

How to study Null Space

Step-by-step guide

1. Lecture 6, Gilbert Strang

Goal is to understand the basics of spaces and how Null Space appeared.

2. Khan Academy: Null space

It contains a good case study how to calculate Null space.

3. Matrix Algebra for Engineers: Null Space

Another nice example how to find $N(A)$.

4. "Linear Algebra and Applications", pdf pages 96–106

What does partial and full solutions means

5. The Big Picture of Linear Algebra

Extra for now If you want to get the global view of four subspaces

6. Understand the application from next few slides and make HW tasks!



Null Space: Application from robotics

Video



Null Space: Application from robotics

Theory (1)

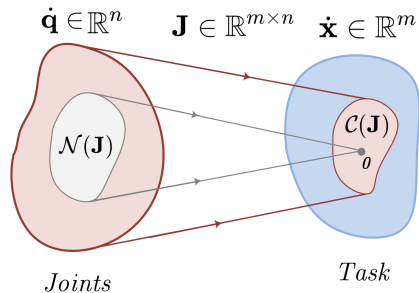


Figure 1: Click for google Collab

Let us consider differential kinematic relationship:

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{q})\dot{\mathbf{q}} \quad (1)$$

where

- $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ task space variables (for instance Cartesian coordinates)
- $\mathbf{q} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ joint space variables (positions of joints)
- $\mathbf{J} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ manipulator Jacobian

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Theory (2)

general solution of $J\dot{q} = \dot{r}$

$$\dot{q} = J^\# \dot{r} + (I - J^\# J) \dot{q}_0$$

$J^\# \dot{r}$ is a particular solution (here, the pseudoinverse) in $\mathcal{R}(J^T)$

$(I - J^\# J) \dot{q}_0$ is the "orthogonal" projection of \dot{q}_0 in $\mathcal{N}(J)$

all solutions of the associated homogeneous equation $J\dot{q} = 0$ (self-motions)

properties of projector $[I - J^\# J]$

- symmetric
- idempotent: $[I - J^\# J]^2 = [I - J^\# J]$
- $[I - J^\# J]^\# = [I - J^\# J]$
- $J^\# \dot{r}$ is orthogonal to $[I - J^\# J] \dot{q}_0$

even more in general...

$$\dot{q} = K_1 \dot{r} + (I - K_2 J) \dot{q}_0$$

K_1, K_2 generalized inverses of J

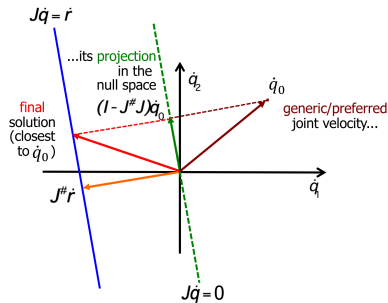
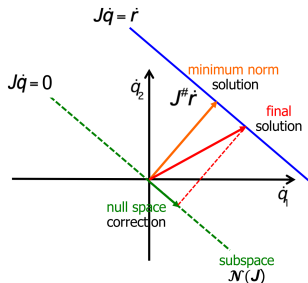
... but with less nice properties! ($JK_i J = J$)

how do we choose \dot{q}_0 ?

Null Space: Application from robotics

Theory (3)

in the space of velocity commands



a correction is added to the original pseudoinverse (minimum norm) solution

- i) which is in the **null space** of the Jacobian
- ii) and possibly satisfies **additional criteria** or objectives

Task 1



Reduce these matrices to their ordinary echelon forms U :

$$(a) \quad A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 2 & 4 & 6 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 6 & 9 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad (b) \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 2 \\ 0 & 4 & 4 \\ 0 & 8 & 8 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Which are the free variables and which are the pivot variables?

Task 1



Reduce these matrices to their ordinary echelon forms U :

$$(a) \quad A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 2 & 4 & 6 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 6 & 9 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad (b) \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 2 \\ 0 & 4 & 4 \\ 0 & 8 & 8 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Which are the free variables and which are the pivot variables?

Answer

$$(a) \quad U = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 2 & 4 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{array}{l} \text{Free variables } x_2, x_4, x_5 \\ \text{Pivot variables } x_1, x_3 \end{array} \quad (b) \quad U = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 2 \\ 0 & 4 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{array}{l} \text{Free } x_3 \\ \text{Pivot } x_1, x_2 \end{array}$$

Task 2



Construct 3 by 3 matrices A to satisfy these requirements (if possible):

- (a) A has no zero entries but $U = I$.
- (b) A has no zero entries but $R = I$.
- (c) A has no zero entries but $R = U$.
- (d) $A = U = 2R$.

Task 2



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- (b) A has no zero entries but $R = I$.
- (c) A has no zero entries but $R = U$.
- (d) $A = U = 2R$.

Answer

- (a) Impossible row 1 (b) $A =$ invertible (c) $A =$ all ones (d) $A = 2I, R = I$.

Task 3



If the special solutions to $Rx = \mathbf{0}$ are in the columns of these N , go backward to find the nonzero rows of the reduced matrices R :

$$N = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad N = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad N = \begin{bmatrix} \\ \\ \end{bmatrix} \quad (\text{empty } 3 \text{ by } 1).$$

Task 3



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Answer

Any zero rows come after these rows: $R = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $R = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $R = I$.

Reference material



- Robotics 2 course from Sapienza
- Gilbert Strang Book 2.1-2.2
- *"Linear Algebra and Applications"*, pdf pages 46–86
- *"Introduction to Linear Algebra"*, pdf pages 42–134
2.2 – The Idea of Elimination, 2.6 – Elimination = Factorization:
 $A = LU$
- this lab video, 2022 year

Preparation material for the next class



TODO

Deserve "A" grade!

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🏢 Room 105 (Underground robotics lab)