

Let E be a Banach space, and let $T \in L(E)$.

To show: $\ker T^* = (\operatorname{ran} T)^\perp$

Proof. Let $x \in E$ such that $T^*x = 0$. Let $y \in H$. One sees that

$$\langle y, T^*x \rangle = \langle y, 0 \rangle = 0$$

Using the adjoint operator one obtains

$$\langle Ty, x \rangle = 0.$$

This holds for all $y \in H$ and $x \in \ker T^*$, and hence $x \in (\operatorname{ran} T)^\perp$.

For the reverse direction, let $x \in E$. Let $z \in \ker T^*$. Observe that

$$\langle z, Tx \rangle = \langle T^*z, x \rangle = 0,$$

implying $Tx \in (\ker T^*)^\perp$.

In the end, one obtains $\ker T^* = (\operatorname{ran} T)^\perp$. □

Let H be a Hilbert space, and let $F \in L(E)$. **To show:** $\ker F = \overline{(\operatorname{ran} F^*)}^\perp$.

Proof. It is already known that $\ker T^* = (\operatorname{ran} T)^\perp$ in a Banach space for any linear and bounded operator T . Now, set $T = F^*$, and one obtains $\ker F = (\operatorname{ran} F^*)^\perp$, since it holds $F^{**} = F$ for a reflexive space. Knowing that $S^\perp = \overline{S}^\perp$ for any subset $S \subset H$, one immediately sees $\ker F = (\operatorname{ran} F^*)^\perp = \overline{(\operatorname{ran} F^*)}^\perp$. □

To show: Let H be an inner product space. $S^\perp = \overline{S}^\perp$ for any subset $S \subset H$.

Proof. Let $x \in S^\perp$. Per definition, one has $\langle x, y \rangle = 0$ for all $y \in S$. We want to show that even $\langle x, y \rangle$ holds for all $y \in \overline{S}$. Let $y \in \overline{S}$ with $\lim y_n = y$ with $y_n \in S$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Observe that

$$0 = \lim \langle x, y_n \rangle = \langle x, y \rangle.$$

Thus, $S^\perp \subset \overline{S}^\perp$. For the other direction, note that $S \subset \overline{S}$, and as a result, one gets $\overline{S}^\perp \subset S^\perp$.

In the end, $S^\perp = \overline{S}^\perp$. □