



Competitive  
Programming and  
Mathematics  
Society

# Linear Algebra

Workshop 3, Week 7, Term 2, 2021

**CPMSoc Mathematics**

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# Linear Mappings

A mapping  $T : V \rightarrow W$  between vector spaces that share the same field is called *linear* when:

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That is, for every vector space with a basis (e.g.  $\text{span}\{\sin(x), \cos(x)\}$ ), a linear mapping from that vector space to itself (e.g.  $\frac{d}{dx}$ ) can be represented as a matrix with dimension

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Matrix multiplication in general is defined as  $(AB)_{i,j} = \sum_k A_{i,k}B_{k,j}$ .

# Applications of Matrices

Why do we care about matrices?

## Example

Let  $F_n$  denote the size of a rabbit population in month  $n$ , such that  $F_1 = F_2 = 1, F_{n+2} = F_{n+1} + F_n$ .

Show that  $F_{m+n+1} = F_{m+1}F_{n+1} + F_mF_n$ .

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Since  $(AB)_{i,j} = \sum_k A_{i,k}B_{k,j}$ , comparing top-left entries demonstrates the desired identity.

# Determinants

For an  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$ , we compute  $\det(A)$  using the recursive formula

$$|A| = \det(A) = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} (-1)^{i+1} A_{1,i} \det(A \setminus (1, \cdot) \setminus (\cdot, i)).$$

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A matrix is invertible if and only if its determinant is nonzero.

## Example (Vandermonde Determinants)

Let  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  be arbitrary numbers for some  $n \geq 1$ .

Compute the determinant

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In other words,  $\det(V_n) = (-1)^{n+1} \det(V_{n-1})(x_n - x_1)(x_n - x_2) \dots (x_n - x_{n-1})$ .

An inductive argument shows that  $\det(V_n) = \prod_{i>j}(x_i - x_j)$ .

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Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  symmetric matrix (i.e.,  $A = A^T$ ) with positive real entries, for some  $n \geq 2$ .

Show that  $A^{-1}$  has at most  $n^2 - 2n$  entries equal to zero.

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Hence every column of  $A^{-1}$  contains at least two nonzero entries. This implies the desired result.

# Independence

Let's generalise what we mean by independence.

Take a set  $\mathbb{V}$ . We'll call some of its subsets *independent* - in particular,  $\mathcal{I}_0, \mathcal{I}_1, \mathcal{I}_2, \dots$

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The dimension is the largest number of elements in an independent set.

If a set  $\mathbb{V}$  and subsets  $\mathcal{I}_0, \mathcal{I}_1, \mathcal{I}_2, \dots$  satisfy these properties, we call them a *matroid*.

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These are always equal. In the special case of invertible matrices, we can see this by reducing them to RREF (since the required row operations will not change the rank), and observing that the entries off the diagonal are all zero.

$$RREF = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & a_2 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & a_3 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix}$$

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Let  $Z$  denote the set of points in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  whose coordinates are 0 or 1. Let  $k$  be a fixed number between 0 and  $n$ . If  $V$  is a  $k$ -dimensional subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , find the maximum possible number of points in  $Z \cap V$ .

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Now take  $V$  to be the span of the set of vectors having all possible entries in the first  $k$  rows, and zero thereafter. It is clear that  $Z \cap V$  has  $2^k$  points, so this is the maximum possible number.

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Let  $X$  and  $B_0$  be  $n \times n$  matrices,  $n \geq 1$ . Define  $B_i = B_{i-1}X - XB_{i-1}$ , for  $i \geq 1$ . Show that if  $X = B_{n^2}$ , then  $X$  must be the zero matrix,  $\mathcal{O}_n$ .

Notice that  $B_{n^2+1} = B_{n^2}X - XB_{n^2} = X^2 - X^2 = \mathcal{O}_n$ , and similarly for higher indices  $n^2 + j$ .

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Since the space of  $n \times n$  matrices is  $n^2$ -dimensional, the matrices  $B_0, B_1, \dots, B_{n^2}$  must be linearly dependent,

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So  $-c_k X = c_{k+1} \mathcal{O}_n + \dots + c_{n^2} \mathcal{O}_n = \mathcal{O}_n$ .

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Let  $A : V \rightarrow W$  and  $B : W \rightarrow V$  be linear maps between finite-dimensional vector spaces. Prove that the linear maps  $AB$  and  $BA$  have the same set of nonzero eigenvalues, counted with multiplicity.

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# Spectral Mapping Theorem

In physics, the set of eigenvectors of a matrix is often called its spectrum.

## Theorem (Spectral Mapping Theorem)

*Let  $A$  be a matrix with eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \dots$ , and  $P(x)$  be a polynomial. Then the eigenvalues of  $P(A)$  are  $P(\lambda_1), P(\lambda_2), P(\lambda_3), \dots$*

To prove this for the case where eigenvalues are distinct, we notice that  $A$  is a diagonal matrix with respect to the eigenbasis, such that

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# Cayley-Hamilton Theorem



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