

# Linear Algebra Notes

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## §1 Chapter 1 - Introduction to Vectors

### §1.1 Vectors and Linear Combinations

Skipped

### §1.2 Lengths and Dot Products

Skipped.

### §1.3 Matrices

Skipped

## §2 Chapter 2 - Solving Linear Equations

### §2.1 Vectors and Linear Equations

Consider  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ . There are two ways to view this. The column picture is that combinations of the  $n$  columns of  $A$  make  $\mathbf{b}$ . The row picture is that the  $m$  rows give  $m$  equations/planes that meet at  $\mathbf{x}$ .

### §2.2 The Idea of Elimination

Standard elimination with systems of equations can be done on matrices by multiplying a row then subtracting it. Creates *pivots* along the diagonal, they are the nonzero in the row that does the elimination.

### §2.3 Elimination Using Matrices

The elimination matrix is  $I$  along with a multiplier in a spot. These can all be combined into one matrix. The row exchange matrix is  $I$  with rows exchanged.

### §2.4 Rules for Matrix Operations

Associativity exists. Commutativity does not. Also  $AB = A$  times columns of  $B =$  rows of  $A$  times  $B =$  columns times rows. Matrices can be multiplied by blocks.

## §2.5 Inverse Matrices

If  $A$  is invertible then:

- $A$  has  $n$  nonzero pivots
- $\det A \neq 0$ .
- $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  is the only solution to  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ .

$(AB)^{-1} = B^{-1}A^{-1}$ . Gauss Jordan begins with  $[A \ I]$  and becomes  $[I \ A^{-1}]$ . Each step is row exchange or elimination, so it's equivalent to multiplying the matrix by another matrix.

## §2.6 Elimination = Factorization: $A = LU$

We can factor  $A = LU$ , where  $L$  is lower triangular and  $U$  is upper triangular. When going from  $A$  to  $U$ , with each elimination step, we add the multiplier to  $L$  in the right spot.

## §2.7 Transposes and Permutations

The *transpose* swaps columns and rows.  $(AB)^T = B^T A^T$  and  $(A^{-1})^T = (A^T)^{-1}$ . Dot product is now written as  $\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{y}$ . A *symmetric matrix* has  $S^T = S$ , and an *orthogonal matrix* has  $Q^T = Q^{-1}$ . A *permutation matrix* is  $I$  with rows rearranged.

# §3 Chapter 3 - Vector Spaces and Subspaces

## §3.1 Spaces of Vectors

For a *vector space*  $S$ , if  $\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \in S$  then  $c\mathbf{v} + d\mathbf{w} \in S$ . A *subspace* of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is a vector space within  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . The *column space*  $C(A)$  is all the combinations of columns of  $A$ , has all vectors  $A\mathbf{x}$ ,  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  is solvable when  $\mathbf{b} \in C(A)$ .

## §3.2 The Nullspace of $A$ : Solving $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ and $R\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$

The *nullspace*  $N(A)$  is the solutions  $\mathbf{x}$  to  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ . *Reduced row echelon form*  $R$  has all pivots = 1 with zeros around it. If column  $j$  of  $R$  is free (no pivot), there's a "special solution" to  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  with  $x_j = 1$ . *Rank*  $r$  is the number of pivots and the number of nonzero rows in  $R$ . When  $m < n$  (wide), there are always nonzero solutions to  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ .

## §3.3 The Complete Solution to $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$

The solution to  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  is

$$\mathbf{x} = (\text{one particular solution } \mathbf{x}_p) + (\text{any } \mathbf{x}_n \text{ in the nullspace}).$$

Elimination goes from  $[A \ \mathbf{b}]$  to  $[R \ \mathbf{d}]$ . A solution exists when zero rows of  $R$  have zeros in  $\mathbf{d}$ .  $A$  has *full column rank* when  $r = n$ , so  $N(A) = \mathbf{0}$  and there are no free variables.  $A$  has *full row rank* when  $r = m$ , so  $C(A) = \mathbb{R}^m$  and  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  is always solvable.

We illustrate all of this through an example. Consider

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 1 & 3 & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 6 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}.$$

After augmenting  $[A \quad \mathbf{b}]$  and doing elimination, we have

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{d} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 6 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

For a solution to exist, zero rows in  $R$  must be zeros in  $\mathbf{d}$ . The particular solution sets the free variables to 0, so it's  $\mathbf{x}_p = (1, 0, 6, 0)$ . The  $n - r$  special solutions solve  $A\mathbf{x}_n = \mathbf{0}$ . The complete solution is

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}_p + \mathbf{x}_n = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 6 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_4 \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 0 \\ -4 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

### §3.4 Independence, Basis, and Dimension

If  $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k$  are *independent*, then  $c_1\mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + c_k\mathbf{v}_k = \mathbf{0} \implies c_i = 0$ . If  $m < n$  (wide), then it must have *dependent columns*.  $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k$  *span* the space  $S =$  all combinations of the  $\mathbf{v}$ 's. They are a *basis* for  $S$  if they're independent and span  $S$ . The *dimension* of a space  $S$  is the number of vectors in the basis.

### §3.5 Dimensions of the Four Subspaces

Column space  $C(A)$  and row space  $C(A^T)$  have dimension  $r$ . Nullspace  $N(A)$  has dimension  $n - r$  and left nullspace  $N(A^T)$  has dimension  $m - r$ .

## §4 Chapter 4 - Orthogonality

### §4.1 Orthogonality of the Four Subspaces

Vectors are *orthogonal* if  $\mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{w} = 0$ . Subspaces  $V$  and  $W$  are orthogonal if  $\mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{w} = 0$  for all  $\mathbf{v} \in V, \mathbf{w} \in W$ . Row space and nullspace are orthogonal, column space and left nullspace are orthogonal. In fact, they're *orthogonal complements*: every  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  can be written  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}_{\text{row}} + \mathbf{x}_{\text{null}}$ .

### §4.2 Projections

The *projection* of  $\mathbf{b}$  on a subspace  $S$  is the closest vector  $\mathbf{p} \in S$ , and  $\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{p}$  is orthogonal to  $S$ .  $A^T A$  is invertible only if  $A$  has independent columns. Projection of  $\mathbf{b}$  on the column space of  $A$  is

$$\mathbf{p} = A(A^T A)^{-1} A^T \mathbf{b}.$$

The *projection matrix* is

$$P = A(A^T A)^{-1} A^T,$$

so we have  $\mathbf{p} = P\mathbf{b}$  and  $P^2 = P = P^T$ .

### §4.3 Least Squares Approximation

Letting  $\mathbf{p} = A\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ , we can solve  $A^T A\hat{\mathbf{x}} = A^T \mathbf{b}$ . When  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  has no solution,  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  is the least-squares solution (minimize  $\|\mathbf{b} - A\hat{\mathbf{x}}\|^2$ ). One can also produce this by setting the partial derivatives of the norm to zero. For fitting  $(t_1, b_1), \dots, (t_m, b_m)$ ,  $A$  has columns  $(1, \dots, 1)$  and  $(t_1, \dots, t_m)$ . We then directly apply least-squares.

## §4.4 Orthonormal Bases and Gram-Schmidt

Columns  $q_1, \dots, q_n$  are orthonormal if  $q_i^T q_j = \begin{cases} 0 & i \neq j \\ 1 & i = j \end{cases}$ , so  $Q^T Q = I$ . The *Gram-Schmidt* process takes independent  $\mathbf{a}_i$  to orthonormal  $\mathbf{q}_i$ . Begin with  $\mathbf{q}_1 = \mathbf{a}_1 / \|\mathbf{a}_1\|$ , then for each remaining one, subtract its projections onto each previous one. Each  $\mathbf{a}_i$  is a combination of  $q_1$  to  $q_i$ , so  $A = QR$  for orthogonal  $Q$  and triangular  $R$ .

## §5 Chapter 5 - Determinants

### §5.1 The Properties of Determinants

Determinants can be determined by three properties:

1.  $\det I = 1$ .
2. It changes signs when two rows are exchanged.
3. It's a linear function of each row (all other rows stay fixed).

This can be used to find a bunch of other properties. For example:

- $A$  is singular iff  $\det A = 0$
- $\det A$  is  $\pm$ (product of the pivots)
- $\det AB = \det A \cdot \det B$
- $\det A^T = \det A$

### §5.2 Permutations and Cofactors

We have

$$\det A = \sum (\det P) a_{1\alpha} a_{2\beta} \dots a_{n\omega},$$

so it's the sum of all  $n!$  column permutations  $P$ . The determinant is also the sum of cofactors

$$\det A = a_{i1} C_{i1} + \dots + a_{in} C_{in},$$

where each cofactor is the determinant of a smaller matrix. This is essentially just Evan's expansion by minors.

### §5.3 Cramer's Rule, Inverses, and Volumes

The key idea behind *Cramer's Rule* is that if  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ , then

$$\begin{bmatrix} A \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & 0 & 0 \\ x_2 & 1 & 0 \\ x_3 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ b_2 & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ b_3 & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{bmatrix} = B_1.$$

Taking determinants, we find  $x_1 = \frac{\det B_1}{\det A}$ , where  $B_1$  is  $A$  with the 1st column replaced by  $\mathbf{b}$ . Creating equations for  $AA^{-1} = I$ , we find that

$$A^{-1} = \frac{C^T}{\det A},$$

where  $C$  is the *cofactor matrix*. There was also information about cross product and area, but I knew this.

## §6 Chapter 6 - Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

### §6.1 Introduction to Eigenvalues

When  $A\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$ ,  $\lambda$  is the eigenvalue and  $\mathbf{x}$  is the eigenvector.

$$\det A = \lambda_1 \lambda_2 \dots \lambda_n$$

$$\text{trace} = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \dots + \lambda_n = a_{11} + a_{22} + \dots + a_{nn}$$

### §6.2 Diagonalizing a Matrix

$A\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$  can be rewritten  $AX = X\Lambda$ , where  $X$  has the eigenvectors as columns and  $\Lambda$  has the eigenvalues along the diagonal. When there are  $n$  independent eigenvectors,  $A = X\Lambda X^{-1}$ . This factorization is nice when considering  $A^n$ . To solve the recursive relation  $\mathbf{u}_{k+1} = A\mathbf{u}_k$ , we have  $\mathbf{u}_k = A^k \mathbf{u}_0$ . After writing  $\mathbf{u}_0 = c_1 \mathbf{x}_1 + \dots + c_n \mathbf{x}_n$ , we find  $\mathbf{u}_k = c_1 (\lambda_1)^k \mathbf{x}_1 + \dots + c_n (\lambda_n)^k \mathbf{x}_n$ . If no eigenvalues are equal, then there are  $n$  independent eigenvalues and  $X$  is invertible. All  $C = B^{-1}AB$  have the same eigenvalues as  $A$ , these matrices are *similar*.

### §6.3 Systems of Differential Equations

We have the *matrix exponential*

$$e^{At} = I + At + \dots + \frac{(At)^n}{n!} = X e^{\Lambda t} X^{-1}.$$

The solutions to  $\frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt} = A\mathbf{u}$  are all  $\mathbf{u}(t) = e^{\Lambda t} \mathbf{x}$ . If we're given  $\mathbf{u}(0)$ , write  $\mathbf{u}(0) = c_1 \mathbf{x}_1 + \dots + c_n \mathbf{x}_n$  and

$$\mathbf{u}(t) = e^{At} \mathbf{u}(0) = X e^{\Lambda t} X^{-1} \mathbf{u}(0) = c_1 e^{\lambda_1 t} \mathbf{x}_1 + \dots + c_n e^{\lambda_n t} \mathbf{x}_n.$$

When all eigenvalues have real part  $< 0$ , then  $A$  is *stable*, meaning  $\mathbf{u}(t) \rightarrow 0$ . For second-order systems, we convert it to first-order. For example, with  $u'' + Bu' + Cu = 0$ , we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} u \\ u' \end{bmatrix}' = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -C & -B \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ u' \end{bmatrix}.$$

### §6.4 Symmetric Matrices

Symmetric matrices  $S$  have  $n$  real eigenvalues and  $n$  orthogonal eigenvectors. Therefore, it can be diagonalized  $S = Q\Lambda Q^{-1} = Q\Lambda Q^T$ . The number of positive eigenvalues of  $S$  is equal to the number of positive pivots. For antisymmetric matrices  $A = -A^T$ , the  $\lambda$ 's are imaginary and  $\mathbf{q}$ 's are orthonormal.

### §6.5 Positive Definite Matrices

If a symmetric matrix  $S$  has one of these five, it has them all:

1. All  $n$  pivots are positive
2. All  $n$  upper left determinants are positive
3. All  $n$  eigenvalues are positive
4.  $\mathbf{x}^T S \mathbf{x}$  is positive for  $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$  (energy)

5.  $S = A^T A$  for some  $A$  with independent columns

These are *positive definite* matrices. *Positive semidefinite* allows for those in 1-4 to be 0.  $\mathbf{x}^T S \mathbf{x} = 1$  gives an ellipse in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  when  $S$  is symmetric positive definite.

## §7 Chapter 7 - The Singular Value Decomposition (SVD)

### §7.1 Image Processing by Linear Algebra

I don't know what Gil Strang was thinking when he put this section before 7.2.

### §7.2 Bases and Matrices in the SVD

Ok this was the hardest chapter by far (so far).

#### §7.2.1 Overview of SVD

The goal of *Singular Value Decomposition (SVD)* is to produce “good” bases for the four fundamental subspaces. In these notes, we first describe SVD fully then show how it can be constructed. When performing SVD, we write  $A = U \Sigma V^T$ , where  $U$  and  $V$  are orthonormal matrices. In particular,

$\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_r$  is an OB for the column space  
 $\mathbf{u}_{r+1}, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m$  is an OB for the left nullspace  
 $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_r$  is an OB for the row space  
 $\mathbf{v}_{r+1}, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n$  is an OB for the nullspace

Here, we have

$$\begin{aligned} A \mathbf{v}_1 &= \sigma_1 \mathbf{u}_1 \\ &\vdots \\ A \mathbf{v}_r &= \sigma_r \mathbf{u}_r. \end{aligned}$$

This means

$$A = U \Sigma V^T = \mathbf{u}_1 \sigma_1 \mathbf{v}_1^T + \dots + \mathbf{u}_r \sigma_r \mathbf{v}_r^T.$$

Conventionally,  $\sigma \geq \sigma_2 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_r \geq 0$ . This is the idea behind image compression in Section 7.1—one can reduce a complex image down to the sum of rank-1 components, which are significantly easier to store. An aspect that makes SVD useful is that the singular values are stable, unlike the eigenvalues.

#### §7.2.2 Constructing an SVD — All at Once

As for how to construct an SVD, we choose the  $\mathbf{v}$ 's to be orthonormal eigenvectors of  $A^T A$ . To recover  $\mathbf{u}_1$  to  $\mathbf{u}_r$ , we use  $A \mathbf{v}_i = \sigma_i \mathbf{u}_i$ . Note that

$$\mathbf{u}_i^T \mathbf{u}_j = \left( \frac{A \mathbf{v}_i}{\sigma_i} \right)^T \left( \frac{A \mathbf{v}_j}{\sigma_j} \right) = \frac{\mathbf{v}_i^T A^T A \mathbf{v}_j}{\sigma_i \sigma_j} = \frac{\sigma_j^2}{\sigma_i \sigma_j} \mathbf{v}_i^T \mathbf{v}_j = 0.$$

Note that the  $\mathbf{u}$ 's are also the eigenvectors of  $A A^T$ . To complete the  $\mathbf{v}$ 's and  $\mathbf{u}$ 's, we can take any orthonormal bases of  $N(A)$  and  $N(A^T)$ .

### §7.2.3 Constructing an SVD — One by One

We present another way of constructing an SVD in the order  $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_r$ . Our motivation for doing this is twofold:

1. We need two orthonormal eigenvectors for a double eigenvalue of  $S$ . Previously, we didn't know how to recover these.
2. We want a way to select the largest term of the SVD.

First choose

$$\lambda_1 = \max \frac{\mathbf{x}^T S \mathbf{x}}{\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x}},$$

$$\sigma_1 = \max \frac{\|A\mathbf{x}\|}{\|\mathbf{x}\|}.$$

For the first, the winning vector is  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{q}_1$  with  $S\mathbf{q}_1 = \lambda_1\mathbf{q}_1$ . For the second, the winning vector is  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{v}_1$  with  $A\mathbf{v}_1 = \sigma_1\mathbf{u}_1$ . To construct the rest, we perform the same procedure with the restriction that  $\mathbf{q}_1^T \mathbf{x} = 0$  for the first and  $\mathbf{v}_1^T \mathbf{x} = 0$  for the second. We prove this works. This first section is not covered in Strang, but due to [this lecture](#).

Since  $S$  is symmetric, let  $S = Q\Lambda Q^T$ , so we have

$$\mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}^T (Q\Lambda Q^T) \mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{x}^T Q) \Lambda (\mathbf{x}^T Q)^T = \mathbf{y}^T \Lambda \mathbf{y}$$

for  $\mathbf{y} = Q^T \mathbf{x}$ . Note that  $\|\mathbf{y}\|^2 = \mathbf{y}^T \mathbf{y} = (Q^T \mathbf{x})^T (Q^T \mathbf{x}) = 1$ . Thus, we have a new expression to maximize. Note that

$$\mathbf{y}^T \Lambda \mathbf{y} = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i y_i^2.$$

Since  $\lambda_1 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_r$ , this is maximized when  $y_1 = \pm 1$ ,  $y_2 = \dots = y_r = 0$ . The corresponding  $\mathbf{x}$  is  $\mathbf{x} = Q(\pm \mathbf{e}_1) = \pm \mathbf{q}_1$ . Note that To choose  $\sigma_1$ , note that

$$\left( \frac{\|A\mathbf{x}\|}{\|\mathbf{x}\|} \right)^2 = \frac{\mathbf{x}^T A^T A \mathbf{x}}{\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x}} = \frac{\mathbf{x}^T (A^T A) \mathbf{x}}{\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x}}.$$

Since  $A^T A$  is a symmetric matrix,  $\sigma_1$  is the largest eigenvalue of  $A^T A$ , matching our observations in Section 7.2.2. We now see how this process works to choose the remaining values. Consider an orthogonal matrix  $Q_1$  with  $\mathbf{q}_1$  in the first column. Using  $S\mathbf{q}_1 = \lambda_1\mathbf{q}_1$ , we have

$$SQ_1 = S [\mathbf{q}_1 \quad \mathbf{q}_2 \dots \mathbf{q}_n] = [\mathbf{q}_1 \quad \mathbf{q}_2 \dots \mathbf{q}_n] \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & \mathbf{w}^T \\ \mathbf{0} & S_{n-1} \end{bmatrix} = Q_1 \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & \mathbf{w}^T \\ \mathbf{0} & S_{n-1} \end{bmatrix}.$$

All we need is the first column to be  $S\mathbf{q}_1 = \lambda_1\mathbf{q}_1$ , giving us that matrix. Multiplying by  $Q_1^T$ , we find  $Q_1^T SQ_1 = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & \mathbf{w}^T \\ \mathbf{0} & S_{n-1} \end{bmatrix}$ . Since the left is symmetric, we find  $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0}$  and  $S_{n-1} = S_{n-1}^T$ . Thus, we've reduced the maximization problem to size  $n-1$ , and the restriction is gone. We now find the largest eigenvalue of  $S_{n-1}$ . Continuing this, we recover all the eigenvectors and eigenvalues.

**§7.2.4 Computing Eigenvalues of  $S$  and Singular Values of  $A$** 

This section concerns how these values are actually computed. We know the singular values  $\sigma_i$  of  $A$  are the square roots of the eigenvalues  $\lambda_i$  of  $A^T A$ . Recall that similar matrices have the same  $\lambda$ 's. I claim that  $\sigma$ 's of  $A$  and  $Q_1^T A Q_2$  are the same. Note

$$(Q_1^T A Q_2)^T Q_1^T A Q_2 = Q_2^T A^T A Q_2,$$

which has the same eigenvectors as  $A^T A$ . This allows us to reach a bidiagonal matrix  $Q_1^T A Q_2$ . Going to a diagonal matrix requires more perspicacity that will (maybe) be covered later.