

Row
• Reduced Echelon Form (rref).

• Gaussian Elimination (G.E.).

• A procedure for solving $A\underline{x} = \underline{b}$.

(1) Form $[A \ b]$

(2) Apply G.E. $[A \ b] \rightsquigarrow [R \ c]$ rref.

(3) Solve $R\underline{x} = \underline{c}$.

Ex. 1. $A\underline{x} = \underline{b}$

$$[A \ \underline{b}] = \begin{bmatrix} \textcircled{1} & -1 & 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 8 & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & -1 & 5 \\ 1 & 1 & 5 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\begin{array}{l} \frac{1}{2}r_1 + r_2 \rightarrow r_2 \\ -r_1 + r_3 \rightarrow r_3 \\ -r_1 + r_4 \rightarrow r_4 \end{array}} \begin{bmatrix} \textcircled{1} & -1 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & \textcircled{3} & 6 & -6 \\ 0 & -1 & -2 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 4 & -4 \end{bmatrix}$$

pivot cols.

$$\xrightarrow{\begin{array}{l} \frac{1}{3}r_2 + r_3 \rightarrow r_3 \\ -\frac{2}{3}r_2 + r_4 \rightarrow r_4 \end{array}} \begin{bmatrix} \textcircled{1} & -1 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & \textcircled{3} & 6 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\begin{array}{l} \frac{1}{3}r_2 \rightarrow r_2 \\ r_2 + r_1 \rightarrow r_1 \end{array}} \begin{bmatrix} \textcircled{1} & 0 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & \textcircled{1} & 2 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = [R \ \underline{c}]$$

rref

x_1 x_2 x_3 c_i
↑ basic var's ↑ free var.

The soln in vector form is

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_3 \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Some Observations $[A \ b] \rightsquigarrow [R \ c]$ rref.

• $Ax = b$ is consistent if and only if $[R \ c]$ does not have a row $[0 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0 \ 1]$.

• For a consistent $Ax = b$, it has infinitely many solns iff it has a free var.

• Pivot cols of rref. are standard vectors $\underline{e}_1, \underline{e}_2, \dots$

Defn. rank/nullity of A .

m rows
 n cols, $m \times n$ $A \rightsquigarrow R$ $m \times n$ rref.

rank $A = \#$ of nonzero rows in R .

nullity $A = n - \text{rank } A$.

Ex 1 rank $[A \ b] = 2$, nullity $[A \ b] = 4 - 2 = 2$.

rank $A = 2$, nullity $A = 3 - 2 = 1$.

• rank $A = \#$ of basic var's = $\#$ of pivot cols.

• nullity $A = \#$ of free var's.

- $\text{rank } A \leq m, \text{ rank } A \leq n.$

- $0 \leq \text{nullity } A \leq n.$

- For a consistent $Ax = \underline{b}$, (a) if $\text{nullity } A > 0$, then $Ax = \underline{b}$ has infinitely many solns (b) if $\text{nullity } A = 0$, then $Ax = \underline{b}$ has a unique soln.

Ex 2. $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 1.$

Find r and s such that.

$x_1 + 3x_3 = -2 + s$

(a) $Ax = \underline{b}$ is inconsistent.

$x_1 - x_2 + rx_3 = 3.$

(b) $Ax = \underline{b}$ has infinitely many solns.

$r, s \in \mathbb{R}.$

(c) $Ax = \underline{b}$ has a unique soln.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \textcircled{1} & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 3 & -2+s \\ 1 & -1 & r & 3 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\substack{-r_1 + r_2 \rightarrow r_2 \\ -r_1 + r_3 \rightarrow r_3}} \begin{bmatrix} \textcircled{1} & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & -3+s \\ 0 & -2 & r-1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\xrightarrow{-2r_2 + r_3 \rightarrow r_3} \begin{bmatrix} \textcircled{1} & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & -3+s \\ 0 & 0 & r-5 & 8-2s \end{bmatrix}$$

(a). $r-5=0, 8-2s \neq 0 \Rightarrow r=5, s \neq 4.$

(b) $r-5=0, 8-2s=0 \Rightarrow r=5, s=4$

(c) $r-5 \neq 0, 8-2s \in \mathbb{R} \Rightarrow r \neq 5, s \in \mathbb{R}.$

Thm 1.5 (Test for consistency).

The following are equivalent.

- (a) $A\underline{x} = \underline{b}$ is consistent
- (b) $\underline{b}$ is a linear combination (l.c.) of the cols of A .
- (c) The rref of $[A \ \underline{b}]$ does not have a row $[0 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0 \ 0 \ 1]$.

Pf (a) $\Leftrightarrow$ (c) done above.

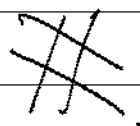
Recall $^{m \times n} A = [\underline{a}_1 \ \underline{a}_2 \ \dots \ \underline{a}_n]$, $\underline{v} = \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ \vdots \\ c_n \end{bmatrix}$

$$A \underline{v} = c_1 \underline{a}_1 + c_2 \underline{a}_2 + \dots + c_n \underline{a}_n$$

$A\underline{x} = \underline{b}$ is consistent iff there is an $n \times 1$ vector $\underline{v}$ such that

$$A\underline{v} = \underline{b} \quad \text{iff} \quad v_1 \underline{a}_1 + v_2 \underline{a}_2 + \dots + v_n \underline{a}_n = \underline{b}$$

iff $\underline{b}$ is a l.c. of cols of A .



true/false.

Sec. 1.4. T&F, 10, 16, 34, 42, 47, 92, 75, 77, 79

82, 83, 84.

Find x ?

Sec. 1.6. The span of a set of vectors.

Let $S = \{\underline{u}_1, \underline{u}_2, \dots, \underline{u}_k\}$ be a subset of $\mathbb{R}^n$.

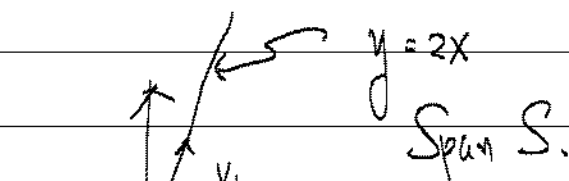
d.c. $c_1 \underline{u}_1 + c_2 \underline{u}_2 + \dots + c_k \underline{u}_k$, where $c_i \in \mathbb{R}$.

Defn. $\text{Span } S =$ the set of all d.c.'s of $\underline{u}_1, \underline{u}_2, \dots, \underline{u}_k$.

Ex $S = \{\underline{v}_1\}$, where $\underline{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$.

$c_1 \underline{v}_1$, where $c_1 \in \mathbb{R}$.

$$\text{Span } S = \left\{ c \underline{v}_1 \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid c \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

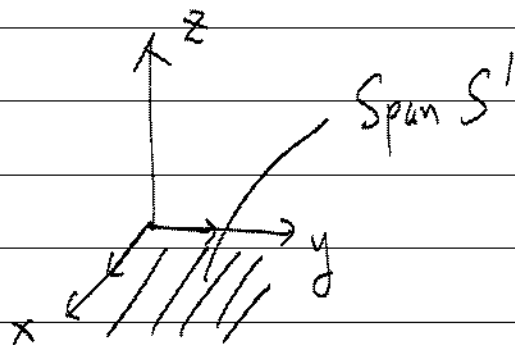


Ex $S = \{\underline{e}_1, \underline{e}_2, \underline{e}_3\}$, $\underline{e}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $\underline{e}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $\underline{e}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

$$\text{Span } S = \mathbb{R}^3.$$

$$S' = \{\underline{e}_1, \underline{e}_2\} \quad \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\text{Span } S' = x-y \text{ plane.}$



Defn If $V = \text{Span } S$, then we say S is a generating set for V
OR S generates V .

Claim 1 If S_1 is a subset of S_2 , then $\text{Span } S_1$ is also a subset of $\text{Span } S_2$.

Let $S = \{\underline{u}_1, \underline{u}_2, \dots, \underline{u}_k\}$ be a subset of $\mathbb{R}^n$, $\underline{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

Is $\underline{v} \in \text{Span } S$? $(\Leftrightarrow)$ Is $\underline{v}$ a l.c of $\underline{u}_1, \dots, \underline{u}_k$?

Define $n \times k$ $A = [\underline{u}_1 \ \underline{u}_2 \ \dots \ \underline{u}_k]$

Look at $A\underline{x} = \underline{v}$.

Is $A\underline{x} = \underline{v}$ consistent?

$\underline{v} \in \text{Span } S$ iff $A\underline{x} = \underline{v}$ is consistent.

Ex. $\underline{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 5 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$, $\underline{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$, $S = \left\{ \underset{\underline{u}_1}{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}}, \underset{\underline{u}_2}{\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}}, \underset{\underline{u}_3}{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 8 \\ -1 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}} \right\}$.

Is $\underline{v} \in \text{Span } S$? Is $\underline{w} \in \text{Span } S$?

$A = [\underline{u}_1 \ \underline{u}_2 \ \underline{u}_3]$

(i) $[A \ \underline{v}] \xrightarrow{\text{G.E.}} [R \ \underline{c}] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ rref.

$A\underline{x} = \underline{v}$ is consistent $\Rightarrow \underline{v} \in \text{Span } S$.

(ii) $[A \ \underline{w}] \xrightarrow{\text{G.E.}} [R \ \underline{c}] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ $A\underline{x} = \underline{w}$ is inconsistent $\Rightarrow \underline{w} \notin \text{Span } S$.

Ex. $S = \left\{ \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{u_1}, \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{u_2}, \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{u_3}, \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}}_{u_4} \right\}$. Show that $\text{Span } S = \mathbb{R}^3$

• It is clear that $\text{Span } S$ is a subset of $\mathbb{R}^3$.

$A = [\underline{u}_1 \ \underline{u}_2 \ \underline{u}_3 \ \underline{u}_4] \xrightarrow{\text{G.E.}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} = R$.

• For any vector $\underline{b} \in \mathbb{R}^3$, ^{look at} $A \underline{x} = \underline{b}$

$[A \ \underline{b}] \xrightarrow{\text{G.E.}} [R \ \begin{smallmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ c_3 \end{smallmatrix}]$ rref. does not have a row $[0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1]$.

$A \underline{x} = \underline{b}$ is consistent, $\underline{b} \in \text{Span } S$.

$\Rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ is a subset of $\text{Span } S$.

We conclude that $\text{Span } S = \mathbb{R}^3$.

• More generally, if the rref of A ($m \times n$) does not have a zero row (rank $A = m$), then $\text{Span of cols of } A = \mathbb{R}^m$.

Thm 1.6. $A: m \times n$. The following are equivalent.

- (a) The span of cols of $A = \mathbb{R}^m$.
- (b) $Ax = \underline{b}$ is consistent for every $\underline{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m$.
- (c) $\text{rank } A = m$.
- (d) The rref of A does not have a zero row.

Pf. We will prove $(b) \Rightarrow (d)$.

(b) says $Ax = \underline{b}$ is consistent for every $\underline{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m$.

let R be ^{the} rref of A .

$$A \xrightarrow[\text{(1)(2)...(p)}]{\text{e.r.o's \#1.}} R \xrightarrow[\text{(p')... (2')(1')}]{\text{e.r.o's \#2.}} A.$$

Now consider $\left[R \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\text{e.r.o's \#2.}} [A \underline{d}]$.

$Ax = \underline{d}$ is consistent $\Rightarrow R$ does not have a zero row.

(d)

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Thm 1.7. Let $S = \{\underline{u}_1, \underline{u}_2, \dots, \underline{u}_k\}$ be a subset of $\mathbb{R}^n$.
and let $\underline{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

Then $\text{Span}\{\underline{u}_1, \underline{u}_2, \dots, \underline{u}_k, \underline{v}\} = \text{Span}\{\underline{u}_1, \underline{u}_2, \dots, \underline{u}_k\}$ iff $\underline{v} \in \text{Span } S$.
(a) (b).

Pf. let $S' = \{\underline{u}_1, \dots, \underline{u}_k, \underline{v}\}$.

(i) We will first prove (b) $\Rightarrow$ (a).

(b) says $\underline{v} \in \text{Span } S$, i.e. $\underline{v} = c_1 \underline{u}_1 + \dots + c_k \underline{u}_k$ for some scalars c_i .
let $\underline{w}$ be any vector in $\text{Span } S'$.

i.e. $\underline{w} = b_1 \underline{u}_1 + \dots + b_k \underline{u}_k + d \underline{v}$ for some scalars b_i, d .

Substituting ① into ②, we get

$$\underline{w} = (b_1 + c_1 d) \underline{u}_1 + (b_2 + c_2 d) \underline{u}_2 + \dots + (b_k + c_k d) \underline{u}_k.$$

$$\underline{w} \in \text{Span } S.$$

$\Rightarrow \text{Span } S'$ is a subset of $\text{Span } S$.

From Claim 1, we have $\text{Span } S$ is a subset of $\text{Span } S'$.
we conclude that $\text{Span } S = \text{Span } S'$.

(ii) Next we will prove $(a) \Rightarrow (b)$. ($\neg(b) \Rightarrow \neg(a)$).

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \neg(b) \text{ says } \underline{v} \notin \text{Span } S. \\ \text{but } \underline{v} \in \text{Span } S' \end{array} \right\} \text{Span } S \neq \text{Span } S'$$

$$\underline{v} = 0 \cdot \underline{u}_1 + \dots + 0 \cdot \underline{u}_k + \underline{1} \cdot \underline{v}$$

$$\neg(a). \quad \text{X}$$

Making a generating set smaller.

$$S = \{ \underline{u}_1, \underline{u}_2, \dots, \underline{u}_k \}.$$

• If some $\underline{u}_i$ is a l.c. of other vectors in S , then $\underline{u}_i$ can be removed without changing its Span.

• Sec. 1.6. T&F, 19, 28, 36, 44, 67, 73, 78.

Suppose there are scalars $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_k$ such that

$$c_1 \underline{u}_1 + c_2 \underline{u}_2 + \dots + c_k \underline{u}_k = \underline{0}.$$

Suppose some $c_j \neq 0$, $\underline{u}_j = -\frac{1}{c_j} (c_1 \underline{u}_1 + \dots + c_{j-1} \underline{u}_{j-1} + c_{j+1} \underline{u}_{j+1} + \dots + c_k \underline{u}_k)$

Sec. 1.7. Linear dependence and independence.

Defn. Let $S = \{\underline{u}_1, \dots, \underline{u}_k\}$ be a subset of $\mathbb{R}^n$.

S is said to be linearly dependent (l. dep) if there are scalars, $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_k$, not all zero, s.t.

$$c_1 \underline{u}_1 + c_2 \underline{u}_2 + \dots + c_k \underline{u}_k = \underline{0}. \quad (1)$$

If the only set of scalars such that (1) is true is the all zero scalars, then S is linearly independent (l. indep).

Ex. $S = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$

$$c_1 \underline{e}_1 + c_2 \underline{e}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ iff } c_1 = 0, c_2 = 0.$$

$\Rightarrow S$ is l. indep.

Ex. $S = \{\underline{0}\}. \quad 1 \cdot \underline{0} = \underline{0}. \quad S \text{ is l. dep.}$

Ex. $S = \{\underline{u}_1, \underline{u}_2, \dots, \underline{u}_k, \underline{0}\}. \quad \text{l. dep.}$

$$0 \cdot \underline{u}_1 + 0 \cdot \underline{u}_2 + \dots + 0 \cdot \underline{u}_k + 1 \cdot \underline{0} = \underline{0}.$$

Ex. $S = \{ \underline{u}_1, \underline{u}_2, \dots, \underline{u}_k \}$ $C_1 \underline{u}_1 + C_2 \underline{u}_2 + \dots + C_k \underline{u}_k = \underline{0}$.

Define $A = [\underline{u}_1 \ \underline{u}_2 \ \dots \ \underline{u}_k]$ $\underline{C} = \begin{bmatrix} C_1 \\ C_2 \\ \vdots \\ C_k \end{bmatrix}$.

Then $C_1 \underline{u}_1 + \dots + C_k \underline{u}_k = \underline{0}$ iff $A \underline{C} = \underline{0}$.

Does $A \underline{X} = \underline{0}$ have a nonzero soln?

• S is l. dep iff $A \underline{X} = \underline{0}$ has a nonzero soln.

• $A \underline{X} = \underline{0}$ is a homogeneous equation and it is always consistent ($\underline{X} = \underline{0}$ is always a soln).

Ex $S = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 & 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$.

$A \underline{X} = \underline{0}$ $[A \ \underline{0}] \xrightarrow{\text{G.E.}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ ref.

$x_1 \quad x_2 \quad x_3 \quad x_4 \quad C_i$

Vector form soln:

$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_3 \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow S \text{ is l. dep.}$

• $A\underline{x} = \underline{0}$ has ^a nonzero soln iff it has a free variable.
iff nullity $A > 0$.

• cols of A are $\begin{cases} \text{l. dep} & \text{if nullity } A > 0 \\ \text{l. indep} & \text{if nullity } A = 0. \end{cases}$

• Look at the previous ex, rank $A = 3$, nullity $A = 4 - 3 > 0$
 $\Rightarrow$ cols of $A = S$ is l. dep.

Ex. $A\underline{x} = \underline{0}$ where $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -4 & 2 & -1 & 2 \\ 2 & -8 & 3 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow R = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -4 & 0 & 7 & -4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -4 & +3 \end{bmatrix}$

$\begin{matrix} \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & x_4 & x_5 \end{matrix}$

vector form soln

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{\underline{w}_1} + x_4 \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} -7 \\ 0 \\ 4 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{\underline{w}_2} + x_5 \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \\ -3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{\underline{w}_3}$$

cols of A are l. dep.

$$c_1 \underline{w}_1 + c_2 \underline{w}_2 + c_3 \underline{w}_3 = \underline{0} \text{ iff } c_1 = c_2 = c_3 = 0$$

Observations:

- (1) The vectors $\{\underline{w}_1, \underline{w}_2, \dots, \underline{w}_k\}$ in vector form soln are always l. indep.
- (2) Let A be $m \times n$ with $n > m$. Then nullity $A > 0$
cols of A are l. dep.

Thm 1.8. Let R be the rref of A ($m \times n$). The following are equivalent.

(a) cols of A are l. indep.

(b) $A\underline{x} = \underline{b}$ has at most one soln for every $\underline{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m$

(c) $\text{rank } A = n$ (d) nullity $A = 0$.

(e) cols of R are distinct standard vectors

(f) The only soln to $A\underline{x} = \underline{0}$ is $\underline{x} = \underline{0}$.

(pf) (a) $\Leftrightarrow$ (f) $\Leftrightarrow$ (d) $\Leftrightarrow$ (c) $\Leftrightarrow$ (e) (b) ?

We will prove (b) $\Leftrightarrow$ (f).

(i) (b) $\Rightarrow$ (f) (b) says $A\underline{x} = \underline{b}$ has at most one soln for every $\underline{b}$

Take $\underline{b} = \underline{0}$, $A\underline{x} = \underline{b} = \underline{0}$ has at most one soln.

$\Rightarrow A\underline{x} = \underline{0}$ has only one soln $\underline{x} = \underline{0}$.
(f).

(ii) (f) $\Rightarrow$ (b). ($\neg$ (b) $\Rightarrow$ $\neg$ (f)).

$\neg$ (b) says $A\underline{x} = \underline{b}$ has more than one soln for some $\underline{b}$.

Let $\underline{v}_1, \underline{v}_2$ be two distinct solns of $A\underline{x} = \underline{b}$.

$$A \underline{v}_1 = \underline{b}$$

$$A \underline{v}_2 = \underline{b}$$

$$\text{and } \underline{v}_1 \neq \underline{v}_2.$$

$$A(\underbrace{\underline{v}_1 - \underline{v}_2}_{\neq \underline{0}}) = \underline{b} - \underline{b} = \underline{0} \Rightarrow A\underline{x} = \underline{0} \text{ has a nonzero soln}$$

\(f\).



Summary. $A: m \times n$

Thm 1.6. $\text{rank } A = m$: $A\underline{x} = \underline{b}$ has at least one soln for every $\underline{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m$; cols of A form a generating set for $\mathbb{R}^m$

Thm 1.8 $\text{rank } A = n$: $A\underline{x} = \underline{b}$ has at most one soln for every $\underline{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m$; cols of A are l. indep