

Lecture 1: Basic Concepts

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1 Vector Space

Definition 1. A subset \mathcal{S} of \mathbb{R}^m (\mathbb{C}^m) is said to be a **subspace** if and only if

1. $x, y \in \mathcal{S} \implies x + y \in \mathcal{S}$ closure property for vector addition
2. $x \in \mathcal{S} \implies \alpha x \in \mathcal{S}$ for $\forall \alpha \in \mathbb{R}^n$ (\mathbb{C}^n) closure property for scalar multiplication

Definition 2. The **inner product** of two vectors $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is defined as

$$\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n y_i x_i = \mathbf{y}^T \mathbf{x}.$$

- \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} are said to be **orthogonal** to each other if $\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle = 0$;
- \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} are said to be **parallel** if $\mathbf{x} = \alpha \mathbf{y}$ for some α .

Definition 3. For a set of vectors $\mathcal{S} = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_r\}$, the subspace

$$\text{span}(\mathcal{S}) = \{\alpha_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \alpha_2 \mathbf{v}_2 + \dots + \alpha_r \mathbf{v}_r\},$$

generated by forming all linear combinations of vectors from \mathcal{S} is called the **space spanned** by \mathcal{S} .

Definition 4. If \mathcal{X} and \mathcal{Y} are subspaces of a vector space V , define the sum of two subspaces by

$$\mathcal{X} + \mathcal{Y} = \{\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} | \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X} \text{ and } \mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{Y}\},$$

and if $\mathcal{X} \cap \mathcal{Y} = \mathbf{0}$, $\mathcal{X} + \mathcal{Y} = \mathcal{Z}$, we define the **direct sum** $\mathcal{Z} = \mathcal{X} \oplus \mathcal{Y}$.

Exercise:

1. For a vector space \mathcal{V} , and for $\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y} \subseteq \mathcal{V}$, explain why $\text{span}(\mathcal{X} \cup \mathcal{Y}) = \text{span}(\mathcal{X}) + \text{span}(\mathcal{Y})$.
2. Let \mathcal{X} and \mathcal{Y} be two subspace of a vector space \mathcal{V} .
 - (a) Prove that the intersection $\mathcal{X} \cap \mathcal{Y}$ is also a subspace of \mathcal{V} .
 - (b) Show that union $\mathcal{X} \cup \mathcal{Y}$ is only a subspace if $\mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathcal{Y}$ or $\mathcal{Y} \subseteq \mathcal{X}$.
3. For a set of vectors $\mathcal{S} = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$, prove that $\text{span}(\mathcal{S})$ is the intersection of all subspaces that contain \mathcal{S} , i.e., prove that $\text{span}(\mathcal{S}) = \mathcal{M}$ where $\mathcal{M} := \bigcap_{\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathcal{V}} \mathcal{V}$ is the intersection of all subspaces that contain \mathcal{S} and \mathcal{V} denotes the subspace containing \mathcal{S} .

Solutions:

1. For $\forall \mathbf{u} \in \text{span}(\mathcal{X}) + \text{span}(\mathcal{Y}) \iff \exists \alpha, \beta, \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{u} = \alpha_1 \mathbf{x}_1 + \dots + \alpha_m \mathbf{x}_m + \beta_1 \mathbf{y}_1 + \dots + \beta_n \mathbf{y}_n = \gamma_1 \mathbf{x}_1 + \dots + \gamma_m \mathbf{x}_m + \gamma_{m+1} \mathbf{y}_1 + \dots + \gamma_{m+n} \mathbf{y}_n \iff \mathbf{u} \in \text{span}(\mathcal{X} \cup \mathcal{Y})$.
2. (a) $\forall \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{X} \cap \mathcal{Y}$, since \mathcal{X} and \mathcal{Y} are subspace, $\alpha \mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{X}$ and $\alpha \mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{Y}$, $\alpha \mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{X} \cap \mathcal{Y}$, similarly we have $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{X} \cap \mathcal{Y}$. Therefore, $\mathcal{X} \cap \mathcal{Y}$ is a subspace.
 (b) Suppose $\mathcal{X} \not\subseteq \mathcal{Y}$ and $\mathcal{Y} \not\subseteq \mathcal{X}$, $\exists \mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{X} - \mathcal{Y}$, $\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{Y} - \mathcal{X}$. $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} \notin \mathcal{X}$, $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} \notin \mathcal{Y}$ and $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{X} \cup \mathcal{Y}$, a contradiction.
3. The proof consists of two parts:
 - First we prove that $\text{span}(\mathcal{S}) \subset \mathcal{M}$. For any $\mathbf{x} \in \text{span}(\mathcal{S})$, then \mathbf{x} can be linearly represented by \mathcal{S} , i.e., $\mathbf{x} = \sum_i \alpha_i \mathbf{v}_i$. For any subspace \mathcal{V} containing \mathcal{S} , we must have $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{V}$ since subspace \mathcal{V} is closed under addition. Therefore, we have $\mathbf{x} \in \bigcap_{\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathcal{V}} \mathcal{V} = \mathcal{M}$. To sum up, $\forall \mathbf{x} \in \text{span}(\mathcal{S}) \Rightarrow \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{M} \Rightarrow \text{span}(\mathcal{S}) \subset \mathcal{M}$.
 - Then we try to prove that $\mathcal{M} \subset \text{span}(\mathcal{S})$. By definition, \mathcal{M} is contained in every subspace which contains \mathcal{S} . (The intersection of subspaces is also a subspace.) And since $\text{span}(\mathcal{S})$ is also a subspace, then we have $\mathcal{M} \subset \text{span}(\mathcal{S})$.

Therefore $\text{span}(\mathcal{S}) = \mathcal{M}$.

2 Linear Independence

Definition 5. A collection of vectors $\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n \in \mathbb{R}^m$ is said to be **linearly independent** if $\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \mathbf{a}_i \neq \mathbf{0}$, for all $\alpha_i \in \mathbb{R}$ with $\alpha_i \neq 0$; and linearly dependent otherwise.

1. If $\{\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n\} \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ is linearly independent, then any \mathbf{a}_j cannot be a linear combination of the other \mathbf{a}_i 's; i.e., $\mathbf{a}_j \neq \sum_{i \neq j} \alpha_i \mathbf{a}_i$ for any α_i 's.
2. If $\{\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n\} \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ is linearly dependent, then there exists an \mathbf{a}_j such that \mathbf{a}_j is a linear combination of the other \mathbf{a}_i 's; i.e., $\mathbf{a}_j = \sum_{i \neq j} \alpha_i \mathbf{a}_i$ for some α_i 's.
3. If $\{\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n\} \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ is linearly independent, then $m \geq n$ must hold.
4. Let $\{\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n\} \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ be a linearly independent vector set. Suppose $\mathbf{y} \in \text{span}\{\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n\}$, then the coefficient α for the representation $\mathbf{y} = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \mathbf{a}_i$ is unique; i.e., there does not exist a $\beta \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\beta \neq \alpha$, such that $\mathbf{y} = \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i \mathbf{a}_i$.

Definition 6. A vector subset $\{\mathbf{a}_{i_1}, \dots, \mathbf{a}_{i_k}\}$ is called a **maximal linear independent subset** of $\{\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n\}$ if:

1. $\{\mathbf{a}_{i_1}, \dots, \mathbf{a}_{i_k}\}$ is **linearly independent**;
2. $\{\mathbf{a}_{i_1}, \dots, \mathbf{a}_{i_k}\}$ is **not contained** by any other linearly independent subset of $\{\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n\}$.

Definition 7. Let $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ be a subspace with $\mathcal{S} \neq \{\mathbf{0}\}$. A vector set $\{\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n\} \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ is called a **basis** for \mathcal{S} if $\{\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n\} \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ is a **linearly independent** and $\mathcal{S} = \text{span}\{\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n\}$.

Definition 8. The **dimension** of a nontrivial subspace \mathcal{S} is the **number of elements of a basis** for \mathcal{S} . The dimension of the trivial subspace $\{\mathbf{0}\}$ is defined as 0.

Theorem 1. For a nonempty set of vectors $\mathcal{S} = \{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_n\}$ in a space \mathcal{V} , the following statements are true.

- If \mathcal{S} contains a linearly dependent subset, then \mathcal{S} itself must be linearly dependent.
- If \mathcal{S} is linearly dependent, then every subset of \mathcal{S} is also linearly dependent.
- If \mathcal{S} is linearly dependent and if $\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{V}$, then the **extension set** $\mathcal{S}_{\text{ext}} = \mathcal{S} \cup \{\mathbf{v}\}$ is linearly independent if and only if $\mathbf{v} \notin \text{span}(\mathcal{S})$.
- If $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ and if $n > m$, the \mathcal{S} must be linearly dependent.

Theorem 2. All bases for \mathcal{S} have the same number of elements; i.e., if $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_n\}$ and $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_m\}$ are basis for \mathcal{S} then $m = n$.

Proof. Suppose $n \neq m$, without loss of generality $n > m$, $\mathbf{u}_i = a_{i1}\mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + a_{im}\mathbf{v}_m$, $\mathbf{0} = b_1\mathbf{u}_1 + \dots + b_n\mathbf{u}_n = \sum_{i=1}^n b_i\mathbf{u}_i = \sum_{j=1}^m \sum_{i=1}^n b_i a_{ij} \mathbf{v}_j = \sum_{j=1}^m c_j \mathbf{v}_j$, $A_{i,j} = a_{ij}$, then $A[b_1, \dots, b_n]^T = [c_1, \dots, c_m]^T$. Since $n > m$, $\exists \mathbf{b} \neq \mathbf{0}$, s.t. $A\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{0}$ and $b_1\mathbf{u}_1 + \dots + b_n\mathbf{u}_n = \mathbf{0}$, a contradiction. \square

Theorem 3. For vector spaces \mathcal{M} and \mathcal{N} such that $\mathcal{M} \subseteq \mathcal{N}$, the following statements are true.

1. $\dim \mathcal{M} \leq \dim \mathcal{N}$.
2. If $\dim \mathcal{M} = \dim \mathcal{N}$, then $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{N}$

Proof. Let $\dim \mathcal{M} = m$ and $\dim \mathcal{N} = n$, and use an indirect argument to prove 1. If it were the case that $m > n$, then there would exist a linearly independent subset of \mathcal{N} (namely, a basis for \mathcal{M}) containing more than n vectors. But this is impossible because $\dim \mathcal{N}$ is the size of a maximal independent subset of \mathcal{N} . Thus $m \leq n$. Now prove (1). If $m = n$ but $\mathcal{M} \neq \mathcal{N}$, then there exists a vector \mathbf{x} such that $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{N}$ but $\mathbf{x} \notin \mathcal{M}$. If \mathcal{B} is a basis for \mathcal{M} , then $\mathbf{x} \notin \text{span}(\mathcal{B})$, and the extension set $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{B} \cup \{\mathbf{x}\}$ is a linearly independent subset of \mathcal{N} . But \mathcal{E} contains $m+1 = n+1$ vectors, which is impossible because $\dim \mathcal{N} = n$ is the size of a maximal independent subset of \mathcal{N} . Hence $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{N}$. \square

Theorem 4. If \mathcal{X} and \mathcal{Y} are subspaces of a vector space \mathcal{V} , then

$$\dim(\mathcal{X} + \mathcal{Y}) = \dim \mathcal{X} + \dim \mathcal{Y} - \dim(\mathcal{X} \cap \mathcal{Y}).$$

Proof. The strategy is to construct a basis for $\mathcal{X} + \mathcal{Y}$ and count the number of vectors it contains. Let $\mathcal{S} = \mathbf{z}_1, \dots, \mathbf{z}_t$ be a basis for $\mathcal{X} \cap \mathcal{Y}$. Since $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathcal{X}$ and $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathcal{Y}$, there must exist extension vectors $\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_m$ and $\mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_n$ such that

$$\mathcal{B}_x = \mathbf{z}_1, \dots, \mathbf{z}_t, \mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_m \text{ is a basis for } \mathcal{X},$$

and

$$\mathcal{B}_y = \mathbf{z}_1, \dots, \mathbf{z}_t, \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_n \text{ is a basis for } \mathcal{Y}.$$

We know from exercise 1 that $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{B}_x \cup \mathcal{B}_y$ spans $\mathcal{X} + \mathcal{Y}$, and we wish show that \mathcal{B} is linearly independent. If

$$\sum_{i=1}^t \alpha_i \mathbf{z}_i + \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_j \mathbf{x}_j + \sum_{k=1}^n \gamma_k \mathbf{y}_k = \mathbf{0},$$

then

$$\sum_{k=1}^n \gamma_k \mathbf{y}_k = -\left(\sum_{i=1}^t \alpha_i \mathbf{z}_i + \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_j \mathbf{x}_j\right) \in \mathcal{X}.$$

Since it is also true that $\sum_{k=1}^n \gamma_k \mathbf{y}_k \in \mathcal{Y}$, we have that $\sum_{k=1}^n \gamma_k \mathbf{y}_k \in \mathcal{X} \cap \mathcal{Y}$, and hence there must exist scalars δ_i such that

$$\sum_{k=1}^n \gamma_k \mathbf{y}_k = \sum_{i=1}^t \delta_i \mathbf{z}_i \quad \text{or, equivalently,} \quad \sum_{k=1}^n \gamma_k \mathbf{y}_k - \sum_{i=1}^t \delta_i \mathbf{z}_i = \mathbf{0}.$$

Since \mathcal{B} is an independent set, it follows that all of the γ_k 's (as well as all δ_i 's) are zero. But \mathcal{B}_x is also an independent set, so the only way this can hold is for all of the α_i 's as well as all of the β_j 's to be zero. Therefore, the only possible solution for the α 's, β 's and γ 's in the homogeneous equation is the trivial solution, and thus \mathcal{B} is linearly independent. Since \mathcal{B} is an independent spanning set, it is a basis for $\mathcal{X} + \mathcal{Y}$ and, consequently,

$$\dim(\mathcal{X} + \mathcal{Y}) = t + m + n = (t + m) + (t + n) - t = \dim \mathcal{X} + \dim \mathcal{Y} + \dim(\mathcal{X} \cap \mathcal{Y}).$$

□

Theorem 5. Every subspace of \mathcal{V} is part of a direct sum equal to \mathcal{V} :

Suppose \mathcal{V} is finite-dimensional and \mathcal{U} is a subspace of \mathcal{V} . Then there is a subspace \mathcal{W} of \mathcal{V} such that $\mathcal{V} = \mathcal{U} \oplus \mathcal{W}$.

Proof. Proof Because \mathcal{V} is finite-dimensional, so is \mathcal{U} . Thus there is a basis u_1, \dots, u_m of \mathcal{U} . Of course u_1, \dots, u_m is a linearly independent list of vectors in \mathcal{V} . Hence this list can be extended to a basis $u_1, \dots, u_m, w_1, \dots, w_n$ of \mathcal{V} . Let $\mathcal{W} = \text{span}(w_1, \dots, w_n)$. To prove that $\mathcal{V} = \mathcal{U} \oplus \mathcal{W}$ by Def. 4 we need only show that

$$\mathcal{U} \cap \mathcal{W} = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{U} + \mathcal{W} = \mathcal{V}$$

To prove the first equation above, suppose $v \in \mathcal{U} \cap \mathcal{W}$. Then, because the list $u_1, \dots, u_m, w_1, \dots, w_n$ spans \mathcal{V} , there exist $a_1, \dots, a_m, b_1, \dots, b_n \in R$ such that

$$v = a_1 u_1 + \dots + a_m u_m + b_1 w_1 + \dots + b_n w_n.$$

In other words, we have $v = u + w$ where $u \in \mathcal{U}$ and $w \in \mathcal{W}$ are defined as above. Thus $v \in \mathcal{U} \cap \mathcal{W}$, completing the proof that $\mathcal{U} \cap \mathcal{W} = \mathbf{0}$. To show that $\mathcal{U} + \mathcal{W} = \mathcal{V}$, suppose $v \in \mathcal{V}$. Then there exist scalars $a_1, \dots, a_m, b_1, \dots, b_n \in R$ such that

$$v = a_1 u_1 + \dots + a_m u_m + b_1 w_1 + \dots + b_n w_n.$$

Thus

$$a_1 u_1 + \dots + a_m u_m - b_1 w_1 - \dots - b_n w_n = \mathbf{0}$$

Because $u_1, \dots, u_m, w_1, \dots, w_n$ is linearly independent, this implies that $a_1 = \dots = a_m = b_1 = \dots = b_n = 0$. Thus $v = \mathbf{0}$, completing the proof that $\mathcal{U} \cap \mathcal{W} = \mathbf{0}$

□

Fundamental Subspaces—Dimension and Bases

For an $m \times n$ matrix of real numbers such that $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = r$,

- $\dim R(\mathbf{A}) = r$,
- $\dim N(\mathbf{A}) = n - r$,
- $\dim R(\mathbf{A}^T) = r$,
- $\dim N(\mathbf{A}^T) = m - r$,

Exercise:

1. If $\mathcal{S}_r = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_r\}$ is a linearly independent subset of an n -dimensional space \mathcal{V} , where $r < n$, explain why it must be possible to find extension vectors $\{\mathbf{v}_{r+1}, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$ from \mathcal{V} such that

$$\mathcal{S}_n = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_r, \mathbf{v}_{r+1}, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$$

is a basis for \mathcal{V} .

Solutions:

1. $r < n$ means that $\text{span}(\mathcal{S}_r) \neq \mathcal{V}$, and hence there exists a vector $\mathbf{v}_{r+1} \in \mathcal{V}$ such that $\mathbf{v}_{r+1} \notin \mathcal{S}_r$. The extension set $\mathcal{S}_{r+1} = \mathcal{S}_r \cup \{\mathbf{v}_{r+1}\}$ is an independent subset of \mathcal{V} containing $r + 1$ vectors. Repeating this process generates independent subsets $\mathcal{S}_{r+2}, \mathcal{S}_{r+3}, \dots$, and eventually leads to a maximal independent subset $\mathcal{S}_n \subset \mathcal{V}$ containing n vectors.

3 Linear System

Definition 9. The **range of a matrix** $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{R}^{m \times n}$ is defined to be the subspace $R(\mathbf{A})$ of \mathcal{R}^m that is generated by the range of $f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$. That is,

$$R(\mathbf{A}) = \{\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{R}^n\} \subseteq \mathcal{R}^m.$$

Similarly, the range of \mathbf{A}^T is the subspace of \mathcal{R}^n defined by

$$R(\mathbf{A}^T) = \{\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{y} | \mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{R}^m\} \subseteq \mathcal{R}^n.$$

Because $R(\mathbf{A})$ is the set of all “images” of vectors $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{R}^n$ under transformation by \mathbf{A} some people call $R(\mathbf{A})$ the **image space** of \mathbf{A} .

1. $R(\mathbf{A})$ is the space spanned by the columns of \mathbf{A} (column space).
2. $R(\mathbf{A}^T)$ is the space spanned by the rows of \mathbf{A} (row space).
3. $\mathbf{b} \in R(\mathbf{A}) \iff \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$ for some \mathbf{x} .
4. $\mathbf{a} \in R(\mathbf{A}^T) \iff \mathbf{a}^T = \mathbf{y}^T \mathbf{A}$ for some \mathbf{y}^T .

Definition 10. The **null space (nullspace)** or **kernel space** of $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{R}^{m \times n}$ is defined as

$$N(\mathbf{A}) = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{R}^n | \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}\}.$$

Definition 11. The **rank** of a matrix $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{R}^{m \times n}$, denoted by $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A})$, is defined as the number of elements of a maximal linearly independent subset of $\{\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n\}$.

Definition 12. $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{R}^{m \times n}$ is said to have

- **full column rank** if the columns of \mathbf{A} are linearly independent (more precisely, the collection of all columns of \mathbf{A} is linearly independent)

$$\mathbf{A} \text{ being of full column rank} \iff m \geq n, \text{ rank}(\mathbf{A}) = n;$$

- **full row rank** full row rank \mathbf{A} are linearly independent

$$\mathbf{A} \text{ being of full row rank} \iff m \leq n, \text{ rank}(\mathbf{A}) = m;$$

- **full rank** if $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = \min\{m, n\}$; i.e., it has either full column rank or full row rank;
- **rank deficient** if $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) < \min\{m, n\}$

Theorem 6. $\dim R(\mathbf{A}) + \dim N(\mathbf{A}) = n$, for all $m \times n$ matrices.

Theorem 7. If \mathbf{A} is an $m \times n$ matrix then

1. $N(\mathbf{A}) = \{\mathbf{0}\}$ if and only if $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = n$;
2. $N(\mathbf{A}^T) = \{\mathbf{0}\}$ if and only if $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = m$;

Exercise:

1. Determine spanning sets for $R(\mathbf{A})$ and $N(\mathbf{A})$, where

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

2. If \mathbf{A} is $m \times n$ and \mathbf{B} is $n \times p$ then,

- (a) $\text{rank}(\mathbf{AB}) \leq \min\{\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}), \text{rank}(\mathbf{B})\}$,
- (b) $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) + \text{rank}(\mathbf{B}) - n \leq \text{rank}(\mathbf{AB})$.

Solution:

1. Reducing \mathbf{A} to any row echelon form \mathbf{U} provides the solution—the basic columns in \mathbf{A} correspond to the pivotal positions in \mathbf{U} , and the nonzero rows of \mathbf{U} span the row space of \mathbf{A} .

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 4 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 6 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & -3 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & -5 & -5 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{Therefore, } R(\mathbf{A}) = \text{span}\left\{\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}\right\} \text{ and } N(\mathbf{A}) = \text{span}\left\{\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}\right\}$$

2. (a) Let $\mathbf{A} = [\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \dots, \mathbf{a}_p]$, $\mathbf{B} = [\mathbf{b}_1, \mathbf{b}_2, \dots, \mathbf{b}_p]$.

- Let $\mathbf{AB} = [\mathbf{Ab}_1, \mathbf{Ab}_2, \dots, \mathbf{Ab}_p]$. $\forall j \in [p]$, \mathbf{Ab}_j is a linear combination of $\{\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n\}$, so $\mathbf{Ab}_j \in \text{span}(\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n)$, i.e., $\{\mathbf{Ab}_1, \mathbf{Ab}_2, \dots, \mathbf{Ab}_p\} \subset \text{span}(\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n)$, $\text{span}(\mathbf{Ab}_1, \mathbf{Ab}_2, \dots, \mathbf{Ab}_p) \subset \text{span}(\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n)$, we then get $\text{rank}(\mathbf{AB}) \leq \text{rank}(\mathbf{A})$.
- Since $\text{rank}(\mathbf{AB}) = \text{rank}(\mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{A}^T)$, applying the same strategy, we can get $\text{rank}(\mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{A}^T) \leq \text{rank}(\mathbf{B}^T) = \text{rank}(\mathbf{B})$.

Therefore, $\text{rank}(\mathbf{AB}) \leq \min\{\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}), \text{rank}(\mathbf{B})\}$.

- (b) $\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{AB} \\ \mathbf{E}_n & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{E}_n & \mathbf{B} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{E}_p \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{E}_n & \mathbf{B} \end{bmatrix}$, since $\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{E}_n & \mathbf{B} \end{bmatrix}$ is invertible, then $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) + \text{rank}(\mathbf{B}) \leq \text{rank}\left(\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{E}_n & \mathbf{B} \end{bmatrix}\right) = \text{rank}\left(\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{AB} \\ \mathbf{E}_n & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}\right) = \text{rank}\left(\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{AB} \\ \mathbf{E}_n & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}\right) = \text{rank}(\mathbf{AB}) + \text{rank}(\mathbf{E}_n) = \text{rank}(\mathbf{AB}) + n$. Therefore, $\text{rank}(\mathbf{AB}) - n \leq \text{rank}(\mathbf{AB})$.

4 Orthogonal Complements and Projections

Theorem 8. *Direct sum of a subspace and its orthogonal complement:*

Suppose U is a finite-dimensional subspace of V . Then

$$V = U \oplus U^\perp$$

Definition 13. *Suppose U is a finite-dimensional subspace of V . The orthogonal projection of V onto U is the operator $P_U \in \mathcal{L}(V)$ defined as follows:*

For $v \in V$, write $v = u + w$, where $u \in U$ and $w \in U^\perp$. Then $P_U(v) = u$.

Theorem 9. *Minimizing the distance to a subspace: Suppose U is a finite-dimensional subspace of V , $v \in V$, and $u \in U$. Then*

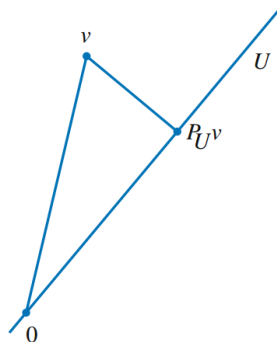
$$\|v - P_U(v)\| \leq \|v - u\|.$$

Furthermore, the inequality above is an equality if and only if $u = P_U(v)$.

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \|v - P_U(v)\|^2 &\leq \|v - P_U(v)\|^2 + \|P_U(v) - u\|^2 \\ &= \|(v - P_U(v)) + (P_U(v) - u)\|^2 \\ &= \|v - u\|^2, \end{aligned}$$

where the first line above holds because $\|v - P_U(v)\|^2 \geq 0$, the second line above comes from the Pythagorean Theorem [$v - P_U(v) \perp u - P_U(v)$], and the third line above holds by simple algebra. Taking square roots gives the desired inequality. Our inequality above is an equality if and only if $\|v - P_U(v)\| = 0$, which happens if and only if $v = P_U(v)$. \square



$P_U v$ is the closest point in U to v .

References

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