MATH 323
Linear Algebra

Lecture 22:
Review for Test 2.

Topics for Test 2

Vector spaces (Leon/de Pillis 3.4–3.6)

- Basis and dimension
- Rank and nullity of a matrix
- Coordinates relative to a basis
- Change of basis, transition matrix

Linear transformations (Leon/de Pillis 4.1–4.3)

- Linear transformations
- Range and kernel
- Matrix transformations
- Matrix of a linear transformation
- Change of basis for a linear operator
- Similar matrices

Topics for Test 2

Eigenvalues and eigenvectors (Leon/de Pillis 6.1, 6.3)

- Eigenvalues, eigenvectors, eigenspaces
- Characteristic polynomial
- Diagonalization

Orthogonality (Leon/de Pillis 5.1–5.3)

- Euclidean structure in $\mathbb{R}^n$
- Orthogonal complement
- Orthogonal projection
- Least squares problems

Sample problems for Test 2

Problem 1 Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & 4 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ -3 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 2 & -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

(i) Find the rank and the nullity of the matrix A.
(ii) Find a basis for the row space of A, then extend this basis to a basis for $\mathbb{R}^4$.
(iii) Find a basis for the nullspace of A.

Problem 2 Let A and B be two matrices such that the product AB is well defined.

(i) Prove that $\operatorname{rank}(AB) \le \operatorname{rank}(B)$.
(ii) Prove that $\operatorname{rank}(AB) \le \operatorname{rank}(A)$.

Sample problems for Test 2

Problem 3 Complex numbers $\mathbb{C}$ form a vector space of (real) dimension 2. Consider a function $f : \mathbb{C} \to \mathbb{C}$ given by $f(z) = (3 + 2i)z$ for all $z \in \mathbb{C}$.

(i) Prove that f is a linear operator on the vector space $\mathbb{C}$.
(ii) Find the matrix of f relative to the basis 1, i.

Problem 4 Let V be a subspace of $F(\mathbb{R})$ spanned by functions e^x and e^{-x}. Let L be a linear operator on V such that $\begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$ is the matrix of L relative to the basis e^x, e^{-x}. Find the matrix of L relative to the basis $\cosh x = \frac{1}{2}(e^x + e^{-x})$, $\sinh x = \frac{1}{2}(e^x - e^{-x})$.

Sample problems for Test 2

Problem 5 Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

(i) Find all eigenvalues of the matrix A.
(ii) For each eigenvalue of A, find an associated eigenvector.
(iii) Is the matrix A diagonalizable? Explain.
(iv) Find all eigenvalues of the matrix A^2.

Problem 6 Find a linear polynomial which is the best least squares fit to the following data:

x	-2	-1	0	1	2
$f(x)$	-3	-2	1	2	5

Problem 7 Let V be a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^4$ spanned by the vectors $\mathbf{x}_1 = (1, 1, 1, 1)$ and $\mathbf{x}_2 = (1, 0, 3, 0)$. Find the distance from the vector $\mathbf{y} = (1, 0, 0, 0)$ to the subspaces V and $V^\perp$.

Problem 1. Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & 4 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ -3 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 2 & -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

(i) Find the rank and the nullity of the matrix A.

The rank (= dimension of the row space) and the nullity (= dimension of the nullspace) of a matrix are preserved under elementary row operations. We apply such operations to convert the matrix A into row echelon form.

Interchange the 1st row with the 2nd row:

$$\to \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 4 & 1 \\ -3 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 2 & -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Add 3 times the 1st row to the 3rd row, then subtract 2 times the 1st row from the 4th row:

$$\to \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 4 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & 5 & -3 \\ 2 & -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \to \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 4 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & 5 & -3 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Multiply the 2nd row by -1:

$$\to \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -4 & -1 \\ 0 & 3 & 5 & -3 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Add the 4th row to the 3rd row:

$$\to \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -4 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Add 3 times the 2nd row to the 4th row:

$$\to \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -4 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -16 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Add 16 times the 3rd row to the 4th row:

$$\to \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -4 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Now that the matrix is in row echelon form, its rank equals the number of nonzero rows, which is 3. Since

$$(\text{rank of } A) + (\text{nullity of } A) = (\text{the number of columns of } A) = 4,$$

it follows that the nullity of A equals 1.

Problem 1. Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & 4 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ -3 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 2 & -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

(ii) Find a basis for the row space of A, then extend this basis to a basis for $\mathbb{R}^4$.

The row space of a matrix is invariant under elementary row operations. Therefore the row space of the matrix A is the same as the row space of its row echelon form:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & 4 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ -3 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 2 & -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \to \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -4 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The nonzero rows of the latter matrix are linearly independent so that they form a basis for its row space:

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = (1, 1, 2, -1), \ \ \mathbf{v}_2 = (0, 1, -4, -1), \ \ \mathbf{v}_3 = (0, 0, 1, 0).$$

To extend the basis $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3$ to a basis for $\mathbb{R}^4$, we need a vector $\mathbf{v}_4 \in \mathbb{R}^4$ that is not a linear combination of $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3$.

It is known that at least one of the vectors $\mathbf{e}_1 = (1, 0, 0, 0)$, $\mathbf{e}_2 = (0, 1, 0, 0)$, $\mathbf{e}_3 = (0, 0, 1, 0)$, and $\mathbf{e}_4 = (0, 0, 0, 1)$ can be chosen as $\mathbf{v}_4$.

In particular, the vectors $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3, \mathbf{e}_4$ form a basis for $\mathbb{R}^4$. This follows from the fact that the 4×4 matrix whose rows are these vectors is not singular:

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -4 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 1 \neq 0.$$

Problem 1. Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & 4 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ -3 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 2 & -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

(iii) Find a basis for the nullspace of A.

The nullspace of A is the solution set of the system of linear homogeneous equations with A as the coefficient matrix. To solve the system, we convert A to reduced row echelon form:

$$\to \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -4 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \to \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$\implies \quad x_1 = x_2 - x_4 = x_3 = 0$

General solution: $(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = (0, t, 0, t) = t(0, 1, 0, 1)$.

Thus the vector $(0, 1, 0, 1)$ forms a basis for the nullspace of A.

Problem 2. Let A and B be two matrices such that the product AB is well defined.

(i) Prove that $\operatorname{rank}(AB) \leq \operatorname{rank}(B)$.

Suppose that $B\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ for some column vector $\mathbf{x}$. Then $(AB)\mathbf{x} = A(B\mathbf{x}) = A\mathbf{0} = \mathbf{0}$. It follows that the nullspace of B is contained in the nullspace of AB. Consequently, $\operatorname{nullity}(B) \leq \operatorname{nullity}(AB)$. Since matrices AB and B have the same number of columns, we obtain $\operatorname{rank}(AB) \leq \operatorname{rank}(B)$.

(ii) Prove that $\operatorname{rank}(AB) \leq \operatorname{rank}(A)$.

Note that $\operatorname{rank}(M) = \operatorname{rank}(M^T)$ for any matrix M.
In particular, $\operatorname{rank}(AB) = \operatorname{rank}((AB)^T) = \operatorname{rank}(B^T A^T)$.
By the above, $\operatorname{rank}(B^T A^T) \leq \operatorname{rank}(A^T) = \operatorname{rank}(A)$.

Remark. Alternatively, one can show that the row space of AB is contained in the row space of B while the column space of AB is contained in the column space of A.

Problem 3. Complex numbers $\mathbb{C}$ form a vector space of (real) dimension 2. Consider a function $f : \mathbb{C} \to \mathbb{C}$ given by $f(z) = (3+2i)z$ for all $z \in \mathbb{C}$.

(i) Prove that f is a linear operator on the vector space $\mathbb{C}$.

We need to show that $f(z+w) = f(z) + f(w)$ for $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$ and $f(rz) = rf(z)$ for all $r \in \mathbb{R}$ and $z \in \mathbb{C}$. The first condition means that $(3+2i)(z+w) = (3+2i)z + (3+2i)w$; it follows from the distributive law for complex numbers. The second condition means that $(3+2i)(rz) = r\big((3+2i)z\big)$; it follows from commutativity and associativity of multiplication of complex numbers.

(ii) Find the matrix of f relative to the basis 1, i.

Columns of the matrix are coordinates of the images $f(1)$ and $f(i)$ relative to the basis $1, i$. Observe that the coordinates of a complex number $x + yi$ are (x, y). We obtain that $f(1) = 3 + 2i$ and $f(i) = (3+2i)i = -2+3i$. Hence the matrix of f is $\begin{pmatrix} 3 & -2 \\ 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$.

Problem 4. Let V be a subspace of $F(\mathbb{R})$ spanned by functions e^x and e^{-x}. Let L be a linear operator on V such that $\begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$ is the matrix of L relative to the basis e^x, e^{-x}. Find the matrix of L relative to the basis $\cosh x = \frac{1}{2}(e^x + e^{-x})$, $\sinh x = \frac{1}{2}(e^x - e^{-x})$.

Let A denote the matrix of the operator L relative to the basis e^x, e^{-x} (which is given) and B denote the matrix of L relative to the basis $\cosh x$, $\sinh x$ (which is to be found). By definition of the functions $\cosh x$ and $\sinh x$, the transition matrix from $\cosh x$, $\sinh x$ to e^x, e^{-x} is $U = \frac{1}{2}\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$.

It follows that $B = U^{-1}AU$. We obtain that

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -3 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Problem 5. Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

(i) Find all eigenvalues of the matrix A.

The eigenvalues of A are roots of the characteristic equation $\det(A - \lambda I) = 0$. We obtain that

$$\det(A - \lambda I) = \begin{vmatrix} 1-\lambda & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 1-\lambda & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 1-\lambda \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= (1-\lambda)^3 - 2(1-\lambda) - 2(1-\lambda) = (1-\lambda)\big((1-\lambda)^2 - 4\big)$$

$$= (1-\lambda)\big((1-\lambda) - 2\big)\big((1-\lambda) + 2\big) = -(\lambda - 1)(\lambda + 1)(\lambda - 3).$$

Hence the matrix A has three eigenvalues: -1, 1, and 3.

Problem 5. Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

(ii) For each eigenvalue of A, find an associated eigenvector.

An eigenvector $\mathbf{v} = (x, y, z)$ of the matrix A associated with an eigenvalue λ is a nonzero solution of the vector equation

$$(A - \lambda I)\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0} \iff \begin{pmatrix} 1-\lambda & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 1-\lambda & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 1-\lambda \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

To solve the equation, we convert the matrix $A - \lambda I$ to reduced row echelon form.

First consider the case $\lambda = -1$. The row reduction yields

$$A + I = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \to \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\to \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \to \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \to \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Hence

$$(A + I)\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0} \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad \begin{cases} x - z = 0, \\ y + z = 0. \end{cases}$$

The general solution is $x = t$, $y = -t$, $z = t$, where $t \in \mathbb{R}$. In particular, $\mathbf{v}_1 = (1, -1, 1)$ is an eigenvector of A associated with the eigenvalue -1.

Secondly, consider the case $\lambda = 1$. The row reduction yields

$$A - I = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \to \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \to \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \to \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Hence

$$(A - I)\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0} \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad \begin{cases} x + z = 0, \\ y = 0. \end{cases}$$

The general solution is $x = -t$, $y = 0$, $z = t$, where $t \in \mathbb{R}$. In particular, $\mathbf{v}_2 = (-1, 0, 1)$ is an eigenvector of A associated with the eigenvalue 1.

Finally, consider the case $\lambda = 3$. The row reduction yields

$$A - 3I = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \to \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \to \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\to \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \to \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \to \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Hence

$$(A - 3I)\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0} \iff \begin{cases} x - z = 0, \\ y - z = 0. \end{cases}$$

The general solution is $x = t$, $y = t$, $z = t$, where $t \in \mathbb{R}$. In particular, $\mathbf{v}_3 = (1, 1, 1)$ is an eigenvector of A associated with the eigenvalue 3.

Problem 5. Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

(iii) Is the matrix A diagonalizable? Explain.

The matrix A is diagonalizable, i.e., there exists a basis for $\mathbb{R}^3$ formed by its eigenvectors.

Namely, the vectors $\mathbf{v}_1 = (1, -1, 1)$, $\mathbf{v}_2 = (-1, 0, 1)$, and $\mathbf{v}_3 = (1, 1, 1)$ are eigenvectors of the matrix A belonging to distinct eigenvalues. Therefore these vectors are linearly independent. It follows that $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3$ is a basis for $\mathbb{R}^3$.

Alternatively, the existence of a basis for $\mathbb{R}^3$ consisting of eigenvectors of A already follows from the fact that the matrix A has three distinct eigenvalues.

Problem 5. Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

(iv) Find all eigenvalues of the matrix A^2.

Suppose that $\mathbf{v}$ is an eigenvector of the matrix A associated with an eigenvalue λ, that is, $\mathbf{v} \neq \mathbf{0}$ and $A\mathbf{v} = \lambda\mathbf{v}$. Then

$$A^2\mathbf{v} = A(A\mathbf{v}) = A(\lambda\mathbf{v}) = \lambda(A\mathbf{v}) = \lambda(\lambda\mathbf{v}) = \lambda^2\mathbf{v}.$$

Therefore $\mathbf{v}$ is also an eigenvector of the matrix A^2 and the associated eigenvalue is λ^2. We already know that the matrix A has eigenvalues -1, 1, and 3. It follows that A^2 has eigenvalues 1 and 9.

Since a 3×3 matrix can have up to 3 eigenvalues, we need an additional argument to show that 1 and 9 are the only eigenvalues of A^2. One reason is that the eigenvalue 1 has multiplicity 2.

Problem 6. Find a linear polynomial which is the best least squares fit to the following data:

x	-2	-1	0	1	2
$f(x)$	-3	-2	1	2	5

We are looking for a function $f(x) = c_1 + c_2 x$, where c_1, c_2 are unknown coefficients. The data of the problem give rise to an overdetermined system of linear equations in variables c_1 and c_2:

$$\begin{cases} c_1 - 2c_2 = -3, \\ c_1 - c_2 = -2, \\ c_1 = 1, \\ c_1 + c_2 = 2, \\ c_1 + 2c_2 = 5. \end{cases}$$

This system is inconsistent.

We can represent the system as a matrix equation $A\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{y}$, where

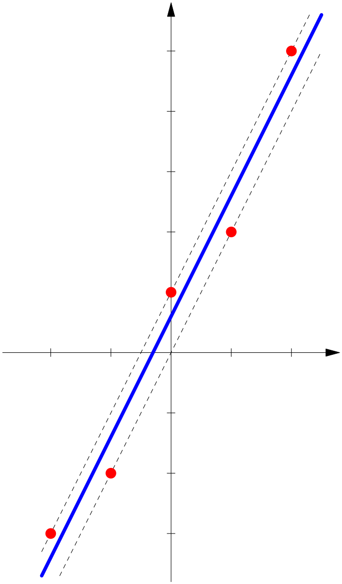
$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{c} = \begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{pmatrix}, \qquad \mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ -2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The least squares solution $\mathbf{c}$ of the above system is a solution of the normal system $A^T A\mathbf{c} = A^T\mathbf{y}$:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ -2 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ -2 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ -2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\iff \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 10 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 20 \end{pmatrix} \iff \begin{cases} c_1 = 3/5 \\ c_2 = 2 \end{cases}$$

Thus the function $f(x) = \frac{3}{5} + 2x$ is the best least squares fit to the above data among linear polynomials.



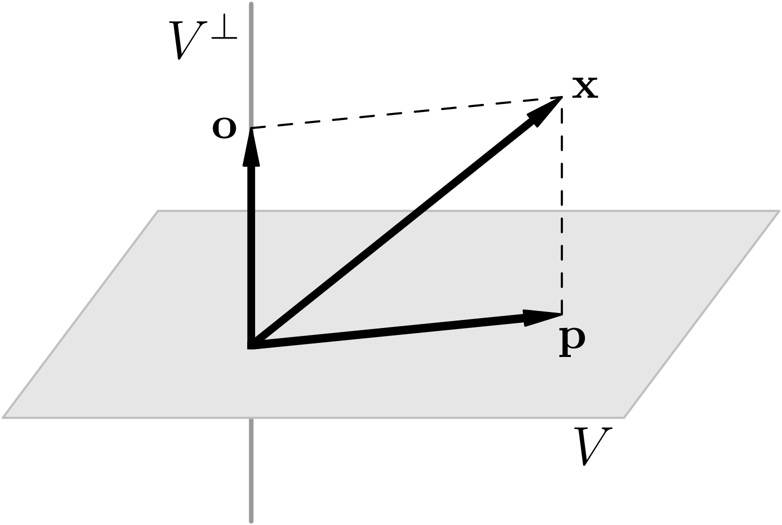
Problem 7. Let V be a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^4$ spanned by the vectors $\mathbf{x}_1 = (1,1,1,1)$ and $\mathbf{x}_2 = (1,0,3,0)$. Find the distance from the vector $\mathbf{y} = (1,0,0,0)$ to the subspaces V and $V^\perp$.

The vector $\mathbf{y}$ is uniquely decomposed as $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{o}$, where $\mathbf{p} \in V$ and $\mathbf{o} \in V^\perp$. Then $\mathbf{p}$ is the orthogonal projection of $\mathbf{y}$ onto the subspace V while $\mathbf{o}$ is the orthogonal projection of $\mathbf{y}$ onto the orthogonal complement $V^\perp$. Then the distance from $\mathbf{y}$ to V equals $\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{p}\| = \|\mathbf{o}\|$ and the distance from $\mathbf{y}$ to $V^\perp$ equals $\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{o}\| = \|\mathbf{p}\|$.

We have $\mathbf{p} = \alpha\mathbf{x}_1 + \beta\mathbf{x}_2$ for some $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$. Then $\mathbf{o} = \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{p} = \mathbf{y} - \alpha\mathbf{x}_1 - \beta\mathbf{x}_2$. Since $\mathbf{o} \perp V$,

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{o}\cdot\mathbf{x}_1 = 0 \\ \mathbf{o}\cdot\mathbf{x}_2 = 0 \end{cases} \iff \begin{cases} (\mathbf{y} - \alpha\mathbf{x}_1 - \beta\mathbf{x}_2)\cdot\mathbf{x}_1 = 0 \\ (\mathbf{y} - \alpha\mathbf{x}_1 - \beta\mathbf{x}_2)\cdot\mathbf{x}_2 = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\iff \begin{cases} \alpha(\mathbf{x}_1\cdot\mathbf{x}_1) + \beta(\mathbf{x}_2\cdot\mathbf{x}_1) = \mathbf{y}\cdot\mathbf{x}_1 \\ \alpha(\mathbf{x}_1\cdot\mathbf{x}_2) + \beta(\mathbf{x}_2\cdot\mathbf{x}_2) = \mathbf{y}\cdot\mathbf{x}_2 \end{cases}$$



$V^\perp$
$\mathbf{x}$
$\mathbf{o}$
$\mathbf{p}$
V

$\mathbf{y} = (1,0,0,0)$, $\mathbf{x}_1 = (1,1,1,1)$, $\mathbf{x}_2 = (1,0,3,0)$.

$$\begin{cases} \alpha(\mathbf{x}_1 \cdot \mathbf{x}_1) + \beta(\mathbf{x}_2 \cdot \mathbf{x}_1) = \mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{x}_1 \\ \alpha(\mathbf{x}_1 \cdot \mathbf{x}_2) + \beta(\mathbf{x}_2 \cdot \mathbf{x}_2) = \mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{x}_2 \end{cases}$$

$$\iff \begin{cases} 4\alpha + 4\beta = 1 \\ 4\alpha + 10\beta = 1 \end{cases} \iff \begin{cases} \alpha = 1/4 \\ \beta = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\mathbf{p} = \tfrac{1}{4}\mathbf{x}_1 = \tfrac{1}{4}(1,1,1,1)$$
$$\mathbf{o} = \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{p} = \tfrac{1}{4}(3,-1,-1,-1)$$
$$\|\mathbf{o}\| = \tfrac{\sqrt{3}}{2}, \quad \|\mathbf{p}\| = \tfrac{1}{2}.$$

Thus the vector $\mathbf{y}$ lies at distance $\sqrt{3}/2$ from the subspace V and at distance $1/2$ from the subspace $V^{\perp}$.