

MA-GY7033 Linear Algebra I

Systems of Linear Equations

Matrix Multiplication

Change of Basis Formulas

Linear Functions and Maps

Deane Yang

Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences
New York University

September 10, 2026

Outline

1. Matrix Multiplication
2. Change of Basis Formulas
3. Systems of Linear Equations
4. Linear Functions and Maps

Matrices

- ▶ A **column matrix** with r rows is of the form

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a^1 \\ \vdots \\ a^r \end{bmatrix},$$

- ▶ A **row matrix** with s columns is of the form

$$B = [b_1 \quad \cdots \quad b_s]$$

- ▶ A **matrix** with r rows and s columns is of the form

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} m_1^1 & \cdots & m_s^1 \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ m_1^r & \cdots & m_s^r \end{bmatrix}$$

Product of a Row Matrix and a Column Matrix

- ▶ The matrix product of a row matrix B with s columns and a column matrix A with r rows is defined only when $r = s$:

$$\begin{aligned} BA &= \begin{bmatrix} b_1 & \cdots & b_s \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a^1 \\ \vdots \\ a^s \end{bmatrix} \\ &= b_1 a^1 + \cdots + b_s a^s \end{aligned}$$

Product of a Column Matrix and a Row Matrix

- ▶ The matrix product of a column matrix A with r rows and a row matrix B with s columns is defined to be the r -by- s matrix

$$\begin{aligned} AB &= \begin{bmatrix} a^1 \\ \vdots \\ a^r \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b_1 & \cdots & b_s \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} a^1 b_1 & \cdots & a^1 b_s \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ a^r b_1 & \cdots & a^r b_s \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Generalized Matrix Multiplication

- ▶ The formulas for BA and AB are valid if any of the following hold:
 - ▶ B is a row matrix of scalars and A is a column matrix of scalars
 - ▶ Then BA is a scalar and AB is a scalar-valued matrix
 - ▶ B is a row matrix of vectors and A is a column matrix of scalars
 - ▶ Then BA is a vector and AB is a vector-valued matrix
 - ▶ B is a row matrix of scalars and A is a column matrix of vectors
 - ▶ Then BA is a vector and AB is a vector-valued matrix
- ▶ The formulas are invalid if B and A are both matrices of vectors

Generalized Matrices

- ▶ An r -by- s matrix is of the form

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} m_1^1 & \cdots & m_s^1 \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ m_1^r & \cdots & m_s^r \end{bmatrix}$$

- ▶ M is a **matrix** or **scalar-valued matrix** if each m_k^j is a scalar
- ▶ M is a **vector-valued matrix** if each m_k^j is a vector
- ▶ M is a **matrix-valued matrix** if each m_k^j is a matrix

Matrix as Generalized Column Matrix

- ▶ M can be written as a column matrix of row matrices

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} R^1 \\ \vdots \\ R^r \end{bmatrix},$$

where, for each $1 \leq j \leq r$,

$$R^j = \begin{bmatrix} m_1^j & \cdots & m_s^j \end{bmatrix}$$

Matrix as Generalized Row Matrix

- ▶ M can be written as a row matrix of column matrices

$$M = [C_1 \quad \cdots \quad C_s],$$

where, for each $1 \leq k \leq s$,

$$C_k = \begin{bmatrix} m_k^1 \\ \vdots \\ m_k^r \end{bmatrix}$$

Matrix Multiplication

- ▶ If A is an r -by- s matrix and B is an s -by- t matrix, then

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} R^1 \\ \vdots \\ R^r \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } B = [C_1 \quad \cdots \quad C_t],$$

where each R^j is a row matrix with s columns and each C_k is a column matrix with s rows

- ▶ The matrix product of A and B is defined to be the r -by- t matrix

$$AB = \begin{bmatrix} R^1 \\ \vdots \\ R^r \end{bmatrix} [C_1 \quad \cdots \quad C_t] = \begin{bmatrix} R^1 C_1 & R^1 C_2 & \cdots & R^1 C_t \\ R^2 C_1 & R^2 C_2 & \cdots & R^2 C_t \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ R^r C_1 & R^r C_2 & \cdots & R^r C_t \end{bmatrix}$$

Scalar-Valued Matrices

- ▶ Most matrices will be scalar-valued matrices
- ▶ The set of all scalar-valued matrices with r rows and c columns will be denoted $\mathcal{M}_{r \times c}$
- ▶ The matrix in $\mathcal{M}_{r \times c}$ that has all zeros is called the **zero matrix** and will be denoted by $0_{r \times c}$ or simply 0
- ▶ Observe that $\mathcal{M}_{r \times c}$ is itself an abstract vector space, where the zero vector is the zero matrix
- ▶ The set of r -by- c vector-valued matrices, where the vectors are in a vector space V , will be denoted $\mathcal{M}_{r \times c}(V)$

The Identity Matrix

- Consider the square matrix $I_{r \times r} \in \mathcal{M}_{r \times r}$, where, for each $1 \leq j \leq r$, $I_j^j = 1$ and everything else is zero,

$$I_{r \times r} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Given any matrix $B \in \mathcal{M}_{r \times s}$,

$$I_{r \times r} B = B I_{s \times s} = B$$

- $I_{r \times r}$ is called the **identity matrix** and will usually be denoted by simply I

Properties of Matrix Multiplication

- ▶ Matrix multiplication works only if the number of columns in the first factor is equal to the number of rows in the second factor
 - ▶ If A is an r -by- s matrix and B is an s -by- t matrix, then AB is an r -by- t matrix
- ▶ Associativity: If A is an r -by- m matrix and B is an m -by- n matrix, C is an n -by- c matrix, where at least two of the matrices are scalar-valued, then

$$A(BC) = (AB)C$$

- ▶ Distributivity: If A is an r -by- m matrix and B, C are m -by- c matrices, then

$$A(B + C) = AB + AC$$

- ▶ $0_{q \times r}A = 0_{q \times m}$ and $A0_{m \times n} = 0_{r \times n}$
 - ▶ There exist nonzero matrices A and B such that $AB = 0_{r \times c}$
- ▶ $I_{r \times r}A = AI_{m \times m} = A$
- ▶ IMPORTANT: Matrix multiplication is NOT commutative

Examples of Matrix Multiplication

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 4 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2(0) + 3(1) & 2(1) + 3(-1) \\ 4(0) + (-1)(1) & 4(1) + (-1)(-1) \end{bmatrix} \\ = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ -1 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 4 & -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0(2) + 1(4) & 0(3) + 1(-1) \\ 1(2) + (-1)(4) & 1(3) + (-1)(-1) \end{bmatrix} \\ = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -1 \\ -2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

Basis of Abstract Vector Space as Row Matrix

- ▶ A basis of a vector space $\mathbb{V}$ will be written as a row matrix of vectors:

$$E = (e_1, \dots, e_m) = [e_1 \quad \cdots \quad e_m]$$

- ▶ For each $v \in \mathbb{V}$, there is a unique column matrix of scalars

$$a = \langle a^1, \dots, a^m \rangle = \begin{bmatrix} a^1 \\ \vdots \\ a^m \end{bmatrix}$$

such that

$$\begin{aligned} v &= e_1 a^1 + \cdots + e_m a^m \\ &= [e_1 \quad \cdots \quad e_m] \begin{bmatrix} a^1 \\ \vdots \\ a^m \end{bmatrix} = Ea \end{aligned}$$

Change of Basis Matrix

- ▶ Let $E = (e_1, \dots, e_m)$ and $F = (f_1, \dots, f_m)$ be bases of V
- ▶ Since E is a basis, each $f_k \in F$ can be written as a linear combination of $e_1, \dots, e_m$,

$$f_k = e_1 M_k^1 + \dots + e_m M_k^m$$

- ▶ Equivalently,

$$\begin{aligned} F &= [f_1 \quad \dots \quad f_m] \\ &= [e_1 M_1^1 + \dots + e_m M_1^m \quad \dots \quad e_1 M_m^1 + \dots + e_m M_m^m] \\ &= [e_1 \quad \dots \quad e_m] \begin{bmatrix} M_1^1 & \dots & M_m^1 \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ M_1^m & \dots & M_m^m \end{bmatrix} \\ &= EM \end{aligned}$$

Change of Basis Formula for a Vector

- ▶ A vector $v \in V$ can be written as a linear combination of the basis vectors $e_1, \dots, e_n$,

$$v = e_1 a^1 + \dots + e_m a^m = [e_1 \ \dots \ e_m] \begin{bmatrix} a^1 \\ \vdots \\ a^m \end{bmatrix} = Ea,$$

- ▶ If $F = [f_1 \ \dots \ f_m]$ is also a basis, then there exist coefficients $b = (b^1, \dots, b^m)$ such that

$$v = f_1 b^1 + \dots + f_m b^m = Fb$$

- ▶ If $F = EM$ and $v = Ea = Fb$, it follows that

$$v = Ea \text{ but } v = Fb = (EM)b = E(Mb)$$

- ▶ Since the coefficients with respect to a basis are unique, it follows that

$$a = Mb \text{ i.e., } b = M^{-1}a$$

Change of Basis Matrices

- ▶ Assume
 - ▶ **The basis of each vector space is written as a row matrix**
 - ▶ **the coefficients of each vector is written as a column matrix**
- ▶ If M is matrix that changes the old basis into the new basis, then matrix that changes the coefficients of a vector with respect to the old basis to coefficients with respect to the new basis is M^{-1}
- ▶ **WARNING:** If the basis is written as a column matrix of vectors, then this is not true

Examples of Systems of Linear Equations

- ▶ The system

$$2x - 3y = 5$$

$$x + y = -1$$

$$3x + 5y = 0$$

can be written as

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 3 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- ▶ The system

$$x + y + z = 1$$

$$3y - 5z = 2$$

can be written as

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & -5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

General System of Linear Equations

- ▶ A linear system

$$a_1^1 x^1 + \cdots + a_m^1 x^m = b^1$$

$$\vdots$$

$$a_1^n x^1 + \cdots + a_m^n x^m = b^n$$

- ▶ Can be written using vectors and a matrix as

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_1^1 & \cdots & a_m^1 \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_1^n & \cdots & a_m^n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x^1 \\ \vdots \\ x^m \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b^1 \\ \vdots \\ b^n \end{bmatrix} \text{ or } Ax = b,$$

where

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} x^1 \\ \vdots \\ x^m \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{F}^m, \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} b^1 \\ \vdots \\ b^n \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{F}^n, \quad A = \begin{bmatrix} a_1^1 & \cdots & a_m^1 \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_1^n & \cdots & a_m^n \end{bmatrix} \in \mathcal{M}_{n \times m}$$

- ▶ This is a system of n equations in m unknowns

Really Easy Examples

- ▶ 1 equation in 1 unknown (exactly one solution):

$$x = b \iff \begin{bmatrix} 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b \end{bmatrix}$$

- ▶ 1 equation in 2 unknowns (infinitely many solutions):

$$x = b \iff \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b \end{bmatrix}$$

- ▶ 2 equations in 1 unknown (Zero or one solutions)

$$\begin{matrix} x = 1 \\ x = 0 \end{matrix} \iff \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- ▶ 2 equations in 2 unknowns (Zero, exactly one, or infinitely many solutions):

$$\begin{matrix} x = a \\ y = b \end{matrix} \iff \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix}$$

Linear Functions and Maps

- ▶ If V is a vector space, then a function $\ell : V \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$ is *linear*, if for any $v, v_1, v_2 \in V$ and $s \in \mathbb{F}$,

$$\begin{aligned}\ell(v_1 + v_2) &= \ell(v_1) + \ell(v_2) \\ \ell(sv) &= s\ell(v)\end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Easy to check that $\ell(0_V) = 0$
- ▶ If V and W are vector spaces, then a map $L : V \rightarrow W$ is *linear*, if for any $v, v_1, v_2 \in V$ and $s \in \mathbb{F}$,

$$\begin{aligned}L(v_1 + v_2) &= L(v_1) + L(v_2) \\ L(sv) &= sL(v)\end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Easy to check that $L(0_V) = 0_W$

Abstract Example of a Linear Map

- ▶ Let $(v_1, \dots, v_n)$ be a basis of V
- ▶ Let $w_1, \dots, w_n \in W$
- ▶ Define $L : V \rightarrow W$ as follows:
 - ▶ Set $L(v_i) = w_i$, for each $1 \leq i \leq n$
 - ▶ Since L is linear, it follows that given any

$$v = a^1 v_1 + \dots + a^n v_n \in V,$$

the following must hold:

$$\begin{aligned} L(v) &= L(a^1 v_1 + \dots + a^n v_n) \\ &= a^1 L(v_1) + \dots + a^n L(v_n) \\ &= a^1 w_1 + \dots + a^n w_n \end{aligned}$$

Concrete Example of a Linear Map

- Define a map $L : \mathbb{F}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^2$ as follows:

$$L((v^1, v^2)) = (3v^1 - 2v^2, 5v^1 + 6v^2)$$

- For example,

$$L(1, 1) = (3 - 2, 5 + 6) = (1, 11)$$

$$L(-2, 3) = (-6 - 6, -10 + 18) = (-12, 8)$$

- Easy to check this is a linear map
- Using matrix multiplication, this can be written as

$$L\left(\begin{bmatrix} v^1 \\ v^2 \end{bmatrix}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -2 \\ 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v^1 \\ v^2 \end{bmatrix}$$