

Column Space: The column space contains all linear combinations of the columns of the matrix  $A$ .

- Denoted by  $C(A)$ .

-  $C(A)$  is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^m$  (for appropriate  $m$ ).

eg:  $m=3$ ,  $n=2$  unknowns

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 5 & 4 \\ 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

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combination of all columns.

The system  $Ax=b$  is solvable iff the vector  $b$  can be expressed as a combination of the  $\text{col}^m$  of  $A$ .

Then  $b$  is the column space.

- All attainable r.h.s.  $b$  are all combinations of the columns of  $A$ .

- There are at least three possibilities.

-  $u=1, v=0 \Rightarrow b$  is the 1<sup>st</sup>  $\text{col}^m$

-  $u=0, v=1 \Rightarrow b$  ... 2<sup>nd</sup> ...

-  $u=0, v=0 \Rightarrow b=0$ .

Geometrically,  $Ax=b$  can be solved iff  $b$  lies in the plane spanned by the  $\text{col}^m$  vectors.

If  $b$  lies off this plane then  $Ax=b$  has no  $\text{sol}^m$ .

Check:  $C(A)$  is actually a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^m$ .

Nullspace: The sol<sup>n</sup> of  $Ax=0$  also form a v.s. This v.s. is called the nullspace.

Def<sup>n</sup>: The nullspace of a matrix  $A$ , denoted by  $N(A)$  consists of all vectors  $x$  s.t.  $Ax=0$ .

Check:  $N(A)$  is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^m$ .

eg: 
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 5 & 4 \\ 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad N(A) = (0,0) \\ [u=0, v=0].$$

Goal: For any system  $Ax=b$  we want to find  $C(A)$  &  $N(A)$ .  
All attainable r.h.s.  $b$   $\leftarrow$   $C(A)$   $\downarrow$   $N(A)$   
All sol<sup>n</sup>s of  $Ax=0$ .

- The vectors  $b$  are in the sol<sup>n</sup> space.
- The vectors  $x$  are in the null space.

Solving  $Ax=b$  &  $Ax=0$ :

There was one sol<sup>n</sup> of  $Ax=b$  and that was

$$x = A^{-1}b$$

(We found this via elimination, not by finding  $A^{-1}$ )

If we have a rectangular matrix then that may not have a full set of pivots.

Now we would like to reduce such a matrix to one that we can work with.

For an invertible matrix, the null space contains only  $x=0$ . ( $A^{-1} \cdot Ax = 0$ ).

The  $\text{col}^m$  space is the whole space ( $Ax=b$  has a  $\text{sol}^n$  for every  $b$ .)

Question: what happens when

- null space has more than the zero vector?
- $\text{col}^m$  space has less than all vectors?

Answer: - Any  $x_n \in N(A)$  can be added to a particular  $\text{sol}^m$   $x_p$ . The  $\text{col}^m$  to all linear eq<sup>n</sup> have the form  $x = x_n + x_p$ .

$$(Ax_p = b, Ax_n = 0 \Rightarrow A(x_p + x_n) = b)$$

- When  $C(A)$  doesn't contain every  $b$  in  $\mathbb{R}^m$ , we need the conditions on  $b$  that make  $Ax = b$  solvable.

Recall Echelon matrix:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \bullet & x & x & x & x \\ 0 & \bullet & x & x & x \\ 0 & 0 & \bullet & x & x \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \bullet & x \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \bullet \end{pmatrix}$$

Echelon form: Echelon matrix  $U$  has a "staircase pattern"

$$\begin{pmatrix} \bullet & x & x & x & x & x & x \\ 0 & \bullet & x & x & x & x & x \\ 0 & 0 & \bullet & x & x & x & x \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \bullet & x & x & x \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \bullet & x & x \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \bullet & x \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \bullet \end{pmatrix}$$

→ reduced so that  $\bullet$  become 1 and everything above 1 is 0.

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Row reduced form:  $R = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & x & x & 0 & 0 & x \\ 0 & 1 & x & x & 0 & 0 & x \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & x \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & x \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

- When  $A$  is invertible,  $R = I_n$ .

-  $Rx=0$  has the same sol<sup>n</sup> as  $Ux=0$  which has the same sol<sup>n</sup> as  $Ax=0$ .

We want to read off the sol<sup>n</sup> of  $Rx=0$ .

For eg. say  $U = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

$R = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (R_1 - 3R_2)$

$Rx = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \\ w \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$

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pivot col<sup>s</sup>

pivot variables:  $u, w$

free variables:  $v, y$

To find general sol<sup>n</sup> for  $Rx=0$  (eg.  $Ax=0$ ) assign arbitrary values to free variables.

So,  $\begin{cases} u + 3v - y = 0 \\ w + y = 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} u = -3v + y \\ w = -y \end{cases}$

The complete  $\mathcal{R}A^m$  is a combination of two special  $\mathcal{R}A^m$ 's:

$$x = \begin{pmatrix} -3v+y \\ v \\ -y \\ y \end{pmatrix} = v \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + y \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Special  $\mathcal{R}A^m$ 's:  $(-3, 1, 0, 0)$  for  $v=1, y=0$

$(1, 0, -1, 1)$  for  $v=0, y=1$

All other  $\mathcal{R}A^m$ 's are linear combinations of these two.

This forms the nullspace i.e.  $\mathcal{R}A^m$ 's of  $Ax=0$ .

Theorem: If a matrix has more columns than rows,  $n > m$ .

There must be at least  $n-m$  free variables.

(Since  $m$  rows can have at most  $m$  pivots.)

Corollary: If  $Ax=0$  has more unknowns than eq<sup>n</sup>'s ( $n > m$ ), then it has at least one special  $\mathcal{R}A^m$ . In particular, there are more  $\mathcal{R}A^m$ 's than the trivial  $\mathcal{R}A^m$ .

Let's now look at the case when  $b \neq 0$ .

$$\text{Let } A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 3 & 2 \\ 2 & 6 & 9 & 7 \\ -1 & -3 & 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ this gives } U = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Set  $b = (b_1, b_2, b_3)$  to get,

$$Ux = c \text{ where } c = (b_1, b_2 - 2b_1, b_3 - 2b_2 + 5b_1) \\ = L^{-1}b \text{ (from previous lecture.)}$$



Summary: Let's say elimination reduces  $Ax=b$  to  $Ux=c$  and  $Rx=d$ , with  $r$  pivot rows and  $r$  pivot cols.

The rank of these matrices is then  $r$ .

The last  $m-r$  rows of  $U$  &  $R$  are 0, so there is a sol<sup>n</sup> only if the last  $m-r$  entries of  $c$  and  $d$  are also 0.

The complete sol<sup>n</sup> is  $x = x_p + x_n$ .

$\downarrow$   $\rightarrow N(A)$  combinations of  $m-r$  special sol<sup>n</sup>s.  
 $\downarrow$   
all free variables set to 0.

$\downarrow$   
obtained by setting one free variable equal to 1

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