

# Linear Algebra Review

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For MIT's 6.837 Introduction to  
Computer graphics

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## Overview

- Basic matrix operations (+, -, \*)
- Cross and dot products
- Determinants and inverses
- Homogeneous coordinates
- Orthonormal basis

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## Additional Resources

- 18.06 Text Book
- 6.837 Text Book
- 6.837 [staff@graphics.csail.mit.edu](mailto:staff@graphics.csail.mit.edu)
- Check the course website for a copy of these notes



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## What is a Matrix?

- A matrix is a set of elements, organized into rows and columns

$$\begin{array}{c}
 m \times n \text{ matrix} \\
 \begin{array}{c}
 \overbrace{\hspace{2cm}} \\
 n \text{ columns} \\
 \left[ \begin{array}{cc}
 a_{00} & a_{01} \\
 a_{10} & a_{11}
 \end{array} \right] \\
 \underbrace{\hspace{1cm}} \\
 m \text{ rows}
 \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

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## Basic Operations

- Transpose: Swap rows with columns

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{bmatrix} \quad M^T = \begin{bmatrix} a & d & g \\ b & e & h \\ c & f & i \end{bmatrix}$$

$$V = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \quad V^T = [x \quad y \quad z]$$

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## Basic Operations

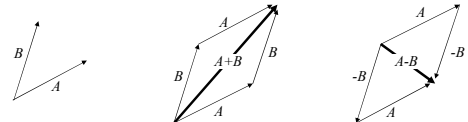
- Addition and Subtraction

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} e & f \\ g & h \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a+e & b+f \\ c+g & d+h \end{bmatrix}$$

Just add elements

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} e & f \\ g & h \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a-e & b-f \\ c-g & d-h \end{bmatrix}$$

Just subtract elements



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## Basic Operations

- Multiplication

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} e & f \\ g & h \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} ae+bg & af+bh \\ ce+dg & cf+dh \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{Multiply each row by each column}$$

An  $m \times n$  can be multiplied by an  $n \times p$  matrix to yield an  $m \times p$  result

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## Multiplication

- Is  $AB = BA$ ? Maybe, but maybe not!

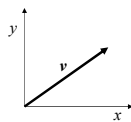
$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} e & f \\ g & h \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} ae+bg & \dots \\ \dots & \dots \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} e & f \\ g & h \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} ea+fc & \dots \\ \dots & \dots \end{bmatrix}$$

- Heads up: multiplication is NOT commutative!

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## Vector Operations

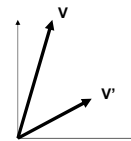
- Vector:  $n \times 1$  matrix
- Interpretation: a point or line in  $n$ -dimensional space
- Dot Product, Cross Product, and Magnitude defined on vectors only

$$\mathbf{p} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}$$


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## Vector Interpretation

- Think of a vector as a line in 2D or 3D
- Think of a matrix as a transformation on a line or set of lines

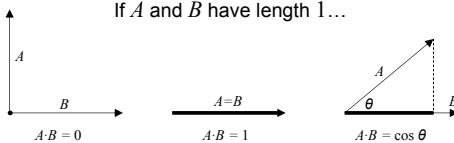
$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$


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## Vectors: Dot Product

- Interpretation: the dot product measures to what degree two vectors are aligned

If  $A$  and  $B$  have length 1...



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## Vectors: Dot Product

$$A \cdot B = AB^T = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} d \\ e \\ f \end{bmatrix} = ad + be + cf \quad \text{Think of the dot product as a matrix multiplication}$$

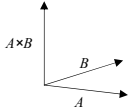
$$\|A\|^2 = AA^T = aa + bb + cc \quad \text{The magnitude is the dot product of a vector with itself}$$

$$A \cdot B = \|A\| \|B\| \cos(\theta) \quad \text{The dot product is also related to the angle between the two vectors}$$

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## Vectors: Cross Product

- The cross product of vectors  $A$  and  $B$  is a vector  $C$  which is perpendicular to  $A$  and  $B$
- The magnitude of  $C$  is proportional to the sin of the angle between  $A$  and  $B$
- The direction of  $C$  follows the **right hand rule** if we are working in a right-handed coordinate system

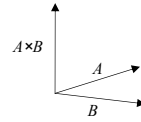


$$\|A \times B\| = \|A\| \|B\| \sin(\theta)$$

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## Vectors: Cross Product

The cross product can be computed as a specially constructed determinant



$$A \times B = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ a_x & a_y & a_z \\ b_x & b_y & b_z \end{vmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_y b_z - a_z b_y \\ a_z b_x - a_x b_z \\ a_x b_y - a_y b_x \end{bmatrix}$$

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## Inverse of a Matrix

- Identity matrix:  
 $AI = A$
- Some matrices have an inverse, such that:  
 $AA^{-1} = I$
- Inversion is tricky:  
 $(ABC)^{-1} = C^{-1}B^{-1}A^{-1}$   
Derived from non commutativity property

$$I = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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## Determinant of a Matrix

- Used for inversion
- If  $\det(A) = 0$ , then  $A$  has no inverse
- Can be found using factorials, pivots, and cofactors!
- Lots of interpretations – for more info, take 18.06

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\det(A) = ad - bc$$

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{ad - bc} \begin{bmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{bmatrix}$$

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## Determinant of a Matrix

$$\begin{vmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{vmatrix} = aei + bfg + cdh - afh - bdi - ceg$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{vmatrix} = a \begin{vmatrix} d & e \\ g & h \end{vmatrix} - b \begin{vmatrix} d & f \\ g & i \end{vmatrix} + c \begin{vmatrix} d & g \\ e & h \end{vmatrix}$$

For a 3x3 matrix:  
Sum from left to right  
Subtract from right to left

Note: In the general case, the determinant has  $n!$  terms

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## Inverse of a Matrix

- Append the identity matrix to  $A$
- Subtract multiples of the other rows from the first row to reduce the diagonal element to 1
- Transform the identity matrix as you go
- When the original matrix is the identity, the identity has become the inverse!

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b & c & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ d & e & f & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ g & h & i & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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## Homogeneous Matrices

- Problem: how to include translations in transformations (and do perspective transforms)
- Solution: add an extra dimension

$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ z' \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{00} & a_{01} & a_{02} & t_x \\ a_{10} & a_{11} & a_{12} & t_y \\ a_{20} & a_{21} & a_{22} & t_z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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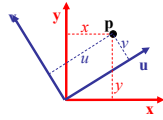
## Orthonormal Basis

- Basis: a space is totally defined by a set of vectors – any point is a *linear combination* of the basis
- Orthogonal: dot product is zero
- Normal: magnitude is one
- Orthonormal: orthogonal + normal
- Most common Example:  $\hat{x}, \hat{y}, \hat{z}$

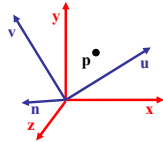
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## Change of Orthonormal Basis

- Given:  
coordinate frames  
**xyz** and **uvn**  
point  $\mathbf{p} = (p_x, p_y, p_z)$

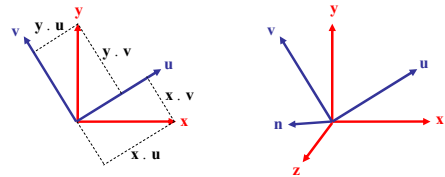


- Find:  
 $\mathbf{p} = (p_u, p_v, p_n)$



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## Change of Orthonormal Basis



$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x} &= (\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{u}) \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{v}) \mathbf{v} + (\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{n}) \mathbf{n} \\ \mathbf{y} &= (\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}) \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{v}) \mathbf{v} + (\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{n}) \mathbf{n} \\ \mathbf{z} &= (\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{u}) \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{v}) \mathbf{v} + (\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{n}) \mathbf{n} \end{aligned}$$

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## Change of Orthonormal Basis

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x} &= (\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{u}) \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{v}) \mathbf{v} + (\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{n}) \mathbf{n} \\ \mathbf{y} &= (\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}) \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{v}) \mathbf{v} + (\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{n}) \mathbf{n} \\ \mathbf{z} &= (\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{u}) \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{v}) \mathbf{v} + (\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{n}) \mathbf{n} \end{aligned}$$

Substitute into equation for  $\mathbf{p}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{p} &= (p_x, p_y, p_z) = p_x \mathbf{x} + p_y \mathbf{y} + p_z \mathbf{z} \\ \mathbf{p} &= p_x [ (\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{u}) \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{v}) \mathbf{v} + (\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{n}) \mathbf{n} ] + \\ & p_y [ (\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}) \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{v}) \mathbf{v} + (\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{n}) \mathbf{n} ] + \\ & p_z [ (\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{u}) \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{v}) \mathbf{v} + (\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{n}) \mathbf{n} ] \end{aligned}$$

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## Change of Orthonormal Basis

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{p} &= p_x [ (\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{u}) \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{v}) \mathbf{v} + (\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{n}) \mathbf{n} ] + \\ & p_y [ (\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}) \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{v}) \mathbf{v} + (\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{n}) \mathbf{n} ] + \\ & p_z [ (\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{u}) \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{v}) \mathbf{v} + (\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{n}) \mathbf{n} ] \end{aligned}$$

Rewrite:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{p} &= [ p_x (\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{u}) + p_y (\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}) + p_z (\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{u}) ] \mathbf{u} + \\ & [ p_x (\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{v}) + p_y (\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{v}) + p_z (\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{v}) ] \mathbf{v} + \\ & [ p_x (\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{n}) + p_y (\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{n}) + p_z (\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{n}) ] \mathbf{n} \end{aligned}$$

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## Change of Orthonormal Basis

$$\mathbf{p} = \begin{bmatrix} p_x(\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{u}) + p_y(\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}) + p_z(\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{u}) \\ p_x(\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{v}) + p_y(\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{v}) + p_z(\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{v}) \\ p_x(\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{n}) + p_y(\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{n}) + p_z(\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{n}) \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{u} + \begin{bmatrix} p_x(\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{v}) + p_y(\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{v}) + p_z(\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{v}) \\ p_x(\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{n}) + p_y(\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{n}) + p_z(\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{n}) \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{v} + \begin{bmatrix} p_x(\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{n}) + p_y(\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{n}) + p_z(\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{n}) \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{n}$$

$$\mathbf{p} = (p_u, p_v, p_n) = p_u \mathbf{u} + p_v \mathbf{v} + p_n \mathbf{n}$$

Expressed in **uvn** basis:

$$p_u = p_x(\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{u}) + p_y(\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}) + p_z(\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{u})$$

$$p_v = p_x(\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{v}) + p_y(\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{v}) + p_z(\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{v})$$

$$p_n = p_x(\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{n}) + p_y(\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{n}) + p_z(\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{n})$$

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## Change of Orthonormal Basis

$$p_u = p_x(\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{u}) + p_y(\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}) + p_z(\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{u})$$

$$p_v = p_x(\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{v}) + p_y(\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{v}) + p_z(\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{v})$$

$$p_n = p_x(\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{n}) + p_y(\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{n}) + p_z(\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{n})$$

In matrix form:

$$\begin{pmatrix} p_u \\ p_v \\ p_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} u_x & u_y & u_z \\ v_x & v_y & v_z \\ n_x & n_y & n_z \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} p_x \\ p_y \\ p_z \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{where:}$$

$$u_x = \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{u}$$

$$u_y = \mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}$$

$$\text{etc.}$$

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## Change of Orthonormal Basis

$$\begin{pmatrix} p_u \\ p_v \\ p_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} u_x & u_y & u_z \\ v_x & v_y & v_z \\ n_x & n_y & n_z \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} p_x \\ p_y \\ p_z \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{M} \begin{pmatrix} p_x \\ p_y \\ p_z \end{pmatrix}$$

What's  $\mathbf{M}^{-1}$ , the inverse?

$$\begin{pmatrix} p_x \\ p_y \\ p_z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_u & x_v & x_n \\ y_u & y_v & y_n \\ z_u & z_v & z_n \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} p_u \\ p_v \\ p_n \end{pmatrix} \quad u_x = \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{x} = x_u$$

$$\mathbf{M}^{-1} = \mathbf{M}^T$$

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## Caveats

- Right handed vs. left handed coordinate systems
  - OpenGL is right-handed
- Row major vs. column major matrix storage.
  - matrix.h uses row-major order
  - OpenGL uses column-major order

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 8 & 9 & 10 & 11 \\ 12 & 13 & 14 & 15 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{row-major}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 4 & 8 & 12 \\ 1 & 5 & 9 & 13 \\ 2 & 6 & 10 & 14 \\ 3 & 7 & 11 & 15 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{column-major}$$

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## Questions?



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