October 27 Math 3260 sec. 53 Fall 2025

4.3.3 Basis as a Subset of a Spanning Set

Dimension

Let S be a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n . The **dimension** of S will be denoted $\dim(S)$.

- ▶ If $S = {\vec{0}_n}$, then S does not have a basis and dim(S) = 0.
- If S contains any nonzero vectors, then dim(S) = k, where k is the number of vectors in any basis of S.

4.3.3 Basis as a Subset of a Spanning Set

Lemma

Let $T = \{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_k\}$ be a set of k vectors in R^n , with $k \geq 2$, and let $S = \operatorname{Span}(T)$. If one of the vectors, say \vec{v}_i in T, is a linear combination of the other vectors in T, then the set obtained from T by removing \vec{v}_i spans S.

This is saying that if a set is linearly dependent, it is possible to remove vector(s) without changing the subspace spanned by that set.

Examples:

$$\begin{split} \mathsf{Span}\{\langle 1,0\rangle,\langle -3,0\rangle\} &= \mathsf{Span}\{\langle 1,0\rangle\} \\ \mathsf{Span}\{\langle 5,0,4\rangle,\langle 1,0,0\rangle,\langle 0,0,2\rangle\} &= \mathsf{Span}\{\langle 1,0,0\rangle,\langle 0,0,2\rangle\} \end{split}$$

4.3.3 Basis as a Subset of a Spanning Set

Lemma

Let $T = \{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_k\}$ be a set of vectors in R^n and $S = \operatorname{Span}(T)$. If T contains at least one nonzero vector, then there exists a subset of T that is a basis for S.

This tells us that if we have a spanning set, we can whittle it down to a basis if we throw out vectors that are linear combinations of the others.

Unfortunately, the theorem doesn't tell us how to figure out which vectors to remove—it just tells us it's possible to get a basis by culling.

Lemma

The set of pivot column vectors of a matrix \boldsymbol{A} is linearly independent.

4.4 Bases for the Column & Row Spaces of a Matrix

Theorem

Let A be an $m \times n$ matrix that is not the zero matrix. Then the pivot columns of A form a basis for $\mathcal{CS}(A)$.

Remark: This says that the pivot columns of A form a basis for CS(A).

We can use row reduction to find pivot columns, but the vectors in our basis come from the original matrix!

Caution: CS(A) is generally NOT the same as CS(rref(A)).

Identify a basis for CS(A).

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Verify that $Col_5(A) = 2 Col_1(A) - 3 Col_3(A) + 4 Col_4(A)$.

$$2\langle 1,2,-1,0,3\rangle + (-3)\langle 2,1,1,2,2\rangle + 4\langle -2,0,3,-1,1\rangle =$$

$$\langle 2,4,-2,0,6\rangle + \langle -6,-3,-3,-6,-6\rangle + \langle -8,0,12,-4,4\rangle$$

$$= \langle -12,1,7,-10,4\rangle$$



Row Space

Theorem

If A and B are row equivalent matrices, then $\mathcal{RS}(A) = \mathcal{RS}(B)$.

This means that the row space of a matrix *A* is the same subspace as the row space of any echelon form that is row equivalent to *A*. In other words, row operations don't change the row space.

Corollary

Let A be an $m \times n$ matrix that is not the zero matrix. Then the nonzero rows of rref(A) form a basis for $\mathcal{RS}(A)$.

Remark: This says we can use the actual rows of rref(A)—not A itself—as basis elements for $\mathcal{RS}(A)$

Bases for Fundamental Subspaces

Given $m \times n$ matrix A that is not the zero matrix:

- ▶ Set up $[A \mid \vec{0}_m]$ and row reduce to $[\text{rref}(A) \mid \vec{0}_m]$.
- ▶ Identify the pivot columns from rref(A) and use those pivot columns to form a basis for CS(A).
- ▶ Take the nonzero rows of rref(A) to form a basis for RS(A).
- Use $\operatorname{rref}(A)$ to deduce the relationship between basic and free variables, and use the factoring process to obtain a basis for $\mathcal{N}(A)$. If $\mathcal{N}(A) = \{\vec{0}_n\}$, then $\mathcal{N}(A)$ doesn't have a basis.
- ▶ If a basis for $\mathcal{N}(A^T)$ is desired, use $[\text{rref}(A^T) \mid \vec{0}_n]$ and the factoring process to obtain a basis.

Find Bases & Dimensions of $\mathcal{RS}(A)$, $\mathcal{CS}(A)$ and $\mathcal{N}(A)$

$$A = \left[\begin{array}{ccccc} 2 & 6 & 0 & -2 & -4 \\ 1 & 3 & 1 & -4 & -17 \\ -1 & -3 & -1 & 4 & 17 \\ 2 & 6 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \quad \left[\mathsf{rref}(A) \, | \, \vec{0}_4 \right] = \left[\begin{array}{cccccc} 1 & 3 & 0 & 0 & 2 & | \, 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -3 & | \, 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 & | \, 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & | \, 0 \end{array} \right]$$



$$\left[\operatorname{rref}(A) \mid \vec{0}_{4} \right] = \left[\begin{array}{ccccc} 1 & 3 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

For RS(A), we take the nonzero rows of cref (A). A basis for RS(A) is
$$\{(1,3,0,0,2), (0,0,1,0,-3), (0,0,0,1,4)\}$$

$$X_1 = -3X_2 - 2X_5$$

 $X_3 = 3X_5$ $X_{7_1} X_5 - \text{free}$
 $X_{9} = -9X_5$

$$\vec{X} = \langle -3 \times z - 2 \times s, \times z, 3 \times s, -4 \times s, \times s \rangle$$

$$= \langle x_2 \langle -3, 1, 0, 0, 0 \rangle + \langle x_5 \langle -2, 0, 3, -4, 1 \rangle$$

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$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 6 & 0 & -2 & -4 \\ 1 & 3 & 1 & -4 & -17 \\ -1 & -3 & -1 & 4 & 17 \\ 2 & 6 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{rref}(A) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

The first three row vectors of rref(A) form a basis for $\mathcal{RS}(A)$. Explain why the first three row vectors of A do not form a basis for $\mathcal{RS}(A)$.

Row Operations & Linear Dependence Relations

- Elementary row operations preserve linear dependence relations between columns but change the column space.
- ► Elementary row operations preserve the row space but change linear dependence relations between the rows.

Important Observations

- ▶ The basis elements for the column space **come from** A not from rref(A).
- ▶ The basis elements for the row space **come from** rref(A) not from A.
- The method we've been using all along to characterize solutions to $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}_m$ gives us a basis for the null space.

4.5 The Fundamental Theorem of Linear Algebra

Dimensions of CS(A), RS(A) & N(A)

For $m \times n$ matrix A,

dim(CS(A)) = the number of pivot columns of A.

 $dim(\mathcal{N}(A)) =$ the number of non-pivot columns of A.

 $dim(\mathcal{RS}(A)) =$ the number of pivot columns of A.

Remark: A basis for the row space is coming from the rows, but each pivot position is in a row and a column. So the number of nonzero rows of rref(A) has to match the number of pivot columns.

Rank & Nullity

Definition: Rank

The **rank** of a matrix A, denoted rank(A), is the dimension of the column space of A.

We also have a special name for the dimension of the null space of a matrix. We call this the nullity.

Definition: Nullity

The **nullity** of a matrix A, denoted $\operatorname{nullity}(A)$, is the dimension of the null space of A.

The Fundamental Theorem of Linear Algebra

Let A be an $m \times n$ matrix. Then

- 1. rank(A) = dim(CS(A)) = dim(RS(A)).
- 2. rank(A) + nullity(A) = n.
- 3. Every vector \vec{x} in $\mathcal{RS}(A)$ is orthogonal to every vector \vec{y} in $\mathcal{N}(A)$, and similarly, every vector \vec{u} in $\mathcal{CS}(A)$ is orthogonal to every vector \vec{v} in $\mathcal{N}(A^T)$.

Part 2. of the FTLA is often called the *rank-nullity theorem*. It follows from the observation that

the number of pivot columns of A

- + the number of non-pivot columns of A
- the total number of columns of A.



Suppose A is a 12×20 matrix.

1. If rank(A) = 9, how many free variables are there for $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}_{12}$?

AX=0,2 has 11 free variables.



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Suppose A is a 12×20 matrix.

2. If rref(A) has seven nonzero rows, what is $nullity(A^T)$?

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