

Math 415 - Lecture 14

Null space and Column space basis

Friday September 25th 2015

Textbook reading: 2.4

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Suggested practice exercises: Chapter 2.4 Exercise 1, 2, 3, 4, 21

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Khan Academy video: Null Space and Column Space Basis,
Dimension of the Null Space, Dimension of the
Column Space

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Strang lecture: Independence, Basis, and Dimension

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- * The material for the exam covers the lectures upto and including Lecture 12 (last Monday), and this weeks worksheet and quiz.

Review

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 - \iff each column of A contains a pivot.
 - \iff there are no free variables.
 - $\iff \text{Nul}(A) = 0$.

Warmup

Warmup

Example

Find a basis and the dimension of

$$W = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a + b + 2c \\ 2a + 2b + 4c + d \\ b + c + d \\ 3a + 3c + d \end{bmatrix} : a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R} \right\}.$$

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Solution. First, note that

$$W = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

Is $\dim W = 4$?

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Is $\dim W = 4$? No, because the third vector is the sum of the first two.

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Suppose we did not notice ...

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

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

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Not a pivot in every column, hence the 4 vectors are dependent.

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Not necessary here, but to get a relation, solve $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$.

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Not necessary here, but to get a relation, solve $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$. Set free variable $x_3 = 1$. Then $x_4 = 0$, $x_2 = -x_3 = -1$ and $x_1 = -x_2 - 2x_3 = -1$. The relation is

$$-\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + 0 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{0}.$$

Precisely what we “noticed” to begin with.

Warmup

Hence, a basis for W is $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\dim W = 3$.

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In other words, let $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$ be linearly independent vectors in V . If V has dimension d , then we can find vectors $\mathbf{v}_{p+1}, \dots, \mathbf{v}_d$ such that $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_d\}$ is a basis of V .

Extending to a basis

Example

Consider

$$H = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

- Give a basis for H . What is the dimension of H ?
- Extend the basis of H to a basis of \mathbb{R}^3 .

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Solution

- The vectors are independent. By definition, they span H .

Therefore, $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ is a basis for H . In particular,

$$\dim H = 2.$$

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By construction, $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ is independent.

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- these vectors form a basis of $Nul(A)$.

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$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 6 & 6 & 3 & 9 \\ 6 & 12 & 15 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} &\longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 6 & 6 & 3 & 9 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -6 & -15 \end{bmatrix} \\ &\longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 & -5 \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 5 & 13 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 & -5 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

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$$\text{Hence, } Nul(A) = span \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -5 \\ 0 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -13 \\ 0 \\ 5 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

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These vectors are independent. (Can you see why?)

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Hence, $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -5 \\ 0 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -13 \\ 0 \\ 5 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ is a basis for $Nul(A)$.

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Dimension of Null Space

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If A is a matrix, $Nul(A)$ has a basis vector for each free variable.

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If A is a matrix, $Nul(A)$ has a basis vector for each free variable. So the *dimension* of $Nul(A)$ is equal to the number of free variables!

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Recall that the columns of A are independent

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Theorem

A basis for $\text{Col}(A)$ is given by the pivot columns of A .

Bases for Column Spaces

Example

Find a basis for $\text{Col}(A)$ with

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 4 \\ 2 & 4 & -1 & 3 \\ 3 & 6 & 2 & 22 \\ 4 & 8 & 0 & 16 \end{bmatrix}.$$

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Solution

$$\text{Col}(A) = \text{Span} \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 6 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ 22 \\ 16 \end{bmatrix} \right).$$

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Note that for U we have column $\mathbf{u}_2 = 2\mathbf{u}_1$ and $\mathbf{u}_4 = 4\mathbf{u}_1 + 5\mathbf{u}_3$.

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The same is true for the columns of A !

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Bases for Column Spaces

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Remark

If A has echelon form U then any relation for the columns of U :

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Solution

Because the relation for the columns of U is in matrix form

$$U\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0},$$

but this is equivalent to $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$, which is equivalent to the relation between the columns of A .

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True. \mathbf{v}_k is not adding anything new.