



# MSML610: Advanced Machine Learning

## Linear Algebra

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**References:**

# Linear algebra

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- **Linear algebra**
  - Vector and vector spaces
  - Affine spaces
  - Vectors and matrices
  - Linear functions
  - Connections between Machine Learning and Linear Algebra

# Vector and vector spaces

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- Linear algebra
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## Field: definition

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A field  $\mathbb{F} = (X, +, *)$  is a set  $X$  with two binary operations  $+$  and  $*$ , satisfying the following 6 axioms:

1. Closed with respect to  $+$  and  $*$ :

$$a, b \in X \implies a + b \in X$$

$$a, b \in X \implies a * b \in X$$

2. Commutativity of  $+$  and  $*$ :

$$a + b = b + a$$

$$a * b = b * a$$

3. Associativity of  $+$  and  $*$ :

$$a + (b + c) = (a + b) + c = a + b + c$$

$$a * (b * c) = (a * b) * c = a * b * c$$

4. Distributivity of multiplication over addition:

$$a * (b + c) = a * b + a * c$$

5. Existence of  $+$  and  $*$  identity elements, 0 and 1:

$$a + 0 = a$$

# Field: examples

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- Examples
  - The set of  $\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \text{GF}(2)$
  - The set of rational numbers  $\mathbb{Q}$ , i.e., numbers that can be written as fraction  $\frac{a}{b}$  with  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $b \neq 0$
- Non-examples
  - The set of positive integers  $\mathbb{N} = 1, 2, 3, \dots$  is not a field
  - The set of integers  $\mathbb{Z} = \dots, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots$  is not a field

# Vector space: definition

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- A “vector space  $\mathcal{V}$  over a field  $\mathbb{F}$ ” is a triple  $(\mathcal{V}, \mathbb{F}, +, \cdot)$  where:
  - $\mathcal{V}$  is a set of vectors
  - $\mathbb{F}$  is a field of scalars
  - $+$  is a sum operation between vectors
  - $\cdot$  is a scalar multiplication
- A vector space needs to satisfy the following 2 properties:
  1. Closed with respect to scalar multiplication: if  $\underline{x} \in \mathcal{V}$ , then  $\alpha \cdot \underline{x} \in \mathcal{V}$
  2. Closed with respect to vector addition: if  $\underline{x}, \underline{y} \in \mathcal{V}$ , then  $\underline{x} + \underline{y} \in \mathcal{V}$

# Linear combination of vectors

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- The vector

$$\alpha_1 \underline{\mathbf{v}}_1 + \alpha_2 \underline{\mathbf{v}}_2 + \dots + \alpha_n \underline{\mathbf{v}}_n$$

is a linear combination of vectors  $\underline{\mathbf{v}}_1, \dots, \underline{\mathbf{v}}_n$  with coefficients  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$

- A linear combination can be written in matrix form:

$$\underline{\underline{\mathbf{V}}} \cdot \underline{\underline{\alpha}} \text{ or } \underline{\underline{\alpha}}^T \cdot \underline{\underline{\mathbf{V}}}^T$$

where  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{V}}} = (\underline{\mathbf{v}}_1 | \dots | \underline{\mathbf{v}}_n)$

# Span of vectors

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- The span of  $n$   $m$ -dimensional vectors is the set of all linear combinations of the  $n$  vectors:

$$\text{Span}(\underline{\mathbf{v}}_1, \dots, \underline{\mathbf{v}}_n) = \{\underline{\mathbf{V}} \cdot \underline{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \text{ with } \underline{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \in \mathbb{F}^n\} = \{\underline{\mathbf{v}} \in \mathbb{F}^m : \underline{\mathbf{v}} = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \underline{\mathbf{v}}_i\}$$

- E.g., the span of vectors is a vector space



# Null space of a matrix

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- Null space of the columns of a matrix  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}}$  is defined as the set:

$$\text{Null}(\underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}}) = \{\underline{\underline{\mathbf{v}}} : \underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}} \cdot \underline{\underline{\mathbf{v}}} = \underline{\underline{\mathbf{0}}}\}$$

- In words, all the vectors that are coefficients of linear combinations of columns of  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}}$  yielding the zero vector
- Null space is a vector space

# Homogeneous linear system associated with null space

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- From the definition of matrix-vector multiplication the vector  $\underline{\mathbf{v}}$  is in  $\text{Null}(\underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}}) \iff \underline{\mathbf{v}}$  is a solution of the homogeneous linear system involving the columns of  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}}$ :

$$\underline{\mathbf{a}}_1^T \cdot \underline{\mathbf{v}} = 0$$

$$\underline{\mathbf{a}}_2^T \cdot \underline{\mathbf{v}} = 0$$

...

$$\underline{\mathbf{a}}_m^T \cdot \underline{\mathbf{v}} = 0$$

- Note that the notation is a bit confusing since we mean the transpose of the columns  $\underline{\mathbf{a}}_i$  of  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}}$  and not the rows of  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}}$

# Dot product on a vector space: definition

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- Given a field of scalars  $\mathbb{F}$  and a vector space  $\mathcal{V}$  over  $\mathbb{F}$ , an inner product is a mapping:

$$\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$$

that satisfies the 3 axioms:

1. Conjugate symmetry (almost commutativity):

$$\langle \underline{x}, \underline{y} \rangle = \overline{\langle \underline{y}, \underline{x} \rangle}$$

2. Linearity in the first argument:

$$\langle a\underline{x}, \underline{y} \rangle = a\langle \underline{x}, \underline{y} \rangle$$

$$\langle \underline{x} + \underline{y}, \underline{z} \rangle = \langle \underline{x}, \underline{z} \rangle + \langle \underline{y}, \underline{z} \rangle$$

3. Positive definitiveness:

$$\langle \underline{x}, \underline{x} \rangle \geq 0$$

$$\langle \underline{x}, \underline{x} \rangle = 0 \implies \underline{x} = \underline{0}$$

# Vector inner product

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- Aka “dot product”, “scalar product”
- Given  $\underline{\mathbf{x}}, \underline{\mathbf{y}} \in \mathbb{F}^n$  (i.e., same number of components and also same “label” for each element), the inner product of  $\underline{\mathbf{x}}$  and  $\underline{\mathbf{y}}$  is defined as:

$$\langle \underline{\mathbf{x}}, \underline{\mathbf{y}} \rangle = \underline{\mathbf{x}}^T \cdot \underline{\mathbf{y}} = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i \in \mathbb{F}$$

- $\underline{\mathbf{x}}^T \cdot \underline{\mathbf{y}}$  is read “x dotted y” or “x transposed y”

# Affine spaces

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- Linear algebra
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  - **Affine spaces**
  - Vectors and matrices
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# Affine space: definition

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- If  $\underline{c}$  is a vector and  $\mathcal{V}$  is a vector space then

$$\mathcal{A} = \underline{c} + \mathcal{V} = \{\underline{c} + \underline{v} : \underline{v} \in \mathcal{V}\}$$

is called an affine space

- An affine space is a vector space translated by a point represented by a vector
  - E.g., a plane or a line that do not contain the origin

## Affine space: example of plane passing through 3 points

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- Given 3 not collinear vectors:  $\underline{u}_1$ ,  $\underline{u}_2$ , and  $\underline{u}_3$ , the plane containing the endpoints of the 3 vectors can be represented as  $\mathcal{A} = \underline{u}_1 + \mathcal{V}$  where  $\mathcal{V} = \text{Span}(\underline{u}_2 - \underline{u}_1, \underline{u}_3 - \underline{u}_1)$
- **Note:** the span of the 3 vectors has dimension 3, but an affine space with dimension 2

## Affine combination: definition

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- An affine combination is a linear combination of vectors where the sum of the (positive or negative) coefficients is 1:

$$\alpha_1 \underline{\mathbf{u}}_1 + \dots + \alpha_n \underline{\mathbf{u}}_n \text{ where } \sum_i \alpha_i = 1$$

- In matrix form:  $\underline{\mathbf{U}} \cdot \underline{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}$  where  $\underline{\mathbf{1}}^T \underline{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} = 1$



# Affine hull of vectors

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- Given vectors  $\underline{u}_1, \dots, \underline{u}_n$ , the set of all affine combinations is the affine hull:

$$\mathcal{A} = \left\{ \underline{v} = \sum_i^n \alpha_i \underline{u}_i : \sum_i \alpha_i = 1 \right\} = \left\{ \underline{v} = \underline{\underline{U}} \underline{\alpha} : \underline{\mathbf{1}}^T \underline{\alpha} = 1 \right\}$$

- The affine hull includes each point because if  $\underline{\alpha}$  has a single 1 in position  $i$  and all others 0, we get  $\underline{u}_i$

# Affine hull of vectors is an affine space

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- We can write the affine hull of  $\underline{u}_1, \dots, \underline{u}_n$  as an affine space:

$$\underline{u}_i + \text{Span}(\underline{u}_1 - \underline{u}_i, \dots, \underline{u}_n - \underline{u}_i)$$

- Thus an affine space is an affine hull and vice versa
- This is the dual of “the span of vectors is a vector space”

# The solution set of non-homogeneous linear system is empty or affine space

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- Consider the solution of a system of non-homogeneous linear equations

$$\{\underline{x} : \underline{a}_1^T \underline{x} = \beta_1, \dots, \underline{a}_m^T \underline{x} = \beta_m\} \text{ or in matrix form } \underline{\underline{A}} \cdot \underline{x} = \underline{\beta}$$

- The solution set is either empty or an affine space
- There are two cases: either the non-homogeneous system has solution, or not
- Consider the case where the system of equations has no solutions (e.g., it is contradictory, e.g.,  $x = 1, x = 2$ ), then the solution set is empty
- Consider the case where there is a solution
- Each linear system  $\underline{\underline{A}}\underline{x} = \underline{\beta}$  has an associated homogeneous linear system  $\underline{\underline{A}}\underline{x} = \underline{0}$
- If  $\underline{u}_1$  is a solution of the non-homogeneous system (i.e.,  $\underline{\underline{A}}\underline{u}_1 = \underline{\beta}$ ), then any other solution  $\underline{u}_2$  is a solution (i.e.,  $\underline{\underline{A}}\underline{u}_2 = \underline{\beta}$ )  $\iff \underline{u}_2 - \underline{u}_1$  is in the vector space which is the solution of the homogeneous linear system (i.e.,  $\underline{\underline{A}}(\underline{u}_1 - \underline{u}_2) = \underline{0}$ )

## Vector space vs affine space: summary

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- Linear combination vs affine combination
- Span of vectors vs affine hull of vectors
  - Span (affine hull) is the set of all linear (affine) combinations
- Vector space vs affine space

# Vectors and matrices

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- Linear algebra
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  - **Vectors and matrices**
  - Linear functions
  - Connections between Machine Learning and Linear Algebra

# Matrices and Matrix Operations

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- A matrix  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}} \in \mathbb{F}^{m \times n}$  is a two dimensional array with dimensions  $m \times n$  of elements from a field  $\mathbb{F}$
- Matrix notation
  - $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  has  $m$  rows and  $n$  columns
  - $\underline{\underline{A}}_{ij}$  is the element on  $i$ -th row and  $j$ -th column

$$\underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}} = \begin{pmatrix} A_{1,1} & \dots & A_{1,n} \\ \dots & A_{i,j} & \dots \\ A_{m,1} & \dots & A_{m,n} \end{pmatrix}$$

- The convention is first rows and then columns (i.e., y-x instead of the more usual x-y) for both elements and dimensions of a matrix
- Notation for rows and columns in a matrix
  - $j$ -th column is  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{a}}}_j$  or  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{a}}}_{:,j}$  (using numpy notation)
  - $i$ -th row is  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{a}}}_i^T$  or  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{a}}}_{i,:}$
  - Fixing a coordinate (e.g., row) one gets the orthogonal indices (e.g., column)

# Linear functions

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# Linear functions over vector spaces: definition

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- Consider two vector spaces  $\mathcal{V}$  and  $\mathcal{W}$  over the same field  $\mathbb{F}$
- A linear function  $f : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}$  satisfies two properties:
  1.  $f(\alpha \underline{\mathbf{v}}) = \alpha f(\underline{\mathbf{v}})$
  2.  $f(\underline{\mathbf{u}} + \underline{\mathbf{v}}) = f(\underline{\mathbf{u}}) + f(\underline{\mathbf{v}})$
- Linear functions “push linear combination through”:

$$f(\alpha_1 \underline{\mathbf{v}}_1 + \dots + \alpha_n \underline{\mathbf{v}}_n) = \alpha_1 f(\underline{\mathbf{v}}_1) + \dots + \alpha_n f(\underline{\mathbf{v}}_n)$$

- This is equivalent to the 2 properties of linear functions



# From matrix to linear function

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- Given a matrix  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}} \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$  we can define the function:

$$f(\underline{\mathbf{x}}) = \underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}} \cdot \underline{\mathbf{x}}$$

- The function  $f()$  maps  $m$ -vectors into  $n$ -vectors
  - The domain is  $\mathbb{F}^m$  for the matrix-vector product to be defined
  - The co-domain is  $\mathbb{F}^n$
  - MEM: the inputs are from the top and the outputs from the side
- $f(\underline{\mathbf{x}})$  is a linear function because of the properties of matrix-vector product

# From linear function to matrix

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- Consider a linear function  $f : \mathbb{F}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^n$
- We want to find a matrix  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}}$  such that  $f(\underline{\mathbf{x}}) = \underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}} \cdot \underline{\mathbf{x}}$
- ***Solution***
- We know that  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}} \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$  from matrix-vector product definition, but what are the elements of  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}}$ ?
- Note that if we compute  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}} \cdot \underline{\mathbf{e}}_i$ , where  $\mathbf{e}_i = (0, \dots, 0, 1, \dots, 0)$  is the  $i$ -th standard generator, we obtain  $\underline{\mathbf{a}}_i$  (i.e., the  $i$ -th column of  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}}$ )
- Thus  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}}$  is the matrix with columns equal to the standard generators transformed by  $f()$

# Linear functions: examples and non-examples

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- The identity function corresponds to the identity matrix
- A diagonal matrix corresponds to a transformation scaling each coordinate independently
- Rotation and scaling are linear transformations
- Translation is not a linear function, since it does not satisfy either of the two linearity properties

## A linear function maps zero vector to zero vector

- It can be proved that a linear function  $f : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}$  maps the zero vector of  $\mathcal{V}$  to the zero vector of  $\mathcal{W}$

# Kernel of a function

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- The kernel of a (linear) function  $f$  is the set of vectors that are transformed by  $f$  into the  $\underline{\mathbf{0}}$  vector

$$\text{Ker}(f) = \{\underline{\mathbf{v}} : f(\underline{\mathbf{v}}) = \underline{\mathbf{0}}\}$$

# Kernel of a linear function and null space of matrix

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- If  $f$  is written in terms of a matrix as  $f(\underline{x}) = \underline{\underline{A}} \cdot \underline{x}$  then:

$$\text{Ker}(f) = \text{Null}(\underline{\underline{A}})$$

- The kernel of a linear function is the null space of the columns of the associated matrix  $\underline{\underline{A}}$

# Domain

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- Consider a function  $f : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}$
- $\mathcal{V}$  “domain”: the set of all values where the function is defined

# Image of domain

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- Consider a function  $f : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}$
- $f(\mathcal{V})$  “image of domain”: the set of all values that the function can assume



# Codomain

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- $\mathcal{W}$  “co-domain”: the set where the function assumes its value (e.g.,  $\mathbb{R}^2$ )
- Note that often it is not easy to describe  $f(\mathcal{V})$  in a compact way so we use  $\mathcal{W} \supseteq f(\mathcal{V})$

# One-to-one function: definition

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- Aka injective
- Consider a function  $f : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}$
- A function is one-to-one  $\iff$  two different elements  $v_1 \neq v_2 \in \mathcal{V}$  have different images  $f(v_1) \neq f(v_2)$
- Equivalent definition using contrapositive
  - One-to-one function  $\iff$  two elements  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  have the same image  $f(v_1) = f(v_2)$ , then they are equal  $v_1 = v_2$
- Equivalent definition in terms of set cardinality
  - One-to-one function  $\iff |f(\mathcal{V})| = |\mathcal{V}|$ , i.e., the image of the domain has the same number of elements as the domain

# Onto function

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- Aka surjective
- Consider a function  $f : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}$
- A function is onto  $\iff$  for any element of its co-domain  $w \in \mathcal{W}$ , there exists an element of the domain  $v \in \mathcal{V}$  that is transformed into it, i.e.,  $f(v) = w$
- Equivalent definition in terms of set cardinality
  - Onto function  $\iff f(\mathcal{V}) = \mathcal{W}$ , i.e., the image of the domain is equal to the co-domain
  - Note that any function can be made surjective by restricting  $\mathcal{W}$  to  $f(\mathcal{V})$

# Invertible function

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- A function  $f : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}$  is invertible  $\iff$  it is both one-to-one (injective) and onto (surjective)
- Equivalently:  $\forall w \in W \exists ! v \in V : f(v) = w$
- Equivalent definition in terms of set cardinality
  - Invertible function  $\iff |\mathcal{V}| = |\mathcal{W}|$ , i.e., the co-domain and the domain have the same number of elements

# Inverse of a function

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- The inverse of  $f$  is  $f^{-1} : \mathcal{W} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$  and  $f \circ f^{-1}$  is the identity function

# One-to-one lemma for linear functions

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- A linear function is one-to-one  $\iff$  its kernel is the trivial vector space, i.e.,  $\text{Ker}(f) = \{\underline{\mathbf{0}}\}$
- Equivalently the associated matrix  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}}$  has  $\text{Null}(\underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}}) = \{\underline{\mathbf{0}}\}$

# Matrix-matrix multiplication and linear function composition

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- We have seen that there is a correspondence between linear functions and matrices
- What does composition of linear functions correspond to?
- Consider two matrices  $\underline{\underline{A}}$  and  $\underline{\underline{B}}$  and the two associated functions:  
 $f(\underline{y}) = \underline{\underline{A}} \cdot \underline{y}$  and  $g(\underline{x}) = \underline{\underline{B}} \cdot \underline{x}$
- The composed function is  $h(\underline{x}) = (f \circ g)(\underline{x}) = f(g(\underline{x}))$
- It can be shown that:  $h(\underline{x}) = \underline{\underline{A}} \cdot \underline{\underline{B}} \cdot \underline{x}$

# Matrix inverse

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- Using the definition of inverse functions, two square matrices  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}}$  and  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{B}}}$  are inverses  $\iff \underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}} \cdot \underline{\underline{\mathbf{B}}} = \underline{\underline{\mathbf{I}}}$
- We indicate the (unique) inverse of  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}}$  with  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}}^{-1}$



# Invertible matrix and solution of matrix-vector equation

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- Given an invertible (square) matrix  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}}$ , then  $f(\underline{\mathbf{x}}) = \underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}} \cdot \underline{\mathbf{x}}$  is an invertible function, i.e.,  $f()$  is one-to-one and onto
- Thus the matrix-vector equation  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}} \cdot \underline{\mathbf{x}} = \underline{\mathbf{b}}$  has one and only one solution  $\underline{\mathbf{x}}$  for any  $\underline{\mathbf{b}}$ , i.e.,  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}}^{-1} \underline{\mathbf{b}}$

# Invertibility of matrix-matrix product

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- If  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}}$  and  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{B}}}$  are invertible and can be multiplied, then  $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{A}}} \cdot \underline{\underline{\mathbf{B}}}$  is invertible

# Systems of Linear Equations

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- Represented as  $Ax = b$
- Solutions using Gaussian elimination
- Conditions for existence and uniqueness

# Rank of a Matrix

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- Number of linearly independent rows or columns
- Rank-nullity theorem:  $\text{rank}(A) + \text{nullity}(A) = n$
- Implications for solution spaces

# Inverse of a Matrix

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- Matrix  $A$  is invertible if  $AA^{-1} = I$
- Not all matrices are invertible (singular matrices)
- Importance for solving linear systems and optimization

# Determinants

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- Scalar value summarizing matrix properties
- Zero determinant implies matrix is singular
- Used in volume interpretation and invertibility

# Orthogonality and Orthonormal Bases

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- Two vectors are orthogonal if  $x^T y = 0$
- Orthonormal set: orthogonal unit vectors
- Used in projections, decomposition, and optimization

# Projections and Least Squares

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- Projection of  $b$  onto column space of  $A$ :  $\hat{b} = A(A^T A)^{-1} A^T b$
- Basis for linear regression
- Solves inconsistent systems approximately



# Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

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- For  $Ax = \lambda x$ ,  $x$  is an eigenvector and  $\lambda$  an eigenvalue
- Capture invariant directions of transformations
- Used in PCA, spectral clustering, and stability analysis

# Diagonalization

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- Expressing matrix as  $A = PDP^{-1}$  where  $D$  is diagonal
- Simplifies powers and exponentials of matrices
- Requires linearly independent eigenvectors

# Symmetric Matrices

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- $A = A^T$
- All eigenvalues are real
- Basis of many ML methods (e.g., covariance matrices, kernels)

# Positive Definite and Semidefinite Matrices

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- $x^T A x > 0$  for all  $x \neq 0$ : positive definite
- Ensures convexity in optimization
- Common in loss functions and kernels

# Singular Value Decomposition (SVD)

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- Factorization:  $A = U\Sigma V^T$
- Generalizes eigen-decomposition to all matrices
- Used in PCA, matrix compression, and pseudoinverse

# Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

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- Dimensionality reduction via eigen-decomposition of covariance matrix
- Projects data onto directions of maximum variance
- Computed using SVD in practice

# Matrix Norms

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- Measures of matrix size: Frobenius, spectral, etc.
- Important for measuring errors and convergence
- Used in regularization and optimization

# Vector Norms

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- $L^p$  norms (e.g.,  $L^1$ ,  $L^2$ )
- Measure magnitude of vectors
- Used in loss functions and sparsity enforcement



# Trace of a Matrix

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- Sum of diagonal entries:  $\text{Tr}(A)$
- Invariant under cyclic permutations:  $\text{Tr}(ABC) = \text{Tr}(CAB)$
- Appears in matrix derivatives and expectation identities

# Kronecker and Hadamard Products

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- Kronecker: tensor product of matrices
- Hadamard: element-wise multiplication
- Important in multi-dimensional ML models and tensor operations

# Matrix Calculus

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- Derivatives of scalar functions w.r.t. vectors/matrices
- Gradient and Hessian computation
- Crucial for backpropagation and optimization algorithms

# Connections between Machine Learning and Linear Algebra

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- Linear algebra
  - Vector and vector spaces
  - Affine spaces
  - Vectors and matrices
  - Linear functions
  - **Connections between Machine Learning and Linear Algebra**