

- Linear equations
- What are linear functions?
- Engineering examples
- Linearization
- Broad categories of applications

Linear Equations

- What does  $y = Ax$  represent?  
Depends on the application.
- Variable  $y$  is an observation or measurement;  
 $x$  is the unknown to be determined.
- Variable  $x$  is the input or action;  
 $y$  is the output or result.
- The equation  $y = Ax$  defines a map or transformation;  
 $x \in R^n \rightarrow y \in R^m$ .

- Consider the system of linear equations

$$\begin{aligned} y_1 &= a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n \\ y_2 &= a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \dots + a_{2n}x_n \\ &\vdots \\ y_m &= a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \dots + a_{mn}x_n \end{aligned}$$

- In matrix form,  $y = Ax$  where

$$y = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_m \end{bmatrix} \quad A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \dots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix} \quad x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Linear Functions

- A function  $f : R^n \rightarrow R^m$  is linear if
  - $f(x + y) = f(x) + f(y)$ , for all  $x, y \in R^n$ .
  - $f(\alpha x) = \alpha f(x)$ , for all  $x \in R^n, \alpha \in R$
 i.e., superposition holds.
- Example.
 
$$f(x) = Ax \text{ where } A \in R^{m \times n}$$

Note. Any linear function  $f : R^n \rightarrow R^m$  can be written as  $f(x) = Ax$  for some  $A \in R^{m \times n}$ .

- The rows of the matrix equation  $y = Ax$  may be written as

$$y_i = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}x_j$$

where  $a_{ij}$  is the gain factor from the  $j$ th input ( $x_j$ ) to the  $i$ th output ( $y_i$ ).

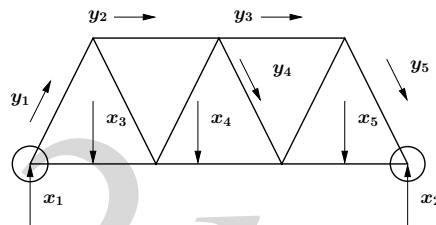
- Thus,
  - $i$ th row of  $A$  concerns the  $i$ th output.
  - $j$ th column of  $A$  concerns the  $j$ th input.

- Furthermore,
  - $a_{ij} = 0$ .  
 $i$ th output ( $y_i$ ) is independent of the  $j$ th input ( $x_j$ ).
  - $|a_{rs}| \gg |a_{rj}|$  for  $j \neq s$ .  
 $y_r$  mainly depends on  $x_s$ .
  - $|a_{rs}| \gg |a_{is}|$  for  $i \neq r$ .  
 $x_s$  mainly affects on  $y_s$ .
  - $A$  is lower triangular, i.e.,  $a_{ij} = 0$  for  $i < j$ .  
 $y_i$  only depends on  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_i$ .
  - $A$  is diagonal, i.e.,  $a_{ij} = 0$  for  $i \neq j$ .  
 $i$ th output only depends  $i$ th input.

Application Examples

- Linear elastic structure.

- $x_i$  is an external force applied at some point, in some fixed direction.
- $y_i$  is the (small) deflection of some point, in some fixed direction.



- provided that  $x, y$  are small, we have  $y \approx Ax$ .
- $A$  is called the compliance matrix.
- $a_{ij}$  gives the deflection  $i$  per unit force at  $j$  ( $m/N$ ).

Application Examples

- Total force/torque on a rigid body.

- $x_j$  is an external force / torque applied at some point / direction / axis.
- $y$  is the resulting total force and torque on the body.
- let the elements of  $y$  be the  $x, y, z$  components of the total force and the  $x, y, z$  components of the total torque. Then,

$$y = Ax$$

- $A$  depends on the geometry of the applied forces / torques with respect to the CG.
- $j$ th column gives resulting force and torque for unit force / torque  $j$ .

## Application Examples

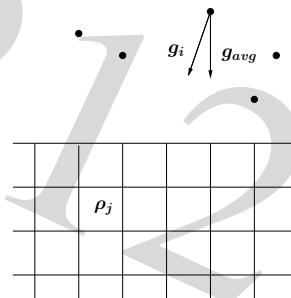
- Linear static circuit.
  - $x_j$  is the value of an independent source  $j$ .
  - $y_i$  is variable representing a voltage or current in the circuit.
  - if  $x_j$  are currents and  $y_i$  are voltages,  $A$  is called the impedance or resistance matrix.
  - the relationship of the currents and voltages can be written as  $y = Ax$ .

## Application Examples

- Resultant position / velocity from applied forces.
  - unit mass with zero position / velocity at  $t = 0$ .
  - subjected to a sequence of applied forces constant in some interval.  $f(t) = x_j$  for  $j - 1 \leq t < j$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, n$ .
  - $y_1$  and  $y_2$  are final position and velocity, respectively.
  - we can represent the system as  $y = Ax$ .
  - $a_{1j}$  gives the influence of applied force on the final position for time interval  $j - 1 \leq t < j$ .
  - $a_{2j}$  gives the influence of applied force on the final velocity for time interval  $j - 1 \leq t < j$ .

## Application Examples

- Gravimeter prospecting.
  - $x_j = \rho_j - \rho_{average}$  is the mass density of the earth in voxel  $j$ .
  - $y_i$  is the measured gravity anomaly at location  $i$ .
  - $y_i =$  vertical component of  $g_i - g_{average}$ .
  - in  $y = Ax$ ,  $A$  comes from physics and geometry.
  - $j$ th column of  $A$  shows sensor readings caused by the unit density anomaly at voxel  $j$ .
  - $i$ th row of  $A$  shows the sensitivity pattern of sensor  $i$ .



## Application Examples

- Heating system with multiple heat sources.
  - $x_j$  is power of  $j$ th source.
  - $y_i$  is change in steady-state temperature at location  $i$ .
  - $y = Ax$ . thermal transport via conduction.
  - $a_{ij}$  gives the influence of heat source  $j$  at location  $i$  (usually in  $^{\circ}C/W$ ).
  - $j$ th column of  $A$  gives the pattern of steady-state temperature rise due to 1 W at heat source  $j$ .

## Application Examples

- Illumination from multiple lamps.
  - $n$  lamps illuminating  $m$  (small, flat) patches with no shadows.
  - $x_j$  power of the  $j$ th lamp.
  - $y_i$  is the illumination level of patch  $i$ .
- with  $a_{ij} = r_{ij}^{-2} \cos \theta_{ij}$ , we can write  $y = Ax$ .
- $j$ th column of  $A$  shows illumination pattern resulting from lamp  $j$  for 1 W lamp.

## Application Examples

- Signal and interference in a wireless system.
    - transmitter  $j$  transmits to receiver  $j$  (and, inadvertently, to other receivers).
    - $p_j$  is the power of the  $j$ th transmitter.
    - $s_i$  is the received signal power of the  $i$ th receiver.
    - $z_i$  is the interference power due to the  $i$ th receiver.
    - $G_{ij}$  is the gain from transmitter  $j$  to receiver  $i$ .
    - we have  $s = Ap$  and  $z = Bp$  where
- $$a_{ij} = \begin{cases} G_{ii} & i = j \\ 0 & i \neq j \end{cases} \quad b_{ij} = \begin{cases} 0 & i = j \\ G_{ij} & i \neq j \end{cases}$$
- $A$  is diagonal.  $B$  has a zero diagonal.
  - ideally,  $A$  is 'large' and  $B$  is 'small.'

## Application Examples

- Cost of production.

Production inputs (materials, parts, labor) are combined to make a number of products.

  - $x_j$  is the price per unit of production input  $j$ .
  - $a_{ij}$  is amount of production input  $j$  needed to manufacture one unit of product  $i$ .
  - $y_i$  is the production cost per unit product  $i$ .
- We again have  $y = Ax$ .

The  $i$ th row of  $A$  is the bill of materials for a unit of product  $i$ .

## Application Examples

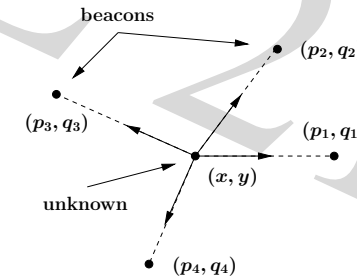
- Production inputs needed.
    - $q_i$  is the quantity of product  $i$  to be produced.
    - $r_j$  is the total quantity of production input  $j$  needed.
  - Now we have  $r = A^T q$ .
  - Total production cost is
- $$r^T x = (A^T q)^T x = q^T Ax$$

## Linearization

- If  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  is differentiable at  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  
 $x$  near  $x_0 \Rightarrow f(x)$  very near  $f(x_0) + Df(x_0)(x - x_0)$   
where  $Df(x_0)_{ij} = \left. \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j} \right|_{x_0}$  is the Jacobian matrix.
- With  $y = f(x)$ ,  $y_0 = f(x_0)$ , define
  - input deviation  $\delta x = x - x_0$
  - output deviation  $\delta y = y - y_0$so that  $\delta y \approx Df(x_0)\delta x$ .  
i.e., when deviations are small, the functional relationship is (approximately) linear.

## Linearization

- Example. Navigation by range measurement.
  - $(x, y)$  is an unknown coordinate in a plane.
  - $(p_i, q_i)$  are known coordinates of beacons for  $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ .
  - $\rho_i$  is the measured (known) distance or range from beacon  $i$ .



## Linearization

- Thus,  $\rho \in \mathbb{R}^4$  is a nonlinear function of  $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ .

$$\rho_i(x, y) = \sqrt{(x - p_i)^2 + (y - q_i)^2}$$

- Linearizing around  $(x_0, y_0)$ .

$$\delta \rho \approx A \begin{bmatrix} \delta x \\ \delta y \end{bmatrix}$$

where

$$a_{i1} = \frac{x_0 - p_i}{\sqrt{(x_0 - p_i)^2 + (y_0 - q_i)^2}}$$

$$a_{i2} = \frac{y_0 - q_i}{\sqrt{(x_0 - p_i)^2 + (y_0 - q_i)^2}}$$

## Linearization

- The  $i$ th row of  $A$  shows the (approximate) change in the  $i$ th range measurement for small shift in  $(x, y)$  from  $(x_0, y_0)$ .
- The first column of  $A$  shows sensitivity of range measurements to (small) change in  $x$  from  $x_0$ .
- Application. Determining current location  $(x, y)$  based on the last navigation fix  $(x_0, y_0)$ .

$$\text{Need to solve } \delta \rho \approx A \begin{bmatrix} \delta x \\ \delta y \end{bmatrix}.$$

## Broad Categories of Applications

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- Linear model or function :  $y = Ax$ .
- Estimation or inversion.  
Determine parameters ( $x$ ) given measurements ( $y$ ).
- Control or design.  
Control the output  $y$  by controlling the states  $x$ .
- Mapping or transformation.  
Solve the problem in  $x$  domain and transform the solution back to the  $y$  domain.

## Estimation or Inversion

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- Linear model :  $y = Ax$ .
  - $y_i$  is  $i$ th measurement or sensor reading.
  - $x_j$  is the  $j$ th parameter to be estimated or determined.
  - $a_{ij}$  is sensitivity of  $i$ th sensor to  $j$ th parameter.
- Sample problems.
  - find  $x$ , given  $y$ .
  - find all  $x$ 's that result in  $y$  (i.e., all  $x$ 's consistent with measurements).
  - if there is no solution  $x$ , find  $x$  such that  $y \approx Ax$ . (i.e., if the sensor readings are inconsistent, find the 'best'  $x$ ).

## Control or Design

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- Linear model :  $y = Ax$ .
  - $x$  is a vector of design parameters or inputs (which we can choose).
  - $y$  is a vector of results or outcomes.
  - $A$  describes how input choices affect results.
- Sample problems.
  - find  $x$  so that  $y = y_{desired}$ .
  - find all  $x$ 's that result in  $y = y_{desired}$  (i.e., find all designs that meets specifications).
  - among  $x$ 's that satisfy  $y = y_{desired}$ , find a small one (i.e., find a small efficient  $x$  that meets specifications).

## Mapping or Transformation

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- Linear model :  $y = Ax$ .
  - $x$  alternative domain where we can solve the problem easily.
  - $y$  domain of the actual solution.
  - $A$  describes the relationship between domains.
- Sample problems.
  - given a problem expressed in variable  $y$ .
  - move the equations to the new domain using the transformation and solve in terms of the  $x$  variable.
  - transform the solutions back using the transformation.

## Summary

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- **Linear equations and linear functions?**
- **Engineering examples**
- **Linearization**
  
- **Broad categories of applications**
  - estimation or inversion
  - control or design
  - mapping or transformation