

3.B Null Spaces and Ranges

If we have $T \in L(V, W)$, then the nullspace of T is the subset of V consisting of vectors in V that T maps to 0:

$$\text{null } T = \{v \in V : Tv = 0\}$$

3.13 Example

- consider the zero map $0 \in L(V, W)$. For all $v \in V$, we have

$$0v = 0$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{null } 0 &= \{v \in V : 0v = 0\} \\ &= V \end{aligned}$$

- Define $\varphi \in L(\mathbb{C}^3, \mathbb{C})$ by

$$\varphi(z_1, z_2, z_3) = z_1 + 2z_2 + 3z_3$$

Then we have

$$\text{null } \varphi = \{(z_1, z_2, z_3) \in \mathbb{C}^3 : \varphi(z_1, z_2, z_3) = 0\}$$

$$= \{(z_1, z_2, z_3) \in \mathbb{C}^3 : z_1 + 2z_2 + 3z_3 = 0\}$$

$$(z_1, z_2, z_3) = (-2z_2 - 3z_3, z_2, z_3)$$

$$= (-2z_2, z_2, 0) + (-3z_3, 0, z_3)$$

$$= z_2(-2, 1, 0) + z_3(-3, 0, 1)$$

so $(-2, 1, 0), (-3, 0, 1)$ spans null φ

Then prove that $(-2, 1, 0), (-3, 0, 1)$ is linearly independent.

so $(-2, 1, 0), (-3, 0, 1)$ is a basis of null φ

- Let $D \in L(P(\mathbb{R}), P(\mathbb{R}))$ be the differentiation map defined by

$$Dp = p'$$

Then we have

$$\text{null } D = \{p \in P(\mathbb{R}) : p'(z) = 0 \text{ for all } z \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

$$= \{p \in P(\mathbb{R}) : p'(z) = c \text{ for all } z \in \mathbb{R}, \text{ for some constant } c\}$$

$$= \{p \in P(\mathbb{R}) : p \text{ is a constant function}\}$$

- Define $T \in \mathcal{L}(P(\mathbb{R}), P(\mathbb{R}))$ by

$$(Tp)(x) = x^2 p(x)$$

for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{null } T &= \{ p \in P(\mathbb{R}) : Tp = 0 \} \\ &= \{ p \in P(\mathbb{R}) : (Tp)(x) = 0 \text{ for all } x \in \mathbb{R} \} \\ &= \{ p \in P(\mathbb{R}) : x^2 p(x) = 0 \text{ for all } x \in \mathbb{R} \} \\ &= \{ p \in P(\mathbb{R}) : p(x) = 0 \text{ for all } x \in \mathbb{R} \} \\ &= \{ p \in P(\mathbb{R}) : p = 0 \} \\ &= \{0\} \end{aligned}$$

The only polynomial that satisfies

$$x^2 p(x) = 0$$

is $p = 0$

3.14 Null Space is a subspace

Suppose we have $T \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$. Then null T is a subspace of V

Proof:

- Additive identity

Since we have $T \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$, it follows that $T: V \rightarrow W$ is a linear map. By 3.11 of Axler, we have $T(0) = 0$.

Therefore, $0 \in \text{null } T$

- Closed under addition

Suppose we have $u, v \in \text{null } T$. Then we have $Tu = 0$

and $Tv = 0$

so we have

$$\begin{aligned} T(u+v) &= Tu+Tv \\ &= 0+0 \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $u+v \in \text{null } T$

- Closed under scalar multiplication

Suppose we have $u \in \text{null } T$ and $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$. Then $Tu = 0$

so we have

$$\begin{aligned} T(\lambda u) &= \lambda Tu \\ &= \lambda \cdot 0 \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $\lambda u \in \text{null } T$

So we conclude that $\text{null } T$ is a subspace of V

3.15 Definition

A function $T: V \rightarrow W$ is called injective if $Tu = Tv$ implies $u = v$ for all $u, v \in V$.

3.16 Injectivity is equivalent to null space equals $\{0\}$

Let $T \in L(V, W)$. Then T is injective if and only if $\text{null } T = \{0\}$

Proof: Forward direction: If T is injective, then $\text{null } T = \{0\}$

Suppose T is injective. Since T is also linear, we have $T(0) = 0$ which means $0 \in \text{null } T$, and so $\{0\} \subset \text{null } T$. We will prove $\text{null } T \subset \{0\}$. Suppose $v \in \text{null } T$.

Then $Tv = 0$. But we also have $T(0) = 0$

~~Therefore~~

$$\text{Therefore, } Tv = T(0), \quad (Tv = 0 = T(0))$$

Since T is injective, $v = 0$. In other words, $v \in \{0\}$

So $\text{null } T \subset \{0\}$. So we get the set equality $\text{null } T = \{0\}$

Backward direction: If $\text{null } T = \{0\}$, then T is injective

Suppose $\text{null } T = \{0\}$. Suppose $u, v \in V$ satisfy $Tu = Tv$

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= Tu - Tv \\ &= T(u - v) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $u - v \in \text{null } T$. But $\text{null } T = \{0\}$. So $u - v \in \{0\}$, which implies $u - v = 0$, or equivalently, $u = v$.

So T is injective.

Range and Subjectivity

3.17 Definition

The range of a function $T: V \rightarrow W$ is a subset of W consisting of all vectors of the form Tv for some $v \in V$ and is denoted

$$\text{range } T = \{Tv : v \in V\}$$

3.18 Example

- Consider the zero map $0: V \rightarrow W$. Then $0v = 0$ for all $v \in V$.
So we have

$$\begin{aligned}\text{range } 0 &= \{0v : v \in V\} \\ &= \{0 : v \in V\} \\ &= \{0\}\end{aligned}$$

- Define $T \in L(\mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{R}^3)$ by

$$T(x, y) = (2x, 5y, x+y)$$

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned}\text{range } T &= \{T(x, y) : (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2\} \\ &= \{(2x, 5y, x+y) : (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2\}\end{aligned}$$

A basis of range T is $(2, 0, 1), (0, 5, 1)$.

$$\begin{aligned}T(x, y) &= (2x, 5y, x+y) = (2x, 0, x) + (0, 5y, y) \\ &= x(2, 0, 1) + y(0, 5, 1)\end{aligned}$$

So $(2, 0, 1), (0, 5, 1)$ spans range T .

Show that $(2, 0, 1), (0, 5, 1)$ is also linearly independent.

Then $(2, 0, 1), (0, 5, 1)$ is a basis of range T .

- Let $D \in L(P(\mathbb{R}), P(\mathbb{R}))$ be the differentiation map defined by

$$Dp = p'$$

For each polynomial $g \in P(\mathbb{R})$, there exists a polynomial

$p \in P(\mathbb{R})$ that satisfies $p' = g$.

So we have

$$\begin{aligned}\text{range } D &= \{Dp : p \in P(\mathbb{R})\} \\ &= \{p' : p \in P(\mathbb{R})\} \\ &= \{g : g \in P(\mathbb{R})\} \\ &= P(\mathbb{R})\end{aligned}$$

3.19 The range $\text{range } T$ is a subspace: If $T \in L(V, W)$, then $\text{range } T$ is a subspace of W

Proof: • Additive identity

Suppose we have $T \in L(V, W)$. Then by 3.11 of Axler, we have $T(0) = 0$. So $0 \in \text{range } T$

• Closed under addition

Suppose $w_1, w_2 \in \text{range } T$. Then $w_1 = Tv_1$ and $w_2 = Tv_2$ for some $v_1, v_2 \in V$

So we have

$$T(v_1 + v_2) = Tv_1 + Tv_2$$

$$= w_1 + w_2$$

Since $v_1 + v_2 \in V$, it follows that we have $w_1 + w_2 \in \text{range } T$

• Closed under multiplication

Suppose $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$ and $w \in \text{range } T$. Then $w = Tv$, for some $v \in V$

So we have

$$T(\lambda v) = \cancel{\text{some}} \lambda Tv$$

$$= \lambda w$$

Since $\lambda v \in V$, it follows that we have $\lambda w \in \text{range } T$

So $\text{range } T$ is a subspace of W

3.22 Fundamental Theorem of Linear Maps

Suppose V is a finite-dimensional vector space and $T \in L(V, W)$

Then $\text{range } T$ is finite-dimensional and

$$\dim V = \dim \text{null } T + \dim \text{range } T$$

3.20 Definition

A function $T: V \rightarrow W$ is surjective if its range equals W ; that is,

$$\text{range } T = W$$

Proof: Let u_1, \dots, u_m be a basis of $\text{null } T$. Then $\dim(\text{null } T) = m$

Also, u_1, \dots, u_m is a linearly independent list. By 2.33 of Axler, we can extend the list to a basis

$$u_1, \dots, u_m, v_1, \dots, v_n$$

of V . Then $\dim V = m + n$

So we need to just show that $\text{range } T$ is finite-dimensional with $\dim(\text{range } T) = n$

To accomplish this goal, we need to show that Tv_1, \dots, Tv_n is a basis of range T .

Let $v \in V$ be arbitrary. Since $u_1, \dots, u_m, v_1, \dots, v_n$ is a basis of V , it spans V . So we can write

$$v = a_1u_1 + \dots + a_mu_m + b_1v_1 + \dots + b_nv_n$$

for some $a_1, \dots, a_m, b_1, \dots, b_n \in \mathbb{F}$. So we have

$$\begin{aligned}Tv &= T(a_1u_1 + \dots + a_mu_m + b_1v_1 + \dots + b_nv_n) \\&\stackrel{\text{(additivity)}}{=} T(a_1u_1) + \dots + T(a_mu_m) + T(b_1v_1) + \dots + T(b_nv_n)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}&\stackrel{\text{(homogeneity)}}{=} a_1Tu_1 + \dots + a_mu_mv_m + b_1Tv_1 + \dots + b_nv_n \\&\stackrel{\text{(u_1, \dots, u_m is a basis of null T)}}{=} a_1 \cdot 0 + \dots + a_m \cdot 0 + b_1Tv_1 + \dots + b_nTv_n\end{aligned}$$

$$= b_1Tv_1 + \dots + b_nTv_n$$

Therefore, the list Tv_1, \dots, Tv_n spans range T .

Since we found a list that spans range T ,

we conclude that range T is finite-dimensional.

Now we will show that Tv_1, \dots, Tv_n is linearly independent.

Suppose $c_1, \dots, c_n \in \mathbb{F}$ that satisfy

$$c_1Tv_1 + \dots + c_nTv_n = 0$$

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned}0 &= c_1Tv_1 + \dots + c_nTv_n \\&= T(c_1v_1) + \dots + T(c_nv_n) \\&= T(c_1v_1 + \dots + c_nv_n)\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $c_1v_1 + \dots + c_nv_n \in \text{null } T$

Since u_1, \dots, u_m is a basis of $\text{null } T$, it spans $\text{null } T$,

so we can write

$$\stackrel{\text{vector in null } T}{\uparrow} [c_1v_1 + \dots + c_nv_n] = d_1u_1 + \dots + d_mu_m$$

for some $d_1, \dots, d_m \in \mathbb{F}$. So we get

$$d_1u_1 + \dots + d_mu_m + c_1v_1 + \dots + c_nv_n = 0$$

But $u_1, \dots, u_m, v_1, \dots, v_n$ is a basis of V so it is linearly independent in V . So all scalars are zero

$$-d_1 = u_1, \dots, -d_m = u_m, c_1 = v_1, \dots, c_n = v_n$$

In particular,

$$c_1 = 0, \dots, c_n = 0$$

So Tv_1, \dots, Tv_n is linearly independent

So it is a basis of range of T . So $\dim(\text{range } T) = n$

In summary, we have

$$\dim V = m+n$$

$$\dim (\text{null } T) = m$$

$$\dim (\text{range } T) = n$$

Therefore

$$\dim V = m+n$$

$$= \dim (\text{null } T) + \dim (\text{range } T)$$

as desired.

3.23 A map to a smaller dimensional space is not injective

Suppose V and W are finite-dimensional vector spaces that satisfy $\dim V > \dim W$. Then no linear map from V to W is injective.

Proof: suppose ~~$T \in L(V, W)$~~ that we have $T \in L(V, W)$

Then, by the fundamental theorem of Linear Maps

(3.22 of Axler), we have

$$\dim (\text{null } T) = \dim V - \dim (\text{range } T)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \begin{array}{l} \text{range } T \text{ is a subspace of } W \\ \text{by 2.38 of Axler} \end{array} \right. \\ \Rightarrow \quad & \dim (\text{range } T) \leq \dim W \end{aligned} \quad \begin{aligned} & \downarrow \\ & \dim V - \dim W \\ & > \dim W - \dim W \\ & = 0 \end{aligned}$$

So $\text{null } T \neq \{0\}$. By 3.16 of Axler, T is not injective

3.24 A map to a larger dimensional space is not surjective

Suppose V and W are finite-dimensional vector spaces that satisfy $\dim V < \dim W$. Then no linear map from V to W is surjective.

Proof: Let $T \in L(V, W)$. Then, by the Fundamental Theorem of Linear Maps (3.22 of Axler), we have

$$\dim (\text{range } T) = \dim V - \dim \text{null } T$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \stackrel{\text{by 2.38}}{\Rightarrow} \begin{cases} 0 \in \text{null } T \\ \{0\} \subset \text{null } T \end{cases} \\ & \dim \{0\} \leq \dim \text{null } T \end{aligned} \quad \begin{aligned} & \leq \dim V = 0, \\ & = \dim V \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & 0 \in \dim \text{null } T \\ & (\dim \text{null } T \geq 0) \end{aligned} \quad \begin{aligned} & \leq \dim W \\ & \text{By Exercise 2.41 of Axler, range } T \neq W. \\ & \text{Therefore } T \text{ is not surjective} \end{aligned}$$

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3.25 Example

six positive integers m, n . Consider the homogeneous system of linear equations

a system of m equations

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \sum_{k=1}^n A_{1,k} x_k = 0 \\ \vdots \\ \sum_{k=1}^n A_{m,k} x_k = 0 \end{array} \right. \quad \begin{array}{l} j^{\text{th}} \text{ equation} \\ \sum_{k=1}^n A_{j,k} x_k = 0 \end{array}$$

for some $A_{j,k} \in \mathbb{F}$, for $j=1, \dots, m$ and for $k=1, \dots, n$

Rephrase in terms of a linear map the question of whether this system of equations has a nonzero solution

Proof: Define $T: \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^m$ by

$$T(\underbrace{x_1, \dots, x_n}_{n \text{ coordinates}}) = \left(\underbrace{\sum_{k=1}^n A_{1,k} x_k, \dots, \sum_{k=1}^n A_{m,k} x_k}_{m \text{ coordinates}} \right)$$

Then the equation $\left(\sum_{k=1}^n A_{1,k} x_k, \dots, \sum_{k=1}^n A_{m,k} x_k \right)$

$$T(\underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_n) = (0, \dots, 0)_m$$

is equivalent to the homogeneous system of equations

Note that

$(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (0, \dots, 0)$ is a solution to the homogeneous system of equations. This is equivalent to saying

$$T(\underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_n) = (0, \dots, 0)_m$$

$$x_1 = 0$$

:

$$x_n = 0$$

There exist nonzero solutions x_1, \dots, x_n to the homogeneous system of equations if and only if
 $\text{null } T \neq \{0\}$

In other words, if and only if there exist x_1, \dots, x_n , not all zero such that $(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \text{null } T$.

3.26 Homogeneous system of linear equations

A homogeneous system of linear equations with more variables ~~&~~ than equations has ~~one~~ non-zero solutions.

Example

$$\sum_{k=1}^n A_{1,k} x_k = 0$$

And x_1, x_2, x_3 solve the system of equations,
then at least one of x_1, x_2, x_3 is nonzero.

$$\sum_{k=1}^n A_{2,k} x_k = 0$$

Proof: Again define $T: \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^m$ by

$$T(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (\underbrace{\sum_{k=1}^n A_{1,k} x_k, \dots, \sum_{k=1}^n A_{m,k} x_k}_{n \text{ coordinates}})$$

Then we have a homogeneous system of m linear equations
with n variables x_1, \dots, x_n . Since there are more
variables than there are equations - ~~equal to zero~~.
we have $\dim \mathbb{F}^n = n > m = \dim \mathbb{F}^m$

By 3.23 of Axler, $T: \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^m$ is not injective

By 3.16 of Axler, $\text{null } T \neq \{0, \dots, 0\}$. So

there exist, nonzero solutions ~~of~~ of the system
of equations

3.27 Example

Rephrase in terms of a linear map the question of whether
the in-homogeneous system of linear equations

$$\sum_{k=1}^n A_{1,k} x_k = c_1$$

⋮

$$\sum_{k=1}^n A_{m,k} x_k = c_m$$

for any $A_{jk} \in \mathbb{F}$, $(j=1, \dots, m)$ and $k=1, \dots, n$) and for some
 $c_1, \dots, c_m \in \mathbb{F}$, has no solution

Define $T: \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^m$ by

$$T(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (\underbrace{\sum_{k=1}^n A_{1,k} x_k, \dots, \sum_{k=1}^n A_{m,k} x_k}_{m \text{ coordinates}})$$

Then the equation

$$T(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (c_1, \dots, c_m)$$

is equivalent to the inhomogeneous system of equations

3.29 Inhomogeneous system of linear equations

An inhomogeneous system of linear equations with more equations than variables has no solution [for some choice of constant terms].

proof: Define $T: \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^m$ by

$$T(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \left(\underbrace{\sum_{k=1}^n A_{1,k} x_k, \dots, \sum_{k=1}^n A_{m,k} x_k}_{m} \right)$$

Since there are more equations than there are variables we have

$$\dim \mathbb{F}^n = n < m = \dim \mathbb{F}^m$$

By 3.24 of Axler, $T: \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^m$ is NOT surjective.

In other words,

$$\text{range } T \neq \mathbb{F}^m$$

So there exist $c_1, \dots, c_m \in \mathbb{F}^m \setminus \text{range } T$ such that

$$T(x_1, \dots, x_n) \neq (c_1, \dots, c_m)$$

So we have

$$\sum_{k=1}^n A_{1,k} x_k \neq c_1$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^n A_{m,k} x_k \neq c_m$$

which means the system of inhomogeneous equations with this choice of c_1, \dots, c_m does NOT contain any solutions.