



## Why

When is a linear transformation *onto*? In other words, when is the range the whole space? This question is a bit more involved, but we will start with observing in this sheet that the range of a linear map happens to be a subspace.

## Definition

For a linear transformation  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$ , we refer to  $\text{range}(T)$  as the *range space* (or *image space*) of  $T$ .

**Proposition 1.** *Suppose  $T \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$ . Then  $\text{range } T$  is a subspace of  $W$ .*

*Proof.* We verify that  $\text{range}(T)$  contains 0 and is closed under vector addition and scalar multiplication. Clearly  $T(0) = 0$ , so  $0 \in \text{range } T$ . Next, suppose  $w_1, w_2 \in \text{range } T \subset W$ . So there exists  $v_1, v_2 \in V$  so that

$$Tv_1 = w_1 \text{ and } Tv_2 = w_2$$

We conclude  $w_1 + w_2 = Tv_1 + Tv_2 = T(v_1 + v_2)$ . So  $w_1 + w_2 \in \text{range } T$ . Likewise, if  $w \in \text{range } T$ , then there exists  $v \in V$  such that  $w = Tv$ . So then  $\lambda w = \lambda Tv = T(\lambda v)$ , and so  $\lambda w \in \text{range } T$ .  $\square$

## Examples

To come.



