



**MATH 124: Matrixology (Linear Algebra)**  
**Level Pac-Man (1980) ↗, 5 of 10**  
**University of Vermont, Spring 2015**



**Dispersed:** Thursday, February 19, 2015.

**Due:** By start of lecture, Thursday, February 26, 2015.

**Sections covered:** 3.1–3.5, some of 3.6.

*Some useful reminders:*

**Instructor:** Prof. Peter Dodds

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**Office hours:** 2 to 2:45 pm, Mondays; 3 to 3:45 pm Tuesdays; and 1 to 2:30 pm Wednesdays

**Course website:** <http://www.uvm.edu/~pdodds/teaching/courses/2015-01UVM-124>

**Textbook:** “Introduction to Linear Algebra” (3rd or 4th edition) by Gilbert Strang (published by Wellesley-Cambridge Press).

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- All questions are worth 3 points unless marked otherwise.
  - Please use a cover sheet and write your name on the back and the front of your assignment.
  - You must show all your work clearly.
  - You may use Matlab to check your answers for non-Matlab questions (usually Qs. 1–8).
  - Please list the names of other students with whom you collaborated.

1. For each of the following reduced row echelon forms of some original matrices, write down the following:  $m$ ,  $n$ ,  $r$ , the dimension of nullspace, and the dimension of column space, and the number of possible solutions (0, 1, or  $\infty$ ) depending on  $\vec{b}$ :

$$\text{(a) } \mathbf{R}_A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{(b) } \mathbf{R}_A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 0 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\text{(c) } \mathbf{R}_A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

2. Consider a matrix  $A$  which is given by the outer product  $A = \vec{u}\vec{v}^T$  where

$$\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -4 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- (a) Find  $m$ ,  $n$ , the rank  $r$  for  $A$ .

- (b) Find column space  $C(A)$  and a basis for  $C(A)$ .
- (c) Find nullspace  $N(A)$  and a basis for  $N(A)$ .

(Note: this kind of matrix built from an outer product appears everywhere in real world problems; we'll see more of them later in the semester; you may need to lie down for a while to digest this thrilling detail about your future.)

3. Give all possible forms of  $\mathbf{R}_A$ , if any exist, for all matrices satisfying the following conditions (use apples, campfires, whatever you like, for any unknowns).
  - (a) Rank = 4, dimension of nullspace = 0,  $m = 4$ .
  - (b) Dimension of column space = 5,  $n = 5$ ,  $m = 4$ .
  - (c) Rank = 2, dimension of nullspace = 2,  $m = 3$ .

Please assume that the first column is always a pivot column.

4. **(a)** What is the row reduced form  $\mathbf{R}_A$  of a 3 by 4 matrix  $A$  which has -1 in every entry?  
**(b)** What are the dimensions of  $A$ 's column space and nullspace?  
**(c)** Write down a basis for column space.
5. If  $\vec{w}_1$ ,  $\vec{w}_2$ , and  $\vec{w}_3$  are independent vectors, show that the differences  $\vec{v}_1 = \vec{w}_2 - \vec{w}_3$ ,  $\vec{v}_2 = \vec{w}_1 - \vec{w}_3$ , and  $\vec{v}_3 = \vec{w}_1 - \vec{w}_2$  are dependent. Do this by finding a combination of the  $\vec{v}$ 's that gives  $\vec{0}$ .

6. Determine whether or not these vectors are independent or dependent:  $\vec{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ ,

$$\vec{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ and } \vec{v}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

(Hint: you can test for dependence by placing vectors as rows in a matrix and performing row reduction. Or you can determine if a matrix with these vectors as its columns has a non-trivial nullspace or not.)

7. Suppose  $\vec{v}_1$ ,  $\vec{v}_2$ ,  $\vec{v}_3$ , and  $\vec{v}_4$  are vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . Complete the following sentences:
  - (a)** These four vectors are dependent because \_\_\_\_.
  - (b)** The two vectors  $\vec{v}_1$  and  $\vec{v}_2$  will be dependent if \_\_\_\_.
  - (c)** The vectors  $\vec{v}_1$  and  $[0 \ 0 \ 0]^T$  are dependent because \_\_\_\_.
8. True or false (please give a reason if true and a counter example if false):
  - (a)** The columns of a matrix are a basis for the column space.
  - (b)** If a matrix contains a column that is all zeros, the columns are dependent.
  - (c)** If the columns of a matrix are dependent, so are the rows.

9. Matlab question:

Taking

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

use Matlab's `rref` command to find the following reduced row echelon forms:

- (a)  $\mathbf{R}_A$ ,
- (b)  $\mathbf{R}_{AA^T}$ ,
- (c)  $\mathbf{R}_{A^T A}$ ,

and write down  $m$ ,  $n$ , and rank  $r$  for all three.

10. Matlab question:

Consider the  $n$  by  $n$  family of matrices  $A(k; n)$  where  $a_{ij} = (i - j)^k$ , and  $k$  is an integer.

These matrices are a special kind of weight matrix where the entries increase in magnitude as a function of "distance" from the main diagonal.

Using Matlab's command "rank", and some experimentation for small  $k$  and  $n$ , determine how the rank of  $A(k; n)$  for general  $k$  and  $n$ .

Here's a small function for generating  $A(k; n)$ . Create an empty file called `weightmatrix.m` and dump this text in:

```
-----  
function A = weightmatrix(k,n)  
  
A = (ones(n,1)*(0:n-1) - (0:n-1)'*ones(1,n)).^k;  
-----
```

See if you can figure out how the above line of code works. The insides contain two outer products. What do they make?

Show an example weight matrix with  $k = 3$  and  $n = 5$ :

```
>> weightmatrix(3,5)
```

Find its rank:

```
>> rank(weightmatrix(3,5))
```

Now play around.

11. Bonus time (1 point):

What is the lyrebird extremely good at doing?

See if you can find the David Attenborough BBC video online.