

$$\alpha \begin{pmatrix} \lambda \\ -\frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} + \beta \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{2} \\ \lambda \\ -\frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} + \gamma \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} \\ \lambda \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

This gives us 3 simultaneous equations.

$$(1) \quad \alpha\lambda - \frac{1}{2}\beta - \frac{1}{2}\gamma = 0$$

$$(2) \quad -\frac{1}{2}\alpha + \lambda\beta - \frac{1}{2}\gamma = 0$$

$$(3) \quad -\frac{1}{2}\alpha - \frac{1}{2}\beta + \lambda\gamma = 0$$

Rearranging (1) gives $\gamma = 2\alpha\lambda - \beta$. Substituting for γ in (2) & (3) gives

$$(2) \quad -\frac{1}{2}\alpha + \lambda\beta - \alpha\lambda + \frac{1}{2}\beta = 0$$

$$(3) \quad -\frac{1}{2}\alpha - \frac{1}{2}\beta + 2\alpha\lambda^2 - \lambda\beta = 0$$

$$\text{Rearranging (2)} \quad \alpha\left(\frac{1}{2} + \lambda\right) = \beta\left(\frac{1}{2} + \lambda\right) \quad \therefore \alpha = \beta$$

$$\text{rearranging (3)} \quad \left(-\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} + 2\lambda^2 - \lambda\right)\alpha = 0$$

$$2\lambda^2 - \lambda - 1 = 0$$

$$(2\lambda + 1)(\lambda - 1) = 0$$

$$\lambda = 1 \text{ or } -\frac{1}{2}.$$

when $\lambda = -\frac{1}{2}$ clearly v_1, v_2, v_3 are not linearly independent.

Hence, $\lambda = 1$.

We now have 3 linearly independent vectors in a 3-dimensional space. So they can be used as a basis for the space.