

Special Subspaces

How do we characterize subspaces, $C(A)$ and $N(A)$ in particular?

Some subspaces are easily visualized. For example \mathbb{R}^n is a subspace of itself! And we know what \mathbb{R}^n looks like.

$Z = \{0\}$ is also a subspace, i.e. a general linear combo of two vectors in Z is

$$c_1 0 + c_2 0 = 0 + 0 = 0$$

which is back in Z . And Z is easily visualized: it is just the origin in \mathbb{R}^n .

\mathbb{R}^n and Z are called the **trivial subspaces** of \mathbb{R}^n

Note: Every subset S of \mathbb{R}^n that is also a subspace **must contain the zero vector** (by closure under scalar multiplication):

$$\underbrace{0}_{\text{real \#}} \times \underbrace{v}_{\text{any vector in } S} = \underbrace{0}_{\text{zero vector}}$$