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A matrix is a function

- Review: Column picture.
- Matrix equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$.
- A matrix is a linear function.

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The column picture is essential for linear algebra

$$\begin{aligned}2x_1 - x_2 &= 0, \\ -x_1 + 2x_2 &= 3.\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} x_1 + \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} x_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$\mathbf{a}_1 x_1 + \mathbf{a}_2 x_2 = \mathbf{b}.$$

x_1, x_2 is a solution if $\mathbf{b} \in \text{Span}\{\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2\}$.

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The column picture is essential for linear algebra

$$\begin{aligned}x_1 - x_2 &= 0, \\ -x_1 + x_2 &= 2, \\ x_1 + x_2 &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} x_1 + \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} x_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The actual computation of the solution is usually done with Gauss elimination, regardless the picture used to describe the system.

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The column picture suggests the Matrix equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} x_1 + \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} x_2 + \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} x_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}.$$

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The system of equations suggests how to define the product Ax .

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} := \begin{bmatrix} 2x_1 - x_2 + x_3 \\ -x_1 + 2x_2 - x_3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

General case: The $m \times n$ matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & \cdots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} := \begin{bmatrix} a_{11}x_1 + \cdots + a_{1n}x_n \\ \vdots \\ a_{m1}x_1 + \cdots + a_{mn}x_n \end{bmatrix}.$$

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A matrix can be thought as a function

Given $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, and an $m \times n$ matrix A , then $A\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^m$.
Therefore,

$$A : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m.$$

Ex: 2×3 matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$, $A : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$,

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^3, \quad A\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^2$$

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Matrices as functions have several meanings

- Reflexions: $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$, $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$.
- Rotations: $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $A = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\theta) & -\sin(\theta) \\ \sin(\theta) & \cos(\theta) \end{bmatrix}$.
- Dilation: $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$.

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The product $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ has two important properties

The definition $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{a}_1x_1 + \cdots + \mathbf{a}_nx_n$, where $A = [\mathbf{a}_1, \cdots, \mathbf{a}_n]$ is an $m \times n$ matrix and \mathbf{x} is an n -vector, satisfies the properties

- $A(c\mathbf{x}) = cA\mathbf{x}$,
- $A(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y}) = A\mathbf{x} + A\mathbf{y}$.

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Linear functions have an important role in linear algebra

Definition 1 *A function $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is called linear if*

- $T(c\mathbf{x}) = cT(\mathbf{x})$,
- $T(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y}) = T(\mathbf{x}) + T(\mathbf{y})$.

for all $c \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

A matrix A is a linear function.

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Matrices can be added and multiplied

- Review: Matrices are functions.
- Matrix operations:
 - Linear combinations.
 - Multiplication.

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An $m \times n$ matrix A is a function $A : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}. \text{ } A \text{ is a } 3 \times 2 \text{ matrix, so } A : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3.$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_1 + x_2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

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Matrices are a very particular class of functions called linear functions

$$T : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n \text{ is linear } \Leftrightarrow T(ax + by) = aT(\mathbf{x}) + bT(\mathbf{y}).$$

Examples:

$$T : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, T(x) = mx. \text{ (A line through the origin, } y = mx.)$$

$$T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m, T(\mathbf{x}) = A\mathbf{x}.$$

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Like functions, matrices can be added and multiplied by numbers

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad cA = \begin{bmatrix} 2c & -c \\ -c & 2c \end{bmatrix}.$$

The precise way to define the product is:

$$(cA)\mathbf{x} = c(A\mathbf{x}).$$

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The mathematical notation explained

The equation $(cA)\mathbf{x} = c(A\mathbf{x})$ is the definition of the product of a matrix by a number, because:

$$\begin{aligned} (cA)\mathbf{x} = c(A\mathbf{x}) &= c\left(\begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}\right) = c \begin{bmatrix} -x_1 + 2x_2 \\ 2x_1 - x_2 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} c(-x_1 + 2x_2) \\ c(2x_1 - x_2) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -cx_1 + 2cx_2 \\ 2cx_1 - cx_2 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 2c & -c \\ -c & 2c \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

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Same size matrices can be added up

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 3 & -1 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$A+B = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 3 & -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2+1 & -1+1 \\ -1+3 & 2-1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The precise way to define the product is:

$$(A + B)\mathbf{x} = A\mathbf{x} + B\mathbf{x}.$$

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The mathematical notation explained

The equation $(A + B)\mathbf{x} = A\mathbf{x} + B\mathbf{x}$ is the definition of the addition of two equal size matrices because:

$$\begin{aligned} (A + B)\mathbf{x} &= \left(\begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 3 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \right) \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \\ A\mathbf{x} + B\mathbf{x} &= \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 3 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 2x_1 - x_2 \\ -x_1 + 2x_2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} x_1 + x_2 \\ 3x_1 - x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3x_1 \\ 2x_1 + x_2 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

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Summary: Definition of matrix addition and multiplication by a number

Let A, B be $m \times n$ matrices with components

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & \cdots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & \cdots & b_{1n} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ b_{m1} & \cdots & b_{mn} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Then,

$$cA = \begin{bmatrix} ca_{11} & \cdots & ca_{1n} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ ca_{m1} & \cdots & ca_{mn} \end{bmatrix}, \quad A+B = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} + b_{11} & \cdots & a_{1n} + b_{1n} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{m1} + b_{m1} & \cdots & a_{mn} + b_{mn} \end{bmatrix}$$

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Summary: Definition of matrix addition and multiplication by a number in column notation

$$A = [\mathbf{a}_1, \cdots, \mathbf{a}_n], \quad B = [\mathbf{b}_1, \cdots, \mathbf{b}_n],$$

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} cA &= [c\mathbf{a}_1, \cdots, c\mathbf{a}_n], \\ A+B &= [\mathbf{a}_1 + \mathbf{b}_1, \cdots, \mathbf{a}_n + \mathbf{b}_n]. \end{aligned}$$

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Example of matrix multiplication

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & B & \rightarrow AB \\ 2 \times 3 & 3 \times 3 & 2 \times 3 \end{array}$$

$$AB = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = A \left[\mathbf{b}_1 \quad \mathbf{b}_2 \quad \mathbf{b}_3 \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned} AB &= \left[A\mathbf{b}_1 \quad A\mathbf{b}_2 \quad A\mathbf{b}_3 \right] \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 2+0-1 & 2+0+1 & 0+0-1 \\ 1+0+2 & 1+1-2 & 0+0+1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & -1 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

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Matrices with appropriate size can be multiplied

Functions can be composed:

$$x \in \mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{g} \mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{f} \mathbb{R}, \quad (f \circ g)x = f(g(x)).$$

Matrices are functions. Composition of matrices is called matrix multiplication.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A & B & \rightarrow & AB & \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^\ell \xrightarrow{B} \mathbb{R}^n \xrightarrow{A} \mathbb{R}^m, \\ m \times n & n \times \ell & & m \times \ell & \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^\ell \rightarrow \xrightarrow{AB} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m \end{array}$$

$$(AB)\mathbf{x} = A(B\mathbf{x}).$$

The mathematical notation explained

The equation $(AB)\mathbf{x} = A(B\mathbf{x})$ defines the matrix multiplication of two appropriate size matrices because:

$$\begin{aligned}(AB)\mathbf{x} = A(B\mathbf{x}) &= A \left([\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_\ell] \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_\ell \end{bmatrix} \right) \\ &= A(x_1\mathbf{b}_1 + \dots + x_\ell\mathbf{b}_\ell) \\ &= x_1A\mathbf{b}_1 + \dots + x_\ell A\mathbf{b}_\ell \\ &= [A\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, A\mathbf{b}_\ell] \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_\ell \end{bmatrix}.\end{aligned}$$

$$AB = [A\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, A\mathbf{b}_\ell].$$

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