



von Neumann algebras contain the range
projections of its elements

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- Let T be an operator in a von Neumann algebra \mathcal{M} acting on an Hilbert space H . Then the orthogonal projection onto the range of T and the orthogonal projection onto the kernel of T both belong to \mathcal{M} .

Proof : Let $T = VR$ be the polar decomposition of T with $\text{Ker}V = \text{Ker}R$.

By the result on the <http://planetmath.org/PolarDecompositionInVonNeumannAlgebraspace> entry we see that $V \in \mathcal{M}$.

As V is a partial isometry, VV^* is the () projection onto the range of T , and $I - V^*V$ is the () projection onto the kernel of T , where I is the identity operator in \mathcal{M} .

Therefore the () projections onto the range and kernel of T both belong to \mathcal{M} . \square