

4.4: Coordinate Systems
Math 220: Linear Algebra

Theorem 7 The Unique Representation Theorem
Let $B = \{b_1, \dots, b_n\}$ be a basis for a vector space V . Then for each x in V , there exists a unique set of scalars c_1, \dots, c_n such that

$$x = c_1 b_1 + \dots + c_n b_n$$

Proof: Let $\vec{x} \in V$ be given. Assume there are two representations \vec{x} wrt B . So $\vec{x} = a_1 b_1 + \dots + a_n b_n$ and $\vec{x} = c_1 b_1 + \dots + c_n b_n$
 $\Rightarrow \vec{0} = \vec{x} - \vec{x} = (a_1 - c_1)b_1 + \dots + (a_n - c_n)b_n$
 there is only the trivial solution to the homogeneous equation since basis vectors are LI.
 $\Rightarrow a_i - c_i = 0$ or $a_i = c_i$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$
 $\therefore \vec{x}$ has a unique representation.

Definition
Suppose $B = \{b_1, \dots, b_n\}$ is a basis for V and x is in V . The coordinates of x relative to the basis B (or the B -coordinates of x) are the weights c_1, \dots, c_n such that $x = c_1 b_1 + \dots + c_n b_n$.

We call this vector the **coordinate vector of \vec{x} (relative to basis B)** or the **B -coordinate vector of \vec{x}**

$x \mapsto [x]_B$ is the **coordinate mapping** (determined by B)

Ex 1: Consider a basis $B = \{b_1, b_2\}$ for \mathbb{R}^2 , where $b_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ and $b_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

Suppose an x in \mathbb{R}^2 has the coordinate vector $[x]_B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ find x



$$P_B [x]_B = \vec{x}$$

Ex 2: The entries in the vector $x = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$ are the coordinates of x relative to the standard basis $e = \{e_1, e_2\}$, since

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} = 1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + 6 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = e_1 + 6e_2$$

If $e = \{e_1, e_2\}$, then $[x]_e = x$.



See Example 3 on page 219.

Ex 3: Let $b_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$, $b_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$, $x = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$, and $B = \{b_1, b_2\}$. Find the coordinate vector $[x]_B$ of x relative to B .

⊛ row reduction

$$[x]_B = \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

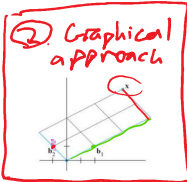
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & | & 4 \\ 2 & 1 & | & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & | & 4 \\ 0 & -1 & | & 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & | & 11 \\ 0 & -1 & | & 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

so $[x]_B = \begin{bmatrix} 11 \\ -7 \end{bmatrix}$



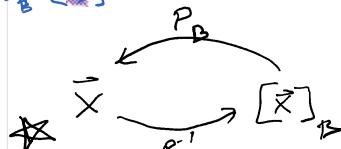
$$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

$$[x]_{\text{polar}} = \begin{bmatrix} r \\ \theta \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\vec{x} \mapsto [x]_{\text{polar}}$$

mapping $x = r \cos \theta$
 $y = r \sin \theta$

$$P_B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ b_1 & b_2 \end{bmatrix}$$



⊛ change of basis matrix: P_B

$$P_B [x]_B = \vec{x} \iff [x]_B = P_B^{-1} \vec{x}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \iff \frac{1}{ad-bc} \begin{bmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} [x]_B = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$[x]_B = \frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 11 \\ -7 \end{bmatrix}$$

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The matrix P_B changes the B -coordinates of a vector x into the standard coordinates for x . An analogous change of coordinates can be carried out in \mathbb{R}^n for a basis $B = \{b_1, \dots, b_n\}$. Let

$$P_B = [b_1 \ b_2 \ \dots \ b_n]$$

Then the vector equation

$$x = c_1 b_1 + c_2 b_2 + \dots + c_n b_n$$

is equivalent to

$$[x] = P_B [x]_B \quad (4)$$

We call P_B the **change-of-coordinates matrix from B to the standard basis in \mathbb{R}^n** . Left-multiplication by P_B transforms the coordinate vector $[x]_B$ into x .

Since the columns of P_B form a basis, they are linearly independent, and have an inverse, which leads to

$$P_B^{-1} x = [x]_B$$

basis
 ⊛ L.I.
 ⊛ span.

$$[x]_B = \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ \vdots \\ c_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$P_B =$ matrix
 $[x]_B =$ vector

$$\tau(\vec{x}) = A\vec{x}$$

$\vec{x} \xrightarrow{A} \tau(\vec{x}) = A\vec{x}$
 matrix mult. (left) gives a linear transformation

The Coordinate Mapping

Choosing a basis $B = \{b_1, \dots, b_n\}$ for a vector space V introduces a coordinate system in V . The coordinate mapping $x \mapsto [x]_B$ connects the possibly unfamiliar space V to the familiar space \mathbb{R}^n . See Figure 5. Points in V can now be identified by their new "names".

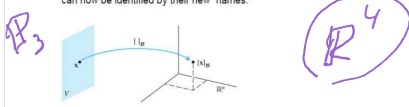


FIGURE 5 The coordinate mapping from V onto \mathbb{R}^n .

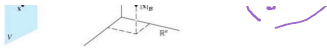


FIGURE 5 The coordinate mapping from V onto \mathbb{R}^n .

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Theorem 8 Let $B = \{b_1, \dots, b_n\}$ be a basis for a vector space V . Then the coordinate mapping $x \mapsto [x]_B$ is a linear transformation from V to \mathbb{R}^n .

A one-to-one linear transformation from a vector space V onto a vector space W is called an **isomorphism** from V onto W .

Essentially, these two vector spaces are indistinguishable.

Ex 4: Let B be the standard basis of the space \mathbb{P}_3 of polynomials; that is, let $B = \{1, t, t^2, t^3\}$. A typical element p of \mathbb{P}_3 has the form

not a vector $\rightarrow p(t) = a_0 + a_1t + a_2t^2 + a_3t^3$

Since p is a linear combination of the standard basis vectors, then $[p]_B$

So $p \mapsto [p]_B$ is an isomorphism from \mathbb{P}_3 onto \mathbb{R}^4 .



isomorphism between the vector spaces.



$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \Leftrightarrow 1 + 0t + 2t^2 + 3t^3$$

is a traditional vector.

Ex 5: Use coordinate vectors to test the linear independence of the sets of polynomials

a) $\{1 + 2t^2 + t - 3t^2, -t + 2t^2 - t^3\}$ $A \vec{x} = \vec{b}$ are there non-triv. sol.

$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ can't make one poly from the others.
 vectors are l.i. \Rightarrow polys are l.i.

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b) Is this a basis \mathbb{P}_3 ? $\{(1-t)^2, t-2t^2+t^3, (1-t)^3\}$

No \Rightarrow L.I. vectors in \mathbb{R}^4 .
 3 polys can't span \mathbb{P}_3 .
 does not span \mathbb{R}^4 .
 \Rightarrow vectors did not span \mathbb{R}^4 .
 \therefore not a basis for \mathbb{R}^4 .

\mathbb{R}^3
 $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \vec{e}_2, \vec{e}_3$
 $\dim(\mathbb{R}^3) = 3$
 $\dim(\mathbb{P}_3) = 4$

Ex 6: Let $v_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, v_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, x = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$

and $B = \{v_1, v_2\}$. Then B is a basis for $H = \text{Span}\{v_1, v_2\}$.

① row reducing $[x]_B = ?$

$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$
 $[x]_B = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$
 $x = 2v_1 + 1v_2$

$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ ② Graphing.
 $[x]_B = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ ③ P_B^{-1} fails

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Practice Problems

1. Let $b_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, b_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 4 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, b_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -6 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$, and $x = \begin{bmatrix} -8 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$.

- Show that the set $B = \{b_1, b_2, b_3\}$ is a basis of \mathbb{R}^3 .
- Find the change-of-coordinates matrix from B to the standard basis.
- Write the equation that relates x in \mathbb{R}^3 to $[x]_B$.
- Find $[x]_B$ for the x given above.

$(L) P_B [x]_B = \vec{x}$
 or
 $P_B^{-1} \vec{x} = [x]_B$

$(d) \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 24 & 1/2 \\ 0 & 14 & 1/2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1/3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -8 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -5 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$
 \uparrow
 \vec{x} \uparrow
 $[x]_B$

(a) $P_B \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 & 3 \\ 0 & 4 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$ has a pivot in every column. three l.i. vectors in \mathbb{R}^3 must form a basis for \mathbb{R}^3 .

(b) $\vec{x} \xrightarrow{P_B} [x]_B$ so the P_B matrix above does the trick. $P_B: [x]_B \mapsto \vec{x}$

2. The set $B = \{1-t^2, 2t^2-t^3, t^3\}$ is a basis for \mathbb{P}_3 . Find the coordinate vector of $p(t) = 5 - 2t^2 + t^3$ relative to B .

$\mathbb{P}_2 \Leftrightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$
 so let $P_B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ thus $p(t) = 5(1-t^2) + 1(2t^2-t^3) + (-2)(t^3)$
 and $\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -2 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$

so let $P = \begin{bmatrix} \text{yellow} & \text{yellow} & \text{green} \\ \text{yellow} & \text{yellow} & \text{green} \\ \text{yellow} & \text{yellow} & \text{green} \end{bmatrix}$ then $p(x) = 5 \begin{pmatrix} \text{yellow} \\ \text{yellow} \\ \text{yellow} \end{pmatrix} + 1 \begin{pmatrix} \text{yellow} \\ \text{yellow} \\ \text{yellow} \end{pmatrix} + (-2) \begin{pmatrix} \text{green} \\ \text{green} \\ \text{green} \end{pmatrix}$.

And $\vec{x} = \begin{pmatrix} \text{yellow} \\ \text{yellow} \\ \text{yellow} \end{pmatrix}$

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