

# Section 1.4

The Matrix Equation  $Ax = b$

# Multiplying Matrices

row  $\times$  column :  $( a_1 \cdots a_n ) \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ \vdots \\ b_n \end{pmatrix} = a_1 b_1 + a_2 b_2 + \cdots + a_n b_n$

matrix  $\times$  column :  $\begin{pmatrix} r_1 \\ \vdots \\ r_m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} r_1 b \\ \vdots \\ r_m b \end{pmatrix}$

OR  $\begin{pmatrix} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} | \\ | \\ | \end{pmatrix}$

length  $n$  vector (pointing to  $r_1$ )

column vector (pointing to  $r_1 b$ )

same (pointing to the result vector)

matrix  $\times$  column :  $( c_1 \cdots c_n ) \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ \vdots \\ b_n \end{pmatrix} = b_1 c_1 + \cdots + b_n c_n$

$\begin{pmatrix} | \\ | \\ | \\ | \\ | \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} | \\ | \end{pmatrix}$

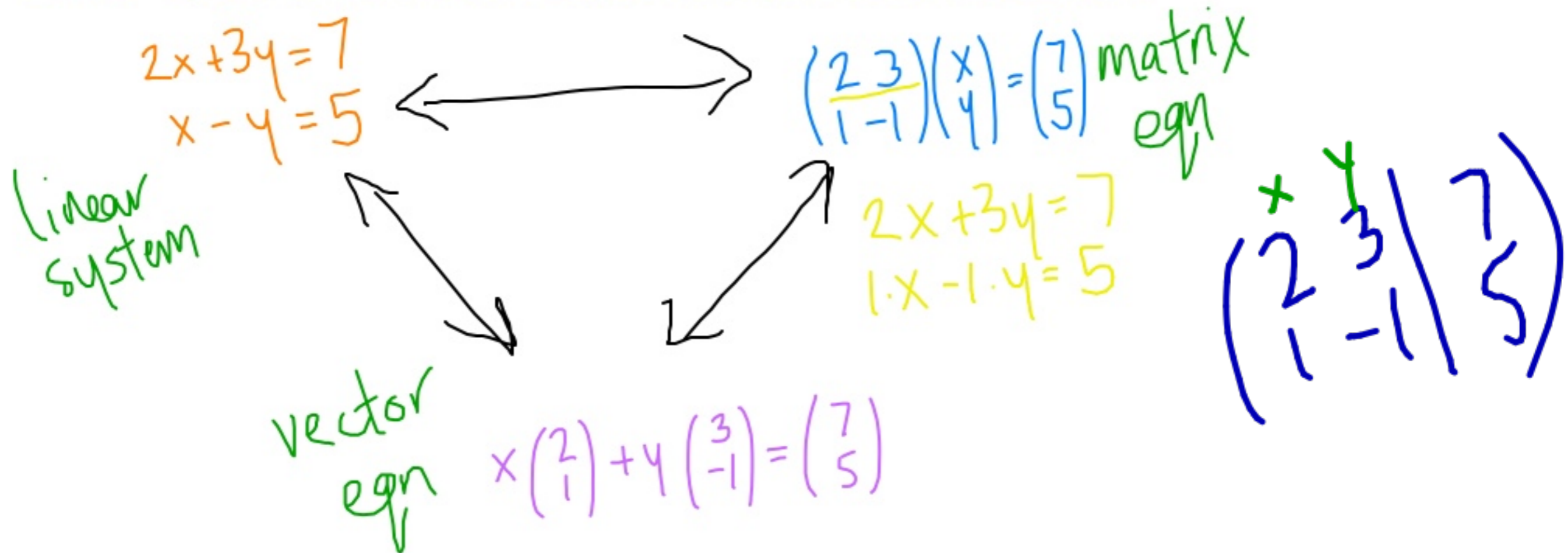
Example:

row way      column way

$$\begin{pmatrix} 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \cdot 2 + 6 \cdot 3 \\ 7 \cdot 2 + 8 \cdot 3 \end{pmatrix} = 2 \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix} + 3 \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix}$$

$\underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 28 \\ 38 \end{pmatrix}}$

# Linear Systems vs Matrix Equations vs Vector Equations



We will go back and forth between matrix equations and vector equations over and over again.

## Matrix Equations vs Vector Equations

Q. Say  $u = \begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $v = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ v_3 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $w = \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ w_3 \end{pmatrix}$

Write  $3u - 5v + 7w = 0$  as a matrix equation.

$$\begin{pmatrix} u_1 & v_1 & w_1 \\ u_2 & v_2 & w_2 \\ u_3 & v_3 & w_3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -5 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

"  
(u v w)



# Solutions to Linear Systems vs Spans

Fact.  $Ax = b$  has a solution  $\iff b$  is in the span of columns of  $A$ .

Why?

$$Av = b \text{ for some } v$$

$$(c_1 \ c_2 \ \dots \ c_m) \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ \vdots \\ v_m \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ \vdots \\ b_n \end{pmatrix}$$

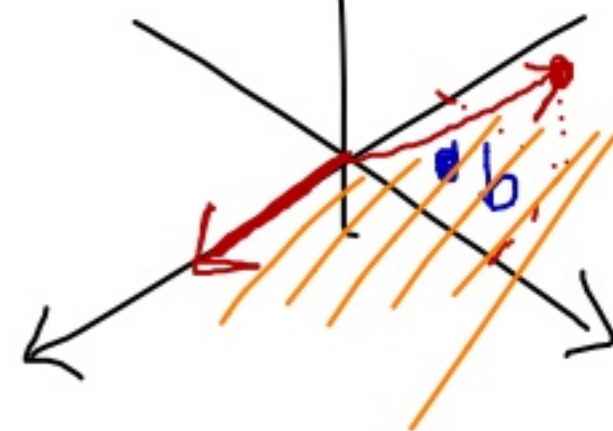
cols of  $A$

$$v_1 c_1 + v_2 c_2 + \dots + v_m c_m = b$$

lin combo of cols of  $A$

Again this is a basic fact we will use over and over.

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad b = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



$$Ax = b$$

soln:  $x = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

Is a given vector in the span?

Q. Which of the following vectors are in the span of

$(2, 3, 1, 4, 0), (3, 4, -1, 3, 5), (1, -1, 2, 4, 3)$ ?

- $(3, 6, -5, -2, -7)$
- $(6, 19, -3, 4, -12)$

$$a \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \\ 4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + b \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ -1 \\ 3 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} + c \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 2 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ -5 \\ -2 \\ -7 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 3 & 4 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 2 \\ 4 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 5 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ -5 \\ -2 \\ -7 \end{pmatrix}$$

→ row reduce the aug. mat.

# Is a given vector in the span?

## Poll

Which of the following true statements can be checked without row reduction?

1.  $(0, 1, 2)$  is in the span of  $(3, 3, 4)$ ,  $(0, 10, 20)$ ,  $(0, -1, -2)$
2.  $(0, 1, 2)$  is in the span of  $(3, 3, 4)$ ,  $(0, 5, 7)$ ,  $(0, 6, 8)$
3.  $(0, 1, 2)$  is in the span of  $(3, 3, 4)$ ,  $(0, 1, 0)$ ,  $(0, 0, \sqrt{2})$
4.  $(0, 1, 2)$  is in the span of  $(5, 7, 0)$ ,  $(6, 8, 0)$ ,  $(3, 3, 4)$

# Pivots vs Solutions

Theorem. Let  $A$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix. The following are equivalent.

1.  $Ax = b$  has a solution for all  $b$  in  $\mathbb{R}^m$
2. The span of the columns of  $A$  is  $\mathbb{R}^m$
3.  $A$  has a pivot in each row

Why?

examples:  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} \square & * & * & * \\ 0 & \square & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 17 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} x = \begin{pmatrix} 17 \\ 32 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} x = \begin{pmatrix} 17 \\ 32 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$m \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & \dots & x_n \end{pmatrix}_{m \times n} = \begin{pmatrix} \phantom{x_1} \\ \phantom{x_1} \\ \phantom{x_1} \end{pmatrix}_{n \times 1}$$

$m \times 1$



## Properties of the Matrix Product $Ax$

$c =$  real number,  $u, v =$  vectors,

- $A(u + v) = Au + Av$

- $A(cv) = cAv$

$$A(3u - 7v) \\ = 3Au - 7Av$$

*Application.* If  $u$  and  $v$  are solutions to  $Ax = 0$  then so is every ~~linear combination of~~

~~Span{u, v}~~

each vector  
in  $\text{Span}\{u, v\}$

$$Au = 0$$

$$Av = 0$$

$$A(u + v) = Au + Av = 0 + 0 = 0$$

$$A(u - v) = 0$$

# Solutions to $Ax = b$

## Poll

If  $b \neq 0$  then the set of solutions to  $Ax = b$  is

1. always a span
2. sometimes a span
3. never a span