

## Section 4.4: Coordinate Systems

Given an ordered basis  $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n\}$  for a vector space  $V$ , we noted that the coefficients in the linear combination  $\mathbf{x} = c_1\mathbf{b}_1 + \dots + c_n\mathbf{b}_n$  are unique for a given  $\mathbf{x}$ . This allows for an unambiguous definition of coordinate vectors.

**Definition:** Let  $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n\}$  be an **ordered** basis of the vector space  $V$ . For each  $\mathbf{x}$  in  $V$  we define the **coordinate vector of  $\mathbf{x}$  relative to the basis  $\mathcal{B}$**  to be the unique vector  $(c_1, \dots, c_n)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  where these entries are the weights  $\mathbf{x} = c_1\mathbf{b}_1 + \dots + c_n\mathbf{b}_n$ .

We'll use the notation  $[\mathbf{x}]_{\mathcal{B}}$  to denote such a coordinate vector.

## For Example

For the elementary basis  $\mathcal{B} = \{1, t, t^2, t^3\}$  (in that order) in  $\mathbb{P}_3$ , a typical vector  $\mathbf{p}(t) = p_0 + p_1 t + p_2 t^2 + p_3 t^3$  would have coordinate vector in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ ,

$$[\mathbf{p}]_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} p_0 \\ p_1 \\ p_2 \\ p_3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

# Coordinates in $\mathbb{R}^n$

Let  $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n\}$  be an ordered basis of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Then the change of coordinate mapping  $\mathbf{x} \mapsto [\mathbf{x}]_{\mathcal{B}}$  is the linear transformation defined by

$$[\mathbf{x}]_{\mathcal{B}} = P_{\mathcal{B}}^{-1} \mathbf{x}$$

where the matrix

$$P_{\mathcal{B}} = [\mathbf{b}_1 \quad \mathbf{b}_2 \quad \cdots \quad \mathbf{b}_n].$$

## Example

Let  $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \mathbf{b}_1, \mathbf{b}_3\}$  where  $\mathbf{b}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\mathbf{b}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ , and  $\mathbf{b}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ .

For  $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix}$ , find  $[\mathbf{x}]_{\mathcal{B}}$ .

$$P_{\mathcal{B}} = [\vec{b}_1 \ \vec{b}_2 \ \vec{b}_3] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P_{\mathcal{B}}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$[\vec{x}]_B = P_B^{-1} \vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 - x_2 \\ x_2 - x_3 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Theorem: Coordinate Mapping

Let  $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n\}$  be an ordered basis for a vector space  $V$ . Then the coordinate mapping  $\mathbf{x} \mapsto [\mathbf{x}]_{\mathcal{B}}$  is a **one to one** mapping of  $V$  **onto**  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

**Remark:** When such a mapping exists, we say that  $V$  is **isomorphic** to  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Properties of subsets of  $V$ , such as linear dependence, can be discerned from the coordinate vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

## Example

Use coordinate vectors to determine if the set  $\{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{r}\}$  is linearly dependent or independent in  $\mathbb{P}_2$ .

$$\mathbf{p}(t) = 1 - 2t^2, \quad \mathbf{q}(t) = 3t + t^2, \quad \mathbf{r}(t) = 1 + t$$

We can use the elementary basis  $\{1, t, t^2\} = \mathcal{B}$

$$[\vec{p}]_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad [\vec{q}]_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad [\vec{r}]_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\vec{p} = 1 \cdot 1 + 0 \cdot t + (-2) \cdot t^2, \quad \vec{q} = 0 \cdot 1 + 3 \cdot t + 1 \cdot t^2, \quad \vec{r} = 1 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot t + 0 \cdot t^2$$

We can use a determinant.

$$\text{Let } A = \begin{bmatrix} [\vec{p}]_B & [\vec{q}]_B & [\vec{r}]_B \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \det(A) = a_{11}C_{11} + a_{12}C_{12} + a_{13}C_{13}$$

$$\det(A) = 1 \cdot \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{vmatrix} + 0 \cdot \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -2 & 0 \end{vmatrix} + 1 \cdot \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 3 \\ -2 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= 1(-1) + 1(6) = 5 \neq 0$$

The columns of  $A$  are linearly independent, hence

$\{\vec{p}, \vec{q}, \vec{r}\}$  is linearly independent.



## Example

Let  $H$  be the subset of  $M^{2 \times 2}$  of matrices of the form  $\begin{bmatrix} a & -b \\ b & a \end{bmatrix}$ .

(a) Show that  $H$  is a subspace of  $M^{2 \times 2}$  by finding a set  $S$  of vectors such that  $H = \text{Span}(S)$ .

Let  $\vec{u}$  be in  $H$ . Then  $\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} a & -b \\ b & a \end{bmatrix}$  for some real  $a, b$ .

$$\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} a & -b \\ b & a \end{bmatrix} = a \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + b \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{we can take}$$

$$S = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

## Example

(b) Demonstrate that the set  $S$  is a basis, or remove elements of  $S$  in order to obtain a basis  $B$  for  $H$ .

$S$  is a basis.

$$\text{Suppose } c_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + c_2 \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} c_1 & -c_2 \\ c_2 & c_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\Rightarrow c_1 = c_2 = 0 \quad \text{Hence } S \text{ is linearly independent,}$$

(c) Consider the mapping  $\mathbf{x} \mapsto [\mathbf{x}]_B$  for your basis. Determine  $n$  such that  $H$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

Each linear combination has 2 coefficients — since there are 2 basis vectors. So  $n=2$ .

## Section 4.5: Dimension of a Vector Space

**Theorem:** If a vector space  $V$  has a basis  $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n\}$ , then any set of vectors in  $V$  containing *more than  $n$  vectors* is linearly dependent.

We've seen the example that if a set of vectors from  $\mathbb{R}^n$  has more than  $n$  vectors, i.e. more vectors than entries in each one, the set is linearly dependent.

# Dimension

**Corollary:** If vector space  $V$  has a basis  $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n\}$ , then every basis of  $V$  consist of exactly  $n$  vectors.

**Definition:** If  $V$  is spanned by a finite set, then  $V$  is called **finite dimensional**. In this case, the dimension of  $V$

$$\dim V = \text{the number of vectors in any basis of } V.$$

The dimension of the vector space  $\{\mathbf{0}\}$  containing only the zero vector is defined to be zero—i.e.

$$\dim\{\mathbf{0}\} = 0.$$

If  $V$  is not spanned by a finite set<sup>1</sup>, then  $V$  is said to be **infinite dimensional**.

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<sup>1</sup>  $C^0(\mathbb{R})$  is an example of an infinite dimensional vector space.

## Examples

(a) Find  $\dim(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

$$\dim(\mathbb{R}^n) = n$$

The elementary basis, for example, has  $n$  vectors  $\vec{e}_1, \dots, \vec{e}_n$  in it.

(b) Determine  $\dim \text{Col } A$  where  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$ .

A basis for  $\text{Col } A$  is  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ . Contains 2 vectors

$$\dim \text{Col } A = 2.$$

## Some Geometry in $\mathbb{R}^3$

Give a geometric description of subspaces of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  of dimension

(a) zero

This is  $\{\vec{0}\}$ . The origin in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  is the only such subspace.

(b) one

Must look like  $\text{Span}\{\vec{u}\}$  where  $\vec{u} \neq \vec{0}$ .

Any line through the origin is such a subspace.

(c) two

Must look like  $\text{Span}\{\vec{u}, \vec{v}\}$  with  $\vec{u}, \vec{v}$  linearly independent.

These are planes through the origin.

(d) three

The only one is  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

# Subspaces and Dimension

**Theorem:** Let  $H$  be a subspace of a finite dimensional vector space  $V$ . Then  $H$  is finite dimensional and

$$\dim H \leq \dim V.$$

Moreover, any linearly independent subset of  $H$  can be expanded if needed to form a basis for  $H$ .

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**Theorem:** Let  $V$  be a vector space with  $\dim V = p$  where  $p \geq 1$ . Any linearly independent set in  $V$  containing exactly  $p$  vectors is a basis for  $V$ . Similarly, any spanning set consisting of exactly  $p$  vectors in  $V$  is necessarily a basis for  $V$ .

# Column and Null Spaces

**Theorem:** Let  $A$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix. Then

$\dim \text{Nul}A =$  the number of free variables in the equation  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ ,

and

$\dim \text{Col}A =$  the number of pivot positions in  $A$ .



## Example

Find the dimensions of the null and columns spaces of the matrix  $A$ .

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ -3 & 1 & -7 & -1 \\ 3 & 0 & 6 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

We can use the rref of  
 $A$

↓ rref

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

There are 3 pivot columns.

$$\dim \text{Col } A = 3.$$

The number of free variables in  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$  is the number of non pivot columns. Here that's 1.

So  $\dim \text{Nul } A = 1$

## Section 4.6: Rank

**Definition:** The **row space**, denoted  $\text{Row } A$ , of an  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$  is the subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  spanned by the rows of  $A$ .

**Example:** Express the row space of  $A$  in term of a span

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & -5 & 8 & 0 & -17 \\ 1 & 3 & -5 & 1 & 5 \\ 3 & 11 & -19 & 7 & 1 \\ 1 & 7 & -13 & 5 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$$

We can take the rows of  $A$ .

$$\text{Row } A = \text{Span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ -5 \\ 8 \\ 0 \\ -17 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ -5 \\ 1 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 11 \\ -19 \\ 7 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 7 \\ -13 \\ 5 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

# Theorem

If two matrices  $A$  and  $B$  are row equivalent, then their row spaces are the same.

In particular, if  $B$  is an echelon form of the matrix  $A$ , then the nonzero rows of  $B$  form a basis for Row  $B$ —and also for Row  $A$  since these are the same space.

## Example

A matrix  $A$  along with its rref is shown.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & -5 & 8 & 0 & -17 \\ 1 & 3 & -5 & 1 & 5 \\ 3 & 11 & -19 & 7 & 1 \\ 1 & 7 & -13 & 5 & -3 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

(a) Find a basis for Row  $A$  and state the dimension  $\dim \text{Row } A$ .

Using the nonzero rows of rref  $A$ , a basis is

$$\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -2 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

$$\dim \text{Row } A = 3$$

## Example continued ...

(b) Find a basis for Col  $A$  and state its dimension.

Pivot columns are 1, 2 and 4. A basis is

$$\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -5 \\ 3 \\ 11 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 7 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \quad \dim \text{Col } A = 3$$

## Example continued ...

(c) Find a basis for  $\text{Nul } A$  and state its dimension.

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

For  $\vec{x}$  in  $\text{Nul } A$

$$x_1 = -x_3 - x_5$$

$$x_2 = 2x_3 - 3x_5$$

$$x_4 = 5x_5$$

$x_3, x_5$  - free

$$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} -x_3 - x_5 \\ 2x_3 - 3x_5 \\ x_3 \\ 5x_5 \\ x_5 \end{bmatrix} = x_3 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_5 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -3 \\ 0 \\ 5 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

A basis is

$$\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 6 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -3 \\ 0 \\ 5 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

$$\dim \text{Nul } A = 2.$$