

**Theorem 0.1** *Let  $V$  be a vector space over a field  $F$  and  $V = \text{Span}(e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n)$ . Suppose  $m > n$  is an integer and  $v_1, \dots, v_m$  be  $m$  elements in  $V$ . Then  $v_1, \dots, v_m$  are linearly dependent.*

**Proof.** We have

$$\begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \dots \\ v_m \end{pmatrix} = A \begin{pmatrix} e_1 \\ e_2 \\ \dots \\ e_n \end{pmatrix}$$

Where  $A = (a_{ij})$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix with  $a_{ij} \in F$ . Now the homogeneous system of equations

$$(X_1, \dots, X_m)A = (0, 0, \dots, 0)$$

has  $n$  equations in  $m$  unknowns. Since  $m > n$ , the system has a non-zero solution. That means there is a row vector  $(c_1, c_2, \dots, c_m)$ , not all  $c_i = 0$  and

$$(c_1, c_2, \dots, c_m)A = (0, 0, \dots, 0).$$

Therefore

$$(c_1, c_2, \dots, c_m) \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \dots \\ v_m \end{pmatrix} = (c_1, c_2, \dots, c_m)A \begin{pmatrix} e_1 \\ e_2 \\ \dots \\ e_n \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

Hence  $\sum_{i=1}^m c_i v_i = 0$  and  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m$  are linearly dependent.