

## Week 6

## Gauss-Jordan elimination (Section 3.3)

$A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b} \rightarrow R\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{c}$  with  $R$  in reduced row echelon form (RREF); works for *every* system!

[illegible]
$$\text{RREF}(2, 3, 6, 8), r = 4$$

In general:  $\text{RREF}(j_1, j_2, \dots, j_r)$ :

$$I \ (m \times m): \text{ in RREF}(1, 2, \dots, m)$$

0 ( $m \times m$ ): in RREF() ( $r = 0$ )

**Lemma 3.14:**  $R$  in  $\text{RREF}(j_1, j_2, \dots, j_r)$  has independent columns  $j_1, j_2, \dots, j_r$  and rank  $r$ .

“Proof” by picture:

independent  $\downarrow$  : only 0's left of 1

[illegible]
$$\mathbf{e}_1 \mathbf{e}_2 \quad \mathbf{e}_3 \quad \mathbf{e}_4$$

dependent ↓

[illegible]
$$\mathbf{e}_1 \mathbf{e}_2 \quad \mathbf{e}_3 \mathbf{v} \quad \mathbf{e}_4$$

$$\mathbf{v} = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ v_3 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = v_1 \mathbf{e}_1 + v_2 \mathbf{e}_2 + v_3 \mathbf{e}_3$$

**Direct solution** of  $R\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{c}$  with  $R$  in  $\text{RREF}(j_1, j_2, \dots, j_r)$ :

Diagram illustrating a grid structure  $R$  with columns labeled  $j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4$  and rows labeled  $0, c_1, c_2, 0, c_3, c_4$ . The grid contains 1s at positions  $(0, j_1), (c_1, j_2), (c_2, j_3), (c_3, j_4)$  and 0s at positions  $(0, j_3), (0, j_4), (c_1, j_3), (c_1, j_4), (c_2, j_4), (c_3, j_3)$ .

$$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline 1 \\ \hline c_2 \\ \hline 0 \\ \hline 0 \\ \hline c_3 \\ \hline 0 \\ \hline c_4 \\ \hline 0 \\ \hline 0 \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|} \hline c_1 \\ \hline c_2 \\ \hline c_3 \\ \hline c_4 \\ \hline 0 \\ \hline 0 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{l} \\ \\ \\ \\ \leftarrow \text{if } \neq 0 \text{ here, no solution} \\ \leftarrow \end{array}$$

$$x_j = \begin{cases} c_i, & \text{if } j = j_i \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

*canonical* solution

**Elimination:** if  $A$  is not in RREF

- $Ax = b \rightarrow Rx = c$  (same solutions,  $R$  in RREF) focus on  $A \rightarrow R$  below
- For  $Rx = c$ , apply direct solution

Like Gauss, except... turn pivots into 1, also eliminate *above* the pivots: Column 1

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{2} & 4 & 2 & 2 & -2 \\ 6 & 12 & 6 & 7 & 1 \\ 4 & 8 & 2 & 2 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \\
 \text{divide (row 1) by 2:} \\
 \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1} & 2 & 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 6 & 12 & 6 & 7 & 1 \\ 4 & 8 & 2 & 2 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \\
 \text{subtract } 6 \cdot (\text{row 1}) \text{ from (row 2):} \\
 \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1} & 2 & 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 7 \\ 4 & 8 & 2 & 2 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \\
 \text{subtract } 4 \cdot (\text{row 1}) \text{ from (row 3):} \\
 \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1} & 2 & 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 7 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & -2 & 10 \end{bmatrix}
 \end{array}$$

Pivot **0** and no row exchange possible.

Column 2  $\rightarrow$  Column 3

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & \mathbf{0} & 0 & 1 & 7 \\ 0 & \mathbf{0} & -2 & -2 & 10 \end{bmatrix} \\
 \downarrow \\
 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & \mathbf{0} & 1 & 7 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & -2 & 10 \end{bmatrix}
 \end{array}$$

Case of failure in Gauss elimination. Here: case that saves us some work!

Column 3

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & \mathbf{0} & 1 & 7 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & -2 & 10 \end{bmatrix} \\
 \text{exchange (row 2) and (row 3):} \\
 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -\mathbf{2} & -2 & 10 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \\
 \text{divide (row 2) by } -2: \\
 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & \mathbf{1} & 1 & -5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \\
 \text{subtract } 1 \cdot (\text{row 2}) \text{ from (row 1):} \\
 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & \mathbf{1} & 1 & -5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 7 \end{bmatrix}
 \end{array}$$

Column 4

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & -5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \mathbf{1} & 7 \end{bmatrix} \\
 \text{subtract } 1 \cdot (\text{row 3}) \text{ from (row 2):} \\
 R = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -12 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \mathbf{1} & 7 \end{bmatrix}
 \end{array}$$

What about the right-hand side b?

Very useful: Version with  $m$  right-hand sides as input (columns of  $m \times m$  matrix  $B$ ) and the  $m$  transformed right hand-sides as output (columns of  $C$ ).

Algorithm 6:

```

1: function GAUSS-JORDAN ELIMINATION( $A, B$ ) ▷  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, B \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$ 
2:    $R \leftarrow A, C \leftarrow B, r \leftarrow 0$  ▷  $r$ : number of downward steps so far
3:   for  $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$  do ▷ eliminate in column  $j$ 
4:     if  $r = m$  then ▷ no further downward steps possible, done!
5:       break ▷ ... loop execution and go to line 21
6:     end if
7:      $s \leftarrow r + 1$  ▷ row of (potential) next downward step
8:     if  $r_{sj} = 0$  then ▷ zero pivot
9:       if there is some  $k > s$  such that  $r_{kj} \neq 0$  then
10:        exchange (row  $s$ ) and (row  $k$ ) (in both  $R$  and  $C$ ) ▷ row operation

```

```

11:         else                                ▷ no downward step in column  $j$ 
12:         continue                            ▷ ... in line 3 with the next column
13:     end if
14: end if                                     ▷ now  $r_{sj} \neq 0$ 
15: divide (row  $s$ ) by  $r_{sj}$  (in both  $R$  and  $C$ )    ▷ row operation
16: for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, s-1$  and  $i = s+1, s+2, \dots, m$  do    ▷ make  $r_{ij} = 0$ 
17:     subtract  $r_{ij}$  · (row  $s$ ) from (row  $i$ ) (in both  $R$  and  $C$ )    ▷ row operation
18: end for                                     ▷ now, the  $j$ -th column of  $R$  equals  $e_s$ 
19:  $r \leftarrow r + 1, j_r \leftarrow j$             ▷ next downward step was made in column  $j$ 
20: end for
21: return  $(R, j_1, j_2, \dots, j_r, C)$         ▷  $R$  is in RREF( $j_1, j_2, \dots, j_r$ )
22: end function

```

**Runtime for  $(A, B) \rightarrow (R, C)$ :**

- $O(m)$  row operations in each of the  $r$  downward steps ( $r \leq m$ )
- $O(m+n)$  basic operations per row operation ( $C$ :  $m$  columns,  $A$ :  $n$  columns)
- Time  $O(mr(m+n))$  in total (also covers the other operations)

For  $m = r = n$  (Gauss success scenario):  $O(m^3)$ .

**Theorem 3.17:** Let  $A$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix, and let  $(R, j_1, j_2, \dots, j_r, M)$  be the output of Algorithm 6 with input  $(A, I)$ . Then  $M$  is invertible,  $R = MA$ , and  $R$  is in RREF( $j_1, j_2, \dots, j_r$ ).

*Proof.*  $\underbrace{C}_M = \underbrace{M_\ell M_{\ell-1} \dots M_1}_{\text{row operation matrices}} \underbrace{B}_I \quad \Rightarrow \quad R = \underbrace{M_\ell M_{\ell-1} \dots M_1}_M A.$

Since all  $M_i$  are invertible (row operations are undoable), their product  $M$  is also invertible (Lemma 2.59).  $\square$

$R$  is the “RREF standard form” of  $A$  and also gives us the CR decomposition:

**Theorem 3.18:** Let  $A$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix. There is a unique  $m \times n$  matrix  $R$  (the one resulting from Gauss-Jordan elimination; Theorem 3.17), with the following two properties.

- (i)  $R = MA$  for some invertible  $m \times m$  matrix  $M$ .
- (ii)  $R$  is in RREF.

More precisely,  $R$  is in RREF( $j_1, j_2, \dots, j_r$ ), where  $j_1, j_2, \dots, j_r$  are the indices of the independent columns in  $A$ , and

$$R = \left[ \begin{array}{c} \underbrace{R'}_{r \times n} \\ \underbrace{0}_{(m-r) \times n} \end{array} \right],$$

with  $R'$  the unique matrix such that  $A = CR'$  in Theorem 2.46 (CR decomposition).

Verify this on

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 3 \\ 2 & 4 & 1 & 4 \\ 3 & 6 & 2 & 5 \end{bmatrix}}_A = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix}}_C \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}}_{R'}$$

from Section 2.3.5 by doing Gauss-Jordan on  $A$ :

$$\begin{array}{l} A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 3 \\ 2 & 4 & 1 & 4 \\ 3 & 6 & 2 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{elimination in column 1:} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & -4 \end{bmatrix} \downarrow \\ \text{elimination in column 3:} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \downarrow \\ R = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

**Computing the inverse of  $A$ :** Run Gauss-Jordan on  $(A, I) \rightarrow (R, M)$ .

**Theorem 3.19:**  $A$  invertible  $\Leftrightarrow R = I$  (and then  $M = A^{-1}$ ).

**Solving  $Ax = b$  (possibly for many  $b$ ):** Run Gauss-Jordan on  $(A, I) \rightarrow (R, M)$ .

**Theorem 3.20:** Set  $c = Mb$  and solve  $Rx = c$  ( $MAx = Mb$ ) by direct solution.

$O(m^2)$  time per  $b$ , after  $O(mr(m+n))$  time for Gauss-Jordan.

## Vector spaces (Section 4.1)

[https://ti.inf.ethz.ch/ew/courses/LA25/slides/vectors\\_handout.pdf](https://ti.inf.ethz.ch/ew/courses/LA25/slides/vectors_handout.pdf)

## Bases and dimension (Section 4.2)

Basis of a vector space  $V$ : linearly independent vectors that span  $V$ .

Need linear combinations / span in vector spaces.

Previously, we used *sequences* of vectors; now, we also work with *sets* (possibly infinite: polynomials).

**Definition 4.15** Let  $V$  be a vector space,  $G \subseteq V$  a (possibly infinite) subset of vectors. A *linear combination* of  $G$  is a sum of the form

$$\sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j \mathbf{v}_j,$$

where  $F = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$  is a finite subset of  $G$  and  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n \in \mathbb{R}$ .

**Lemma 4.16:** Let  $V$  be a vector space. Every linear combination of  $V$  is again in  $V$ .

Proof is easy (linear combination is “natural behavior”, combining “add up” and “scale”). But needs *finite* linear combinations:

Consider  $\mathbb{R}[x]$  (polynomials), and the infinite “linear combination”

$$\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} x^j \left( = \frac{1}{1-x} \right).$$

of the *unit monomials*  $1, x, x^2, \dots$ . This is not a polynomial.

**Definition 4.17:** Let  $V$  be a vector space,  $G \subseteq V$  (possibly infinite).

$G$  is called *linearly dependent* if there is an element  $\mathbf{v} \in G$  such that  $\mathbf{v}$  is a linear combination of  $G \setminus \{\mathbf{v}\}$ . Otherwise,  $G$  is called *linearly independent*.

The *span* of  $G$ ,  $\text{Span}(G)$ , is the set of all linear combinations of  $G$ .

## Bases

**Definition 4.18:** Let  $V$  be a vector space. A subset  $B \subseteq V$  is called a *basis* of  $V$  if  $B$  is linearly independent and  $\text{Span}(B) = V$ .

**Examples:** (For linear independence, use *private nonzero* argument!)

vector space $V$	basis $B$
$\mathbb{R}^m$	$\{\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \dots, \mathbf{e}_m\}$
$C(A)$ (subspace of $\mathbb{R}^m$ )	independent columns of $A$
$2 \times 2$ symmetric matrices (subspace of $\mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}$ )	$\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$
$\mathbb{R}[x]$ (polynomials)	$\{x^i : i = 0, 1, \dots\}$ (infinite set)
$\{0\}$ (smallest vector space)	$\emptyset$ (empty set)

**There can be many bases:**

**Observation 4.20:** Every set  $B = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_m\}$  of  $m$  linearly independent vectors is a basis of  $\mathbb{R}^m$ .

*Proof.*  $B$  is linearly independent, and  $\text{Span}(B) = \mathbb{R}^m$  is true by Lemma 1.28. □

Does every vector space have a basis? Yes, but we only treat the *finitely generated* case.

**Definition 4.21:** A vector space  $V$  is called *finitely generated* if there exists a finite subset  $G \subseteq V$  with  $\text{Span}(G) = V$ .

$\mathbb{R}^m$  is finitely generated (by  $G = \{\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \dots, \mathbf{e}_m\}$ ) but  $\mathbb{R}[x]$  is not.

**Theorem 4.22:** Let  $V$  be a finitely generated vector space, and  $G \subseteq V$  a finite subset with  $\text{Span}(G) = V$ . Then  $V$  has a basis  $B \subseteq G$ .

(Algorithmic) Proof. Start with  $G$ .

1. If  $G$  is linearly independent,  $G$  is a basis.
2. Otherwise, some  $v \in G$  is a linear combination of  $G \setminus \{v\}$  (Definition 4.17) and  $\text{Span}(G \setminus \{v\}) = \text{Span}(G) = V$  (Corollary 1.27).
3. Replace  $G$  with  $G \setminus \{v\}$  and goto 1.

$G$  is finite and gets smaller in every round, so this must stop with a basis.  $\square$

### The Steinitz exchange lemma

**Lemma 4.23:** Let  $V$  be a finitely generated vector space,  $F \subseteq V$  a finite set of linearly independent vectors, and  $G \subseteq V$  a finite set of vectors with  $\text{Span}(G) = V$ . Then the following two statements hold.

(i)  $|F| \leq |G|$ .

(ii) There exists a subset  $E \subseteq G$  of size  $|G| - |F|$  such that  $\text{Span}(F \cup E) = V$ .

(ii) means: can enlarge  $F$  by some elements from  $G$  such that the result has at most the size of  $G$  and also spans  $V$ .

This is the luxury version of Lemma 1.28. Proof for both is (almost) the same:

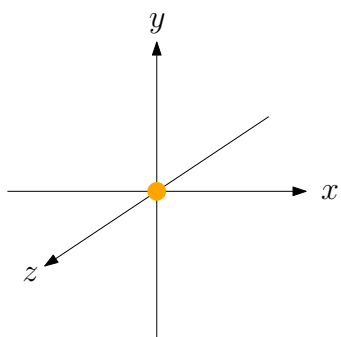
<https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/1226855322/>.

**Theorem 4.24** Let  $V$  be a finitely generated vector space and let  $B, B' \subseteq V$  be two bases of  $V$ . Then  $|B| = |B'|$ .

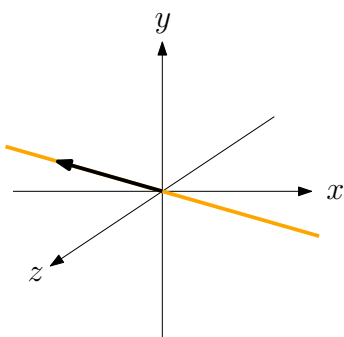
*Proof.*  $B$  and  $B'$  are linearly independent, and  $\text{Span}(B) = \text{Span}(B') = V$  (Definition 4.18). Steinitz exchange Lemma 4.23 (i) with  $F = B, G = B'$  gives  $|B| \leq |B'|$ ; with  $F = B', G = B$ , we get  $|B'| \leq |B|$ .  $\square$

### Dimension

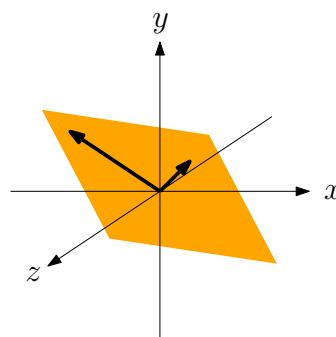
**Definition 4.25:** Let  $V$  be a finitely generated vector space. Then the *dimension* of  $V$ ,  $\dim(V)$ , is the size of an arbitrary basis  $B$  of  $V$ .



dimension 0



dimension 1



dimension 2

Now we can finally say:  $\mathbb{R}^m$  has dimension  $m$ .

:-)