

# Chapter 3

## Matrices and Linear transformations

A linear transformation acting on a Euclidian vector can be represented as a matrix. Many of the concepts we introduce in this chapter generalize to linear operators acting on functions in infinite dimensional spaces, which is fundamental for the study of partial differential equations.

### 3.1 Matrix algebra

#### Linear transformation as a matrix

A function  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is a *linear transformation*, or *linear map*, if

$$(i) \quad f(x + z) = f(x) + f(z),$$

$$(ii) \quad f(\alpha x) = \alpha f(x),$$

for all  $x, z \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ . In the standard basis  $(e_1, \dots, e_n)$  we can express the  $i$ th component of the vector  $y = f(x) \in \mathbb{R}^n$  as

$$y_i = f_i(x) = f_i\left(\sum_{j=1}^n x_j e_j\right) = \sum_{j=1}^n x_j f_i(e_j),$$

where  $f_i : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . In component form, we write this as

$$\begin{aligned} y_1 &= a_{11}x_1 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n \\ &\vdots \\ y_n &= a_{n1}x_1 + \dots + a_{nn}x_n \end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

with  $a_{ij} = f_i(e_j)$ . That is  $y = Ax$ , where  $A$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & \cdots & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (3.2)$$

The set of real valued  $m \times n$ -matrices defines a vector space  $\mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ , by the basic operations of (i) component-wise matrix addition and (ii) component-wise scalar multiplication. A matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  also defines a *linear map*  $x \mapsto Ax$ , by the basic operations of the *matrix-vector product* and *component-wise scalar multiplication*.

$$\begin{aligned} A(x + y) &= Ax + Ay, & x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n, \\ A(\alpha x) &= \alpha Ax, & x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \alpha \in \mathbb{R}. \end{aligned}$$

### Matrix-vector product

In *index notation* we write a vector  $b = (b_i)$ , and a matrix  $A = (a_{ij})$ , with  $i$  the *row index* and  $j$  is the *column index*. For an  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$ , and  $x$  an  $n$ -dimensional column vector, we define the *matrix-vector product*  $b = Ax$  to be the  $m$ -dimensional column vector

$$b_i = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}x_j, \quad i = 1, \dots, m. \quad (3.3)$$

With  $a_j$  the  $j$ th column of  $A$ , an  $m$ -vector, we can express the matrix-vector product as a linear combination of the set of column vectors  $\{a_j\}_{j=1}^n$

$$b = Ax = \sum_{j=1}^n x_j a_j, \quad (3.4)$$

or in matrix form

$$\begin{bmatrix} b \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & \cdots & a_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = x_1 \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} a_2 \end{bmatrix} + \cdots + x_n \begin{bmatrix} a_n \end{bmatrix}.$$

The vector space spanned by  $\{a_j\}_{j=1}^n$  is the *column space*, or *range*, of the matrix  $A$ , so that  $\text{range}(A) = \text{span}\{a_j\}_{j=1}^n$ . The *null space*, or *kernel*,

of an  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$  is the set of vectors  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $Ax = 0$ , with  $0$  the zero vector in  $\mathbb{R}^m$ , that is  $\text{null}(A) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ax = 0\}$ .

The dimension of the column space is the column *rank* of the matrix,  $\text{rank}(A)$ . We note that the column rank is equal to the row rank, corresponding to the space spanned by the row vectors of  $A$ , and the maximal rank of an  $m \times n$  matrix is  $\min(m, n)$ , which we refer to as *full rank*.

### Matrix-matrix product

The *matrix-matrix product*  $B = AC$  is a matrix in  $\mathbb{R}^{l \times n}$ , defined for two matrices  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{l \times m}$  and  $C \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ , as

$$b_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^m a_{ik}c_{kj}, \quad (3.5)$$

with  $B = (b_{ij})$ ,  $A = (a_{ik})$  and  $C = (c_{kj})$ . Here we may sometimes omit the summation sign and use the *Einstein convention* where repeated indices imply summation over those same indices, so that we can express the matrix-matrix product (3.5) as  $b_{ij} = a_{ik}c_{kj}$ .

Similarly as for the matrix-vector product, we may interpret the columns  $b_j$  of the matrix-matrix product  $B$  as a linear combination of the columns  $a_k$  with coefficients  $c_{kj}$

$$b_j = Ac_j = \sum_{k=1}^m c_{kj}a_k, \quad (3.6)$$

or in matrix form

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c|c|c|c} b_1 & b_2 & \cdots & b_n \end{array} \right] = \left[ \begin{array}{c|c|c|c} a_1 & a_2 & \cdots & a_m \end{array} \right] \left[ \begin{array}{c|c|c|c} c_1 & c_2 & \cdots & c_n \end{array} \right].$$

For two linear transformations  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , with associated square  $n \times n$ -matrices  $A$  and  $C$ , the matrix-matrix product  $AC$  corresponds to the composition  $f \circ g(x) = f(g(x))$ .

### Matrix transpose and the inner and outer products

The *transpose* (or *adjoint*) of an  $m \times n$  matrix  $A = (a_{ij})$  is defined as the matrix  $A^T = (a_{ji})$ , with the column and row indices reversed.

Using the matrix transpose, the inner product of two vectors  $v, w \in \mathbb{R}^n$  can be expressed in terms of a matrix-matrix product  $v^T w$ , as

$$(v, w) = v^T w = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 & \cdots & v_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ \vdots \\ w_m \end{bmatrix} = v_1 w_1 + \dots + v_n w_n. \quad (3.7)$$

Similarly, the *outer product*, or *tensor product*, of two vectors  $v, w \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , denoted by  $v \otimes w$ , is defined as the  $m \times n$  matrix corresponding to the matrix-matrix product  $v w^T$ , that is

$$v \otimes w = v w^T = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ \vdots \\ v_m \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} w_1 & \cdots & w_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 w_1 & \cdots & v_1 w_n \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ v_m v_1 & & v_m w_n \end{bmatrix}.$$

In tensor notation we can express the inner and the outer products as  $(v, w) = v_i w_i$  and  $v \otimes w = v_i w_j$ .

The transpose has the property that  $(AB)^T = B^T A^T$ , and thus satisfies the equation  $(Ax, y) = (x, A^T y)$ , for any  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n, y \in \mathbb{R}^m$ , which follows from the definition of the inner product in Euclidian vector spaces, since

$$(Ax, y) = (Ax)^T y = x^T A^T y = (x, A^T y). \quad (3.8)$$

$A$  is said to be *symmetric* (or *self-adjoint*) if  $A = A^T$ , so that  $(Ax, y) = (x, Ay)$ . If in addition  $(Ax, x) > 0$  for all non-zero  $x \in \mathbb{R}^m$ , we say that  $A$  is a *symmetric positive definite* matrix. A matrix is said to be *normal* if  $A^T A = A A^T$ .

## Matrix norms

To measure the size of a matrix, we first introduce the *Frobenius norm*, corresponding to the  $l_2$ -norm of the matrix  $A$  interpreted as an  $mn$ -vector, that is

$$\|A\|_F = \left( \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n |a_{ij}|^2 \right)^{1/2}. \quad (3.9)$$

The Frobenius norm is the norm associated to the following inner product over the space  $\mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,

$$(A, B) = \text{tr}(A^T B), \quad (3.10)$$

with the *trace* of a square  $n \times n$  matrix  $C = (c_{ij})$  defined by

$$\operatorname{tr}(C) = \sum_{i=1}^n c_{ii}. \quad (3.11)$$

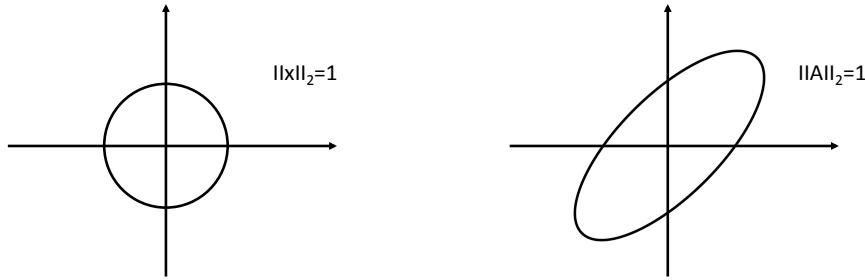


Figure 3.1: Illustration of the map  $x \mapsto Ax$  through the unit circles  $\|x\|_2 = 1$  (left) and  $\|Ax\|_2 = 1$  (right), for the matrix  $A$  in (3.13).

Matrix norms for  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  are also induced by the respective  $l_p$ -norms on  $\mathbb{R}^m$  and  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , in the form

$$\|A\|_p = \sup_{\substack{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ x \neq 0}} \frac{\|Ax\|_p}{\|x\|_p} = \sup_{\substack{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ \|x\|_p=1}} \|Ax\|_p. \quad (3.12)$$

The last equality follows from the definition of a norm, and shows that the induced matrix norm can be defined in terms of its map of unit vectors, which we illustrate in Figure 3.1 and Figure 3.2 for the matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (3.13)$$

## Determinant

The *determinant* of a square matrix  $A$  is denoted  $\det(A)$  or  $|A|$ . For a  $2 \times 2$  matrix we have the explicit formula

$$\det(A) = \begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} = ad - bc. \quad (3.14)$$

For example, for the matrix in (3.13) we have that  $\det(A) = 1 \cdot 2 - 2 \cdot 0 = 2$ .

The formula for the determinant is extended to a  $3 \times 3$  matrix by

$$\begin{aligned} \det(A) &= \begin{vmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{vmatrix} = a \begin{vmatrix} e & f \\ h & i \end{vmatrix} - b \begin{vmatrix} d & f \\ g & i \end{vmatrix} + c \begin{vmatrix} d & e \\ g & h \end{vmatrix} \\ &= a(ei - fh) - b(di - fg) + c(dh - eg), \end{aligned} \quad (3.15)$$

and by recursion this formula can be generalized to any square matrix.

For a  $2 \times 2$  matrix the absolute value of the determinant equals to the area of the parallelogram that represents the image of the unit square under the map  $x \mapsto Ax$ , and similarly for a  $3 \times 3$  matrix the volume of the mapped parallelepiped from the unit cube. More generally, the absolute value of the determinant represents a scale factor of the linear transformation  $A$ .

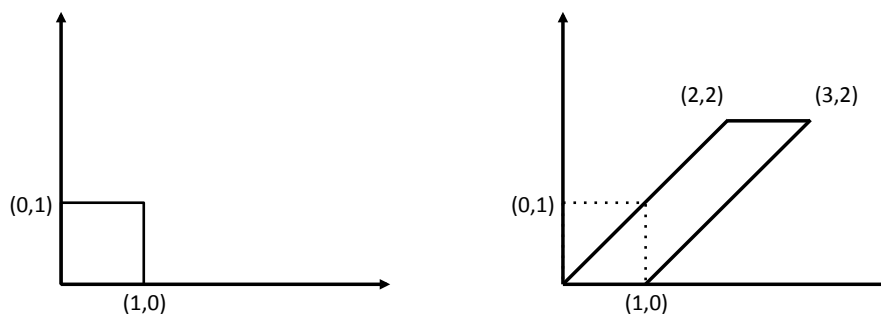


Figure 3.2: The map  $x \mapsto Ax$  (right) of the unit square (left), for the matrix  $A$  in (3.13), with the corresponding area given by  $|\det(A)| = 2$ .

## Matrix inverse

If the column vectors  $\{a_j\}_{j=1}^n$  of a square  $n \times n$  matrix form a basis for  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , then all vectors  $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$  can be expressed as  $b = Ax$ , where  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is the vector of coordinates of  $b$  in the basis  $\{a_j\}_{j=1}^n$ . In particular, all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  can be expressed as  $x = Ix$ , where  $I$  is the square  $n \times n$  *identity matrix* in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , taking the standard basis as column vectors,

$$I = \left[ \begin{array}{c|c|c|c} e_1 & e_2 & \cdots & e_n \end{array} \right] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

A square matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  is *invertible*, or *non-singular*, if there exists an *inverse matrix*  $A^{-1} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  such that  $A^{-1}A = AA^{-1} = I$ , which also means that  $(A^{-1})^{-1} = A$ . Further, for two matrices  $A$  and  $B$  we have the property that  $(AB)^{-1} = B^{-1}A^{-1}$ .

**Theorem 4.** *For a square matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , the following is equivalent:*

- (i)  $A$  has an inverse  $A^{-1}$ ,
- (ii)  $\det(A) \neq 0$ ,
- (iii)  $\text{rank}(A) = n$ ,
- (iv)  $\text{range}(A) = \mathbb{R}^n$
- (v)  $\text{null}(A) = \{0\}$ .

The matrix inverse is unique. To see this, assume that there exist two matrices  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  such that  $AB_1 = AB_2 = I$ ; which by linearity gives that  $A(B_1 - B_2) = 0$ , but since  $\text{null}(A) = \{0\}$  we have that  $B_1 = B_2$ .

## 3.2 Some linear transformations

### Affine transformations

An *affine transformation*, or *affine map*, is a linear transformation composed with a translation, corresponding to a matrix multiplication followed by vector addition. For example, counter-clockwise rotation of a vector by an angle  $\theta$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , takes the form of multiplication by a *Givens rotation* matrix,

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\theta) & -\sin(\theta) \\ \sin(\theta) & \cos(\theta) \end{bmatrix}, \quad (3.16)$$

whereas translation corresponds to addition by a position vector  $b$ , so that the affine map takes the form  $x \mapsto Ax + b$ .

We note that any triangle is related to each other through an affine map; for example in the Euclidian plane  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , or to a surface (manifold) in Euclidian space  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , see Figure 3.3.

**Remark 1.** *We note that by using homogeneous coordinates, or projective coordinates, we can express any affine transformation as a matrix multiplication, including translation. In  $\mathbb{R}^2$  a vector  $x = (x_1, x_2)^T$  in standard*

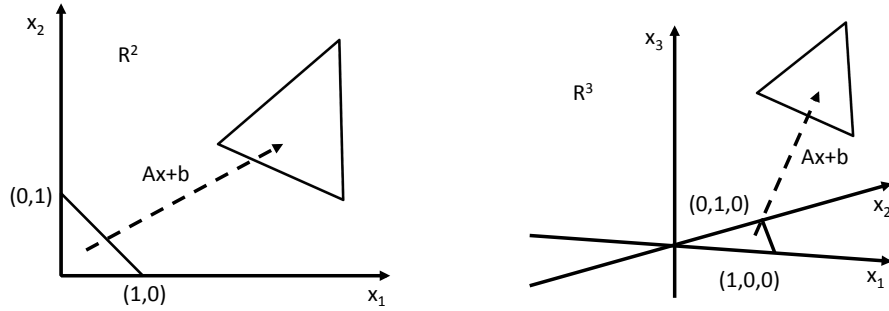


Figure 3.3: Affine maps  $x \mapsto Ax + b$  of the *reference triangle* with corners in  $(0,0)$ ,  $(1,0)$ ,  $(0,1)$ ; in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  (left); to a surface (manifold) in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  (right).

*Cartesian coordinates, is represented as  $x = (x_1, x_2, 1)^T$  in homogeneous coordinates, so that the rotation matrix takes the form*

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\theta) & -\sin(\theta) & 0 \\ \sin(\theta) & \cos(\theta) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (3.17)$$

*and translation by a vector  $(t_1, t_2)$  is expressed by the matrix*

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & t_1 \\ 0 & 1 & t_2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (3.18)$$

### Difference and summation matrices

Subdivide the interval  $[0, 1]$  into a *structured grid* with  $m$  intervals and  $m + 1$  *nodes*  $x_i$ , such that  $0 = x_0 < x_1 < x_2 < \dots < x_m = 1$ , with a constant interval length  $h = x_i - x_{i-1}$ , so that  $x_i = x_0 + ih$ .

For each  $x = x_i$  we may approximate the integral of a function  $f(x)$  with  $f(0) = 0$ , by a rectangular quadrature rule, so that

$$F(x_i) = \int_0^{x_i} f(s)ds \approx \sum_{k=1}^i f(x_k)h = F_h(x_i), \quad (3.19)$$

which defines a function  $F_h(x_i)$  for all nodes  $x_i$  in the subdivision. This linear transformation of the vector of sampled function values at the nodes



$y = (f(x_1), \dots, f(x_m))^T$  can be expressed in the following matrix equation,

$$L_h y = \begin{bmatrix} h & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ h & h & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \vdots \\ h & h & \cdots & h \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} f(x_1) \\ f(x_2) \\ \vdots \\ f(x_m) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f(x_1)h \\ f(x_1)h + f(x_2)h \\ \vdots \\ \sum_{k=1}^m f(x_k)h \end{bmatrix}, \quad (3.20)$$

where  $L_h$  is a summation matrix, with its inverse given by

$$L_h = h \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad L_h^{-1} = h^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (3.21)$$

The inverse matrix  $L_h^{-1}$  corresponds to a difference matrix over the same subdivision. To see this, multiply the matrix  $L_h^{-1}$  to  $y = f(x_i)$ ,

$$L_h^{-1} y = h^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} f(x_1) \\ f(x_2) \\ \vdots \\ f(x_m) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f(x_1)/h \\ (f(x_2) - f(x_1))/h \\ \vdots \\ (f(x_m) - f(x_{m-1}))/h \end{bmatrix}. \quad (3.22)$$

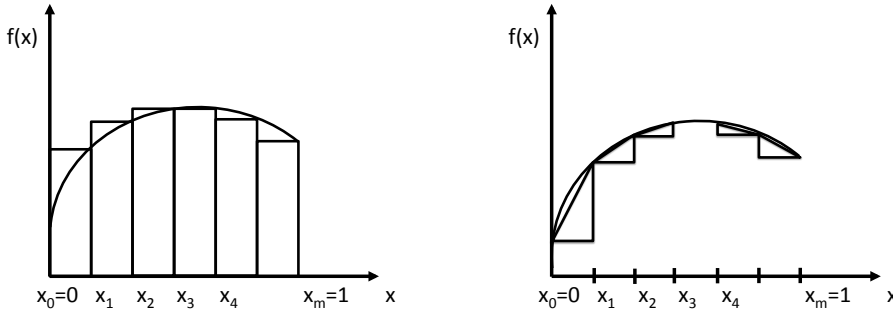


Figure 3.4: Rectangular rule quadrature (left) and finite difference approximation (right) on a subdivision of  $[0, 1]$  with interval length  $h$ .

As the interval length  $h \rightarrow 0$ , the summation and difference matrices converge to integral and differential operators, such that for each  $x \in (0, 1)$ ,

$$L_h y \rightarrow \int_0^x f(s) ds, \quad L_h^{-1} y \rightarrow f'(x). \quad (3.23)$$

Further, we have for the product of the two matrices that

$$y = L_h L_h^{-1} y \rightarrow f(x) = \int_a^x f'(s) ds, \quad (3.24)$$

as  $h \rightarrow 0$ , which corresponds to the *Fundamental theorem of Calculus*.

### Difference operators

The matrix  $L_h^{-1}$  in (3.21) corresponds to a backward difference operator  $D_h^-$ , and similarly we can define a forward difference operator  $D_h^+$ , by

$$D_h^- = h^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & & & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad D_h^+ = h^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & & & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The matrix-matrix product  $D_h^+ D_h^-$  takes the form,

$$D_h^+ D_h^- = h^{-2} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & & & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (3.25)$$

which corresponds to an approximation of a second order differential operator. The matrix  $A = -D_h^+ D_h^-$  is *diagonally dominant*, that is

$$|a_{ii}| \geq \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij}|, \quad (3.26)$$

and symmetric positive definite, since

$$\begin{aligned} x^T A x &= \dots + x_i(-x_{i-1} + 2x_i - x_{i+1}) + \dots + x_n(-x_{n-1} + 2x_n) \\ &= \dots - x_i x_{i-1} + 2x_i^2 - x_i x_{i+1} - x_{i+1} x_i + \dots - x_{n-1} x_n + 2x_n^2 \\ &= \dots + (x_i - x_{i-1})^2 + (x_{i+1} - x_i)^2 + \dots + x_n^2 > 0, \end{aligned}$$

for any non-zero vector  $x$ .

Since the second order difference matrix  $A = -(D_h^+ D_h^-)$  is symmetric positive definite, there exists a unique inverse  $A^{-1}$ . For example, in the case

of a  $5 \times 5$  matrix we have that

$$A = 1/h^2 \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad A^{-1} = h^2/6 \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 4 & 3 & 2 & 1 \\ 4 & 8 & 6 & 4 & 2 \\ 3 & 6 & 9 & 6 & 3 \\ 2 & 4 & 6 & 8 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix},$$

where we note that while the second order difference operator  $A$  is a *sparse matrix* with only few non-zero elements, the inverse  $A^{-1}$  is a *full matrix* without zero elements, corresponding to a weighted integral (summation) operator.

## The finite difference method

For a vector  $y = u(x_i)$ , the  $i$ th row of the matrix  $D_h^+ D_h^-$  corresponds to a *finite difference stencil*, with  $u(x_i)$  function values sampled at the nodes  $x_i$  of the structured grid representing the subdivision of the interval  $I = (0, 1)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} [(D_h^+ D_h^-)y]_i &= \frac{u(x_{i+1}) - 2u(x_i) + u(x_{i-1}))}{h^2} \\ &= \frac{u(x_{i+1}) - u(x_i)}{h} - \frac{u(x_i) - u(x_{i-1}))}{h}. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, the difference operators  $D_h^-$  and  $D_h^+$  correspond to finite difference stencils over the grid, and we have that for  $x \in I$ ,

$$(D_h^+ D_h^-)y \rightarrow u''(x), \quad (D_h^-)y \rightarrow u'(x), \quad (D_h^+)y \rightarrow u'(x), \quad (3.27)$$

as the grid size  $h \rightarrow 0$ .

The *finite difference method* for solving differential equations is based on approximation of differential operators by such difference stencils over a grid. We can thus, for example, approximate the differential equation

$$-u''(x) + u(x) = f(x), \quad (3.28)$$

by the matrix equation

$$-(D_h^+ D_h^-)y + (D_h^-)y = b, \quad (3.29)$$

with  $b_i = f(x_i)$ . The finite difference method extends to multiple dimensions, where the difference stencils are defined over structured Cartesian grids in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  or  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

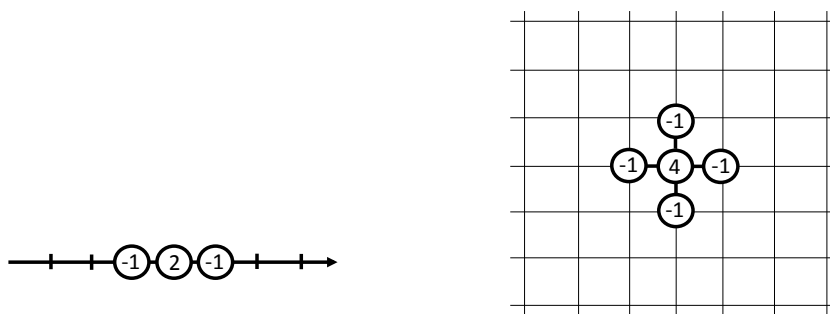


Figure 3.5: Example of finite difference stencils corresponding to the difference operator  $-(D_h^+ D_h^-)$  over structured grids in  $\mathbb{R}$  (left) and  $\mathbb{R}^2$  (right).

## Convolution

### 3.3 Orthogonal projectors

#### Orthogonal matrix

A square matrix  $Q \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  is *orthogonal*, or *unitary*, if  $Q^T = Q^{-1}$ . With  $q_j$  the columns of  $Q$  we thus have that  $Q^T Q = I$ , or in matrix form,

$$\begin{bmatrix} \hline q_1 \\ \hline q_2 \\ \hline \vdots \\ \hline q_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} | & | & \cdots & | \\ q_1 & q_2 & \cdots & q_n \\ | & | & \cdots & | \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

so that the columns  $q_j$  form an orthonormal basis for  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

Multiplication by an orthogonal matrix preserves the angle between two vectors  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , since

$$(Qx, Qy) = (Qx)^T Qy = x^T Q^T Qy = x^T y = (x, y), \quad (3.30)$$

and thus also the length of a vector,

$$\|Qx\| = (Qx, Qx)^{1/2} = (x, x)^{1/2} = \|x\|. \quad (3.31)$$

As a linear transformation an orthogonal matrix acts as a rotation or reflection, depending on the sign of the determinant which is always either 1 or  $-1$ .

## Orthogonal projector

A *projection matrix*, or *projector*, is a square matrix  $P$  such that

$$P^2 = PP = P. \quad (3.32)$$

It follows that

$$Pv = v, \quad (3.33)$$

for all vectors  $v \in \text{range}(P)$ , since  $v$  is of the form  $v = Px$  for some  $x$ , and thus  $Pv = P^2x = Px = v$ . For  $v \notin \text{range}(P)$  we have that  $P(Pv - v) = P^2v - Pv = 0$ , so that the projection error  $Pv - v \in \text{null}(P)$ .

The matrix  $I - P$  is also a projector, the *complementary projector* to  $P$ , since  $(I - P)^2 = I - 2P + P^2 = I - P$ . The range and null space of the two projectors are related as  $\text{range}(I - P) = \text{null}(P)$  and  $\text{range}(P) = \text{null}(I - P)$ , so that  $P$  and  $I - P$  separates  $\mathbb{R}^n$  into two subspaces  $S_1$  and  $S_2$ , since the only  $v \in \text{range}(P) \cap \text{range}(I - P)$  is the zero vector;  $v = v - Pv = (I - P)v = \{0\}$ .

If the two subspaces  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  are orthogonal, we say that  $P$  is an *orthogonal projector*. This is equivalent to the condition  $P = P^T$ , since the inner product between two vectors in  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  then vanish,

$$(Px, (I - P)y) = (Px)^T(I - P)y = x^T P^T(I - P)y = x^T(P - P^2)y = 0.$$

If  $P$  is an orthogonal projector, so is  $I - P$ . For example, the orthogonal projection  $P_y x$  of one vector  $x$  in the direction of another vector  $y$ , its orthogonal complement  $P^{\perp y} x$ , and  $P_y^r x$ , its reflection in  $y$ , correspond to the projectors

$$P_y = \frac{yy^T}{\|y\|^2}, \quad P^{\perp y} = I - \frac{yy^T}{\|y\|^2}, \quad P_y^r = I - 2\frac{yy^T}{\|y\|^2}. \quad (3.34)$$

## Gram-Schmidt orthogonalization

For a square matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  we denote the successive vector spaces spanned by its column vectors  $a_j$  as

$$\langle a_1 \rangle \subseteq \langle a_1, a_2 \rangle \subseteq \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle \subseteq \dots \subseteq \langle a_1, \dots, a_m \rangle. \quad (3.35)$$

Assuming that  $A$  has full rank, we now ask if we for each such vector space can construct an orthonormal basis  $q_j$  such that  $\langle q_1, \dots, q_j \rangle = \langle a_1, \dots, a_j \rangle$ , for all  $j \leq n$ .

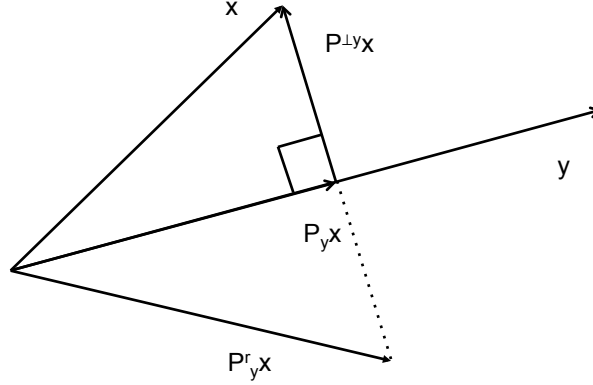


Figure 3.6: The projector  $P_y x$  of one vector  $x$  in the direction of another vector  $y$ , its orthogonal complement  $P^\perp_y x$ , and the reflector  $P^r_y x$ .

Given  $a_j$ , we can successively construct vectors  $v_j$  that are orthogonal to the spaces  $\langle q_1, \dots, q_{j-1} \rangle$ , since by (2.13) we have that

$$v_j = a_j - \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} (a_j, q_i) q_i, \quad (3.36)$$

for all  $j = 1, \dots, n$ , where each vector is then normalized to get  $q_j = v_j / \|v_j\|$ . This is the *classical Gram-Schmidt iteration*.

With  $\hat{Q}_{j-1}$  the  $n \times j-1$  matrix consisting of the orthogonal column vectors  $q_i$ , we can rewrite (3.36) in terms of an orthogonal projector  $P_j$ ,

$$v_j = a_j - \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} (a_j, q_i) q_i = a_j - \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} q_i q_i^T a_j = (I - \hat{Q}_{j-1} \hat{Q}_{j-1}^T) a_j = P_j a_j,$$

with  $\hat{Q}_{j-1} \hat{Q}_{j-1}^T$  an orthogonal projector onto  $\text{range}(\hat{Q}_{j-1})$ , the column space of  $\hat{Q}_{j-1}$ , and  $P_j = I - \hat{Q}_{j-1} \hat{Q}_{j-1}^T$  an orthogonal projector onto the space orthogonal to  $\text{range}(\hat{Q}_{j-1})$ , with  $P_1 = I$ . Thus the Gram-Schmidt iteration can be expressed in terms of the projector  $P_j$  as  $q_j = P_j a_j / \|P_j a_j\|$ , for  $j = 1, \dots, n$ .

Alternatively,  $P_j$  can be constructed by successive multiplication of projectors  $P^{\perp q_i} = I - q_i q_i^T$ , orthogonal to each individual vector  $q_i$ , such that

$$P_j = P^{\perp q_{j-1}} \dots P^{\perp q_2} P^{\perp q_1}. \quad (3.37)$$

The *modified Gram-Schmidt iteration* corresponds to instead using this formula to construct  $P_j$ , which leads to a more robust algorithm than the classical Gram-Schmidt iteration.

---

**Algorithm 1:** Modified Gram-Schmidt iteration

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```

for  $i = 1$  to  $n$  do
  |  $v_i = a_i$ 
end
for  $i = 1$  to  $n$  do
  |  $r_{ii} = \|v_i\|$ 
  |  $q_i = v_i / r_{ii}$ 
  for  $j = 1$  to  $i + 1$  do
  | |  $r_{ij} = q_i^T v_j$ 
  | |  $v_j = v_j - r_{ij} q_i$ 
  end
end

```

---

### 3.4 QR factorization

By introducing the notation  $r_{ij} = (a_j, q_i)$  and  $r_{ii} = \|a_j - \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} (a_j, q_i) q_i\|$ , we can rewrite the Gram-Schmidt iteration (3.36) as

$$\begin{aligned}
 a_1 &= r_{11} q_1 \\
 a_2 &= r_{12} q_1 + r_{22} q_2 \\
 &\vdots \\
 a_n &= r_{1n} q_1 + \dots + r_{2n} q_n
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.38}$$

which corresponds to the QR factorization  $A = QR$ , with  $Q$  an orthogonal matrix and  $R$  an upper triangular matrix, that is

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c|c|c|c} a_1 & a_2 & \cdots & a_n \end{array} \right] = \left[ \begin{array}{c|c|c|c} q_1 & q_2 & \cdots & q_n \end{array} \right] \left[ \begin{array}{cccc} r_{11} & r_{12} & \cdots & r_{1n} \\ & r_{22} & & \\ & & \ddots & \vdots \\ & & & r_{nn} \end{array} \right].$$

Existence and uniqueness of the QR factorization of a non-singular matrix  $A$  follows by construction from Algorithm 1.

The modified Gram-Schmidt iteration of Algorithm 1 corresponds to successive multiplication of upper triangular matrices  $R_k$  on the right of the matrix  $A$ , such that the resulting matrix  $Q$  is an orthogonal matrix,

$$AR_1R_2 \cdots R_n = Q, \quad (3.39)$$

and with the notation  $R^{-1} = R_1R_2 \cdots R_n$ , the matrix  $R = (R^{-1})^{-1}$  is also an upper triangular matrix.

### 3.5 Exercises

**Problem 8.** *Prove the equivalence of the definitions of the induced matrix norm, defined by*

$$\|A\|_p = \sup_{\substack{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ x \neq 0}} \frac{\|Ax\|_p}{\|x\|_p} = \sup_{\substack{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ \|x\|_p=1}} \|Ax\|_p. \quad (3.40)$$