

Lecture 6

# Abstract vector spaces

# What are Vectors?

- 2D vector is an arrow on a flat plane that we can describe with coordinates for convenience.

$$\nearrow = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Or is it fundamentally a pair of real numbers which is nicely visualized as an arrow.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \nearrow$$

- Or are both just manifestations of something deeper?

# Many Possible Coordinate Systems

- You are dealing with a space that exists independently from the coordinates that you specify.
- Determinant and Eigenvectors do not care about the coordinate system.
- The determinant tells you how much a transformation scales areas.
- Eigenvectors are the ones that stay on their own span during a transformation.

# What exactly do you mean by “Space”?

- If vectors are not only lists of real numbers,
- And if their underlying essence is something more special,
- What do we mean by “space” or “spacial”?
- Let us first talk about something else that has some vectorish qualities.

# Functions

- **Functions are just another type of vectors.**
  1. Like vectors, you can add two functions  $f$  and  $g$  to get a new function  $(f+g)$ .
  2. The output of  $(f+g)$  for any input is the sum of outputs of  $f$  and  $g$  with the same input,  $(f+g)(x) = f(x) + g(x)$ .
  3. You can scale a function by a real number.
  4. We can apply the same constructs of linear algebra to functions as well.

# Linear Transformations for Functions

- Something that transforms one function into another function? The derivative.

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{1}{9} x^3 - x \right) = \frac{1}{3} x^2 - 1$$

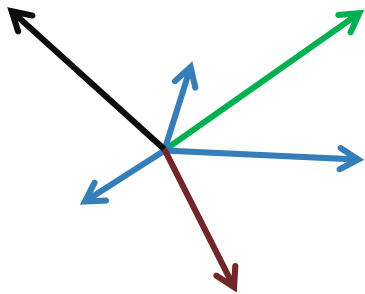
- What does it mean for a transformation of a function to be linear?
- A transformation is linear if it satisfies two properties: **Additivity** and **Scaling**.
- **Additivity**:  $L(\vec{v} + \vec{w}) = L(\vec{v}) + L(\vec{w})$
- **Scaling**:  $L(c\vec{v}) = c * L(\vec{v})$

# Linear Transformations for Functions

- $\frac{d}{dx}$  is linear.
- Let's describe the derivative with a matrix.
- Let us limit our selves to polynomials:
$$x^2 + 3x + 5$$
- Each polynomials in our space will have finite terms.
- First, we need to choose a basis (give coordinates to the space).

## So back to the first question

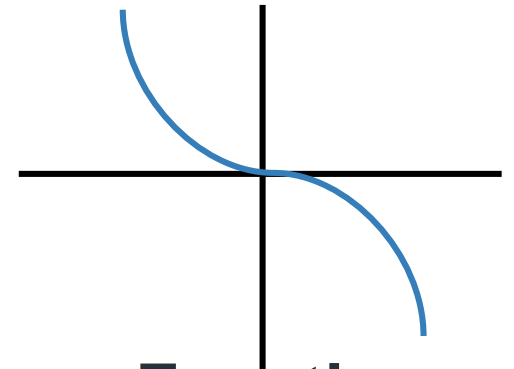
- What vectors really are?
- There are a lot of *vectorish* objects in math.
- as long as we are dealing with a set of objects with reasonable notion of scaling and adding.



**Set of Arrows**

$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 7 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Lists of Numbers**



**Functions**



# Vector Spaces

- Consider a **field**  $F$ , and any **set**  $X$ . Consider the set of all **functions** from  $X$  to  $F$ .
- You can add any two such functions, and you can multiply any such function by an element of  $F$ .
- This set of functions is a vector space “over  $F$ ”, and any one of the functions in it is a vector.

**What on earth is a field?**

# What on earth is a field?

- Four million hours of abstract algebra theory or give up.

## Now let's distill out the essential ideas involved.

- What is a **monoid**? It's a set  $M$  with an operation taking two arguments, denoted by  $+$ , with the property that  $(x+y)+z = x + (y+z)$ , and also having an operation taking no arguments, denoted  $0$ , with the property that  $0 + x = x + 0 = x$ , for all  $x$ .
- What's a **group**? It's a monoid with  $x + y = 0$  (for all  $x$ , there is a  $y$ , or for all  $y$ , there is an  $x$ .) If  $x + y = 0 = y + z$ , then  $x = x + 0 = x + (y + z) = (x + y) + z = 0 + z = z$ , so  $x = z$ . We denote it by  $-y$ ; it is clearly unique.
- What's an **Abelian group**? It's a group for which  $x + y = y + x$  for all  $x$  and  $y$ .
- What's an **endomorphism**? It's a map  $f$  satisfying  $f(0) = 0$  and  $f(x + y) = f(x) + f(y)$ . These are also the functorial properties.
- What's a **ring**? It's a set  $R$  with two monoid structures. denoted by  $+$ ,  $0$  and  $1$ , satisfying a functorial property, that  $x(y+z) = xy + xz$  and  $(x + y)z = xz + yz$ , with  $x0 = 0x = 0$  for all  $x$ .
- We assume also a **nullary operation** denoted  $-1$ , satisfying  $-1 + 1 = 0$ , or equivalently  $1 + -1 = 0$ . It follows that the addition in fact is an Abelian group. The other operation is called multiplication.
- What is a **division ring**? A ring for which the elements apart from  $0$  form a group, under the multiplication operation. If that group is Abelian the ring is called a field.
- The endomorphisms of an Abelian group form a ring. The multiplication is given by composition of functions. The addition is given by adding values.  $1$  is the identity map, and  $0$  is the constant map taking everything to  $0$ .
- What is a **functor**? a functor is a map between categories. We're going to ignore categories 😊.
- What is a **functor of rings**? It is a functor of each of the two monoid structures a ring possesses:  $f(0) = 0$ ,  $f(a+b) = f(a) + f(b)$ ,  $f(1) = 1$ ,  $f(ab) = f(a)f(b)$ .
- What is a **module**? It is a functor from a ring to the endomorphism ring of an Abelian group.
- When the domain ring is a division ring, the elements of that Abelian group are called vectors, and the Abelian group is called a vector space.

# Vector Spaces

- A transformation is linear if it satisfies two properties: **Additivity** and **Scaling**.
- **Additivity**:  $L(\vec{v} + \vec{w}) = L(\vec{v}) + L(\vec{w})$
- **Scaling**:  $L(c\vec{v}) = c * L(\vec{v})$

# Rules for vectors addition and scaling

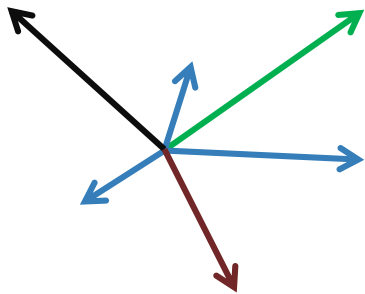
- These rules are called **axioms**.
- There are 8 axioms in the modern theory of linear algebra.
- Any vector space must satisfy these rules so linear algebra tools can be applied.
- These axioms are an **interface**.
- In this way, the form that vectors take does not matter.
- It can be anything so long there is some notion of adding and scaling vectors that follows these 8 rules.

# Rules for vectors addition and scaling

1.  $\vec{u} + (\vec{v} + \vec{w}) = (\vec{u} + \vec{v}) + \vec{w}$
2.  $\vec{v} + \vec{w} = \vec{w} + \vec{v}$
3. There is a vector  $0$  such that  $0 + \vec{v} = \vec{v}$  for all  $\vec{v}$
4. For every vector  $\vec{v}$  there is a vector  $-\vec{v}$  so that  $\vec{v} + (-\vec{v}) = 0$
5.  $a(b\vec{v}) = (ab)\vec{v}$
6.  $1\vec{v} = \vec{v}$
7.  $a(\vec{v} + \vec{w}) = a\vec{v} + a\vec{w}$
8.  $(a + b)\vec{v} = a\vec{v} + b\vec{v}$

## So back to the first question

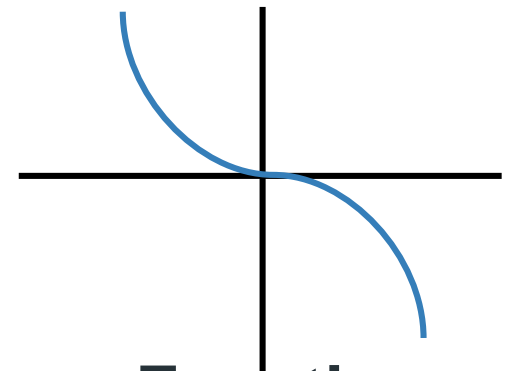
- What vectors really are?
- There are a lot of *vectorish* objects in math.
- as long as we are dealing with a set of objects with reasonable notion of scaling and adding.



**Set of Arrows**

$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 7 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Lists of Numbers**



**Functions**