

## Solutions to Homework 1

Lecturer: Inderjit Dhillon

Date Due: Sept 10, 2008

Keywords: *Linear Algebra Basics*

## 1. Problem 2.1

**Claim:** If a matrix  $A$  is upper triangular and unitary then it is a diagonal matrix with nonzero diagonal elements.

**Proof:** We prove the above claim using induction on size of the matrix ( $n$ ). Base case is trivial. For induction step, assume that the claim holds for all matrices of size  $(n-1) \times (n-1)$ . Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  upper triangular unitary matrix:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} A_{n-1} & \mathbf{a}_n \\ 0 & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix},$$

where  $A_{n-1}$  is an  $(n-1) \times (n-1)$  upper triangular matrix and  $\mathbf{a}_n$  is a column vector of dimensional  $(n-1)$ . Now,

$$A^*A = \begin{bmatrix} A_{n-1}^*A_{n-1} & A_{n-1}^*\mathbf{a}_n \\ \mathbf{a}_n^*A_{n-1} & \mathbf{a}_n^*\mathbf{a}_n + a_{nn}^*a_{nn} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Since  $A^*A = I_n$ , then  $A_{n-1}^*A_{n-1} = I_{n-1}$  and thus  $A_{n-1}$  is unitary and upper triangular. By the induction hypothesis,  $A_{n-1}$  is diagonal with nonzero entries on the diagonal. Further,  $A_{n-1}\mathbf{a}_n = 0$ , which is possible only if  $\mathbf{a}_n = 0$ , which implies  $\|a_{nn}\| = 1$ , i.e.  $a_{nn} \neq 0$ . Hence proved.

## 2. Problem 2.2

- (a)  $\|\mathbf{x}_1 + \mathbf{x}_2\|_2^2 = \|\mathbf{x}_1\|_2^2 + \|\mathbf{x}_2\|_2^2 + 2\mathbf{x}_1^*\mathbf{x}_2$ . Now  $\mathbf{x}_1$  and  $\mathbf{x}_2$  are orthogonal, so  $\mathbf{x}_1^*\mathbf{x}_2 = 0$  and  $\|\mathbf{x}_1 + \mathbf{x}_2\|_2^2 = \|\mathbf{x}_1\|_2^2 + \|\mathbf{x}_2\|_2^2$ .
- (b) We prove using induction on the number of vectors. Base case follows from part (a). For induction step, assume that the claim holds for an orthogonal set of  $(n-1)$  vectors. Now,  $\|\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{x}_i\|_2^2 = \|\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{x}_n\|_2^2$ , where  $\mathbf{y} = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \mathbf{x}_i$ . Now since  $\mathbf{x}_n$  is orthogonal to  $\mathbf{x}_i, \forall 1 \leq i \leq n-1$ , therefore  $\mathbf{x}_n^*\mathbf{y} = 0$ . Hence using part (a), the claim follows.

## 3. Problem 2.6

Let  $A = I + \mathbf{u}\mathbf{v}^*$  and  $A^{-1} = I + \alpha\mathbf{u}\mathbf{v}^*$ . Then  $AA^{-1} = I + (1 + \alpha + \alpha\mathbf{v}^*\mathbf{u})\mathbf{u}\mathbf{v}^* = I \implies \alpha = \frac{-1}{1+\mathbf{v}^*\mathbf{u}}$ . So if  $\mathbf{v}^*\mathbf{u} \neq -1$ ,  $A$  is non-singular and  $A^{-1}$  is given by  $I - \frac{\mathbf{u}\mathbf{v}^*}{1+\mathbf{v}^*\mathbf{u}}$  (recall that if inverse of a matrix exists then it is unique). If  $\mathbf{v}^*\mathbf{u} = -1$ , then  $A\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}^*\mathbf{u}\mathbf{u} = 0$  implying  $A$  is singular. To compute  $\text{Null}(A)$ , consider any vector  $\mathbf{x}$  s.t.  $A\mathbf{x} = 0 \implies \mathbf{x} = -(\mathbf{v}^*\mathbf{x})\mathbf{u}$ . Thus  $\mathbf{x}$  is parallel to  $\mathbf{u}$ , i.e.,  $\text{Null}(A) = \text{span}(\mathbf{u})$  if  $\mathbf{v}^*\mathbf{u} = -1$  else  $\text{Null}(A) = \phi$ .