

18.06

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Four Fundamental Spaces

For a matrix A

Column space: $\text{col}(A)$

Row space: $\text{row}(A)$

Nullspace: $\text{null}(A)$

Left Nullspace: $\text{null}(A^T)$

What are these spaces?

Why do we study them?

How can we compute them?

Nullspace

A $m \times n$ matrix

$$\text{Nullspace: } \text{null}(A) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid Ax = 0\}$$

A is a function

input: $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$

output: $y \in \mathbb{R}^m$

$$y = Ax$$

$$\text{null}(A): \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid A(x) = 0\}$$

Familiar example:

f is a function

input: $x \in \mathbb{R}$

output: $y \in \mathbb{R}$

$$y = f(x)$$

$$\text{zeros}(f): \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid f(x) = 0\}$$

Nullspace

A $m \times n$ matrix: $\text{null}(A) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid Ax = 0\}$

Consider equation $Ax = 0$

This equation always has a solution

Set of all solutions is $\text{null}(A)$

Consider equation $Ax = b$

This equation may or may not have a solution

If has solution, let x_p denote some solution ($Ax_p = b$)

Set of all solutions is $x_p + \text{null}(A)$

$$\{x_p + x_n \mid x_n \in \text{null}(A)\}$$

Column Space

A $m \times n$ matrix

Column space: $\text{col}(A) = \{ \text{all linear combinations of columns} \}$

A is a function

input: $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$

output: $y \in \mathbb{R}^m$

$$y = Ax$$

$$\text{col}(A): \{y \in \mathbb{R}^m \mid Ax = y, x \in \mathbb{R}^n\}$$

Familiar example:

f is a function

input: $x \in \mathbb{R}$

output: $y \in \mathbb{R}$

$$y = f(x)$$

$$\text{range}(f): \{y \in \mathbb{R} \mid f(x) = y, x \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

Column Space

A $m \times n$ matrix: $\text{col}(A) = \{y \in \mathbb{R}^m \mid Ax = y, x \in \mathbb{R}^n\}$

Consider equation $Ax = b$

This equation may or may not have a solution

Has at least one solution exactly when $b \in \text{col}(A)$

Row Space

A $m \times n$ matrix

Row space: $\text{row}(A) = \{ \text{all linear combinations of rows} \}$
 $= \text{col}(A^T)$

A^T is a function

input: $y \in \mathbb{R}^m$

output: $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$

$$x = A^T y$$

$$\text{row}(A): \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid A^T y = x, y \in \mathbb{R}^m\}$$

Careful: A^T is not (generally) the inverse of A

Row Space

A $m \times n$ matrix, $\text{row}(A) = \text{col}(A^\top): \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid A^\top y = x, y \in \mathbb{R}^m\}$

Consider equation $Ax = b$

Clear what $\text{null}(A)$, $\text{col}(A)$ say about solutions

What does $\text{row}(A)$ tell us?

Idea: $\text{row}(A)$ has important relationship to both $\text{null}(A)$ and $\text{col}(A)$

Recall SVD

Singular Value Decomposition

A $m \times n$ matrix, of rank r

$$\text{Write } A = [U_1 \quad U_2] \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_r & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} V_1^T \\ V_2^T \end{bmatrix}$$

Σ_r $r \times r$ diagonal matrix, with all positive singular values on diagonal

U_1 first r columns of U

V_1 first r columns of V

U_1, U_2, V_1, V_2 are all orthogonal matrices

Fundamental Theorem of Linear Algebra

A $m \times n$ matrix, of rank r , where $A = [U_1 \quad U_2] \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_r & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} V_1^\top \\ V_2^\top \end{bmatrix}$

$$\text{col}(A) = \text{col}(U_1)$$

$$\text{row}(A) = \text{col}(V_1)$$

$$\text{null}(A) = \text{col}(V_2)$$

$$\text{null}(A^\top) = \text{col}(U_2)$$

Tells us “everything” about A

General Solution to $Ax = b$

A $m \times n$ matrix, of rank r

When does $Ax = b$ have at least one solution?

Exactly when $b \in \text{col}(A)$

Exactly when $b \in \text{col}(U_1)$

Exactly when $U_1 U_1^\top b = b$

General Solution to $Ax = b$

A $m \times n$ matrix, of rank r

If $Ax = b$ has at least one solution, when does it have only one solution?

Exactly when $\text{null}(A) = \{0\}$ (only contains the zero vector)

Exactly when $\text{col}(V_2) = \{0\}$

Exactly when $r = n$

General Solution to $Ax = b$

A $m \times n$ matrix, of rank r

If $Ax = b$ has at least one solution, what are all of the solutions?

$x_p = V_1 \Sigma_r^{-1} U_1^\top b$ is a solution ($A = U_1 \Sigma_r V_1^\top$)

$x_p + \text{null}(A)$ is the set of all solutions

$x_p + \text{col}(V_2)$ is the set of all solutions

Orthogonal Spaces

Vector space V

We say vectors $u, w \in V$ are *orthogonal* when $u \cdot w = 0$

Given subspaces R, S of V , say R, S are *orthogonal* when

For every $r \in R$ and $s \in S$

$$r \cdot s = 0$$

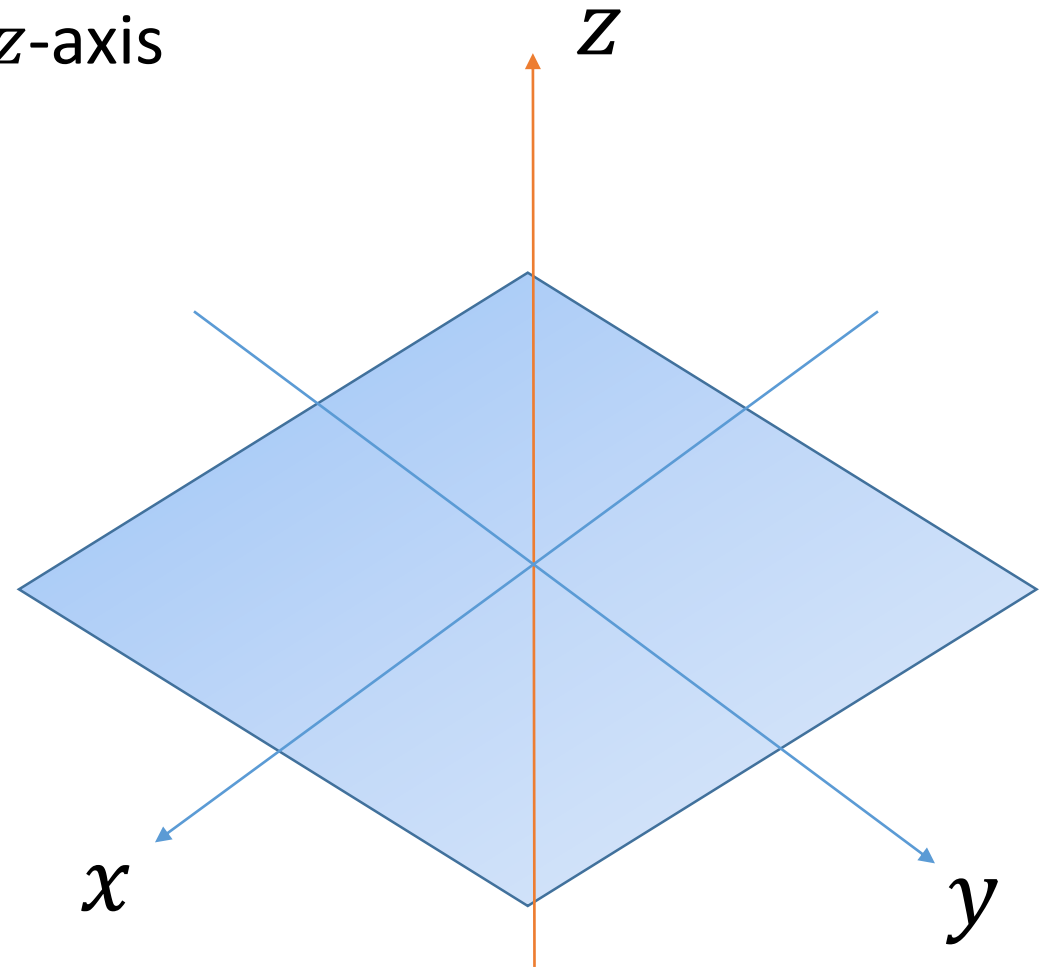
Orthogonal Spaces

Example: In \mathbb{R}^3 , xy -plane is orthogonal to z -axis

$$r = (a, b, 0) \in xy\text{-plane}$$

$$s = (0, 0, c) \in z\text{-axis}$$

$$r \cdot s = 0$$



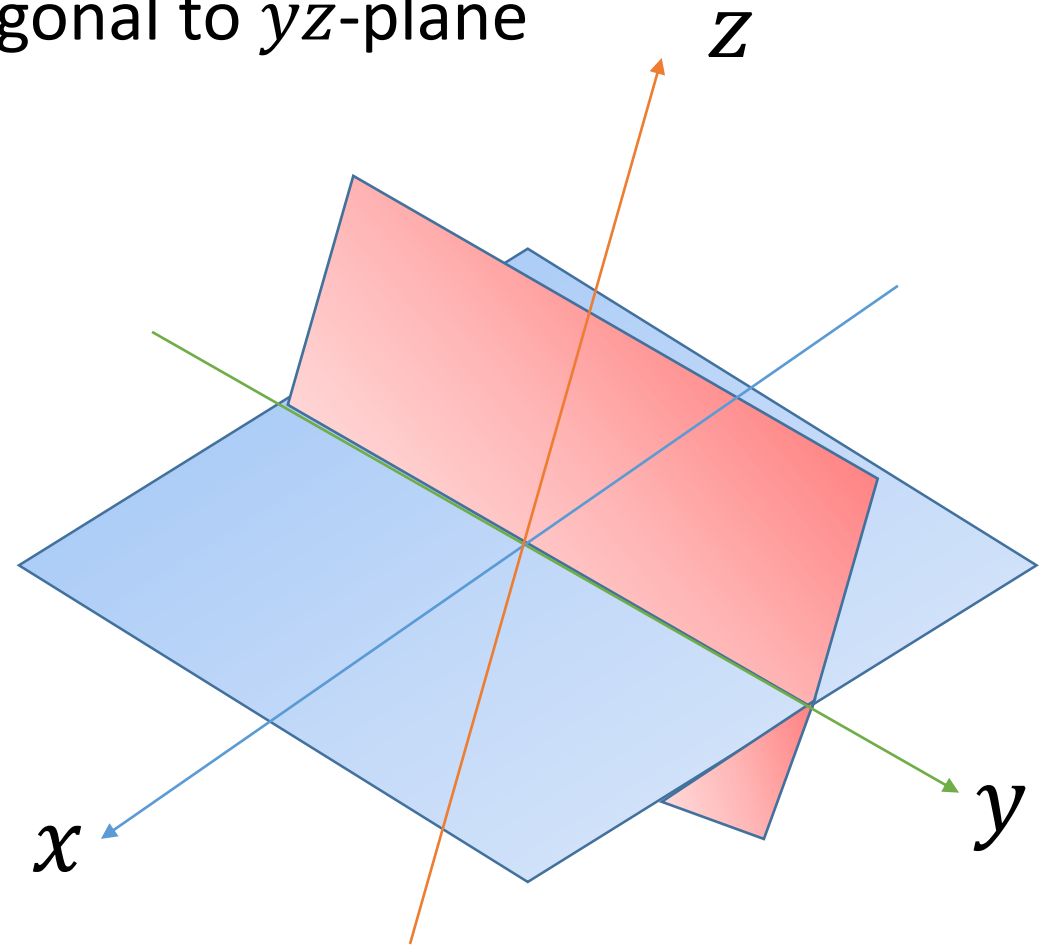
Orthogonal Spaces

Non-Example: In \mathbb{R}^3 , xy -plane is *not* orthogonal to yz -plane

$$r = (0,1,0) \in xy\text{-plane}$$

$$s = (0,1,0) \in yz\text{-plane}$$

$$r \cdot s = 1$$



Orthogonal Spaces

Vector space V , subspaces R, S

Always have $0 \in R$ and $0 \in S$

If, for a $v \neq 0$, $v \in R$ and $v \in S$

R and S not orthogonal

$$v \cdot v = \|v\|^2 > 0$$

Row Space

A $m \times n$ matrix

$$\text{row}(A) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid A^\top y = x, y \in \mathbb{R}^m\}$$

$$\text{null}(A) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid Ax = 0\}$$

$\text{row}(A)$ and $\text{null}(A)$ subspaces of \mathbb{R}^n

$\text{row}(A)$ and $\text{null}(A)$ orthogonal

$$\text{row}(A) = \text{col}(V_1)$$

$$\text{null}(A) = \text{col}(V_2)$$

V orthogonal matrix

Row Space

A $m \times n$ matrix, $\text{row}(A)$ and $\text{null}(A)$ orthogonal

$0 \in \text{row}(A)$ and $0 \in \text{null}(A)$

But, no $v \neq 0$ in both $\text{row}(A)$ and $\text{null}(A)$

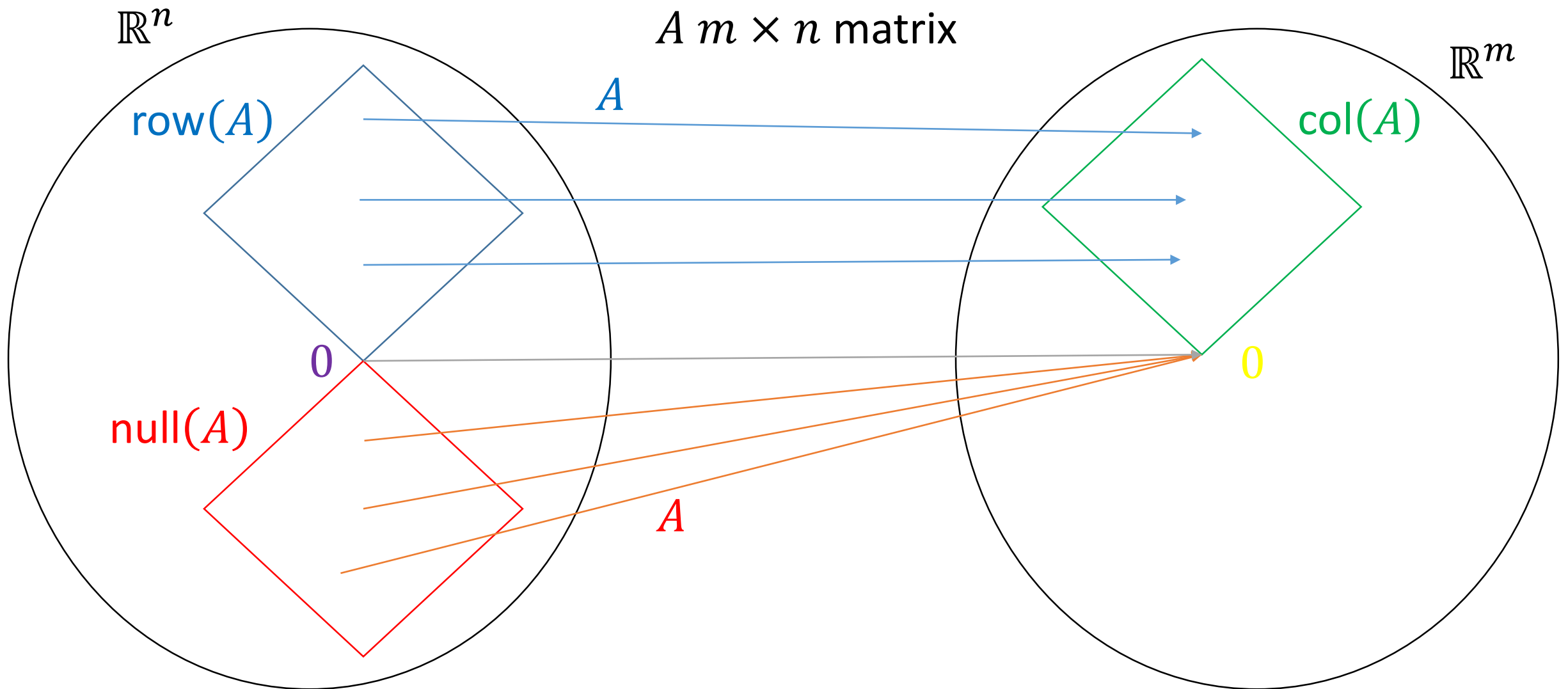
For $x_1, x_2 \in \text{row}(A)$

If $x_1 \neq x_2$ then $Ax_1 \neq Ax_2$

$$Ax_1 = Ax_2 \Rightarrow Ax_1 - Ax_2 = 0 \Rightarrow A(x_1 - x_2) = 0 \Rightarrow (x_1 - x_2) \in \text{null}(A)$$

$$x_1, x_2 \in \text{row}(A) \Rightarrow (x_1 - x_2) \in \text{row}(A)$$

Three Fundamental Spaces



Left Nullspace

A $m \times n$ matrix

$$\text{col}(A) = \{y \in \mathbb{R}^m \mid Ax = y, x \in \mathbb{R}^n\}$$

$$\text{null}(A^\top) = \{y \in \mathbb{R}^m \mid A^\top y = 0\}$$

$\text{col}(A)$ and $\text{null}(A^\top)$ subspaces of \mathbb{R}^m

$\text{col}(A)$ and $\text{null}(A^\top)$ orthogonal

$$\text{col}(A) = \text{col}(U_1)$$

$$\text{null}(A^\top) = \text{col}(U_2)$$

U orthogonal matrix

Four Fundamental Spaces

