

# geometry and linear algebraic operations

## 1. geometry of vectors

- Vectors can be interpreted as either points or directions in space
- As points, vector define locations relative to the origin
- As directions, vector indicate movement. Multiple vectors can represent the same direction if they parallel
- Vector addition is visualized as following one vector's direction and then another's, while subtraction show the direction from one point to another

example :

consider two 2D vectors :  $v = [2, 3]$  and  $w = [1, -1]$

- as points:  $v$  is at  $(2, 3)$ , and  $w$  is at  $(1, -1)$
- as directions:  $v$  mean 2 right and 3 up  
 $w$  mean 1 right and 1 down
- vector addition:  $v + w = [2+1, 3-1] = [3, 2]$
- vector subtraction:  $v - w = [2-1, 3-(-1)] = [1, 4]$

## 2. dot products and angles

the dot products of two vectors  $u$  and  $v$  is

$u \cdot v = \sum_i u_i v_i$ , which relate to the angle  $\theta$  between them via

$$u \cdot v = \|u\| \|v\| \cos(\theta)$$

the angle is compute as

$$\theta = \arccos \frac{u \cdot v}{\|u\| \|v\|}$$

example :

compute the angle between  $u = [1, 0]$  and  $v = [1, 1]$

- dot product :  $u \cdot v = 1 \cdot 1 + 0 \cdot 1 = 1$

- norm :  $\|u\| = \sqrt{1^2 + 0^2} = 1$ ;  $\|v\| = \sqrt{1^2 + 1^2} = \sqrt{2}$

- cosine :  $\cos(\theta) = \frac{1}{1 \cdot \sqrt{2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$

- Angle :  $\theta = \arccos \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = 45^\circ$

## 2.1. cosine similarity

- cosine similarity measures how close 2 vectors are in direction

$$\cos(\theta) = \frac{v \cdot w}{\|v\| \|w\|}$$

Example:  $v = [2, 1, 0]$  and  $w = [4, 2, 0]$

$$\cos(\theta) = \frac{2 \cdot 4 + 1 \cdot 2 + 0 \cdot 0}{\sqrt{4+1+0} \sqrt{16+4+0}}$$

$$= \frac{10}{\sqrt{5} \cdot 2\sqrt{5}} = 1$$

### 3. Hyperplane

- A hyperplane in  $d$  dimensional is a  $(d-1)$  -dimensional subspace that divide the space into two half
- define by  $\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{v} = b$  where  $\mathbf{w}$  is a normal vector  
 $b$  is a scalar

example:

consider a 2D hyperplane defined by

$$w = [2, 1] \text{ and } w \cdot v = 1$$

- equation:  $2x + y = 1$
- points satisfying this form a line
- points where  $2x + y > 1$  lie on one side and  $2x + y < 1$  on the other.

## 4. geometry of linear transformations

- A matrix represent a linear transformation that maps vectors via  $Av$ .
- geometrically, it can scale, rotate, or skew the space but cannot distort parts differently.
- the transformation is determined by where  $A$  sends basis vectors.

example:

use matrix  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ -1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$  to transform  $v = [2, -1]$

- compute  $A v = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 2 \\ -1 & 3 & -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \cdot 2 + 2 \cdot (-1) \\ -1 \cdot 2 + 3 \cdot (-1) \end{bmatrix}$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

- geometrically, the grid is skewed, and mapped to

$(0, -5)$

## 5. Linear Independence

- vectors are linear dependent if one can be written as a combination of others

$$\sum a_i v_i = 0 \text{ with not all } a_i = 0$$

- linear dependence indicate the vector span a lower-dimensional space.
- for a matrix, linearly dependent columns mean it compresses space.

$$u = (1, 2, 3)$$

$$v = (2, 4, 6)$$

$\{u, v, w\}$  linear independent?

$$w = (1, 1, 1)$$

- find  $a, b, c \neq 0$

$$au + bv + cw = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow a(1, 2, 3) + b(2, 4, 6) + c(1, 1, 1) = 0$$

$$a + 2b + c = 0$$

$$2a + 4b + c = 0$$

$$3a + 6b + c = 0$$

$$a = -2$$

$$b = 1$$

$$c = 0$$

conclude  $a, b, c \neq 0 \Rightarrow$  linear dependent.

## 6. Rank

- the rank of matrix is the number of linearly independent columns (or rows)

example: find rank of  $B = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ -1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$

$$+ b_1 = [2, -1]$$

$$+ b_2 = [4, -2]$$

$$+ b_2 = 2 b_1$$

$\Rightarrow$  they are dependent

+ rank = 1, as only one column is independent

## 7. Invertibility

- A square matrix  $A$  is invertible if there exist  $A^{-1}$  such that  $A^{-1} A = I$
- Invertibility requires full rank and non-zero determinant
- The inverse undoes the transformation of  $A$ .

example:  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$  is invertible?

$$- A^{-1} = \frac{1}{ad - bc} \begin{bmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{bmatrix}$$

— Determinant :  $ad - bc = 1 \cdot 4 - 2 \cdot 1 = 2 \neq 0$

— Inverse of  $A$  :  $A^{-1} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -2 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -0.5 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix}$

## 8. Determinant

- the determinant measures how a matrix scale areas / volumes
  - for  $2 \times 2$  matrix  $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$   
 $\det A = ad - bc$
  - $\det = 0$  means the matrix is singular
- example : compute the determinant of  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ -1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$
- $\det = 1 \times 3 - 2 \times (-1) = 5$ .