

1 Let  $v, w \in M_{n \times 1}(F)$  be non-zero column vectors.

2 Let  $A = vw^t \in M_{n \times n}(F)$ .

3 **Claim.**  $\text{rank } A = 1$ .

4 *Proof.* Take any  $x \in M_{n \times 1}(F)$ .

5 Consider  $Ax$ .

$$Ax = (vw^t)x \tag{1}$$

$$= v(w^tx) \mid \text{Associativity of Matrix Multiplication} \tag{2}$$

6 Note that  $w^tx \in M_{1 \times 1}$ , since  $w^t \in M_{1 \times n}$ ,  $x \in M_{n \times 1}$ .

7 Thus  $v(w^tx)$  corresponds to the product of the vector  $v$  and the scalar which is the  
8 only entry in  $w^tx$ . Therefore,  $\exists (w^tx \in F) : v(w^tx) = w^tx[v$ .

9 Since  $w$  is non-zero, then  $w^t$  is also non-zero. Thus,  $w^tx$  is also non-zero for some  
10 non-zero  $x$ .

11 Since  $x$  is arbitrary and  $v$  is non-zero, then  $\text{Im } A$  is spanned by the vector  $v$ .

12 Hence,  $\text{rank } A = 1$ , as required. □