

Linear Algebra (Gilbert Strang) : 07. Solving $Ax=0$: pivot variables, special solutions

□ Computing the Nullspace ($Ax=0$)

$$\hookrightarrow A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 & 6 & 8 \\ 3 & 6 & 9 & 10 \end{bmatrix}$$

3rd row is dependent.

① You do elimination

② find the r. and the number of free variables

↓
in the same direction.
dependent.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = U.$$

↑↑↑
2 pivot columns. → You can solve the equations with α_1, α_3 .

Rank of A = # of pivots
= 2.

2 free columns. → You can assign any number to α_2, α_4 .

$$X = C \begin{bmatrix} \square \\ 1 \\ \square \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad x_1 + 2x_2 + 2x_3 + 2x_4 = 0 \rightarrow x_1 = -2$$

\downarrow

$$2x_3 + 4x_4 = 0 \quad \rightarrow x_3 = 0 \quad \rightarrow [Ux=0]$$

↑
only 2nd column is free.
You can give any variable any multiple of this is in the null space.

"The null space contains exactly all the combinations of the special solutions".

□ Reduced Row Echelon Form

\hookrightarrow has zeros above and also under pivots.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\hookrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = R = rref(A)$$

multiplying & won't change the solutions

notice $I = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ in pivot rows/columns

$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & -2 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$. 2 free cols.

F.

rref form

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} I & F \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

r pivot rows
r pivot cols
 $n-r$ free cols

$$RN = 0 \quad \rightarrow N = \begin{bmatrix} -F \\ I \end{bmatrix} \quad \therefore Rx=0$$

null space matrix
(columns = special solns).

$$\begin{bmatrix} I & F \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_{\text{pivot}} \\ x_{\text{free}} \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

$$x_{\text{pivot}} = -Fx_{\text{free}}$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 4 & 6 \\ 2 & 6 & 8 \\ 2 & 8 & 10 \end{bmatrix}$$

→ we can expect that we will only have 2 pivot columns, because $\text{col1} + \text{col2} = \text{col3}$.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 4 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = U.$$

$$\text{rank is } 2. \quad \text{UX} = 0 \rightarrow X = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{(Free variable }= 1\text{)} \quad \text{whole nullspace} = c \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = c \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$I \leftarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow R$$

zeros.