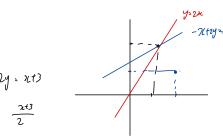
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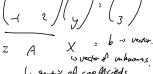
# The geometry of linear equations

The fundamental problem of linear algebra is to solve *n* linear equations in *n* unknowns; for example:

$$2x - y = 0$$
 $-x + 2y = 3.$ 

In this first lecture on linear algebra we view this problem in three ways.

The system above is two dimensional (n = 2). By adding a third variable z we could expand it to three dimensions.



AX = b.

Row Picture > one ly at a him 2x2

Plot the points that satisfy each equation. The intersection of the plots (if they do intersect) represents the solution to the system of equations. Looking at Figure 1 we see that the solution to this system of equations is x = 1, y = 2.

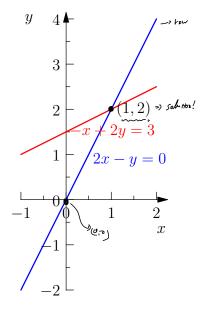


Figure 1: The lines 2x - y = 0 and -x + 2y = 3 intersect at the point (1,2).

We plug this solution in to the <u>original system</u> of equations to check our work:

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
2 \cdot 1 - 2 & = & 0 \\
-1 + 2 \cdot 2 & = & 3.
\end{array}$$

The solution to a three dimensional system of equations, is the common point of intersection of three planes (if there is one).



# (x) =) Such an important

#### -> Column!

### **Column Picture**

In the column picture we rewrite the system of linear equations as a single equation by turning the coefficients in the columns of the system into rectors:

$$x \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} + y \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Given two vectors  $\mathbf{c}$  and  $\mathbf{d}$  and scalars x and y, the sum  $x\mathbf{c} + y\mathbf{d}$  is called a *linear combination* of  $\mathbf{c}$  and  $\mathbf{d}$ . Linear combinations are important throughout this course.

Geometrically, we want to find numbers x and y so that x copies of vector  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$  added to y copies of vector  $\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$  equals the vector  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$ . As we see from Figure 2, x = 1 and y = 2, agreeing with the row picture in Figure 2.

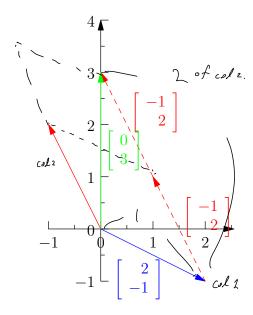


Figure 2: A linear combination of the column vectors equals the vector **b**.

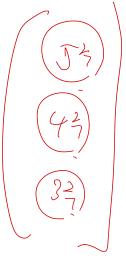
In three dimensions, the column picture requires us to find a linear combination of three 3-dimensional vectors that equals the vector **b**.

# Matrix Picture

We write the system of equations



A



(230)

3 Mil

as a single equation by using matrices and vectors:

$$\left[\begin{array}{cc} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{array}\right] \left[\begin{array}{c} x \\ y \end{array}\right] = \left[\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 3 \end{array}\right].$$

The matrix  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$  is called the *coefficient matrix*. The vector  $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$  is the vector of unknowns. The values on the right hand side of the equations form the vector  $\mathbf{b}$ :

$$A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$$
.

The three dimensional matrix picture is very like the two dimensional one, except that the vectors and matrices increase in size.

### **Matrix Multiplication**

How do we multiply a matrix A by a vector  $\mathbf{x}$ ?

ix A by a vector 
$$\mathbf{x}$$
?
$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = ? \qquad |x| \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + 2x \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2x \end{bmatrix} + |x| + |x| \end{bmatrix}$$

One method is to think of the entries of x as the coefficients of a linear combination of the column vectors of the matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 5 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = 1 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + 2 \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 12 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}.$$

This technique shows that (Ax) is a linear combination of the columns of A.

You may also calculate the product Ax by taking the dot product of each row of A with the vector x:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 5 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \cdot 1 + 5 \cdot 2 \\ 1 \cdot 1 + 3 \cdot 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 12 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}.$$

## Linear Independence

In the column and matrix pictures, the right hand side of the equation is a vector **b**. Given a matrix *A*, can we solve:

$$A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$$

for every possible vector **b**? In other words, do the linear combinations of the column vectors fill the *xy*-plane (or space, in the three dimensional case)?

If the answer is "no", we say that *A* is a *singular matrix*. In this singular case its column vectors are *linearly dependent*; all linear combinations of those vectors lie on a point or line (in two dimensions) or on a point, line or plane (in three dimensions). The combinations don't fill the whole space.

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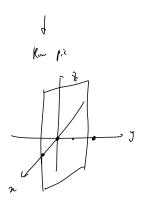
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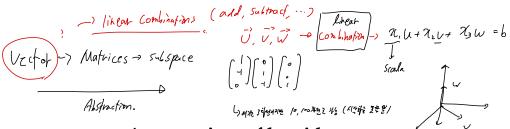
$$2x-y = 0$$

$$-\lambda + 2y - z = -1$$

$$-3y + 4z = 4$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 4 & 0 & -3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x & 0 & 0 \\ y & 0 & -1 \\ 2 & 0 & -3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 2 & 0 & -3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 2 & 0 & -3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$





# An overview of key ideas

This is an overview of linear algebra given at the start of a course on the mathematics of engineering.

Linear algebra progresses from vectors to matrices to subspaces.

#### **Vectors**

What do you do with vectors? Take combinations.

We can multiply vectors by scalars, add, and subtract. Given vectors  $\mathbf{u}$ ,  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  we can form the *linear combination*  $x_1\mathbf{u} + x_2\overline{\mathbf{v} + x_3}\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{b}$ .

An example in  $(\mathbb{R}^3)$  would be:

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

The collection of all multiples of  $\mathbf{u}$  forms a line through the origin. The collection of all multiples of  $\mathbf{v}$  forms another line. The collection of all combinations of  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  forms a plane. Taking *all combinations* of some vectors creates a *subspace*.

We could continue like this, or we can use a matrix to add in all multiples of  $\mathbf{w}$ .

#### Matrices

Create a matrix *A* with vectors **u**, **v** and **w** in its columns:

$$\left(\begin{array}{cccc}
A = \begin{bmatrix}
1 & 0 & 0 \\
-1 & 1 & 0 \\
0 & -1 & 1
\end{bmatrix}.\right)$$

The product:

$$A\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ -x_1 + x_2 \\ -x_2 + x_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

equals the sum  $x_1\mathbf{u} + x_2\mathbf{v} + x_3\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{b}$ . The product of a matrix and a vector is a combination of the columns of the matrix. (This particular matrix A is a *difference matrix* because the components of  $A\mathbf{x}$  are differences of the components of that vector.)

When we say  $x_1\mathbf{u} + x_2\mathbf{v} + x_3\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{b}$  we're thinking about multiplying numbers by vectors; when we say  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  we're thinking about multiplying a matrix (whose columns are  $\mathbf{u}$ ,  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$ ) by the numbers. The calculations are the same, but our perspective has changed.

$$A \left[ \begin{array}{c} 1\\4\\9 \end{array} \right] = \left[ \begin{array}{c} 1\\3\\5 \end{array} \right].$$

A deeper question is to start with a vector **b** and ask "for what vectors a does Ax = b?" In our example, this means solving three equations in three unknowns. Solving:

$$A\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 - x_1 \mathcal{L} \\ x_3 - x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

is equivalent to solving:

$$x_1 = b_1$$
  
 $x_2 - x_1 = b_2$   
 $x_3 - x_2 = b_3$ .

We see that  $x_1 = b_1$  and so  $x_2$  must equal  $b_1 + b_2$ . In vector form, the solution

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_1 + b_2 \\ b_1 + b_2 + b_3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$\text{profix x vector}$$

But this just says:

inverse anatrix 
$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix},$$

or  $\mathbf{x} = (A^{-1})\mathbf{b}$ . If the matrix A is invertible, we can multiply on both sides by  $A^{-1}$  to find the unique solution x to Ax = b. We might say that A represents a

transform 
$$\mathbf{x} \to \mathbf{b}$$
 that has an inverse transform  $\mathbf{b} \to \mathbf{x}$ .

In particular, if  $\mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  then  $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ .

The second example has the same columns  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  and replaces column vector w:

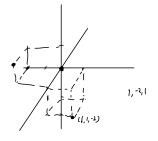
$$C = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 \end{array} \right]^{\frac{7}{2}} \frac{\text{with}}{\left[ \begin{array}{c} \circ \\ \cdot \end{array} \right]} \frac{1}{2} \frac{\text{div}}{2} \frac{1}{2} \frac{1$$

Then:

$$C\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 - x_3 \\ x_2 - x_1 \\ x_3 - x_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

and our system of three equations in three unknowns becomes circular.

e operation



Where before  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  implied  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ , there are non-zero vectors  $\mathbf{x}$  for which  $C\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ . For any vector  $\mathbf{x}$  with  $x_1 = x_2 = x_3 \sqrt{C\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}}$ . This is a significant difference; we can't multiply both sides of  $C\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  by an inverse to find a non-zero solution  $\mathbf{x}$ .

The system of equations encoded in Cx = b is:

$$x_1 - x_3 = b_1$$

$$x_2 - x_1 = b_2$$

$$x_3-x_2 = b_3.$$

If we add these three equations together, we get:

$$0 = b_1 + b_3.$$

This tells us that  $Cx = \mathbf{b}$  has a solution  $\mathbf{x}$  only when the components of  $\mathbf{b}$  sum to 0. In a physical system, this might tell us that the system is stable as long as the forces on it are balanced.

Subspaces

This plane of combinations of  $\mathbf{u}$ ,  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  can be described as "all vectors  $\mathbf{v}$ ". But we know that the vectors  $\mathbf{b}$  for which  $C\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  satisfy the condition  $b_1 + b_2 + b_3 = 0$ . So the plane of all combinations of  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  consists of all vectors whose components sum to 0.

If we take all combinations of:

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

we get the entire space  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ; the equation  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  has a solution for every  $\mathbf{b}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . We say that  $\mathbf{u}$ ,  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  form a *basis* for  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

A *basis* for  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is a collection of n independent vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Equivalently, a basis is a collection of n vectors whose combinations cover the whole space. Or, a collection of vectors forms a basis whenever a matrix which has those vectors as its columns is invertible.

A *vector space* is a collection of vectors that is closed under linear combinations. A *subspace* is a vector space inside another vector space; a plane through the origin in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  is an example of a subspace. A subspace could be equal to the space it's contained in: the smallest subspace contains only the zero vector.

The subspaces of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  are:

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{ first } \text{ $\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$ $\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$ \\ \text{ for } \text{ for }$$

- a plane through the origin, ry

#### Conclusion

When you look at a matrix, try to see "what is it doing?"

Matrices can be rectangular; we can have seven equations in three unknowns. Rectangular matrices are not invertible) but the symmetric, square matrix  $(A^TA)$  that often appears when studying rectangular matrices may be invertible.

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# Elimination with matrices

### Method of Elimination

Elimination is the technique most commonly used by computer software to solve systems of linear equations. It finds a solution x to Ax = b whenever the matrix A is invertible. In the example used in class,

the first row, then multiply the numbers in it by an appropriate value, (in this case 3) and subtract those values from the numbers in it. case 3) and subtract those values from the numbers in the second row. The first number in the second row becomes 0. We have thus eliminated the 3 in row 2 column 1.

The next step is to perform another elimination to get a 0 in row 3 column

The *second pivot* is the value 2 which now appears in row 2 column 2. We find a multiplier (in this case 2) by which we multiply the second row to elimi-ายาวฟ ซี - เขางใช้ nate the 4 in row 3 column 2. The third pivot is then the 5 now in row 3 column

We started with an invertible matrix A and ended with an *upper triangular* 3 6 3  $\leftarrow$  1924  $\stackrel{\text{matrix }}{}U$ ; the lower left portion of U is filled with zeros. Pivots 1, 2, 5 are on (the diagonal of *U*.)

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 8 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{2} \xrightarrow{\text{proof proof }} 0 & 2 & -2 \\ 0 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{proof }} U = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{proof }} (-(-4))$$

We repeat the multiplications and subtractions with the vector  $(\mathbf{b}) = \begin{pmatrix} 12 \\ 12 \end{pmatrix}$ .

For example, we multiply the 2 in the first position by 3 and subtract from 12 to get 6) in the second position. When calculating by hand we can do this efficiently by augmenting the matrix  $A_i$ , appending the vector  $\mathbf{b}$  as a fourth or final column. The method of elimination transforms the equation  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  into

a new equation  $U\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{c}$ . In the example above,  $U = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$  comes from

$$A \text{ and } \mathbf{c} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 6 \\ -10 \end{bmatrix} \text{ comes from } \mathbf{b}.$$

The equation Ux = c is easy to solve by *back substitution*; in our example, z = -2, y = 1 and x = 2. This is also a solution to the original system Ax = b.

지급 학교 정본 게 Elinihotian! मुख्या कर step is to perform 1; here this is already the case.
The second nime is it.

Prof first pivotal come?

The *determinant* of *U* is the product of the pivots. We will see this again.

Pivots may not be 0. If there is a zero in the pivot position, we must exchange that row with one below to get a non-zero value in the pivot position.

If there is a zero in the pivot position and no non-zero value below it, then the matrix A is not invertible. Elimination can not be used to find a unique solution to the system of equations – it doesn't exist.

## matrices; subtract 3 x roul

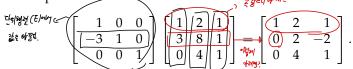
#### **Elimination Matrices**

from row 2.

The product of a matrix (3x3) and a column vector (3x1) is a column vector (3x1) that is a linear combination of the columns of the <u>matrix</u>.

The product of a row (1x3) and a matrix (3x3) is a row (1x3) that is a linear combination of the rows of the matrix.

We can subtract 3 times row 1 of matrix A from row 2 of A by calculating the matrix product:



Ster 1: subtract 3 x raw 1 from row 2

Step 1: sulfract 2xrow 2 from rows

(x1 = [-3 1 = ]

Gnx Gu = 

( 0 0 0 -3 10 0 0 1 )

The *elimination matrix* used to eliminate the entry in row *m* column *n* is denoted  $E_{mn}$ . The calculation above took us from A to  $E_{21}A$ . The three elimination steps leading to *U* were:  $E_{32}(E_{31}(E_{21}A)) = U$ , where  $E_{31} = I$ . Thus  $E_{32}(E_{21}A) = U$ .

Matrix multiplication is associative, so we can also write  $(\overline{E}_{32}E_{21})A = U$ . The product  $E_{32}E_{21}$  tells us how to get from A to U. The inverse of the matrix  $E_{22}E_{21}$  tells us how to get from  $E_{22}E_{21}E_{21}$  tells us how to get from  $E_{22}E_{21}E_$  $E_{32}E_{21}$  tells us how to get from U to A. ...

If we solve Ux = EAx = Eb, then it is also true that Ax = b. This is why the method of elimination works: all steps can be reversed.

A permutation matrix exchanges two rows of a matrix; for example,

$$\zeta_{32} : \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & d \end{bmatrix} : \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & d \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The first and second rows of the matrix (PA) are the second and first rows of the matrix A. The matrix P is constructed by exchanging rows of the identity matrix.

To exchange the columns of a matrix, multiply on the right (as in AP) by a permutation matrix.

Note that matrix multiplication is not *commutative*:  $PA \neq AP$ .



We have a matrix:

We have a matrix:
$$E_{21} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
which matrix does find job?

which subtracts 3 times row 1 from row 2. To undo this operation we must add 3 times row 1 to row 2 using the inverse matrix.

$$E_{21}^{-1} = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right].$$

In fact, 
$$E_{21}^{-1}E_{21} = I$$
.

$$\begin{bmatrix}
( & \circ & \circ \\
3 & | & \circ \\
\circ & \circ & |
\end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix}
( & \circ & \circ \\
-3 & | & \circ \\
\circ & \circ & |
\end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix}
( & \circ & \circ \\
-3 & | & \circ \\
\circ & \circ & |
\end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix}
( & \circ & \circ \\
0 & | & \circ \\
0 & |$$

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