

Solving  $Ax=0$

①

How do we describe or compute  
spaces in vector space.  
or how they

turning the idea into an algorithm.

talking about rectangular matrices

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

Ques: is it 'independent'?  
is it 'independent'?

- Col 2 is multiple of Col 1.
- Row 3 is multiple of row 1 + row 2
- So rows is not independent.

- so we use elimination, can and continue even  
if there is zero in pivot position.

Goal: do Elimination, without changing  
the null space

(2)

∴ remember when we do elimination  
by subtracting / multiplying we  
not changing the solution

i.e Same, we not change  
null space

⇒ But changing the Column space

⇒ working on the left side, right side  
keeping up, but just zeros

∴ Let's do Elimination

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 & 6 & 8 \\ 3 & 6 & 8 & 10 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

→ First Pivot; make 2 zero

$$\therefore -2R_1 + R_2 \rightarrow R_2$$

$$-3R_1 + R_3 \rightarrow R_3$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{use this as next pivot}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = U \quad (3)$$

first columns.

$$\rightarrow 1R_2 + R_3 \Rightarrow R_3$$

But here we only have 2 pivots?

$\therefore$  this we call the rank of the matrix

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \text{rank of } A \\ &= \# \text{ of pivots} \\ &= 2. \end{aligned}$$

Always solved  $Ax = 0$

Now we can solve  $Ux = 0$

$\therefore$  2 pivot columns

$\therefore$  3 free columns

Why do we use those words? (free)

— free columns  $-x_2$   
 $-x_4$

Can assign values freely to  $x_2$  and  $x_4$   
 i.e.  $Ax = 0$



∴ Can solve the Equations for  $x_1$  and  $x_3$

④

↳ ones  
with pivots.

I want find Solution  $UX=0$

∴ Can assign anything to  $x_2$  and  $x_4$   
⇒ free Columns.

and solve the Equations for  $x_1$  and  $x_3$

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} \boxed{x_1} \\ 1 \\ \boxed{x_3} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \textcircled{A}$$

But what are my Equations:

$$x_1 + 2x_2 + 2x_3 + 2x_4 = 0 \quad [\text{First}]$$

$$2x_3 + 4x_4 = 0 \quad [\text{Second}]$$

④ Above: I Can find  $x_1$  and  $x_3$  by Back Substitution.

④ New thing is that there are some free variables that we can give any number to

So what's  $x = \begin{bmatrix} \boxed{1} x_1 & -2 & \boxed{0} \\ \boxed{0} x_3 & 0 & \boxed{0} \\ 0 & 0 & \boxed{0} \end{bmatrix} \downarrow (y)$  ⑤

$\Rightarrow$  looking at last equation:

$$2x_3 + 4x_4 = 0$$

$$\therefore 2x_3 + 4(0) = 0$$

$$2x_3 = 0$$

$$\therefore x_3 = 0 \quad \boxed{B}$$

$$\therefore x_1 + 2x_2 + 2x_3 + 2x_4 = 0$$

$$x_1 + 2 + 0 + 0 = 0$$

$$x_1 = -2$$

$$x_1 + 2 = 0$$

$$x_1 = -2 \quad \boxed{C}$$

But what does (y) above say?

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\downarrow$  this is solution for  $Ax=0$

⑥

And what does  $x = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  say?

say -2 times (x) first column + 1 times (x) second column is the 0

$$\begin{matrix} (C1) \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ + \\ 4x_1 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

we found 1 vector in null space  $\begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$   
what are the others

$$x = C \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

x can be any multiple of this

→ this now describes a line.

But is that the whole null space  
No.

⑦

- Remember we have 2 free variables

previous choice for  $x_2$  and  $x_4$  was 1 and 0  
(not make another choice)

Now  $x_2 = 0$

$x_4 = 1$

$$\begin{array}{c|c|c} x_1 & \boxed{\phantom{0}} & \rightarrow 2. \\ x_2 & 0 & \\ x_3 & \boxed{\phantom{0}} & \rightarrow -2. \\ x_4 & 1 & \end{array}$$

and we repeat calculation (Complete Solution)

$$x_1 + 2x_2 + 2x_3 + 2x_4 = 0$$

$$2x_3 + 4x_4 = 0$$

$$2x_3 + 4(1) = 0$$

$$2x_3 = -4$$

$$x_3 = -2$$

$$x_3 = -2.$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x_1 + 2x_2 + 2x_3 + 2x_4 = 0$$

$$x_1 + 2x_2 + 2(-2) + 2(1) = 0$$

$$x_1 + 2x_2 - 4 + 2 = 0$$

$$x_1 + 0 - 2 = 0$$

$$x_1 = 2.$$



⑧

What does

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Say

→ find another vector in null space

$$\begin{matrix} \text{Col 1} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} \times 2 + \begin{matrix} \text{Col 3} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 6 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} \times (-2) + \begin{matrix} \text{Col 4} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 8 \\ p \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

$$\begin{matrix} 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 4 & -12 & +8 \\ 6 & -16 & 10 \end{matrix}$$

$$= \cancel{2} - \cancel{12} + \cancel{8}$$

$$= \frac{4}{12} - \frac{4}{12} = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

But what are all the solutions to  $Ax=0$

now can also take any multiple of

$$d \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + c \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Special + sign



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∴ I am Solving:

$$Ax=0 \quad \text{or} \quad Ux=0$$

So how many special solutions:  
are for every free variable.

Remember rank  $r=2$  (pivot variable)

∴ 2 free variable.  
(rows) (pivot)

$$n - r = 4 - 2 = 2 \text{ free variables}$$

This is a Complete Solution for all  
the solutions to  $Ax=0$

But Let's Clean up this matrix

→ make it as good as  
it can be.

- The above solution was in Echelon Form. A

To make it better:

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## Reduced Echelon Form.

$R =$  Reduced Row Echelon Form.

What does this mean:

I can work harder on it

↓  
Zeros → ABOVE  
and → BELOW  
the pivots

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

Remember ~~R3~~  $R_3$  was combination of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$   
— and elimination found this out.

To clean up further:

— I can do elimination upwards  
— and get zero's above the pivots

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

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$$-1R_1 + R_2 = R_1$$

- I can clean it up even more:

- we can make the pivot  $\rightarrow = 1$ .

(Divide)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = R$$

- Divide 2nd Equation by 2

$$\therefore \frac{1}{2}[R_2]$$

- Now we can execute the whole algorithm

'row reduced echelon form of (A)'

$$\Rightarrow \text{rref}(A)$$

Add what information does this new provide.

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$$\begin{bmatrix} \boxed{1} & 2 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & \boxed{1} & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\therefore$  pivot rows:  $r_1$  and  $r_2$ .

pivot columns:  $r_1$  and  $r_3$   
 $x_1$  and  $x_3$

and has  $2 \times 2$  identity matrix along

in  $x_1$  and  $x_3$  columns  
i.e.  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = I$

$\therefore$  free columns:

$$x_1 + 2x_2 - 2x_4 = 0$$

$$x_3 + 2x_4 = 0$$

$$\therefore Ax=0 \quad \text{or } x=0 \quad \underline{\text{New}} \quad Rx=0$$



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Pivot Column

Free Column

$$I \rightarrow \begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & 0 & 2 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \end{array} \leftarrow F$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \leftarrow \text{Which Don't need.}$$

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} I & F \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \leftarrow \text{pivot \del{cols} rows}$$

$\uparrow$  pivot cols       $\uparrow$   $m-r$  free cols

$$Rx = 0 \quad Rn = 0$$

null space matrix

$$N = \begin{bmatrix} -F \\ I \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Rx = 0 \quad \begin{bmatrix} x_{\text{pivot}} = -Fx_{\text{free}} \end{bmatrix}$$

Another example: [lets take transpose of  $A$ ]

(4)

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

How many pivot variable do you expect here

— how many columns will have pivots

— we have 3 columns, will there be 3 pivots?

No!

— 3rd col is same first 2.

Expecting  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  to be pivot cols  
as they are independent.

∴ 3rd col will be free as it is independent of  $x_1$  and  $x_2$

⇒ Elimination discovered.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 4 & 6 \\ 2 & 6 & 8 \\ 2 & 8 & 10 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 4 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \quad \downarrow \text{row echelon}$$

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$$\begin{array}{l} \downarrow \\ \text{Swap} \end{array} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

4 ← free variable

(rank)  $r = 2$   
 2 pivot columns  
 1 free column

What's in null space? Set free variable to some  
 convenient value eg. 1 [not 0]

$$x \begin{bmatrix} \square \\ \square \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{array}{l} -1 \\ -1 \end{array}$$

$$x_1 + 2x_2 + 3x_3 = 0$$

$$2x_2 + 2x_3 = 0$$

$$2x_2 + 2x_3 = 0$$

$$2x_2 + 2 = 0$$

$$2x_2 = -2$$

$$x_2 = -1$$

$$x_1 + 2x_2 + 3x_3 = 0$$

$$x_1 + 2(-1) + 3(1) = 0$$

$$x_1 - 1 + 3 = 0$$

$$x_1 + 2 = 0$$

$$x_1 = -2$$

$\therefore$  whole null space:

$$x = c \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (\text{multiply by } c)$$

Keep going to R

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

$$= \begin{bmatrix} -F \\ I \end{bmatrix}$$

$\mathbb{R}$  null space