

# Linear Algebra Reference Sheet

By Danny Liu

## 1 Basic Knowledge

A vector space is an Abelian group under vector addition with defined scalar multiplication over  $\mathbb{F}$   
 $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n$  linearly independent when  $c_1 v_1 + c_2 v_2 + \dots + c_n v_n = 0$  has only the trivial solution  
If  $E$  is an elementary matrix, then  $EA$  performs a row operation and  $AE$  a column operation  
 $A \sim B$  if they represent the same linear operator under possibly different bases, written  $B = PAP^{-1}$

### 1.1 Positive Definiteness

A symmetric matrix  $A$  is positive semi-definite if  $x^T A x \geq 0 \ \forall x \neq \mathbf{0} \iff Av = \lambda v \implies \lambda \geq 0$   
Positive definite matrices  $x^T A x > 0$  are nonsingular and have positive diagonal elements  
 $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is convex  $\iff \mathbf{H}_f$  is positive semi-definite  $\iff f(\mathbf{y}) \geq f(\mathbf{x}) + \nabla f(\mathbf{x})^T (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}) \ \forall \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$   
Taylor expansion of  $f$  at  $\mathbf{z} \in [\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}]$  is  $f(\mathbf{y}) = f(\mathbf{x}) + \nabla f(\mathbf{x})^T (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}) + \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{H}_f(\mathbf{z})(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})$

### 1.2 Vectorization

$\nabla_x x^T A x = \nabla_x (\sum_{i,j} x_i x_j A_{ij}) = x^T (A + A^T)$ ,  $\nabla_x A x = A$ ,  $\nabla_x x^T y = y^T$ ,  $\nabla_x x^T x = 2x^T$   
 $\sum_i (\sigma(\theta^T x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)}) x^{(i)} = X^T (\sigma(X\theta) - y)$ ,  $\nabla_\theta \sigma(X\theta) = \text{diag}(\sigma'(X\theta))X$   
 $\nabla_x f = (\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n})$ ,  $\mathbf{J}_f = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\mathbf{H}_f = \mathbf{J}(\nabla_x f)^T$

## 2 Change of Basis

Let  $B = \{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n\}$  a basis for  $\mathcal{V}$  over  $\mathbb{F}$  and  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{V})$ . Then  
 $\mathcal{P}_B = [[e_1]_B \ [e_2]_B \ \dots \ [e_n]_B]$  where  $\mathcal{P}_B(v) = [v]_B$  and  $\mathcal{P}_B^{-1} = [b_1 \ b_2 \ \dots \ b_n]$   
 $\mathcal{M}(T) = [Te_1 \ Te_2 \ \dots \ Te_n]$  and  $\mathcal{M}(T)^{-1} = [T^{-1}e_1 \ T^{-1}e_2 \ \dots \ T^{-1}e_n]$   
 $[\mathcal{M}(T)]_B = \mathcal{P}_B \mathcal{M}(T) \mathcal{P}_B^{-1} = \mathcal{P}_{BE} [\mathcal{M}(T)]_{EE} \mathcal{P}_{EB} = [[Te_1]_B \ [Te_2]_B \ \dots \ [Te_n]_B]$

## 3 Orthonormal Bases

A list of vectors  $(v_1, \dots, v_m)$  is orthonormal if  $\langle v_i, v_j \rangle = 0$  for  $i \neq j$  and  $\|v_i\| = 1$   
If  $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$  is an orthonormal basis for  $\mathcal{V}$  and  $v \in \mathcal{V}$ , then  $v = \langle v, e_1 \rangle e_1 + \dots + \langle v, e_n \rangle e_n$   
A matrix  $Q$  is orthogonal if its columns and rows form orthonormal bases or if  $Q^{-1} = Q^T$   
An orthogonal matrix can be thought of as a change of basis or a rotation to a new coordinate axes  
Orthogonal operators preserve inner product and norm.  $\langle Tx, Ty \rangle = \langle x, y \rangle$  and  $\|Tv\| = \|v\|$

### 3.1 Gram-Schmidt

If  $v_i$  are independent, then there exist orthonormal  $e_i$  such that  $\text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_m) = \text{span}(e_1, \dots, e_m)$   
 $e_1 = \frac{v_1}{\|v_1\|}$ ,  $e_2 = \frac{v_2 - \langle v_2, e_1 \rangle e_1}{\|v_2 - \langle v_2, e_1 \rangle e_1\|}$ ,  $e_3 = \frac{v_3 - \langle v_3, e_2 \rangle e_2 - \langle v_3, e_1 \rangle e_1}{\|v_3 - \langle v_3, e_2 \rangle e_2 - \langle v_3, e_1 \rangle e_1\|} \dots$

## 4 Invertible Matrix Theorem

Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix that represents  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{W})$ . Note this implies  $\dim \mathcal{V} = \dim \mathcal{W}$ . Then  
 $A$  is invertible  $\iff A^T$  is invertible  $\iff \det(A) \neq 0 \iff \text{rank}(A) = n \iff 0$  is not an eigenvalue of  $A$   
 $\iff \text{range } T = \mathcal{W} \iff \ker T = \{\mathbf{0}\} \iff T$  is injective  $\iff T$  is surjective

## 5 Determinant and Trace

The determinant is a function from  $n \times n$  matrices to  $\mathbb{F}$  defined recursively by  $\det A = a$  if  $A = [a]$  and  $\det A = \sum_j (-1)^{1+j} a_{1j} \det A_{1j}$  otherwise where  $A_{ij}$  denotes deleting the  $i$ th row and  $j$ th column  
 $|\det A|$  scales volume of vector transformed by  $A$  and is 0 when it is collapsed to a lower dimension  
If  $A$  is triangular, then  $\det A = \prod_i a_{ii}$  where  $a_{ii}$  are the diagonal elements  
Interchanging rows or columns,  $\det A = -\det A$ . Adding rows or columns  $\det A = \det A$   
 $\det A = \det A^T$ ,  $\det A^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det A}$ ,  $\det(cA) = c^n \det A$ ,  $\det(AB) = \det A \det B$ ,  $\det A = \prod_i^n \lambda_i$

### 5.1 Characteristic Polynomial

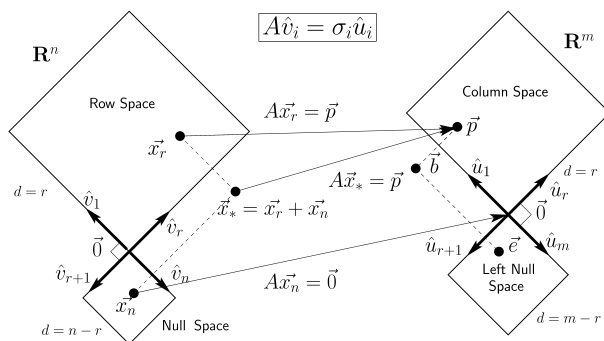
$\det(\lambda I - T) = p(\lambda) = (\lambda - \lambda_1)^{d_1} \dots (\lambda - \lambda_m)^{d_m}$  where  $d_i = \dim G(\lambda_i, T) = \dim(\text{null}(T - \lambda I)^{\dim \mathcal{V}})$   
If  $p(\lambda) = \lambda^n + c_{n-1}\lambda^{n-1} + \dots + c_1\lambda + c_0$ , then  $c_{n-1} = -\text{tr } A$  and  $c_0 = (-1)^n \det A$   
 $p(T) = O$  and the zeros of  $p(\lambda)$  are the eigenvalues of  $T$

### 5.2 Trace

The trace is a function from  $n \times n$  matrices to  $\mathbb{F}$  defined by  $\text{tr } A = \sum_i a_{ii}$   
Trace and determinant are both invariant under similarity, so  $\text{tr } A = \text{tr}(PJP^{-1}) = \sum_i \lambda_i$   
 $\text{tr}(X^T Y) = \sum_{i,j} X_{ij} Y_{ij} = \text{vec}(X)^T \text{vec}(Y) \approx \langle X, Y \rangle$ ,  $\text{tr}(ABC) = \text{tr}(CAB) = \text{tr}(BCA)$

## 6 Fundamental Theorem of Linear Algebra

Every  $m \times n$  real matrix  $A$  contains four fundamental subspaces described by  $A = U\Sigma V^T$



This implies if  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{W})$ , then  $\mathcal{V} = \text{row } T \oplus \ker T$  and  $\mathcal{W} = \text{row } T^* \oplus \ker T^*$   
 $x \mapsto Ax$  is one-to-one  $\iff \ker A = \{\mathbf{0}\}$ .  $\text{col } A = \text{Im } A = \text{range } A = \text{row } A^T$   
 $A[v_1 \dots v_r] = [u_1 \dots u_r] \text{diag}(\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_r) \implies A = U_r \Sigma_r V_r^T = u_1 \sigma_1 v_1^T + \dots + u_r \sigma_r v_r^T$

## 7 Rank-Nullity Theorem

Let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{W})$ , then  $\text{rank}(T) + \text{nullity}(T) = \dim \mathcal{V}$ . Equivalently,  $\dim(\text{Im } T) + \dim(\ker T) = \dim \mathcal{V}$ .

## 8 Diagonalization

Let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{V})$  and  $\{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m\}$  denote the distinct eigenvalues of  $T$ . Then

$T$  is diagonalizable  $\iff \mathcal{V}$  has a basis consisting of eigenvectors of  $T \iff \dim G(\lambda_i, T) = \dim E(\lambda_i, T)$

$\iff \mathcal{V} = E(\lambda_1, T) \oplus \dots \oplus E(\lambda_m, T) \iff \mathcal{V} = U_1 \oplus \dots \oplus U_n$  where each  $U_i$  is invariant under  $T$

$A = PDP^{-1}$  where  $P = [v_1 \ v_2 \ \dots \ v_n]$  and  $D = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$

$D = [A]_B$  where  $B$  is the basis consisting of eigenvectors of  $A$  and  $P^{-1} = P_{BE}$

### 8.1 Spectral Theorem

If  $\mathcal{V}$  is a real inner-product space and  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{V})$ , then  $\mathcal{V}$  has an orthonormal basis consisting of eigenvectors of  $T$  if and only if  $T$  is self-adjoint (symmetric).

If  $A$  is orthogonally diagonalizable, then  $A^T = (PDP^{-1})^T = (P^{-1})^T DP^T = PDP^{-1} = A$

If  $A$  is symmetric, then  $(A - \lambda I)^2 v = 0 \implies v^T (A - \lambda I)^2 v = 0 \implies ((A - \lambda I)v)^2 = 0 \implies Av = \lambda v$

## 9 Singular Value Decomposition

Any real  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$  can be factored into  $A = U\Sigma V^T$  where  $U, V$  are orthogonal matrices whose columns are the orthonormal eigenvectors of  $AA^T$  and  $A^T A$  respectively and  $\Sigma$  is the  $m \times n$  diagonal matrix of the square roots of the nonzero eigenvalues values of  $A^T A$ .

### 9.1 Key Insights

Add rest of basis vectors  $v_{r+1} \dots v_n$  and  $u_{r+1} \dots u_n$  to  $V_r$  and  $U_r$  to make them orthogonal matrices

$A^T A = (AA^T)^T \succeq 0$ , so they are orthogonally diagonalizable and have nonnegative eigenvalues

$A^T A = (U\Sigma V^T)^T U\Sigma V^T = V\Sigma^2 V^T$ , from which  $V$  and  $\Sigma$  can be implied by spectral decomposition

When  $A$  is square, the transformation can be viewed as a change of basis (rotation 1)  $V^T$ , a scaling in that intermediate basis  $\Sigma$  and then another change of basis (rotation 2)  $U$

$A^T = (U\Sigma V^T)^T = V\Sigma^T U^T$  viewed as inverse rotation (2), same scaling and inverse rotation (1)

$A^{-1} = (U\Sigma V^T)^{-1} = (V^T)^{-1} \Sigma^{-1} U^{-1} = V\Sigma^{-1} U^T$ . Inverse scaling, assuming that  $A^{-1}$  exists.

## 10 QR Decomposition

Any  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$  with linearly independent columns can be factored into  $A = QR$ , where  $Q$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix with orthonormal columns and  $R$  is a nonsingular upper triangular matrix.

$$A = [u_1 \ u_2 \ \dots \ u_n] = [q_1 \ q_2 \ \dots \ q_n] \begin{bmatrix} \langle q_1, u_1 \rangle & \langle q_1, u_2 \rangle & \dots \\ 0 & \langle q_2, u_2 \rangle & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

If  $A$  does not have linearly independent columns, then  $R$  will be singular

## 11 Triangular Matrices

The inverse, product and sum of an upper (lower) triangular matrix is upper (lower) triangular

A triangular matrix is invertible if and only if the entries on its main diagonal are nonzero

$\mathcal{M}(T - \lambda I)$  is not invertible  $\iff \lambda = d_i$  for some diagonal element  $d_i \implies$  eigenvalues on main diagonal

If  $Ax = b$  where  $A$  is lower triangular and nonsingular, then  $x_1 = b_1/a_{11}$ , ...,  $x_n = \frac{b_n - \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} a_{nk}x_k}{a_{nn}}$

Inverse can be computed by solving  $A [x_1 \ x_2 \ \dots \ x_n] = [e_1 \ e_2 \ \dots \ e_n]$  column by column

If  $A = LU$ , then let  $Ux = y$  and solve  $Ly = b$  via forward-substitution and  $Ux = y$  by back-substitution

## 11.1 LU Decomposition

If  $A$  is square and nonsingular, then  $A = LU$  for unit lower triangular  $L$  and upper triangular  $U$ . Defining  $E_{ij}$  to remove the  $i$ th row in the  $j$ th column, we have that  $U = E_{n,n-1} \dots E_{32} E_{n,1} \dots E_{21} A$ .  $A = E_{21}^{-1} \dots E_{n,1}^{-1} E_{32}^{-1} \dots E_{n,n-1}^{-1} U = LU$ , where  $E_{ij}$  has  $-\frac{a_{ij}}{a_{jj}}$  at index  $(i, j)$ .  
If  $A$  is singular, then there exists  $P$  such that the algorithm  $PA = LU$  avoids dividing by zero.

## 11.2 LDU Decomposition

If  $A$  admits an LU decomposition, then  $A = LDU$  for unit triangular  $L$ ,  $U$  and diagonal  $D$ . Let  $D = \text{diag}(u_{11}, \dots, u_{nn})$  and  $U_1 = \frac{U}{\text{vec } D}$ , then  $A = LDU_1$  as  $L$  is already unit triangular.

## 11.3 Cholesky Decomposition

If  $A$  is real positive definite, then  $A = LL^T$  for a lower triangular  $L$  with positive diagonal entries.  $A \succ 0 \implies A = LDU = A^T = (LDU)^T = U^T D L^T = L D L^T = (L D^{\frac{1}{2}})(D^{\frac{1}{2}} L^T) = L_1 L_1^T$ .  
Since  $L$  is nonsingular, let  $y = L^T x$ . Then  $y^T D y = x^T L D L x = x^T A x > 0 \implies D \succ 0$ .  
Once existence proved, find  $L$  by  $l_{jj} = \sqrt{a_{jj} - \sum_{k=1}^{j-1} l_{jk}^2}$  and  $l_{ij} = \frac{1}{l_{jj}}(a_{ij} - \sum_{k=1}^{j-1} l_{ik} l_{jk})$  for  $i > j$ .

## 12 Inner Products

$z = a + bi$ ,  $|z|^2 = z\bar{z} = (a + bi)(a - bi) = a^2 + b^2$ ,  $\langle u, v \rangle = \overline{\langle v, u \rangle}$ ,  $\|v\|^2 = \langle v, v \rangle$ .  
Euclidean inner product over  $\mathbb{C}$  becomes  $\langle (u_1, \dots, u_n), (v_1, \dots, v_n) \rangle = u_1 \bar{v}_1 + \dots + u_n \bar{v}_n$ .  
If  $\langle u, v \rangle = 0$ , then  $\|u + v\|^2 = \|u\|^2 + \|v\|^2$  (Pythagorean).  
 $|\langle u, v \rangle| \leq \|u\| \|v\|$  (Cauchy-Schwartz) and  $\|u + v\| \leq \|u\| + \|v\|$  (Triangle).

## 12.1 Adjoints

The adjoint of  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{W})$  is  $T^* \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{W}, \mathcal{V})$  such that  $\langle Tv, w \rangle = \langle v, T^*w \rangle$  for all  $v \in \mathcal{V}, w \in \mathcal{W}$ .  
If  $B$  is an orthonormal basis for  $\mathcal{V}$ , then  $[T^*]_B = [T]_B^*$  where  $[T]_B^*$  is the conjugate transpose of  $[T]_B$ .

## 12.2 Orthogonal Projections

$$\text{proj}_{\mathcal{V}} \mathbf{u} = \frac{\langle u, v \rangle}{\langle v, v \rangle} v = \frac{\|u\| \|v\| \cos \theta}{\|v\|^2} v = \frac{(u_1 v_1 + \dots + u_n v_n) \hat{v}}{\|v\|} = \|u\| \cos \theta \hat{v}$$

The orthogonal complement of  $\mathcal{U} \subseteq \mathcal{V}$  is  $\mathcal{U}^\perp = \{v \in \mathcal{V} \mid \langle v, u \rangle = 0 \ \forall u \in \mathcal{U}\}$ .

$\mathcal{V}^\perp = \{\mathbf{0}\}$  and  $\mathcal{U}^\perp$  is always a subspace of  $\mathcal{V}$ . If  $\mathcal{U} \subseteq \mathcal{V}$  is a subspace, then  $\mathcal{V} = \mathcal{U} \oplus \mathcal{U}^\perp$ .

Let  $\mathcal{U} \subseteq \mathcal{V}$  be a subspace. The orthogonal projection of  $\mathcal{V}$  onto  $\mathcal{U}$  is the operator  $P_{\mathcal{U}}$  where if  $v = u + w$  where  $u \in \mathcal{U}$  and  $w \in \mathcal{U}^\perp$ , then  $P_{\mathcal{U}}(v) = u$ .

If  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{V})$ , then  $\mathcal{U}$  is invariant under  $T \iff P_{\mathcal{U}} T P_{\mathcal{U}} = T P_{\mathcal{U}} \iff \mathcal{U}^\perp$  is invariant under  $T^*$ .

Given a subspace  $\mathcal{U}$  of  $\mathcal{V}$  and a vector  $v \in \mathcal{V}$ , then  $P_{\mathcal{U}}(v) := \underset{u \in \mathcal{U}}{\text{argmin}} \|u - v\|$ .

## 12.3 Riesz Representation Theorem

If  $\varphi : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$  is a linear form, then there exists a unique  $u \in \mathcal{V}$  such that  $\varphi(v) = \langle v, u \rangle$  for all  $v \in \mathcal{V}$ .