

Abstract Vector Spaces, Bases and Coordinates, Matrix Spaces

Text: Chapter 4

Section Overviews: 4.1-4.6

Quote of Homework Six

Barron Münchhausen:Your reality, sir, is lies and balderdash and I'm delighted to say that I have no grasp of it whatsoever.

The Adventures of Barron Münchhausen : (1988)

1. ABSTRACT VECTOR SPACES

1.1. **Linear Ordinary Differential Equations.** Verify that the set of all n -times continuously differentiable functions on $[a, b]$, which satisfies the homogeneous linear ordinary differential equation $L[y] = 0$,

$$V = \left\{ y \in C^{(n)}[a, b] : L[y] = a_n(t) \frac{d^n y}{dt^n} + a_{n-1}(t) \frac{d^{n-1} y}{dt^{n-1}} + \cdots + a_0(t)y = 0, \text{ where } a_0, \dots, a_n \in C[a, b] \right\},$$

is a vector subspace of the vector space of all functions.¹

1.2. **Polynomial Subspaces.** Prove that if H is the set of all polynomials up to degree n , such that $p(0) = 0$, then H is a subspace of \mathbb{P}_n .

1.3. **Function Subspaces.** Prove that if $H = \{f \in C[a, b] : f(a) = f(b)\}$, then H is a subspace of $C[a, b]$.

2. MATRIX SPACE

Given,

$$(1) \quad \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} -8 & -2 & -9 \\ 6 & 4 & 8 \\ 4 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 & 6 & 2 & 5 \\ -2 & 3 & -3 & -3 & -4 \\ 4 & -6 & 9 & 5 & 9 \\ -2 & 3 & 3 & -4 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

2.1. **Column Space Verification.** Is \mathbf{w} in the column space of \mathbf{A} ? That is, does $\mathbf{w} \in \text{Col } \mathbf{A}$?

2.2. **Null Space Verification.** Is \mathbf{w} in the null space of \mathbf{A} ? That is, does $\mathbf{w} \in \text{Nul } \mathbf{A}$?

2.3. **Bases for Nul B.** Determine a basis and the dimension of $\text{Nul } \mathbf{B}$.

2.4. **Bases for Col B.** Determine a basis and the dimension of $\text{Col } \mathbf{B}$.

2.5. **Bases for Row B.** Determine a basis and the dimension of $\text{Row } \mathbf{B}$.

3. THEORY

Prove the following statements:

3.1. **Pivot Review.** $\dim \text{Row } \mathbf{A} + \dim \text{Nul } \mathbf{A} = n$ where $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$.

3.2. **More Pivoting.** $\text{Rank } \mathbf{A} + \dim \text{Nul } \mathbf{A}^T = m$ where $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$.

3.3. **Dimensional Arguments.** $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ has a solution for each $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ if and only if the equation $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ has only the trivial solution.²

3.4. **Spectral Properties of Transpositions.** The characteristic polynomial of \mathbf{A} is equal to the characteristic polynomial of \mathbf{A}^T .³

3.5. **Invertible Matrix Redux.** If \mathbf{A} is an invertible matrix with eigenvalue λ then λ^{-1} is an eigenvalue of \mathbf{A}^{-1} .⁴

¹The critical idea is to show that if $u, v \in V$ then $L[c_1 u + c_2 v] = 0$ where $c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$.

²For the forward direction use theorem 1.4.4 on page 43 and problem 3.3 to prove that the dimension of the null space of \mathbf{A}^T is zero.

³Note that \mathbf{I} is a symmetric matrix then use rules for the transposition of a sum and determinants of transposes.

⁴Start with $\mathbf{Ax} = \lambda \mathbf{x}$ and multiply on the left by \mathbf{A}^{-1} .

3.6. **Invertible Diagonalization.** If \mathbf{A} is both diagonalizable and invertible, then so is \mathbf{A}^{-1} .⁵

3.7. **Transpositions if Diagonalization.** If \mathbf{A} has n linearly independent eigenvectors, then so does \mathbf{A}^T .⁶

4. CHANGE OF BASES

The standard basis for \mathbb{R}^2 are the column vectors, $\{\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2\}$ of $\mathbf{I}_{2 \times 2}$. In class we looked at the basis $\mathfrak{B} = \{[1, 1]^T, [-1, 1]^T\}$. This basis is rotated $\frac{\pi}{4}$ radians counter-clockwise from the standard basis and does not preserve the notion of length from the standard coordinate system.

4.1. **Rotations Revisited.** Determine a basis for \mathbb{R}^2 , which is rotated $\frac{\pi}{4}$ radians counter-clockwise from the standard basis and preserves the unit length associated with the standard basis.

4.2. **Orthogonal Coordinates.** Show that, for this basis, the change-of-coordinates matrix $\mathbf{P}_{\mathfrak{B}}$ is such that, $\mathbf{P}_{\mathfrak{B}}\mathbf{P}_{\mathfrak{B}}^T = \mathbf{P}_{\mathfrak{B}}^T\mathbf{P}_{\mathfrak{B}} = \mathbf{I}_{2 \times 2}$.

4.3. **Coordinate Changes.** Given that $[\mathbf{x}_1]_{\mathfrak{B}} = [\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{2}]^T$ determine \mathbf{x}_1 and given that $\mathbf{x}_2 = \left[\frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}\right]^T$ determine $[\mathbf{x}_2]_{\mathfrak{B}}$. Calculate the magnitude of both of the vectors previously calculated.

4.4. **Polynomial Spaces.** The Hermite polynomials are a sequence of orthogonal polynomials, which arise in probability, combinatorics and physics.⁷ The first four polynomials in this sequence are given as,

$$H_0(x) = 1, \quad H_1(x) = 2x, \quad H_2(x) = -2 + 4x^2, \quad H_3(x) = -12x + 8x^3, \quad x \in (-\infty, \infty).$$

4.5. **Linear Independence.** Show that $\mathfrak{B} = \{1, 2x, -2 + 4x, -12x + 8x^3\}$ is a basis for \mathbb{P}_3 .

Hint: Determine the coordinate vectors of the Hermite polynomials relative to the standard basis.

4.6. **Change of Basis.** Let $\mathbf{p}(x) = 7 - 12x - 8x^2 + 12x^3$. Find the coordinate vector of \mathbf{p} relative to \mathfrak{B} .

Hint: Determine $\{c_0, c_1, c_2, c_3\}$ such that $\mathbf{p}(x) = \sum_{i=0}^3 c_i H_i(x)$.

⁵ Note that if \mathbf{D} is a diagonal matrix then \mathbf{D}^{-1} is the matrix whose diagonal elements are scalar inverses of the diagonal elements of \mathbf{D} .

⁶Use theorem 5.3.5 and the fact that if \mathbf{P} is invertible then $(\mathbf{P}^T)^{-1} = (\mathbf{P}^{-1})^T$. It is also useful to note that diagonal matrices are symmetric.

⁷In physics these polynomials manifest as the spatial solutions to Schrödinger's wave equation under a harmonic potential, which evolves the probability distribution of a quantum mechanical particle near an energy minimum. As it turns out there are infinitely-many Hermite polynomials and consequently one can show that this particle has infinitely-many allowed quantized energy levels, which are evenly spaced. In probability they arise as different moments of a standard normal distribution.