

Answer on Question #44340 – Math - Linear Algebra

Problem

Standard basis vectors for \mathbb{R}^3 are $(1,0,0)$, $(0,1,0)$ and $(0,0,1)$. If we want to insert $u \rightarrow$ into this basis, then which vector from standard basis can be removed while still maintaining the basis of \mathbb{R}^3 .

Discuss the case when:

$$u \rightarrow = (4,3,6)$$

$$u \rightarrow = (4,0,6)$$

Interpret the result geometrically in both cases.

Solution

1) $\vec{u} = (4, 3, 6)$.

$\vec{u} = 4(\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0}) + 3(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{1}, \mathbf{0}) + 6(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{1})$, thus we can remove each vector from standard basis and each of $(\vec{u}, \vec{e}_1, \vec{e}_2)$, $(\vec{u}, \vec{e}_1, \vec{e}_3)$, $(\vec{u}, \vec{e}_3, \vec{e}_2)$ will form the basis of \mathbb{R}^3 .

Geometrical interpretation: none of Oxy , Oyz , Oxz contains \vec{u} .

2) $\vec{u} = (4, 0, 6)$.

$\vec{u} = 4(\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0}) + 6(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{1})$, which means that $(\vec{u}, \vec{e}_1, \vec{e}_3)$ are not linearly independent, thus we can remove only \vec{e}_1 or \vec{e}_3 not \vec{e}_2 . So, $(\vec{u}, \vec{e}_1, \vec{e}_2)$, $(\vec{u}, \vec{e}_3, \vec{e}_2)$ can form the basis of \mathbb{R}^3 .

Geometrical interpretation: neither Oxy nor Oyz contains \vec{u} , but \vec{u} lies in Oxz .