

# Topics in Computational Economics

## Background on Linear Algebra

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# Contents

- Vectors and norms
- Spans and linear subspaces
- Linear independence
- Linear systems of equations



# Vector Space

An  $n$ -vector  $\mathbf{x}$  is a tuple of  $n$  real numbers:

$$\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \quad \text{where} \quad x_i \in \mathbb{R} \text{ for each } i$$

We can also write  $\mathbf{x}$  vertically, like so:

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}$$

$\mathbb{R}^n :=$  set of all  $n$ -vectors



The **sum** of  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  defined by

$$\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} := \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix} := \begin{pmatrix} x_1 + y_1 \\ x_2 + y_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n + y_n \end{pmatrix}$$

The **scalar product** of  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  defined by

$$\alpha \mathbf{x} = \alpha \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} := \begin{pmatrix} \alpha x_1 \\ \alpha x_2 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha x_n \end{pmatrix}$$



## Coincides with NumPy / Julia notation

---

```
In [1]: import numpy as np
```

```
In [2]: x = np.array((2, 4, 6))
```

```
In [3]: y = np.array((10, 10, 10))
```

```
In [4]: x + y  # Vector addition
```

```
Out[4]: array([12, 14, 16])
```

```
In [6]: 2 * x  # Scalar multiplication
```

```
Out[6]: array([ 4,  8, 12])
```

---



Subtraction performed element by element, analogous to addition

$$\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y} := \begin{pmatrix} x_1 - y_1 \\ x_2 - y_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_N - y_N \end{pmatrix}$$

Def can be given in terms of addition and scalar multiplication:

$$\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y} := \mathbf{x} + (-1)\mathbf{y}$$



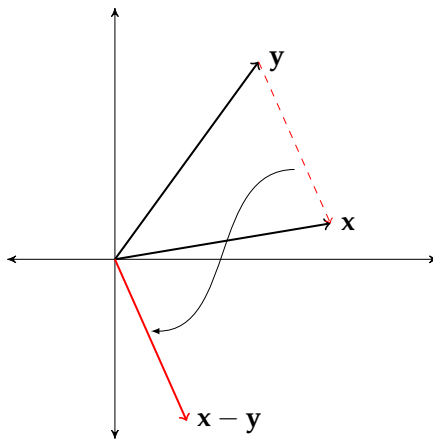


Figure: Difference between vectors



A **linear combination** of vectors  $\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_k$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is a vector

$$\mathbf{y} = \alpha_1 \mathbf{x}_1 + \dots + \alpha_k \mathbf{x}_k$$

where  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k$  are scalars

- New vectors from old using purely linear operations

Example.

$$0.5 \begin{pmatrix} 6.0 \\ 2.0 \\ 8.0 \end{pmatrix} + 3.0 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1.0 \\ -1.0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3.0 \\ 4.0 \\ 1.0 \end{pmatrix}$$





# Inner Product and Norm

The **inner product** of two vectors  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{y}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is

$$\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle := \sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i$$

**Fact.** For any  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$  and any  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ , we have

1.  $\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x} \rangle$
2.  $\langle \alpha \mathbf{x}, \beta \mathbf{y} \rangle = \alpha \beta \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle$
3.  $\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{z} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z} \rangle$



The (Euclidean) **norm** of  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is defined as

$$\|\mathbf{x}\| := \sqrt{\mathbf{x}'\mathbf{x}}$$

**Fact.** For any  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  and any  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

1.  $\|\mathbf{x}\| \geq 0$  and  $\|\mathbf{x}\| = 0$  if and only if  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$
2.  $\|\alpha\mathbf{x}\| = |\alpha|\|\mathbf{x}\|$
3.  $\|\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y}\| \leq \|\mathbf{x}\| + \|\mathbf{y}\|$  (**triangle inequality**)
4.  $|\mathbf{x}'\mathbf{y}| \leq \|\mathbf{x}\|\|\mathbf{y}\|$  (**Cauchy-Schwarz inequality**)



# Linear Independence

Consider a set of vectors  $X := \{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_k\}$

We can always attain  $\mathbf{0}$  as a linear combination of these vectors

Proof:  $0\mathbf{x}_1 + \dots + 0\mathbf{x}_k = \mathbf{0}$

The set  $X$  is called linearly independent when this is the only way

That is,  $X \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  is called **linearly independent** if

$$\alpha_1 \mathbf{x}_1 + \dots + \alpha_k \mathbf{x}_k = \mathbf{0} \implies \alpha_1 = \dots = \alpha_k = 0$$



Let  $X \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be any nonempty set

Set of all possible linear combinations of elements of  $X$  is called the **span** of  $X$ , denoted by  $\text{span}(X)$

For finite  $X := \{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_k\}$  the span can be expressed as

$$\text{span}(X) := \left\{ \text{all } \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \mathbf{x}_i \text{ such that } (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k) \in \mathbb{R}^k \right\}$$



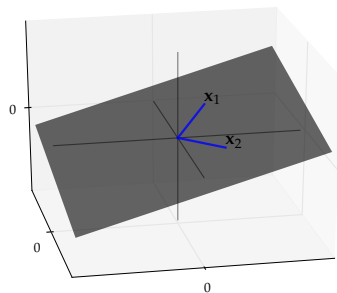
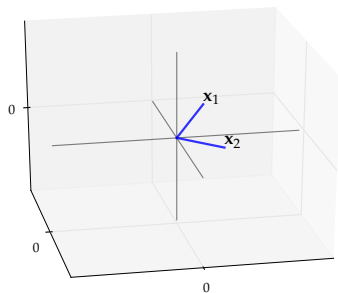


Figure: The span of two vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^2$



## Example

Consider the vectors  $\{\mathbf{e}_1, \dots, \mathbf{e}_n\} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , where

$$\mathbf{e}_1 := \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{e}_2 := \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \dots, \quad \mathbf{e}_n := \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

That is,  $\mathbf{e}_i$  has all zeros except for a 1 as the  $i$ -th element

Vectors  $\mathbf{e}_1, \dots, \mathbf{e}_N$  called the **canonical basis vectors** of  $\mathbb{R}^N$



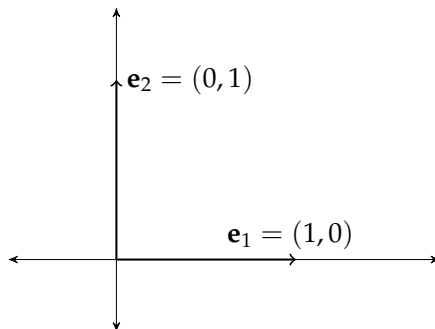


Figure: Canonical basis vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^2$



**Fact.** The span of  $\{\mathbf{e}_1, \dots, \mathbf{e}_n\}$  is equal to all of  $\mathbb{R}^n$

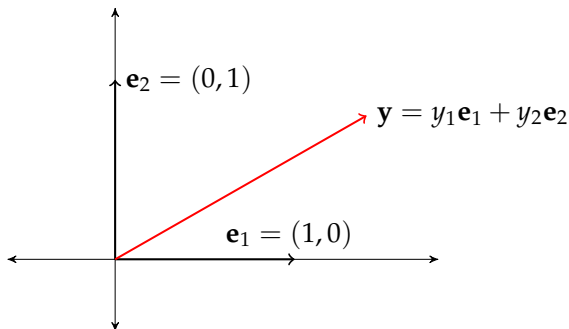


Figure: Canonical basis vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^2$

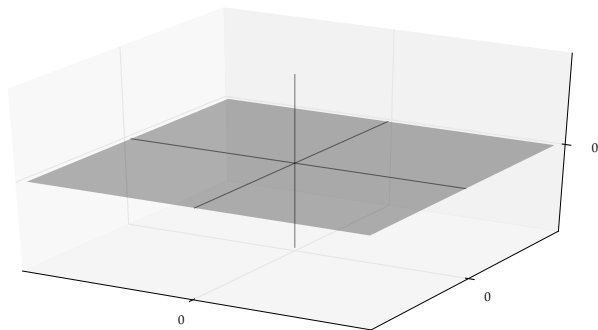




**Example.** Consider the set

$$P := \{(x_1, x_2, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

Graphically,  $P$  = flat plane in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , where height coordinate = 0



Let  $\mathbf{e}_1$  and  $\mathbf{e}_2$  be the canonical basis vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^3$

Claim:  $\text{span}\{\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2\} = P$

Proof:

Let  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, 0)$  be any element of  $P$

We can write  $\mathbf{x}$  as

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = x_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + x_2 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = x_1 \mathbf{e}_1 + x_2 \mathbf{e}_2$$

In other words,  $P \subset \text{span}\{\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2\}$

Conversely (check it) we have  $\text{span}\{\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2\} \subset P$



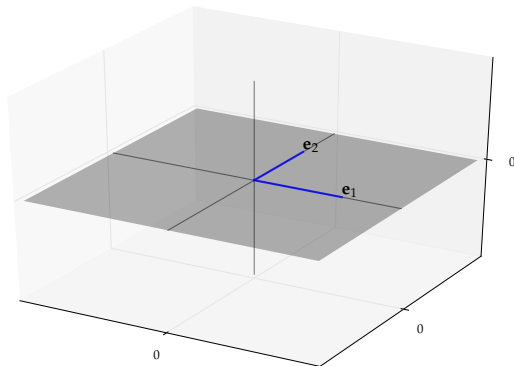


Figure:  $\text{span}\{\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2\} = P$



# Linear Subspaces

A nonempty  $S \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  called a **linear subspace** of  $\mathbb{R}^N$  if

$$\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in S \text{ and } \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R} \implies \alpha \mathbf{x} + \beta \mathbf{y} \in S$$

In other words,  $S \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  is “closed” under vector addition and scalar multiplication

Note: Sometimes we just say **subspace**...



**Example.** Fix  $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{R}^N$  and let  $A := \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N : \langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{x} \rangle = 0\}$

The set  $A$  is a linear subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^N$

Proof: Let  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in A$  and let  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$

We must show that  $\mathbf{z} := \alpha\mathbf{x} + \beta\mathbf{y} \in A$

Equivalently, that  $\langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{z} \rangle = 0$

True because

$$\langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{z} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{a}, \alpha\mathbf{x} + \beta\mathbf{y} \rangle = \alpha \langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{x} \rangle + \beta \langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{y} \rangle = 0 + 0 = 0$$

**Ex.** Show:  $\text{span}(Z)$  is a linear subspace,  $\forall$  nonempty  $Z \subset \mathbb{R}^N$



**Fact.** If  $S$  and  $S'$  are two linear subspaces of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , then  $S \cap S'$  is also a linear subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ .

Proof: Let  $S$  and  $S'$  be two linear subspaces of  $\mathbb{R}^N$

Fix  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in S \cap S'$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$

We claim that  $\mathbf{z} := \alpha\mathbf{x} + \beta\mathbf{y} \in S \cap S'$

- Since  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in S$  and  $S$  is a linear subspace we have  $\mathbf{z} \in S$
- Since  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in S'$  and  $S'$  is a linear subspace we have  $\mathbf{z} \in S'$

Therefore  $\mathbf{z} \in S \cap S'$



## Other examples of linear subspaces

- Lines through the origin in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  and  $\mathbb{R}^3$
- Planes through the origin in  $\mathbb{R}^3$

**Ex.** Let  $S$  be a linear subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . Show that

1.  $\mathbf{0} \in S$
2. If  $X \subset S$ , then  $\text{span}(X) \subset S$
3.  $\text{span}(S) = S$

**Theorem.** If linear subspace  $S$  is spanned by  $k$  vectors, then  $S$  every linearly independent subset of  $S$  contains no more than  $k$  vectors



# Linear Functions

A function  $T: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$  is called **linear** if

$$T(\alpha \mathbf{x} + \beta \mathbf{y}) = \alpha T(\mathbf{x}) + \beta T(\mathbf{y})$$

for all  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$  and all  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$

Let  $\mathcal{M}(n \times k) :=$  all  $n \times k$  real matrices

**Fact.** For every linear  $T: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$ , there exists a unique  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{M}(n \times k)$  such that

$$T\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} \quad \text{for all } \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^k$$





# Basis of a Subspace

Let  $S$  be a linear subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$

Recall that  $\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_k \in S$  form a **basis** of  $S$  if

$$\forall \mathbf{x} \in S, \exists \text{ unique scalars } \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{x} = \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \mathbf{b}_i$$

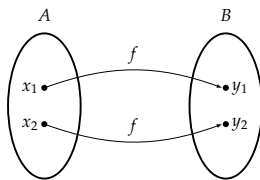
**Theorem.**  $\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_k \in S$  form a basis of  $S$  if and only if they are linearly independent and their span equals  $S$



# Solving Equations

We want to find the  $x$  that solves  $f(x) = y$

Ideal case:  $f$  is a bijection



Equivalent:

- $f$  is a bijection
- each  $y \in B$  has a unique preimage
- $f(x) = y$  has a unique solution  $x$  for each  $y$



# Linear Equations

Now consider linear system  $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ , where

- $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{M}(n \times n)$
- $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$
- We seek a solution  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$

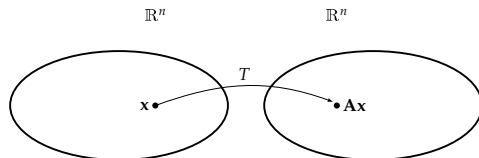
Note: number of equations = number of unknowns

Does such a solution exist?

If so is it unique?



Let  $T$  be defined by  $T\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{Ax}$



Equivalent:

1.  $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$  has a unique solution  $\mathbf{x}$  for any given  $\mathbf{b}$
2.  $T\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  has a unique solution  $\mathbf{x}$  for any given  $\mathbf{b}$
3.  $T$  is a bijection



So when is  $T$  a bijection?

Note that  $T$  is a linear map

Can that help us determine when  $T$  is a bijection?

Is there anything special about linear bijections?



# Linear Equations

**Fact.** If  $T$  is a linear function from  $\mathbb{R}^n$  to  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , then the following are all equivalent:

1.  $T$  is a bijection
2.  $T$  is onto
3.  $T$  is one-to-one
4.  $V := \{T\mathbf{e}_1, \dots, T\mathbf{e}_n\}$  is linearly independent

If hold we say that  $T$  is **nonsingular** (  $\iff$  linear bijection)



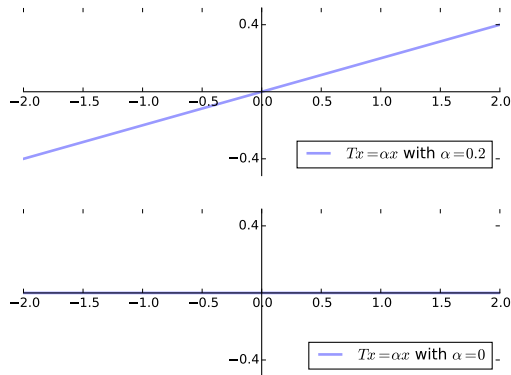


Figure: The case of  $n = 1$ , nonsingular and singular



Let's use this information to study  $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$

Unique solution always exists if  $T\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{Ax}$  is a bijection

We have conditions for when  $T$  is a bijection

But we want conditions stated in terms of  $\mathbf{A}$ , not  $T$





**Fact.** For  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{M}(n \times n)$ , all of the following are equivalent:

1. For each  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , the equation  $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$  has a unique solution
2. For each  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , the equation  $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$  has a solution
3. If  $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{Ay}$ , then  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}$
4. The columns of  $\mathbf{A}$  are linearly independent

If hold we say that  $\mathbf{A}$  is **nonsingular**

Also equivalent:

- The linear span of the columns of  $\mathbf{A}$  is all of  $\mathbb{R}^n$
- $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = n$



All equivalent ways of saying that  $T\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{Ax}$  is a bijection

**Example.** For condition 2 the equivalence is

for each  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , the equation  $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$  has a solution

$$\iff \forall \mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n, \exists \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$$

$$\iff \forall \mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n, \exists \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ s.t. } T\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$$

$$\iff T \text{ is onto}$$

Since  $T$  is a linear map from  $\mathbb{R}^n$  to  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$\iff T \text{ is a bijection}$$



**Example.** For condition 3 the equivalence is

if  $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{Ay}$ , then  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}$

$\iff$  if  $T\mathbf{x} = T\mathbf{y}$ , then  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}$

$\iff T$  is one-to-one

Since  $T$  is a linear map from  $\mathbb{R}^n$  to  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$\iff T$  is a bijection



Now consider condition 4:

The columns of  $\mathbf{A}$  are linearly independent

Let  $\mathbf{e}_i$  be the  $i$ -th canonical basis vector in  $\mathbb{R}^n$

Observe that  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{e}_i = \text{col}_i(\mathbf{A})$

$$\therefore T\mathbf{e}_i = \text{col}_i(\mathbf{A})$$

$$\therefore V := \{T\mathbf{e}_1, \dots, T\mathbf{e}_n\} = \text{columns of } \mathbf{A}$$

And  $V$  is linearly independent if and only if  $T$  is a bijection



# Inverse Matrices

Let  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{M}(n \times n)$ . If

$$\mathbf{B} \in \mathcal{M}(n \times n) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{AB} = \mathbf{BA} = \mathbf{I}$$

Then

- $\mathbf{B}$  is called the **inverse** of  $\mathbf{A}$ , and written  $\mathbf{A}^{-1}$
- $\mathbf{A}$  is called **invertible**

**Fact.**  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{M}(n \times n)$  is nonsingular if and only if it is invertible

Remark

- $\mathbf{A}^{-1}$  is just the matrix corresponding to the linear map  $T^{-1}$



**Fact.** If  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{M}(n \times n)$  is nonsingular and  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , then

$$\mathbf{x}_b := \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{b}$$

is the unique solution to  $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$

Proof: Since  $\mathbf{A}$  is nonsingular we already know that

- a solution exists
- the solution is unique

To show that  $\mathbf{x}_b$  is the solution we must show that  $\mathbf{Ax}_b = \mathbf{b}$

To see this, observe that

$$\mathbf{Ax}_b = \mathbf{AA}^{-1}\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{Ib} = \mathbf{b}$$



**Fact.** If  $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} \in \mathcal{M}(n \times n)$  are both nonsingular, then

- $\mathbf{AB}$  is also nonsingular and  $(\mathbf{AB})^{-1} = \mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{A}^{-1}$

Long but interesting proof: Let  $T, U$  be the linear maps corresponding to  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$

True:

- $T \circ U$  is the linear map corresponding to  $\mathbf{AB}$
- linear  $\circ$  linear = linear
- bijection  $\circ$  bijection = bijection,  $(f \circ g)^{-1} = g^{-1} \circ f^{-1}$

$$\therefore (T \circ U)^{-1} = U^{-1} \circ T^{-1}$$

$$\therefore (\mathbf{AB})^{-1} \text{ exists, equals } \mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{A}^{-1}$$



**Example.** Consider a one good linear market system

$$q = a - bp \quad (\text{demand})$$

$$q = c + dp \quad (\text{supply})$$

Treating  $q$  and  $p$  as the unknowns, let's write in matrix form as

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & b \\ 1 & -d \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} q \\ p \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ c \end{pmatrix}$$

A unique solution exists whenever the columns are linearly independent

- means that  $(b, -d)$  is not a scalar multiple of  $\mathbf{1}$
- means that  $b \neq -d$





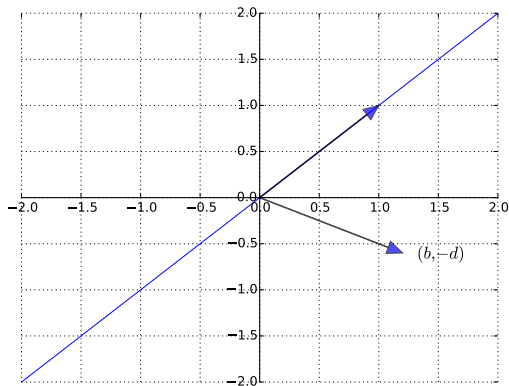


Figure:  $(b, -d)$  is not a scalar multiple of 1



Let's set  $a = 5$ ,  $b = 2$ ,  $c = 1$ ,  $d = 1.5$

- nonsingular, unique solution exists

The matrix system is

$$\mathbf{A} := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & -1.5 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{x} := \begin{pmatrix} q \\ p \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b} := \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Solutions should be

- $p = 8/7 \approx 1.14285$
- $q = 19/7 \approx 2.71428$



---

```
In [1]: from scipy.linalg import inv
```

```
In [2]: A = [[1, 2],  
             [1, -1.5]]
```

```
In [3]: b = [5, 1]
```

```
In [4]: q, p = inv(A) @ b
```

```
In [5]: p
```

```
Out[5]: 1.1428571428571428
```

```
In [6]: q
```

```
Out[6]: 2.7142857142857144
```

---



Typically it's better to use solve

---

```
In [7]: from scipy.linalg import solve
```

```
In [8]: solve(A, b)
```

```
Out[8]: array([ 2.71428571,  1.14285714])
```

```
In [9]: A @ solve(A, b)
```

```
Out[9]: array([ 5.,  1.])
```

```
In [10]: b
```

```
Out[10]: [5, 1]
```

---



Why is  $x = \text{solve}(A, b)$  better than  $x = \text{inv}(A) @ b$  ?

- The former uses LU decomposition
- More numerically stable

Intuition:

- In the case of  $x = \text{inv}(A) @ b$  we need to compute
  - the  $n \times n$  object  $\text{inv}(A)$
  - the  $n \times 1$  object  $x$
- In  $x = \text{solve}(A, b)$  the inverse is not computed

Less floating point operations, more accuracy



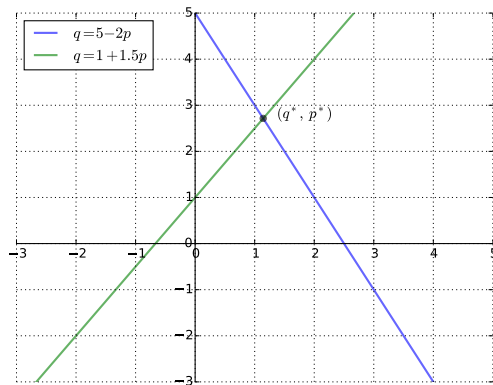


Figure: Equilibrium  $(p^*, q^*)$  in the one good case



Of course if  $A$  is singular we hit problems

---

```
In [1]: import numpy as np
```

```
In [2]: from scipy.linalg import solve
```

```
In [3]: A = [[0, 2, 4],  
...:         [1, 4, 8],  
...:         [0, 3, 6]]
```

```
In [4]: b = (1, 2, 0)
```

```
In [5]: A, b = np.asarray(A), np.asarray(b)
```

```
In [6]: solve(A, b)
```

---



Output:

```
LinAlgError          Traceback (most recent call last)
<ipython-input-8-4fb5f41eaf7c> in <module>()
----> 1 solve(A, b)
/home/john/anaconda/lib/python2.7/site-packages/scipy/linalg
    97         return x
    98     if info > 0:
---> 99         raise LinAlgError("singular matrix")
    100     raise ValueError('illegal value in %d-th argument')
LinAlgError: singular matrix
```

The problem is that  $\mathbf{A}$  is singular (not nonsingular)

- In particular,  $\text{col}_3(\mathbf{A}) = 2 \text{col}_2(\mathbf{A})$





# Determinants

Let  $S(N)$  be set of all bijections from  $\{1, \dots, N\}$  to itself

For  $\pi \in S(N)$  we define the **signature** of  $\pi$  as

$$\text{sgn}(\pi) := \prod_{m < n} \frac{\pi(m) - \pi(n)}{m - n}$$

The **determinant** of  $N \times N$  matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  is then given as

$$\det(\mathbf{A}) := \sum_{\pi \in S(N)} \text{sgn}(\pi) \prod_{n=1}^N a_{\pi(n)n}$$

- You **don't** need to understand or remember this...



## Important facts concerning the determinant

**Fact.** If  $\mathbf{I}$  is the  $N \times N$  identity,  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$  are  $N \times N$  matrices and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ , then

1.  $\det(\mathbf{I}) = 1$
2.  $\mathbf{A}$  is nonsingular if and only if  $\det(\mathbf{A}) \neq 0$
3.  $\det(\mathbf{AB}) = \det(\mathbf{A}) \det(\mathbf{B})$
4.  $\det(\alpha \mathbf{A}) = \alpha^N \det(\mathbf{A})$
5.  $\det(\mathbf{A}^{-1}) = (\det(\mathbf{A}))^{-1}$



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```
In [1]: import numpy as np
```

```
In [2]: A = np.random.randn(2, 2)  # Random matrix
```

```
In [3]: A
```

```
Out[3]:
```

```
array([[ -0.70120551,  0.57088203],  
       [ 0.40757074, -0.72769741]])
```

```
In [4]: np.linalg.det(A)
```

```
Out[4]: 0.27759063032043652
```

```
In [5]: 1.0 / np.linalg.det(np.linalg.inv(A))
```

```
Out[5]: 0.27759063032043652
```

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