

# Linear Algebra Review and Reference

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# 1 Basic Concepts and Notation

Linear algebra provides a way of compactly representing and operating on sets of linear equations. For example, consider the following system of equations:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 4x_1 - 5x_2 & = & -13 \\ -2x_1 + 3x_2 & = & 9. \end{array}$$

This is two equations and two variables, so as you know from high school algebra, you can find a unique solution for  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  (unless the equations are somehow degenerate, for example if the second equation is simply a multiple of the first, but in the case above there is in fact a unique solution). In matrix notation, we can write the system more compactly as

$$Ax = b$$

with

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -5 \\ -2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} -13 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix}.$$

As we will see shortly, there are many advantages (including the obvious space savings) to analyzing linear equations in this form.

## 1.1 Basic Notation

We use the following notation:

- By  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  we denote a matrix with  $m$  rows and  $n$  columns, where the entries of  $A$  are real numbers.
- By  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , we denote a vector with  $n$  entries. By convention, an  $n$ -dimensional vector is often thought of as a matrix with  $n$  rows and 1 column, known as a **column vector**. If we want to explicitly represent a **row vector** — a matrix with 1 row and  $n$  columns — we typically write  $x^T$  (here  $x^T$  denotes the transpose of  $x$ , which we will define shortly).
- The  $i$ th element of a vector  $x$  is denoted  $x_i$ :

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}.$$

- We use the notation  $a_{ij}$  (or  $A_{ij}$ ,  $A_{i,j}$ , etc) to denote the entry of  $A$  in the  $i$ th row and  $j$ th column:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \cdots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix}.$$

- We denote the  $j$ th column of  $A$  by  $a_j$  or  $A_{:,j}$ :

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} | & | & \cdots & | \\ a_1 & a_2 & \cdots & a_n \\ | & | & \cdots & | \end{bmatrix}.$$

- We denote the  $i$ th row of  $A$  by  $a_i^T$  or  $A_{i,:}$ :

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} — & a_1^T & — \\ — & a_2^T & — \\ \vdots & & \\ — & a_m^T & — \end{bmatrix}.$$

- Note that these definitions are ambiguous (for example, the  $a_1$  and  $a_1^T$  in the previous two definitions are *not* the same vector). Usually the meaning of the notation should be obvious from its use.

## 2 Matrix Multiplication

The product of two matrices  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  and  $B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$  is the matrix

$$C = AB \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times p},$$

where

$$C_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^n A_{ik}B_{kj}.$$

Note that in order for the matrix product to exist, the number of columns in  $A$  must equal the number of rows in  $B$ . There are many ways of looking at matrix multiplication, and we'll start by examining a few special cases.

## 2.1 Vector-Vector Products

Given two vectors  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , the quantity  $x^T y$ , sometimes called the *inner product* or *dot product* of the vectors, is a real number given by

$$x^T y \in \mathbb{R} = [x_1 \ x_2 \ \cdots \ x_n] \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i.$$

Observe that inner products are really just special case of matrix multiplication. Note that it is always the case that  $x^T y = y^T x$ .

Given vectors  $x \in \mathbb{R}^m$ ,  $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$  (not necessarily of the same size),  $xy^T \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  is called the *outer product* of the vectors. It is a matrix whose entries are given by  $(xy^T)_{ij} = x_i y_j$ , i.e.,

$$xy^T \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_m \end{bmatrix} [y_1 \ y_2 \ \cdots \ y_n] = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 y_1 & x_1 y_2 & \cdots & x_1 y_n \\ x_2 y_1 & x_2 y_2 & \cdots & x_2 y_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x_m y_1 & x_m y_2 & \cdots & x_m y_n \end{bmatrix}.$$

As an example of how the outer product can be useful, let  $\mathbf{1} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  denote an  $n$ -dimensional vector whose entries are all equal to 1. Furthermore, consider the matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  whose columns are all equal to some vector  $x \in \mathbb{R}^m$ . Using outer products, we can represent  $A$  compactly as,

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} | & | & \cdots & | \\ x & x & \cdots & x \\ | & | & \cdots & | \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_1 & \cdots & x_1 \\ x_2 & x_2 & \cdots & x_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x_m & x_m & \cdots & x_m \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_m \end{bmatrix} [1 \ 1 \ \cdots \ 1] = x\mathbf{1}^T.$$

## 2.2 Matrix-Vector Products

Given a matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  and a vector  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , their product is a vector  $y = Ax \in \mathbb{R}^m$ . There are a couple ways of looking at matrix-vector multiplication, and we will look at each of them in turn.

If we write  $A$  by rows, then we can express  $Ax$  as,

$$y = Ax = \begin{bmatrix} \text{---} & a_1^T & \text{---} \\ \text{---} & a_2^T & \text{---} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \text{---} & a_m^T & \text{---} \end{bmatrix} x = \begin{bmatrix} a_1^T x \\ a_2^T x \\ \vdots \\ a_m^T x \end{bmatrix}.$$

In other words, the  $i$ th entry of  $y$  is equal to the inner product of the  $i$ th *row* of  $A$  and  $x$ ,  $y_i = a_i^T x$ .

Alternatively, let's write  $A$  in column form. In this case we see that,

$$y = Ax = \begin{bmatrix} | & | & | \\ a_1 & a_2 & \cdots & a_n \\ | & | & | \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{bmatrix} x_1 + \begin{bmatrix} a_2 \\ a_2 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{bmatrix} x_2 + \dots + \begin{bmatrix} a_n \\ a_n \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{bmatrix} x_n .$$

In other words,  $y$  is a ***linear combination*** of the *columns* of  $A$ , where the coefficients of the linear combination are given by the entries of  $x$ .

So far we have been multiplying on the right by a column vector, but it is also possible to multiply on the left by a row vector. This is written,  $y^T = x^T A$  for  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}^m$ , and  $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . As before, we can express  $y^T$  in two obvious ways, depending on whether we express  $A$  in terms of its rows or columns. In the first case we express  $A$  in terms of its columns, which gives

*→ usually column vectors.*

$$y^T = x^T A = x^T \begin{bmatrix} | & | & | \\ a_1 & a_2 & \cdots & a_n \\ | & | & | \end{bmatrix} = [x^T a_1 \ x^T a_2 \ \cdots \ x^T a_n]$$

which demonstrates that the  $i$ th entry of  $y^T$  is equal to the inner product of  $x$  and the  $i$ th *column* of  $A$ .

Finally, expressing  $A$  in terms of rows we get the final representation of the vector-matrix product,

$$\begin{aligned} y^T &= x^T A \\ &= [x_1 \ x_2 \ \cdots \ x_n] \begin{bmatrix} \_ & a_1^T & \_ \\ \_ & a_2^T & \_ \\ \vdots & & \\ \_ & a_m^T & \_ \end{bmatrix} \\ &= x_1 [\_ \ a_1^T \ \_] + x_2 [\_ \ a_2^T \ \_] + \dots + x_n [\_ \ a_m^T \ \_] \end{aligned}$$

so we see that  $y^T$  is a linear combination of the *rows* of  $A$ , where the coefficients for the linear combination are given by the entries of  $x$ .

## 2.3 Matrix-Matrix Products

Armed with this knowledge, we can now look at four different (but, of course, equivalent) ways of viewing the matrix-matrix multiplication  $C = AB$  as defined at the beginning of this section.

First, we can view matrix-matrix multiplication as a set of vector-vector products. The most obvious viewpoint, which follows immediately from the definition, is that the  $(i, j)$ th

entry of  $C$  is equal to the inner product of the  $i$ th row of  $A$  and the  $j$ th column of  $B$ . Symbolically, this looks like the following,

$$C = AB = \begin{bmatrix} - & a_1^T & - \\ - & a_2^T & - \\ \vdots & & \\ - & a_m^T & - \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} | & | & & | \\ b_1 & b_2 & \cdots & b_p \\ | & | & & | \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_1^T b_1 & a_1^T b_2 & \cdots & a_1^T b_p \\ a_2^T b_1 & a_2^T b_2 & \cdots & a_2^T b_p \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_m^T b_1 & a_m^T b_2 & \cdots & a_m^T b_p \end{bmatrix}.$$

Remember that since  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  and  $B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$ ,  $a_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $b_j \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , so these inner products all make sense. This is the most “natural” representation when we represent  $A$  by rows and  $B$  by columns. Alternatively, we can represent  $A$  by columns, and  $B$  by rows. This representation leads to a much trickier interpretation of  $AB$  as a sum of outer products. Symbolically,

$$C = AB = \begin{bmatrix} | & | & & | \\ a_1 & a_2 & \cdots & a_n \\ | & | & & | \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} - & b_1^T & - \\ - & b_2^T & - \\ \vdots & & \\ - & b_n^T & - \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i b_i^T.$$

Put another way,  $AB$  is equal to the sum, over all  $i$ , of the outer product of the  $i$ th column of  $A$  and the  $i$ th row of  $B$ . Since, in this case,  $a_i \in \mathbb{R}^m$  and  $b_i \in \mathbb{R}^p$ , the dimension of the outer product  $a_i b_i^T$  is  $m \times p$ , which coincides with the dimension of  $C$ . Chances are, the last equality above may appear confusing to you. If so, take the time to check it for yourself!

Second, we can also view matrix-matrix multiplication as a set of matrix-vector products. Specifically, if we represent  $B$  by columns, we can view the columns of  $C$  as matrix-vector products between  $A$  and the columns of  $B$ . Symbolically,

$$C = AB = A \begin{bmatrix} | & | & & | \\ b_1 & b_2 & \cdots & b_p \\ | & | & & | \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} | & | & & | \\ Ab_1 & Ab_2 & \cdots & Ab_p \\ | & | & & | \end{bmatrix}.$$

Here the  $i$ th column of  $C$  is given by the matrix-vector product with the vector on the right,  $c_i = Ab_i$ . These matrix-vector products can in turn be interpreted using both viewpoints given in the previous subsection. Finally, we have the analogous viewpoint, where we represent  $A$  by rows, and view the rows of  $C$  as the matrix-vector product between the rows of  $A$  and  $C$ . Symbolically,

$$C = AB = \begin{bmatrix} - & a_1^T & - \\ - & a_2^T & - \\ \vdots & & \\ - & a_m^T & - \end{bmatrix} B = \begin{bmatrix} - & a_1^T B & - \\ - & a_2^T B & - \\ \vdots & & \\ - & a_m^T B & - \end{bmatrix}.$$

Here the  $i$ th row of  $C$  is given by the matrix-vector product with the vector on the left,  $c_i^T = a_i^T B$ .

It may seem like overkill to dissect matrix multiplication to such a large degree, especially when all these viewpoints follow immediately from the initial definition we gave (in about a line of math) at the beginning of this section. However, virtually all of linear algebra deals with matrix multiplications of some kind, and it is worthwhile to spend some time trying to develop an intuitive understanding of the viewpoints presented here.

In addition to this, it is useful to know a few basic properties of matrix multiplication at a higher level:

- Matrix multiplication is associative:  $(AB)C = A(BC)$ .
- Matrix multiplication is distributive:  $A(B + C) = AB + AC$ .
- Matrix multiplication is, in general, *not* commutative; that is, it can be the case that  $AB \neq BA$ . (For example, if  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  and  $B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times q}$ , the matrix product  $BA$  does not even exist if  $m$  and  $q$  are not equal!)

If you are not familiar with these properties, take the time to verify them for yourself. For example, to check the associativity of matrix multiplication, suppose that  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$ , and  $C \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times q}$ . Note that  $AB \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times p}$ , so  $(AB)C \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times q}$ . Similarly,  $BC \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times q}$ , so  $A(BC) \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times q}$ . Thus, the dimensions of the resulting matrices agree. To show that matrix multiplication is associative, it suffices to check that the  $(i, j)$ th entry of  $(AB)C$  is equal to the  $(i, j)$ th entry of  $A(BC)$ . We can verify this directly using the definition of matrix multiplication:

$$\begin{aligned} ((AB)C)_{ij} &= \sum_{k=1}^p (AB)_{ik} C_{kj} = \sum_{k=1}^p \left( \sum_{l=1}^n A_{il} B_{lk} \right) C_{kj} \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^p \left( \sum_{l=1}^n A_{il} B_{lk} C_{kj} \right) = \sum_{l=1}^n \left( \sum_{k=1}^p A_{il} B_{lk} C_{kj} \right) \\ &= \sum_{l=1}^n A_{il} \left( \sum_{k=1}^p B_{lk} C_{kj} \right) = \sum_{l=1}^n A_{il} (BC)_{lj} = (A(BC))_{ij}. \end{aligned}$$

Here, the first and last two equalities simply use the definition of matrix multiplication, the third and fifth equalities use the distributive property for *scalar multiplication over addition*, and the fourth equality uses the *commutative and associativity of scalar addition*. This technique for proving matrix properties by reduction to simple scalar properties will come up often, so make sure you're familiar with it.

### 3 Operations and Properties

In this section we present several operations and properties of matrices and vectors. Hopefully a great deal of this will be review for you, so the notes can just serve as a reference for these topics.

### 3.1 The Identity Matrix and Diagonal Matrices

The ***identity matrix***, denoted  $I \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , is a square matrix with ones on the diagonal and zeros everywhere else. That is,

$$I_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & i = j \\ 0 & i \neq j \end{cases}$$

It has the property that for all  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,

$$AI = A = IA.$$

Note that in some sense, the notation for the identity matrix is ambiguous, since it does not specify the dimension of  $I$ . Generally, the dimensions of  $I$  are inferred from context so as to make matrix multiplication possible. For example, in the equation above, the  $I$  in  $AI = A$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix, whereas the  $I$  in  $A = IA$  is an  $m \times m$  matrix.

A ***diagonal matrix*** is a matrix where all non-diagonal elements are 0. This is typically denoted  $D = \text{diag}(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$ , with

$$D_{ij} = \begin{cases} d_i & i = j \\ 0 & i \neq j \end{cases}$$

Clearly,  $I = \text{diag}(1, 1, \dots, 1)$ .

### 3.2 The Transpose

The ***transpose*** of a matrix results from “flipping” the rows and columns. Given a matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ , its transpose, written  $A^T \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ , is the  $n \times m$  matrix whose entries are given by

$$(A^T)_{ij} = A_{ji}.$$

We have in fact already been using the transpose when describing row vectors, since the transpose of a column vector is naturally a row vector.

The following properties of transposes are easily verified:

- $(A^T)^T = A$
- $(AB)^T = B^T A^T$
- $(A + B)^T = A^T + B^T$

### 3.3 Symmetric Matrices

A square matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  is ***symmetric*** if  $A = A^T$ . It is ***anti-symmetric*** if  $A = -A^T$ . It is easy to show that for any matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , the matrix  $A + A^T$  is symmetric and the

matrix  $A - A^T$  is anti-symmetric. From this it follows that any square matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  can be represented as a sum of a symmetric matrix and an anti-symmetric matrix, since

$$A = \frac{1}{2}(A + A^T) + \frac{1}{2}(A - A^T)$$

and the first matrix on the right is symmetric, while the second is anti-symmetric. It turns out that symmetric matrices occur a great deal in practice, and they have many nice properties which we will look at shortly. It is common to denote the set of all symmetric matrices of size  $n$  as  $\mathbb{S}^n$ , so that  $A \in \mathbb{S}^n$  means that  $A$  is a symmetric  $n \times n$  matrix;

### 3.4 The Trace

The **trace** of a square matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , denoted  $\text{tr}(A)$  (or just  $\text{tr}A$  if the parentheses are obviously implied), is the sum of diagonal elements in the matrix:

$$\text{tr}A = \sum_{i=1}^n A_{ii}.$$

As described in the CS229 lecture notes, the trace has the following properties (included here for the sake of completeness):

- For  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $\text{tr}A = \text{tr}A^T$ .
- For  $A, B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $\text{tr}(A + B) = \text{tr}A + \text{tr}B$ .
- For  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\text{tr}(tA) = t \text{tr}A$ .
- For  $A, B$  such that  $AB$  is square,  $\text{tr}AB = \text{tr}BA$ .
- For  $A, B, C$  such that  $ABC$  is square,  $\text{tr}ABC = \text{tr}BCA = \text{tr}CAB$ , and so on for the product of more matrices.

As an example of how these properties can be proven, we'll consider the fourth property given above. Suppose that  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  and  $B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$  (so that  $AB \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$  is a square matrix). Observe that  $BA \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  is also a square matrix, so it makes sense to apply the trace operator to it. To verify that  $\text{tr}AB = \text{tr}BA$ , note that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr}AB &= \sum_{i=1}^m (AB)_{ii} = \sum_{i=1}^m \left( \sum_{j=1}^n A_{ij} B_{ji} \right) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n A_{ij} B_{ji} = \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{i=1}^m B_{ji} A_{ij} \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^n \left( \sum_{i=1}^m B_{ji} A_{ij} \right) = \sum_{j=1}^n (BA)_{jj} = \text{tr}BA. \end{aligned}$$

### 3.5 Norms

A **norm** of a vector  $\|x\|$  is informally a measure of the “length” of the vector. For example, we have the commonly-used Euclidean or  $\ell_2$  norm,

$$\|x\|_2 = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2}.$$

Note that  $\|x\|_2^2 = x^T x$ .

More formally, a norm is any function  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  that satisfies 4 properties:

1. For all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $f(x) \geq 0$  (non-negativity).
2.  $f(x) = 0$  if and only if  $x = 0$  (definiteness).
3. For all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $f(tx) = |t|f(x)$  (homogeneity).
4. For all  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $f(x + y) \leq f(x) + f(y)$  (triangle inequality).

Other examples of norms are the  $\ell_1$  norm,

$$\|x\|_1 = \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|$$

and the  $\ell_\infty$  norm,

$$\|x\|_\infty = \max_i |x_i|.$$

In fact, all three norms presented so far are examples of the family of  $\ell_p$  norms, which are parameterized by a real number  $p \geq 1$ , and defined as

$$\|x\|_p = \left( \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|^p \right)^{1/p}.$$

Norms can also be defined for matrices, such as the Frobenius norm,

$$\|A\|_F = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n A_{ij}^2} = \sqrt{\text{tr}(A^T A)}.$$

Many other norms exist, but they are beyond the scope of this review.

## 3.6 Linear Independence and Rank

A set of vectors  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\} \subset \mathbb{R}^m$  is said to be **(linearly) independent** if no vector can be represented as a linear combination of the remaining vectors. Conversely, if one vector belonging to the set *can* be represented as a linear combination of the remaining vectors, then the vectors are said to be **(linearly) dependent**. That is, if

$$x_n = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \alpha_i x_i$$

for some scalar values  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n-1} \in \mathbb{R}$ , then we say that the vectors  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  are linearly dependent; otherwise, the vectors are linearly independent. For example, the vectors

$$x_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad x_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \quad x_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

are linearly dependent because  $x_3 = -2x_1 + x_2$ .

The **column rank** of a matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  is the size of the largest subset of columns of  $A$  that constitute a linearly independent set. With some abuse of terminology, this is often referred to simply as the number of linearly independent columns of  $A$ . In the same way, the **row rank** is the largest number of rows of  $A$  that constitute a linearly independent set.

For any matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ , it turns out that the column rank of  $A$  is equal to the row rank of  $A$  (though we will not prove this), and so both quantities are referred to collectively as the **rank** of  $A$ , denoted as  $\text{rank}(A)$ . The following are some basic properties of the rank:

- For  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $\text{rank}(A) \leq \min(m, n)$ . If  $\text{rank}(A) = \min(m, n)$ , then  $A$  is said to be **full rank**. <sup>3, 2</sup>  
= (2)
- For  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $\text{rank}(A) = \text{rank}(A^T)$ .
- For  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$ ,  $\text{rank}(AB) \leq \min(\text{rank}(A), \text{rank}(B))$ .
- For  $A, B \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $\text{rank}(A + B) \leq \text{rank}(A) + \text{rank}(B)$ .

## 3.7 The Inverse

The **inverse** of a square matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  is denoted  $A^{-1}$ , and is the unique matrix such that

$$A^{-1}A = I = AA^{-1}.$$

Note that not all matrices have inverses. Non-square matrices, for example, do not have inverses by definition. However, for some square matrices  $A$ , it may still be the case that

$A^{-1}$  may not exist. In particular, we say that  $A$  is **invertible** or **non-singular** if  $A^{-1}$  exists and **non-invertible** or **singular** otherwise.<sup>1</sup>

In order for a square matrix  $A$  to have an inverse  $A^{-1}$ , then  $A$  must be full rank. We will soon see that there are many alternative sufficient and necessary conditions, in addition to full rank, for invertibility.

The following are properties of the inverse; all assume that  $A, B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  are non-singular:

- $(A^{-1})^{-1} = A$
- $(AB)^{-1} = B^{-1}A^{-1}$
- $(A^{-1})^T = (A^T)^{-1}$ . For this reason this matrix is often denoted  $A^{-T}$ .

As an example of how the inverse is used, consider the linear system of equations,  $Ax = b$  where  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , and  $x, b \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . If  $A$  is nonsingular (i.e., invertible), then  $x = A^{-1}b$ . (What if  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  is not a square matrix? Does this work?)

### Matrix Product

$$a = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, b = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$a * b = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}_{2 \times 2} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}_{2 \times 2} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}_{2 \times 2}$$

$$\theta_1 x_1^1 + \theta_2 x_1^2 = +1$$

$$\theta_1 x_2^1 + \theta_2 x_2^2 = -1$$

$$\theta_1 x_3^1 + \theta_2 x_3^2 = +1$$

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1^1 & x_1^2 \\ x_2^1 & x_2^2 \\ x_3^1 & x_3^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

m of features  $\leftrightarrow$  dimension = 2

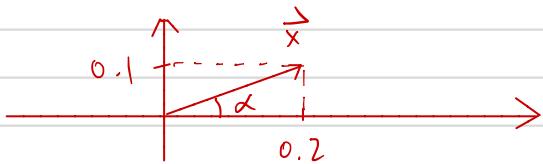
$$\theta = \begin{bmatrix} \theta_1 \\ \theta_2 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow y = \begin{bmatrix} +1 \\ -1 \\ +1 \end{bmatrix}$$

dot product  $3 \times 2 \cdot 2 \times 1 \rightarrow 3 \times 1$

---

↓ Each of these rows is a feature vector

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0.2 \\ 0.1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \text{Dimension space is 2.}$$



$$\|\vec{x}\|_2 = \sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2}$$

## Vector-Vector Products

$$x = 2 \times 1 \quad x^T = 1 \times 2$$

$$y = 2 \times 1 \quad \rightarrow x^T y = 1 \times 2 \cdot 2 \times 1 = 1 \times 1$$

$$y^T = 1 \times 2 \quad \rightarrow y^T x = 1 \times 2, 2 \times 1 \approx 1 \times 1$$

$$x = 2 \times 1$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} | & | & \dots & | \\ x_1 & x_2 & \dots & x_m \\ | & | & \dots & | \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_1 & \dots & x_1 \\ x_2 & x_2 & \dots & x_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x_m & x_m & \dots & x_m \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_m \end{bmatrix} e^{(1, \dots, 1)} \\ = x_1^T$$

## Matrix-Vector Products

$$y = Ax = \begin{bmatrix} -a_1^T - \\ -a_2^T - \\ \vdots \\ -a_m^T - \end{bmatrix} \quad x = \begin{bmatrix} a_1^T x \\ a_2^T x \\ \vdots \\ a_m^T x \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} | & | & \dots & | \\ a_1 & a_2 & \dots & a_n \\ | & | & \dots & | \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} \\ = [a_1] x_1 + [a_2] x_2 + \dots + [a_n] x_n$$

In other words,  $y$  is a linear combination of columns of  $A$ , where coefficients of the linear combination are given by entries of  $x$ .

$$y^T = x^T A$$

$$= x^T \begin{bmatrix} 1 & a_1^T & \dots & a_n^T \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= [x^T a_1, x^T a_2, \dots, x^T a_n]$$

$$= [x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n] \begin{pmatrix} -a_1^T- \\ -a_2^T- \\ \vdots \\ -a_n^T- \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= x_1(-a_1^T-) + x_2(-a_2^T-) + \dots + x_n(-a_n^T-)$$

$y^T$  is a linear combination of the rows of  $A$ , where the coefficients are given by the entries of  $x$ .

### Matrix - Matrix Products

$$C = AB = \begin{bmatrix} -a_1^T- \\ -a_2^T- \\ \vdots \\ -a_m^T- \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b_1 & b_2 & \dots & b_p \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} a_1^T b_1 & a_1^T b_2 & \dots & a_1^T b_p \\ a_2^T b_1 & a_2^T b_2 & \dots & a_2^T b_p \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_m^T b_1 & a_m^T b_2 & \dots & a_m^T b_p \end{bmatrix}$$

→ inner product of the  $i^{th}$  row of  $A$  & the  $j^{th}$  column of  $B$ .

OR

$$C = AB = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ a_1 & a_2 & \dots & a_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -b_1^T- \\ -b_2^T- \\ \vdots \\ -b_n^T- \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i b_i^T$$

→ sum of outer products.

### Properties

1. Matrix multiplication is associative

$$(AB)C = A(BC)$$

2. Matrix multiplication is distributive

$$A(B+C) = AB + AC$$

3. Matrix multiplication is, in general, not commutative  $AB \neq BA$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -a_1^T B - \\ -a_2^T B - \\ \vdots \\ -a_m^T B - \end{bmatrix}$$

### 3. Operations & Properties

#### Identity Matrix

$$AI = A = IA$$

$\downarrow \quad \downarrow$   
 $n \times n$  matrix    $m \times m$  matrix

$$I = \text{diag}(1, 1, \dots, 1)$$

#### Transpose

$$A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \rightarrow A^T \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$$

$$\cdot (A^T)^T = A$$

$$\cdot (AB)^T = B^T A^T$$

$$\cdot (A+B)^T = A^T + B^T$$

#### Norms

$\cdot \|x\|$  : informally a measure of the "length" of a vector

#### Linear Independence & Rank $\rightarrow$ max no. of independent ranks.

$\hookrightarrow$  If no vector can be represented as a linear combination of the remaining vectors.

$$x_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad x_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \quad x_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x_3 = -2x_1 + x_2 \quad \rightarrow \text{linearly dependent.}$$

$\downarrow$   
(S)

scalar,  $c_1$   
 (coefficients of linear combination)

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 5 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 & 10 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & -3 & -9 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 2 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 2 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \end{array} \right]$$

Ans  
 $x = 2, y = 3$

n, Total no. of variables = 2 , Rank, no of leading variables = 2

$$\text{Number of free variables} = n - \text{Rank}(A)$$

$$= 2 - 2$$

$$= 0$$

A consistent linear system w/ no free variable has a unique solution

A consistent linear system w/  $\geq 1$  free variable has infinitely many solutions. (singular)  
↓  
have  $\geq 1$  solution(s)

## Inverse

$$A^{-1}A = I = AA^{-1}$$

$$(A^{-1})^{-1} = A$$

non-singular : if  $A^{-1}$  exists.  
invertible

$$(AB)^{-1} = B^{-1}A^{-1}$$

$$\hookrightarrow A \text{ must be full rank.} \quad (A^{-1})^T = (A^T)^{-1}$$