

Numerical Linear Algebra
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Lecture – 12
Row Space, Column Space and Null Space



Hello friends. Welcome to my lecture on row space, column space and null space. Let us say, we have a matrix m by n in size let a_{ij} be an arbitrary m by n matrix where the entries of the matrix belong to a field K , then the rows of A .

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Row space of a matrix: Let $A = [a_{ij}]$ be an arbitrary $m \times n$ matrix over a field K . The rows of A ,

$$R_1 = (a_{11}, a_{12}, \dots, a_{1n}) \quad R_2 = (a_{21}, a_{22}, \dots, a_{2n})$$
$$R_m = (a_{m1}, a_{m2}, \dots, a_{mn})$$

may be viewed as vectors in K^n ; hence they span a subspace of K^n called the row space of A and denoted by $\text{rowsp}(A)$.



2

(Refer Slide Time: 00:41)

The image shows handwritten mathematical definitions on a whiteboard. On the left, a matrix A is defined as $A = (a_{ij})_{m \times n}$ and is written as a matrix with rows R_1, R_2, \dots, R_m . The rows are explicitly written as $R_1 = (a_{11} \ a_{12} \ \dots \ a_{1n})$, $R_2 = (a_{21} \ a_{22} \ \dots \ a_{2n})$, and $R_m = (a_{m1} \ a_{m2} \ \dots \ a_{mn})$. On the right, the field K is defined as $K^n = \{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) : x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \in K\}$. Below this, the row space of A is defined as $\text{rowsp}(A) = L\{R_1, R_2, \dots, R_m\}$.

Let us say A is this one.

So, there are m rows and n columns; let us denote by R_1 the first row, R_2 denotes the second row and R_m denotes the m th row. So, this can be viewed as vectors belonging to K to the power n because K to the power n is this set of n tuples where x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n belong to K . So, this can be viewed as vectors belonging to K to the power n .

Now, these m rows span a subspace of K to the power n which means which is called as the row space of A . So, these m vectors when we take linear combination of those m vectors, they span a subspace of K to the power n which is called the row space of A and so, row space of a row space of A , we write as it is the linear span of these R_1, R_2, \dots, R_m . So, these linear span of the m vectors R_1, R_2, \dots, R_m is nothing, but the row space of A suppose A and B are row canonical matrices ok.



(Refer Slide Time: 03:03)

Suppose A and B are row canonical matrices. Then A and B have the same row space iff they have the same non zero rows.

Example: Show that $U = W$ where U and W are the following subspaces of R^3 :

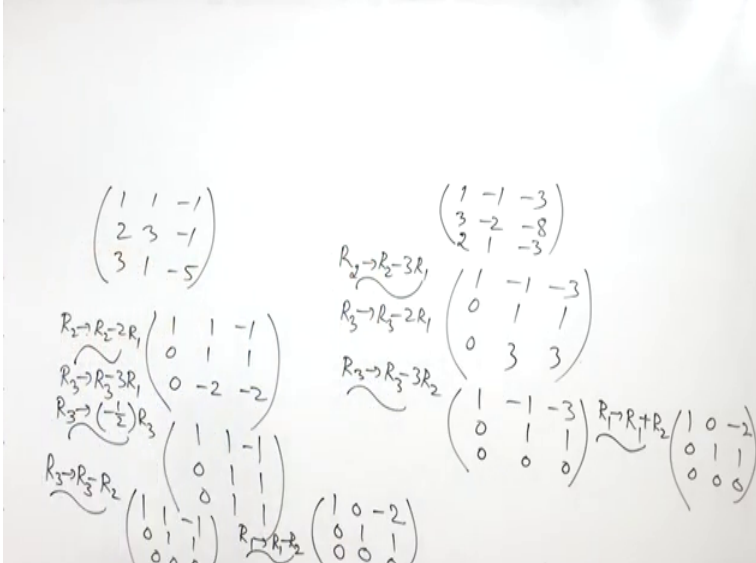
$$U = \text{span}\{(1,1,-1), (2,3,-1), (3,1,-5)\}$$

$$W = \text{span}\{(1,-1,-3), (3,-2,-8), (2,1,-3)\}.$$



3

Then A and B have the same row space if and only if they have the same number of nonzero rows, so, let us say for example, you take u to be the linear span of the 3 vectors $1 \ 1 \ -1$, $2 \ 3 \ -1$, $3 \ 1 \ -5$ and W be the span of $1 \ -1 \ -3$, $3 \ -2 \ -8$, $2 \ 1 \ -3$, then let us show that they span these vector span the same space U and W. So, row space of the 3 vectors $1 \ 1 \ -1$, $2 \ 3 \ -1$, $3 \ 1 \ -5$ is the same as the row space of the other 3 vectors.

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$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 2 & 3 & -1 \\ 3 & 1 & -5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{matrix} R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - 2R_1 \\ R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - 3R_1 \\ R_3 \rightarrow (-\frac{1}{2})R_3 \end{matrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -2 & -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{matrix} R_3 \rightarrow R_3 + 2R_2 \\ R_1 \rightarrow R_1 - R_2 \end{matrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & -3 \\ 3 & -2 & -8 \\ 2 & 1 & -3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{matrix} R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - 3R_1 \\ R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - 2R_1 \\ R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - 3R_2 \end{matrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{matrix} R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - 3R_2 \\ R_1 \rightarrow R_1 + R_2 \end{matrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

So, what we do is in order to show this let us form the matrix. So, $1 \ 1 \ 1$ minus 1 , then we have $2 \ 3 \ 1$ minus 1 and then we have $3 \ 1 \ 5$. So, will row reduce it to row canonical form, then we will have this is R_2 goes 2 , R_2 minus $2 R_1$, R_3 goes to R_3 minus $3 R_1$ and we have $1 \ 1 \ 1$ minus 1 , this is 0 , we have 1 here, 2 minus 1 is 1 , then we will get 0 here 1 minus 3 is minus 2 and then we have here we are sub multiplying by we are multiplying by 3 . So, 1 minus 3 is minus 2 and here minus 3 means we minus 3 into minus 1 is 3 . So, 3 minus 5 is minus 2 ok.

Now, this leading coefficient is 1 , here also we have 1 , but here we have minus 2 . So, divided by minus 2 the third row; so, R_3 goes to minus half R_3 and we get $1 \ 0 \ 1$, $1 \ 1 \ 1$, $1 \ 1 \ 1$ minus $1 \ 0 \ 1$ then $0 \ 1 \ 1$ and then we reduce further. So, this is what we do? We will multiply it by 1 subtract it here. So, R_3 goes to R_3 minus R_2 and we get $1 \ 1 \ 1$ minus $1 \ 0 \ 1 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0$. So, we have this is row canonical form of these 3 vectors and then the other 3 vectors let us take. So, we have the other 3 vectors are 1 minus 1 minus $3 \ 1$ minus 1 minus 3 and then we have 3 minus 2 minus 8 and the third vector is $2 \ 1$ minus 3 .

So, this also be reduced to row canonical form. So, R_2 goes to R_2 minus $3 R_1$, R_3 goes to R_3 minus $2 R_1$, we get 1 minus 1 minus $3 \ 0$ here. So, we multiply by minus 3 under here. So, 3 minus 2 is 1 , then we get here minus 3 into minus 3 nine minus 8 is 1 and then 2 minus $2 \ 0$, then here 2 minus 2 we are multiplying. So, 2 plus 1 is 3 and here we are multiplying by minus 2 . So, we get 6 minus 3 is 3 , then we multiplied by 3 subtract from here. So, R_3 goes to R_3 minus $3 R_2$, then we will get 1 minus 1 minus 3 and then we will get $0 \ 1 \ 1$, then we get $0 \ 0 \ 0$.

So, we will have the first set is $1 \ 0$ minus 2 , $0 \ 1 \ 1$, $0 \ 0 \ 0$, wait, we have to row reduce it to row canonical form. So, this means we have to this we have this is further we have to do it. So, this has to be subtracted from here. So, we write R_1 goes to R_1 minus R_2 . So, $1 \ 0$, alright and this will subtracted. So, minus 2 here and then $0 \ 1 \ 1$, $0 \ 0 \ 0$. Now this is row canonical form these row canonical form because this is the only nonzero entry in its row column and here, we add it further second row to first row. So, R_1 goes to R_1 plus R_2 . So, we get $1 \ 0$ minus 2 , $0 \ 1 \ 1$, $0 \ 0 \ 0$. Now this is row canonical form these also row canonical form and we have they have same number of 0 s and the nonzero same number of 0 rows and nonzero rows are identical. So, they span the same subspace. So, $u \ s \ d$ equal to W .

(Refer Slide Time: 08:59)

since A and B have the same row canonical form, the row space of A and B are equal so $U=W$.

Example: Find a basis of the row space of a matrix:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & -1 \\ 2 & 6 & -3 & -3 \\ 3 & 10 & -6 & -5 \end{pmatrix}$$

Soln. Row reduced A to echelon form:

$$A \sim \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 4 & -6 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - 2R_1, R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - 3R_1 \\ R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - 2R_2 \end{matrix}$$

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So, this is what we have; now let us go to example where we find the basis of rows space of a matrix this matrix is 1 2 0 minus 1 2 6 minus 3 minus 3 3 10 minus 6 minus 5. So, let us row reduced echelon form; that means, we subtract from the second row 2 times the first row, and 3 times the first row be subtract from the third row. So, we will get the matrix A to be equivalent to 1 0 minus 1 2 0 minus 1 0 2 3 minus 1 0 4 minus 6 minus 2 and then with the help of the second row be made the third row in the third, we reduce 4 element into 4 to 0.

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$$\sim \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & -3 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - 2R_2 \end{matrix}$$

The two non zero rows (1,2,0,-1) and (0,2,-3,-1) of the row echelon form of A form a basis of $\text{rowsp}(A)$.

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So, $R_3 - 2R_2$ we do. So, when we do $R_3 - R_2$ we get the matrix $1 \ 2 \ 0$ minus $1 \ 0 \ 2$ minus 3 minus 1 and $0 \ 0 \ 0$.

Now, the 2 rows nonzero rows $1 \ 2 \ 0$ minus 1 and $0 \ 2$ minus 3 minus 1 of the row echelon form of A , they form a basis of row space of A because these 2 vectors are linearly independent and they span the row space of A . So, there will form basis ok.


(Refer Slide Time: 10:09)

Column space of a matrix: Let $A = [a_{ij}]$ be an arbitrary $m \times n$ matrix over a field K . The columns of A ,

$$C_1 = (a_{11}, a_{21}, \dots, a_{m1})^T \quad C_2 = (a_{12}, a_{22}, \dots, a_{m2})^T$$

$$C_n = (a_{1n}, a_{2n}, \dots, a_{mn})^T$$

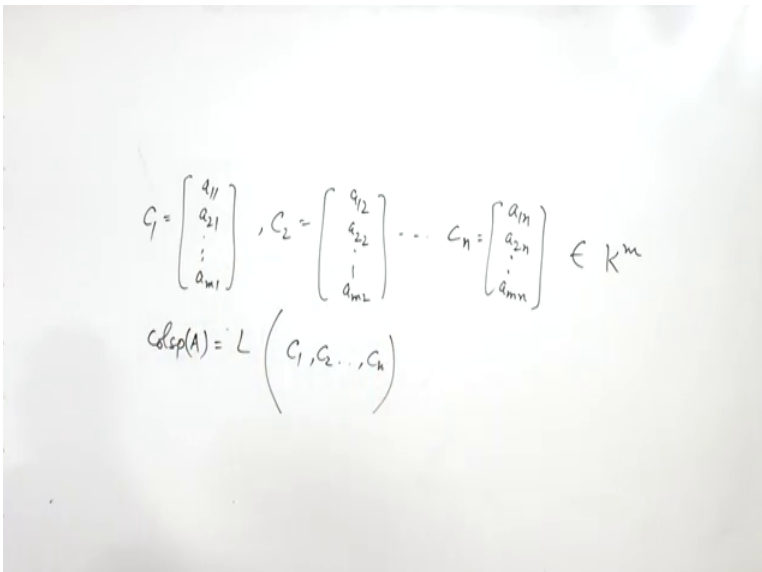
may be viewed as vectors in K^m ; hence they span a subspace of K^m called the column space of A and denoted by $\text{colsp}(A)$.



Now, next we discuss the column space of a matrix. So, let A equal to a_{ij} be an arbitrary m by n matrix over a field K .

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$$C_1 = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} \\ a_{21} \\ \vdots \\ a_{m1} \end{bmatrix}, C_2 = \begin{bmatrix} a_{12} \\ a_{22} \\ \vdots \\ a_{m2} \end{bmatrix} \dots C_n = \begin{bmatrix} a_{1n} \\ a_{2n} \\ \vdots \\ a_{mn} \end{bmatrix} \in K^m$$

$$\text{colsp}(A) = L(C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n)$$


The columns of A are C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n . C_1 equal to $(a_{11}, a_{21}, \dots, a_{m1})^T$, C_2 equal to $(a_{12}, a_{22}, \dots, a_{m2})^T$ and then we have C_m, C_n we have C_n , there are n column vectors. So, C_n equal to $(a_{1n}, a_{2n}, \dots, a_{mn})^T$. So, these n columns can be viewed as vectors in K^m because each has m components.


So, they belong to K^m . So, therefore, they span a subspace of K^m which we call as a column space of the matrix A and denote that column space by this notation $\text{Col}(A)$. $\text{Col}(A)$ means a span of these n vectors. So, C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n .

(Refer Slide Time: 11:50)

Example: Find a basis of column space of A :

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 4 & 6 \\ 1 & 4 & 7 \\ -2 & -3 & -4 \end{pmatrix}$$

Soln. First take transpose of matrix A and then reduce the coefficient matrix A to echelon form

$$A^T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & -2 \\ 2 & 4 & 4 & -3 \\ 3 & 6 & 7 & -4 \end{pmatrix} \sim \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - 2R_1, \\ R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - 3R_1 \end{matrix}$$


So, let us this example in this example we find the basis of the column space of the matrix A . So, here what we do is the columns of the matrix A , the first column is $(1, 2, 1, -2)^T$ second column is $(2, 4, 4, -3)^T$, $(3, 6, 7, -4)^T$. So, what we will do is that will write will take the first the transpose of the matrix A and when you take the transport of the matrix A . These columns of A become the rows of a transport. So, then be reduced this matrix A transpose to the echelon form. So, a transpose will have the columns of A as rows. So, $(1, 2, 1, -2)$, $(2, 4, 4, -3)$, $(3, 6, 7, -4)$; so, we row reduced to echelon form. So, R_2 goes to $R_2 - 2R_1$, R_3 goes to $R_3 - 3R_1$ will reduce the matrix to $(1, 2, 1, -2)$, $(0, 0, 2, 1)$, $(0, 0, 4, 2)$ and then we subtract 2 times the second row from the third row.

(Refer Slide Time: 12:48)

$$\sim \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - 2R_2$$

The two non zero rows (1,2,1,-2) and (0,0,2,1) of row echelon form of A form a basis for colsp(A).

So, we get the matrix 1 2 1 minus 2, 0 0 2 1, 0 0 0 0.

So, the 2 rows first 2 rows are you can say the first 2 columns of the matrix A are linearly independent and there a span is the subspace of a column space of A. So, the 2 non zero columns 1 2 1 minus 0 0 2 1 of the row reduced echelon form a basis of the column space of A. So, now, we discuss the null space of a matrix.

(Refer Slide Time: 13:25)

- **Null space of a Matrix:** The null space of an $m \times n$ matrix A , written as $\text{Nul } A$, is the set of all solutions of the homogeneous equation. In set notation,
$$\text{Nul } A = \{ x \in R^n : Ax=0 \}$$

Theorem 2: The null space of an $m \times n$ matrix A is a subspace of R^n . Equivalently, the set of all solutions to a system $Ax = 0$ of m homogeneous linear equations in n unknowns is a subspace of R^n .

Proof: $\text{Nul } A$ is a subset of R^n because A has n columns. We need to show that $\text{Nul } A$ satisfies the three properties of a subspace.

The null space of a m by n matrix A written as null space of a null A is the set of all solutions of the homogeneous equation x equal to 0.

(Refer Slide Time: 13:48)

The set of solutions of the system (1) is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n

$$\text{Nul}(A) = \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ax = 0 \right\}$$

then $Ax = 0$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \dots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \dots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

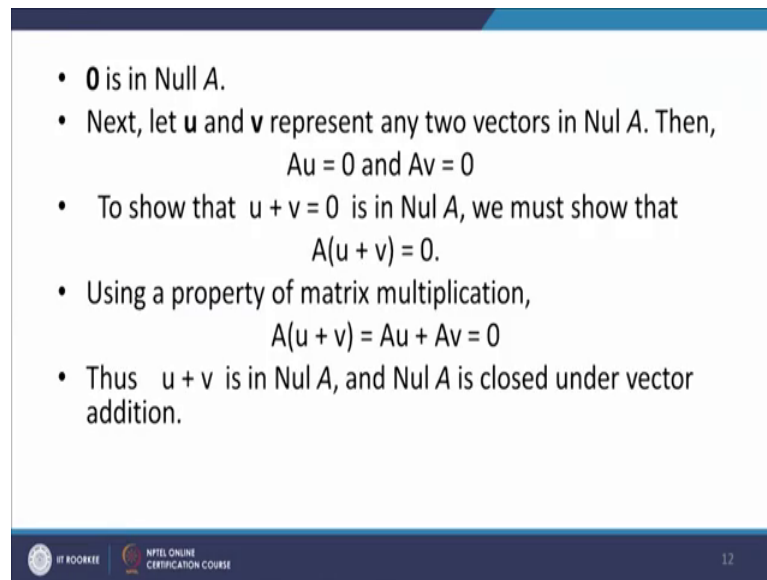
$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n = 0 \\ a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \dots + a_{2n}x_n = 0 \\ \dots \\ a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \dots + a_{mn}x_n = 0 \end{cases}$$

That is null space of a is a set of all x belonging to a \mathbb{R}^n such that x equal to 0. So, null space of A. So, the null space of a m by n matrix a is of the space of \mathbb{R}^n equality in the set of all solutions to a system x equal to 0 of m homogeneous questions.

In an unknowns is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n , see we have suppose A is this one m by n matrix and x is an element of \mathbb{R}^n . So, let us say it has component x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n then Ax equal to 0 gives us an questions in an unknown.

0 is an element of \mathbb{R}^m 0 vectors. So, these equal these gives you a 1×1 , 1×2 and so on a 1 and x n equal to 0 then a 2×1 , 2×2 , a 2 and x n equal to 0 and so, on a m 1×1 , a m 2×2 , a m n x n equal to 0. So, we get m linear equations in an unknown the unknowns are x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n the components of the vector x. So, this sort of solutions of this m homogeneous linear equations in an unknown is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n this we can easily prove. So, let us see how we prove this. So, null space of A the set of solutions of the system one let me say this is system one of the system one is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n . So, let us see we can easily prove that that the null space of A satisfies the 3 properties of a subspace.

(Refer Slide Time: 16:58)



- $\mathbf{0}$ is in Null A .
- Next, let \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} represent any two vectors in Nul A . Then,
 $A\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$ and $A\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$
- To show that $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$ is in Nul A , we must show that
 $A(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{0}$.
- Using a property of matrix multiplication,
 $A(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = A\mathbf{u} + A\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$
- Thus $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$ is in Nul A , and Nul A is closed under vector addition.

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First of all the $\mathbf{0}$ vector; obviously, belongs to null space because we take x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n to be all 0 s, then this system is satisfied. So, $\mathbf{0}$ vector is there a null space of A and let \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} to be any 2 vectors in null space of A , then by the definition of null space of A $A\mathbf{u}$ will be equal to $\mathbf{0}$ vector $A\mathbf{v}$ will be equal to $\mathbf{0}$ vector and then we want to show that $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$ is a null space of A . So, we have to show that $A(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{0}$.

Now, $A(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v})$ by the definite matrix multiplication property is $A\mathbf{u} + A\mathbf{v}$, $A\mathbf{u}$ is $\mathbf{0}$ $A\mathbf{v}$ is $\mathbf{0}$. So, $\mathbf{0} + \mathbf{0}$ vector is $\mathbf{0}$ vector. So, get $A(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{0}$ and therefore, $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$ is in null space of A and so, null space of A is closed under vector addition next we show that null space of A is closed under a scalar multiplication. So, let us say if c is any scalar in the field of A that is field K , then $A(c\mathbf{u}) = cA\mathbf{u}$ where \mathbf{u} is a vector in null space of A .

(Refer Slide Time: 18:09)

- Finally, if c is any scalar, then
$$A(cu) = c(Au) = 0$$
which shows that cu is in $\text{Nul } A$. Thus $\text{Nul } A$ is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n .

Example : Find a spanning set for the null space of the matrix

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & -2 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & -3 & 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

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So, $A(cu)$ by the matrix multiplication property, it can be it is c times Au . So, cAu equal to 0. So, c into 0 is 0. So, we show that the vectors cu is in null space of A and therefore, null space of A is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n and now let us find the spanning set for the null space of the matrix $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & -2 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & -3 & 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$. So, what will do first is that, we will find the general solution of $Ax = 0$. So, did let us reduced the augmented matrix let us write the augmented matrix $[A|0]$ to the echelon form and then A matrix is equal to $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$.

(Refer Slide Time: 18:58)

$[A|0] \sim \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

$x - y + z + t = 0$
 $z + 2t = 0$

Let us write a 0 augmented matrix $A \ 0$. So, 1 minus 1 1 1; 0 and then we have 0 0 1 2; 0 and then we have 0 0 0 0. So, after we reduce the given matrix $A \ 0$ to echelon form will get this matrix. So, this matrix is it we obtained by the row reduced by reduced echelon form. So, be reduced the given matrix $A \ 0$ to echelon form and after we do that.

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$$[A; 0] \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 & 1 & | & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & | & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & | & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x - y + z + t = 0$$

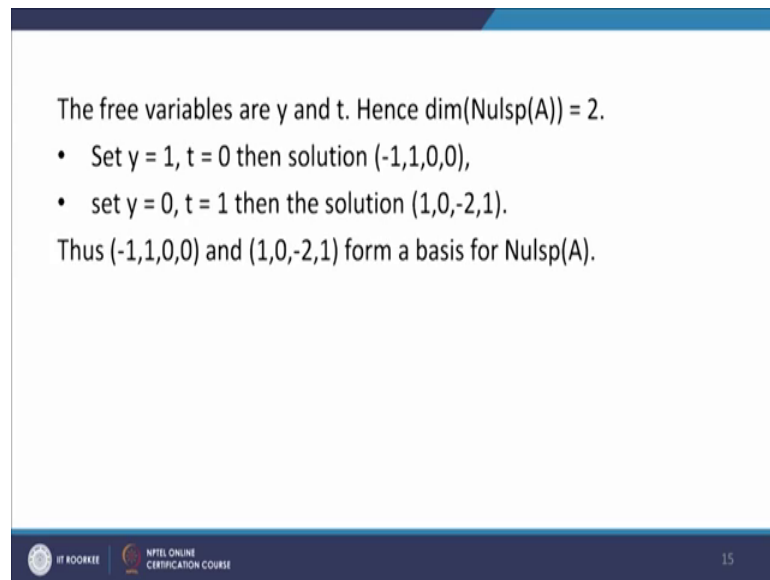
$$z + 2t = 0$$

Let us take y & t as the free variables

$$\dim \text{Null}(A) = 2$$

This is what we get 1 minus 1 1 1; 0, 0 0 1 2; 0, 0 0 0 0; 0 from here this is the row, this is the first column corresponds to the x the second y , then we have z on and then we have t and then we have 0. So, we have the equations x minus y plus z plus t equal to 0 and then y plus 2 t equal to 0. So, z plus 2 t equal to 0. So, z plus 2 t equal to 0 and the last equation is 0 equal to 0.

(Refer Slide Time: 20:34)



The free variables are y and t . Hence $\dim(\text{Nulsp}(A)) = 2$.

- Set $y = 1, t = 0$ then solution $(-1, 1, 0, 0)$,
- set $y = 0, t = 1$ then the solution $(1, 0, -2, 1)$.

Thus $(-1, 1, 0, 0)$ and $(1, 0, -2, 1)$ form a basis for $\text{Nulsp}(A)$.

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So, we from here the 2 variables are free variables we can take them as y and t let us take. So, let us take y and t as the free variables then null space of a dimension of null space of A is equal to 2. So, let us put y equal to 1 and t equal to 0, we will get the solution as $-1 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0$ and then we let us take y equal to 0 t equal to 1, we will get another solution $1 \ 0 \ -2 \ 1$, the 2 vectors are both linearly independent of each other. So, they will form a basis of null space of A with that I would like to end my lecture.

Thank you very much.