

MAT 240 – Linear Algebra Lecture

If:

$$G \subset V, \quad |G| = n, \quad \text{span}(G) = V$$

L is linearly independent in V

Then:

$$|L| \leq |G| \quad \& \quad \exists R \subset G \text{ s.t. } |R| = |L| \quad \& \quad V = \text{span}((G \setminus R) \cup L)$$

*Proof of the above statement:*

- By induction on  $|L|$
- If  $|L| = 0$  then  $0 = |L| \leq |G|$  (as  $G$  is a natural number). With  $R = \emptyset$  the conclusion holds/
- Assume lemma is known for any set  $L'$  with  $|L'| = m + 1$

$$L = \{v_1 \quad \cdots \quad v_{m+1}\} \quad G = \{u_1 \quad \cdots \quad u_n\}$$

- Let  $L' = \{v_1 \quad \cdots \quad v_m\}$ , then  $L'$  is linearly independent,  $|L'| = m$ , so by the induction hypothesis lemma holds for  $L'$ . This implies  $|L'| = m \leq |G| = n \quad \& \quad R' \subset G$  s.t.  $|R'| = |L'| \quad \& \quad \text{span}((G \setminus R') \cup L') = V$
- Finally w.l.o.g.  $R' = \{u_1 \quad \cdots \quad u_m\}$
- So now:

$\text{span}(u_{m+1}, \dots, u_n, v_1, \dots, v_m) = V$ . In particular,  $v_{m+1} \in \text{span}(\dots)$ , that is,  $\exists a_{m+1}, a_n$  and  $b_1 \dots b_m \in F$ , s.t.  $v_{m+1} = \sum_{i=m+1}^n a_i u_i + \sum_{j=1}^m b_j v_j$ . It cannot be that  $\forall i, a_i = 0$ , else we would have a linear dependency  $v_{m+1} - \sum_{j=1}^m b_j v_j = 0$  among the elements of  $L$ , contradicting the assumption that  $L$  is independent. So that at least one  $a_i \neq 0$  so  $n \geq m + 1$ , and also w.l.o.g.  $a_{m+1} \neq 0$  and so, by the preliminary statement;  $u_{m+1}$  is a linear combination of  $u_{m+2}, \dots, u_n$  and  $v_1, \dots, v_{m+1}$ .

$$\text{Now take } R = \{u_{m+1}\} \cup R' = \{u_1 \dots u_{m+1}\}$$

$$\text{Now } \text{span}(G \setminus R) \cup L = \text{span}(\{u_{m+2}, \dots, u_n, v_1, \dots, v_{m+1}\}) \ni u_{m+1}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \text{span}(\{u_{m+1}, u_{m+2}, \dots, u_n, v_1, \dots, v_{m+1}\}) \supset \text{span}\{u_{m+1}, u_{m+2}, \dots, u_n, v_1, \dots, v_m\} \\ &= \text{span}(G \setminus R') \cup L' \end{aligned}$$

$$= V$$

$$\therefore \text{span}(G \setminus R' \cup L') = V \quad \blacksquare$$

Corollaries:

1. If  $V$  has a finite basis  $\beta$ , then every other basis  $\beta_2$  is also finite and  $|\beta_1| = |\beta_2|$  (so  $\dim(V)$  makes sense).

*Proof:*

Take  $G = \beta_1$  assume  $\beta_2$  is not finite & take  $L$  to be the first  $|\beta_1| + 1$  elements of  $\beta_2$ , then  $L$  is linearly independent but  $|L| > |G|$  contradicting Replacement Theorem.

Now with  $L = \beta_2$

$$\rightarrow |\beta_2| \leq |G| = |\beta_1|$$

$\rightarrow$  (Go through other half of proof again:  $\beta_1 \leftrightarrow \beta_2$   $\blacksquare$ )

2. Assume  $\dim(V) = n$ 
  - a. If  $G$  generates  $V$ ,  $|G| \geq n$ , if also  $|G| = n$ , then  $G$  is a basis.
  - b. If  $L \subset V$  is linearly independent, then  $|L| \leq n$  & if also  $|L| = n$  then  $L$  is a basis.