

4.7 Change of Basis

Given a vector space V and a basis $\mathcal{B} = \{\vec{b}_1, \dots, \vec{b}_n\}$ for V , we can describe any vector in V as a linear combination of the vectors in $\mathcal{B}$

$$\vec{v} = x_1 \vec{b}_1 + x_2 \vec{b}_2 + \dots + x_n \vec{b}_n$$

where the vector $[\vec{v}]_{\mathcal{B}} = \vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}$ is the coordinate vector and $\vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$

We know that for a particular $\vec{v} \in V$, there is a unique coordinate vector — for a particular basis...

Given another basis, say $\mathcal{C} = \{\vec{c}_1, \vec{c}_2, \dots, \vec{c}_n\}$, we have

$$\vec{v} = y_1 \vec{c}_1 + y_2 \vec{c}_2 + \dots + y_n \vec{c}_n$$

and $[\vec{v}]_{\mathcal{C}} = \vec{y} = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix}$ is the coordinate vector of $\vec{v}$ relative to the basis $\mathcal{C}$, and, as before, $\vec{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

Q1: what is the relationship between $\vec{x}$ and $\vec{y}$?

Q2: given $\vec{x}$, can we find $\vec{y}$ and vice versa?

A1: Both $\vec{x}$ and $\vec{y}$ are coordinates for $\vec{v}$ but wrt different bases.

A2: Well, let's see...

Ex Consider $\mathbb{R}^2$. If $\beta = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ and $\epsilon = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$

then

$$\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix} = 5 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + (-3) \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{So } [\vec{v}]_{\beta} = \vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Now, what is necessary to be able to find $[\vec{v}]_{\epsilon}$?

$$\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} [\vec{v}]_{\beta} \qquad \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} [\vec{v}]_{\epsilon}$$

So

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} [\vec{v}]_{\epsilon} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} [\vec{v}]_{\beta}$$

So

$$[\vec{v}]_{\epsilon} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} [\vec{v}]_{\beta}$$

$$[\vec{v}]_{\epsilon} = \frac{1}{-2} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} [\vec{v}]_{\beta}$$

$$[\vec{v}]_{\epsilon} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} [\vec{v}]_{\beta}$$

$$\text{So } [\vec{v}]_{\epsilon} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{check: } \vec{v} = 1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + 4 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix} \checkmark$$

In general: Both $B = \{\vec{b}_1, \dots, \vec{b}_n\}$ and $C = \{\vec{c}_1, \dots, \vec{c}_n\}$ are bases for $\mathbb{R}^n$. Then if

$$\vec{v} = [\vec{b}_1, \dots, \vec{b}_n] [\vec{v}]_B = [\vec{c}_1, \dots, \vec{c}_n] [\vec{v}]_C$$

We find

$$[\vec{v}]_C = [\vec{c}_1, \dots, \vec{c}_n]^{-1} [\vec{b}_1, \dots, \vec{b}_n] [\vec{v}]_B$$

or

$$[\vec{v}]_C = \sum_{c \in C} [\vec{v}]_B$$

where

$$P_{c \leftarrow B} = [\vec{c}_1, \dots, \vec{c}_n]^{-1} [\vec{b}_1, \dots, \vec{b}_n]$$

Notice that $P_{c \leftarrow B}^{-1} = [\vec{b}_1, \dots, \vec{b}_n]^{-1} [\vec{c}_1, \dots, \vec{c}_n]$ and

$$[\vec{v}]_B = P_{c \leftarrow B}^{-1} [\vec{v}]_C = \sum_{B \leftarrow C} [\vec{v}]_C$$

$$\text{So } \sum_{B \leftarrow C} P_{c \leftarrow B}^{-1} = P_{c \leftarrow B}$$

To compute $\sum_{c \leftarrow B} P_{c \leftarrow B}$ we can reduce

$$[\vec{c}_1, \dots, \vec{c}_n \mid \vec{b}_1, \dots, \vec{b}_n] \sim \left[I \mid \sum_{c \leftarrow B} P_{c \leftarrow B} \right]$$

(think of row op. as mult. by elementary matrices)

For a general vector space V , assume 2 bases

$$\mathcal{B} = \{\vec{b}_1, \dots, \vec{b}_n\} \quad \mathcal{C} = \{\vec{c}_1, \dots, \vec{c}_n\}$$

for any $\vec{v} \in V$

$$\vec{v} = x_1 \vec{b}_1 + \dots + x_n \vec{b}_n$$

$$\begin{aligned} [\vec{v}]_{\mathcal{C}} &= [x_1 \vec{b}_1 + \dots + x_n \vec{b}_n]_{\mathcal{C}} \\ &= x_1 [\vec{b}_1]_{\mathcal{C}} + \dots + x_n [\vec{b}_n]_{\mathcal{C}} \end{aligned}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} [\vec{b}_1]_{\mathcal{C}} & \dots & [\vec{b}_n]_{\mathcal{C}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} [\vec{b}_1]_{\mathcal{C}} & \dots & [\vec{b}_n]_{\mathcal{C}} \end{bmatrix} [\vec{v}]_{\mathcal{B}}$$

If $P_{\mathcal{C}\mathcal{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} [\vec{b}_1]_{\mathcal{C}} & \dots & [\vec{b}_n]_{\mathcal{C}} \end{bmatrix}$ then

$$[\vec{v}]_{\mathcal{C}} = P_{\mathcal{C}\mathcal{B}} [\vec{v}]_{\mathcal{B}}$$

Key idea: trying to find coordinate vectors for $\vec{v}$ w.r.t. $\mathcal{C}$, need vectors in $\mathcal{B}$ expressed in terms of vectors in $\mathcal{C}$, hence $[\vec{b}_i]_{\mathcal{C}}$ are the columns in $P_{\mathcal{C}\mathcal{B}}$

Example : Let $B = \{1+t^2, t-2t^2, 1-t\}$
 $C = \{1, t, t^2\}$

A) Find $P_{C \leftarrow B}$

$$\vec{b}_1 = 1 \cdot 1 + 0 \cdot t + 1 \cdot t^2 \rightarrow [\vec{b}_1]_C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\vec{b}_2 = 0 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot t - 2 \cdot t^2 \rightarrow [\vec{b}_2]_C = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\vec{b}_3 = 1 \cdot 1 - 1 \cdot t + 0 \cdot t^2 \rightarrow [\vec{b}_3]_C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P_{C \leftarrow B} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & -2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

B) Find $[5-2t]_B$

$$\text{Note that } [5-2t]_C = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\therefore [5-2t]_B = P_{B \leftarrow C} \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\therefore P_{C \leftarrow B} [5-2t]_B = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & -2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{Solve to find } \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{So } [5-2t]_B = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{Check } 2(1+t^2) + 1(t-2t^2) + 3(1-t).$$

$$= 2 + 2t^2 + t - 2t^2 + 3 - 3t$$

$$= 5 - 2t + 0t^2 \quad \checkmark$$

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$$P_2 \quad B = \{1 - 2t + t^2, 3 - 5t + 4t^2, 2t + 3t^2\}$$

$$C = \{1, t, t^2\}$$

Find $P_{C \leftarrow B}$

$$\text{Need } P_{C \leftarrow B} = \begin{bmatrix} [\vec{b}_1]_C & [\vec{b}_2]_C & [\vec{b}_3]_C \end{bmatrix}$$

$$[\vec{b}_1]_C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{since } (1)1 + (-2)t + (1)t^2 = \vec{b}_1$$

$$[\vec{b}_2]_C = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -5 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$[\vec{b}_3]_C = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\rightarrow P_{C \leftarrow B} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 \\ -2 & -5 & 2 \\ 1 & 4 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{Consider } \vec{v} = -1 + 2t \quad [\vec{v}]_C = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 \\ -2 & -5 & 2 \\ 1 & 4 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 5 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 \\ -2 & -5 & 2 \\ 1 & 4 & 3 \end{bmatrix} [\vec{v}]_B \rightarrow [\vec{v}]_B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 \\ -2 & -5 & 2 \\ 1 & 4 & 3 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 & : & -1 \\ -2 & -5 & 2 & : & 2 \\ 1 & 4 & 3 & : & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & : & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & : & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & : & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$[\vec{v}]_B = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{Check } 5(1 - 2t + t^2) - 2(3 - 5t + 4t^2) + 1(2t + 3t^2)$$

$$= 5 - 6 - 10t + 10t + 2t + 5t^2 - 8t^2 + 3t^2$$

$$= -1 + 2t = -1 + 2t \quad \checkmark$$