

Vector norms (again). In Lecture 4 we learned about the p-norms of vectors in \mathbb{C}^n :

$$\|u\|_p = \begin{cases} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n |u_i|^p \right)^{1/p} & 1 \leq p < \infty \\ \max_i |u_i| & p = \infty. \end{cases}$$

Of these, the most important is the the “Euclidean” or “2”-norm: $\|u\|_2 := \sqrt{u^*u} = \sqrt{(u, u)}$.

- If $\|u\| = 0$ then u is the zero vector (this is true for any norm).
- If $\|u\| = 1$ we say that u is *normalised*.

Unitary matrices (again).

Definition 1. A matrix $U \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$ is *unitary* if its Hermitian transpose is equal to its inverse, i.e. if $U^*U = I_n$. If $U \in M_n(\mathbb{R})$ has this property, U is called an *orthogonal matrix*. This means that the (ordinary) transpose of U is equal to the inverse of U , i.e. $U^T U = I_n$.

If $U = (u_1 | u_2 | \dots | u_n)$ is unitary then $u_i^* u_j = \begin{cases} 1 & i = j \\ 0 & i \neq j \end{cases}$.

Important properties of unitary matrices include that:

- If u_i is column i of a unitary matrix, then $\|u_i\| = 1$.
- For the 2-norm:

$$\|Ux\| = \sqrt{(Ux)^* Ux} = \sqrt{x^* U^* U x} = \sqrt{x^* x} = \|x\|.$$

Matrix norms. We will often need to quantify how close (or otherwise) one matrix is to another. A specific example of this is: “find the best rank 1 approximation to A ”. To answer this, we need to be able to quantify “best”. So we need matrix norms.

There are two ways we can build matrix norms from vector norms.

- Treat the matrix as a vector, e.g., by stacking the columns of the matrix to form a vector. Now apply a vector norm. If the vector norm is the 2-norm, the corresponding matrix norm is called the *Frobenius* norm:

$$\|A\|_F := \left(\sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n |a_{ij}|^2 \right)^{1/2}.$$

Here are two other ways of thinking of the $\|\cdot\|_F$ -norm:

$$\|A\|_F = \left(\sum_{j=1}^n \|a_j\|_2^2 \right)^{1/2} = \sqrt{\text{Tr}(A^*A)},$$

where $\text{Tr}(A)$ is the *trace* of A , i.e., the sum of its diagonal entries.

- Operator norms:** Any vector norm “induces” a matrix norm: given $A \in M_{m,n}(\mathbb{C})$, we can define

$$\|A\|_p := \sup_{x \in \mathbb{C}^n} \frac{\|Ax\|_p}{\|x\|_p}, \quad (1)$$

where on the right $\|\cdot\|$ denotes any vector p-norm.

Example (not done in class): If A is a diagonal matrix, then, for any p-norm, $\|A\|_p = \max_i |a_{ii}|$.

In general, (1) is not very practical. However, if $p = 1$, then it is equivalent to the maximum column sum of the matrix. To see this, consider the following.

- We can write a matrix-vector product as $Ax = \sum_{j=1}^n a_j x_j$, where a_j represents column j of A , and x_j is entry j of the vector x .
- So, for any x , $\|Ax\|_1 = \left\| \sum_{j=1}^n a_j x_j \right\|_1 \leq \sum_{j=1}^n \|a_j\|_1 |x_j|$.
- If we require that $\|x\|_1 = 1$, then $\sum_{j=1}^n \|a_j\|_1 |x_j| \leq \max_j \|a_j\|_1$.
- This gives that $\|A\|_1 \leq \max_j \|a_j\|_1$.
- To get equality, suppose that $\|a_k\|_1 = \max_j \|a_j\|_1$, and take x to be the vector whose only non-zero entry is $x_k = 1$.

If $p = \infty$, then it is equivalent to the maximum row sum (see exercises). And when $p = 2$ it is, we'll learn, the largest singular value of A .

Good and bad norms. We shall learn that some norms have important properties that we need later, and some lack those. The properties we need are:

1. $\|AB\|_* \leq \|A\|_* \|B\|_*$. This is the “submultiplicity” property, sometimes also called the “consistency” property. We proved this in class for operator norms. It also holds for the $\|\cdot\|_F$ norm (see exercises). Generally, it is not true for other norms.
2. $\|UA\|_* = \|A\|_*$ when U is a unitary matrix. This holds true for the $\|\cdot\|_2$ and $\|\cdot\|_F$ norms.