

**Topics:** The four fundamental subspaces.

**Read:** Pages 1–2 of *The Four Fundamental Subspaces: 4 Lines* by Gil Strang.

[https://web.mit.edu/18.06/www/Essays/newpaper\\_ver3.pdf](https://web.mit.edu/18.06/www/Essays/newpaper_ver3.pdf)

**Do:** Unless otherwise specified, let  $\mathbf{A}$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix, which we can associate with a linear map  $\mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ . Let  $C(\mathbf{A})$ ,  $C(\mathbf{A}^T)$ ,  $N(\mathbf{A})$ , and  $N(\mathbf{A}^T)$  denote the column space, row space, nullspace and left nullspace, respectively.

1. For each of the following part, construct a matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  with the specific properties specified. In this problem,  $n \times 1$  column vectors are written as ordered  $n$ -tuples.
  - (a) The column space contains  $(1, 1, 1)$  and the nullspace is the line of multiples of  $(1, 1, 1, 1)$ .
  - (b)  $\mathbf{A}$  is a  $2 \times 2$  matrix whose column space equals its nullspace.
  - (c) The nullspace of  $\mathbf{A}$  consists of all linear combinations of  $(2, 2, 1, 0)$  and  $(3, 1, 0, 1)$ .  
[Hint: Try a  $2 \times 4$  matrix, and think of the “column picture.”]
  - (d) The nullspace of  $\mathbf{A}$  consists of all multiples of  $(4, 3, 2, 1)$ .
  - (e) The column space contains  $(1, 1, 5)$  and  $(0, 3, 1)$  and the nullspace contains  $(1, 1, 2)$ .
2. Suppose we have a system  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  with particular solution  $\mathbf{x}_p = (2, 4, 0)$  and whose “homogeneous” solution  $\mathbf{x}_n$  (i.e., the nullspace of  $\mathbf{A}$ ) is the set of scalar multiples of  $(1, 1, 1)$ .
  - (a) Construct such a  $2 \times 3$  system. Sketch the “grid picture.”
  - (b) Why can’t there be a  $1 \times 3$  system satisfying these conditions? Sketch the “grid picture” and show how it fails.
3. Let  $\mathbf{A}$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix.
  - (a) Prove that the nullspace of  $\mathbf{A}$  is orthogonal to the row space.
  - (b) Prove that the column space of  $\mathbf{A}$  is orthogonal to the left nullspace.