

Linear Algebra

Linear algebra originated in methods to solve systems of linear equations.

Consider two equations in two unknowns, x & y , where a, b, c, d, p & q are known constants:

$$\begin{aligned} ax + by &= p \\ cx + dy &= q \end{aligned} .$$

Eliminate the variables one at a time in the usual way (multiply the first equation by d , the second by b , subtract to obtain: $adx - bcx = dp - bq$) and solve:

$$x = \frac{dp - bq}{ad - bc} \quad \text{and} \quad y = \frac{aq - cp}{ad - bc} .$$

We may view the coefficients as a 2×2 matrix:

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{with determinant} \quad ad - bc = \begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} .$$

With this notation, the above solutions may be written:

$$x = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} p & b \\ q & d \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix}} \quad \text{and} \quad y = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} a & p \\ c & q \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix}} .$$

Consider these three equations in three unknowns, x, y & z :

$$\begin{aligned} 2x - y + z &= 3 \\ -x + 3y - z &= 2 \\ x + 2y + z &= 8 \end{aligned} \quad \text{check that the solution is:} \quad \begin{aligned} x &= 1, \\ y &= 2, \\ z &= 3. \end{aligned}$$

One would solve it by adding multiples of one equation to another. If one replaces the system with the “augmented matrix” and does these row operations

($r_1 = \text{row}\#1$):

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 & 3 \\ -1 & 3 & -1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 & 8 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{\substack{r_1=r_1+r_2; \quad r_2=r_2+r_3; \quad r_3=r_3-r_1; \\ (1/5)r_2; \quad r_1=r_1-(2)r_2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

This result is called reduced row echelon form (rref). The solution is in the last column. The same steps operating on another “augmented matrix” yield this result:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 3 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 3/5 & -2/5 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1/5 & 1/5 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Matrix Concepts

Define an $n \times m$ **matrix** to be an array of numbers with n rows and m columns. A $n \times 1$ matrix is a **column vector** and a $1 \times n$ matrix is a **row vector**. As examples:

$$\mathbf{A} = (a_{ij}) \quad \text{For } 3 \times 4 \mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & -3 & 5 \\ -4 & 0 & -2 & 3 \\ -1 & -5 & 4 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{then } \begin{matrix} a_{12} = 1, \\ a_{23} = -2, \\ a_{34} = 0. \end{matrix}$$

$$\mathbf{B} = (b_{ij}) \quad \text{For } 4 \times 2 \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ -4 & 0 \\ -1 & -5 \\ 3 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{then } \begin{matrix} b_{11} = 2, \\ b_{32} = -5. \end{matrix}$$

$$\mathbf{X} = (x_i) \quad \text{For } 4 \times 1 \mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ -2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}. \quad \mathbf{Y} = (y_j) \quad \text{For } 1 \times 4 \mathbf{Y} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 2 & 1 & 5 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The subscripted numbers are called the **components**. The number-pair of components are called the **dimensions**. A vector has one dimension. The **transpose** of a $n \times m$ matrix, $\mathbf{A} = (a_{ij})$, is the $m \times n$ matrix, $\mathbf{A}^T = (a_{ji})$. A matrix may be multiplied by a real number, σ , called a **scalar**: $\sigma \mathbf{A} = (\sigma \cdot a_{ij})$. Two matrices of the same dimensions may be added: $\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} = (a_{ij} + b_{ij})$.

A $n \times p$ matrix may be multiplied by a $p \times m$ matrix to yield a $n \times m$ matrix:

$$\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = \left(\sum_{k=1}^p a_{ik} \cdot b_{kj} \right). \quad \text{Important: } \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{A}; \text{ but } (\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B}) \cdot \mathbf{C} = \mathbf{A} \cdot (\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{C})$$

$$\text{and } \mathbf{A} \cdot (\mathbf{B} + \mathbf{C}) = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{C}.$$

$$\text{Using the above: } 2\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 2 & -6 & 10 \\ -8 & 0 & -4 & 6 \\ -2 & -10 & 8 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A}.$$

$$\text{Using the above: } \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 18 & 7 \\ 3 & 0 \\ 14 & -21 \end{pmatrix}; \quad \text{where } 1,2^{\text{th}} \text{ entry is } 7 = 2(1) + 1(0) + (-3)(-5) + 5(-2);$$

across 1st row, down 2nd column.

$$\text{Using the above: } \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} 31 \\ 12 \\ -24 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{Y} \cdot \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} -11 & -12 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Square Matrices and Vectors

Using the definition of matrix multiplication, a square $n \times n$ matrix, \mathbf{A} , defines a function or linear transformation on $n \times 1$ column vectors, \mathbf{X} & \mathbf{Y} :

$$\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{X}) = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{X} .$$

It is easy to verify that a linear transformation is linear, that is, it satisfies:

$$\mathbf{A}(\alpha\mathbf{X} + \beta\mathbf{Y}) = \alpha\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{X}) + \beta\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{Y}) , \text{ for scalars } \alpha \text{ \& } \beta .$$

Composition of these matrix functions is the matrix which results from matrix multiplication: $(\mathbf{A} \circ \mathbf{B})(\mathbf{X}) = \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{X})) = (\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B}) \cdot \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{A} \cdot (\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{X}) .$

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 & 5 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \\ 4 & -4 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 2 & 4 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 \\ -3 & 2 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} 9 \\ 13 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix} \quad (\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B}) \cdot \mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 60 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

The identity matrix, \mathbf{I} , has 1's on the diagonal and 0's elsewhere:

$$\mathbf{I} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{For all appropriate } \mathbf{A} \text{ \& } \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{I} \text{ satisfies:}$$
$$\mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{I} \quad \& \quad \mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{X} .$$

A square matrix, \mathbf{A} , is invertible if it has an inverse matrix, \mathbf{A}^{-1} , with the property:

$$\mathbf{A}^{-1} \cdot \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{A}^{-1} = \mathbf{I} .$$

For example:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 3 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3/5 & -2/5 \\ 0 & 1/5 & 1/5 \\ -1 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Inverse matrices may be computed by row operations using the rref of the augmented matrix $[\mathbf{A} \mathbf{I}]$, as was demonstrated for the above matrix on the first page.

Inverse Matrices and Solving Systems

If one expands the definition of matrix multiplication:

$$\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{Y} \quad \text{becomes} \quad \begin{array}{l} a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n = y_1 \\ \dots \\ a_{n1}x_1 + a_{n2}x_2 + \dots + a_{nn}x_n = y_n \end{array}$$

a system of n linear equations. Suppose \mathbf{Y} is known but \mathbf{X} is not. To solve this system is to find \mathbf{A}^{-1} since, applying \mathbf{A}^{-1} to both sides we obtain: $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{A}^{-1} \cdot \mathbf{Y}$.

TI-83 and TI-84 Calculators Do Matrix Calculations.

To create or edit a matrix \mathbf{A} :

2nd-x⁻¹ = 2nd-matrix (choose Edit, choose \mathbf{A});
Enter dimensions and #'s (2nd-mode = 2nd-quit).

To calculate determinants, $\det(\mathbf{A})$:

2nd-matrix(choose Math, choose **det**); 2nd-matrix(choose \mathbf{A}).

To calculate transposes, \mathbf{A}^T :

2nd-matrix(choose Math, choose **T**); 2nd-matrix(choose \mathbf{A}).

To calculate inverses, \mathbf{A}^{-1} :

2nd-matrix(choose \mathbf{A}); “x⁻¹” .

To calculate reduced row echelon form, $\mathbf{rref}(\mathbf{A})$:

2nd-matrix(choose Math, choose **rref**); 2nd-matrix(choose \mathbf{A}).

To calculate $\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B}$ (\mathbf{A} is $n \times m$ & \mathbf{B} is $n \times m$):

2nd-matrix(choose \mathbf{A}) “+” 2nd-matrix(choose \mathbf{B}).

To calculate $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B}$ (\mathbf{A} is $n \times p$ & \mathbf{B} is $p \times m$):

2nd-matrix(choose \mathbf{A}) “x” 2nd-matrix(choose \mathbf{B}).

To solve for \mathbf{C} in $\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{C} = \mathbf{D}$:

Create \mathbf{A} (as $n \times n$) and \mathbf{D} (as $n \times k$);
2nd-matrix(choose \mathbf{A}) “x⁻¹” “x” 2nd-matrix(choose \mathbf{D}).
(The $n \times k$ matrix displayed is \mathbf{C} . Usually $k = 1$.)

Metric Structure on Vectors

Instead of viewing a vector as a column matrix of numbers, one may view it as the coordinates of a point in **n-dimensional** space. Picturing an **arrow** from the origin to the point, one may view the vector as having **length** and **direction**. These are defined using the **inner product**. Let:

$$\langle \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y} \rangle = \mathbf{X}^T \cdot \mathbf{Y}, \text{ the inner or dot product, and, } \langle \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{X} \rangle = \|\mathbf{X}\|^2.$$

Call $\|\mathbf{X}\|$ the **norm** or **magnitude** or **length** of \mathbf{X} . The angle between vectors, θ , is given by the generalized law of cosines:

$$\langle \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y} \rangle = \|\mathbf{X}\| \|\mathbf{Y}\| \cos(\theta).$$

If $\langle \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y} \rangle = 0$, \mathbf{X} & \mathbf{Y} are called orthogonal (or perpendicular, since $\cos(\pi/2) = 0$.)

In 2-dimensional space, two orthogonal vectors, \mathbf{X} & \mathbf{Y} , form a rectangle with area = $\|\mathbf{X}\| \|\mathbf{Y}\|$. In 3-dimensional space, three mutually orthogonal vectors, \mathbf{X} & \mathbf{Y} & \mathbf{Z} , form a rectangular prism with volume = $\|\mathbf{X}\| \|\mathbf{Y}\| \|\mathbf{Z}\|$. By analogy, we may define the “hyper-volume” of a “hyper-prism” formed by n mutually orthogonal vectors in n -dimensional space to be the product of their norms. We can compute the area, volume and hyper-volume of “slanted” parallelograms, parallelepipeds and hyper-parallelepipeds by the usual procedure of cutting and pasting tri-angular pieces. Call each of these things a “**box**” with a measure of “**size**”.

The linear transformation defined by a matrix, \mathbf{A} , will take a “box” to a “box”. The ratio of the size of the output box to the size of the input box is $\det(\mathbf{A})$, called the **determinant** of \mathbf{A} . The definition of $\det(\mathbf{A})$ in the 2×2 case is:

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{a} & \mathbf{b} \\ \mathbf{c} & \mathbf{d} \end{pmatrix} ; \quad \det(\mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{ad} - \mathbf{bc} .$$

Fact: \mathbf{A} is invertible if and only if $\det(\mathbf{A}) \neq 0$. Indeed, in the 2×2 case:

$$\mathbf{A}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{d} & -\mathbf{b} \\ -\mathbf{c} & \mathbf{a} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \frac{1}{\det(\mathbf{A})}$$

In n -dimensions, the formula is messy to define and messier to calculate.

Determinants and Solving Systems

As before, matrix multiplication defines a systems of equations:

$$\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{Y} \quad \text{becomes} \quad \begin{array}{l} a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n = y_1 \\ \dots \\ a_{n1}x_1 + a_{n2}x_2 + \dots + a_{nn}x_n = y_n \end{array}$$

To solve the system of linear equations is to find \mathbf{X} for given \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{Y} . The unique solution, \mathbf{X} , if there is one, has the coordinates given by:

$$x_k = \frac{\det(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{Y})}{\det(\mathbf{A})} ; \text{ where } (\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{Y}) \text{ is } \mathbf{A} \text{ with the } \mathbf{Y} \text{ in } k\text{th column.}$$

Determinants and Linear Independence

Given \mathbf{k} vectors of dimension \mathbf{n} , $\mathbf{X}^1, \mathbf{X}^2, \dots, \mathbf{X}^k$, (Superscripts are used to indicate different vectors; subscripts indicate the components of a vector.), a linear combination is a sum of the form:

$$\sigma_1 \mathbf{X}^1 + \sigma_2 \mathbf{X}^2 + \dots + \sigma_k \mathbf{X}^k, \text{ where the } \sigma_j \text{ are } k \text{ scalars.}$$

The \mathbf{k} vectors are said to be linearly dependent if it is possible for a linear combination of them to be the zero vector with some of the scalars non-zero:

$$\sigma_1 \mathbf{X}^1 + \sigma_2 \mathbf{X}^2 + \dots + \sigma_k \mathbf{X}^k = \mathbf{0}, \text{ with } \sigma_j \neq 0 \text{ for some of the } j\text{'s.}$$

If not linear dependent, they are called linearly independent. If $\mathbf{k} > \mathbf{n}$, then the vectors must be dependent. If $\mathbf{k} \leq \mathbf{n}$, linearly independent vectors are said to span a space of dimension \mathbf{k} (they form a \mathbf{k} -dimensional "box"). A set of \mathbf{n} linearly independent vectors of dimension \mathbf{n} is called a fundamental set or basis. One may arrange a basis to form the $\mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{n}$ matrix: $(\mathbf{X}^j) = ((x_i)^j)$.

Proposition: $\{\mathbf{X}^j\}$, \mathbf{n} vectors of dimension \mathbf{n} , are linearly independent, that is, they are a basis if and only if $\det((x_i)^j) \neq 0$.

Given a basis, any vector may be written as a unique linearly combination of the vectors in the basis. Precisely, given a basis $\{\mathbf{X}^j\}$, of vectors and any vector, \mathbf{Y} , of the same dimension \mathbf{n} , there are \mathbf{n} unique scalars, $\{\sigma_j\}$, such that:

$$\mathbf{Y} = \sigma_1 \mathbf{X}^1 + \sigma_2 \mathbf{X}^2 + \dots + \sigma_n \mathbf{X}^n .$$

Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

An $n \times n$ matrix, \mathbf{A} , is not-invertible if and only if it is **singular**, that is, there is a vector, \mathbf{X} , with $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{0}$.

Remark: This means that \mathbf{A} will collapse the hyper-size of a hyper-box to a lower dimensional box with n -dimensional hyper-size = zero.

Example:
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ -2 & -4 & -6 \end{pmatrix} \begin{cases} x \\ y \\ z \end{cases} = \begin{cases} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{cases} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -2 & -4 & -6 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{rref}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

There is no unique solution. The determinant is:

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ -2 & -4 & -6 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

A solution must have: $y + z = 0$ & $x + z = 0$.

So, any multiple of:
$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$
 is a solution, an eigenvector for eigenvalue = 0.

An $n \times n$ matrix has an **eigenvalue** λ with **eigenvector** \mathbf{X} if: $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{X} = \lambda \mathbf{X}$. This means that the matrix (linear transformation) $\mathbf{A} - \lambda \mathbf{I}$ is singular – and hence:

$$\det(\mathbf{A} - \lambda \mathbf{I}) = 0, \text{ which yields a polynomial of degree } n \text{ in } \lambda.$$

There will be n values of λ which satisfy this requirement. Those values of λ may be real or complex, and must be counted with multiplicity (Fundamental Theorem of Algebra). For a symmetric \mathbf{A} , $\mathbf{A}^T = \mathbf{A}$, all eigenvalues are real.

For:
$$\begin{pmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ 4 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \quad \lambda = 2, -1 \quad \mathbf{X}'\text{s are: } \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

For:
$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \lambda = 2, -1, -1 \quad \mathbf{X}'\text{s are: } \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

For:
$$\begin{pmatrix} -1/2 & 1 \\ -1 & -1/2 \end{pmatrix} \quad \lambda = -1/2 \pm i \quad \mathbf{X}'\text{s are: } \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -i \end{pmatrix}$$