# Math 415 - Lecture 11 Column space, Solution to Ax = b

Friday September 18th 2015

Review

Textbook: Chapter 2.1, 2.2.

Textbook: Chapter 2.1, 2.2.

Suggested practice exercises: Chapter 2.1: 3, 21, 28. Chapter 2.2: 33 and additional exercises at the end of this lecture.

Textbook: Chapter 2.1, 2.2.

Suggested practice exercises: Chapter 2.1: 3, 21, 28. Chapter 2.2: 33 and additional exercises at the end of this lecture.

Khan Academy videos: Introduction to the Null Space of a Matrix, Calculating the Null Space of a Matrix, Column Space of a Matrix Review

#### Definition

The **nullspace** of an  $m \times n$  matrix A, written as Nul(A), is the set of all solutions to the homogeneous equation  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ .

$$Nul(A) = \{ \mathbf{x} : \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ and } A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0} \}.$$

#### Definition

The **nullspace** of an  $m \times n$  matrix A, written as Nul(A), is the set of all solutions to the homogeneous equation  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ .

$$Nul(A) = \{ \mathbf{x} : \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ and } A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0} \}.$$

#### Theorem

The null space of an  $m \times n$  matrix A is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Equivalently, the set of all solutions  $\mathbf{x}$  to the system  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

$$\mathsf{Nul}\left(\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 6 & 6 & 3 & 9 \\ 6 & 12 & 13 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}\right) = \mathsf{Nul}\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 13 & 33 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -6 & -15 \end{bmatrix}\right).$$

This corresponds to the solution:

$$\mathsf{Nul}\left(\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 6 & 6 & 3 & 9 \\ 6 & 12 & 13 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}\right) = \mathsf{Nul}\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 13 & 33 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -6 & -15 \end{bmatrix}\right).$$

This corresponds to the solution:

$$x_1 = -2x_2 - 13x_4 - 33x_5$$
  
$$x_3 = 6x_4 + 15x_5.$$

$$\mathsf{Nul}\left(\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 6 & 6 & 3 & 9 \\ 6 & 12 & 13 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}\right) = \mathsf{Nul}\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 13 & 33 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -6 & -15 \end{bmatrix}\right).$$

This corresponds to the solution:

$$x_1 = -2x_2 - 13x_4 - 33x_5$$
  
$$x_3 = 6x_4 + 15x_5.$$

Write this as a linear combination:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \end{bmatrix} =$$

$$\mathsf{Nul}\left(\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 6 & 6 & 3 & 9 \\ 6 & 12 & 13 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}\right) = \mathsf{Nul}\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 13 & 33 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -6 & -15 \end{bmatrix}\right).$$

This corresponds to the solution:

$$x_1 = -2x_2 - 13x_4 - 33x_5$$
$$x_3 = 6x_4 + 15x_5.$$

Write this as a linear combination:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2x_2 - 13x_4 - 33x_5 \\ x_2 \\ 6x_4 + 15x_5 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \end{bmatrix} =$$

$$\mathsf{Nul}\left(\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 6 & 6 & 3 & 9 \\ 6 & 12 & 13 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}\right) = \mathsf{Nul}\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 13 & 33 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -6 & -15 \end{bmatrix}\right).$$

This corresponds to the solution:

$$x_1 = -2x_2 - 13x_4 - 33x_5$$
  
$$x_3 = 6x_4 + 15x_5.$$

Write this as a linear combination:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2x_2 - 13x_4 - 33x_5 \\ x_2 \\ 6x_4 + 15x_5 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \end{bmatrix} = x_2 \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_4 \begin{bmatrix} -13 \\ 0 \\ 6 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_5 \begin{bmatrix} -33 \\ 0 \\ 15 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$\mathsf{Nul}(A) = span \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -2\\1\\0\\0\\0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -13\\0\\6\\1\\0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -33\\0\\15\\0\\1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

$$\mathsf{Nul}(A) = span \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -2\\1\\0\\0\\0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -13\\0\\6\\1\\0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -33\\0\\15\\0\\1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

## Remark

If  $Nul(A) \neq \{0\}$ , then the number of vectors in the spanning set for Nul(A) equals the number of free variables in  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ .

$$\mathsf{Nul}(A) = span \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -2\\1\\0\\0\\0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -13\\0\\6\\1\\0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -33\\0\\15\\0\\1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

## Remark

If  $Nul(A) \neq \{0\}$ , then the number of vectors in the spanning set for Nul(A) equals the number of free variables in  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ .

$$\mathsf{Nul}(A) = span \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -2\\1\\0\\0\\0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -13\\0\\6\\1\\0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -33\\0\\15\\0\\1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

#### Remark

If  $Nul(A) \neq \{0\}$ , then the number of vectors in the spanning set for Nul(A) equals the number of free variables in  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ . In this example, we had 3 free variables  $(x_2, x_4, \text{ and } x_5)$  so there were 3 vectors in the spanning set for Nul(A). More about this later!

## Definition

The **column space**, written as Col(A), of an  $m \times n$  matrix A is the set of all linear combinations of the columns of A.

## Definition

The **column space**, written as Col(A), of an  $m \times n$  matrix A is the set of all linear combinations of the columns of A.

If 
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & \cdots & a_n \end{bmatrix}$$
, then  $Col(A) = Span\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$ .

• If 
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
, then  $Col(A) =$ 

• If 
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
, then  $Col(A) = Span(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix})$ .

• If  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , then  $Col(A) = Span(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix})$ . This is all of

- If  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , then  $Col(A) = Span(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix})$ . This is all of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ !
- If  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ , then Col(A) =

- If  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , then  $Col(A) = Span(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix})$ . This is all of
- If  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ , then  $Col(A) = Span(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}) =$

- If  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , then  $Col(A) = Span(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix})$ . This is all of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ !
- If  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ , then  $Col(A) = Span(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}) = Span(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix})$ .

- If  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , then  $Col(A) = Span(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix})$ . This is all of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ !
- If  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ , then  $Col(A) = Span(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}) = Span(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix})$ . This is the  $x_1$  axis in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ !

- If  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , then  $Col(A) = Span(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix})$ . This is all of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ !
- If  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ , then  $Col(A) = Span(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}) = Span(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix})$ . This is the  $x_1$  axis in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ !
- If  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ , then Col(A) =

- If  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , then  $Col(A) = Span(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix})$ . This is all of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ !
- If  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ , then  $Col(A) = Span(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}) = Span(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix})$ . This is the  $x_1$  axis in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ !
- If  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ , then  $Col(A) = Span(\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix})$ .

- If  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , then  $Col(A) = Span(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix})$ . This is all of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ !
- If  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ , then  $Col(A) = Span(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}) = Span(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix})$ . This is the  $x_1$  axis in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ !
- If  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ , then  $Col(A) = Span(\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix})$ . This is the zero subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ !

## Theorem 1

The column space of an  $m \times n$  matrix A is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^m$ .

#### Theorem

The column space of an  $m \times n$  matrix A is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^m$ .

Why is it a subspace?

#### Theorem

The column space of an  $m \times n$  matrix A is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^m$ .

Why is it a subspace? Because it is a Span!

#### Theorem

The column space of an  $m \times n$  matrix A is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^m$ .

Why is it a subspace? Because it is a Span!

#### Remark

If A is  $m \times n$  (m rows, n columns) then

#### Theorem

The column space of an  $m \times n$  matrix A is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^m$ .

Why is it a subspace? Because it is a Span!

#### Remark

If A is  $m \times n$  (m rows, n columns) then

• Col(A) is a subspace of the output space

#### Theorem

The column space of an  $m \times n$  matrix A is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^m$ .

Why is it a subspace? Because it is a Span!

#### Remark

If A is  $m \times n$  (m rows, n columns) then

• Col(A) is a subspace of the output space  $\mathbb{R}^m$ .

#### Theorem

The column space of an  $m \times n$  matrix A is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^m$ .

Why is it a subspace? Because it is a Span!

#### Remark

If A is  $m \times n$  (m rows, n columns) then

- Col(A) is a subspace of the output space  $\mathbb{R}^m$ .
- Nul(A) is a subspace of the input space

#### Theorem

The column space of an  $m \times n$  matrix A is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^m$ .

Why is it a subspace? Because it is a Span!

#### Remark

If A is  $m \times n$  (m rows, n columns) then

- Col(A) is a subspace of the output space  $\mathbb{R}^m$ .
- Nul(A) is a subspace of the input space  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

#### Theorem

The column space of an  $m \times n$  matrix A is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^m$ .

Why is it a subspace? Because it is a Span!

#### Remark

If A is  $m \times n$  (m rows, n columns) then

- Col(A) is a subspace of the output space  $\mathbb{R}^m$ .
- Nul(A) is a subspace of the input space  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

### Theorem

Let A be an  $m \times n$  matrix.

#### $\mathsf{Theorem}$

Let A be an  $m \times n$  matrix.

**b** is in Col(A) iff there is an 
$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}$$
 in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ .

#### Theorem

Let A be an  $m \times n$  matrix.

**b** is in Col(A) iff there is an 
$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}$$
 in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ .

### Proof.

Suppose  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ . Then

#### Theorem

Let A be an  $m \times n$  matrix.

**b** is in Col(A) iff there is an 
$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}$$
 in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ .

#### Proof.

Suppose  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ . Then

$$\mathbf{b} = A\mathbf{x} = \underbrace{x_1\mathbf{a}_1 + x_2\mathbf{a}_2 + \dots + x_n\mathbf{a}_n}_{\text{(lin. comb. of } \mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n)}.$$

### Example

Find a matrix A such that W = Col(A) where

$$W = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x - 2y \\ 3y \\ x + y \end{bmatrix} : x, y \in \mathbb{R} \right\}.$$

### Solution

$$\begin{bmatrix} x - 2y \\ 3y \\ x + y \end{bmatrix} = x \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + y \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

### Solution

$$\begin{bmatrix} x - 2y \\ 3y \\ x + y \end{bmatrix} = x \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + y \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

So

$$W = \mathsf{Span}\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1\\0\\1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -2\\3\\1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

### Solution

$$\begin{bmatrix} x - 2y \\ 3y \\ x + y \end{bmatrix} = x \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + y \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

So

$$W = \operatorname{Span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\} = \operatorname{Col} \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 0 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right).$$

### Solution

$$\begin{bmatrix} x - 2y \\ 3y \\ x + y \end{bmatrix} = x \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + y \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

So

$$W = \operatorname{Span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\} = \operatorname{Col} \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 0 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right).$$

Therefore

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 0 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

# $\overline{Nul(A)}$ and solutions to $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$

#### **Theorem**

Let A be an  $m \times n$  matrix, let  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ , and let  $\mathbf{x_p} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that

$$Ax_{\mathbf{p}} = \mathbf{b}.$$

#### **Theorem**

Let A be an  $m \times n$  matrix, let  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ , and let  $\mathbf{x_p} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that

$$Ax_{\mathbf{p}} = \mathbf{b}.$$

Then the set of solutions  $\{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n : A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}\}$  is exactly

$$\mathbf{x_p} + Nul(A)$$
.

# Nul(A) and solutions to Ax = b

#### $\mathsf{Theorem}$

Let A be an  $m \times n$  matrix, let  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ , and let  $\mathbf{x_p} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that

$$A\mathbf{x_p} = \mathbf{b}.$$

Then the set of solutions  $\{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n : A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}\}$  is exactly

$$\mathbf{x_p} + Nul(A)$$
.

So every solution of  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  is of the form

$$\mathbf{x_p} + \mathbf{x_n}$$

where  $x_n$  is some vector in Nul(A).

# $\overline{Nul(A)}$ and solutions to $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$

```
Proof.
```

### Proof.

Let  $\mathbf{x_p} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $A\mathbf{x_p} = \mathbf{b}$ .

### Proof.

Let  $\mathbf{x_p} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $A\mathbf{x_p} = \mathbf{b}$ . Suppose  $\mathbf{x}$  is also in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ .

Column Spaces

### Proof.

Let  $\mathbf{x_p} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $A\mathbf{x_p} = \mathbf{b}$ . Suppose  $\mathbf{x}$  is also in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ . Then

$$A(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x_p}) = A\mathbf{x} - A\mathbf{x_p} = \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{0}.$$

#### Proof.

Let  $\mathbf{x_p} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $A\mathbf{x_p} = \mathbf{b}$ . Suppose  $\mathbf{x}$  is also in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ . Then

$$A(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x_p}) = A\mathbf{x} - A\mathbf{x_p} = \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{0}.$$

Therefore,  $\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x_p} = \mathbf{x_n}$  is in Nul(A), so  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x_p} + \mathbf{x_n}$ .

#### Proof.

Let  $\mathbf{x_p} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $A\mathbf{x_p} = \mathbf{b}$ . Suppose  $\mathbf{x}$  is also in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ . Then

$$A(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x_p}) = A\mathbf{x} - A\mathbf{x_p} = \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{0}.$$

Therefore,  $\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x_p} = \mathbf{x_n}$  is in Nul(A), so  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x_p} + \mathbf{x_n}$ .

### Remark

We often call  $\mathbf{x_p}$  a particular solution of  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ . The theorem then says that every solution to  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  is the sum of one particular solution  $\mathbf{x_p}$  and all the solutions to  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  (the null space).

# $\overline{Nul(A)}$ and solutions to $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$

### Example

Let 
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 3 & 2 \\ 2 & 6 & 9 & 7 \\ -1 & -3 & 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$
 and  $\mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$ . Solve  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ .

**Step 1**: Reduce Ax = b to Ux = c.

$$\begin{bmatrix} A \mid \mathbf{b} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 3 & 2 \mid 1 \\ 2 & 6 & 9 & 7 \mid 5 \\ -1 & -3 & 3 & 4 \mid 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} A \mid \mathbf{b} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 3 & 2 \mid 1 \\ 2 & 6 & 9 & 7 \mid 5 \\ -1 & -3 & 3 & 4 \mid 5 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 3 & 2 \mid 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 3 \mid 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 & 6 \mid 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} A \mid \mathbf{b} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 3 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 6 & 9 & 7 & 5 \\ -1 & -3 & 3 & 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 3 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 3 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 & 6 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

$$\begin{bmatrix} A \mid \mathbf{b} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 3 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 6 & 9 & 7 & 5 \\ -1 & -3 & 3 & 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 3 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 3 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 & 6 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

$$U\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{c}.$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

**Step 2**: Find a particular solution to  $U\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{c}$ .

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

**Step 2**: Find a particular solution to  $U\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{c}$ .

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

Could pick any value for the free variables ( $x_2$  and  $x_4$ ).

**Step 2**: Find a particular solution to  $U\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{c}$ .

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

Could pick any value for the free variables ( $x_2$  and  $x_4$ ).

Trick: Set them both to 0.

**Step 2**: Find a particular solution to  $U\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{c}$ .

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Could pick any value for the free variables  $(x_2 \text{ and } x_4)$ .

Trick: Set them both to 0. Then

$$3x_3=3 \Rightarrow x_3=1.$$

**Step 2**: Find a particular solution to  $U\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{c}$ .

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

Could pick any value for the free variables  $(x_2 \text{ and } x_4)$ .

Trick: Set them both to 0. Then

$$3x_3 = 3 \Rightarrow x_3 = 1.$$
  
 $x_1 + 3x_3 = 1 \Rightarrow x_1 = -2.$ 

**Step 2**: Find a particular solution to  $U\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{c}$ .

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

Could pick any value for the free variables ( $x_2$  and  $x_4$ ).

Trick: Set them both to 0. Then

$$3x_3 = 3 \Rightarrow x_3 = 1.$$
  
 $x_1 + 3x_3 = 1 \Rightarrow x_1 = -2.$ 

So 
$$\mathbf{x_p} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
 is a particular solution to  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ .

# $\overline{Nul(A)}$ and solutions to $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$

**Step 3**: Find **all** the solutions to Ax = 0 to find Nul(A).

**Step 3**: Find **all** the solutions to Ax = 0 to find Nul(A).

$$[U \mid \mathbf{0}] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 3 & 2 \mid 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 3 \mid 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \mid 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Step 3**: Find **all** the solutions to Ax = 0 to find Nul(A).

$$\begin{bmatrix} U \mid \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 3 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 3 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Step 3**: Find **all** the solutions to Ax = 0 to find Nul(A).

$$\begin{bmatrix} U \mid \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 3 & 2 \mid 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 3 \mid 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \mid 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 3 & 2 \mid 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \mid 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \mid 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

**Step 3**: Find **all** the solutions to Ax = 0 to find Nul(A).

$$\begin{bmatrix} U \mid \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 3 & 2 \mid 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 3 \mid 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \mid 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 3 & 2 \mid 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \mid 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \mid 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Every vector in Nul(A) is of the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -3x_2 + x_4 \\ x_2 \\ -x_4 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Nul(A) and solutions to Ax = b

**Step 3**: Find **all** the solutions to Ax = 0 to find Nul(A).

$$\begin{bmatrix} U \mid \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 3 & 2 \mid 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 3 \mid 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \mid 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 3 & 2 \mid 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \mid 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \mid 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Every vector in Nul(A) is of the form

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

# $\overline{Nul(A)}$ and solutions to $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$

**Step 4**: To find all the solutions to  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ , add a particular solution  $\mathbf{x}_{\mathbf{p}}$  to the null space of A.

**Step 4**: To find all the solutions to  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ , add a particular solution  $\mathbf{x}_{\mathbf{p}}$  to the null space of A. So the set of solutions is

$$\mathbf{x_p} + Nul(A)$$
.

**Step 4**: To find all the solutions to Ax = b, add a particular solution  $\mathbf{x}_{\mathbf{n}}$  to the null space of A. So the set of solutions is

$$x_p + Nul(A)$$
.

$$\begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \mathsf{Span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

**Step 4**: To find all the solutions to  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ , add a particular solution  $\mathbf{x}_{\mathbf{p}}$  to the null space of A. So the set of solutions is

$$x_p + Nul(A)$$
.

$$\begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \mathsf{Span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

and each solution x is of the form

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} -2\\0\\1\\0 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} -3\\1\\0\\0 \end{bmatrix} + x_4 \begin{bmatrix} 1\\0\\-1\\1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

• If A is a matrix with echelon form U, then Nul(A) = Nul(U).

• If A is a matrix with echelon form U, then Nul(A) = Nul(U). Why?

• If A is a matrix with echelon form U, then Nul(A) = Nul(U). Why? Because Nul(A) is the set of solutions of Ax = 0,

• If A is a matrix with echelon form U, then Nul(A) = Nul(U). Why? Because Nul(A) is the set of solutions of Ax = 0, which is the same as the space of solutions of Ux = 0

• If A is a matrix with echelon form U, then Nul(A) = Nul(U). Why? Because Nul(A) is the set of solutions of Ax = 0, which is the same as the space of solutions of Ux = 0 (That is the point of echelon form matrices!)

• If A is a matrix with echelon form U, then Nul(A) = Nul(U). Why? Because Nul(A) is the set of solutions of Ax = 0, which is the same as the space of solutions of Ux = 0 (That is the point of echelon form matrices!) which is Nul(U).

- If A is a matrix with echelon form U, then Nul(A) = Nul(U). Why? Because Nul(A) is the set of solutions of Ax = 0, which is the same as the space of solutions of Ux = 0 (That is the point of echelon form matrices!) which is Nul(U).
- Not true that Col(A) = Col(U)! Why?

- If A is a matrix with echelon form U, then Nul(A) = Nul(U). Why? Because Nul(A) is the set of solutions of Ax = 0, which is the same as the space of solutions of Ux = 0 (That is the point of echelon form matrices!) which is Nul(U).
- Not true that Col(A) = Col(U)! Why?

Let 
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$
.

- If A is a matrix with echelon form U, then Nul(A) = Nul(U). Why? Because Nul(A) is the set of solutions of Ax = 0, which is the same as the space of solutions of Ux = 0 (That is the point of echelon form matrices!) which is Nul(U).
- Not true that Col(A) = Col(U)! Why?

Let 
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$
. Then  $U =$ 

- If A is a matrix with echelon form U, then Nul(A) = Nul(U). Why? Because Nul(A) is the set of solutions of Ax = 0, which is the same as the space of solutions of Ux = 0 (That is the point of echelon form matrices!) which is Nul(U).
- Not true that Col(A) = Col(U)! Why?

Let 
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$
. Then  $U = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ .

- If A is a matrix with echelon form U, then Nul(A) = Nul(U). Why? Because Nul(A) is the set of solutions of Ax = 0, which is the same as the space of solutions of Ux = 0 (That is the point of echelon form matrices!) which is Nul(U).
- Not true that Col(A) = Col(U)! Why?

Let 
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$
. Then  $U = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ .

$$Col(A) =$$

- If A is a matrix with echelon form U, then Nul(A) = Nul(U). Why? Because Nul(A) is the set of solutions of Ax = 0, which is the same as the space of solutions of Ux = 0 (That is the point of echelon form matrices!) which is Nul(U).
- Not true that Col(A) = Col(U)! Why?

Let 
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$
. Then  $U = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ .

$$Col(A) = Span(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}),$$

- If A is a matrix with echelon form U, then Nul(A) = Nul(U). Why? Because Nul(A) is the set of solutions of Ax = 0, which is the same as the space of solutions of Ux = 0 (That is the point of echelon form matrices!) which is Nul(U).
- Not true that Col(A) = Col(U)! Why?

Let 
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$
. Then  $U = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ .

$$Col(A) = Span(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}), \quad Col(U) =$$

- If A is a matrix with echelon form U, then Nul(A) = Nul(U). Why? Because Nul(A) is the set of solutions of Ax = 0, which is the same as the space of solutions of Ux = 0 (That is the point of echelon form matrices!) which is Nul(U).
- Not true that Col(A) = Col(U)! Why?

Let 
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$
. Then  $U = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ . 
$$Col(A) = Span(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}), \quad Col(U) = Span(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix})$$

1. True or false?

- 1. True or false?
  - (i) The solutions to  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  form a vector space.

- 1. True or false?
  - (i) The solutions to  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  form a vector space.

- 1. True or false?
  - (i) The solutions to  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  form a vector space. True. This is the null space Nul(A).

- 1. True or false?
  - (i) The solutions to  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  form a vector space. True. This is the null space Nul(A).
  - (ii) The solutions to  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  form a vector space.

- 1. True or false?
  - (i) The solutions to  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  form a vector space. True. This is the null space Nul(A).
  - (ii) The solutions to  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  form a vector space.

- 1. True or false?
  - (i) The solutions to  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  form a vector space. True. This is the null space Nul(A).
  - (ii) The solutions to  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  form a vector space. False, unless  $\mathbf{b} = 0$ .

- 1. True or false?
  - (i) The solutions to  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  form a vector space. True. This is the null space Nul(A).
  - (ii) The solutions to  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  form a vector space. False, unless  $\mathbf{b} = 0$ .
- 2. Find an explicit description for Nul(A) where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 & -2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

3. Show that the given set W is a subspace (by showing that W is the column space or null space of some matrix A) or find a specific example that shows that W is not a subspace.

3. Show that the given set W is a subspace (by showing that W is the column space or null space of some matrix A) or find a specific example that shows that W is not a subspace.

(i) 
$$W_1 = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} : 5x - 1 = y + 2z \right\}.$$

3. Show that the given set W is a subspace (by showing that W is the column space or null space of some matrix A) or find a specific example that shows that W is not a subspace.

(i) 
$$W_1 = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} : 5x - 1 = y + 2z \right\}.$$

(ii) 
$$W_2 = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ d \end{bmatrix} : a = 2b + c, \ 2a = c - 3d \right\}.$$

4. Let 
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$
. Find a smallest spanning set for  $W = Col(A)$ . Find a matrix  $B$  such that  $W = Nul(B)$ .

- 4. Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$ . Find a smallest spanning set for W = Col(A). Find a matrix B such that W = Nul(B).
- 5. Let  $B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$ . Find a smallest spanning set for W = Nul(A). Find a matrix B such that W = Col(B)