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# Linear Algebra Dictionary

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by Andrew Lehmann  
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# Chapter 1: Euclidean Vectors

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**Definition 1.1** (Euclidean vector or tuple).

A Euclidean vector is a list of  $n$  real numbers, also called an  $n$ -tuple. We write this list in parentheses, for example  $(1, 3, -2, \dots, 0)$ , and we say that this object belongs to  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . An arbitrary tuple can be written  $\mathbf{v} = (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n)$  where the components  $v_i \in \mathbb{R}$  for any index  $i$ .

---

**Definition 1.2** (Tuple addition).

Euclidean vectors are added to each other component by component. In symbols

$$(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) + (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n) = (a_1 + b_1, a_2 + b_2, \dots, a_n + b_n).$$

Note: this means you can only add two tuples together of the same size. It makes no sense to add a 3-tuple to a 5-tuple.

---

**Definition 1.3** (Scalar multiplication).

Let  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ , called a scalar quantity, and  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  with components  $v_i$ . Then the scalar multiplication  $c\mathbf{v}$  gives a vector  $\mathbf{w}$  with components  $w_i = cv_i$  for every index  $i$ . In tuple form

$$c(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n) = (cv_1, cv_2, \dots, cv_n).$$

---

**Definition 1.4** (Canonical Euclidean unit vectors).

The canonical Euclidean vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  are the  $n$  vectors of the form

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{e}_1 &= (1, 0, \dots, 0) \\ \mathbf{e}_2 &= (0, 1, \dots, 0) \\ &\vdots \\ \mathbf{e}_n &= (0, 0, \dots, 1).\end{aligned}$$

More compactly

$$\mathbf{e}_k = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n) \quad \text{where} \quad \alpha_j = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } j = k, \\ 0 & \text{for } j \neq k. \end{cases}$$

---

**Definition 1.5** (Dot product).

For two  $n$ -tuples  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$ , their dot product, also called scalar product and Euclidean inner product, is the real number given by the addition of component by component multiplication

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = a_1b_1 + a_2b_2 + \dots + a_nb_n = \sum_{i=1}^n a_ib_i.$$

---

**Definition 1.6** (Euclidean Norm).

The norm of an  $n$ -tuple  $\mathbf{v}$ , denoted  $\|\mathbf{v}\|$ , is given by

$$\|\mathbf{v}\| = \sqrt{\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{v}} = \sqrt{v_1^2 + v_2^2 + \cdots + v_n^2}.$$

---

**Definition 1.7** (Orthogonal Euclidean vectors).

Two vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  are orthogonal if and only if their dot product equals zero.

---

**Definition 1.8** (Displacement vector).

Given two Euclidean vectors  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$ , the displacement vector pointing from  $\mathbf{a}$  to  $\mathbf{b}$  is given by  $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}$  as pictured below. Of course we can also create the displacement vector in the other direction, from  $\mathbf{b}$  to  $\mathbf{a}$ , given by  $\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}$ .

---

**Definition 1.9** (Vector form of a straight line).

The set of vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  of the form  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{a} + t\mathbf{r}$  for a parameter  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  represents a straight line through the space  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . That is,

$$\{(x, y) \mid \forall x \in \mathbb{R} \text{ and } y = mx + b\} = \{\mathbf{a} + t\mathbf{r} \mid \forall t \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

where  $\mathbf{a}$  is an arbitrary pair  $(x, mx+b)$  and  $\mathbf{r}$  is a displacement vector between any two distinct pairs  $(x_1, mx_1+b)$  and  $(x_2, mx_2+b)$ .

# Chapter 2: Matrix Algebra

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## Definition 2.1 (Matrix).

A matrix is a collection of numbers from a field  $\mathbb{F}$  (e.g. rational numbers) usually represented by a rectangular array. For example, an  $m \times n$  (said  $m$  by  $n$ ) matrix  $A$  with coefficients  $a_{ij} \in \mathbb{F}$  would be represented by an array with  $m$  rows and  $n$  columns:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & \cdots & a_{1j} & \cdots & a_{1m} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} & \cdots & a_{2j} & \cdots & a_{2m} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} & \cdots & a_{3j} & \cdots & a_{3m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{i1} & a_{i2} & a_{i3} & \cdots & a_{ij} & \cdots & a_{im} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & a_{n3} & \cdots & a_{nj} & \cdots & a_{nm} \end{pmatrix} = (a_{ij})_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq m \\ 1 \leq j \leq n}}.$$

Sometimes it is convenient to refer to the coefficients in the array like so:  $a_{ij} = (A)_{ij}$ .

---

## Definition 2.2 (Set of all $m \times n$ matrices).

We write the set of all  $m \times n$  matrices with coefficients in  $\mathbb{F}$  as

$$\mathcal{M}_{m,n}(\mathbb{F})$$

---

## Definition 2.3 (Matrix columns and rows).

For a matrix  $A \in \mathcal{M}_{m,n}(\mathbb{F})$  we denote its  $j^{\text{th}}$  column and  $i^{\text{th}}$  row

$$A^{(j)} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{1j} \\ a_{2j} \\ a_{3j} \\ \vdots \\ a_{ij} \\ \vdots \\ a_{mj} \end{pmatrix}, \quad A_{(i)} = (a_{i1} \quad a_{i2} \quad a_{i3} \quad \cdots \quad a_{ij} \quad \cdots \quad a_{in})$$

---

## Definition 2.4 (Transpose of a matrix).

The transpose of an  $m \times n$  matrix,  $A$ , is an  $n \times m$  matrix, denoted  $A^T$ , with rows equal to the columns of  $A$ . That is,  $(A^T)_{ij} = (A)_{ji}$  for all combinations of  $i$  and  $j$ .

---

**Definition 2.5** (Diagonal matrix).

A square matrix  $A$  is said to be diagonal if all its non-diagonal elements are zero, e.g.  $(A)_{ij} = 0$  whenever  $i \neq j$ .

---

**Definition 2.6** (Symmetric matrix).

A matrix  $A$  is symmetric if it is equal to its transpose,  $A = A^T$ .

---

**Definition 2.7** (Matrix addition).

Matrix addition is done coefficient by coefficient, that is, for two matrices  $A$  and  $B$  we define the  $i, j^{th}$  coefficient of the addition as the addition of the  $i, j^{th}$  coefficients of each matrix:

$$(A + B)_{ij} = (A)_{ij} + (B)_{ij}.$$

---

**Definition 2.8** (Scalar multiplication).

Given a number  $k \in \mathbb{R}$  (called a scalar) and a matrix  $A \in \mathcal{M}_{m,n}$ , we define matrix scalar multiplication,  $kA$ , to be a matrix  $B \in \mathcal{M}_{m,n}$  with coefficients given by:

$$b_{ij} = ka_{ij},$$

that is, we multiply every coefficient by the scalar.

---

**Definition 2.9** (Zero matrix).

The zero matrix of any shape is a matrix  $M_0 \in \mathcal{M}_{m,n}$  consisting entirely of zeros as coefficients.

---

**Definition 2.10** (Additive inverse).

Given a matrix  $A \in \mathcal{M}_{ij}$ , its additive inverse is the same matrix multiplied by the scalar  $-1$ . We denote the additive inverse of  $A$  as  $-A$ .

---

**Definition 2.11** (Multiplication of a matrix by a column).

Consider a matrix  $A \in \mathcal{M}_{m,n}$  and a column  $X \in \mathcal{M}_{n,1}$ . We define the product  $AX$  to result in the column  $Y \in \mathcal{M}_{m,1}$  with coefficients

$$(Y)_i = a_{i1}x_1 + a_{i2}x_2 + \cdots + a_{im}x_m = \sum_{k=1}^m a_{ik}x_k$$

Visually

$$\begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1m} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \cdots & a_{nm} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_m \end{pmatrix} = x_1 \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} \\ a_{21} \\ \vdots \\ a_{n1} \end{pmatrix} + x_2 \begin{pmatrix} a_{12} \\ a_{22} \\ \vdots \\ a_{n2} \end{pmatrix} + \cdots + x_m \begin{pmatrix} a_{1m} \\ a_{2m} \\ \vdots \\ a_{nm} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\implies Y = x_1 A^{(1)} + x_2 A^{(2)} + \cdots + x_m A^{(m)}$$

**Definition 2.12** (Rotation matrix - arbitrary angle anti-clockwise).

By using a column  $X \in \mathcal{M}_{2,1}$  to represent a Euclidean vector, the following matrix allows the operation of rotation, anti-clockwise, of  $X$  by an angle  $\theta$ :

$$R_\theta = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}$$

where the rotated vector is represented by a column  $X' \in \mathcal{M}_{2,1}$  obtained by matrix multiplication  $X' = R_\theta X$ .

**Definition 2.13** (Multiplication of two matrices).

Consider two matrices  $A \in \mathcal{M}_{n,m}$  and  $B \in \mathcal{M}_{m,q}$ . We define the product  $AB$  to be the matrix  $C \in \mathcal{M}_{n,q}$  with coefficients

$$\begin{aligned} c_{ij} &= a_{i1}b_{1j} + a_{i2}b_{2j} + \cdots + a_{im}b_{mj} = \sum_{k=1}^m a_{ik}b_{kj} \\ &\implies \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1m} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \cdots & a_{nm} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} & \cdots & b_{1q} \\ b_{21} & b_{22} & \cdots & b_{2q} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ b_{m1} & b_{m2} & \cdots & b_{mq} \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \left( \underbrace{b_{11} \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} \\ a_{21} \\ \vdots \\ a_{n1} \end{pmatrix} + \cdots + b_{m1} \begin{pmatrix} a_{1m} \\ a_{2m} \\ \vdots \\ a_{nm} \end{pmatrix}}_{\text{first column}} \cdots \underbrace{b_{1q} \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} \\ a_{21} \\ \vdots \\ a_{n1} \end{pmatrix} + \cdots + b_{mq} \begin{pmatrix} a_{1m} \\ a_{2m} \\ \vdots \\ a_{nm} \end{pmatrix}}_{n^{\text{th}} \text{ column}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Additionally, for the product

$$\overbrace{(n, m)}^A \overbrace{(m, q)}^B$$

we will call the indices for the columns of  $A$  and rows of  $B$  the inner indices (blue), whereas the indices for the rows of  $A$  and columns of  $B$  will be called the outer indices (red).



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**Definition 2.14** (Identity matrix).

The  $n$ -dimensional identity matrix  $I$  is a square matrix of size  $n \times n$  with 1s along the diagonal and 0s elsewhere, that is,

$$(I)_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{whenever } i = j, \\ 0 & \text{whenever } i \neq j. \end{cases}$$


---

**Definition 2.15** (Invertible matrix).

A matrix  $A$  is invertible if and only if there exists a matrix  $B$  such that

$$AB = BA = I$$

This matrix  $B$  is called the inverse of  $A$  and is denoted  $A^{-1}$ . As we have commutative matrices,  $AB = BA$ , recall that this can only happen if  $A$  is square. So, only square matrices can have inverses.

---

**Definition 2.16** (Determinant of a 1 by 1 matrix).

The determinant of any 1 by 1 matrix is given by its only coefficient:

$$\det((a)) = a$$


---

**Definition 2.17** (Submatrix).

From a matrix  $A$  we generate the submatrix  $A_{ij}$  by deleting the  $i$ th row and  $j$ th column:

$$\text{For } A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{1,1} & \cdots & a_{1,j-1} & a_{1,j} & a_{1,j+1} & \cdots & a_{1,n} \\ \vdots & \cdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ a_{i-1,1} & \cdots & a_{i-1,j-1} & a_{i-1,j} & a_{i-1,j+1} & \cdots & a_{i-1,n} \\ a_{i,1} & \cdots & a_{i,j-1} & a_{i,j} & a_{i,j+1} & \cdots & a_{i,n} \\ a_{i+1,1} & \cdots & a_{i+1,j-1} & a_{i+1,j} & a_{i+1,j+1} & \cdots & a_{i+1,n} \\ \vdots & \cdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ a_{m,1} & \cdots & a_{m,j-1} & a_{m,j} & a_{m,j+1} & \cdots & a_{m,n} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{The submatrix } A_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{1,1} & \cdots & a_{1,j-1} & a_{1,j+1} & \cdots & a_{1,n} \\ \vdots & \cdots & \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ a_{i-1,1} & \cdots & a_{i-1,j-1} & a_{i-1,j+1} & \cdots & a_{i-1,n} \\ a_{i+1,1} & \cdots & a_{i+1,j-1} & a_{i+1,j+1} & \cdots & a_{i+1,n} \\ \vdots & \cdots & \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ a_{m,1} & \cdots & a_{m,j-1} & a_{m,j+1} & \cdots & a_{m,n} \end{pmatrix}$$

Note: we generally have to specify in words that we create a submatrix. The notation  $A_{ij}$  is a little ambiguous without being explicit.

---

**Definition 2.18** (Determinant of an  $n \times n$  matrix).

For any square matrix  $A \in \mathcal{M}_{n,n}$ , its determinant is given by

$$\det(A) = \sum_{i=1}^n (-1)^{i+j} a_{ij} \det(A_{ij})$$

where the  $a_{ij}$  are coefficients of  $A$ ,  $A_{ij}$  is the  $i, j^{th}$  submatrix of  $A$  and for any  $1 \leq j \leq n$ . We can also sum over the  $j$  index for any  $1 \leq i \leq n$

$$\det(A) = \sum_{j=1}^n (-1)^{i+j} a_{ij} \det(A_{ij})$$

and we will show that the answer is the same.

**Definition 2.19** (Cramer system).

Suppose we have the following linear system of equations (with unknowns equal to equations)

$$\begin{cases} a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \cdots + a_{1n}x_n = y_1 \\ a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \cdots + a_{2n}x_n = y_2 \\ \vdots \\ a_{n1}x_1 + a_{n2}x_2 + \cdots + a_{nn}x_n = y_n \end{cases} \quad (S)$$

with the associated matrix form

$$\underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \cdots & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix}}_A \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}}_X = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix}}_Y$$

We say that  $(S)$  is a Cramer system if  $\det(A) \neq 0$ .

**Definition 2.20** (Cofactor matrix).

From a matrix  $A$  we generate its cofactor matrix  $C_A$  which has entries given by determinants of submatrices of  $A$  with the same plus/minus pattern as in a determinant calculation. That is, the entries of  $C_A$  are  $c_{ij} = (-1)^{i+j} \det(A_{ij})$ :

$$C_A = \begin{pmatrix} |A_{11}| & -|A_{12}| & |A_{13}| & \cdots \\ -|A_{21}| & |A_{22}| & -|A_{23}| & \cdots \\ |A_{31}| & -|A_{32}| & |A_{33}| & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix}$$

# Chapter 3: Linear Systems

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**Definition 3.1** (Linear system of equations).

A system of  $m$  linear equations with  $n$  unknowns, denoted  $(S)$ , has the general form

$$\begin{cases} a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \cdots + a_{1n}x_n = y_1 \\ a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \cdots + a_{2n}x_n = y_2 \\ \vdots \\ a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \cdots + a_{mn}x_n = y_m \end{cases} \quad (S)$$

where the  $x_j$  are the unknowns we want to find,  $a_{ij}$  are the coefficients and the  $y_i$  are the constant terms.

---

**Definition 3.2** (Homogeneous linear system).

For any system of linear equations,  $(S)$ , given by  $AX = Y$ , we associate the **homogeneous system**, denoted  $(H)$ :

$$AX = 0_m$$

for the column

$$0_m = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{M}_{m,1}$$

We will denote the solution set of  $(H)$  by  $\mathcal{H}$ .

Note: the homogeneous system always admits at least one solution, the trivial solution  $X = 0_n$ .

---

**Definition 3.3** (Equivalent systems).

Two systems of linear equations are **equivalent** if they share the same set of solutions.

---

**Definition 3.4** (Elementary operations).

There are **elementary operations** that we can do to systems of equations that give new systems that remain equivalent to the old.

$$(S_1) \begin{cases} I_1 + I_2 - I_3 = 0 \\ 13I_1 - 6I_2 = 20 \end{cases} \xrightarrow{\text{Exchanging two equations}} (S_2) \begin{cases} 13I_1 - 6I_2 = 20 \\ I_1 + I_2 - I_3 = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
\text{Multiplying one equation by a non-zero constant} \\
(S_1) \begin{cases} I_1 + I_2 - I_3 = 0 \\ 13I_1 - 6I_2 = 20 \end{cases} \equiv (S_2) \begin{cases} I_1 + I_2 - I_3 = 0 \\ I_1 - (6/13)I_2 = (20/13) \end{cases} \\
\text{Adding a multiple of one equation to another equation} \\
(S_1) \begin{cases} I_1 + I_2 - I_3 = 0 \\ 13I_1 - 6I_2 = 20 \end{cases} \equiv (S_2) \begin{cases} I_1 + I_2 - I_3 = 0 \\ 15I_1 - 4I_2 - 2I_3 = 20 \end{cases}
\end{array}$$


---

**Definition 3.5** (Overdetermined system).

An *overdetermined system* has more equations than unknowns. We say “there are too many equations”. Such a system allows solutions only if certain conditions are met.

---

**Definition 3.6** (Underdetermined system).

An **underdetermined system** has less equations than unknowns. We say “there are not enough equations”. Such a system has either no solutions, or infinitely many.

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**Definition 3.7** (Cramer system).

Suppose we have the following linear system of equations (with unknowns equal to equations)

$$\begin{cases} a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \cdots + a_{1n}x_n = y_1 \\ a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \cdots + a_{2n}x_n = y_2 \\ \vdots \\ a_{n1}x_1 + a_{n2}x_2 + \cdots + a_{nn}x_n = y_n \end{cases} \quad (S)$$

with the associated matrix form

$$\underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \cdots & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix}}_A \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}}_X = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix}}_Y$$

We say that (S) is a Cramer system if  $\det(A) \neq 0$ .

# Chapter 4: Vector Spaces

---

## Definition 4.1 (Vector space).

A vector space over a field  $\mathbb{F}$  is a set, call it  $V$ , with elements called vectors supplied with definitions of two operations, vector addition (VA) and scalar multiplication (SM), that satisfy the following vector space axioms:

$$\forall \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \in V \quad \text{and} \quad \forall k, l \in \mathbb{F}$$

- |       |   |  |
|-------|---|--|
| (VA1) | $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} \in V$   | (closure under vector addition)                    |
| (VA2) | $(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) + \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w})$                       | (associativity of vector addition)                 |
| (VA3) | $\exists \mathbf{0} \in V$ , such that $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{0} + \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}$ | (additive identity)                                |
| (VA4) | $\exists -\mathbf{u} \in V$ such that $\mathbf{u} + (-\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{0}$                         | (additive inverse)                                 |
| (VA5) | $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{u}$   | (commutativity of vector addition)                 |
| (SM1) | $k\mathbf{u} \in V$   | (closure under scalar multiplication)              |
| (SM2) | $k(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = k\mathbf{u} + k\mathbf{v}$  | (distributivity over vector addition)              |
| (SM3) | $(k + l)\mathbf{u} = k\mathbf{u} + l\mathbf{u}$   | (distributivity over field addition)               |
| (SM4) | $k(l\mathbf{u}) = (kl)\mathbf{u}$   | (compatibility of scalar and field multiplication) |
| (SM5) | $1\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}$  | (multiplicative identity)                          |

---

## Definition 4.2 (Linear Combination).

Let  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$  be a set of vectors in a vector space  $V$ . A linear combination of these vectors is a new vector,  $\mathbf{w} \in V$ , of the form

$$\mathbf{w} = \alpha_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_n \mathbf{v}_n$$

where the  $\alpha_k$  are real numbers.

---

## Definition 4.3 (Vector subspace).

Suppose that  $V$  is a vector space and  $W$  is a subset of  $V$ . We call  $W$  a vector subspace if it satisfies the vector space axioms for the same definition of vector addition and scalar multiplication defined for  $V$ .

---

## Definition 4.4 (Span).

Let  $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$  be a set of vectors from a vector space  $V$ . The span of these vectors is the set of all linear combinations of those vectors:

$$\text{SPAN}(\mathcal{B}) = \text{SPAN}(\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n) = \{\alpha_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_n \mathbf{v}_n \mid \forall \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \in \mathbb{R}^n\}.$$

This set forms a vector subspace of  $V$ . It is obviously non-empty because it at least contains the vectors of  $\mathcal{B}$ . It is also automatically closed under vector addition and scalar multiplication because those are exactly the operations we used to create all the vectors in the span! Therefore  $\text{SPAN}(\mathcal{B})$  is a vector subspace of  $V$ .

---

**Definition 4.5** (Cartesian form of Euclidean vector sub spaces).

*Euclidean vector sub spaces can always be written as a set with some defining equations:*

$$\{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \text{equations relating the } x_k\}.$$

*For example, the general form of planar vector subspaces of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  is*

$$V_P = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid ax + by + cz = 0\}$$

*where  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $c$  are some given constants. This set is read aloud as “all the triples  $(x, y, z)$  such that  $ax + by + cz = 0$ ”.*

---

**Definition 4.6** (Sum of subspaces (sum space)).

*Suppose we have a vector space  $V$  with vector subspaces  $F$  and  $G$ . We define the **sum of subspaces** (or sum space) as a new set denoted*

$$F + G = \{\mathbf{f} + \mathbf{g} \mid \mathbf{f} \in F, \mathbf{g} \in G\}$$

*Note: The sum space is a subset of the parent vector space:  $F + G \subset V$ .*

---

**Definition 4.7** (Direct sum).

*Let  $F$  and  $G$  be two vector subspaces of a vector space  $V$  and let  $E = F + G$  be the sum space. We say  $E$  is a **direct sum** of  $F$  and  $G$  if each element of  $E$  has a **unique** decomposition as a sum of vectors in  $F$  and vectors in  $G$ . That is, for every  $\mathbf{v} \in E$ , there exists unique vectors  $\mathbf{f} \in F$  and  $\mathbf{g} \in G$  such that  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{f} + \mathbf{g}$ . We denote this direct sum with a new symbol*

$$E = F \oplus G$$

---

**Definition 4.8** (Complementary vector subspaces).

*Let  $F$  and  $G$  be two vector subspaces of  $V$ .  $F$  and  $G$  are called **complementary** if  $V$  is a direct sum of  $F$  and  $G$ . That is, if and only if*

- $V = F + G$ , and
- $F \cap G = \{\mathbf{0}_V\}$

---

**Definition 4.9** (Linear dependence).

*A set of vectors  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$  from a vector space  $V$  is said to be linearly dependent if there exists a set of constants  $\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n\}$  not all zero such that*

$$\alpha_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_n \mathbf{v}_n = \mathbf{0}_V.$$

*Note: the right hand side of the equation is the zero vector, not the real number 0.*

---

**Definition 4.10** (Linear independence).

A set of vectors  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$  from  $V$  is said to be linearly independent if they are not linearly dependent. That is, the equation

$$\alpha_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_n \mathbf{v}_n = \mathbf{0}_V.$$

implies that the constants  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$  are all zero.

---

**Definition 4.11** (Basis).

A basis of a vector space  $V$  is a minimal set of vectors which spans the vector space. Formally, the set of vectors  $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$  in a vector space  $V$  is a basis of  $V$  if it is a set of linearly independent vectors and  $\text{SPAN}(\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n) = V$ . Note: bases are not unique, but they always contain the same number of vectors.

---

**Definition 4.12** (Dimension).

The dimension of a vector space is the number of elements in a basis for that vector space.

---

**Definition 4.13** (Canonical basis of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ).

The canonical basis of the vector space of real  $n$ -tuples,  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , is the ordered set of  $n$   $n$ -tuples with  $k^{\text{th}}$  element,  $\mathbf{c}_k = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$  such that

$$\alpha_j = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } j = k, \\ 0 & \text{for } j \neq k. \end{cases}$$

That is, as a set the canonical basis is

$$\mathcal{C}_n = \{(1, 0, \dots, 0), (0, 1, \dots, 0), \dots, \underbrace{(0, 0, \dots, 0, \overset{k^{\text{th}} \text{ place}}{1}, 0, \dots, 0)}_{k^{\text{th}} \text{ tuple}}, \dots, (0, 0, \dots, 1)\}.$$

---

**Definition 4.14** (Canonical basis of  $\mathcal{P}_n$ ).

The canonical basis of the vector space of polynomials with degree up to  $n$ ,  $\mathcal{P}_n$ , is the ordered set of  $n$  polynomials with  $k^{\text{th}}$  element,  $\mathbf{c}_k = x^k$ . That is, as a set the canonical basis is

$$\mathcal{C}_n = \{1, x, x^2, \dots, x^n\}.$$

---

**Definition 4.15** (Coordinates of a vector).

Let  $\mathbf{v}$  be a vector in a vector space  $V$ . The coordinates of  $\mathbf{v}$  with respect to a given basis  $\mathcal{B}$ , denoted  $[\mathbf{v}]_{\mathcal{B}}$ , is a column of the unique set of coefficients in the linear combination of  $\mathbf{v}$  in terms of the basis vectors.

# Chapter 5: Linear Maps

---

## Definition 5.1 (Linear map).

A mapping,  $f$ , from a vector space  $V$  to a vector space  $W$ , denoted  $f : V \rightarrow W$ , is called a linear map if it satisfies the following property:

$$\begin{aligned} \forall \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in V, \forall \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R} \\ f(\alpha \mathbf{u} + \beta \mathbf{v}) = \alpha f(\mathbf{u}) + \beta f(\mathbf{v}). \end{aligned}$$

We say that a linear map preserves linear combinations.

---

## Definition 5.2 (Image).

The image of a linear map  $f : V \rightarrow W$ , denoted  $\text{im}(f)$ , is the set of all possible “output” vectors of the map:

$$\text{im}(f) = \{\mathbf{w} \in W \mid \exists \mathbf{v} \in V f(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{w}\} \subseteq W.$$

---

## Definition 5.3 (Rank).

The rank of a linear map is the dimension of its image:  $\text{rank}(f) = \dim(\text{im}(f))$ .

---

## Definition 5.4 (Kernel).

The kernel of a linear map  $f : V \rightarrow W$ , denoted  $\ker(f)$ , is the set of vectors that  $f$  maps to the zero vector,  $\mathbf{0}_W$ , of  $W$ . That is,

$$\ker(f) = \{\mathbf{v} \in V \mid f(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{0}_W\}.$$

---

## Definition 5.5 (Nullity).

The nullity of a linear map is the dimension of its kernel:  $\text{nullity}(f) = \dim(\ker(f))$ .

---

## Definition 5.6 (Injectivity).

Let  $f : V \rightarrow W$  be a linear map. We say  $f$  is injective if no two vectors of  $V$  are mapped to the same vector of  $W$ . In symbols we have two equivalent expressions

$$\begin{aligned} \forall \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in V, \quad (f(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{y}) \implies \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}) \\ \text{or} \\ \forall \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in V, \quad (\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{y} \implies f(\mathbf{x}) \neq f(\mathbf{y})) \end{aligned}$$



---

**Definition 5.7** (Surjectivity).

Let  $f : V \rightarrow W$  be a linear map. We say that  $f$  is surjective if every vector in the output space has a corresponding input vector. In symbols

$$\forall \mathbf{w} \in W \quad \exists \mathbf{v} \in V \text{ such that } f(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{w}.$$

---

**Definition 5.8** (Categories of linear maps).

Let  $f : V \rightarrow W$  be a linear map.

- If  $W = V$  we call  $f$  an endomorphism.
  - If  $f$  is both injective and surjective then we say it is bijective and we call it an isomorphism.
  - If  $f$  is both an isomorphism and an endomorphism we call it an automorphism.
- 

**Definition 5.9** (Composition of linear maps).

Composition of linear maps works exactly as you would expect if you remember the composition of regular functions. We must have a coherence between the output of one linear map and the input of another. So, two linear maps  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and  $g : U \rightarrow V$  can be composed as a well defined linear map  $g \circ f$  (“ $g$  of  $f$ ”) if and only if the output space of  $f$  is the input space of  $g$ :  $U = B$ . For any  $\mathbf{u} \in A$  the composition is written

$$g \circ f : A \rightarrow V \quad \text{and} \quad (g \circ f)(\mathbf{u}) = g(f(\mathbf{u})).$$

---

**Definition 5.10** (Matrix representation of a linear map).

Let  $f : V \rightarrow W$  be a linear map,  $\mathcal{A} = \{\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n\}$  be a basis of  $V$ ,  $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$  be a basis of  $W$ . Let  $\mathbf{v}$  be any vector in  $V$  and  $\mathbf{w} = f(\mathbf{v}) \in W$ . Then the matrix representation of  $f$  in bases  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$ , defined by the unique  $m \times n$  matrix, denoted  $\mathcal{M}(f, \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B})$ , which takes the coordinates of  $\mathbf{v}$  to the coordinates of  $\mathbf{w}$  in their respective bases:

$$\mathcal{M}(f, \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B})[\mathbf{v}]_{\mathcal{A}} = [\mathbf{w}]_{\mathcal{B}}.$$

can be calculated by expressing the coordinates of the linear map acting on the basis vectors of the input space

$$\mathcal{M}(f, \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}) = \begin{pmatrix} \begin{array}{c} | \\ [f(\mathbf{a}_1)]_{\mathcal{B}} \\ | \end{array} & \dots & \begin{array}{c} | \\ [f(\mathbf{a}_n)]_{\mathcal{B}} \\ | \end{array} \end{pmatrix}$$

where the vertical lines are reminders that the coordinates of the  $f(\mathbf{a}_k)$  vectors are columns. We often shorten “matrix representation of  $f$ ” to just “matrix of  $f$ ”. If the input and output vector spaces are the same, i.e. if  $f$  is an endomorphism, we can use the same basis for both spaces and we may shorten the notation  $\mathcal{M}(f, \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}) = \mathcal{M}(f, \mathcal{A})$ .

---

**Definition 5.11** (Transition matrix (change-of-basis matrix)).

The transition matrix changes the representation of the coordinates of a vector from one basis into another. Let  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  be two bases of the same vector space,  $V$ , and let  $\mathbf{v} \in V$ . The transition matrix from  $\mathcal{A}$  to  $\mathcal{B}$ , denoted  $P_{\mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}}$  is defined by the relation

$$P_{\mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}}[\mathbf{v}]_{\mathcal{A}} = [\mathbf{v}]_{\mathcal{B}}.$$

If we let the bases  $\mathcal{A} = \{\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n\}$  and  $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$  then the transition matrix can be calculated by

$$P_{\mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}} = \begin{pmatrix} \left| \begin{array}{c} \\ \hline [\mathbf{a}_1]_{\mathcal{B}} \\ \hline \end{array} \right| & \left| \begin{array}{c} \\ \hline [\mathbf{a}_2]_{\mathcal{B}} \\ \hline \end{array} \right| & \dots & \left| \begin{array}{c} \\ \hline [\mathbf{a}_n]_{\mathcal{B}} \\ \hline \end{array} \right| \end{pmatrix}$$

where the vertical lines are reminders that the coordinates of the  $\mathcal{A}$  basis vectors are columns.

**Definition 5.12** (Changing the bases of a matrix representation).

Let  $f : U \rightarrow V$  be a linear map,  $\mathcal{B}_U$  and  $\mathcal{B}'_U$  be two bases of  $U$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_V$  and  $\mathcal{B}'_V$  be two bases of  $V$ , and  $F = \mathcal{M}(f, \mathcal{B}_U \rightarrow \mathcal{B}_V)$  be the matrix representation of  $f$  from basis  $\mathcal{B}_U$  to basis  $\mathcal{B}_V$ .

Then  $F' = \mathcal{M}(f, \mathcal{B}'_U \rightarrow \mathcal{B}'_V)$ , the matrix representation of  $f$  from basis  $\mathcal{B}'_U$  to basis  $\mathcal{B}'_V$ , is given by

$$F' = P_{\mathcal{B}_V \rightarrow \mathcal{B}'_V} F P_{\mathcal{B}'_U \rightarrow \mathcal{B}_U}$$

The following diagram may help visualise this relation

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{B}_U & \xrightarrow{F} & \mathcal{B}_V \\ \uparrow P_{\mathcal{B}'_U \rightarrow \mathcal{B}_U} & & \downarrow P_{\mathcal{B}_V \rightarrow \mathcal{B}'_V} \\ \mathcal{B}'_U & \xrightarrow{F'} & \mathcal{B}'_V \end{array}$$

To read this schematic, consider that the arrow for  $F'$  has the same input and output as following the other three arrows to go up, then right (through  $F$ ) then down again. This ordered path is the matrix multiplication given above.

# Chapter 6: Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

---

**Definition 6.1** (Eigenvalues and eigenvectors of a linear map).

Consider an endomorphism  $f : V \rightarrow V$  and a vector  $\mathbf{v} \in V$ . We call a number  $\lambda \neq 0$  an eigenvalue of  $f$  if there exists a non-zero vector  $\mathbf{v}$  satisfying the relation

$$f(\mathbf{v}) = \lambda \mathbf{v}.$$

We say that  $\mathbf{v}$  is an eigenvector of  $f$  corresponding or associated to the eigenvalue  $\lambda$ .

---

**Definition 6.2** (Eigenvectors and eigenvalues of a matrix).

For a square matrix  $A$ , an eigenvector of  $A$  is a non-zero vector,  $\mathbf{v}$ , that satisfies the matrix equation

$$A\mathbf{v} = \lambda \mathbf{v}$$

where  $\lambda$  is called an eigenvalue of  $A$ . We say that  $\mathbf{v}$  is an eigenvector of  $A$  corresponding or associated to the eigenvalue  $\lambda$ .

---

**Definition 6.3** (Characteristic polynomial of a matrix).

For a square matrix  $A$ , the characteristic polynomial is the given by

$$P(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I)$$

where  $I$  is the identity matrix with the same size as  $A$  and  $\lambda$  is the variable of the polynomial. The degree of this polynomial is always the same as the size of the matrix  $A$ .

---

**Definition 6.4** (Eigenspectrum).

The eigenvalues of a square matrix  $A$  are roots of the characteristic polynomial of  $A$ . That is, eigenvalues are solutions of

$$\det(A - \lambda I) = 0.$$

There can be multiple distinct eigenvalues of  $A$ , and are conventionally denoted  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots$  etc. The set of these eigenvalues,  $\{\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots\}$ , is called the eigenspectrum of  $A$ .

---

**Definition 6.5** (Eigenspace).

For any eigenvalue  $\lambda_k$  of an  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$ , the eigenspace corresponding to  $\lambda_k$ , denoted  $E_{\lambda_k}$ , is the set of all

eigenvectors corresponding to  $\lambda_k$ . This can be written as the set of linear combinations of linearly independent eigenvectors corresponding to  $\lambda_k$ :

$$E_{\lambda_k} = \{\alpha_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \cdots + \alpha_m \mathbf{v}_m \mid \forall j, A \mathbf{v}_j = \lambda_k \mathbf{v}_j, \alpha_j \in \mathbb{R}\} = \text{SPAN}(\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_m)$$

for maximum number of eigenvectors such that

$$\alpha_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \cdots + \alpha_m \mathbf{v}_m = \mathbf{0} \implies \alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \cdots = \alpha_m = 0.$$

As the set  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_m\}$  generates  $E_{\lambda_k}$  and the vectors are linearly independent, the set forms a basis and therefore gives the dimension  $E_{\lambda_k}$ .

The eigenspace can also be written like a kernel

$$E_{\lambda_k} = \{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid (A - \lambda_k I) \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}\}.$$

---

**Definition 6.6** (Algebraic and geometric multiplicity of an eigenvalue).

For an  $n \times n$  matrix with characteristic polynomial

$$P(\lambda) = C(\lambda - \lambda_1)^{m_1} \times \cdots \times (\lambda - \lambda_k)^{m_k} \times \cdots \times (\lambda - \lambda_p)^{m_p}$$

for some constant  $C$ . There can be up to  $n$  distinct eigenvalues ( $p \leq n$ ). The exponent  $m_k$  is called the algebraic multiplicity of the eigenvalue  $\lambda_k$ . The dimension of the eigenspace corresponding to  $\lambda_k$  is its geometric multiplicity.

---

**Definition 6.7** (Eigenbasis).

Consider a square matrix  $A$  of size  $n$ . If the dimensions of its eigenspaces add up to  $n$ , then there exist  $n$  linearly independent eigenvectors of  $A$ . These eigenvectors form a basis of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  called an eigenbasis.

---

**Definition 6.8** (Similar matrices).

Two matrices  $A$  and  $B$  are similar if there exists an invertible matrix  $P$  such that

$$B = PAP^{-1}.$$

---

**Definition 6.9** (Diagonalizable linear map).

Let  $f : V \rightarrow V$  be an endomorphism.  $f$  is called diagonalizable if there exists a basis,  $\mathcal{B}$ , of  $V$  such that the matrix representation of  $f$  in  $\mathcal{B}$  is diagonal:

$$(\mathcal{M}(f, \mathcal{B}))_{ij} = 0 \quad \text{whenever } i \neq j.$$


---

**Definition 6.10** (Diagonalizable matrix).

*A square matrix  $A$  is diagonalizable if and only if there exists an invertible matrix  $P$  and diagonal matrix  $D$  such that*

$$A = PDP^{-1}.$$

*Alternative: A square matrix  $A$  is diagonalizable if and only if it is similar to a diagonal matrix  $D$ .*

---

**Definition 6.11** (Eigenvalue diagonalization).

*For a diagonalizable matrix  $A$  of size  $n$ , we can sometimes find a diagonal matrix consisting of the eigenvalues of  $A$ ,  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ . In this case we can write*

$$A = PDP^{-1}$$

*where  $P$  consists of eigenvectors of  $A$  as columns. The matrix  $P$  is the transition matrix from the eigenbasis,  $\mathcal{E}$ , to the canonical basis of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ :  $P_{\mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_n}$ .*

# Chapter 7: Inner product spaces

---

## Definition 7.1 (Inner product).

An inner product is a mapping that takes any two vectors of a vector space,  $V$ , to a scalar,  $f: V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  but often denoted with angle brackets  $f(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) = \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle$ , satisfying the following properties:

- $$\forall \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \in V \quad \text{and} \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{R}$$
- (IP1)  $\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u} \rangle$  (commutativity)
- (IP2)  $\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w} \rangle$  (linearity over vector addition)
- (IP3)  $\langle k\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = k\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle$  (linearity over scalar multiplication)
- (IP4)  $\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u} \rangle \geq 0$  (positive definite)
- 

## Definition 7.2 (Euclidean dot product).

The Euclidean dot product is the canonical inner product defined on the vector space of real  $n$ -tuples,  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Given two vectors  $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, \dots, u_n)$  and  $\mathbf{v} = (v_1, \dots, v_n)$ , their dot product is defined by

$$\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = u_1v_1 + \dots + u_nv_n = \sum_{i=1}^n u_iv_i.$$

---

## Definition 7.3 (Inner product of functions).

Let  $\mathcal{C}([a, b])$  be the vector space of real functions that are continuous on the interval  $[a, b]$ . We can define an inner product on any functions  $f, g \in \mathcal{C}([a, b])$

$$\langle f, g \rangle = \int_a^b f(x)g(x)dx.$$

You should verify that this definition satisfies the 4 properties of inner products.

---

## Definition 7.4 (Inner product space).

An inner product space is a vector space and a definition of an inner product considered as a pair  $(V, \langle, \rangle)$ . We say that  $V$  is equipped with the inner product.

---

## Definition 7.5 (Euclidean inner product space).

A Euclidean inner product space is the vector space of real  $n$ -tuples equipped with the euclidean dot product:  $(\mathbb{R}^n, \cdot)$ .

---

**Definition 7.6** (Orthogonal vectors).

Two vectors  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  of an inner product space  $(V, \langle, \rangle)$  are orthogonal if and only if their inner product is zero:  $\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = 0$ .

---

**Definition 7.7** (Norm).

A vector  $\mathbf{v}$  in an inner product space  $(V, \langle, \rangle)$  has norm

$$\|\mathbf{v}\| = \sqrt{\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v} \rangle}.$$

The Euclidean norm is therefore

$$\|(v_1, \dots, v_n)\| = \sqrt{v_1^2 + \dots + v_n^2}.$$

If a vector has norm equal to 1 we say it is a unit vector or has unit length. If we divide a vector by its norm we say that it has been normalised.

---

**Definition 7.8** (To normalise a vector).

Consider a vector  $\mathbf{v}$  in an inner product space  $(V, \langle, \rangle)$ . We say we “normalise” this vector by dividing it by its norm. That is,  $\mathbf{v}'$  is the normalised  $\mathbf{v}$  if

$$\mathbf{v}' = \frac{\mathbf{v}}{\|\mathbf{v}\|}.$$

When we normalise a vector we guarantee that it has length 1:

$$\left\| \frac{\mathbf{v}}{\|\mathbf{v}\|} \right\| = \frac{\|\mathbf{v}\|}{\|\mathbf{v}\|} = 1$$

---

**Definition 7.9** (Orthonormal basis).

An orthonormal basis of an inner product space  $(V, \langle, \rangle)$  is a set of vectors  $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$  each having norm of 1 and that are pairwise orthogonal:

$$\langle \mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{v}_j \rangle = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{whenever } i = j, \\ 0 & \text{whenever } i \neq j. \end{cases}$$

# Chapter 8: Orthogonal matrices

---

**Definition 8.1** (Orthogonal matrix).

A square matrix  $A$  is orthogonal if and only if its inverse is its transpose. That is, if and only if  $AA^T = A^T A = I$ .

---

**Definition 8.2** (Properties of orthogonal matrices).

If  $A$  is an orthogonal matrix of size  $n$ , then

- its columns are pair-wise orthogonal,
  - its columns are unit length,
  - its columns (considered as  $n$ -tuples) form an orthonormal basis of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,
  - its rows (considered as  $n$ -tuples) form an orthonormal basis of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,
  - it has determinant  $\pm 1$ .
- 

**Definition 8.3** (Orthogonally diagonalizable matrix).

A square matrix  $A$  is orthogonally diagonalizable if there exists a diagonal matrix  $D$  and orthogonal matrix  $Q$  such that

$$A = QDQ^T.$$

---

**Definition 8.4** (Quadratic form).

Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix and  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  considered as a column. Then a quadratic form is a multiplication of the form  $\mathbf{v}^T A \mathbf{v}$  resulting in a real number.

---

**Definition 8.5** (Definite matrix).

Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  symmetric real matrix. By considering the sign of quadratic forms with  $A$  we can define several cases.  $A$  is

- positive definite if and only if  $\mathbf{v}^T A \mathbf{v} > 0$  for every  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,
- positive semi-definite if and only if  $\mathbf{v}^T A \mathbf{v} \geq 0$  for every  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,
- negative definite if and only if  $\mathbf{v}^T A \mathbf{v} < 0$  for every  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,
- negative semi-definite if and only if  $\mathbf{v}^T A \mathbf{v} \leq 0$  for every  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .



*If the matrix does not satisfy any of these (e.g. if we can find a positive and a negative quadratic form) then the matrix is called indefinite.*

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**Definition 8.6** (Eigenvalues of a definite matrix).

*Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  symmetric real matrix. Then all eigenvalues of  $A$  are real numbers. Furthermore,  $A$  is*

- *positive definite if and only if every eigenvalue is strictly positive,*
- *positive semi-definite if and only if every eigenvalue is non-negative,*
- *negative definite if and only if every eigenvalue is strictly negative,*
- *negative semi-definite if and only if every eigenvalue is strictly non-positive.*