

THEOREM: If  $A$  is an invertible matrix, then  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$  has a unique solution.

PROOF: We know that  $A^{-1}$  exists. Consider  $\vec{x}_0 = A^{-1} \cdot \vec{b}$ .  
 $A \cdot \vec{x}_0 = A(A^{-1} \cdot \vec{b}) = I \cdot \vec{b} = \vec{b}$ .

There is only one solution, meaning all solutions  $= \vec{x}_0$ .  
 Let  $\vec{x}_1$  be another solution.

$$A \cdot \vec{x}_1 = \vec{b} \rightarrow A^{-1} \cdot A \cdot \vec{x}_1 = A^{-1} \cdot \vec{b} \rightarrow I \vec{x}_1 = \vec{x}_0 \rightarrow \vec{x}_1 = \vec{x}_0.$$

▣ QED.

If  $A$  is invertible,  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$  has a unique solution, }  $A$  is square  
 AND  $A$  has linearly dependent columns. }  
 To prove the other way around requires 16B complexity.

If  $A$  is invertible,  $A$  has a trivial nullspace.

### NULLSPACES

$$A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$$

How many solutions?

$$\hookrightarrow A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \text{unique solution!}$$

$$\hookrightarrow A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \text{infinite solutions!}$$

If  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$  has a solution  $\vec{x}_0 \neq \vec{0}$ , then  $\alpha\vec{x}_0$  is also a solution  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \text{span}\{\vec{x}_0\}$  is a solution.

$A$  does not need to be a square.

DEF The set of all solutions to  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$  is called  $A$ 's Nullspace.

Nullspaces can help characterize solutions to  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$ .

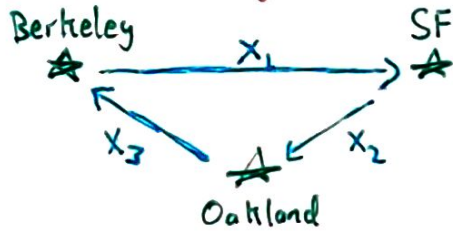
Say  $\vec{x}_0$  is a solution to  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$  (homogeneous eq.)

$\vec{x}_1$  is a solution to  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$  (particular eq.)

$\vec{v} = \vec{x}_1 + \alpha\vec{x}_0$  is also a solution to  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$

$\hookrightarrow$  parameter

## EXAMPLE: Modeling Traffic Flows



How many measurements are needed to find  $x_1, x_2, x_3$ ?

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 - x_2 &= 0 \\ x_2 - x_3 &= 0 \\ x_3 - x_1 &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \vec{0}$$

Assume no stopping/accumulation.

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \begin{aligned} x_1 &= x_3 = t \\ x_2 &= x_3 = t \\ x_3 &\text{ is free} \rightarrow x_3 = t \end{aligned}$$

All vectors  $\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} t \\ t \\ t \end{bmatrix}$  are solutions  $\rightarrow$  span  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\} = \text{Nullspace}(A)$   
 Only 1 variable is free, so only 1 measurement is needed.

Ex 2

★ Berkeley	★ New York	$\left[ \begin{array}{cccc c} -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \end{array} \right]$
$x_1 \downarrow \uparrow x_2$	$x_3 \downarrow \uparrow x_4$	
★ Oakland	★ Boston	
2 free variables $\rightarrow$ dimension of Nspace		

## VECTORSPACE

See Lecture 7 Notes at [eecs16a.org](http://eecs16a.org).  
 attached to PDF!

Pay special attention to the closure identities.

Say  $(V, \mathbb{F})$ : set of independent  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$   
 all  $v \in V$  are in  $\text{span}\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  ] BASIS

DEF Basis is the minimum spanning set.

DEF Dimension of  $V$ s is # of elements in basis

# Vector Spaces Addendum

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This addendum is a summarized version of Section 7.1 of [Note 7](#).

A **vector space**  $\mathbb{V}$  is a set of vectors and two operators that satisfy the following properties:

- **Closure Under Vector Addition:** For any two vectors  $\vec{v}, \vec{u} \in \mathbb{V}$ , their sum  $\vec{v} + \vec{u}$  must also be in  $\mathbb{V}$ .
- **Closure Under Scalar Multiplication:** For any vector  $\vec{v} \in \mathbb{V}$  and scalar  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ , the product  $\alpha\vec{v}$  must also be in  $\mathbb{V}$ .
- **Contain the Zero Vector:** The vector  $\vec{0}$  must be contained inside  $\mathbb{V}$ .

We have already dealt with vector spaces! When we write  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , we are describing the vector space of all  $n$ -dimensional vectors. If we applied the vector addition and scalar multiplication operations learned in previous lectures, we'd see that  $\mathbb{R}^n$  satisfies all of the conditions we just mentioned above.

The set of all matrices is also a vector space  $\mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ , but EECS16A generally deals only with  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .