

# Linear Combinations (cont'd)

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**Theorem.** *The span of any subset  $S$  of a vector space  $V$  is a subspace of  $V$ . Moreover, any subspace of  $V$  that contains  $S$  must also contain  $\text{span}(S)$ .*

- A subset  $S$  of a vector space  $V$  **generates** (or **spans**)  $V$  if  $\text{span}(S) = V$ . In this case we say that the vectors of  $S$  generate (or span)  $V$ .

# Linear Dependence and Linear Independence

- A subset  $S$  of a vector space  $V$  is called **linearly dependent** if there exist a finite number of distinct vectors  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$  in  $S$  and scalars  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$ , not all zero, such that

$$a_1u_1 + a_2u_2 + \dots + a_nu_n = 0.$$

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In this case we say that the vectors of  $S$  are linearly dependent.

- A subset  $S$  of  $V$  that is not linearly dependent is called **linearly independent**. We say that the vectors of  $S$  are linearly independent.

## Results about linear dependence and linear independence

**Theorem.** *Let  $V$  be a vector space, and let  $S_1 \subset S_2 \subset V$ . If  $S_1$  is linearly dependent, then  $S_2$  is linearly dependent.*

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**Theorem.** *Let  $S$  be a linearly independent subset of a vector space  $V$ , and let  $v$  be a vector in  $V$  that is not in  $S$ . Then  $S \cup \{v\}$  is linearly dependent if and only if  $v \in \text{span}(S)$ .*