

3/4/26 Quiz!

No office hours Thurs (special seminar)

Last time:

- $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_m$ are linearly indep if none of them is redundant.

Otherwise we say they are linearly dependent.

- Let V be a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^n$ and $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_m \in V$. We say $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_m$ form a basis of V if they span V and are lin. indep.

Proposition if $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_m$ form a basis of a subspace V of $\mathbb{R}^n$ then they span V but no subset spans V .

proof

They span V by defn. Suppose (for example) that $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_{m-1}$ span V .

Then $\exists a_1, \dots, a_{m-1}$ s.t. $a_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + a_{m-1} \vec{v}_{m-1} = \vec{v}_m$ so $\vec{v}_m$ is redundant. This contradicts the assumption that $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_m$ form a basis. //

Let V be a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^n$ and let $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_m \in V$ such that we know they span V .

Let A be the matrix whose columns are $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_m$, so V is the col. space of A .

Question How do we tell if the vectors are lin indep or not (hence form a basis for V)?

Here's a "cheap" trick (Th 3.2.5), by example

Ex

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 5 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} \\ \vec{v}_1 & \vec{v}_2 & \vec{v}_3 \end{array}$$

Follow the 0's. $\vec{v}_2$ clearly not a mult of $\vec{v}_1$

$\vec{v}_3$ not a lin comb of $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2$ b/c of 2nd entry

So no redundant vectors.

But this usually isn't so useful.

Now follow up on previous remark.

Def let $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_m \in \mathbb{R}^n$ be vectors. An equation of the form

$$c_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + c_m \vec{v}_m = \vec{0} \quad (*)$$

is a (linear) relation among the $\vec{v}_i$.

Note: Taking $c_1 = \dots = c_m = 0$ always works, so the important issue is whether there is a nontrivial choice that works.

theorem (3.2.7) (*much more useful*)

The vectors $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_m$ are lin dependent iff the equation (*) has a nontrivial solution. Equivalently

$\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_m$ are lin. indep iff (*) has only the trivial solution

We essentially proved this last time. (see book for full proof).

Here's a more general fact. Think of a set of vectors as columns of a matrix.

Thm (See Th 3.2.8 and Summary 3.2.9)

Let A be an $n \times m$ matrix. Then the following are equivalent.

(a) The cols are lin. indep.

(b) the equation (*) has only the trivial solution.

(c) $\ker(A) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ in $\mathbb{R}^m$.

(d) $\text{rank}(A) = m$

proof

It's enough to check

$$(a) \Rightarrow (b)$$

$$\Uparrow \quad \Downarrow$$

$$(d) \Leftarrow (c)$$

$(a) \Rightarrow (b)$ comes from Th 3.2.7.

$(b) \Rightarrow (c)$

Note A defines $T: \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$. Let $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_m$ be the columns.

$\ker(A)$ = solution space of

$$A \vec{x} = \vec{0}$$

where $x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_m \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^m$, $\vec{0} \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

} from before

So $\vec{x} \in \ker(A)$ means

$$\begin{bmatrix} \vec{v}_1 & \dots & \vec{v}_m \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_m \end{bmatrix} = \vec{0}$$

So $x_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + x_m \vec{v}_m = \vec{0}$. But (b) says Then we must have

$x_1 = \dots = x_m = 0$, which is (c). So (b) $\Rightarrow$ (c).