MATH 304

Linear Algebra

Lecture 16a:
Matrix of a linear transformation.
Similar matrices.

Linear transformation

Definition. Given vector spaces V_1 and V_2, a mapping $L : V_1 \to V_2$ is **linear** if

$$\boxed{L(\mathbf{x}+\mathbf{y}) = L(\mathbf{x}) + L(\mathbf{y}),}$$

$$\boxed{L(r\mathbf{x}) = rL(\mathbf{x})}$$

for any $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in V_1$ and $r \in \mathbb{R}$.

Matrix transformations

Theorem Suppose $L : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^m$ is a linear map. Then there exists an $m \times n$ matrix A such that $L(\mathbf{x}) = A\mathbf{x}$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Columns of A are vectors $L(\mathbf{e}_1), L(\mathbf{e}_2), \dots, L(\mathbf{e}_n)$, where $\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \dots, \mathbf{e}_n$ is the standard basis for $\mathbb{R}^n$.

$$\mathbf{y} = A\mathbf{x} \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_m \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \dots & a_{mn} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Longleftrightarrow \quad \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_m \end{pmatrix} = x_1 \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} \\ a_{21} \\ \vdots \\ a_{m1} \end{pmatrix} + x_2 \begin{pmatrix} a_{12} \\ a_{22} \\ \vdots \\ a_{m2} \end{pmatrix} + \dots + x_n \begin{pmatrix} a_{1n} \\ a_{2n} \\ \vdots \\ a_{mn} \end{pmatrix}$$

Basis and coordinates

If $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$ is a basis for a vector space V, then any vector $\mathbf{v} \in V$ has a unique representation

$$\mathbf{v} = x_1\mathbf{v}_1 + x_2\mathbf{v}_2 + \cdots + x_n\mathbf{v}_n,$$

where $x_i \in \mathbb{R}$. The coefficients $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n$ are called the **coordinates** of $\mathbf{v}$ with respect to the ordered basis $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_n$.

The mapping

$$\textit{vector } \mathbf{v} \;\mapsto\; \textit{its coordinates } (x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n)$$

provides a one-to-one correspondence between V and $\mathbb{R}^n$. Besides, this mapping is **linear**.

Change of coordinates

Let V be a vector space.

Let $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n$ be a basis for V and $g_1 : V \to \mathbb{R}^n$ be the coordinate mapping corresponding to this basis.

Let $\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_n$ be another basis for V and $g_2 : V \to \mathbb{R}^n$ be the coordinate mapping corresponding to this basis.

$$\begin{tikzcd} & V \arrow[dl, "g_1"'] \arrow[dr, "g_2"] & \\ \mathbb{R}^n \arrow[rr] & & \mathbb{R}^n \end{tikzcd}$$

The composition $g_2 \circ g_1^{-1}$ is a linear mapping of $\mathbb{R}^n$ to itself. It is represented as $\mathbf{x} \mapsto U\mathbf{x}$, where U is an $n \times n$ matrix.

U is called the **transition matrix** from $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2 \dots, \mathbf{v}_n$ to $\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2 \dots, \mathbf{u}_n$. Columns of U are coordinates of the vectors $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n$ with respect to the basis $\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_n$.

Matrix of a linear transformation

Let V, W be vector spaces and $f : V \to W$ be a linear map.

Let $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_n$ be a basis for V and $g_1 : V \to \mathbb{R}^n$ be the coordinate mapping corresponding to this basis.

Let $\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2, \ldots, \mathbf{w}_m$ be a basis for W and $g_2 : W \to \mathbb{R}^m$ be the coordinate mapping corresponding to this basis.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} V & \xrightarrow{f} & W \\ g_1 \big\downarrow & & \big\downarrow g_2 \\ \mathbb{R}^n & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{R}^m \end{array}$$

The composition $g_2 \circ f \circ g_1^{-1}$ is a linear mapping of $\mathbb{R}^n$ to $\mathbb{R}^m$. It is represented as $\mathbf{x} \mapsto A\mathbf{x}$, where A is an $m \times n$ matrix.

A is called the **matrix of** f with respect to bases $\mathbf{v}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_n$ and $\mathbf{w}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{w}_m$. Columns of A are coordinates of vectors $f(\mathbf{v}_1), \ldots, f(\mathbf{v}_n)$ with respect to the basis $\mathbf{w}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{w}_m$.

Examples. • $D : \mathcal{P}_3 \to \mathcal{P}_2$, $(Dp)(x) = p'(x)$.

Let A_D be the matrix of D with respect to the bases $1, x, x^2$ and $1, x$. Columns of A_D are coordinates of polynomials $D1$, Dx, Dx^2 w.r.t. the basis $1, x$.

$$D1 = 0,\ Dx = 1,\ Dx^2 = 2x \implies A_D = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

• $L : \mathcal{P}_3 \to \mathcal{P}_3$, $(Lp)(x) = p(x+1)$.

Let A_L be the matrix of L w.r.t. the basis $1, x, x^2$.
$L1 = 1$, $Lx = 1 + x$, $Lx^2 = (x+1)^2 = 1 + 2x + x^2$.

$$\implies A_L = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Problem. Consider a linear operator L on the vector space of 2×2 matrices given by

$$L\begin{pmatrix} x & y \\ z & w \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix} x & y \\ z & w \end{pmatrix}.$$

Find the matrix of L with respect to the basis

$$E_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},\ E_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},\ E_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix},\ E_4 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Let M_L denote the desired matrix.

By definition, M_L is a 4×4 matrix whose columns are coordinates of the matrices $L(E_1), L(E_2), L(E_3), L(E_4)$ with respect to the basis E_1, E_2, E_3, E_4.

$$L(E_1) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = 1E_1 + 0E_2 + 3E_3 + 0E_4,$$

$$L(E_2) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix} = 0E_1 + 1E_2 + 0E_3 + 3E_4,$$

$$L(E_3) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 4 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = 2E_1 + 0E_2 + 4E_3 + 0E_4,$$

$$L(E_4) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix} = 0E_1 + 2E_2 + 0E_3 + 4E_4.$$

It follows that

$$M_L = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 3 & 0 & 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Thus the relation

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 & y_1 \\ z_1 & w_1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x & y \\ z & w \end{pmatrix}$$

is equivalent to the relation

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \\ z_1 \\ w_1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 3 & 0 & 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ w \end{pmatrix}.$$

Problem. Consider a linear operator $L : \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}^2$,

$$L\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}.$$

Find the matrix of L with respect to the basis $\mathbf{v}_1 = (3,1)$, $\mathbf{v}_2 = (2,1)$.

Let N be the desired matrix. Columns of N are coordinates of the vectors $L(\mathbf{v}_1)$ and $L(\mathbf{v}_2)$ w.r.t. the basis $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2$.

$$L(\mathbf{v}_1) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad L(\mathbf{v}_2) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Clearly, $L(\mathbf{v}_2) = \mathbf{v}_1 = 1\mathbf{v}_1 + 0\mathbf{v}_2$.

$$L(\mathbf{v}_1) = \alpha\mathbf{v}_1 + \beta\mathbf{v}_2 \iff \begin{cases} 3\alpha + 2\beta = 4 \\ \alpha + \beta = 1 \end{cases} \iff \begin{cases} \alpha = 2 \\ \beta = -1 \end{cases}$$

Thus $N = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$.

Change of basis for a linear operator

Let $L : V \to V$ be a linear operator on a vector space V.

Let A be the matrix of L relative to a basis $\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \ldots, \mathbf{a}_n$ for V. Let B be the matrix of L relative to another basis $\mathbf{b}_1, \mathbf{b}_2, \ldots, \mathbf{b}_n$ for V.

Let U be the transition matrix from the basis $\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \ldots, \mathbf{a}_n$ to $\mathbf{b}_1, \mathbf{b}_2, \ldots, \mathbf{b}_n$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\boxed{\mathbf{a}\text{-coordinates of } \mathbf{v}} & \xrightarrow{A} & \boxed{\mathbf{a}\text{-coordinates of } L(\mathbf{v})} \\
U \big\downarrow & & \big\downarrow U \\
\boxed{\mathbf{b}\text{-coordinates of } \mathbf{v}} & \xrightarrow{B} & \boxed{\mathbf{b}\text{-coordinates of } L(\mathbf{v})}
\end{array}$$

It follows that $UA\mathbf{x} = BU\mathbf{x}$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \implies UA = BU$.

Then $A = U^{-1}BU$ and $B = UAU^{-1}$.

Problem. Consider a linear operator $L : \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}^2$,

$$L\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}.$$

Find the matrix of L with respect to the basis $\mathbf{v}_1 = (3,1)$, $\mathbf{v}_2 = (2,1)$.

Let S be the matrix of L with respect to the standard basis, N be the matrix of L with respect to the basis $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2$, and U be the transition matrix from $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2$ to $\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2$. Then $N = U^{-1}SU$.

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad U = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$N = U^{-1}SU = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ -1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix} 3 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix} 3 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Similarity

Definition. An $n \times n$ matrix B is said to be **similar** to an $n \times n$ matrix A if $\boxed{B = S^{-1}AS}$ for some nonsingular $n \times n$ matrix S.

Remark. Two $n \times n$ matrices are similar if and only if they represent the same linear operator on $\mathbb{R}^n$ with respect to different bases.

Theorem Similarity is an *equivalence relation*, which means that

(i) any square matrix A is similar to itself;

(ii) if B is similar to A, then A is similar to B;

(iii) if A is similar to B and B is similar to C, then A is similar to C.

Theorem Similarity is an *equivalence relation*, i.e.,
(i) any square matrix A is similar to itself;
(ii) if B is similar to A, then A is similar to B;
(iii) if A is similar to B and B is similar to C, then A is similar to C.

Proof: **(i)** $A = I^{-1}AI$.

(ii) If $B = S^{-1}AS$ then $A = SBS^{-1} = (S^{-1})^{-1}BS^{-1}$
$= S_1^{-1}BS_1$, where $S_1 = S^{-1}$.

(iii) If $A = S^{-1}BS$ and $B = T^{-1}CT$ then
$A = S^{-1}(T^{-1}CT)S = (S^{-1}T^{-1})C(TS) = (TS)^{-1}C(TS)$
$= S_2^{-1}CS_2$, where $S_2 = TS$.

Theorem If A and B are similar matrices then they have the same **(i)** determinant, **(ii)** trace $=$ the sum of diagonal entries, **(iii)** rank, and **(iv)** nullity.