

These notes are courtesy of Prof. Dan Yasaki.

We have covered a good bit this semester. I try to hit some of the highlights below.

- (1) Since we started from scratch, a good portion of the class time was spent developing a language so that we could speak linear algebra to each other. Words are important, and you cannot answer a question if you do not know what the words mean.
 - (a) kernel
 - (b) image
 - (c) linear transformation
 - (d) basis
 - (e) dimension
 - (f) vector space
 - (g) subspace
 - (h) linearly independent, linearly dependent
 - (i) orthogonal
 - (j) eigenvalue, eigenvector, eigenbasis, eigenspace
 - (k) isomorphism
 - (l) diagonalizable matrix
 - (m) rank, nullity
- (2) We have learned some techniques along the way. You need to be able to use them in specific examples.
 - (a) Gaussian elimination: Important for solving linear systems, computing the rank of a matrix, checking whether or not a set of vectors is linearly independent, finding a basis for the kernel of a matrix, finding a basis for the image of a matrix, computing the inverse of a matrix, shortcut for computing determinant of a matrix,
 - (b) Gram-Schmidt: Used to construct an orthonormal basis for a space given a basis. We like orthonormal because they allow us to compute projections easily. We like projections because they tell us the closest point in a subspace to a given vector in the ambient space.
 - (c) Finding eigenvalues and eigenvectors: these sometimes help us to choose a basis under which the linear transformation under study becomes represented by a diagonal matrix, which is very useful in applications.
 - (d) Computing determinants: We saw that determinants tell us whether a given square matrix A is invertible. We used this idea to find the conditions that a real number had to satisfy in order to be an eigenvalue of A .
 - (e) Coordinates: Given a matrix, you should be able to express the corresponding transformation in different coordinates. Also, given a transformation (not as a matrix), you should be able to express it in coordinates.
- (3) Rank-Nullity Theorem: This is a useful result.