Term presentation Problem 4

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MA2102: Linear Algebra I Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Kolkata

Problem statement

Show that a matrix A is of rank 1 if and only if $A = xy^{\top}$ for some non-zero column vectors x and y.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \cdots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix}, \qquad \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_m \end{bmatrix}, \qquad \mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix}.$$

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Preliminaries

The column rank of a matrix A is equal to the dimension of the column space of A.

The row rank of a matrix A is equal to the dimension of the row space of A.

The column rank and row rank of any matrix $A \in M_{m \times n}(F)$ are equal.

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If $A = xy^{T}$, then rank A = 1

$$A = \mathbf{x}\mathbf{y}^{\top} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_m \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_1 & y_2 & \cdots & y_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} X_1 y_1 & X_1 y_2 & \cdots & X_1 y_n \\ X_2 y_1 & X_2 y_2 & \cdots & X_2 y_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ X_m y_1 & X_m y_2 & \cdots & X_m y_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \mathbf{x} & y_2 \mathbf{x} & \cdots & y_n \mathbf{x} \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$= \begin{bmatrix} y_2x & y_2x & \cdots & y_n \end{bmatrix}$$

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If
$$A = xy^{\top}$$
, then rank $A = 1$

The column space of A consists of all finite linear combinations of the columns of A.

For any element $oldsymbol{v}$ in the column space of A, we can write

$$\mathbf{v} = \lambda_1 y_1 \mathbf{x} + \lambda_2 y_2 \mathbf{x} + \dots + \lambda_n y_n \mathbf{x} = \lambda \mathbf{x}.$$

The column vector \mathbf{x} spans the column space of \mathbf{A} . Furthermore, there is some $y_i \mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$ in the column space of \mathbf{A} .

$$\operatorname{rank} A \le 1 \le \operatorname{rank} A \implies \operatorname{rank} A = 1$$

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If rank A = 1, then $A = xy^{\top}$

The column space of A admits a singleton basis. Set **x** equal to this element.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 \mathbf{x} & \lambda_2 \mathbf{x} & \cdots & \lambda_n \mathbf{x} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Set

$$y = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 \\ \lambda_2 \\ \vdots \\ \lambda_n \end{bmatrix}$$

With this choice of column vectors x and y, we have $A = xy^{\top}$.

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