

Let A be the matrix below on the left, its row reduced echelon form is on the right.

Let T be the linear operator associated to A .

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 5 & 9 & -34 \\ 2 & 2 & 6 & 1 & -22 \\ 3 & 3 & 7 & 2 & -28 \\ 4 & 4 & 8 & 3 & -34 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

1) What is the domain of T ?

\mathbb{R}^5 (Look at the number of columns, this is where the input lives)

2) What is the codomain of T ?

\mathbb{R}^4 (Look at the number of rows, this is where the output lives)

3) What is the range of T ?

Recall how a linear operator is defined via a matrix equation; we're interested in the column space:

$$\text{span} \left(\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 6 \\ 7 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 9 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -34 \\ -22 \\ -28 \\ -34 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \right) = \text{span} \left(\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 6 \\ 7 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 9 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \right)$$

4) What is a basis for the range of T ?

Looking at the reduced form, we see that there are pivots in the 1st, 3rd, and 4th columns:

$$\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 6 \\ 7 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 9 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

5) What is the kernel of T ?

By solving for each variable starting from the right, we find that:

$$\begin{aligned} x_5 &\in \mathbb{R} \\ x_4 &= 2x_5 \\ x_3 &= 3x_5 \\ x_2 &\in \mathbb{R} \\ x_1 &= -x_2 + x_5 \end{aligned}$$

We must put these into a vector and those vectors into a set to obtain the kernel:

$$\ker(T) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} x_2, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} x_5 : x_2, x_5 \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$