UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

CSI 436/536 (Spring 2026)

Machine Learning

Lecture 2: Review of Linear Algebra

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Announcement

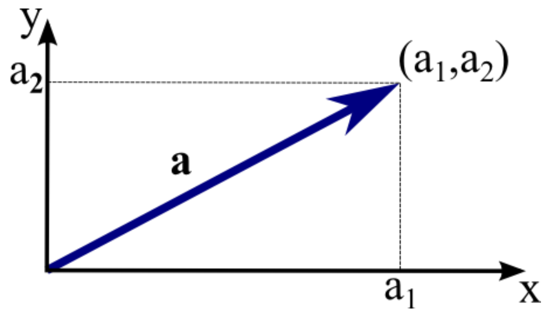
- Office hours:
  - Instructor: Tue 1:30am – 2:30 pm @ UAB 426
  - TA: Thu 10 – 11 am @ HU 25
  - Starting this week!
- Enroll in Gradescope!
  - Project list will be released later today
- Study group
  - Enroll in a group or the wailist
- Participation score starting today!
  - Since today we have a zoom lecture, write your name in the “Chat” after the class if you have participated the discuss during the class!

Today's agenda

- Key objects:
  - Vector, matrix
- Operations:
  - Matrix-vector multiplication, matrix-matrix multiplication
- Properties of vectors:
  - Norm (one vector), distance and angle (two vectors), linear (in)dependence, orthogonality (a "bag" of vectors)
- Properties of a matrix:
  - Rank, trace, determinant, symmetric, invertible
- Eigenvalues and eigenvectors

Vector and matrix

- Geometric meaning of a vector:
  - An arrow pointing from 0
  - A point in a coordinate system



$$\boldsymbol{a} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^3$$

- Matrix is a “bag” of vectors.
  - n-column vectors or m-row vectors.

$$\boldsymbol{A} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \cdots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix}, \quad a_{ij} \in \mathbb{R}\,.$$

Norms are “metrics”. A few useful properties:

Generally, a vector norm is a mapping $R^n \to R$, with the properties

- $||x|| \geq 0$, for all x
- $||x|| = 0$, if and only if $x = 0$
- $||\alpha x|| = |\alpha| ||x||$, $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$
- $||x + y|| \leq ||x|| + ||y||$, for all x and y

l_p-norm is the most used vector norm

- Definition:

$$\|\mathbf{x}\|_p := \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} |x_i|^p \right)^{1/p}$$

- Different norms:
  - When $p = 1$, l_1-norm, Taxicab norm, Manhattan norm $\|\boldsymbol{x}\|_1 := \sum_{i=1}^{n} |x_i|$
  - When $p = 2$, l_2-norm, Euclidean norm, quadratic norm, square norm
    - In literature, $\|x\|$ usually denotes Euclidean norm

$$\|\boldsymbol{x}\|_2 := \sqrt{x_1^2 + \cdots + x_n^2}$$

  - When $p \to \infty$, l_∞-norm

$$\|\mathbf{x}\|_\infty := \max_i |x_i|$$

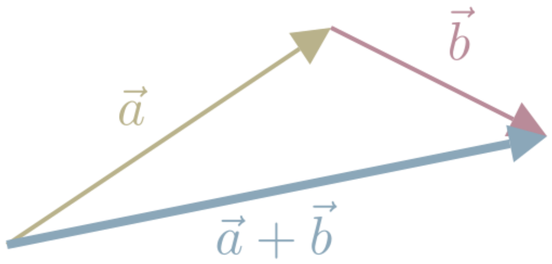
In-class exercise

- Find l_1-norm, l_2-norm, l_∞-norm of vector $x = [1,2,3,4,-5]$.

- Answer: $15, \sqrt{55}, 5$.

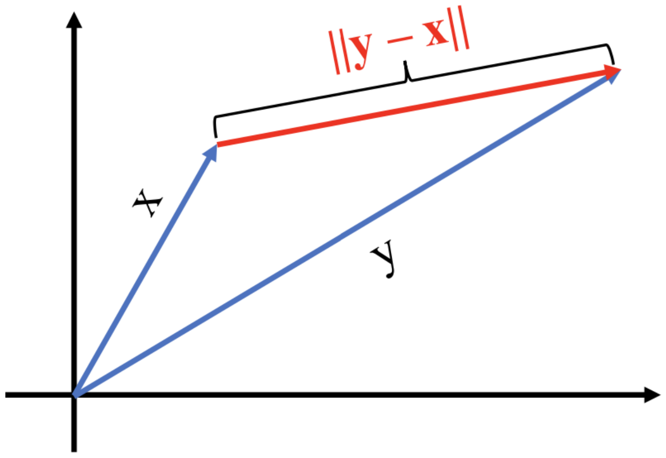
Properties of two vectors

- What can you do with them?
  - Add
    - $z = x + y$
    - $[5,6,-2] = [1,3,5] + [4,3,-7]$
  - Subtract
    - $g = x - y$
    - $[-3,0,12] = [1,3,5] - [4,3,-7]$
  - Weighted combination / linear combination
    - $h = x + 2y$
    - $[9,10,-9] = [1,3,5] + 2 * [4,3,-7]$

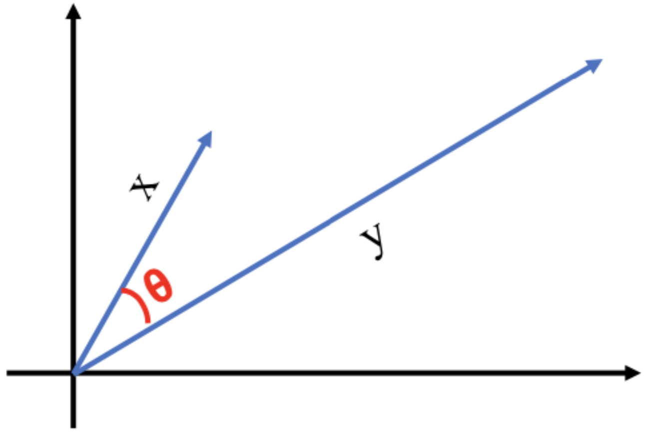


Relationship (similarity) of two vectors

- Direction



- Angle
  - Dot product / inner product
    - $\langle x, y \rangle = x^T y = \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i y_i$
  - $\theta = cos^{-1}\left(\frac{\langle x,y \rangle}{\|x\|\|y\|}\right)$



Two vectors are **orthogonal** (perpendicular to each other) iff their dot-product is 0.

Three interpretations of matrix-vector Multiplication

- Interpretation 1: "Projecting x to m-directions"
  - Treat matrix A is as a "bag" of row-vectors

  - A is a m by n matrix
  - x is a n–dimensional vector
  - $Ax = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 2 & 4 \\ -1 & 4 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 24 \\ -9 \end{bmatrix}$

  - Projecting x from 3 dimensions to 2 dimensions.

Three interpretations of Matrix-Vector Multiplication

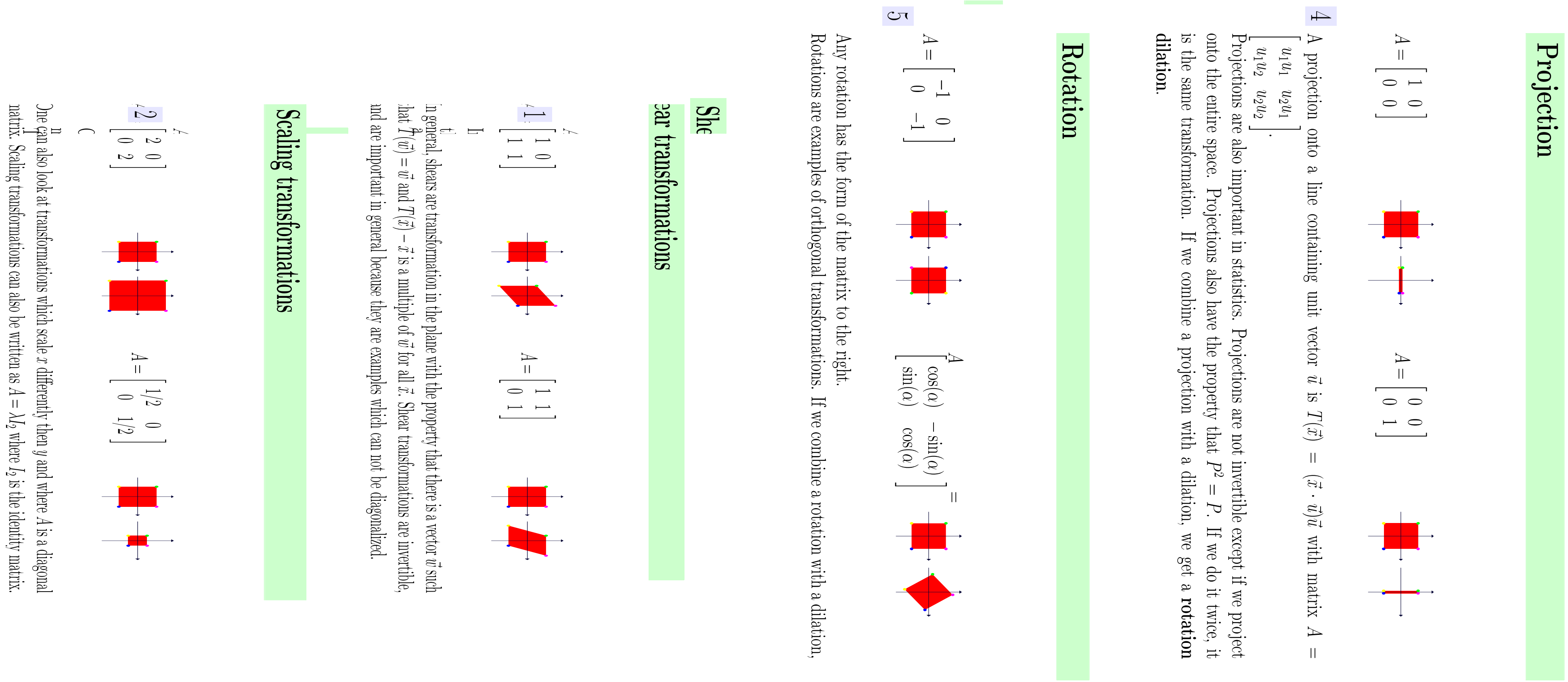
- Interpretation 2: "Weighted linear combination of column vectors"
  - Treat matrix A is as a "bag" of column-vectors

  - A is a m by n matrix
  - x is a n–dimensional vector
  - $Ax = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 2 & 4 \\ -1 & 4 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 24 \\ -9 \end{bmatrix}$

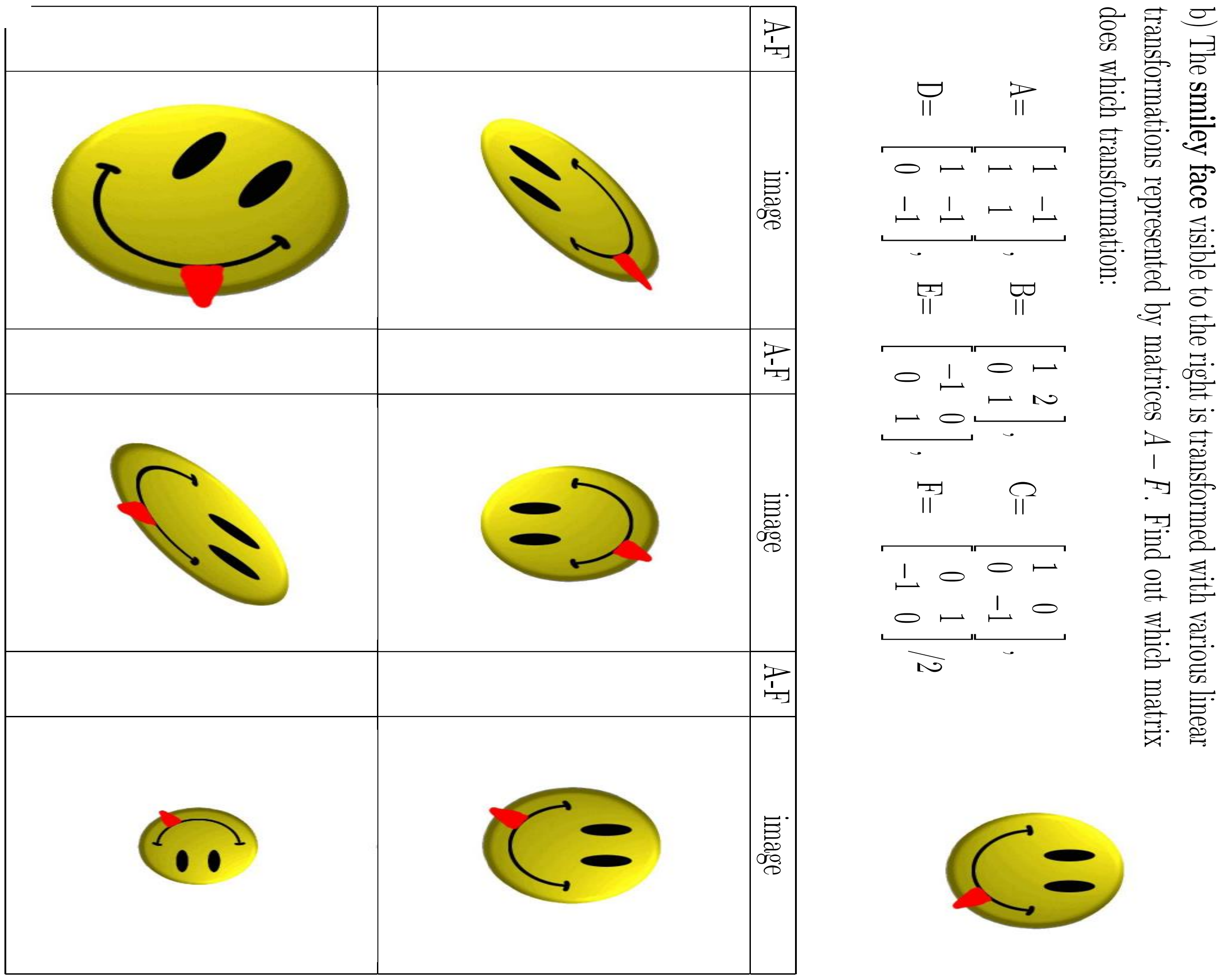
  - The weight of column 1 is 4
  - The weight of column 2 is -2
  - The weight of column 3 is 1

Three interpretations of matrix-vector Multiplication

- Interpretation 3: "A linear transformation of input vector x"
  - Treat matrix A is as an "operator" or a "function that takes a vector input and output another vector" $A : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$



In-class exercise: map each pixel to a new location



Solutions:

Suppose the red tongue pointing towards <u>right-bottom</u> is represented by a vector $x = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$.

Then

$$Ax = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, Bx = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, Cx = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$Dx = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, Ex = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, Fx = \begin{bmatrix} -0.5 \\ -0.5 \end{bmatrix}$$

Final solutions are:

$$\begin{bmatrix} D & C & E \\ A & B & F \end{bmatrix}$$

Matrix-Matrix multiplication

- Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times p}$ and $B \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times n}$. Then, $C = AB = (c_{ij}) \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ is defined as follows:

$$c_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^{p} a_{ik} b_{kj}, \text{ for all } i = 1, \cdots, m, j = 1, \cdots, n.$$

- Key things to remember
  - Dimension check!

- Properties of a scalar-scalar multiplications (which ones are still valid for matrix-matrix multiplication?)
  - Commutative law: AB=BA?
  - Associative law: (AB)C=A(BC)?
  - Distributive law: A(B+C)=AB+AC?

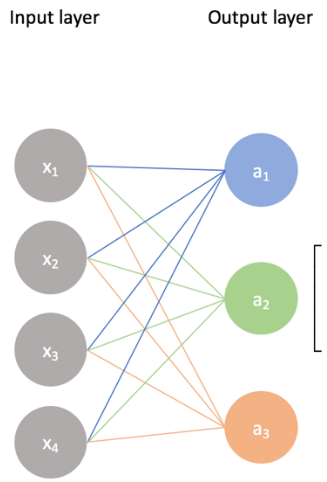
Examples of matrix-matrix multiplication

- Inner product and outer product of two vectors

$$\mathbf{u} \otimes \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{u}\mathbf{v}^{\mathsf{T}} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \\ u_4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 & v_2 & v_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1v_1 & u_1v_2 & u_1v_3 \\ u_2v_1 & u_2v_2 & u_2v_3 \\ u_3v_1 & u_3v_2 & u_3v_3 \\ u_4v_1 & u_4v_2 & u_4v_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Page rank (mathematics behind Google Search)
  - https://pi.math.cornell.edu/~mec/Winter2009/RalucaRemus/Lecture3/lecture3.html

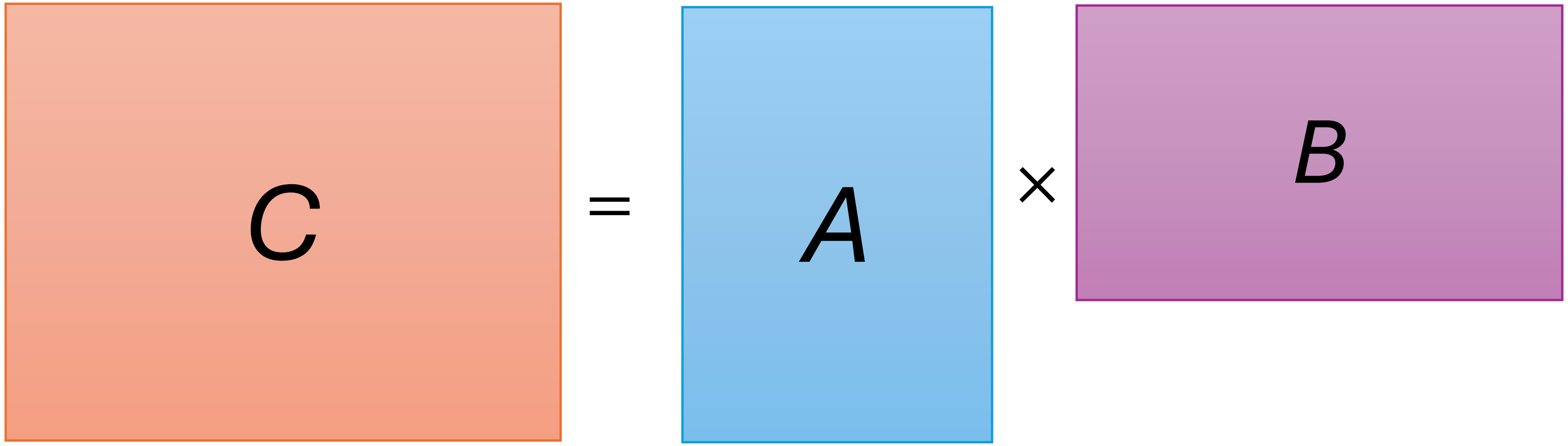
- Neural networks



A simple neural network

$$\begin{bmatrix} w_1 & w_2 & w_3 & w_4 \\ w_1 & w_2 & w_3 & w_4 \\ w_1 & w_2 & w_3 & w_4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} b \\ b \\ b \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} w_1x_1 + w_2x_2 + w_3x_3 + w_4x_4 + b \\ w_1x_1 + w_2x_2 + w_3x_3 + w_4x_4 + b \\ w_1x_1 + w_2x_2 + w_3x_3 + w_4x_4 + b \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{activation} \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Computational Complexity of matrix Multiplication



- In-class exercise: Suppose A is $m \times n$ and B is $n \times p$.
  - Step 1: How many dot products needed?
  - Step 2: How many multiplications in each dot product?
  - Step 3: Computational complexity of matrix multiplication?

Solutions:

Fun fact: complexity of matrix multiplication is still an open problem

- Multiplication of two 2 by 2 matrices
  - Naïve algorithm takes 8 multiplication
  - **Strassen** showed that one can get away with 7
- Divide and conquer gives
  $$O\left(n^{\log_2 7}\right) \approx O\left(n^{2.807}\right)$$
  - Improves over $O(n^3)$ for reasonable sized matrices
- Actually used in practice!

Timeline of matrix multiplication exponent

Year	Bound on omega	Authors
1969	2.8074	Strassen[1]
1978	2.796	Pan[11]
1979	2.780	Bini, Capovani [it], Romani[12]
1981	2.522	Schönhage[13]
1981	2.517	Romani[14]
1981	2.496	Coppersmith, Winograd[15]
1986	2.479	Strassen[16]
1990	2.3755	Coppersmith, Winograd[17]
2010	2.3737	Stothers[18]
2013	2.3729	Williams[19][20]
2014	2.3728639	Le Gall[21]
2020	2.3728596	Alman, Williams[6][22]
2022	2.371866	Duan, Wu, Zhou[3]
2023	2.371552	Williams, Xu, Xu, and Zhou[2]

Best lower bound is still $\Omega(n^2 \log n)$

Properties of a bag of vectors: linear independence

Important to consider for machine learning algorithm design

- Given a set of vectors $\{v_1, v_2, \cdots, v_n\} \in \mathbb{R}^m$, with $m \geq n$, consider the set of **linear combinations** $y = \sum_{j=1}^{n} \alpha_j v_j$ for arbitrary coefficients α_j's.
- The vectors $\{v_1, v_2, \cdots, v_n\}$ are **linearly independent**, if $\sum_{j=1}^{n} \alpha_j v_j = 0$, if and only if $\alpha_j = 0$ for all $j = 1, \cdots, n$.
- Implication: if a set of vectors are linearly dependent, then one of them can be written as a linear combination of the others

In-class exercise: linear independence

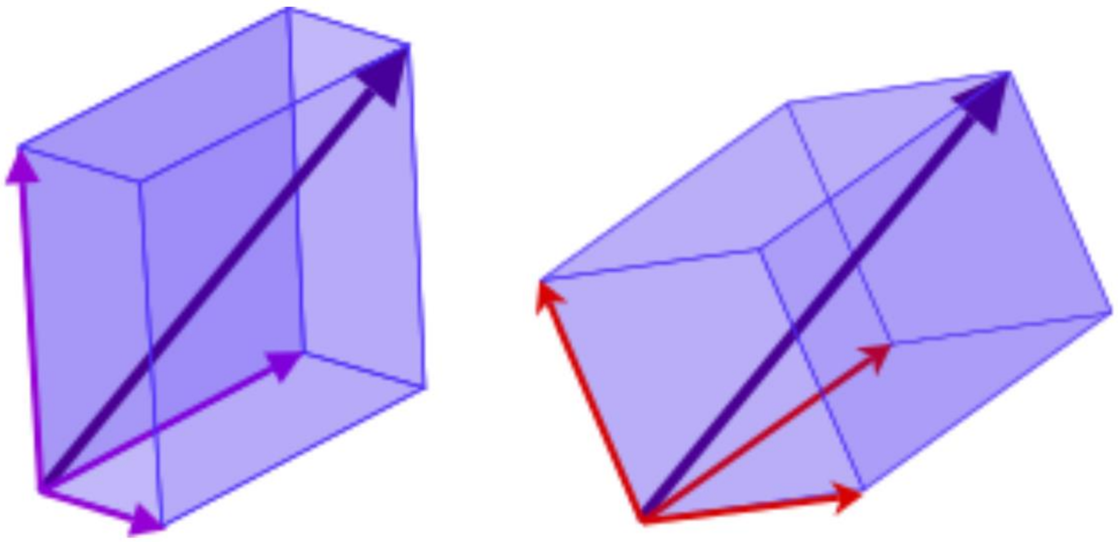
Are these vectors linear dependent?

$$v_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, v_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, v_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

Yes, because that $2v_1 + v_2 - v_3 = 0$. Or equivalently, $v_3 = 2v_1 + v_2$.

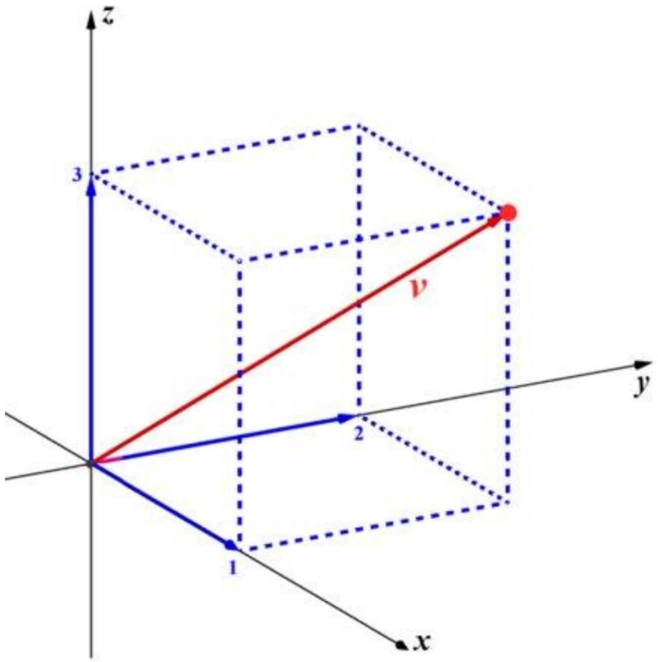
When they are linearly independent, we call this "bag" of vectors a basis. A basis of size m *spans* an m-dimensional vector space.

- A set of m linearly independent vectors of $\mathbb{R}^m$ is called a **basis** in $\mathbb{R}^m$: any vector in $\mathbb{R}^m$ can be expressed as a linear combination of the basis vectors.



Properties of basis

- Vectors in a basis are mutually orthogonal
    - Dot product of any two of them is 0.



$$e_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad e_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad e_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Properties of a matrix

- General matrix
  - Rank: max number of independent column vectors / row vectors
  - Transpose: switch rows and columns

$$A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \qquad A^T \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$$

- Square matrix
  - Trace: Sum of diagonal elements
  - Determinant:

$$tr\left(\begin{bmatrix} 5 & 3 & 5 \\ 4 & -1 & 2 \\ -3 & 8 & 7 \end{bmatrix}\right) = 5 - 1 + 7 = 11.$$

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} = ad - bc$$

Invertible matrix

$$A^{-1}A = I$$

Orthogonal matrix

$$A^{-1} = A^T$$

Symmetric matrix

$$A^T = A$$

Eigenvalues and eigenvectors of a (square) matrix

Let A be a $n \times n$ matrix. The vector $v \neq 0$ that satisfies

$$Av = \lambda v$$

for some scalar λ is called the eigenvector of A and λ is the eigenvalue corresponding to the eigenvector v.

1. A is symmetric, then $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$.
2. A is symmetric and positive semi-definite, then $\lambda \geq 0$
3. A is symmetric and positive definite, then $\lambda > 0$