

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)

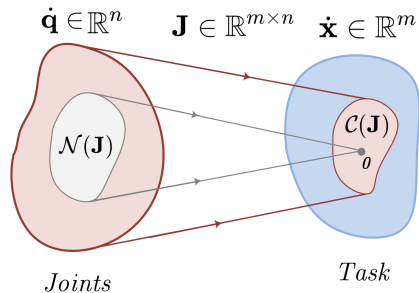


Figure 1: Click for google Collab

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

Null Space: Application from robotics

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 "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

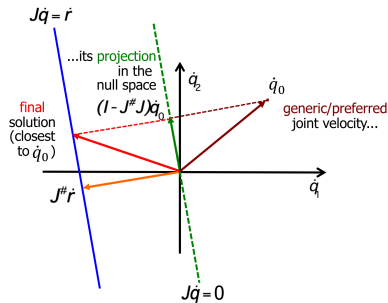
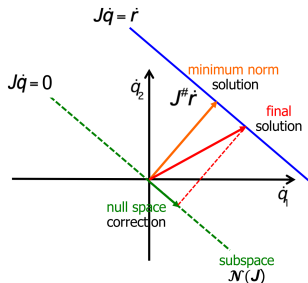
... but with less nice properties! ($JK_i J = J$)

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 A and B to their triangular echelon forms U . Which variables are free?

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

Task 1



Reduce A and B to their triangular echelon forms U . Which variables are free?

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

Answer

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

Null space

Video



Null space

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} -3 & 6 & -1 & 1 & -7 \\ 1 & -2 & 2 & 3 & -1 \\ 2 & -4 & 5 & 8 & -4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{rref}(A) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 & 0 & -1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$\text{Null}(A)$ is a vector space
of all column vectors x s.t.
 $Ax=0$. Here $\text{Null}(A)$ is a
subspace of all 5×1 matrices.



Task 1.5



Find a Nullspace of such matrices.

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

$$(b) \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 2 \\ 0 & 4 & 4 \\ 0 & 8 & 8 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Task 1.5



Answer

$$(a) \left[\begin{array}{ccccc|c} 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \end{bmatrix} = x_2 \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_4 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_5 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ -3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(b) \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = x_3 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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



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) $A = U = 2R$.

Answer

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

Underdetermined linear system of equations

Video



Application of the null space

$Ax=b$ Fewer equations than unknowns. $\# \text{rows} < \# \text{columns}$

Let u be a general vector in $\text{Null}(A)$

Let v be any vector that solves $Ax=b$.

$x=u+v$ general solution to $Ax=b$

$$\begin{aligned} Ax &= A(u+v) = Au + Av = \\ &= 0 + b = b \end{aligned}$$

$$2x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3 = 0$$

$$2x_1 - 2x_2 - x_3 = 1$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$



Task 3

1. Reduce $[A \ b]$ to $[U \ c]$, so that $Ax = b$ becomes a triangular system $Ux = c$.
2. Find the condition on b_1, b_2, b_3 for $Ax = b$ to have a solution.
3. Describe the column space of A . Which plane in \mathbf{R}^3 ?
4. Describe the nullspace of A . Which special solutions in \mathbf{R}^4 ?
5. Reduce $[U \ c]$ to $[R \ d]$: Special solutions from R , particular solution from d .
6. Find a particular solution and then the complete solution.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 6 & 4 \\ 2 & 5 & 7 & 6 \\ 2 & 3 & 5 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

Task 3

Answer

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 6 & 4 & \mathbf{b}_1 \\ 2 & 5 & 7 & 6 & \mathbf{b}_2 \\ 2 & 3 & 5 & 2 & \mathbf{b}_3 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 6 & 4 & \mathbf{b}_1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 & \mathbf{b}_2 - \mathbf{b}_1 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 & -2 & \mathbf{b}_3 - \mathbf{b}_1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 6 & 4 & \mathbf{b}_1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 & \mathbf{b}_2 - \mathbf{b}_1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \mathbf{b}_3 + \mathbf{b}_2 - 2\mathbf{b}_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ has a solution when $b_3 + b_2 - 2b_1 = 0$; the column space contains all combinations of $(2, 2, 2)$ and $(4, 5, 3)$. **This is the plane** $b_3 + b_2 - 2b_1 = 0$ (!). The nullspace contains all combinations of $\mathbf{s}_1 = (-1, -1, 1, 0)$ and $\mathbf{s}_2 = (2, -2, 0, 1)$; $\mathbf{x}_{complete} = \mathbf{x}_p + c_1\mathbf{s}_1 + c_2\mathbf{s}_2$;

$$\begin{bmatrix} R & \mathbf{d} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & -2 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ gives the particular solution } \mathbf{x}_p = (4, -1, 0, 0).$$

Task 4



If the special solutions to $R\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ are in the columns of these nullspace matrices 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 4



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

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

Answer

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

Reference material



- Robotics 2 course from Sapienza
- "*Linear Algebra and Applications*", pdf pages 87–101
2.1–2.2
- "*Introduction to Linear Algebra*", pdf pages 132–152
3.1 – 3.2
- this lab video, 2022 year

Preparation material for the next class



- Lecture 9 and 10
- "*Linear Algebra and Applications*", pdf pages 139–149
The application of four fundamental subspaces in CS
- Matrix Transpose and the Four Fundamental Subspaces
Video is about how A transpose appeared

Deserve "A" grade!

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🏢 Room 105 (Underground robotics lab)