

## Sec 4.4 Coordinate systems

Idea :  $\mathbb{R}^n$  w/ the standard basis  $\{\vec{e}_1, \dots, \vec{e}_n\}$  is nice

Put a "Coordinate system" on any vector space  $V$   
so that  $V$  acts like  $\mathbb{R}^n$  w/ the standard basis.

### I. Def of coordinates relative to a basis $\mathcal{B}$

Thm 8 (Unique Representation Theorem)

Let  $\mathcal{B} = \{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n\}$  be a basis for a vector space  $V$ .

Then every element in  $V$  can be written as a linear combination of  $\mathcal{B}$  in exactly one way. i.e.,

for every element  $x$  in  $V$ , there exist a unique set of scalars  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n$  such that

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

Def • These weights  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n$  are called the coordinates of  $x$  relative to the basis  $\mathcal{B}$  or the  $\mathcal{B}$ -coordinates of  $x$ .

• The vector  $\begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ \vdots \\ c_n \end{bmatrix}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , denoted by  $[x]_{\mathcal{B}}$ ,

is called the coordinate vector of  $x$  relative to  $\mathcal{B}$   
or the  $\mathcal{B}$ -coordinate vector of  $x$ .

Ex  $V = \mathbb{R}^2$ , with basis  $\mathcal{B} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ .



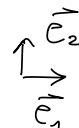
Suppose  $\vec{x}$  in  $V$  has coordinate vector (relative to  $\mathcal{B}$ )

$$[\vec{x}]_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}. \text{ Find } \vec{x}.$$

Ans: The  $\mathcal{B}$ -coordinates of  $\vec{x}$  are  $-2$  and  $3$ , so

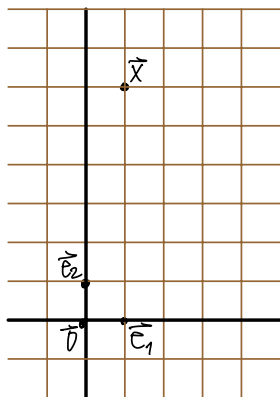
$$\vec{x} = -2 \vec{b}_1 + 3 \vec{b}_2 = -2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + 3 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

Ex  $V = \mathbb{R}^2$ , with standard basis  $\mathcal{B} = \{\vec{e}_1, \vec{e}_2\}$ ,  $\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$ .

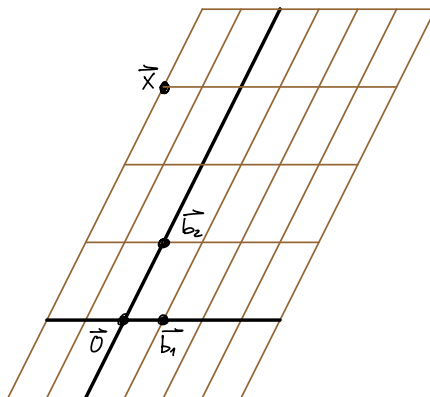


Then  $\vec{x} = 1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + 6 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , so the coordinate vector of  $\vec{x}$

relative to the standard basis is  $[\vec{x}]_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$ , the same as  $\vec{x}$  itself



Standard graph paper  
for standard basis  
 $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$



$\mathcal{B}$ -graph paper  
for  $\mathcal{B} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$

Ex  $V = \mathbb{P}_2$ , with basis  $\mathcal{B} = \{\underbrace{1+t}_{b_1}, \underbrace{1+t^2}_{b_2}, \underbrace{t+t^2}_{b_3}\}$

Practice Problem #2 pg 238 Suppose  $p$  in  $V$  has coordinate vector (relative to  $\mathcal{B}$ )

$$[p]_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}. \quad \text{Find } p$$

Ans: The  $\mathcal{B}$ -coordinates of  $p$  are 5, 1, -2, so

$$\begin{aligned} p &= 5 \underbrace{(1+t)}_{b_1} + 1 \underbrace{(1+t^2)}_{b_2} + (-2) \underbrace{(t+t^2)}_{b_3} \\ &= 5 + 5t + 1 + t^2 - 2t - 2t^2 \\ &= 6 + 3t - t^2 \end{aligned}$$

Ex  $V = \mathbb{P}_2$ , with standard basis  $\mathcal{B} = \{1, t, t^2\}$

Then  $p = 6(1) + 3(t) - 1(t^2)$ , so

the coordinate vector of  $p$  relative to the standard basis

is  $[p]_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}.$

II. How to find  $\mathcal{B}$ -coordinate vector of an element in  $\mathbb{R}^n$

Ex Let  $\mathcal{B} = \{\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{\vec{b}_1}, \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{\vec{b}_2}\}$ . This is a basis for  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

Find  $[\vec{x}]_{\mathcal{B}}$ , the coordinate vector of  $\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$  relative to  $\mathcal{B}$ .

Sol: The  $\mathcal{B}$ -coordinates  $c_1, c_2$  of  $\vec{x}$  are solutions to

$$c_1 \vec{b}_1 + c_2 \vec{b}_2 = \vec{x}$$

$$c_1 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + c_2 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{OR} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

This matrix  $P_{\mathcal{B}}$  whose columns are  $\vec{b}_1, \vec{b}_2$  is called

the change-of-coordinates matrix from  $\mathcal{B}$

to the standard basis  $\{\vec{e}_1, \vec{e}_2\}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ ,

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 2 & -1 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 & 5 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\text{rref}} \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{array} \right] \quad \begin{matrix} C_1 = 3 \\ C_2 = 2 \end{matrix} \quad \text{OR} \quad \begin{matrix} \left[ \begin{array}{cc} 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{array} \right]^{-1} \left[ \begin{array}{cc} 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{array} \right] \begin{bmatrix} C_1 \\ C_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} C_1 \\ C_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} \\ -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{2}{3} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

$$\text{So } \vec{x} = 3\vec{b}_1 + 2\vec{b}_2$$

$$\text{thus } [\vec{x}]_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} C_1 \\ C_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{4+5}{3} \\ -\frac{4+10}{3} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Algorithm for finding change-of-coordinates matrix from  $\mathcal{B}$  to the standard basis for  $\mathbb{R}^n$

In general: Fix a basis  $\mathcal{B} = \{\vec{b}_1, \vec{b}_2, \dots, \vec{b}_n\}$  for  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

Construct an  $n \times n$  matrix  $P_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} \vec{b}_1 & \vec{b}_2 & \dots & \vec{b}_n \end{bmatrix}$ ,

called the change-of-coordinates matrix from basis  $\mathcal{B}$  to the standard basis  $\{\vec{e}_1, \vec{e}_2, \dots, \vec{e}_n\}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

Then the equation

$$\vec{x} = C_1 \vec{b}_1 + C_2 \vec{b}_2 + \dots + C_n \vec{b}_n$$

is equivalent to

$$\vec{x} = P_{\mathcal{B}} [\vec{x}]_{\mathcal{B}} \quad \text{aka} \quad \vec{x} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \vec{b}_1 & \dots & \vec{b}_n \end{bmatrix}}_{P_{\mathcal{B}}} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} C_1 \\ C_2 \\ \vdots \\ C_n \end{bmatrix}}_{[\vec{x}]_{\mathcal{B}}}$$

To solve for  $[\vec{x}]_{\mathcal{B}}$

possible way #1:

$\begin{bmatrix} P_{\mathcal{B}} & | & \vec{x} \end{bmatrix}$   
Augmented matrix

Row reduce  $\rightarrow$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & & & C_1 \\ & 1 & & C_2 \\ & & \ddots & \vdots \\ & & & 1 & C_n \end{array} \right]$$

possible way #2:

Since the columns of  $P_B$  form a basis for  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  
 $P_B$  is invertible (by the Invertible Matrix Thm)

Multiplying both sides on the left by  $P_B^{-1}$ :

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

$$P_B^{-1} \vec{x} = [\vec{x}]_B \quad \text{aka} \quad \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ \vdots \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix} = P_B^{-1} \vec{x}$$

## II. Coordinate mapping / isomorphism of vector spaces

Def The map  $T: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$   
 $\vec{x} \mapsto P_B^{-1} \vec{x}$

(equivalently,  $\vec{x} \mapsto [\vec{x}]_B$ )

is called the coordinate mapping (determined by  $B$ )

Fact The coordinate mapping is a linear map  $\mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$   
which is one-to-one and onto.

Proof Since the standard matrix of this map  
is  $P_B^{-1}$  which is an invertible  $n \times n$  matrix,  
it follows from the Invertible matrix Theorem  
that this map is one-to-one and onto.

Ex (again)  $V = \mathbb{P}_2$ , with standard basis  $\mathcal{B} = \{1, t, t^2\}$

The coordinate mapping  $T: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$

$$p \mapsto [p]_{\mathcal{B}}$$

is a linear map which is one-to-one and onto.

Def Given vector spaces  $V$  and  $W$ ,

a linear map  $T: V \rightarrow W$

is called a (vector space) isomorphism

if  $T$  is one-to-one and onto.

Note: If there is an isomorphism from  $V$  onto  $W$ ,

it means that, although the notation and

terminology for  $V$  and  $W$  may differ,

$V$  and  $W$  are indistinguishable as vector spaces.

→  $\mathbb{P}_2$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

Thm 9 Let  $\mathcal{B} = \{b_1, \dots, b_n\}$  be a basis for a vector space  $V$ . Then the coordinate mapping  $x \mapsto [x]_{\mathcal{B}}$  is an isomorphism from  $V$  onto  $\mathbb{R}^n$

This is a big deal! This means every vector space  $V$  is "the same" (as vector spaces) as  $\mathbb{R}^n$  if  $V$  has a basis with  $n$  elements.

Ex 7 Let  $\vec{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$   $\vec{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , and let  $H = \text{Span}\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2\}$ .

- Since  $\vec{v}_1$  and  $\vec{v}_2$  are not scalar multiples of each other, we know  $\vec{v}_1$  and  $\vec{v}_2$  are linearly independent.

So  $\mathcal{B} = \{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2\}$  is a basis for  $H$ .

- By Thm 9,  $H$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{R}^2$

(a) Now, determine whether  $\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 12 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}$  is in  $H$

Sol:

Check whether the equation  $c_1 \vec{v}_1 + c_2 \vec{v}_2 = \vec{x}$  is consistent.

$$c_1 \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + c_2 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 12 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 3 & -1 & 3 \\ 6 & 0 & 12 \\ 2 & 1 & 7 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\text{rref}} \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] \quad \begin{array}{l} c_1 = 2 \\ c_2 = 3 \end{array}$$

So  $\vec{x}$  is in  $H$ :  $\vec{x} = 2\vec{v}_1 + 3\vec{v}_2$ .

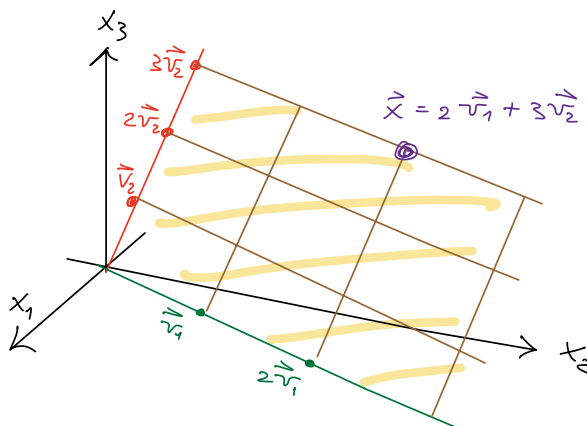
(b) Find the coordinate vector of  $\vec{x}$  relative to  $\mathcal{B} = \{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2\}$

Sol:

$$[\vec{x}]_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Picture

Basis  $\mathcal{B} = \{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2\}$  imposes a coordinate system ("graph paper") on the plane  $H$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$



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