

Lecture #14: Rank 1 Matrices

Theorem - A matrix $A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$ is rank 1 if and only if there exists vectors $\vec{u}, \vec{v} \in \mathbb{C}^n$ such that $A = \vec{u}\vec{v}^*$.

proof:

A is rank 1 if only if there exists $v_1, \dots, v_n \in \mathbb{C}$ and $\vec{u} \in \mathbb{C}^n$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} A &= [\vec{v}_1 \vec{u} \mid \cdots \mid \vec{v}_n \vec{u}] \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \vec{v}_1 u_1 & \cdots & \vec{v}_n u_1 \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \vec{v}_1 u_n & \cdots & \vec{v}_n u_n \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ \vdots \\ u_n \end{bmatrix} [\vec{v}_1 \cdots \vec{v}_n] \\ &= \vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}^* \end{aligned}$$

where $\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{bmatrix}$.

Theorem - If A is a rank 1 matrix such that $A = \vec{u}\vec{v}^*$ then

$$A\vec{w} = \underbrace{\vec{u}\vec{v}^*}_{\text{scalar}} \vec{w} = \langle \vec{v}, \vec{w} \rangle \vec{u}$$

$\uparrow \quad \uparrow$
 $n \times n \quad n \times 1$
Storage Storage
 \downarrow
 n^2 multiplications
 $+n$ additions

$\uparrow \quad \uparrow \quad \uparrow$
 $n \times 1 \quad n \times 1 \quad n \times 1$
Storage Storage Storage
 \downarrow
 $2n$ multiplications $+n$ additions.

Example:

$$1. \text{Proj}_{\vec{u}}(\vec{v}) = \langle \vec{u}, \vec{v} \rangle \vec{u} = (\vec{u}^* \vec{v}) \vec{u} = \vec{u} \vec{u}^* \vec{v}$$

The matrix representation of $\text{Proj}_{\vec{u}}(\cdot)$ is $\vec{u} \vec{u}^*$.

2. Let $S = \text{span}\{\vec{u}_1, \dots, \vec{u}_n\}$, where $\vec{u}_1, \dots, \vec{u}_n$ are orthonormal, then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Proj}_S(\vec{v}) &= \langle \vec{u}_1, \vec{v} \rangle \vec{u}_1 + \dots + \langle \vec{u}_n, \vec{v} \rangle \vec{u}_n \\ &= (\vec{u}_1^* \vec{v}) \vec{u}_1 + \dots + (\vec{u}_n^* \vec{v}) \vec{u}_n \\ &= (\vec{u}_1 \vec{u}_1^* + \dots + \vec{u}_n \vec{u}_n^*) \vec{v} \end{aligned}$$

The matrix representation of $\text{Proj}_S(\cdot)$ is $\vec{u}_1 \vec{u}_1^* + \dots + \vec{u}_n \vec{u}_n^*$.

$$3. \text{Proj}_{S^\perp}(\vec{v}) = \vec{v} - (\langle \vec{u}_1, \vec{v} \rangle \vec{u}_1 + \dots + \langle \vec{u}_n, \vec{v} \rangle \vec{u}_n) \\ = (\mathbf{I} - (\vec{u}_1 \vec{u}_1^* + \dots + \vec{u}_n \vec{u}_n^*)) \vec{v}$$

The matrix representation of $\text{Proj}_{S^\perp}(\cdot)$ is $\mathbf{I} - (\vec{u}_1 \vec{u}_1^* + \dots + \vec{u}_n \vec{u}_n^*)$.