

# Null Spaces

**Definition: Null space.** Let  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  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  $T(\vec{0}) = \vec{0}$

Proposition:  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ , 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:  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  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  $\vec{v} \in |(T)|$

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

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

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

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

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

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

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,  $\ker(T) + T(\mathbb{R}^n) = \mathbb{R}^m$

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

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

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

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

as  $\{\vec{v}_i\}_{ki}$  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  $\{T(\vec{w}_i), \dots, T(\vec{w}_{n_0 k}, \vec{v}_1)\}$

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

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

$$T(c_1 \vec{w}_1 + \dots + c_l \vec{w}_l) = \vec{0} \in \mathbb{R}^n. \text{ We can apply the linear property such that}$$

$$c_1 T(\vec{w}_1) + \dots + c_l T(\vec{w}_l) = \vec{0} \in \mathbb{R}^n. \text{ Therefore, } c_1 = c_2 = \dots = c_l = 0 \in \mathbb{R}$$

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  $T(\vec{u}) = \alpha_1 T(\vec{w}_1) + \dots + \alpha_l T(\vec{w}_l)$ , given  $\alpha_i \in \mathbb{R}$ .

$$\text{This implies that } T(\vec{u}) = T(\alpha_1 \vec{w}_1 + \dots + \alpha_l \vec{w}_l)$$

$$\text{which implies that } T(\alpha_1 \vec{w}_1 + \dots + \alpha_l \vec{w}_l) - T(\vec{u}) = \vec{0} \in \mathbb{R}^m$$

$$\text{Which implies that } T(\alpha_1 \vec{w}_1 + \dots + \alpha_l \vec{w}_l - \vec{u}) = \vec{0} \in \mathbb{R}^m$$

$$\alpha_1 \vec{w}_1 + \dots + \alpha_l \vec{w}_l - \vec{u} \in \ker(T)$$

$$\alpha_1 \vec{w}_1 + \dots + \alpha_l \vec{w}_l - \vec{u} = \beta_1 v_1 + \dots + \beta_k v_k$$

$$\vec{u} = \alpha_1 \vec{w}_1 + \dots + \alpha_l \vec{w}_l - \beta_1 v_1 - \dots - \beta_k v_k \in L(B) \text{ So, } B \text{ is a basis of } \mathbb{R}^n.$$

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

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

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

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

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

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