

MATRIX FACTORIZATION

THE RANK OF A MATRIX

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OUTLINE

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SYSTEM OF LINEAR EQUATIONS

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Definition

The general form of a system of linear equations is

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_{11}x_1 + \alpha_{12}x_2 + \cdots + \alpha_{1n}x_n &= \beta_1 \\ \alpha_{21}x_1 + \alpha_{22}x_2 + \cdots + \alpha_{2n}x_n &= \beta_2 \\ &\vdots \\ \alpha_{m1}x_1 + \alpha_{m2}x_2 + \cdots + \alpha_{mn}x_n &= \beta_m\end{aligned}$$

where α_{ij} $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$, $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ and β_i $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ are given scalars and x_j $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ are the unknowns.

The system of linear equations is said to be **homogeneous** if $\beta_i = 0$ for all $i = 1, \dots, m$, otherwise it is called **nonhomogeneous**.

Collecting the coefficients in the matrix $\mathbf{A} = [\alpha_{ij}]$ the unknowns and the right-side scalars in the column vectors

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \beta_2 \\ \vdots \\ \beta_m \end{bmatrix}$$

respectively, the matrix equation $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ can be obtained.

Since the left side of the above matrix equation is a linear combination of the columns of \mathbf{A} the following statement can be obtained:

Theorem

The (I) linear system of equations is solvable if and only if \mathbf{b} is the linear combination of columns of the coefficient matrix \mathbf{A} , that is, \mathbf{b} is in the subspace spanned by the columns of \mathbf{A} .

A solution of the system of linear equations $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ is an n -tuple (a vector) $\mathbf{s} = (s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n)$, such that substituting s_i for x_i $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ each equation of the system (I) becomes true numerical statement. The solution set of (I) is the set of all solution vectors.

To provide an effective method for solution of systems of linear equation first we show a process for factoring matrices.

FACTORING MATRICES

BASIS FACTORING MATRICES

Let $\mathbf{A} = [\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n]$ be a matrix having rank r . Then there is an r element linearly independent set of vectors $\mathbf{a}_{i_1}, \dots, \mathbf{a}_{i_r}$ such that any vector of the subspace spanned by the columns of \mathbf{A} – which is called the *column space* of \mathbf{A} – can be expressed as a linear combination of the vectors $\mathbf{a}_{i_1}, \dots, \mathbf{a}_{i_r}$, that is, $\mathbf{a}_{i_1}, \dots, \mathbf{a}_{i_r}$ is a basis of the column space of \mathbf{A} . Therefore

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{a}_1 &= d_{11}\mathbf{a}_{i_1} + d_{21}\mathbf{a}_{i_2} + \dots + d_{r1}\mathbf{a}_{i_r} \\ \mathbf{a}_2 &= d_{12}\mathbf{a}_{i_1} + d_{22}\mathbf{a}_{i_2} + \dots + d_{r2}\mathbf{a}_{i_r} \\ &\vdots \\ \mathbf{a}_n &= d_{1n}\mathbf{a}_{i_1} + d_{2n}\mathbf{a}_{i_2} + \dots + d_{rn}\mathbf{a}_{i_r}.\end{aligned}$$

BASIS FACTORING MATRICES

Form the matrices

$$\mathbf{A}_1 = [\mathbf{a}_{i_1}, \dots, \mathbf{a}_{i_r}] \text{ and } \mathbf{A}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} d_{11} & d_{12} & \dots & d_{1n} \\ d_{21} & d_{22} & \dots & d_{2n} \\ \vdots & & & \\ d_{r1} & d_{r2} & \dots & d_{rn} \end{bmatrix},$$

then the above equation can be written in the form:

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}_1 \cdot \mathbf{A}_2.$$

Notice that the j th column of the matrix \mathbf{A}_2 is just the coordinate vector of \mathbf{a}_j with respect to the basis $\{\mathbf{a}_{i_1}, \dots, \mathbf{a}_{i_r}\}$.

Example

Factor the matrix $\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 & 3 \\ -1 & 1 & -3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$.

Using elementary basis transformation we find the rank of \mathbf{A} and a basis of its column space, starting with the standard basis $\{\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \mathbf{e}_3\}$ of \mathbb{R}^3 .

	\mathbf{a}_1	\mathbf{a}_2	\mathbf{a}_3	\mathbf{a}_4		\mathbf{a}_2	\mathbf{a}_3	\mathbf{a}_4		\mathbf{a}_3	\mathbf{a}_4
\mathbf{e}_1	1	2	0	3	\mathbf{a}_1	2	0	3	\mathbf{a}_1	2	1
\mathbf{e}_2	2	1	3	3	\mathbf{e}_2	-3	3	-3	\mathbf{a}_2	-1	1
\mathbf{e}_3	-1	1	-3	0	\mathbf{e}_3	3	-3	3	\mathbf{e}_3	0	0

It can be read off from the last table, that the first and second column of \mathbf{A} form a basis of its column space and $\mathbf{a}_3 = 2\mathbf{a}_1 - \mathbf{a}_2$ and $\mathbf{a}_4 = \mathbf{a}_1 + \mathbf{a}_2$.

Remember that j -th column of the matrix \mathbf{A}_2 is the coordinate vector of \mathbf{a}_j with respect to the basis $\{\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2\}$. Therefore

$$\mathbf{A}_1 = [\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{A}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

where we used the obvious fact that $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ are the coordinate vectors of \mathbf{a}_1 respectively \mathbf{a}_2 with respect to the basis $\{\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2\}$.

THE RANK THEOREM

Let A be an $m \times n$ matrix, and consider the factorization $A = B \cdot C$ as before. Here B includes a maximal linearly independent system of columns of A . Because of the maximal property the span of columns of B coincides with the column space of A . It means that the columns of B form a basis of the column space of A .

We know that C is the last elimination table after dropping the zero rows. The system of rows of C is linearly independent, because every row has pivot position 1, and at that position the rest of the rows includes 0. Thus none of the rows can be obtained as the linear combination of the rest. One can see that the row space is not changing during the elimination. It means that the rows of C form a basis of the row space of A .

Thus we proved the

Theorem (Rank theorem)

*The dimensions of the column space and the row space of a matrix are equal. This common dimension is called the **rank of the matrix**. The rank is the same as the number of the pivot terms of the Gauss-Jordan elimination of the matrix.*

THE RANK–NULLITY THEOREM

KERNEL AND NULLITY

Assume that a matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ is given. This matrix has three important subspaces. The column space (the range of A) is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^m ; the row space is the subspace of \mathbb{R}^n ; and the kernel of A which is also a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n .

Definition (kernel of a matrix)

Let A be an $m \times n$ matrix. The **kernel of** A is defined as

$$\ker A = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ax = 0\}$$

The **nullity** of a matrix is the dimension of the kernel.

Obviously, if matrix A is considered as the coefficient matrix of a homogeneous system of linear equations, then the kernel coincides with the solution set of the system.

RANK–NULLITY THEOREM

Remember that the rank of a matrix is the dimension of the range, which is the same as the number of pivot terms of the elimination tables of the matrix.

We are going to clarify, that the degree of freedom is the same as the nullity, which is the same as the number of those columns the final elimination table of the matrix which have no pivot terms.

Theorem

The number of columns of a matrix is the sum of the rank and the nullity of the matrix.

First we should understand a corollary of Steinitz lemma.

Lemma

In a finite-dimensional vector space, every linearly independent set can be extended to a basis.

Proof.

If the set $\{x_1, \dots, x_\nu\}$ is independent and it is not a spanning set, then inserting any vector not in the span of this system we obtain an independent set having $\nu + 1$ terms. We understand that a linearly independent system can not have more elements than any basis does. Repeating this process, in finitely many steps, we obtain larger and larger independent sets until the set is a basis. □

THE PROOF OF THE RANK–NULLITY THEOREM

Assume that $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, and $\{x_1, \dots, x_\nu\}$ is a bases for the kernel of A . Insert some vectors to this set expand to a bases for \mathbb{R}^n , that is the system $\{x_1, \dots, x_\nu, x_{\nu+1}, \dots, x_n\}$ is a bases of \mathbb{R}^n . It is enough to prove that the system $\{Ax_{\nu+1}, \dots, Ax_n\}$ is a base of the column space.

Spanning set: Let us assume that z is a vector of the column space, that is $z = Ax$ for some x . But $x = \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j x_j$, thus

$$z = A \left(\sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j x_j \right) = \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j A(x_j) = \sum_{j=\nu+1}^n \lambda_j A(x_j).$$

Independent set: Assume that the linear combination $\sum_{j=\nu+1}^n \lambda_j A(x_j) = 0$. It means the vector $u = \sum_{j=\nu+1}^n \lambda_j x_j$ belongs to the kernel. Since the system $\{x_1, \dots, x_\nu\}$ is the base of the kernel there exist $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_\nu$ such that

$$\alpha_1 x_1 + \dots + \alpha_\nu x_\nu + 0x_{\nu+1} + \dots + 0x_n = u = 0x_1 + \dots + 0x_\nu + \lambda_{\nu+1} x_{\nu+1} + \dots + \lambda_n x_n.$$

By linearly independence, the coefficients of the left and right hand side must be the same, especially $\lambda_{\nu+1}, \dots, \lambda_n$ must all be zero.

