

# Column space, Left Null space, control applications

Computational Intelligence, Lecture 3

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Consider the following task: find all vectors  $\mathbf{y}$  such that  $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$ .

It can be re-formulated as follows: find all elements of the *column space* of  $\mathbf{A}$ .

## Definition 1

*Column space* of  $\mathbf{A}$  is the set of all outputs of the matrix  $\mathbf{A}$ , for all possible inputs

We will denote column space as  $\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{A})$ . In the literature, it is often called an *image* of  $\mathbf{A}$ .

The problem of finding orthonormal basis in the column space of a matrix is often called *orthonormalization* of that matrix. Hence in MATLAB and Python/Scipy the function that does it is called `orth`:

- `C = orth(A).`

- `C = scipy.linalg.orth(A).`

That is how one finds all the outputs of the matrix  $\mathbf{A}$ : as  $\{\mathbf{Cz} : \forall \mathbf{z}\}$ .

Notice that  $\{\mathbf{Ax} : \forall \mathbf{x}\}$  might contain repeated entries if  $\mathbf{A}$  has a non-trivial null space.

# COLUMN SPACE AND NULL SPACE

Let  $\mathbf{A}$  be a square matrix, a map from  $\mathbb{X} = \mathbb{R}^n$  to  $\mathbb{Y} = \mathbb{R}^n$ . Notice that if it has a non-trivial null space, it follows that multiple unique inputs are being mapped by it to the same output:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{y} &= \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_r = \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}_r + \mathbf{x}_n), \\ \mathbf{x}_r &\in \mathcal{R}(\mathbf{A}) \\ \forall \mathbf{x}_n &\in \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{A})\end{aligned}\tag{1}$$

In fact, if null space of  $\mathbf{A}$  has  $k$  dimensions, it implies that an  $n$ -dimensional subspace of  $\mathbb{X}$  is mapped to a single element of  $\mathbb{Y}$ .

It follows that in this case the dimensionality of the column space could not exceed  $n - k$ .

# PROJECTOR ONTO COLUMN SPACE

Given vector  $\mathbf{y}$  and matrix  $\mathbf{A}$ , let us find projector of  $\mathbf{y}$  onto the column space of  $\mathbf{A}$ .

This is done in the same manner as we did with the null space:

$$\mathbf{y}_c = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^+\mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{A}) \quad (2)$$

This feels nice, as it only requires the matrix itself, no need for the orthonormal basis as before. However, computing the pseudoinverse is based on SVD decomposition, same as finding a basis in the null space or the column space.

# PROJECTOR ONTO ROW SPACE

Similarly we can define a projector onto row space. Given vector  $\mathbf{x}$  and matrix  $\mathbf{A}$ , let us find projector of  $\mathbf{x}$  onto the row space of  $\mathbf{A}$ :

$$\mathbf{x}_r = \mathbf{A}^+ \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{R}(\mathbf{A}) \quad (3)$$

You can think of this in the following terms: first we find what output  $\mathbf{x}$  makes, then we find the smallest norm vector that produces this same output, and this vector has to 1) have the same row space projection (because output is the same), 2) has to lie in the row space, hence it is the row space projector of  $\mathbf{x}$ .

Notice that implicitly used the fact that columns of  $\mathbf{A}^+$  lie in the row space of  $\mathbf{A}$ . We will prove this fact later. Additionally, we will prove that row space of  $\mathbf{A}$  is equivalent to the column space of  $\mathbf{A}^\top$ .

# LEFT NULL SPACE

The subspace, orthogonal to the column space is called *left null space*.

## Definition

Space of all vectors  $\mathbf{y}$  orthogonal to the columns of  $\mathbf{A}$  is called *left null space*:  $\mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{A} = 0$

You can think of left null space as a space of vectors that not only cannot be produced by operator  $\mathbf{A}$ , but the closest to them vector that can be produced is the zero vector.

We will later prove that left null space of  $\mathbf{A}$  is equivalent to the null space of  $\mathbf{A}^\top$ .



# LEFT NULL SPACE PROJECTOR

If we want to project vector  $\mathbf{y}$  onto the left null space of  $\mathbf{A}$ , we do it as:

$$\mathbf{y}_l = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^+) \mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{C}^\perp(\mathbf{A}) \quad (4)$$

If  $\mathbf{C}$  is an orthonormal basis in the column space of  $\mathbf{A}$ , the projection can be found the following way:

$$\mathbf{y}_l = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{C}\mathbf{C}^\top) \mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{C}^\perp(\mathbf{A}) \quad (5)$$

# FINDING FIXED POINTS

Given LTI system  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}$ , where  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ , 1) find if there are states that can be made into fixed points, 2) find all states that can be made into fixed points with a constant control law.

Solution:

- ① Yes, state  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  becomes a fixed point under control law  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$  or  $\mathbf{u} = -\mathbf{K}\mathbf{x}$ .
- ② Let us find null space of the matrix  $[\mathbf{A} \ \mathbf{B}]$  as  $\mathbf{N} = \text{null}([\mathbf{A} \ \mathbf{B}])$ . We can find all  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}$  pairs that produce fixed points as follows:  $\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{u} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{N}\mathbf{z}, \forall \mathbf{z}$ . Let  $\mathbf{N}_x$  be the first  $n$  rows of  $\mathbf{N}$ . Then all states that can be made into fixed points are given as  $\mathbf{x}^* = \mathbf{N}_x \mathbf{z}_x, \forall \mathbf{z}_x$

# CHECKING FIXED POINTS

Given LTI system  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}$ , where  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ , 1) check if  $\mathbf{x}^*$  can be made into a fixed point, 2) find control constant  $\mathbf{u}^*$  that does it, given control law  $\mathbf{u} = -\mathbf{K}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^*$ .

Solution:

- 1 We can check that  $(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{BK})\mathbf{x}^* + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}^* = \mathbf{0}$  has a solution, in other words that  $-(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{BK})\mathbf{x}^* \in \text{col}(\mathbf{B})$ . Resulting condition is given via projection into the left null space of  $\mathbf{B}$ :  $(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{B}\mathbf{B}^+)(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{BK})\mathbf{x}^* = \mathbf{0}$
- 2 This means finding such  $\mathbf{u}^*$  that  $(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{BK})\mathbf{x}^* + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}^* = \mathbf{0}$ . This is done via pseudo-inverse, which provides exact solution, as long as it exists:  $\mathbf{u}^* = -\mathbf{B}^+(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{BK})\mathbf{x}^*$ .

# CORRECTING FIXED POINTS

Given LTI system  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}$ , where  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ , and a state  $\mathbf{x}^d$  which can not be made into a fixed point under constant control law, find the closest to it state  $\mathbf{x}^f$  which can be made into a fixed point.

As we know from the first example, for this LTI system all fixed points under constant control are given as  $\mathbf{x}^* = \mathbf{N}_x \mathbf{z}_x$ . To find the closest point to a given vector in a subspace, you project the vector into that subspace. In this case, we project  $\mathbf{x}^d$  to the column space (span) of  $\mathbf{N}_x$ :

$$\mathbf{x}^f = \mathbf{N}_x \mathbf{N}_x^+ \mathbf{x}^d \quad (6)$$

# FINDING FIXED POINTS FOR AFFINE SYSTEMS

Given LTI system  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{c}$ , where  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , and control law  $\mathbf{u} = -\mathbf{K}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^*$ , find all states that can be made fixed points by choosing appropriate  $\mathbf{u}^*$ .

We are required to find all solutions to the equation  $(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{BK})\mathbf{x}^* + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}^* + \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{0}$ . Let us define state-control pairs  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{u} \end{bmatrix}$ .

We can easily find particular solution for this linear system:  
 $\mathbf{v}^p = -[(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{BK}) \quad \mathbf{B}]^+ \mathbf{c}$ .

Finding null space basis  $\mathbf{N} = \text{null}([\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{BK}) \quad \mathbf{B}])$  we get the general solution as follows:  $\mathbf{v}^* = \mathbf{v}^p + \mathbf{N}\mathbf{z}$ . First  $n$  equations in the expression defining  $\mathbf{v}^*$  give us  $\mathbf{x}^*$ , the rest -  $\mathbf{u}^*$ .

# MINIMIZE ONE OF THE CONTROL INPUTS

An extra

Now that we have such powerful tools, we can solve difficult problems easily. Consider this one. Linear time-invariant (LTI) dynamical system is described as:

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{B}_1\mathbf{u}_1 + \mathbf{B}_2\mathbf{u}_2 \quad (7)$$

Find such control inputs  $\mathbf{u}_1^*$ ,  $\mathbf{u}_2^*$  that state  $\mathbf{x}^*$  becomes a fixed point. Additionally, assume that  $\mathbf{u}_1^*$  is free to use, while  $\mathbf{u}_2^*$  should be used as sparingly as possible.

This can be formulated in the language of optimization as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & \underset{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2}{\text{minimize}} && ||\mathbf{u}_2||, \\ & \text{subject to} && \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^* + \mathbf{B}_1\mathbf{u}_1 + \mathbf{B}_2\mathbf{u}_2 = \mathbf{0} \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

# MINIMIZE ONE OF THE CONTROL INPUTS

## part 2

To check that the problem has at least one solution, we need to make sure that there are such inputs  $\mathbf{u}_1^*$ ,  $\mathbf{u}_2^*$  that state  $\mathbf{x}^*$  becomes a fixed point. In other words, vector  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^*$  should lie in the span of the columns of the matrix  $[\mathbf{B}_1 \ \mathbf{B}_2]$ . Which is the same as saying that its projection on the left null space of  $[\mathbf{B}_1 \ \mathbf{B}_2]$  is zero:

$$(\mathbf{I} - [\mathbf{B}_1 \ \mathbf{B}_2][\mathbf{B}_1 \ \mathbf{B}_2]^+) \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^* = \mathbf{0} \quad (9)$$

All solutions of the eq.  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^* + \mathbf{B}_1\mathbf{u}_1 + \mathbf{B}_2\mathbf{u}_2 = \mathbf{0}$  can be found as:

$$\mathbf{u} = -[\mathbf{B}_1 \ \mathbf{B}_2]^+ \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^* + \text{null}([\mathbf{B}_1 \ \mathbf{B}_2])\mathbf{z}, \quad \forall \mathbf{z} \quad (10)$$

# MINIMIZE ONE OF THE CONTROL INPUTS

## part 3

Now we need to pick the solution that minimizes  $\mathbf{u}_2$ . Let us define:

$$\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{B}_1 \mathbf{B}_1^+$$

$$\mathbf{P} \mathbf{B}_2 \mathbf{u}_2^* = \mathbf{a}^{\parallel} \qquad (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}) \mathbf{B}_2 \mathbf{u}_2^* = \mathbf{a}^{\perp}$$

Hence  $\mathbf{B}_2 \mathbf{u}_2^* = \mathbf{a}^{\parallel} + \mathbf{a}^{\perp}$ , and therefore  $\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}^* + \mathbf{B}_1 \mathbf{u}_1^* + \mathbf{a}^{\parallel} + \mathbf{a}^{\perp} = 0$  and  $\mathbf{P} \mathbf{B}_1 = \mathbf{B}_1$ . Multiply dynamics by  $\mathbf{P}$ :

$$\mathbf{P} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}^* + \mathbf{P} \mathbf{B}_1 \mathbf{u}_1^* + \mathbf{P} \mathbf{a}^{\parallel} + \mathbf{P} \mathbf{a}^{\perp} = 0$$

$$\mathbf{P} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}^* + \mathbf{B}_1 \mathbf{u}_1^* + \mathbf{a}^{\parallel} = 0$$

Let us notice that  $\mathbf{a}^{\parallel} \in \text{col}(\mathbf{B}_1)$ , and therefore the same result will be achieved in the following two cases:

$$1) \quad \mathbf{B}_2 \mathbf{u}_2^* = \mathbf{a}^{\parallel} + \mathbf{a}^{\perp} \qquad \mathbf{B}_1 \mathbf{u}_1^* = \mathbf{B}_1 \mathbf{u}_1^0$$

$$2) \quad \mathbf{B}_2 \mathbf{u}_2^* = \mathbf{a}^{\perp} \qquad \mathbf{B}_1 \mathbf{u}_1^* = \mathbf{B}_1 \mathbf{u}_1^0 + \mathbf{a}^{\parallel}$$



# MINIMIZE ONE OF THE CONTROL INPUTS

## part 4

Since  $\mathbf{B}_2^+(\mathbf{a}^{\parallel} + \mathbf{a}^{\perp})$  is larger or equal to than  $\mathbf{B}_2^+\mathbf{a}^{\perp}$ , it means that solution that minimizes  $\mathbf{u}_2$  is:

$$\mathbf{u}_2^* = \mathbf{B}_2^+\mathbf{a}^{\perp} \quad (11)$$

Now that we know that  $\mathbf{B}_2\mathbf{u}_2^* \in \text{null}(\mathbf{B}_1^{\top})$  (in the left null space of  $\mathbf{B}_1$ ), we can project dynamics to that space:

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P})\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^* + (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P})\mathbf{B}_1\mathbf{u}_1^* + (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P})\mathbf{B}_2\mathbf{u}_2^* &= \mathbf{0} \\ (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P})\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^* + (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P})\mathbf{B}_2\mathbf{u}_2^* &= \mathbf{0} \end{aligned}$$

Thus:

$$\mathbf{u}_2^* = -((\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P})\mathbf{B}_2)^+(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P})\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^* \quad (12)$$

Which is the solution to the original problem;  $\mathbf{u}_1^*$  can be obtained as follows:

$$\mathbf{u}_1^* = -\mathbf{B}_1^+(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^* + \mathbf{B}_2\mathbf{u}_2^*) \quad (13)$$

Lecture slides are available via Moodle.

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