

WEEK 5 SUPPLEMENT

1. FULL RANK MATRICES

With the notions of dimension and linear independence in place, we now have a large number of ways to say that a matrix has full column rank / full row rank. We have covered in class the reasons why the Theorems below are true; I highly recommend making sure you're comfortable with those reasons.

We start with full column rank:

Theorem. *Let A be an $m \times n$ matrix. The following are equivalent:*¹

- (1) A has full column rank.
- (2) A has a pivot in every column.
- (3) A has no free columns.
- (4) A has rank n .
- (5) $\dim \text{Col}(A) = n$.
- (6) $Ax = 0$ has only the trivial solution.
- (7) $Ax = b$ has 0 or 1 solution for every b .
- (8) $\text{Nul}(A) = \{0\}$.
- (9) The columns of A are linearly independent.

Full row rank is a complementary concept:

Theorem. *Let A be an $m \times n$ matrix. The following are equivalent:*

- (1) A has full row rank.
- (2) A has a pivot in every row.
- (3) A row echelon form of A has no zero rows.
- (4) A has rank m .
- (5) $\dim \text{Col}(A) = m$.
- (6) $\text{Col}(A) = \mathbf{R}^m$.
- (7) $Ax = b$ is consistent for every b .
- (8) $\dim \text{Nul}(A) = n - m$.
- (9) The columns of A span \mathbf{R}^m .

¹This means that, for a given matrix A , either *all* of the statements are true, or *all* of them are false.

A square matrix has full column rank if and only if it has full row rank, if and only if it is invertible. There are some other equivalent conditions for a square matrix to be invertible:

Theorem. Let A be a square matrix of size $n \times n$. The following are equivalent:

- (1) A is invertible.
- (2) A has full column rank.
- (3) A has full row rank.
- (4) The reduced row echelon form of A is I_n .
- (5) There is an $n \times n$ matrix B such that $AB = I_n$ (a “right inverse”).
- (6) There is an $n \times n$ matrix B such that $BA = I_n$ (a “left inverse”).
- (7) A^T is invertible.

2. THE BASIS THEOREM

The following theorem is useful for verifying that a set of vectors forms a basis of a subspace.

Theorem (The Basis Theorem).

Let V be a subspace of dimension d , and let v_1, \dots, v_d be vectors in V .

- (1) If $\{v_1, \dots, v_d\}$ is linearly independent, then it is a basis for V .
- (2) If $\{v_1, \dots, v_d\}$ spans V , then it is a basis for V .

In other words, if you know the dimension of a subspace, and you have the correct number of vectors in the subspace, then in order to check that subset is a basis, you have to verify that it spans *or* that it is linearly independent (not both). For instance, any two linearly independent vectors span a plane, and any two vectors spanning a plane are linearly independent.