

# Range and Nullspace

$$A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$$

$$\underline{\text{range}} = \text{columnspace} = \{ A\vec{x} \mid \forall \vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \}$$

$$\underline{\text{nullspace}} = \{ \vec{z} \mid A\vec{z} = \vec{0} \}$$

$$\underline{\text{rank}} = \dim(\text{col space})$$

## Four fundamental subspaces (Fig. I.3)

 $\mathbb{R}^n$ 

$$C(A^T) \quad \dim r$$

$$N(A) \quad \dim n-r$$

$$C(A^T) \perp N(A)$$

 $\mathbb{R}^m$ 

$$C(A) \quad \dim r$$

$$N(A^T) \quad \dim m-r$$

$$C(A) \perp N(A^T)$$

# I.3 The Four Fundamental Subspaces

$$A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$$

two subspaces of  $\mathbb{R}^n$

two subspaces of  $\mathbb{R}^m$

Examples: rank 1 matrix,  $2 \times 3$  matrix,  
 $5 \times 4$  incidence matrix of graph

**Ex. 1**  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 6 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$

1. column space  $C(A)$  : line through  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$
2. row space  $C(A^T)$  : line through  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$
3. nullspace  $N(A)$  : line through  $\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$   $Ax=0$
4. left nullspace  $N(A^T)$  : line through  $\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$   $A^T y=0$

Definitions:

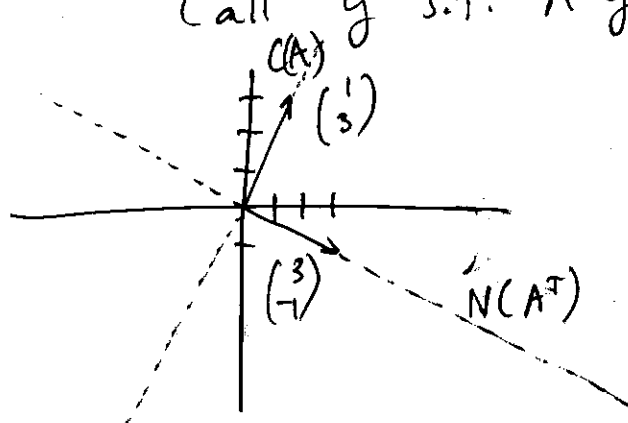
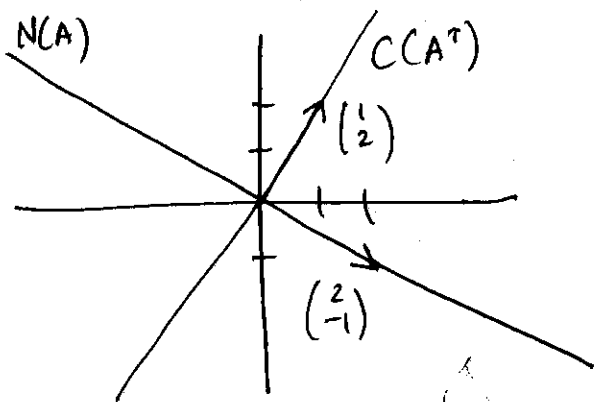
columnspace  $C(A)$  = all combinations of cols. of  $A$

row space  $C(A^T)$  = all combinations of rows of  $A$   
 (all combinations of cols of  $A^T$ )

nullspace  $N(A)$  = all  $x$  s.t.  $Ax=0$

left nullspace  $N(A^T)$  = all  $y$  s.t.  $y^T A = 0$

(all  $y$  s.t.  $A^T y = 0$ )



**Ex. 2**

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 & -2 \\ 3 & -6 & -6 \end{pmatrix}, \quad m=2, \quad n=3$$

$C(B)$ : line through  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$

$C(B^T)$ : line through  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$

To find nullspace (B),

$$B\vec{x} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 & -2 \\ 3 & -6 & -6 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

note 1 indep. eq. and 3 unknowns  $\Rightarrow \dim(N(B)) = 3 - 1 = 2$

$\vec{x}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ , and  $\vec{x}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$  are indep. solutions.

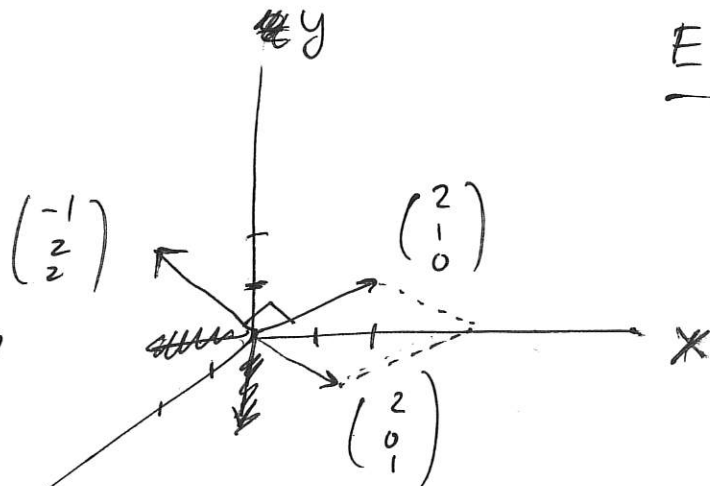
note, however  $\vec{x}_1$  &  $\vec{x}_2$  are not perpendicular

( $\vec{x}_1 \cdot \vec{x}_2 = 4 \neq 0$ ). We will prefer perpendicular basis vecs. ~~Can~~ Can be generated from  $\vec{x}_1, \vec{x}_2$  by Gram-Schmidt.

$N(B) =$  plane in  $\mathbb{R}^3$

this system can also be made orthonormal,

giving an orthonormal basis for  $\mathbb{R}^3$



E.g.,

$$\vec{v}_1 = \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\vec{v}_2 = \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

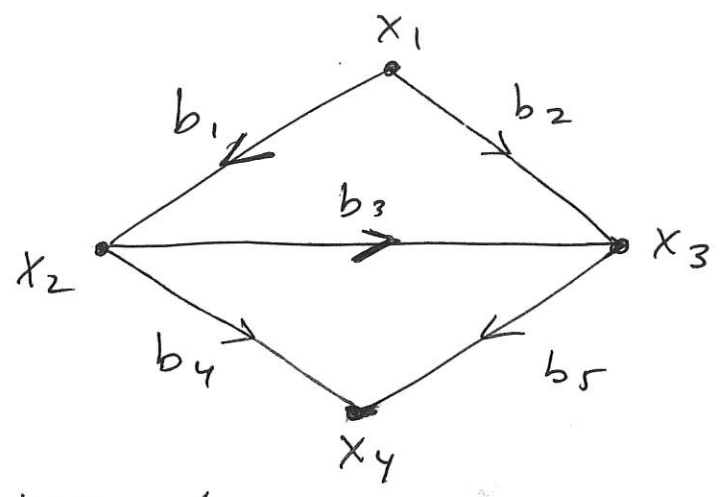
$$\vec{v}_3 = \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} \\ \vec{v}_1 & \vec{v}_2 & \vec{v}_3 \end{pmatrix}$  orthonormal basis for  $\mathbb{R}^3$

$r$  indep eqs. have  $n-r$  indep. solutions  $Ax=0$

**Ex. 3**

graph



1 equation per edge  
 1 unknown per node

$$\begin{aligned}
 -x_1 + x_2 &= b_1 \\
 -x_1 + x_3 &= b_2 \\
 -x_2 + x_3 &= b_3 \\
 -x_2 + x_4 &= b_4 \\
 -x_3 + x_4 &= b_5
 \end{aligned}$$

matrix form

$$\underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}}_A \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \\ b_4 \\ b_5 \end{pmatrix}$$

A = incidence matrix of the graph.

# nullspace (A)

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

~~Eq. 1~~  
~~Eq. 2~~  
~~Eq. 3~~  
~~Eq. 4~~  
~~Eq. 5~~

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} x_3 & = & x_1 & = & x_2 & = & x_4 \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \\ \text{Eq. 2} & & \text{Eq. 1} & & \text{Eq. 4} & & \end{array}$$

$$\vec{x} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

solution

$$\dim(N(A)) = 1$$

$$\text{rank}(A) = 3$$

$$n-r = 4-3 = 1$$

Dimensions of all four subspaces:

$$\dim C(A^T) = r = 3$$

$$\dim C(A) = r = 3$$

$$\dim N(A) = n-r = 1$$

$$\dim N(A^T) = m-r = 2$$

## column space (A)

$$r = 4 - 1 = 3$$

columns 1, 2, 3 of A are independent

column 4 is a combination of these.

row space  $C(A^T)$   $r=3$ , same as for columns

$$\text{row } 3 = \text{row } 2 - \text{row } 1$$

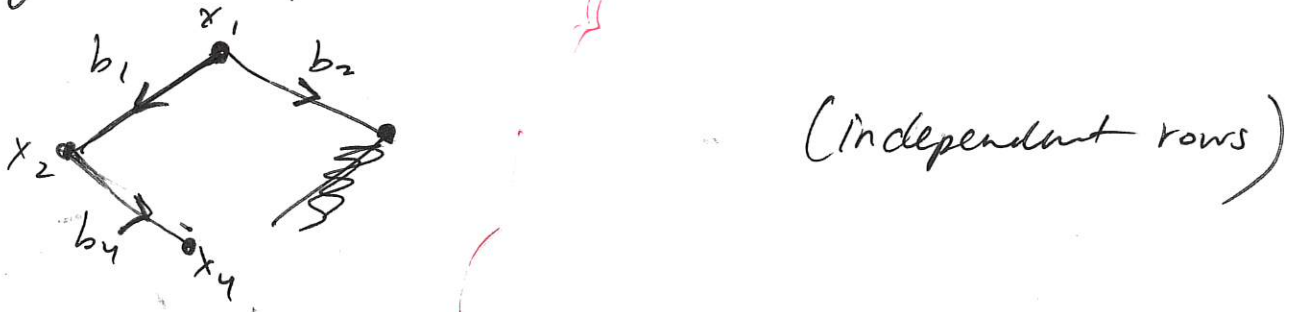
rows 1, 2, 4 independent  $\rightarrow$  basis for rowspace.

recall, each row corresponded to an edge.

edges rows 1, 2, 3 form a loop



edges 1, 2, 4 form a tree



left nullspace  $N(A^T)$

$$A^T y = 0$$

$$y_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

upper loop

$$y_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

lower loop

$$\vec{y}_1, \vec{y}_2$$

independent

$$\dim N(A^T) = m - r = 5 - 3 = 2$$

so  $\vec{y}_1$  &  $\vec{y}_2$  form a basis for  $N(A^T)$ .

(\*)

Connected graph with  $m$  edges and  $n$  nodes, incidence matrix  $A$

Four subspaces:

$N(A)$  constant vector  $c(1, 1, \dots, 1)$  make up the 1 dimensional nullspace of  $A$ .

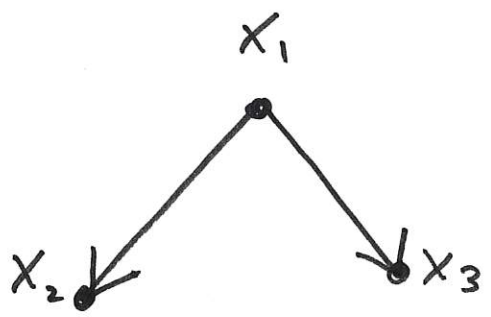
$C(A^T)$   $r$  edges of a tree (MST) give  $r$  independent rows of  $A$ .  
rank =  $r = n - 1$

$C(A)$   ~~$A\vec{x}$~~  components of  $A\vec{x}$  sum to 0 around any closed loop.

$N(A^T)$   $\vec{y}$  s.t.  $A^T \vec{y} = \vec{0}$  solutions are loops.  
 $m - r$  independent small loops in the graph

$C(A)$  dim  $r$   
 $N(A^T)$  dim  $m - r$   
-----  
dim  $m$

$C(A^T)$  dim  $r$   
 $N(A)$  dim  $n - r$   
-----  
dim  $n$ .



$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

no loops  
rows are linearly indep.

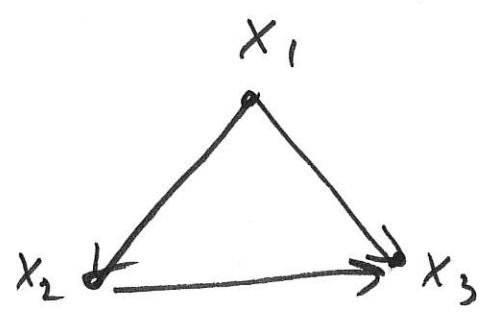
$$N(A) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \dim = 1$$

$$C(A^T) \text{ rowspace } \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \dim = 2 = r$$

$$C(A) \text{ column space } \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \dim = 2 = r$$

$$N(A^T) \{ \vec{0} \} \quad \dim = 0$$

$C(A)$	$\dim = r$	$C(A^T)$	$\dim = r$
$N(A^T)$	$\dim = m - r$	$N(A)$	$\dim = n - r$
$m$		$n$	



$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

loop  
3rd row can be written as lin. combin. of 1st + 2nd rows.

$$N(A) = \alpha \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \dim = 1$$

$$C(A^T) \text{ rowspace } \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \dim = 2 = r$$

$$C(A) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \dim = 2 = r$$

$$N(A^T) (-1, 1, 1) \quad \dim = 1 \text{ (loop)}$$

$C(A)$	$\dim = r$	$C(A^T)$	$\dim = r$
$N(A^T)$	$\dim = m - r$	$N(A)$	$\dim = n - r$
$m$		$n$	



# Ranks of $AB$ and $A+B$

When we multiply matrices, the ranks cannot increase.

- $\text{rank}(AB) \leq \text{rank}(A)$   
 $\text{rank}(AB) \leq \text{rank}(B)$
- $\text{rank}(A+B) \leq \text{rank}(A) + \text{rank}(B)$
- $\text{rank}(A^T A) = \text{rank}(A A^T) = \text{rank}(A)$   
 $= \text{rank}(A^T)$
- $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times r}$ ,  $B \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times n}$ ,  $\text{rank}(A) = \text{rank}(B) = r$   
 $AB \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$   $\text{rank}(AB) = r$

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1.  $C(AB) \subseteq C(A)$  and  $C((AB)^T) \subseteq C(B^T)$

2.  $A+B$  each col is sum of col of  $A$  and col of  $B$   
combines bases for  $C(A)$  and  $C(B)$   
 $\text{rank}(A+B) = \text{rank}(A) + \text{rank}(B)$  not generally true  
e.g.  $A=B=I$

3.  $A$  and  $A^T A$  both have  $n$  columns, and same nullspace.  $\dim$  nullspace is  $n-r$ , so  $r = \text{rank}$  must be same for both.  
 $\text{rank}(A^T) \geq \text{rank}(A^T A) = \text{rank}(A) \Rightarrow \text{rank}(A) = \text{rank}(A^T)$   
 $\text{rank}(A) \geq \text{rank}(A A^T) = \text{rank}(A^T)$

4.  $A^T A \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times r}$ ,  $B B^T \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times r}$  invertible  $r = \text{rank}(A^T A B B^T) \leq \text{rank}(AB) \leq \text{rank}(A) = r$   
 $\Rightarrow \text{rank}(AB) = r$ .

Note :

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$3 \times 1$

$$\text{rank}(A) = 1$$

$$\text{rank}(AB) = 1 \quad \checkmark$$

$$\text{rank}(BA) = 0 \neq 1$$

$$B = (1 \ 2 \ -3)$$

$1 \times 3$

$$\text{rank}(B) = 1$$

$$\begin{matrix} A & B \\ m \times r & r \times n \end{matrix}$$

has rank  $r$

$$\begin{matrix} B & A \\ r \times m & m \times r \end{matrix}$$

does not  
necessarily