

# Question 1

Monday, October 2, 2023

9:49 AM

1. Answer the following questions.

- (a) Do elementary row operations affect a matrix's column space? Justify your response.
- (b) Do elementary row operations affect a matrix's null space? Justify your response.

a) Yes they do. Consider a matrix with more than 1 row and 1 column. We if the second row is non-zero, then the span of the column space of matrix exists in  $\mathbb{R}^n$   $n > 1$ . But ERO can reduce elements in subsequent columns down to 1 and eliminate all other rows to zero making the first row only non-zero. This makes col space span  $\mathbb{R}^1$ , changing it.

b) No. The nullspace is the set of vectors where  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$ . Consider matrix  $A$  and its  $\text{RREF}(A) = B$ . Since  $A$  and  $B$  are row-equivalent, meaning  $\exists$  a set of EROs to turn  $B \rightleftharpoons A$ , then  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$  also means  $B\vec{x} = \vec{0}$ . as such, the EROs maintain the relationship between rows and the nullspace is unchanged.

$$A\vec{x} = \vec{0} \quad \& \quad B\vec{x} = \vec{0}$$