

Null Spaces

Definition: Null space. Let $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be linear. The null space of T or the kernel of T (denoted $\ker(T)$).

$$\ker(T) := \{\vec{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n : T(\vec{v}) = \vec{0}\}$$

We know that $\ker(T) \neq \emptyset$ as $T(\vec{v}) = 0$

Proposition: $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, linear
 $\ker(T)$ is a linear subspace of \mathbb{R}^n .

Proof: Pick $\vec{u}, \vec{v} \in \ker(T)$, $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$

TBA

Proposition: $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is linear then $\ker(T) = \{\vec{0}\}$ if and only if T is one-one.

Proof: Pick \vec{u}, \vec{v} such that $T(\vec{u}) = T(\vec{v})$

$$= T(\vec{u} - \vec{v}) = \vec{0}, \text{ as } T \text{ is a linear map}$$

$$\text{So, } \vec{u}, \vec{v} \in \ker(T) = \{\vec{0}\}$$

$$\text{Therefore, } \vec{u} - \vec{v} = \vec{0}, \vec{u} = \vec{v}$$

Hence, T is one to one.

Other side: Note, $\vec{0} \in \ker(T)$

Pick $\vec{v} \in \ker(T)$

$$\text{Then, } T(\vec{v}) = \vec{0} = T(\vec{0})$$

Since T is one to one, $\vec{v} = \vec{0}$

$$\ker(T) \subset \{\vec{0}\}$$

$$\ker(T) = \{\vec{0}\}$$

- ◆ So essentially, we have a lot of vectors in the domain that map to zero
 - ◆ But we also have a lot of vectors that map to non-zero vectors, which gives the transform its non-triviality
- ◆ *Say some $S \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is linear $\implies T(S)$ is also linear, and a subspace
 - ◆ What follows is that if you have transform $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is linear, then $T(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is a subspace
- ◆ In conclusion, the vectors in $\ker(T)$ all map to $\vec{0}$, and the rest of the vectors span $T(\mathbb{R}^n)$

Example: $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^4$, $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} x \\ 0 \\ y \\ x+y \end{bmatrix}$

$$\ker(T) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

$$T(\mathbb{R}^2) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x \\ 0 \\ y \\ x+y \end{bmatrix} : x, y \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

$$= \left\{ x \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + y \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} : x, y \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

$$= L\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

$$T\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, T\left(\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Definition: Rank-nullity. Rank is the dimension of $T(\mathbb{R}^n)$, nullity is the dimension of $\ker(T)$

Let $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ be a linear map. Then, $\dim(\ker(T)) + \dim(T(\mathbb{R}^n)) = n$

Proof: Since $\ker(T)$ is a subspace, let $\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_k\}$ be a basis of $\ker(T)$, ($k < n$).

Pick $\vec{w}_1 \notin \ker(T)$, $T(\vec{w}_1) \neq \vec{0}$

$\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_k, \vec{w}_1\}$ is linearly independent.

$$c_1 \vec{w}_1 + b_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + b_k \vec{v}_k = \vec{0}$$

as $\{\vec{v}_i\}_{k+1}^n$ is a basis, $b_i = 0$,

Pick $\vec{w} \in L(\{\vec{w}_1, \vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_k\})$ and complete it to a basis of \mathbb{R}^n

Remains to show $\{T(\vec{w}_i), \dots, T(\vec{w}_{n_0k}, \vec{v}_1)\}$

Proof of rank nullity: Note that $T(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is a linear subspace of the codomain \mathbb{R}^m . Thus, there exists $\{w_1, \dots, w_l\} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $\{T(w_1), \dots, T(w_l)\}$, which is a basis of $T(\mathbb{R}^n)$.

Now, we shall show that $\{w_1, \dots, w_l\} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is linearly independent. Suppose

$c_1 w_1 + \dots + c_l w_l = \vec{0} \in \mathbb{R}^n$. This implies that

$T(c_1 w_1 + \dots + c_l w_l) = \vec{0} \in \mathbb{R}^m$. We can apply the linear property such that

$c_1 T(w_1) + \dots + c_l T(w_l) = \vec{0} \in \mathbb{R}^m$. Therefore, $c_1 = c_2 = \dots = c_l = 0 \in \mathbb{R}$

Since $\ker(T) \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is a subspace, say, $\{v_1, \dots, v_k\} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is a basis of $\ker(T)$.

Claim: $\{v_1, \dots, v_k\} \cup \{w_1, \dots, w_l\} = B$ is a basis of \mathbb{R}^n . We know this because the union of two linearly independent sets is linearly independent from our homework.

Pick $\vec{u} \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Either $T(\vec{u}) = \vec{0} \implies \vec{u} \in \ker(T) \implies \vec{u} \in L(B)$, or

$T(\vec{u}) \neq \vec{0} \in T(\mathbb{R}^n)$

This implies that $T(\vec{u}) = \alpha_1 T(w_1) + \dots + \alpha_l T(w_l)$, given $\alpha_i \in \mathbb{R}$.

This implies that $T(\vec{u}) = T(\alpha_1 w_1 + \dots + \alpha_l w_l)$

which implies that $T(\alpha_1 w_1 + \dots + \alpha_l w_l) - T(\vec{u}) = \vec{0} \in \mathbb{R}^m$

Which implies that $T(\alpha_1 w_1 + \dots + \alpha_l w_l - \vec{u}) = \vec{0} \in \mathbb{R}^m$

$\alpha_1 w_1 + \dots + \alpha_l w_l - \vec{u} \in \ker(T)$

$\alpha_1 w_1 + \dots + \alpha_l w_l - \vec{u} = \beta_1 v_1 + \dots + \beta_k v_k$

$\vec{u} = \alpha_1 w_1 + \dots + \alpha_l w_l - \beta_1 v_1 - \dots - \beta_k v_k \in L(B)$ So, B is a basis of \mathbb{R}^n .

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Example: $T : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ as $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y + z \end{bmatrix}$

$\ker T = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} : \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y + z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$

$= L\left(\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}\right)$. Therefore, $\dim(\ker(T)) = 1$

$T(\mathbb{R}^3) := \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y + z \end{bmatrix} : x, y, z \in \mathbb{R} \right\} = L\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\} = \mathbb{R}^2$

Therefore, $T(\mathbb{R}^3) = 2$

Thus, $\ker(T) + T(\mathbb{R}^3) = 3$