

Math 20250: Abstract Linear Algebra
Problem Set 1

Hung Le Tran

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Problem 1.1 (Sec 1.3. Problem 3)

If

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 6 & -4 & 0 \\ 4 & -2 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

find all solutions of $AX = 2X$ and all solutions of $AX = 3X$. (The symbol cX denotes the matrix each entry of which is c times the corresponding entry of X)

Solution

We first solve $AX = 2X$, which is equivalent to $A_1X = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ where

$$A_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 6-2 & -4 & 0 \\ 4 & -2-2 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 3-2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & -4 & 0 \\ 4 & -4 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Row-reducing:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 4 & -4 & 0 \\ 4 & -4 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{(1)=\frac{1}{4}(1), (2)=(3)} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{(2)=(2)+(1)} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{(2)=-(-2)} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Therefore $x_3 = a, x_2 = x_3 = a, x_1 = x_2 = a$ for any $a \in \mathbb{C}$.

Solving $AX = 3X$ is equivalent to

$$\begin{pmatrix} 6-3 & -4 & 0 \\ 4 & -2-3 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 3-3 \end{pmatrix} X = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3 & -4 & 0 \\ 4 & -5 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} X = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Row-reducing:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3 & -4 & 0 \\ 4 & -5 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{(1) \leftrightarrow (3)} \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & -4 & 0 \\ 4 & -5 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{(1) = -(1), (2) = (2) + 3(1), (3) = (3) + 4(1)} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -4 & 0 \\ 0 & -5 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{(2) = \frac{-1}{4}(2), (3) = \frac{-1}{5}(3)} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Therefore $x_3 = a, x_2 = 0, x_1 = 0$ for any $a \in \mathbb{C}$. □

Problem 1.2 (Sec 1.5. Problem 1)

Let

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, B = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, C = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Compute ABC and CAB

Solution

$$AB = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \cdot 3 + (-1) \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot (-1) \\ 1 \cdot 3 + 2 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot (-1) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow ABC = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \cdot 1 & 4 \cdot (-1) \\ 4 \cdot 1 & 4 \cdot (-1) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & -4 \\ 4 & -4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$CA = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \cdot 2 + (-1) \cdot 1 & 1 \cdot (-1) + (-1) \cdot 2 & 1 \cdot 1 + (-1) \cdot 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow CAB = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \cdot 3 + (-3) \cdot 1 + 0 \cdot (-1) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

□

Problem 1.3 (Sec 1.5. Problem 2)

Let

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, B = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -2 \\ 1 & 3 \\ 4 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

Verify directly that $A(AB) = A^2B$

Solution

$$\begin{aligned} AB &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -2 \\ 1 & 3 \\ 4 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 \cdot 2 + (-1) \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot 4 & 1 \cdot (-2) + (-1) \cdot 3 + 1 \cdot 4 \\ 2 \cdot 2 + 0 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot 4 & 2 \cdot (-2) + 0 \cdot 3 + 1 \cdot 4 \\ 3 \cdot 2 + 0 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot 4 & 3 \cdot (-2) + 0 \cdot 3 + 1 \cdot 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & -1 \\ 8 & 0 \\ 10 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow A(AB) &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 5 & -1 \\ 8 & 0 \\ 10 & -2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \cdot 5 + (-1) \cdot 8 + 1 \cdot 10 & 1 \cdot (-1) + (-1) \cdot 0 + 1 \cdot (-2) \\ 2 \cdot 5 + 0 \cdot 8 + 1 \cdot 10 & 2 \cdot (-1) + 0 \cdot 0 + 1 \cdot (-2) \\ 3 \cdot 5 + 0 \cdot 8 + 1 \cdot 10 & 3 \cdot (-1) + 0 \cdot 0 + 1 \cdot (-2) \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 7 & -3 \\ 20 & -4 \\ 25 & -5 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Meanwhile,

$$\begin{aligned} A^2 &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 \cdot 1 + (-1) \cdot 2 + 1 \cdot 3 & 1 \cdot (-1) + (-1) \cdot 0 + 1 \cdot 0 & 1 \cdot 1 + (-1) \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot 1 \\ 2 \cdot 1 + 0 \cdot 2 + 1 \cdot 3 & 2 \cdot (-1) + 0 \cdot 0 + 1 \cdot 0 & 2 \cdot 1 + 0 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot 1 \\ 3 \cdot 1 + 0 \cdot 2 + 1 \cdot 3 & 3 \cdot (-1) + 0 \cdot 0 + 1 \cdot 0 & 3 \cdot 1 + 0 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 5 & -2 & 3 \\ 6 & -3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\Rightarrow A^2B &= \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 5 & -2 & 3 \\ 6 & -3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -2 \\ 1 & 3 \\ 4 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 2 \cdot 2 + (-1) \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot 4 & 2 \cdot (-2) + (-1) \cdot 3 + 1 \cdot 4 \\ 5 \cdot 2 + (-2) \cdot 1 + 3 \cdot 4 & 5 \cdot (-2) + (-2) \cdot 3 + 3 \cdot 4 \\ 6 \cdot 2 + (-3) \cdot 1 + 4 \cdot 4 & 6 \cdot (-2) + (-3) \cdot 3 + 4 \cdot 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 7 & -3 \\ 20 & -4 \\ 25 & -5 \end{pmatrix}\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $A(AB) = A^2(B) = \begin{pmatrix} 7 & -3 \\ 20 & -4 \\ 25 & -5 \end{pmatrix}$ □

Problem 1.4 (Sec 2.1. Problem 3)

If \mathbb{C} is the field of complex numbers, which vectors in \mathbb{C}^3 are linear combinations of $(1, 0, -1)$, $(0, 1, 1)$ and $(1, 1, 1)$?

Solution

$\mathbb{C}^3 \doteq \{(x_1, x_2, x_3) \mid x_i \in \mathbb{C}\}$. We want to prove that any vector in \mathbb{C}^3 is a linear combination of the vectors above.

$$\forall v = (x_1, x_2, x_3) \in \mathbb{C}^3,$$

$$v = (x_2 - x_3)(1, 0, -1) + (2x_2 - x_1 - x_3)(0, 1, 1) + (x_1 + x_3 - x_2)(1, 1, 1)$$

is therefore a linear combination of $(1, 0, -1)$, $(0, 1, 1)$ and $(1, 1, 1)$. □

Problem 1.5 (Sec 2.1. Problem 7)

Let V be the set of pairs (x, y) of real numbers and let \mathbb{F} be the field of real numbers. Define

$$\begin{aligned}(x, y) + (x_1, y_1) &= (x + x_1, 0) \\ c(x, y) &= (cx, 0)\end{aligned}$$

Is V , with these operations, a vector space?

Solution

No. Counterexample against the rule $1 \cdot \alpha = \alpha \forall \alpha \in V$:

$$1 \cdot (1, 1) = (1, 0) \neq (1, 1)$$

Therefore V is not a vector space. □