

Last five

- Inverse of general 2×2
 - Image and kernel
-

These concepts relate to the matrix of T as follows:

$$\ker(T) = \{\vec{0}\} \iff \text{rk}(A) = n$$

$$\text{im}(T) = \mathbb{R}^m \iff \text{rk}(A) = m.$$

So, for an $n \times n$ matrix A :

$$\text{im}(A) = \mathbb{R}^n \iff A \text{ is invertible} \iff \ker(A) = \{\vec{0}\}$$

If A isn't square, either could happen without the other:

Ex

$$\ker \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \left\{ t \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \quad \ker \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \{ \vec{0} \}$$

$$\text{im} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$\text{im} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \mathbb{R}^2 \neq \mathbb{R}^3.$$

The kernel and image have properties in common.

(1) $\vec{0}$ is in both

(2) If \vec{v}_1 and \vec{v}_2 are in one, then

so is $\vec{v}_1 + \vec{v}_2$.

(3) If \vec{v} is in one, then so is $c\vec{v}$ for any number c .

A collection of vectors with these properties is called a (linear) subspace.

Ex $\{\vec{0}\}$ is a subspace

Ex A line through $\vec{0}$ is a subspace.

Ex A plane through $\vec{0}$ is a subspace

Ex $\text{im}(T)$ is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^m and
 $\text{ker}(T)$ is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n .

How can we understand what these spaces really are?

Observation Let $A = [\vec{v}_1 \dots \vec{v}_n]$. A vector \vec{w} is in the image of A if and only if it is of the form

$$A\vec{x} = x_1\vec{v}_1 + \dots + x_n\vec{v}_n,$$

i.e., if it is a linear combination of the columns of A .

Def The span of a collection of vectors is the collection of all linear combinations of its vectors.

Ex The span of $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ is \mathbb{R}^2 .

Ex The span of $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ is the x-axis in \mathbb{R}^2 .

So the image of A is the span of its column vectors. But this description can be very redundant.