

# Self-Adjoint / Hermitian Matrices

- \* Complex Inner Products
- \* Adjoints
- \* Fundamental Matrix Subspaces

## Worksheet

- \* Self-Adjoint Matrices  
 $\Rightarrow$  Spectral Theorem
- \* Fund. Thm. of Linear Algebra

$$A = U \Sigma V^* \leftarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{left} \\ \text{singular} \\ \text{vecs} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{right} \\ \text{singular} \\ \text{vecs} \end{array}$$

## (I) Complex Inner Products (Recap)

$$\langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle = \vec{x}^T \overline{\vec{y}} = \vec{y}^* \vec{x} = \sum x_i \overline{y_i}$$

You can check these satisfy inner product  
 r.l. . .

properties.

① Linearity in 1st Argument

a) Additivity:

$$\langle \vec{x} + \vec{y}, \vec{z} \rangle = \langle \vec{x}, \vec{z} \rangle + \langle \vec{y}, \vec{z} \rangle$$

b) Scaling:

$$\langle c\vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle = c \langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle$$

② Conjugate Symmetry

$$\langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle = \overline{\langle \vec{y}, \vec{x} \rangle}$$

③ Positive-Definiteness

$$\langle \vec{x}, \vec{x} \rangle \geq 0 \quad \text{with} \quad \vec{x} = \vec{0} \iff \langle \vec{x}, \vec{x} \rangle = 0$$

Some notes on complex inner product:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} + \vec{z} \rangle &= (\vec{y} + \vec{z})^* \cdot \vec{x} \\ &= \vec{y}^* \cdot \vec{x} + \vec{z}^* \cdot \vec{x} \\ &= \langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle + \langle \vec{x}, \vec{z} \rangle \end{aligned}$$

Happens to be additive in both args

$$\langle \vec{x}, c\vec{y} \rangle = c^* \vec{y}^* \cdot \vec{x} = \overline{c} \langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle$$

$$= \bar{c} \langle x, y \rangle$$

But scaling only in 1st arg

$$\text{Norm: } \|\vec{v}\| = \sqrt{\langle \vec{v}, \vec{v} \rangle}$$

## II. Adjoint

Technical definition: Consider  $f: U \rightarrow V$

(l.n. map b/w 2 vector spaces)  
U and V

$\Rightarrow$  Then the adjoint of  $f$ ,  $f^*$  is defined as follows:

$$\rightarrow f^*: V \rightarrow U$$

$$\langle f(\vec{u}), \vec{v} \rangle = \langle \vec{u}, f^*(\vec{v}) \rangle$$

$f^*$  has to be a unique linear map that satisfies these properties

Very abstract! :)

$\Rightarrow$  In matrix/vector notation, this

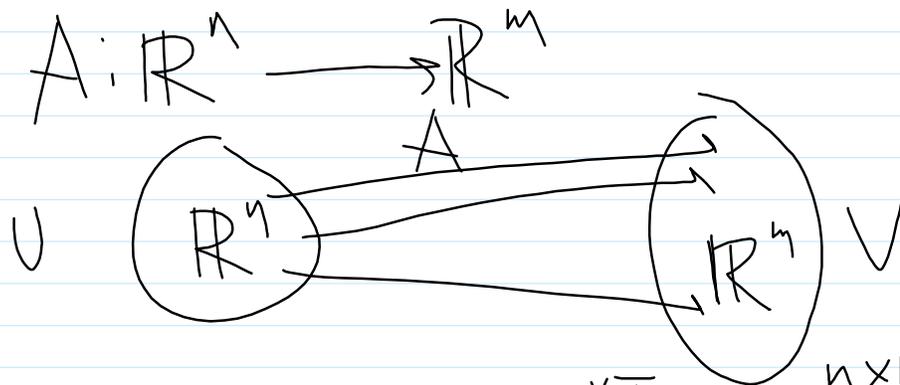
means conjugate transpose i.e.  $\vec{v}^* = \overline{\vec{v}^T}$

means conjugate transpose, i.e.  $v^A = \overline{v^T}$

How to connect to abstract definition?

$$A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$$
$$m \begin{pmatrix} \phantom{0} \\ \phantom{0} \\ \phantom{0} \end{pmatrix}^n \begin{pmatrix} \phantom{0} \\ \phantom{0} \\ \phantom{0} \end{pmatrix}^n = m \begin{pmatrix} \phantom{0} \\ \phantom{0} \\ \phantom{0} \end{pmatrix}^m$$

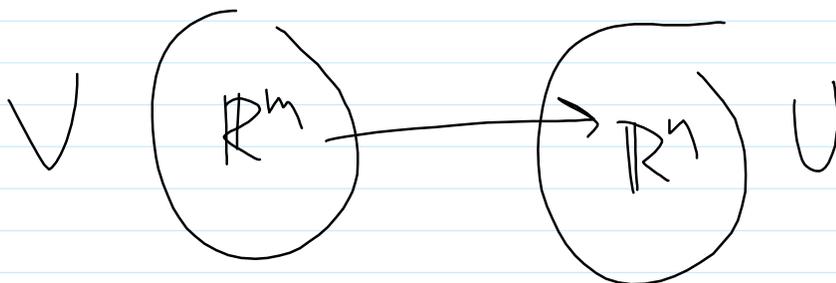
A maps  $\vec{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  to  $\vec{w} \in \mathbb{R}^m$



Then transpose is  $A^T \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$

$n \begin{pmatrix} \phantom{0} \\ \phantom{0} \\ \phantom{0} \end{pmatrix}^m$

$A^T$  maps  $\vec{w} \in \mathbb{R}^m$  to  $\vec{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$



Adjoint adds complex conjugation property  
to match complex inner product property

$$\Rightarrow \langle A\vec{u}, \vec{v} \rangle \stackrel{?}{=} \langle \vec{u}, A^* \vec{v} \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} \hookrightarrow \vec{v}^* A \vec{u} &= (\vec{v}^* A) \vec{u} \\ &= \langle \vec{u}, (\vec{v}^* A)^* \rangle \\ &= \langle \vec{u}, A^* \vec{v}^* \rangle \\ &= \langle \vec{u}, A^* \vec{v} \rangle \end{aligned}$$

Compare to  $\langle f(\vec{u}), \vec{v} \rangle = \langle \vec{u}, f^*(\vec{v}) \rangle$

b) Self-Adjointness / Hermiticity

$$f^* = f$$

e.g.  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$  ← symmetric matrix

Symmetric:  $A^T = A$  (real-valued)

Hermitian:  $A^* = A$  (complex analogue)

# EX: Pauli Matrices and Quantum Computing (C191)

⇒ operators in QM have to be Hermitian if they correspond to observable values, b/c eigenvalues are what is observed and have to be real  
(proved soon!)

2x2 Hermitian matrices:

$$\begin{pmatrix} a+b & c-di \\ \underline{c+di} & a-b \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= a \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + b \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} + c \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + d \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= a \underline{I} + b \sigma_z + c \sigma_x + d \sigma_y$$

$\uparrow \qquad \qquad \uparrow \qquad \qquad \uparrow$

$$u = u_x \hat{x} + u_y \hat{y} + u_z \hat{z}$$

Pauli matrices

$\Rightarrow \{I, \sigma_x, \sigma_y, \sigma_z\}$  form a basis for all  $2 \times 2$  Hermitian matrices

In QC, basic unit of info known as a qubit, which is a  $|1\rangle$  "two-level system"

$|0\rangle$  Essentially, state can be represented by unit vectors in  $\mathbb{C}^2 \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} c_0 \\ c_1 \end{pmatrix}$

Then a single qubit transformation, if we would like to map one qubit state to another qubit state, should follow  $f: \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2$

$\Rightarrow 2 \times 2$  matrix!

like Pauli matrices ...

$\Rightarrow$  Pauli matrices represent basic

## Single qubit transformations

$$\sigma_x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \text{maps } \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ to } \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

"0"                      "1"

$$\Rightarrow \text{"NOT" gate} \quad \text{maps } \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ to } \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

"1"                      "0"

$\sigma_z$ : phase gate

$\sigma_y$ : combination of "NOT" and phase change

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## III. Fundamental Matrix Subspaces

column space:  $\text{span} \{ \text{columns of } A \}$   
 $= C(A)$

row space:  $\text{span} \{ \text{rows of } A \}$   
 $= R(A) = C(A^T)$

null space:  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{set of all vectors} \\ \vec{x}: A\vec{x} = \vec{0} \end{array} \right\} = \text{Null}(A)$

left null ... ..

$$\text{Space} : \left\{ \vec{y} : A^T \vec{y} = \vec{0} \right\} = \text{Null}(A^T)$$

\* dimension: size of the basis  
for a vector space  $V$   
(# basis vectors)

\* rank: dimension of  $C(A)$   
(sometimes called column rank,  
with  $\dim R(A) \rightarrow$  row rank)

Note: common way to compute rank  
is to row reduce and count the  
# "pivots"

$$\begin{pmatrix} \boxed{1} & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & \boxed{1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{pivots}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{row rank} = \text{column rank}}$$

#### IV. Spectral Theorem

Why do we care?

$\Rightarrow$  identifies a class of matrix/

operators that can always  
be ~~\*\*\*~~ diagonalized ~~\*\*\*~~

Diagonalization makes a lot of  
computations easier;

EX:  $\frac{d\vec{x}(t)}{dt} = A\vec{x}(t)$  possible  
coupled  
set of diff eq

$$\frac{d\vec{z}(t)}{dt} = \Lambda \vec{z}(t)$$

uncoupled!

$$\vec{z}(t) = V^{-1} \vec{x}(t) \leftarrow A = V\Lambda V^{-1}$$

EX: matrix exponentiation

$$e^{\begin{bmatrix} & \\ & \end{bmatrix}} = ???$$

$$e^{\begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix}} = \begin{bmatrix} e^{\lambda_1} & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & e^{\lambda_n} \end{bmatrix}$$

**1 Spectral Theorem**

For a complex  $n \times n$  Hermitian matrix  $A$ ,

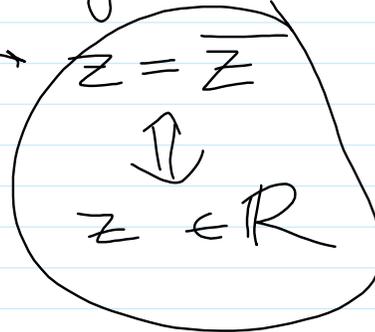
- a) All eigenvalues of  $A$  are real.
- b)  $A$  has  $n$  linearly independent eigenvectors  $\in \mathbb{C}^n$ .
- c)  $A$  has orthogonal eigenvectors, i.e.,  $A = V\Lambda V^{-1} = V\Lambda V^*$ , where  $\Lambda$  is a diagonal matrix and  $V$  is a unitary matrix. We say that  $A$  is orthogonally diagonalizable.

Recall that a matrix  $A$  is Hermitian if  $A = A^*$ . Furthermore, if  $A$  is of the form  $B^*B$  for some arbitrary matrix  $B$ , all of its eigenvalues are non-negative, i.e.,  $\lambda \geq 0$ .

- a) Prove the following: All eigenvalues of a Hermitian matrix  $A$  are real.

Hint: Let  $(\lambda, \vec{v})$  be an eigenvalue/vector pair and use the definition of an eigenvalue to show that  $\lambda \langle \vec{v}, \vec{v} \rangle = \overline{\lambda} \langle \vec{v}, \vec{v} \rangle$ .

real eigenvalues



$$A\vec{v} = \lambda\vec{v}$$

$$\vec{v}^* A\vec{v} = \vec{v}^* \lambda\vec{v}$$

But note:  $A = A^*$

$$\text{LHS: } \vec{v}^* A\vec{v} = (\vec{v}^* A^*)\vec{v} = (A\vec{v})^*\vec{v} = (\lambda\vec{v})^*\vec{v} = \overline{\lambda}\vec{v}^*\vec{v}$$

$$\text{RHS: } \vec{v}^* \lambda\vec{v} = \lambda\vec{v}^*\vec{v}$$

Equate the two sides:

$$\overline{\lambda} (\vec{v}^*\vec{v}) = \lambda (\vec{v}^*\vec{v})$$

$$\Rightarrow \overline{\lambda} = \lambda \Rightarrow \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$$

Alternatively, just using def'n of Hermiticity + inner products

$$\langle A\vec{v}, \vec{v} \rangle = \langle \vec{v}, A^*\vec{v} \rangle = \langle \vec{v}, A\vec{v} \rangle = \overline{\lambda \langle \vec{v}, \vec{v} \rangle} = \lambda \langle \vec{v}, \vec{v} \rangle$$

$$\lambda \langle \vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2 \rangle = \langle \vec{v}_1, A \vec{v}_2 \rangle = \lambda \langle \vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2 \rangle$$

b) Prove the following: For any Hermitian matrix  $A$ , any two eigenvectors corresponding to distinct eigenvalues of  $A$  are orthogonal.

Hint: Use the definition of an eigenvalue to show that  $\lambda_1 \langle \vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2 \rangle = \lambda_2 \langle \vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2 \rangle$ .

Orthogonality:  $\langle \vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2 \rangle = 0$

$\Rightarrow$  Show that  $a \langle \vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2 \rangle = b \langle \vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2 \rangle$

where  $a \neq b$  (e.g.,  $3x = 5x$ )  
 $\Rightarrow x = 0$

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$$A \vec{v}_1 = \lambda_1 \vec{v}_1, \quad A \vec{v}_2 = \lambda_2 \vec{v}_2 \quad \text{where } \lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$$

$$\langle A \vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2 \rangle = \langle \lambda_1 \vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2 \rangle = \lambda_1 \langle \vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2 \rangle$$

But from def'n of Hermiticity:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle A \vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2 \rangle &= \langle \vec{v}_1, A^* \vec{v}_2 \rangle = \langle \vec{v}_1, A \vec{v}_2 \rangle \\ &= \langle \vec{v}_1, \lambda_2 \vec{v}_2 \rangle = \lambda_2 \langle \vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2 \rangle \end{aligned}$$

But  $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2$  (from part (a))

$$\lambda_1 \langle \vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2 \rangle = \lambda_2 \langle \vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2 \rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle \vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2 \rangle = 0 \Rightarrow \vec{v}_1 \perp \vec{v}_2$$

c) Prove the following: For any matrix  $A$ ,  $A^*A$  is Hermitian and only has non-negative eigenvalues.

$$\square (A^*A)^* = A^* A^{**} = A^* A \quad \checkmark$$

(Hermiticity)

$\square$

$$\checkmark (A^*A \vec{v} = \lambda \vec{v})$$

$$(\rightarrow A^*A) \vec{v} = \lambda \vec{v}^* \vec{v}$$

Eigenvalue  
Eggn

$$(\vec{v}^* A^*) A \vec{v} = \lambda \vec{v}^* \vec{v}$$

$$\langle A \vec{v}, A \vec{v} \rangle = \lambda \langle \vec{v}, \vec{v} \rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda = \frac{\langle A \vec{v}, A \vec{v} \rangle}{\langle \vec{v}, \vec{v} \rangle} = \frac{\|A \vec{v}\|^2}{\|\vec{v}\|^2} \geq 0$$

## 2 Fundamental Theorem of Linear Algebra

a) Let  $\vec{v}$  be an eigenvector of nonzero eigenvalue of  $A^*A$ . Show that  $\vec{v} \in \text{Col}(A^*)$ .

$$(A^*A) \vec{v} = \lambda \vec{v} \leftarrow \lambda \neq 0$$

$$A^* (A \vec{v}) = A^* \vec{y} = \lambda \vec{v}$$

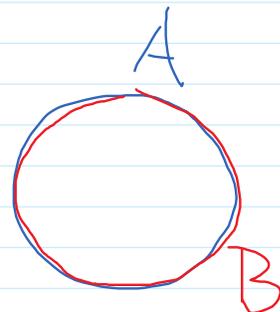
By definition,  $\lambda \vec{v} \in A^*$

(scaling preserved)

$\Rightarrow$  vector space closed under scalar mult., by def'n

b) Show that the two subspaces  $\text{Nul}(A)$  and  $\text{Nul}(A^*A)$  are equal.

Hint: you can show  $A=B$  if  $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq A$



① Suppose  $\vec{x} \in \text{Nul}(A)$

$$A \vec{x} = \vec{0}$$

$$(A^*A) \vec{x} = \vec{0} \quad \therefore \vec{x} \in \text{Nul}(A^*A)$$

$$\forall \vec{x} \quad A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad \vec{x} \in \text{Null}(A^*A) \stackrel{?}{\implies} \vec{x} \in \text{Null}(A)$$

$$A^*A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$$

$$x^* A^* A \vec{x} = \vec{0} \quad \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{By positive} \\ \text{-definiteness} \end{array} \right)$$

$$\langle A\vec{x}, A\vec{x} \rangle = \vec{0}$$

$$\|A\vec{x}\|^2 = 0 \quad \left. \vphantom{\|A\vec{x}\|^2 = 0} \right\} \rightarrow A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$$

$$\therefore \vec{x} \in \text{Null}(A)$$

c) Let  $\vec{u}$  be an eigenvector of eigenvalue 0 of  $A^*A$ . Show that  $\vec{u} \in \text{Null}(A)$ .

$$(A^*A)\vec{u} = \lambda\vec{u} = \vec{0} \quad (\lambda = 0)$$

$$\therefore \vec{u} \in \text{Null}(A^*A)$$

$$\text{From (b), } \therefore \vec{u} \in \text{Null}(A)$$

$$\text{rank } A^* = \text{rank } A = k$$

d) If  $A$  is a  $m \times n$  matrix of rank  $k$  what are the dimensions of  $\text{Col}(A^*)$  and  $\text{Nul}(A)$ ?

Row space

$$\text{row rank} = \dim \mathcal{R}(A) = \text{column rank} = \dim \text{Col}(A)$$

$$\implies \dim(\mathcal{R}(A)) = r, \quad \dim(\text{Nul}(A)) = n - r$$

$$\Rightarrow \dim \text{Col}(A^*) = \text{rank } A = k$$

$$\dim \text{Null}(A) = n - k$$

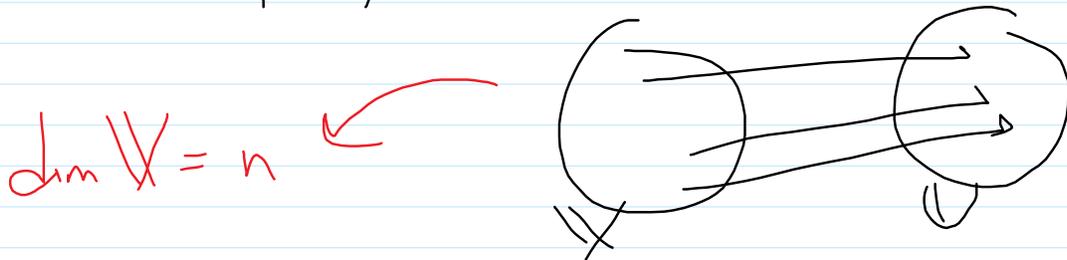
by the rank-nullity theorem

\* Rank-Nullity Theorem:

For an  $m \times n$  matrix  $A: V \rightarrow U$

$$\dim \text{Null}(A) + \text{rank } A = \dim V$$

For example,  $A: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$



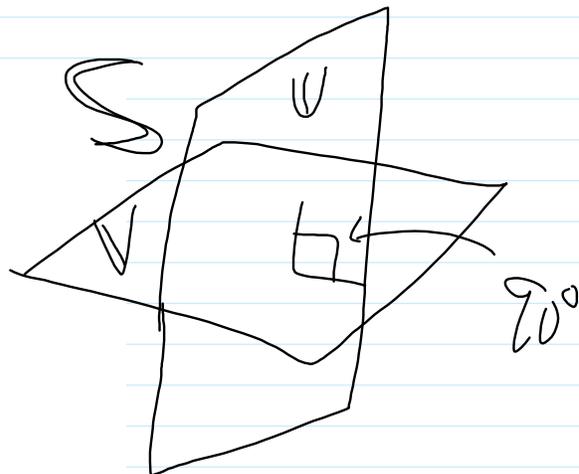
Then  $\dim \text{Null}(A) + \text{rank } A = n$

e) Use parts (a)-(d) to show that  $\text{Col}(A^*)$  is the orthogonal complement of  $\text{Null}(A)$ .  
Use the spectral theorem on the matrix  $A^*A$  to create an orthonormal basis of  $\mathbb{C}^n$ .

$$\text{Null}(A) \perp \text{Col}(A^*)$$

$$A^*A = (n \times m)(m \times n)$$

$$= n \times n \text{ matrix}$$



① By spectral theorem, since  $A^*A$  is

① By spectral theorem, since  $A^*A$  is Hermitian, we can create a full basis of orthonormal eigenvectors

$$\underbrace{\vec{v}_1 \dots \vec{v}_j}_{\lambda_i \neq 0} \quad \underbrace{\vec{v}_{j+1} \dots \vec{v}_n}_{\lambda_i = 0}$$

We will show that the eigenvectors for nonzero eigenvalues of  $A^*A$  correspond to an  $\perp$  basis for  $\text{Col}(A^*)$ , while the eigenvectors for zero eigenvalues correspond to an  $\perp$  basis for  $\text{Null}(A)$

② The eigenvectors of  $A^*A$  w/  $\lambda = 0$  form an orthonormal basis for  $\text{Null}(A^*A)$  by construction.

From part (b),  $\text{Null}(A) = \text{Null}(A^*A)$

Thus, the eigenvectors of  $A^*A$  for  $\lambda = 0$  also form an  $\perp$  basis for  $\text{Null}(A)$

③ Since  $\text{Null}(A) = \text{Null}(A^*A)$ ,  
 $\dim \text{Null}(A) = \dim \text{Null}(A^*A)$   
 $\parallel$

$n-k$  from part (d)

Then, using the rank-nullity theorem on  $n \times n$  matrix  $A^*A$ :

$$\text{rank } A^*A + \dim \text{Null}(A^*A) = n$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{rank } A^*A + (n-k) = n$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{rank } A^*A = k = \text{rank } A = \text{rank } A^*$$

Then  $\text{Col}(A^*)$  and  $\text{Col}(A^*A)$  have the same dimension!

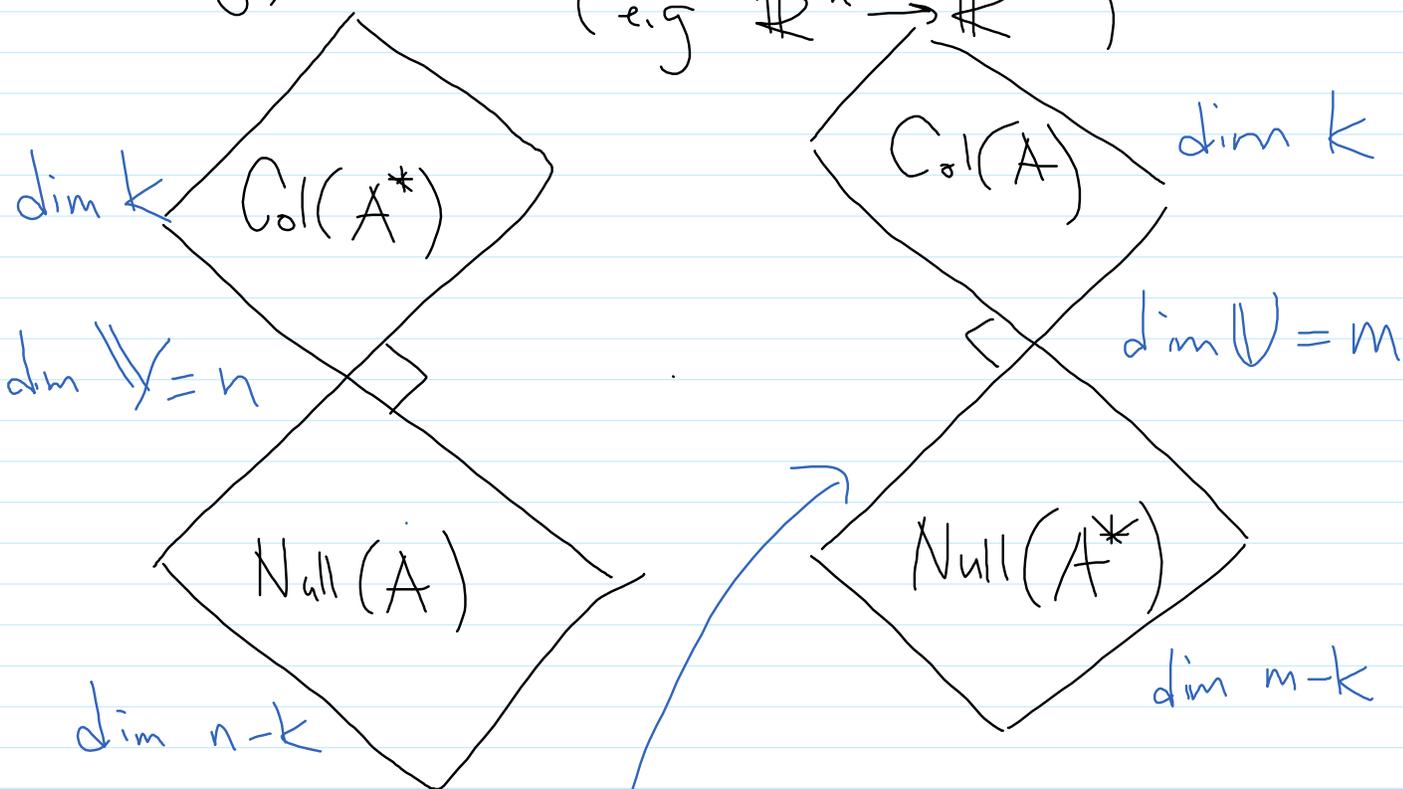
Note that from part (a), the eigenvectors of  $A^*A$  for nonzero eigenvalues are part of  $C(A^*)$ . Since  $\dim \text{Col}(A^*) = \dim \text{Col}(A^*A) = k$  the  $k$  eigenvectors of  $A^*A$  s.t.  $\lambda \neq 0$  can be used to form an  $\perp$  basis for  $\text{Col}(A^*)$ .

We have split the  $n$  eigenvectors of  $A^*A$  into  $k$  eigenvectors ( $\lambda \neq 0$ ) that form a basis for  $\text{Col}(A^*)$  and  $n-k$  eigenvectors ( $\lambda = 0$ ) that form a basis for  $\text{Null}(A)$ . By the spectral theorem, these

basis sets are orthogonal.

$$\therefore \text{Col}(A^*) \perp \text{Null}(A)$$

Visually, for  $A: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$   
(e.g.  $\mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ )



Note: A similar result can be proved for  $\text{Col}(A)$  and  $\text{Null}(A^*)$ , i.e.

they are orthogonal complements

(except this time  $\text{Col}(A)$  and  $\text{Null}(A^*)$

are subspaces of  $\mathbb{R}^m$ , so

$$\dim \text{Col}(A) + \dim \text{Null}(A^*) = \dim(\mathbb{R}^m)$$

$$\dim \text{Col}(A) + \dim \text{Null}(A^*) = \dim(U)$$