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# 3. Solve homogeneous system Solving homogeneous equations with MATLAB (External resource)

(1.0 points possible)

## Backslash and homogeneous equations

Previously, we saw that to solve a linear system  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  for  $\mathbf{x}$  using MATLAB, one uses the following command.

```
x = A \setminus b;
```

Let's see what happens when we use this approach for the homogeneous equation Ax = 0, where the  $4 \times 5$  matrix A is given by

```
A = [ -0.7950]
                -2.3851
                          -0.9578
                                     0.1628
                                              -0.1628;
                                              -0.6877;
      -0.1236
                -0.3708
                          -0.8113
                                     0.6877
      -0.5517
              -1.6551
                           0.5935
                                    -1.1452
                                               1.1452;
      0.3406
                 1.0219
                          -0.1154
                                     0.4560
                                              -0.4560];
```

Solve for

```
х
```

and then find the dimension of the nullspace, in a variable called

```
dim
```

To do this, it may be helpful to use the function **zeros()**, which creates an  $m \times n$  matrix (or vector) using by typing:

```
zeros(m,n);
```

#### Your Script

```
1 %Copy the matrix A below
 2 A = [-0.7950]
                  -2.3851
                            -0.9578
                                       0.1628
                                                 -0.1628;
         -0.1236
                  -0.3708 -0.8113
                                       0.6877
                                                 -0.6877;
3
        -0.5517
                  -1.6551
                             0.5935
                                       -1.1452
                                                  1.1452;
4
         0.3406
                   1.0219 -0.1154
                                     0.4560
                                                 -0.4560];
6 %Use the backslash command to solve for x
8 \times = A \times (4,1)
10 % Find the dimension of the nullspace to see if this makes any sense.
11 % Store the dimension in a variable called dim
12 % Hint first run the code (commenting out the line below), then enter a number.
```

```
dim = size(null(A),2)

▶ Run Script
② ()

Assessment: Correct
Submit ② ()

✓ A copied correctly

✓ x solved for correctly
```

Find a nonzero solution (External resource) (1.0 points possible)

### Find a nonzero solution

Find any nonzero solution  $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$  to the homogeneous linear equation  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ , where the matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  is given by is the same as the matrix in the proble above:

```
A = [-0.7950]
              -2.3851
                         -0.9578
                                   0.1628
                                            -0.1628;
     -0.1236
              -0.3708
                                            -0.6877;
                         -0.8113
                                   0.6877
     -0.5517
               -1.6551
                          0.5935
                                  -1.1452
                                            1.1452;
      0.3406
               1.0219
                         -0.1154
                                   0.4560
                                            -0.4560];
```

Check you answer by creating a vector

```
b=A*x
```

#### Your Script

```
1 %Find a nonzero solution x to Ax=0.
A = \begin{bmatrix} -0.7950 \end{bmatrix}
                    -2.3851 -0.9578
                                           0.1628
                                                     -0.1628;
         -0.1236 -0.3708 -0.8113
                                           0.6877
                                                     -0.6877;
 5
         -0.5517 -1.6551 0.5935
                                          -1.1452
                                                     1.1452;
6
          0.3406
                   1.0219
                             -0.1154
                                           0.4560
                                                     -0.4560];
8 \text{ nA} = \text{null}(A)
9 \times = nA(:,1);
10 %Check that x is a solution:
|11| b = A*x
```

```
► Run Script ② ()
```

#### **Assessment: Correct**

Submit

**3** ()

Check that x is a non-zero solution

#### 3. Solve homogeneous system

**Hide Discussion** 

**Topic:** Unit 1: Linear Algebra, Part 1 / 3. Solve homogeneous system

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