#linear_algebra

Whenever a linear transformation T arises geometrically or is described in words, we usually want a "formula" for $T(\mathbf{x})$. The discussion that follows shows that every linear transformation from $\mathbb{R}^n$ to $\mathbb{R}^m$ is actually a matrix transformation $\mathbf{x} \mapsto A\mathbf{x}$ and that important properties of T are intimately related to familiar properties of A. The key to finding A is to observe that T is completely determined by what it does to the columns of the $n \times n$ identity matrix I_n.

Theorem10:

Let $T : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^m$ be a linear transformation. Then there exists a unique matrix A such that

$$T(\mathbf{x}) = A\mathbf{x} \quad \text{for all } \mathbf{x} \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^n$$

In fact, A is the $m \times n$ matrix whose jth column is the vector $T(\mathbf{e}_j)$, where $\mathbf{e}_j$ is the jth column of the identity matrix in $\mathbb{R}^n$:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} T(\mathbf{e}_1) & \cdots & T(\mathbf{e}_n) \end{bmatrix} \tag{3}$$

EXAMPLE 2 Find the standard matrix A for the dilation transformation $T(\mathbf{x}) = 3\mathbf{x}$, for $\mathbf{x}$ in $\mathbb{R}^2$.

SOLUTION Write

$$T(\mathbf{e}_1) = 3\mathbf{e}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad T(\mathbf{e}_2) = 3\mathbf{e}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

■

DEFINITION

A mapping $T : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^m$ is said to be **onto** $\mathbb{R}^m$ if each $\mathbf{b}$ in $\mathbb{R}^m$ is the image of *at least one* $\mathbf{x}$ in $\mathbb{R}^n$.

Equivalently, T is onto $\mathbb{R}^m$ when the range of T is all of the codomain $\mathbb{R}^m$. That is, T maps $\mathbb{R}^n$ onto $\mathbb{R}^m$ if, for each $\mathbf{b}$ in the codomain $\mathbb{R}^m$, there exists at least one solution of $T(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{b}$. "Does T map $\mathbb{R}^n$ onto $\mathbb{R}^m$?" is an existence question. The mapping T is *not* onto when there is some $\mathbf{b}$ in $\mathbb{R}^m$ for which the equation $T(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{b}$ has no solution. See Fig. 3.

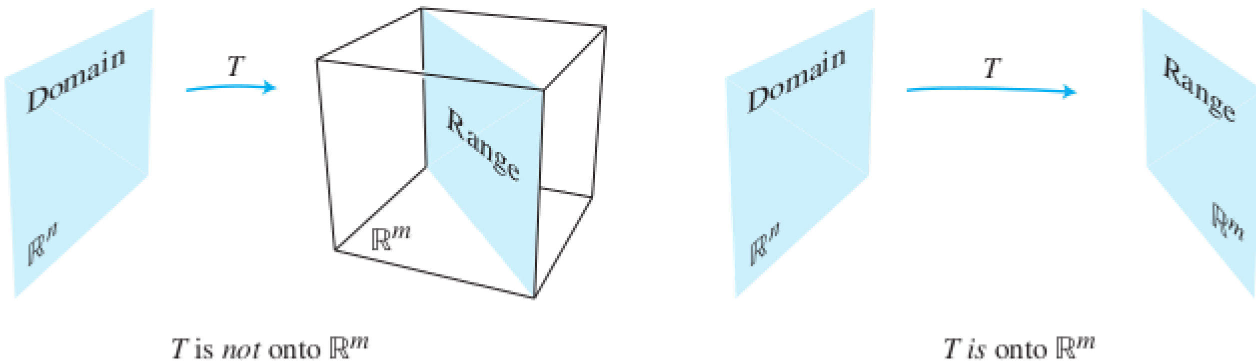

FIGURE 3 Is the range of T all of $\mathbb{R}^m$?

DEFINITION

A mapping $T : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^m$ is said to be **one-to-one** if each $\mathbf{b}$ in $\mathbb{R}^m$ is the image of *at most one* $\mathbf{x}$ in $\mathbb{R}^n$.

Equivalently, T is one-to-one if, for each $\mathbf{b}$ in $\mathbb{R}^m$, the equation $T(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{b}$ has either a unique solution or none at all. "Is T one-to-one?" is a uniqueness question. The mapping T is *not* one-to-one when some $\mathbf{b}$ in $\mathbb{R}^m$ is the image of more than one vector in $\mathbb{R}^n$. If there is no such $\mathbf{b}$, then T is one-to-one. See Fig. 4.

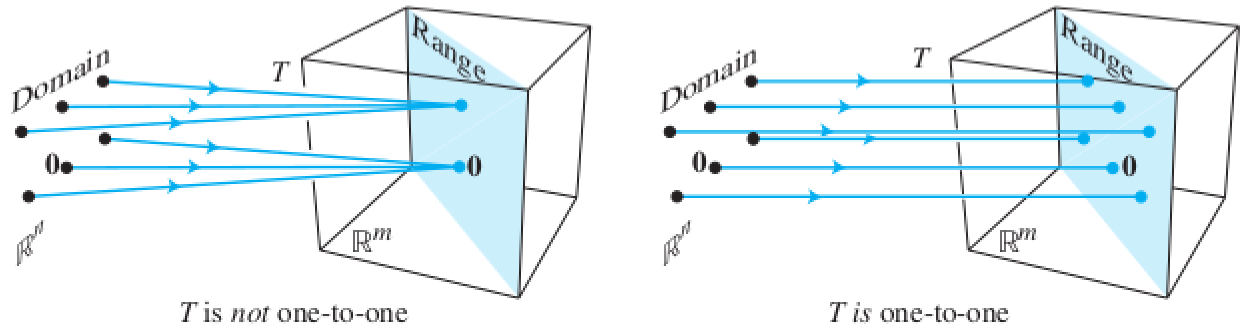

FIGURE 4 Is every $\mathbf{b}$ the image of at most one vector?

EXAMPLE 4 Let T be the linear transformation whose standard matrix is

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -4 & 8 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & -1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

Does T map $\mathbb{R}^4$ onto $\mathbb{R}^3$? Is T a one-to-one mapping?

SOLUTION Since A happens to be in echelon form, we can see at once that A has a pivot position in each row. By Theorem 4 in Section 1.4, for each $\mathbf{b}$ in $\mathbb{R}^3$, the equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ is consistent. In other words, the linear transformation T maps $\mathbb{R}^4$ (its domain) onto $\mathbb{R}^3$. However, since the equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ has a free variable (because there are four variables and only three basic variables), each $\mathbf{b}$ is the image of more than one $\mathbf{x}$. That is, T is *not* one-to-one. ■

THEOREM 11

Let $T : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^m$ be a linear transformation. Then T is one-to-one if and only if the equation $T(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{0}$ has only the trivial solution.

THEOREM 12

Let $T : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^m$ be a linear transformation and let A be the standard matrix for T. Then:

a. T maps $\mathbb{R}^n$ onto $\mathbb{R}^m$ if and only if the columns of A span $\mathbb{R}^m$;

b. T is one-to-one if and only if the columns of A are linearly independent.