assume that the system  $Ax = 0$  of 40 equations in 42 variables has two solutions  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ .

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It means that  $\dim \text{Nul } A = 2$ . In other words  $\text{rank } A = 40$ . But  $\text{Col } A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{40}$ . Thus for every  $b$  the system  $Ax = b$  has a solution.