

Welcome to Fall 2025!!

A little about me

- ↳ grew up in Colorado
(dry + mountains!)
- ↳ attended Middlebury College
- ↳ grad school at NYU
- ↳ research in explainable AI

Here to connect with students

- ↳ lunch!
- ↳ math game nights!
- ↳ class meal!

Why are you here?

#1 Learning

- ↳ Hard, requires struggling
- ↳ Practice is key (hw+class)

#2 Support

- ↳ Notes
- ↳ participation form
- ↳ Feedback

CSCI 14S Data Mining
(really Machine Learning)

[www.nfealwitter.com /datamining 2025](http://www.nfealwitter.com/datamining2025)

Explain why:

Prereqs are calculus, linear algebra,
probability, python.

Foundation for fun math!

Resources Typed notes!

Very helpful to review before, and after.

These slides made the night before

Devices

Very distracting, please
do not use!

Print these slides if you want help
taking notes!

Grades

P = # points

A if $P \geq 93$

A- if $93 > P \geq 90$

B+ if $90 > P \geq 87$

:

(10) Participation

Check in! and feedback!

(10) Problem Sets

main chance to learn
no correctness grading
(disincentivize LLM)

(20) Quizzes

regular check of
understanding

(40) Exams: 10/21, 11/25

check understanding

(20) Project

Apply what you learned!

○ Extra credit

Improve note resource

↳ first person only

↳ week of or later

Late Policy

24 hr notice to avoid
stress of last minute communication

Communication Discord!

(Please be patient with me)

LLMs ↝ absolutely insane, we'll learn about them!

You may use for verifiable info
e.g., documentation, sites of code

Please do not use in lieu of learning

Accommodations

Contact me!

Linear Algebra Review

What is machine learning? Math is

$$f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

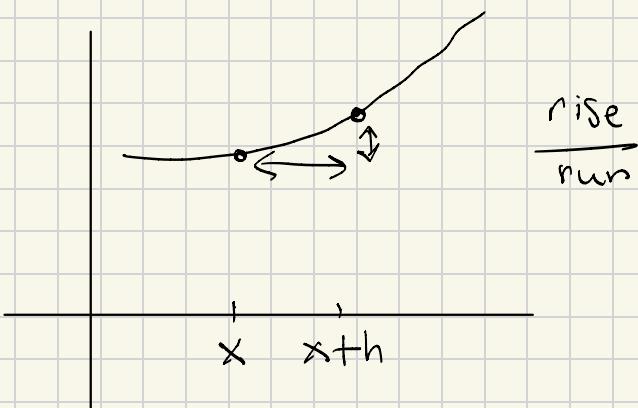
$f(x)$	$\frac{d}{dx}$
x^2	$2x$
x^α	$\alpha x^{\alpha-1}$
$ax+b$	a
$\ln(x)$	$\frac{1}{x}$
e^x	e^x

"partial"

$$f'(x) = \frac{d}{dx} f(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$



d reserved
for dimension



Chain Rule:

$$\frac{d}{dx} g(f(x)) = g'(f(x)) f'(x)$$

Product Rule:

$$\frac{d}{dx} [g(x) f(x)] = g(x) f'(x) + g'(x) f(x)$$

Gradients

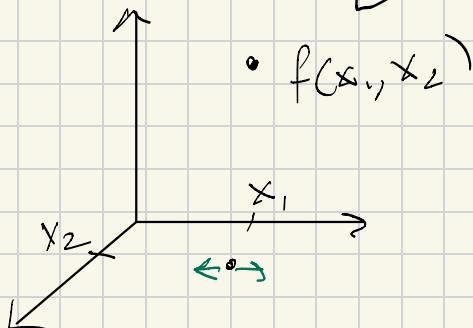
$$f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_d)$$

$$\underline{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_d \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

$$\frac{\partial f(\underline{x})}{\partial x_i}$$

$$\nabla_{\underline{x}} f = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f(\underline{x})}{\partial x_1} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f(\underline{x})}{\partial x_d} \end{bmatrix}$$



Matrix Multiplication

$$\underline{u} \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

$$\underline{v} \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

$$\underline{u} \cdot \underline{v} = \sum_{i=1}^d u_i v_i = \underline{u}^T \underline{v} = \langle \underline{u}, \underline{v} \rangle$$

$(d \times d)$

\underline{u}

\underline{v}

$$\underline{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times m}$$

$$\underline{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$$

$$d \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \overset{m}{\overbrace{\quad}} \\ \vdots \\ \overset{m}{\overbrace{\quad}} \end{bmatrix} \right. \underset{d \times m}{\text{---}} \left. \begin{bmatrix} \overset{n}{\overbrace{\quad}} \\ \vdots \\ \overset{n}{\overbrace{\quad}} \end{bmatrix} \right. \underset{m \times n}{\text{---}} AB$$

$$m \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \overset{n}{\overbrace{\quad}} \\ \vdots \\ \overset{n}{\overbrace{\quad}} \end{bmatrix} \right. \underset{m \times n}{\text{---}} \left. \begin{bmatrix} \overset{m}{\overbrace{\quad}} \\ \vdots \\ \overset{m}{\overbrace{\quad}} \end{bmatrix} \right. \underset{d \times m}{\text{---}} BA$$

is defined!

BA is not!

$$\underline{AB} \quad \underline{A \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times m}} \quad \underline{B \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}}$$

$$i \begin{bmatrix} & \\ & j \\ & \end{bmatrix} = i \begin{bmatrix} & \\ j & \\ & \end{bmatrix} \quad d \times m \quad m \times n$$

$$[AB]_{i,j} = \sum_{k=1}^m [A]_{i,k} [B]_{k,j}$$

$$= \underline{[A]}_i, \underline{[B]}_{,j}$$

Another perspective...

$$\begin{bmatrix} & k \\ & \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} & \\ k & \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{k=1}^m [A]_{j,k} [B]_{k,n} = \underline{AB}$$

Activity: Confirm that outer product is correct

Eigenvalues & Eigenvectors

↗ "self" in German

Motivation: want basic operations e.g. A^{-1} , A^2 , ... ←

$\underline{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$ and Symmetric i.e. $[A]_{i,j} = [A]_{j,i}$

$$\underline{A} \underline{v} = \lambda \underline{v}$$

$\underline{v} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$

↑ eigenvector ↗ eigenvalue

$r = \#$ eigenvectors

$$\underline{v}_1, \dots, \underline{v}_r \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_r$$

$$\underline{A} \underline{v}_i =$$

$$\langle \underline{v}_i, \underline{v}_j \rangle = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i=j \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

$$A = \underline{V} \Lambda \underline{V}$$

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline & | & | \\ \hline | & \underline{v}_1 & \underline{v}_2 \dots \underline{v}_r \\ \hline | & | & | \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \lambda_1 \\ \lambda_2 \\ \ddots \\ \lambda_2 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline & \underline{v}_1^\top & | \\ \hline & \underline{v}_2^\top & | \\ \hline & \vdots & | \\ \hline & \underline{v}_r^\top & | \\ \hline \end{array}$$

outerproduct!

$$= \sum_{i=1}^r \underline{v}_i \lambda_i \underline{v}_i^\top$$

Inverse Matrices

What is generalization of 1?

$\underline{I} \leftarrow$ "identity matrix"
 $\underline{I} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$

$\underline{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$

\underline{A}^{-1} is matrix s.t. $\underline{A} \underline{A}^{-1} = \underline{I}$

$$\underline{A}^{-1} = \underline{V} \underline{\Lambda} \underline{V}^T$$

$$\underline{\Lambda}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\lambda_1} & & \\ & \frac{1}{\lambda_2} & \dots \\ & & \frac{1}{\lambda_r} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\underline{A} \underline{A}^{-1} = \underline{V} \underline{\Lambda} \underline{V}^T \underline{V} \underline{\Lambda}^{-1} \underline{V}^T$$

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline & & \\ \hline | & | & | \\ \hline v_1 & v_2 & \dots & v_r \\ \hline | & | & & | \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \lambda_1 \\ \hline \lambda_2 \\ \hline \ddots \\ \hline \lambda_2 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline & v_1^T & \\ \hline --- & v_2^T & --- \\ \hline --- & \vdots & --- \\ \hline --- & v_r^T & --- \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline & & \\ \hline | & | & | \\ \hline v_1 & v_2 & \dots & v_r \\ \hline | & | & & | \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \lambda_1 \\ \hline \cancel{\lambda_2} \\ \hline \ddots \\ \hline \cancel{\lambda_2} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline & v_1^T & \\ \hline --- & v_2^T & --- \\ \hline --- & \vdots & --- \\ \hline --- & v_r^T & --- \\ \hline \end{array}$$



$$\underline{I}$$

$$\underline{A}^{-1} = \sum_{j=1}^n \underline{v}_j \frac{1}{\lambda_j} \underline{v}_j^T$$

$$\underline{A} \underline{A}^{-1} = \sum_{i=1}^n \underline{v}_i \lambda_i \underline{v}_i^T \sum_{j=1}^r \underline{v}_j \lambda_j \underline{v}_j^T$$

= ...