



8.1.1 *Review*

Last time you may be confused about how to compute $N(\mathbf{A})$ or y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{n-r} (step2). Now let's review the whole steps for solving rectangular bu using block matrix:

- Firstly, we convert our rref into the form $\begin{bmatrix} I & B \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ by switching columns.
 - Example 8.1 Last time our rref is given by:

$$\mathbf{R} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

We notice that column 3 is pivot column, so we can switch it into the second column. (By switching column 2 and column 3):

$$\mathbf{R} \implies \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{B} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}$$

• Then our system equation is translated (We use 3×4 matrix to show the whole process.):

$$\mathbf{R}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{c} \implies \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{B} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ c_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Because we have changed the columns, so here row 2 and row 3 is also switched respectively. And then x_1 and x_2 are pivot variables, x_3 and x_4 are free variables. Then we derive:

$$\implies \begin{cases} \boldsymbol{I} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} + \boldsymbol{B} \begin{bmatrix} x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix} \\ 0 = c_3 \end{cases}$$

• If $c_3 \neq 0$, then there is no solution; next, let's assume $c_3 = 0$. Then *pivot variables* could be expressed as the form of *free variables*:

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{pmatrix} - \mathbf{B} \begin{pmatrix} x_3 \\ x_4 \end{pmatrix}$$

Hence all solutions to $\mathbf{R}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{c}$ is obtained:

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{B} \begin{pmatrix} x_3 \\ x_4 \end{pmatrix} \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

Suppose $-\mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{y}}_1 & \hat{\mathbf{y}}_2 \end{bmatrix}$, then pivot variables is equivalent to

$$\implies \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{pmatrix} + x_3 \hat{\mathbf{y}}_1 + x_4 \hat{\mathbf{y}}_2$$

• So the complete solution to the system is

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} x_3 \hat{\mathbf{y}}_1 + x_4 \hat{\mathbf{y}}_2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{pmatrix}$$
(8.1)

$$= \begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + x_3 \begin{pmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{y}}_1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + x_4 \begin{pmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{y}}_2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + x_3 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + x_4 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$
(8.2)

$$= \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}}_{\boldsymbol{x}_p} + x_3 \begin{pmatrix} \hat{\boldsymbol{y}}_1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + x_4 \begin{pmatrix} \hat{\boldsymbol{y}}_2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}}_{\boldsymbol{x}_{\text{special}}}$$
(8.3)

where x_3 and x_4 could be arbitarary.

• If we set $x_3 = x_4 = 1$, then we check whether $\begin{pmatrix} \hat{y}_1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \hat{y}_2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ belongs to null space (sanity check):

$$\begin{pmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{y}}_1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{y}}_2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -\mathbf{B} \\ \mathbf{I} \end{pmatrix} \implies \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{B} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -\mathbf{B} \\ \mathbf{I} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\mathbf{B} + \mathbf{B} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}$$

If our rectangular matrix is $m \times n(m > n)$, how to solve it? Answer: Also, we do G.E. to get rref, which will be of the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & & & \\ & 1 & & & & \\ & & 1 & & & \\ 0 & \dots & 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ or } \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & & & \\ & \ddots & & & & \\ & & 1 & & & \\ & & & 0 & & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

8.1.2 Remarks on solving linear system equations

The two possibilities for linear equations depend on m and n:

Theorem 8.1 Let m denote number of equations, n denote number of variables. For number of solutions for $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$, where $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, we obtain:

- m < n: either no solution or infinitely many solutions
- $m \ge n$: no solution; unique solution $(N(\mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{0})$; or infinitely many solutions.

Proof outline for m < n case: Recall we can convert Ax = b into Rx = c:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & & \times & \times \\ & \ddots & & \times & \times \\ & & 1 & \times & \times \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \dots & & & & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{x} = \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ \vdots \\ c_r \\ c_{r+1} \\ \vdots \\ c_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Note that $x_1.x_2....,x_r$ is pivot variables (This is because of column switching). Hence we have (n-r) free variables, thus $N(\mathbf{A})$ is spanned by (n-r) special vectors $y_1,y_2,...,y_{n-r}$. Hence we only need to show n > r given the condition n > m:

Obviously, $r \le m$, and we have n > m, so we obtain n > r.

So we get the proposition immediately:

Proposition 8.1 For system Ax = b, where $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, m < n, it either has no solution or infinitely many solutions.

Corollary 8.1 For system Ax = 0, where $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, m < n, it always has infinitely many solutions.

What is r?

We ask the question again, what is r? Let's see some examples before answering this question.

■ Example 8.2 If we want to solve system of equations of size 1000 as the following:

$$\begin{cases} x_1 + x_2 = 3\\ 2x_1 + 2x_2 = 6\\ \dots\\ 1000x_1 + 1000x_2 = 3000 \end{cases}$$

It seems very difficult when hearding it has 1000 equations, but the remaining 999 equations could be redundant (They actually don't exist):

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ 1000 & 1000 \end{bmatrix} \Longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Here we see only one equation $x_1 + x_2 = 3$ is true, the remaining part is not true. So we claim that r is the number of "true" equations. But what is the definition for "true" equations? Let's discuss the definition for *linear dependence* first.

8.1.3 Linearly dependence

Definition 8.1 — linearly dependence. The vectors $v_1, v_2, ..., v_n$ in linear space V are linearly dependent if there exists $c_1, c_2, ..., c_n \in \mathbb{R}$ s.t.

$$c_1\mathbf{v}_1+c_2\mathbf{v}_2+\cdots+c_n\mathbf{v}_n=\mathbf{0}.$$

In other words, it means one of v_i could be expressed as linear combination of others. When assuming $c_n \neq 0$, we can express \mathbf{v}_n as:

$$\mathbf{v}_n = -\frac{c_1}{c_n}\mathbf{v}_1 - \frac{c_2}{c_n}\mathbf{v}_2 - \cdots - \frac{c_{n-1}}{c_n}\mathbf{v}_{n-1}.$$

Definition 8.2 — linearly independence. The vectors v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n in linear space V are linearly independent if the two statements are equivalent:

- $\bullet c_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + c_2 \mathbf{v}_2 + \dots + c_n \mathbf{v}_n = \mathbf{0}$
- All scalars $c_1 = c_2 = \dots = c_n = 0$.

In other words, if v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n are not **linearly dependent**, they must be **linearly independent**.



Note that **only** in this course, if we say vectors are dependent, we mean they are **linearly** dependent. And we often express *dependent* as *dep*.; we also sometimes express *linearly dependent* as *lin. dep*.; express *linearly independent* as *lin. ind*.

Here we pick some examples to help you understand lin. dep. and lin. ind.:

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■ Example 8.3

• $v_1 = (1,1)$ and $v_2 = (2,2)$ are **dep.** because

$$(-2) \times v_1 + v_2 = 0.$$

• The only one vector $v_1 = 2$ is **ind.** because

$$c\mathbf{v}_1 = \mathbf{0} \Longleftrightarrow c = 0.$$

• The only one vector $\mathbf{v}_1 = 0$ is **dep.** because

$$2 \times \mathbf{v}_1 = \mathbf{0}$$

• $v_1 = (1,2)$ and $v_2 = (0,0)$ are **dep.** because

$$0 \times \mathbf{v}_1 + 1 \times \mathbf{v}_2 = \mathbf{0}$$
.

• The upper triangular matrix $\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 4 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ has three column vectors:

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

 v_1, v_2, v_3 are **ind.** because

$$c_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + c_2 \mathbf{v}_2 + c_3 \mathbf{v}_3 = \mathbf{0} \iff c_1 = c_2 = c_3 = 0. \text{(Why?)}$$

Relation between lin.ind. and equations

The following statements are equivalent:

- Vectors $a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_n \in \mathbb{R}^m$ are dep.
- $\exists c_i \text{ not all zero s.t. } \sum_{i=1}^n c_i a_i = \mathbf{0}.$
- \exists some $c \neq 0$ s.t.

$$\mathbf{Ac} = [a_1 \mid \dots \mid a_n] \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{0}$$

So what if m < n, when checking corollary (8.1), we immediately obtain:

Corollary 8.2 When vectors $a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_n \in \mathbb{R}^m (m < n)$ are dependent, there exists infinitely solutions c_1, c_2, \ldots, c_n such that $\sum_{i=1}^n c_i a_i = \mathbf{0}$.

So we say the true equations are those linearly independent equations.

8.1.4 Basis and dimension

Definition 8.3 — **Basis**. The vectors v_1, \ldots, v_n form a **basis** for a vector space V if and only

- 1. v_1, \ldots, v_n are linearly independent.
- 2. $v_1, ..., v_n$ span **V**.

■ Example 8.4 In
$$\mathbb{R}^3$$
, $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$, form a basis.
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
 is not a basis, since it doesn't span \mathbb{R}^3 .
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
, $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$, don't form a basis, since they don'y linearly independent.
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
, $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$ form a basis.

We feel that the number of vectors for basis of \mathbb{R}^3 is always 3, is this a coincidence? The theorem below gives the answer.

Theorem 8.2 If v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m is a basis; w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n is a basis for the same vector space \mathbf{V} , then n = m.

In order to proof it, let's try simple case first:

proofoutline.

• Let's consider $V = \mathbb{R}$ case first:

For \mathbb{R} , 1 forms a basis.

Given any two vectors x and y, they are not a basis for \mathbb{R} . It is because that

- if x = 0 or y = 0, they are not ind.
- otherwise, $y = \frac{y}{x} \times x \implies \frac{y}{x} \times x + (-1) \times y = 0$. So they are not ind.

 Then we consider $\mathbf{V} = \mathbb{R}^3$ case:

 [1] [0] [0]

For
$$\mathbb{R}^3$$
, $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ is a basis.

We want to show if v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m is a basis, then m = 3.

- Let's proof m=4 is impossible (4 vectors in \mathbb{R}^3 cannot be a basis.): We only need to show for $\forall a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4 \in \mathbb{R}^3$ they must be dep. \iff $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ has nonzero solutions, where $\mathbf{A} = [a_1 \mid a_2 \mid \dots \mid a_4] \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 4}$. By corollary (8.1), it is obviously true.
- The same argument could show any basis for \mathbb{R}^3 satisfies $m \leq 3$.
- Then let's prove m=2 is impossible (2 vectors in \mathbb{R}^2 cannot be a basis): We only need to show for $\forall a_1, a_2 \in \mathbb{R}^3$, they cannot span the whole space. If this is not true, then $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ must have solution, where $\mathbf{A} = [a_1 \mid a_2] \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 2}$. However, this kind matrix may have no solution, which forms a contradiction.
- The same arugment could show any basis for \mathbb{R}^3 satisfies $m \ge 3$.

- The same arugment could show any basis for \mathbb{R}^n satisfies m = n.
- Next, let's consider general vector space:

We assume n < m (contradiction).

We have known v_1, \ldots, v_n is a basis, our goal is to show w_1, \ldots, w_m cannot form a basis.

$$\Leftarrow \exists \mathbf{c} = \begin{bmatrix} c_1 & c_2 & \dots & c_m \end{bmatrix}^T \neq \mathbf{0} \text{ s.t.}$$

$$c_1 w_1 + c_2 w_2 + \dots + c_m w_m = 0. (8.4)$$

Moreover, we can express w_1, \ldots, w_m in form of v_1, \ldots, v_n :

$$\begin{cases} w_1 = a_{11}v_1 + \dots + a_{1n}v_n \\ \dots \\ w_m = a_{m1}v_1 + \dots + a_{mn}v_n \end{cases}$$
(8.5)

By (8.5), we can write (8.4) as:

$$0 = \sum_{j=1}^{m} c_{j} w_{j}$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^{m} c_{j} (\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_{ji} v_{i})$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^{m} \sum_{i=1}^{n} c_{j} a_{ji} v_{i}$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{m} c_{j} a_{ji} v_{i}$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^{n} v_{i} \times (\sum_{j=1}^{m} c_{j} a_{ji})$$

$$= v_{1} \times (\sum_{j=1}^{m} c_{j} a_{j1}) + v_{2} \times (\sum_{j=1}^{m} c_{j} a_{j2}) + \dots + v_{n} \times (\sum_{i=1}^{m} c_{j} a_{jn})$$

So, in order to let LHS=0, we only need to let each of RHS=0, more specifically, we only need to let $\sum_{j=1}^{m} c_j a_{j1} = \sum_{j=1}^{m} c_j a_{j2} = \cdots = \sum_{j=1}^{m} c_j a_{jn} = 0$. To write it into matrix form, we only need to let system $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{0}$ has solution.

where
$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{ij} \end{bmatrix}_{1 \leq m; 1 \leq j \leq n}$$
 and $\mathbf{c} = \begin{bmatrix} c_1 & c_2 & \dots & c_m \end{bmatrix}^{\mathrm{T}}$.

By corollary (8.1), since A^{T} is $n \times m$ matrix where n < m, it has infinitely nonzero solution.

During the proof, we face two difficulties:

- 1. For arbitrarily V, we write a concrete form to express w_1, w_2, \dots, w_m .
- 2. We write matrix form to express $\sum_{j=1}^{m} c_j a_{j1} = \sum_{j=1}^{m} c_j a_{j2} = \cdots = \sum_{j=1}^{m} c_j a_{jn} = 0$.

Next since all basis contains the same number of vectors, we can define the number of vectors to be dimension:

Definition 8.4 — **Dimension.** The **dimension** for a vector space is the number of vectors in a basis for it.

Remember that vector space $\{0\}$ has dimension 0. In order to denote the dimension for a given vector space V, we often write it as dim(V).

- \mathbb{R}^n has dimension n. **■ Example 8.5**
 - {All $m \times n$ matrix} has dimension $m \cdot n$.

 - {All n × n symmetric matrix} has dimension ⁿ⁽ⁿ⁺¹⁾/₂.
 Let *P* denote the vector space of all polynomials f(x) = a₀ + a₁x + ··· + a_nxⁿ. $\dim(\mathbf{P}) \neq 3$ since $1, x, x^2, x^3$ are ind.

The same argument can show $\dim(\mathbf{P})$ is not equal to any real number, so $\dim(\mathbf{P}) = \infty$

Human beings often ask a question: for a line and a plane, which is bigger?

1. Does plane has more point than a line?

No, Cantor syas they have the same "number" of points by constructing a one-to-one

Furthermore, $\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^2, \dots, \mathbb{R}^n$ has the same number of points.

2. However, the plane has bigger dimension than a line. So from this point of view, a plane is bigger than a line.

You should know some common knowledge for dimension:

- 1. Programmer lives in **2** dimension world. (They only live with binary.)
- 2. Engineer lives in **3** dimension world. (They only live with enign.)
- 3. Physician lives in 4 dimension world. (They discuss time.)
- 4. String theories states that our world is 11 or 26 dimension, which has been proved by Qingshi Zhu.
- 5. For 3-body, they can perform dimension attack on you.

What is rank?

Finally let's answer the question: What is rank? rank=dimension of row space of a matrix.

We will discuss it next lecture.