## Vector and Matrix Algebra

## Problem sheet 1

- **1.** True or false?
- (i) Vectors are dependent if their dot product is 0.
- (ii) If the linear combinations of  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  form a plane then  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  are independent.
- (iii)  $2\mathbf{v}$  is always longer than  $\mathbf{v}$ .
- (iv)  $\mathbf{a} \mathbf{b}$  is the same as  $\mathbf{a} + (-\mathbf{b})$ .
- (v) **v** and **w** are on a common line through the origin (called collinear) if and only if  $\frac{\mathbf{v}}{\|\mathbf{v}\|} = \frac{\mathbf{w}}{\|\mathbf{w}\|}$ .
- (vi) Any vector is a matrix.
  - **2.** Let

$$\mathbf{a} = \begin{bmatrix} 1\\0\\-1 \end{bmatrix}, \ \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 1\\1\\0 \end{bmatrix}, \ \mathbf{c} = \begin{bmatrix} 0\\0\\1 \end{bmatrix}, \ \mathbf{d} = \begin{bmatrix} 1\\2\\1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Describe algebraically and geometrically the linear combinations of  $\mathbf{b}$  and  $\mathbf{c}$ . Describe also the linear combinations of  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$ . Which of  $\mathbf{c}$ ,  $\mathbf{d}$  can be expressed using  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$ ?

Determine the subsets of  $\{a, b, c, d\}$  that are independent.

**3.** Let a clock have unit radius and let  $\mathbf{a}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{a}_{12}$  denote the twelve vectors pointing from the centre of the clock (the origin) to the twelve round hours. Determine the entries of  $\mathbf{a}_1$ ,  $\mathbf{a}_4$  and  $\mathbf{a}_9$ . What is the sum  $\mathbf{a}_1 + \mathbf{a}_2 + \cdots + \mathbf{a}_{12}$ ? What is the sum  $\mathbf{a}_1 + \mathbf{a}_5 + \mathbf{a}_9$ ?

**4.** Find two vectors **a**, **b** that are perpendicular to  $\begin{bmatrix} 1\\1\\0 \end{bmatrix}$  and to each other! **HW** with  $\begin{bmatrix} 1\\-1\\1 \end{bmatrix}$ .

- 5. Show these properties of the dot product:
- (i)  $\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{v};$
- (ii)  $\mathbf{v} \cdot (\mathbf{w} + \mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{u};$
- (iii)  $(\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}) \cdot \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{u}.$

6. Let  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ . Compute the real number(s) c for which  $\mathbf{w} - c\mathbf{v}$  is perpendicular to  $\mathbf{v}$ . Can you do it for arbitrary  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$ ?

7. Using Pythagoras' Theorem, prove the triangle inequality  $||\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}|| \le ||\mathbf{v}|| + ||\mathbf{w}||$ .

8. How many vectors can you find on the plane/space such that every pair has negative dot product?

9. To every space vector  $\mathbf{v}$  there corresponds a plane  $P_{\mathbf{v}}$  consisting of the vectors perpendicular to  $\mathbf{v}$ :  $P_{\mathbf{v}} = {\mathbf{w} | \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0}$ . Describe the possible configurations of the planes corresponding to three independent vectors. Similarly, describe the possible configurations of the planes corresponding to three dependent vectors.

10. To every plane P (not necessarily containing the origin!) in the space there corresponds a (nonunique) vector  $\mathbf{v}_P \neq \mathbf{0}$  perpendicular to  $P: \mathbf{v}_P \cdot (\mathbf{w}_1 - \mathbf{w}_2) = 0$  for all  $\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2 \in P$ . Describe the configurations of three planes when the corresponding three vectors are independent and when they are dependent.