

This set, called the **zero subspace**, also satisfies the conditions for a subspace.

Column Space and Null Space of a Matrix

Talking:

Subspaces of \mathbb{R}^n usually occur in applications and theory in one of two ways. In both cases, the subspace can be related to a matrix.

The **column space** of a matrix A is the set $\text{Col } A$ of all linear combinations of the columns of A .

same as the range of f where $f(x) = Ax$.

If $A = [a_1 \ \dots \ a_n]$, with the columns in \mathbb{R}^m , then $\text{Col } A$ is the same as $\text{Span}\{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$. Example 4 shows that the **column space of an $m \times n$ matrix is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^m** . Note that $\text{Col } A$ equals \mathbb{R}^m only when the columns of A span \mathbb{R}^m . Otherwise, $\text{Col } A$ is only part of \mathbb{R}^m .

range
 $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ← domain ...

range $f = \{f(x) : x \in \mathbb{R}^n\}$

DEFINITION

$\text{Col } A = \{Ax : x \in \mathbb{R}^n\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$

$Ax \in \mathbb{R}^m$
 are in the domain

DEFINITION

"such that"

The **null space** of a matrix A is the set $\text{Nul } A$ of all solutions of the homogeneous equation $Ax = 0$.

$\text{Nul } A = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ax = 0\}$

elements in the set

condition those elements have to satisfy.

THEOREM 13

The pivot columns of a matrix A form a basis for the column space of A .

algorithm for finding a basis...

$A = [v_1 | v_2 | v_3 | v_4 | v_5 | v_6 | v_7 | v_8 | v_9]$

Gaussian Elimination to obtain row echelon form

$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & * & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & * & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & * & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

9 columns... * mean non-zero entry...

The basis is $\{v_3, v_5, v_6\}$ the columns in the original matrix the correspond to the pivots...

EXAMPLE Find a basis of the column space:

$\text{Col } A = \{Ax : x \in \mathbb{R}^n\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$

Since $\text{col } A$ is already describe as the span of the "columns of A " the all that's needed is to identify which of those columns correspond to pivots

Suppose the 3rd, 5th and 6th columns were pivots...

$$\text{Basis} = \{v_3, v_5, v_6\}$$

$$\text{Col } A = \{Bx : x \in \mathbb{R}^3\} \quad \text{where } B = \begin{bmatrix} | & | & | \\ v_3 & v_5 & v_6 \\ | & | & | \end{bmatrix}$$

If I perform Gauss elimination on B to find the row echelon form

$$\begin{bmatrix} * & - & - \\ 0 & * & - \\ 0 & 0 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

numbers are the same as in

exactly the same columns as were in the pivot columns for the row echelon form of A.

What about a basis for

$$\text{Nul } A = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ax = 0\}$$

Example:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & -1 \\ 4 & -3 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{find a basis of Nul } A.$$

Elimination steps. $r_2 \leftarrow r_2 - 2r_1$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & -3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

rescale the rows

$$r_1 \leftarrow \frac{1}{2} r_1$$

$$r_2 \leftarrow \frac{1}{-3} r_2$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1/2 \\ 0 & 1 & -4/3 \end{bmatrix}$$

lucky, usually would need another elimination step

Reduced row echelon form...

Solve by substitution

$$x_2 - \frac{4}{3}x_3 = 0, \quad x_2 = \frac{4}{3}x_3$$

$$x_1 - \frac{1}{2}x_3 = 0, \quad x_1 = \frac{1}{2}x_3$$

Therefore

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 x_3 \\ 4/3 x_3 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 \\ 4/3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} x_3$$

↖ Basis vector here...

$$\text{Nul } A = \left\{ Nx : x \in \mathbb{R}^1 \right\} \text{ where } N = \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 \\ 4/3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

We'll finish up chapter 2 next time and move on to chapter 3 and a discussion of determinants...