

Queens College, CUNY, Department of Computer Science

**Numerical Methods**

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## 8 Lecture 8

### 8.1 Matrices

- We shall study the solution of linear systems of equations by using matrices.
- The topic is also called (applied) **linear algebra**.
- In this lecture we shall examine some basic definitions and properties of matrices, independent of applications to linear algebra.

## 8.2 Matrices: general remarks

- A **matrix** with  $n$  rows and  $k$  columns is called an  $n \times k$  matrix.  
For example for  $n = 2$  and  $k = 3$  then

$$M_{2 \times 3} = \begin{bmatrix} m_{11} & m_{12} & m_{13} \\ m_{21} & m_{22} & m_{23} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (8.2.1)$$

- The notation  $m_{ij}$  will be employed to denote the elements of a matrix  $M$ .
- A **square matrix** ( $n \times n$  square matrix) has  $n$  rows and  $n$  columns.  
For example for  $n = 2$  then

$$N_{2 \times 2} = \begin{pmatrix} n_{11} & n_{12} \\ n_{21} & n_{22} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (8.2.2)$$

- Both types of rectangular brackets or parentheses will be employed to describe a matrix.
- A **column vector** (with  $n$  elements) is an  $n \times 1$  matrix. For example for  $n = 3$  then

$$\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}. \quad (8.2.3)$$

- A **row vector** (with  $n$  elements) is a  $1 \times n$  matrix. For example for  $n = 4$  then

$$\mathbf{r} = [\alpha \quad \beta \quad \gamma \quad \delta]. \quad (8.2.4)$$

- If  $A$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix, then we can add (or subtract) a matrix  $B$  to it if and only if  $B$  is also an  $m \times n$  matrix. The two matrices must have the same size.
- If we multiply a matrix  $M$  by a number  $\lambda$ , the matrix elements of  $\lambda M$  (also  $M\lambda$ , because  $\lambda M = M\lambda$ ) are obtained by multiplying all the elements of  $M$  by  $\lambda$ .  
An example for  $n = 2$  and  $k = 3$  is (see eq. (8.2.1))

$$\lambda M = M \lambda = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda m_{11} & \lambda m_{12} & \lambda m_{13} \\ \lambda m_{21} & \lambda m_{22} & \lambda m_{23} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (8.2.5)$$

- Matrix multiplication: if  $A$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix and  $B$  is an  $n \times k$  matrix, then the matrix product  $AB$  is an  $m \times k$  matrix.

1. **Note that the matrix product  $BA$  does not exist if  $k \neq m$ .**
2. The order of matrix multiplication is important:  $AB$  might exist but  $BA$  might not.
3. Even if both matrix products  $AB$  and  $BA$  exist, **they may not be equal:**

$$AB \neq BA \quad (\text{in general}). \quad (8.2.6)$$

4. We say that matrix multiplication is **non-commutative**.

### 8.3 Matrices: more definitions

- The **zero matrix** has all entries equal to zero. Obvious enough.
- For a square matrix, the **leading diagonal** is the one with elements  $m_{ij}$  where  $i = j$ . The leading diagonal is also called the **main diagonal**.
- A **diagonal matrix** has nonzero elements only along its leading diagonal. For  $n = 3$  an example is

$$D_{3 \times 3} = \begin{pmatrix} d_{11} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & d_{22} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & d_{33} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (8.3.1)$$

- The **unit (or identity) matrix** is a diagonal matrix with all nonzero elements equal to 1. The identity matrix is frequently denoted by the symbol  $I$  or  $\mathbf{I}$ . The  $n \times n$  unit or identity matrix is

$$I_{n \times n} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ & & \ddots & \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (8.3.2)$$

- A **tridiagonal matrix** has nonzero entries only on the leading diagonal and the two diagonals immediately above and below the leading diagonal. The matrix must be a square matrix. For  $n = 5$  an example is

$$M_{\text{tri}} = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & b_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ c_2 & a_2 & b_2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_3 & a_3 & b_3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & c_4 & a_4 & b_4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & c_5 & a_5 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (8.3.3)$$

- A **pentadiagonal matrix** is ... *you figure it out*.
- A **banded matrix** has nonzero elements only in diagonals such that  $m_{ij} = 0$  if  $|i - j| > c$ , for some integer constant  $c \geq 0$ . A diagonal matrix is a banded matrix with  $c = 0$ . A tridiagonal matrix is a banded matrix with  $c = 1$ .
- An **upper triangular matrix**  $U$  has nonzero entries only on or above the leading diagonal. A **lower triangular matrix**  $L$  has nonzero entries only on or below the leading diagonal. Both the matrices  $L$  and  $U$  must be square. For  $n = 4$ , examples are

$$L = \begin{pmatrix} \ell_{11} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \ell_{21} & \ell_{22} & 0 & 0 \\ \ell_{31} & \ell_{32} & \ell_{33} & 0 \\ \ell_{41} & \ell_{42} & \ell_{43} & \ell_{44} \end{pmatrix}, \quad U = \begin{pmatrix} u_{11} & u_{12} & u_{13} & u_{14} \\ 0 & u_{22} & u_{23} & u_{24} \\ 0 & 0 & u_{33} & u_{34} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & u_{44} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (8.3.4)$$

For  $n \times n$  matrices, the number of independent matrix elements in both cases is  $n(n + 1)/2$ . A diagonal matrix is simultaneously both upper and lower triangular.

## 8.4 Matrix transpose

- The **transpose** of a matrix  $M$  is denoted by  $M^T$ .  
The transpose  $M^T$  is obtained by interchanging the rows and columns of the matrix  $M$ .
- If  $M$  is an  $n \times k$  matrix then  $M^T$  is a  $k \times n$  matrix.
- The matrix  $M$  **need not be square**.
- The transpose matrix always exists and is unique.
- For  $n = 2$  and  $k = 3$  an example is

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} m_{11} & m_{12} & m_{13} \\ m_{21} & m_{22} & m_{23} \end{bmatrix}, \quad M^T = \begin{bmatrix} m_{11} & m_{12} \\ m_{21} & m_{22} \\ m_{13} & m_{23} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (8.4.1)$$

- The transpose of a column vector is a row vector and vice versa.
- The transpose of a transpose is the original matrix:  $(M^T)^T = M$ .
- The product of a matrix and its transpose is a square matrix:  
 $MM^T$  is an  $n \times n$  square matrix and  $M^TM$  is a  $k \times k$  square matrix.
- The transpose of the matrix product  $AB$  is given by

$$(AB)^T = B^T A^T. \quad (8.4.2)$$

Similarly

$$(ABC)^T = C^T B^T A^T. \quad (8.4.3)$$

There is an obvious pattern for products of more matrices.

## 8.5 Matrix inverse

- The **inverse** of a matrix  $M$  is denoted by  $M^{-1}$ .
- The matrix  $M$  must be square.
- **Not every matrix has an inverse:  $M^{-1}$  does not always exist.**
- A matrix which does not have an inverse is called **singular**.
- The inverse matrix  $M^{-1}$  (if it exists) is defined by the relations

$$MM^{-1} = I, \quad M^{-1}M = I. \quad (8.5.1)$$

- **If the inverse matrix  $M^{-1}$  exists, then it is unique.**
- The zero matrix (all entries are zero) is obviously singular.
- The inverse of the unit matrix is obviously the unit matrix itself.
- A matrix can equal its own inverse, i.e.  $M^2 = I$ . Some examples for  $n = 2$  are

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (8.5.2)$$

- Examples of singular matrices are

$$M_{\text{singular}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad M_{\text{singular}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (8.5.3)$$

- The inverse of the matrix product  $AB$  is given by

$$(AB)^{-1} = B^{-1}A^{-1}. \quad (8.5.4)$$

Similarly

$$(ABC)^{-1} = C^{-1}B^{-1}A^{-1}. \quad (8.5.5)$$

There is an obvious pattern for products of more matrices.

### 8.5.1 Non-square matrices

- **For your information only. Not for examination.**
- If the matrix  $M$  is not square, one can define a “left inverse”  $L_{\text{inv}}$  and a “right inverse”  $R_{\text{inv}}$ .
- The theory becomes complicated. Suppose  $M$  is  $n \times k$ , where  $n \neq k$ .
- If  $n > k$ , only a left inverse can exist. If it does, there are infinitely many choices. The inverse is not unique.

$$L_{\text{inv}}M = I_{k \times k}. \quad (8.5.6)$$

- If  $n < k$ , only a right inverse can exist. If it does, there are infinitely many choices. The inverse is not unique.

$$MR_{\text{inv}} = I_{n \times n}. \quad (8.5.7)$$

## 8.6 Square matrices: commutation & anticommutation

- Square matrices have some special properties which are important in many applications.
- Consider two square matrices  $A$  and  $B$ , both of the same size ( $n \times n$ ).
- Then  $A$  and  $B$  are said to **commute** if  $AB = BA$ .
- Also  $A$  and  $B$  are said to **anticommute** if  $AB = -BA$ .

## 8.7 Square matrices: symmetric & antisymmetric

- A **symmetric matrix**  $S$  is equal to its transpose:  $S^T = S$ .
- An **antisymmetric matrix**  $A$  is equal to the **negative** of its transpose:  $A^T = -A$ .
- An antisymmetric matrix is also called a **skew-symmetric matrix**.
- Hence the matrix elements satisfy the relations

$$(S^T)_{ij} = S_{ji}, \quad (A^T)_{ij} = -A_{ji}. \quad (8.7.1)$$

- The elements on the leading diagonal of an antisymmetric matrix are all zero.
- Every diagonal matrix is symmetric.
- For  $n = 3$  an example is

$$S_{3 \times 3} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & b & c \\ b & a_{22} & d \\ c & d & a_{33} \end{pmatrix}, \quad A_{3 \times 3} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \beta & \gamma \\ -\beta & 0 & \delta \\ -\gamma & -\delta & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (8.7.2)$$

- An  $n \times n$  symmetric matrix has  $n(n+1)/2$  independent elements.
- An  $n \times n$  antisymmetric matrix has  $n(n-1)/2$  independent elements.
- The sum of two symmetric matrices is also symmetric.
- The sum of two antisymmetric matrices is also antisymmetric.
- The product of a symmetric matrix with a number is a symmetric matrix.
- The product of an antisymmetric matrix with a number is an antisymmetric matrix.
- **However, do not jump to conclusions when we multiply symmetric and antisymmetric matrices.**

### 8.7.1 Products of symmetric and antisymmetric matrices

- **Do not jump to conclusions about the products of symmetric and antisymmetric matrices.**

- The following matrices are symmetric:

$$\sigma_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \sigma_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (8.7.3)$$

(Never mind why I call them  $\sigma_1$  and  $\sigma_3$ . Yes there is also a  $\sigma_2$ .)

- The matrix products  $\sigma_3\sigma_3$  and  $\sigma_1\sigma_1$  are also symmetric matrices ( $\sigma_3^2 = \sigma_1^2 = I$ ):

$$\sigma_3\sigma_3 = \sigma_1\sigma_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (8.7.4)$$

- **The matrix products  $\sigma_1\sigma_3$  and  $\sigma_3\sigma_1$  are antisymmetric:**

$$\sigma_1\sigma_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \sigma_3\sigma_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (8.7.5)$$

- The symmetric matrices  $\sigma_1$  and  $\sigma_3$  anticommute. Their product is an antisymmetric matrix.
- Yes the product is proportional to  $\sigma_2$ . If you really want to know,

$$\sigma_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (8.7.6)$$

The matrix elements of  $\sigma_2$  are complex numbers (pure imaginary).



## 8.8 Square matrices: trace

- The **trace** of a square matrix is the sum of the elements on the main diagonal.
- Some authors also refer to the trace as the **spur** of a matrix.

$$\text{spur}(M) = \text{trace}(M) = \text{Tr}(M) = m_{11} + m_{22} + \cdots + m_{nn} = \sum_{i=1}^n m_{ii}. \quad (8.8.1)$$

- A **traceless** matrix is one whose trace equals zero.
- An antisymmetric matrix is always traceless.
- The trace of a square matrix is equal to the trace of its transpose:

$$\text{Tr}(M) = \text{Tr}(M^T). \quad (8.8.2)$$

- For two square matrices  $A$  and  $B$ , the trace of  $A + B$  is the sum of the traces

$$\text{Tr}(A + B) = \text{Tr}(A) + \text{Tr}(B). \quad (8.8.3)$$

- Furthermore, for matrices  $A$  and  $B$ ,

$$\text{Tr}(AB) = \text{Tr}(BA). \quad (8.8.4)$$

- The trace of a matrix product has a cyclic property. For three matrices  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$ ,

$$\text{Tr}(ABC) = \text{Tr}(BCA) + \text{Tr}(CAB). \quad (8.8.5)$$

- The cyclic property extends in an obvious way to products of more matrices.

## 8.9 Square matrices: determinant

- The **determinant** of a square matrix is a number obtained from all the rows and columns of the matrix. For a  $2 \times 2$  matrix, the determinant is given by

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}, \quad \det(M) = ad - bc. \quad (8.9.1)$$

- In general, for an  $n \times n$  square matrix, the determinant is given by a sum of products

$$\det(M) = \sum_{i_1=1}^n \sum_{i_2=1}^n \cdots \sum_{i_n=1}^n \sigma_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n} m_{1i_1} m_{2i_2} \cdots m_{ni_n}. \quad (8.9.2)$$

Here  $\sigma_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n}$  is a sign factor equal to  $\pm 1$ , given by

$$\sigma_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n} = \begin{cases} +1 & ((i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n) = \text{even permutation of } (1, 2, \dots, n)) \\ -1 & ((i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n) = \text{odd permutation of } (1, 2, \dots, n)) \end{cases}. \quad (8.9.3)$$

- There are computationally more efficient ways to calculate the determinant of a matrix.
- The determinant of a unit matrix equals unity:  $\det(I) = 1$ .
- The determinant of a matrix is equal to the determinant of its transpose:

$$\det(M) = \det(M^T). \quad (8.9.4)$$

- For matrices  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  the determinant of the product equals the product of the determinants

$$\det(A_1 A_2 \cdots A_n) = \det(A_1) \det(A_2) \cdots \det(A_n). \quad (8.9.5)$$

- The inverse  $M^{-1}$  of a square matrix  $M$  exists if and only if  $\det(M) \neq 0$ .

## 8.10 Orthogonal matrices

- The material in this section is not for examination.
- You may skip it if it is too advanced.
- An **orthogonal matrix**  $O$  satisfies the relation

$$O^T O = I. \quad (8.10.1)$$

- It is also true that  $OO^T = I$  and  $O^T = O^{-1}$ .
- The determinant of an orthogonal matrix equals  $\pm 1$ .
- The converse is not true: a square matrix with determinant 1 is not necessarily orthogonal

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{not orthogonal}). \quad (8.10.2)$$

- An orthogonal matrix with determinant  $+1$  is called a **special orthogonal matrix**.
- The identity matrix is a special orthogonal matrix.
- The negative of the identity matrix  $-I_{n \times n}$  has determinant  $(-1)^n$ . It equals 1 if  $n$  is even and  $-1$  if  $n$  is odd.
- Examples of symmetric and antisymmetric special orthogonal matrices are ( $x$  is a real number)

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} \cosh(x) & \sinh(x) \\ \sinh(x) & \cosh(x) \end{pmatrix}, \quad A = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(x) & -\sin(x) \\ \sin(x) & \cos(x) \end{pmatrix}. \quad (8.10.3)$$

- The following matrix is orthogonal and has determinant  $-1$

$$O = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(x) & \sin(x) \\ \sin(x) & -\cos(x) \end{pmatrix}. \quad (8.10.4)$$

- Rotation matrices, in any number of dimensions, are special orthogonal matrices.
- Reflection matrices are orthogonal matrices, not always special orthogonal matrices.

## 8.11 Complex valued matrices

- The material in this section is not for examination.
- You may skip it if it is too advanced.
- The elements of a matrix need not be real. They can be complex.
- The **Hermitian conjugate** of a complex valued matrix  $C$  is the complex conjugate transpose matrix

$$C^\dagger = (C^T)^* = (C^*)^T. \quad (8.11.1)$$

- A **Hermitian matrix**  $H$  is equal to its Hermitian conjugate

$$H^\dagger = H. \quad (8.11.2)$$

- An **anti-Hermitian** or **skew-Hermitian** matrix  $A$  is equal to the negative of its Hermitian conjugate

$$A^\dagger = -A. \quad (8.11.3)$$

- The eigenvalues of a Hermitian matrix are real numbers.  
The eigenvalues of a skew-Hermitian matrix are pure imaginary numbers.
- A **unitary matrix**  $U$  satisfies the relation

$$U^\dagger U = I. \quad (8.11.4)$$

- It is also true that  $UU^\dagger = I$  and  $U^\dagger = U^{-1}$ .
- The determinant of a unitary matrix satisfies  $|\det U| = 1$ .  
Hence the determinant of a unitary matrix lies on the complex unit circle.
- The eigenvalues of a unitary matrix lie on the complex unit circle.
- A unitary matrix with determinant  $+1$  is called a **special unitary matrix**.
- The unit matrix is both a Hermitian matrix and a special unitary matrix.
- Examples of symmetric and antisymmetric special unitary matrices are

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (8.11.5)$$

- The following matrices are unitary and have determinant  $-1$  and  $-i$ , respectively

$$iI_{2 \times 2} = \begin{pmatrix} i & 0 \\ 0 & i \end{pmatrix}, \quad (8.11.6)$$

$$iI_{3 \times 3} = \begin{pmatrix} i & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & i & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & i \end{pmatrix}. \quad (8.11.7)$$

## 8.12 Matrix exponential

- The material in this section is not for examination.
- You may skip it if it is too advanced.
- The **exponential** of a square matrix is **defined** by the power series infinite sum

$$\exp(M) = e^M = 1 + M + \frac{M^2}{2!} + \frac{M^3}{3!} + \cdots = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{M^n}{n!} . \quad (8.12.1)$$

- Note that this is a **definition**.
- As with the exponential series for a number  $x$ , the exponential series for a matrix converges absolutely.
- Be careful: if  $A$  and  $B$  are square matrices, then in general

$$e^A e^B \neq e^{A+B} . \quad (8.12.2)$$

The above result is true only if  $A$  and  $B$  commute.

- The exponential of an antisymmetric matrix is a special orthogonal matrix

$$(e^A)^T e^A = e^{A^T} e^A = e^{-A} e^A = I . \quad (8.12.3)$$

- The exponential of an anti-Hermitian matrix is a special unitary matrix

$$(e^A)^\dagger e^A = e^{A^\dagger} e^A = e^{-A} e^A = I . \quad (8.12.4)$$

### 8.13 Matrix rank

- The material in this section is not for examination.
- You may skip it if it is too advanced.
- The matrix  $M$  need not be square.
- The **rank** of a matrix  $M$  is the dimension of the vector space spanned by the columns of  $M$ .
- The rank of  $M$  is also equal to the dimension of the vector space spanned by the rows of  $M$ .
- Hence the column rank equals the row rank of a matrix.
- We shall see a little bit of this when we solve a set of simultaneous linear equations, and the equations are not all linearly independent. In that case, if there are  $n$  equations, the rank will be less than  $n$ . It may or may not be possible to solve the equations in this situation. We shall see.
- Nevertheless, concepts such as “vector space” are not for examination.