

Row, Col, Null

def: Suppose A is a $n \times m$ matrix. The row space of A is the subspace $row(A)$ or \mathbb{R}^m spanned by the rows

The column space of A is the subspace $col(A)$ or \mathbb{R}^n spanned by the columns.

If we take a matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

$row(A)$

$$= \left[\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} \right]$$

and $col(A) =$

$$\left[\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} \right]$$

We can see that the dimension of the Row space is 2, so the column-space also has dimension 2.

A **#consistent** system has either 1 or infinitely many solutions. ∞ is if there is a free variable, or **#inconsistent** if there is an impossible row, ie $[0 \ 0 \ 0 \ | \ nonzero]$

$col(A)$ tells us what \vec{b} vectors yield consistent linear solutions. These are the possible outputs $A\vec{x}$.

$\text{row}(A)$ tells us the possible results of doing EROs on A .

$$\text{Null}(A) = \{\vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n : A\vec{x} = \vec{0}\}.$$

Ex:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 & -2 \\ -5 & 9 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\text{Null}(A)$:

$$A\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 & -2 \\ -5 & 9 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

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

proof: Note $A\vec{0} = \vec{0}$, so $\vec{0} \in \text{null}(A)$.

Suppose $\vec{v}, \vec{u} \in \text{null}(A)$. Note that

$$A(c\vec{u} + d\vec{v}) = cA\vec{u} + dA\vec{v} = c_0\vec{0} + d_0\vec{0} = \vec{0}, \text{ so } c\vec{u} + d\vec{v} \in \text{null}(A)$$

The idea behind the null space of a matrix is that it is precisely those vectors in the domain being sent to the $\vec{0}$ vector in the codomain. We have to find the solution set of $Ax = 0$.

We do this by finding the null space of a reduced row echelon form of A , which has the same null space as A . That is, if B is the reduced row echelon form for A , $Ax = 0$ if and only if $Bx = 0$. So, $N(B) = N(A)$

For example, take

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 0 & 2 & -1 \\ 3 & 12 & 1 & 5 & 5 \\ 2 & 8 & 1 & 3 & 2 \\ 5 & 20 & 2 & 8 & 8 \end{bmatrix}$$

We reduce to RREF, then find the free variables and write the result in a nice form

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

whatever, to use the free variables to define every variable. The vectors attached with these free variables is the Null space of A.

in this example, we find the null space as

$$\left[\begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right]$$

so $\dim(\text{null}(A)) = 2$.

Any two bases of a subspace contain the same number of vectors

Def: The *dimension* of a nonzero subspace S of \mathbb{R}^n is the number of nonzero vectors in a basis for S . We can write this as $\dim(S)$. Special case: $\dim(\vec{0}) = 0$.

Fact: Any set of n *linearly independent* vectors forms a basis for \mathbb{R}^n .

Rank nullity theorem:

#rank : dimension of the row or column space =

of rows or columns = # leading variables.

$$\text{rank} = \dim(\text{row}(A)) = \dim(\text{col}(A))$$

nullity = number of free variables

nullspace = linearly dependent columns

num vectors = rank + nullity

↑ this is the Rank Nullity Theorem. Number of free leading variables + number of free variables = total number of variables. This fact seems obvious, but it is a very useful fact to have stated.

If there are no free variables then $\text{null}(A) = 0$ and $\text{rank}(A) = n$.

Take an $n \times n$ matrix where $\text{Rank}(A) = n$

$$\Leftrightarrow \text{nullity}(A) = 0 \Leftrightarrow \text{null } A = \{\vec{0}\}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \text{The only solution to } A\vec{x} = \vec{0} \text{ is } \vec{x} = \vec{0}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow A \text{ is invertible}$$