

Exercises Set: Linear Algebra

DSBA Mathematics Refresher 2025

Abstract

Only the questions with a * are compulsory (but do all of them!).

1 Systems of Linear Equations

Reduced Row Echelon Form Find the Reduced Row Echelon Form of the following matrix:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 6 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 10 \end{pmatrix}$$

Gaussian Elimination (*) Solve the following linear system using Gaussian Elimination:

$$\begin{aligned} 2x + y &= 4 \\ 3x + 2y + z &= 5 \\ y + 3z &= 7 \end{aligned}$$

Start by writing the augmented matrix for the system and perform the necessary row operations to find the solution.

2 Vector Spaces

Linear Independence Consider the following vectors in \mathbb{R}^3 :

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{v}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 5 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Show that \mathbf{v}_1 , \mathbf{v}_2 , and \mathbf{v}_3 are linearly independent.

Space of Polynomials Let \mathbb{P}_2 be the space of polynomials of degree at most 2. Consider the following polynomials:

$$p_1(x) = 1, \quad p_2(x) = 2x, \quad p_3(x) = 3x^2 - 1$$

Show that the polynomials $p_1(x)$, $p_2(x)$, and $p_3(x)$ form a spanning set for \mathbb{P}_2 . Express an arbitrary polynomial $q(x) \in \mathbb{P}_2$ as a linear combination of $p_1(x)$, $p_2(x)$, and $p_3(x)$.

3 Matrix Inverses

2x2 Matrices Let

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Determine whether matrix A is invertible. If it is, find its inverse A^{-1} . Verify your result by multiplying A by its inverse A^{-1} and showing that you get the identity matrix.

3x3 Matrices (*) Let

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Determine whether matrix B is invertible. If it is, find its inverse B^{-1} . Verify your result by multiplying B by its inverse B^{-1} and showing that you get the identity matrix.

4 Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

Basic 2x2 Case (*) Consider the matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Find the eigenvalues of matrix A .
For each eigenvalue, find the corresponding eigenvector.

Repeated Eigenvalues Consider the matrix

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Find the eigenvalues of matrix B .
For each eigenvalue, find the corresponding eigenvector.

Basic 3x3 Case Consider the matrix

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Find the eigenvalues of matrix C .
For each eigenvalue, find the corresponding eigenvector.

5 Diagonalization

For each matrix from the "Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors" section, determine whether matrix is diagonalizable. If it is, diagonalize it by finding a diagonal matrix D and an invertible matrix P such that $A = PDP^{-1}$.

6 Orthogonal Vectors

Orthogonality Given the vectors

$$\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Determine which of the vectors \mathbf{u} , \mathbf{v} , and \mathbf{w} are orthogonal to each other.

Gram-Schmidt Orthogonalization (*) Given the vectors

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{v}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Apply the Gram-Schmidt orthogonalization process to find an orthonormal basis for the subspace spanned by these vectors.

Verify that the resulting vectors are indeed orthogonal and normalized (by computing their norm and pairwise dot product).

7 Norms

Given two vectors $\mathbf{v} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{w} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 4 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$ in \mathbb{R}^3 , verify the following properties: Verify that $\|\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}\|_1 \leq \|\mathbf{v}\|_1 + \|\mathbf{w}\|_1$ (Triangle Inequality for L_1 norm).

Suppose \mathbf{v} represents the error vector $\mathbf{v} = \begin{pmatrix} -0.1 \\ 0.05 \\ 0.2 \end{pmatrix}$ in a model prediction.

1. Compute the L_1 norm of \mathbf{v} to measure the total error.
2. Compute the L_2 norm of \mathbf{v} to measure the Euclidean distance of the error.
3. Explain the difference in interpretation between the L_1 and L_2 norms in the context of error measurement.