

Definition: We define the nullity of A to be

$$\text{nullity}(A) = \dim(\text{null}(A)) \quad (5)$$

Note 6: If the $m \times n$ matrices A and C are row equivalent, then

$$\text{null}(A) = \text{null}(C)$$

$$\begin{array}{l} A\vec{x} = \vec{0} \\ [A \mid \vec{0}] \sim [C \mid \vec{0}] \\ A\vec{x} = \vec{0} \quad C\vec{x} = \vec{0} \end{array} \quad (6)$$

since elementary row operations preserve solutions to $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$.

Example 6: Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -4 & 0 & 2 \\ -1 & 2 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$.

1. Find a basis for $\text{null}(A)$. Calculate $\text{rank}(A)$ and $\text{nullity}(A)$.

A

$$\begin{array}{l} R_1 \leftrightarrow R_2 \\ R_3 := R_3 - 2R_1 \\ R_2 := 2R_2 + R_1 \end{array} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 & 4 \\ -1 & 2 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & -4 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{array}{l} R_2 := \frac{1}{2}R_2 \\ R_3 := R_3 + R_2 \end{array} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & -6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R_1 := R_1 - R_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = C$$

$$\text{null}(A) = \text{null}(C)$$

$$\begin{array}{l} x_1 - 2x_2 + x_4 = 0 \\ x_3 + 3x_4 = 0 \end{array}$$

Free $x_2 = t_1$
 $x_4 = t_2$

$$\begin{array}{l} x_1 - 2t_1 + t_2 = 0 \\ x_3 + 3t_2 = 0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} x_1 = 2t_1 - t_2 \\ x_3 = -3t_2 \end{array}$$

$$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2t_1 - t_2 \\ t_1 \\ -3t_2 \\ t_2 \end{bmatrix} = t_1 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + t_2 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{null}(A) = \text{null}(C) = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

$$\text{rank}(A) + \text{nullity}(A) = 4 = n \# \text{ of col of } A$$

$$B = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \text{ Basis for null}(A)$$

$$\text{nullity}(A) = 2$$

$$\text{rank}(A) = 2$$

2. Calculate $\text{rank}(A) + \text{nullity}(A)$. What do you observe?

Example 7: Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & 1 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 & -3 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$. exercise $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = C$

1. Find a basis for $\text{null}(A)$. Calculate $\text{rank}(A)$ and $\text{nullity}(A)$.

$$\text{null}(A) = \text{null}(C).$$

$$x_1 - x_4 + x_5 = 0$$

$$x_2 - x_4 - x_5 = 0$$

$$x_3 + x_4 + x_5 = 0$$

Free $\begin{cases} x_4 = t_1 \\ x_5 = t_2 \end{cases}$

$$x_1 = t_1 - t_2$$

$$x_2 = t_1 + t_2$$

$$x_3 = -t_1 - t_2$$

$$\vec{x} \text{ in } \text{null}(A) \Leftrightarrow \vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} t_1 - t_2 \\ t_1 + t_2 \\ -t_1 - t_2 \\ t_1 \\ t_2 \end{bmatrix} = t_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + t_2 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$B = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \text{ is a basis for } \text{null}(A).$$

$$\text{nullity}(A) = 2$$

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

2. Calculate $\text{rank}(A) + \text{nullity}(A)$. What do you observe?

$$\text{rank}(A) + \text{nullity}(A) = 2 + 3 = 5 = \# \text{ of columns of } A$$