EECS 16A Designing Information Devices and Systems I
Spring 2021 Discussion 1B

1. Finding The Bright Cave

Nara the one-handed druid and Kody the one-handed ranger find themselves in dire straits. Before them is a cliff with four cave entrances arranged in a square: two upper caves and two lower caves. Each entrance emits a certain amount of light, and the two wish to find exactly the amount of light coming from each cave. Here's the catch: after contracting a particularly potent strain of ghoul fever, our intrepid heroes are only able to see the total intensity of light before them (so their eyes operate like a single-pixel camera). Kody and Nara are capable adventurers, but they don't know any linear algebra – and they need your help.

Kody proposes an imaging strategy where he uses his hand to completely block the light from two caves at a time. He is able to take measurements using the following four masks (black means the light is blocked from that cave):

Cave Labels

x_1	x_2
x_3	x_4

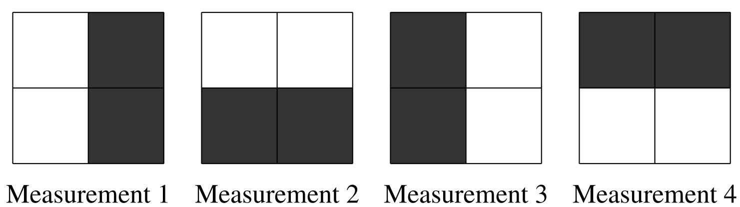

Figure 1: Four image masks.

(a) Let $\vec{x}$ be the four-element vector that represents the magnitude of light emanating from the four cave entrances. Write a matrix $\mathbf{K}$ that performs the masking process in Figure 1 on the vector $\vec{x}$, such that $\mathbf{K}\vec{x}$ is the result of the four measurements.

(b) Does Kody's set of masks give us a unique solution for all four caves' light intensities? Why or why not?

(c) Nara, in her infinite wisdom, places her one hand diagonally across the entrances, covering two of the cave entrances. However, her hand is not wide enough, letting in 50% of the light from the caves covered and 100% of the light from the caves not covered. The following diagram shows the percentage of light let through from each cave:

50%	100%
100%	50%

Does this additional measurement give them enough information to solve the problem? Why or why not?

2. Proofs

Definition: A set of vectors $\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \ldots \vec{v}_n\}$ is **linearly dependent** if there exists constants c_1, c_2, $\ldots$ c_n such that $\sum_{i=1}^{i=n} c_i \vec{v}_i = \vec{0}$ and at least one c_i is non-zero.

This condition intuitively states that it is possible to express any vector from the set in terms of the others.

(a) Suppose for some non-zero vector $\vec{x}$, $\mathbf{A}\vec{x} = \vec{0}$. Prove that the columns of $\mathbf{A}$ are linearly dependent.

(b) For $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, suppose there exist two unique vectors $\vec{x}_1$ and $\vec{x}_2$ that both satisfy $\mathbf{A}\vec{x} = \vec{b}$, that is, $\mathbf{A}\vec{x}_1 = \vec{b}$ and $\mathbf{A}\vec{x}_2 = \vec{b}$. Prove that the columns of $\mathbf{A}$ are linearly dependent.

(c) Let $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ be a matrix for which there exists a non-zero $\vec{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $\mathbf{A}\vec{y} = \vec{0}$. Let $\vec{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ be some non zero vector. Show that if there is one solution to the system of equations $\mathbf{A}\vec{x} = \vec{b}$, then there are infinitely many solutions.

