The Long Theorems
Linear algebra (Math 129A)

In this course, we have encountered the following TFAE theorems about matrices and their column spaces. Let A be an $n \times k$ matrix.

When A is "fat" (i.e., $k \geq n$), we have seen that:

Theorem (The Fat Matrix Theorem). *Let A be an $n \times k$ matrix, and let $T : \mathcal{R}^k \to \mathcal{R}^n$ be the linear transformation defined by $T(\mathbf{x}) = A\mathbf{x}$ for $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{R}^k$. Then the following are equivalent:*

1. *The columns of A span $\mathcal{R}^n$.*
2. *For every $\mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{R}^n$, $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ has at least one solution $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{R}^k$. (I.e., the equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ is consistent for every $\mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{R}^n$.)*
3. $\operatorname{rank} A$ *is equal to the height of the matrix A.*
4. $\operatorname{rref} A$ *has no zero rows.*
5. *T is onto.*

The Fat Matrix Theorem also holds for "tall" matrices ($m > n$), but in that case, all of the conditions are always false.

Similarly, when A is tall ($n \geq k$), we have seen that:

Theorem (The Tall Matrix Theorem). *Let A be an $n \times k$ matrix, and let $T : \mathcal{R}^k \to \mathcal{R}^n$ be the linear transformation defined by $T(\mathbf{x}) = A\mathbf{x}$ for $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{R}^k$. Then the following are equivalent:*

1. *The columns of A are linearly independent.*
2. *The only solution to $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ is $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$.*
3. *For every $\mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{R}^n$, $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ has at most one solution $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{R}^k$.*
4. *The columns of* $\operatorname{rref} A$ *are $\mathbf{e}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{e}_k$.*
5. *Every column of A is a pivot column.*
6. *Every column of* $\operatorname{rref} A$ *is a pivot column.*
7. $\operatorname{rank} A = k$ *(the width of the matrix A).*
8. $\operatorname{nullity} A = 0$.
9. $\operatorname{Null} A$ *is the zero subspace.*
10. *T is one-to-one.*
11. $\operatorname{Null} T$ *is the zero subspace.*

Again, the Tall Matrix Theorem also holds for fat matrices ($n > m$), but in that case, all of the conditions are always false.

When A is square ($n = k$), we combine the above two theorems and a few other things we have seen to get:

Theorem (The Long Theorem). *Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix, and let $T : \mathcal{R}^n \to \mathcal{R}^n$ be the linear transformation defined by $T(\mathbf{x}) = A\mathbf{x}$ for $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{R}^n$. Then the following are equivalent:*

1. *A is invertible.*
2. *There exists an $n \times n$ matrix B such that $BA = I_n$.*
3. *There exists an $n \times n$ matrix C such that $AC = I_n$.*
4. *Every column of A is a pivot column.*
5. *Every column of* $\operatorname{rref} A$ *is a pivot column.*
6. $\operatorname{rref} A$ *has no zero rows.*
7. $\operatorname{rref} A = I_n$.
8. *The only solution to $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ is $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$.*
9. *For every $\mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{R}^n$, $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ has at least one solution $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{R}^n$. (I.e., the equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ is consistent for every $\mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{R}^m$.)*
10. *For every $\mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{R}^n$, $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ has at most one solution $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{R}^n$.*
11. $\operatorname{rank} A = n$.
12. $\operatorname{nullity} A = 0$.
13. $\operatorname{Null} A$ *is the zero subspace.*
14. *The columns of A span $\mathcal{R}^n$.*
15. *The columns of A are linearly independent.*
16. *The columns of A are a basis for $\mathcal{R}^n$.*
17. *T is onto.*
18. *T is one-to-one.*
19. *T is invertible.*
20. $\operatorname{Null} T$ *is the zero subspace.*
21. *A is a product of elementary matrices.*
22. $\det A \neq 0$.

Exercise: Explain why the conditions of the Long Theorem are true if and only if 0 is *not* an eigenvalue of A. (You can think of this as being yet another equivalent condition in the Long Theorem.)