

# LINEAR ALGEBRA (MATH 301) DEFINITIONS AND THEOREMS

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These notes contain a list of the main definitions, lemmas, propositions, and theorems discussed in this course.

### 1. SUBSPACE, LINEAR COMBINATION, SPAN, LINEAR INDEPENDENCE, BASIS

**Definition 1.1.** A **vector space** is ...

**Definition 1.2.** A **subspace** of a vector space  $V$  is a subset  $W$  of  $V$  which is a vector space (under the addition and scalar multiplication of  $V$ ).

**Definition 1.3.** A **linear combination** of  $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_r$  is a vector of the form  $k_1\mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + k_r\mathbf{v}_r$ , where  $k_1, \dots, k_r$  are scalars.

**Definition 1.4.** The **span** of  $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_r$ , denoted  $\text{span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_r\}$ , is the set of all linear combinations of  $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_r$ .

**Definition 1.5.** Let  $V$  be a vector space and let  $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_r$  be vectors in  $V$ . Then  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_r\}$  is **linearly independent** if  $k_1\mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + k_r\mathbf{v}_r = \mathbf{0}$  implies  $k_1 = \dots = k_r = 0$ .

**Definition 1.6.** A **basis** for a vector space  $V$  is a set of vectors  $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$  such that

- (i)  $\text{span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\} = V$ , and
- (ii)  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$  is linearly independent.

**Definition 1.7.** Let  $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$  be a basis of a vector space  $V$ , and let  $\mathbf{u}$  be a vector in  $V$ . Then  $\mathbf{u} = c_1\mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + c_n\mathbf{v}_n$  for unique scalars  $c_1, \dots, c_n$ , by Theorem 1.6. The scalars  $c_1, \dots, c_n$  are called the **coordinates** of  $\mathbf{u}$  relative to  $\mathcal{B}$ , and the vector

$$\begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ \vdots \\ c_n \end{bmatrix},$$

denoted by  $[\mathbf{u}]_{\mathcal{B}}$ , is called the **coordinate vector** of  $\mathbf{u}$  relative to  $\mathcal{B}$ .

**Definition 1.8.** The **dimension** of a nonzero vector space  $V$  is the number of vectors in any basis for  $V$ .

**Definition 1.9.** Let  $A = [\mathbf{v}_1 \dots \mathbf{v}_n]$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix with column vectors  $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n$ , and

let  $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}$  be a vector in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Then  $A\mathbf{x} = x_1\mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + x_n\mathbf{v}_n$ .

**Definition 1.10.** Let  $A$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix. The **nullspace** of  $A$ , denoted by  $\text{Nul } A$ , is the set of all solutions to  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ .

**Definition 1.11.** Let  $A$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix. The **column space** of  $A$ , denoted by  $\text{Col } A$ , is the span of the column vectors of  $A$ .

**Theorem 1.1.** Let  $V$  be a vector space,  $\mathbf{u}$  a vector in  $V$ , and  $k$  a scalar. Then

- (i)  $0\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$
- (ii)  $k\mathbf{0} = \mathbf{0}$
- (iii)  $(-1)\mathbf{u} = -\mathbf{u}$

**Theorem 1.2.** Let  $V$  be a vector space and let  $W$  be a subset of  $V$ . Then  $W$  is a subspace of  $V$  if:

- (i) for every  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  in  $W$ ,  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$  is in  $W$  (i.e.,  $W$  is closed under vector addition); and
- (ii) for every  $\mathbf{u}$  in  $W$  and scalar  $k$ ,  $k\mathbf{u}$  is in  $W$  (i.e.,  $W$  is closed under scalar multiplication); and
- (iii) the zero vector of  $V$  lies in  $W$ .

**Theorem 1.3.** Let  $V$  be a vector space and let  $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_r$  be vectors in  $V$ . Then  $\text{span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_r\}$  is a subspace of  $V$ .

**Theorem 1.4.** A set  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_r\}$  of two or more vectors is linearly dependent if and only if at least one of the vectors is a linear combination of the others.

**Theorem 1.5.** Let  $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$  be a basis for a vector space  $V$ .

- (i) If any vector of  $V$  is added to  $\mathcal{B}$ , then  $\mathcal{B}$  is no longer linearly independent.
- (ii) If any vector is removed from  $\mathcal{B}$ , then  $\mathcal{B}$  no longer spans  $V$ .

**Theorem 1.6.** Let  $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$  be a basis of a vector space  $V$ . Then every  $\mathbf{u}$  in  $V$  can be written in exactly one way as a linear combination of  $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n$ , that is, can be expressed as

$$\mathbf{u} = c_1\mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + c_n\mathbf{v}_n,$$

for unique scalars  $c_1, \dots, c_n$ .

**Theorem 1.7.** All bases of a vector space  $V$  have the same number of elements.

**Theorem 1.8.** In  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , the following have the same solutions:

- (i) The vector equation  $x_1\mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + x_p\mathbf{v}_p = \mathbf{u}$ .
- (ii) The linear system of equations with augmented matrix  $[\mathbf{v}_1 \dots \mathbf{v}_p \mid \mathbf{u}]$ .
- (iii) The matrix equation  $[\mathbf{v}_1 \dots \mathbf{v}_p] \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{u}$ .

**Lemma 1.1.** Let  $A$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix, let  $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}$  be vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , and let  $c$  be a scalar. Then

- (i)  $A(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = A\mathbf{u} + A\mathbf{v}$ , and
- (ii)  $A(c\mathbf{u}) = c(A\mathbf{u})$ .

**Theorem 1.9.** Let  $A$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix. Then  $\text{Nul } A$  is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

## 2. INTRODUCTION TO LINEAR TRANSFORMATIONS

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $V$  and  $W$  be vector spaces. A transformation (or mapping)  $T : V \rightarrow W$  is **linear** if it satisfies the following conditions:

- (i) For every  $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}$  in  $V$ ,  $T(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = T(\mathbf{u}) + T(\mathbf{v})$ .
- (ii) For every  $\mathbf{u}$  in  $V$  and scalar  $c$ ,  $T(c\mathbf{u}) = cT(\mathbf{u})$ .

**Theorem 2.1.** Let  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be linear. Then

- (i)  $T(\mathbf{0}) = \mathbf{0}$ .
- (ii)  $T(c_1\mathbf{v}_1 + \cdots + c_p\mathbf{v}_p) = c_1T(\mathbf{v}_1) + \cdots + c_pT(\mathbf{v}_p)$ , for any scalars  $c_1, \dots, c_p$  and vectors  $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p$  in  $V$ .

**Definition 2.2.** A **matrix transformation** is a mapping  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  given by  $T(\mathbf{x}) = A\mathbf{x}$ , for some fixed  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$ .

**Theorem 2.2.** A matrix transformation is linear.

**Definition 2.3.** Let  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be linear. Then

- (i) The **kernel** of  $T$ , denoted  $\ker(T)$ , is the set of vectors in  $V$  which  $T$  maps to  $\mathbf{0}$ .
- (ii) The **range** of  $T$ , denoted  $R(T)$ , is the set of vectors in  $W$  which have at least one vector in  $V$  mapping to them.

**Theorem 2.3.** Let  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be linear. Then  $\ker(T)$  is a subspace of  $V$  and  $R(T)$  is a subspace of  $W$ .

**Theorem 2.4.** Let  $A$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix, and let  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  be the matrix transformation  $T(\mathbf{x}) = A\mathbf{x}$ . Then  $\ker(T) = \text{Nul } A$  and  $R(T) = \text{Col } A$ .

**Theorem 2.5.** Let  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be linear. Then  $\dim(\ker T) + \dim(R(T)) = \dim V$ .

**Theorem 2.6.** Let  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be linear. Then  $T$  is one-to-one if and only if  $\ker T = \{\mathbf{0}\}$ .

**Theorem 2.7.** Let  $W$  be a subspace of  $V$ . If  $\dim W = \dim V$ , then  $W = V$ .

**Theorem 2.8.** Let  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be linear, and suppose that  $\dim V = \dim W$ . Then  $T$  is one-to-one if and only if  $T$  is onto.

**Definition 2.4.** Let  $T : U \rightarrow V$  and  $S : V \rightarrow W$  be linear transformations. Then the **composition** of  $S$  with  $T$ , denoted  $S \circ T$ , is the map from  $U$  to  $W$  defined by  $(S \circ T)(\mathbf{u}) = S(T(\mathbf{u}))$  for  $\mathbf{u} \in U$ .

**Theorem 2.9.** Let  $T : U \rightarrow V$  and  $S : V \rightarrow W$  be linear transformations. Then the composition  $S \circ T : U \rightarrow W$  is a linear transformation.

**Definition 2.5.** For any vector space  $V$ , the **identity transformation**  $I : V \rightarrow V$  is defined by  $I(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{v}$  for all  $\mathbf{v}$  in  $V$ .

**Theorem 2.10.** Let  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be a linear transformation. Then  $T \circ I = I \circ T = T$ .

**Definition 2.6.** Let  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be one-to-one. Then there exists an **inverse transformation**  $T^{-1} : R(T) \rightarrow V$  such that  $T^{-1}(T(\mathbf{v})) = \mathbf{v}$  for all  $\mathbf{v}$  in  $V$ .

**Theorem 2.11.** Let  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be one-to-one. Then  $T^{-1} \circ T = I$ .

**Definition 2.7.** An **isomorphism** is a bijective linear transformation.

**Definition 2.8.** If  $T : V \rightarrow W$  is an isomorphism, then  $V$  and  $W$  are said to **isomorphic**.

**Theorem 2.12.** If  $T : V \rightarrow W$  is an isomorphism, then  $\dim V = \dim W$ .

**Theorem 2.13.** Suppose that  $V$  is a vector space and  $B = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$  is a basis for  $V$ . Then the mapping  $T : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  given by  $T(\mathbf{u}) = [\mathbf{u}]_B$  is an isomorphism.

### 3. THE MATRIX OF A LINEAR TRANSFORMATION

**Theorem 3.1.** Let  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  be a linear transformation. Then for  $\mathbf{x}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $T(\mathbf{x}) = A\mathbf{x}$ , where  $A$  is the matrix  $[T(\mathbf{e}_1) \cdots T(\mathbf{e}_n)]$ . The matrix  $A = [T(\mathbf{e}_1) \cdots T(\mathbf{e}_n)]$  is called the **standard matrix** for  $T$ .

**Theorem 3.2.** Let  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  be a mapping. Then  $T$  is a linear transformation if and only if  $T$  is a matrix transformation.