

Change of basis

Let $\alpha = (v_1, \dots, v_n)$, $\beta = (w_1, \dots, w_m)$ be ordered bases of F^n, F^m resp.
 If $f: F^n \rightarrow F^m$ is a linear transformation,

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 F^n & \xrightarrow{f} & F^m \\
 \text{Rep}_\alpha \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{Rep}_\beta \\
 F^n & \xrightarrow{A_\alpha^\beta(f)} & F^m
 \end{array}$$

commutes.

conflating $A_\alpha^\beta(f) \in F^{m \times n}$
 and its map

Each map has a "matrix name" with respect to the standard ordered bases of F^n, F^m :

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 F^n & \xrightarrow{A} & F^m \\
 m \downarrow \uparrow P & & \downarrow N \uparrow Q \\
 F^n & \xrightarrow{B} & F^m
 \end{array}$$

Note $\text{Rep}_\alpha^{-1} : e_i \mapsto v_i$, $\text{Rep}_\beta^{-1} : e_j \mapsto w_j$ so

$$M^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} | & | & & | \\ v_1 & v_2 & \dots & v_n \\ | & | & & | \end{pmatrix} =: P \quad \text{and} \quad N^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} | & | & & | \\ w_1 & w_2 & \dots & w_m \\ | & | & & | \end{pmatrix} =: Q$$

Thus

$$B = Q^{-1}AP$$

change of basis formula

E.g. Consider the linear transformation

$$f: \mathbb{R}^3 \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$(x, y, z) \longmapsto (x + 3y + 2z, 2y + z)$$

$$e_1 \longmapsto (1, 0)$$

$$e_2 \longmapsto (3, 2)$$

$$e_3 \longmapsto (2, 1)$$

with (std basis) matrix $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

Choose ordered bases

$$\alpha = ((1, 0, 0), (1, 1, 0), (1, 1, 1)) \text{ of } \mathbb{R}^3$$

$$\beta = ((0, 1), (1, 1)) \text{ of } \mathbb{R}^2.$$

To find $A_{\alpha}^{\beta}(f)$, create

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$Q = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

compute Q^{-1} : $\left(\begin{array}{cc|cc} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{G-J} \left(\begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right)$

so $A_{\alpha}^{\beta}(f) = Q^{-1}AP = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -2 & -3 \\ 1 & 4 & 6 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$\alpha = ((1,0,0), (1,1,0), (1,1,1)) \text{ of } \mathbb{R}^3$$

$$\beta = ((0,1), (1,1)) \text{ of } \mathbb{R}^2.$$

Check: $f(1, 0, 0) = (1, 0) = -(0, 1) + (1, 1)$

$f(1, 1, 0) = (4, 2) = -2(0, 1) + 4(1, 1)$

$f(1, 1, 1) = (6, 3) = -3(0, 1) + 6(1, 1)$ ✓

Important special case:

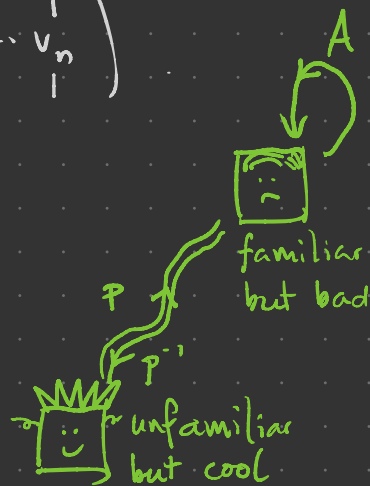
$V = W = F^n$, $\alpha = \beta = (v_1, \dots, v_n)$. Let $P = \begin{pmatrix} | & & | \\ v_1 & \dots & v_n \\ | & & | \end{pmatrix}$

If $A \in F^{n \times n}$ and $B = A_\alpha^\alpha(A)$, then

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F^n & \xrightarrow{A} & F^n \\ P^{-1} \downarrow & & \downarrow P^{-1} \\ F^n & \xrightarrow{B} & F^n \end{array}$$

i.e.

$$B = P^{-1} A P$$



We say B is formed by conjugating A by P .

E.g. Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$, $\alpha = ((1,1), (-1,0))$.

Then $P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and (check) $P^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Thus } B &= P^{-1} A P = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Huh! $B = A$ in this case!

Check: $A \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$

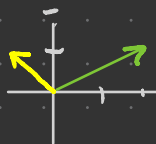
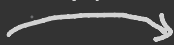
$$A \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Question What does $A = P^{-1}AP$ mean algebraically?
And geometrically?

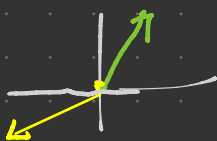
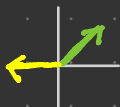
$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

"

A



A



$$\begin{aligned} PA &= P(P^{-1}AP) \\ &= (PP^{-1})AP \\ &= AP \end{aligned}$$

A and P commute!

E.g. Let $\binom{x}{k} = \frac{x(x-1)\cdots(x-k+1)}{k!} \in \mathbb{R}[x]$.

For instance, $\binom{x}{0} = 1$

$\binom{x}{1} = x$

$\binom{x}{2} = \frac{x(x-1)}{2} = \frac{1}{2}x^2 - \frac{1}{2}x$

$\binom{x}{3} = \frac{x(x-1)(x-2)}{3!} = \frac{1}{6}x^3 - \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \frac{1}{3}x$

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbb{R}[x]_{\leq 3} \\ \text{as } \mathbb{R}^4 \text{ with} \\ 1 \longleftrightarrow e_1 \\ x \longleftrightarrow e_2 \\ x^2 \longleftrightarrow e_3 \\ x^3 \longleftrightarrow e_4 \end{array} \right.$

Set $P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1/2 & 1/3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1/2 & -1/2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1/6 \end{pmatrix}$ with columns the $(1, x, x^2, x^3)$ coordinates of $\binom{x}{0}, \binom{x}{1}, \binom{x}{2}, \binom{x}{3}$.

Get $\mathbb{R}[x]_{\leq 3} \xrightarrow{\frac{d}{dx}} \mathbb{R}[x]_{\leq 3}$ where A represents differentiation in the $\binom{x}{h}$ basis.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathbb{R}[x]_{\leq 3} & \xrightarrow{\frac{d}{dx}} & \mathbb{R}[x]_{\leq 3} \\
 \downarrow P^{-1} & & \downarrow P^{-1} \\
 \mathbb{R}[x]_{\leq 3} & \xrightarrow{A} & \mathbb{R}[x]_{\leq 3}
 \end{array}$$

In the x^h basis, $\frac{d}{dx} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$.

Thus $A = P^{-1} \frac{d}{dx} P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 6 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1/2 & 1/3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1/2 & -1/2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1/6 \end{pmatrix}$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{3} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Now check:

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{1}{2}x^2 - \frac{1}{2}x \right) = x - \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \binom{x}{0} = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \binom{x}{2} = \binom{x}{1} - \frac{1}{2} \binom{x}{0}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \binom{x}{1} = \binom{x}{0}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \binom{x}{3} = \binom{x}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \binom{x}{1} + \frac{1}{3} \binom{x}{0}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{1}{6}x^3 - \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \frac{1}{3}x \right) = \frac{1}{2}x^2 - x + \frac{1}{3}$$

Fact The entries of P are $\frac{1}{n!} s(n, k)$ for $s(n, k)$ the

(signed) Stirling numbers of the first kind.

The entries of P^{-1} are $k! \left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} n \\ k \end{smallmatrix} \right\}$ for $\left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} n \\ k \end{smallmatrix} \right\}$ the Stirling numbers of the second kind.

Fact A polynomial takes $\mathbb{Z}$ to $\mathbb{Z}$ iff it is an integer linear combo of binomial polynomials $\binom{x}{k}$.

I.e. $a_0 + a_1 x + \dots + a_n x^n$ takes $\mathbb{Z}$ to $\mathbb{Z}$ iff

$P^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} a_0 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{pmatrix}$ is a vector with integer coordinates.

(See Tao blog post on Zulip.)