

## Lecture 7: Linear independence, bases and dimension

Reading:



2.3



4.3-4.4

Today: Linear independence, bases and dimension

Recall:

$\text{Span}(\text{a set of vectors}) = \begin{cases} \text{smallest subspace that} \\ \text{contains them all} \\ = \left\{ \text{all (finite) linear combinations} \right. \\ \text{of those vectors} \\ \left. \alpha_1 v_1 + \alpha_2 v_2 + \dots + \alpha_r v_r \right\} \end{cases}$

Example:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{R}^3 &= \text{Span}\left\{\overset{\rightharpoonup}{e_1}, \overset{\rightharpoonup}{e_2}, \overset{\rightharpoonup}{e_3} \mid (1,0,0), (0,1,0), (0,0,1)\right\} \\ &= \text{Span}\left\{\overset{\rightharpoonup}{e_1}, \overset{\rightharpoonup}{e_1} + \overset{\rightharpoonup}{e_2}, \overset{\rightharpoonup}{e_1} + \overset{\rightharpoonup}{e_2} + \overset{\rightharpoonup}{e_3}, \overset{\rightharpoonup}{e_1} - \overset{\rightharpoonup}{e_2}, \overset{\rightharpoonup}{e_2} - \overset{\rightharpoonup}{e_3}\right\} \\ &\quad (1,1,0) \qquad (1,1,1) \\ &= \text{Span}(\mathbb{R}^3) \end{aligned}$$

Example:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Span}(\text{a finite set of vectors } v_1, \dots, v_n) &= \mathbb{R} \left( \text{matrix} \left( \begin{array}{c|c|c|c} 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ v_1 & v_2 & \dots & v_n \end{array} \right) \right) \text{ range / column space} \\ &\qquad v_1 e_1^T + v_2 e_2^T + \dots + v_n e_n^T \end{aligned}$$

Goal for today: Given a subspace, find the <sup>a</sup>smallest possible spanning set for it.

(smaller  $\rightarrow$  simpler, easier to work with/understand)

Outline: Linear independence

Basis

Dimension

Rank, Rank-nullity theorem

## LINEAR INDEPENDENCE

Definitions:

- A vector  $v$  is linearly independent of a set  $S$  if

- A vector  $v$  is **linearly independent** of a set  $S$  if  
 $v \notin \text{Span}(S)$

(If  $v \in \text{Span}(S)$ , we say " $v$  is linearly dependent on  $S$ ".)

- A set of vectors is **linearly independent** if no vector can be expressed as a linear combination of the others (i.e., **every** vector is linearly independent of the others).

Example: Assume  $S = \{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$  is linearly independent.

$$\Rightarrow v_1 \notin \text{Span}(v_2, v_3)$$

$$v_2 \notin \text{Span}(v_1, v_3)$$

$$v_3 \notin \text{Span}(v_1, v_2)$$

$\Rightarrow$  Knowing  $f(v_2), f(v_3)$  tells us nothing about  $f(v_1)$ , etc.

Equivalent definition: A set  $S = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  is **linearly independent** if the only solution to

$$\alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \alpha_2 \vec{v}_2 + \dots + \alpha_n \vec{v}_n = \vec{0}$$

$$\text{is } \alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \dots = \alpha_n = 0.$$

Why are these definitions equivalent?

- If  $v_1 \in \text{Span}(v_2, v_3)$ , say  $v_1 = \alpha_2 v_2 + \alpha_3 v_3$ , then  
 $\vec{v}_1 + \alpha_2 \vec{v}_2 + \alpha_3 \vec{v}_3 = \vec{0}$ .
- If  $\alpha_1 v_1 + \dots + \alpha_n v_n = \vec{0}$  with  $\alpha_j \neq 0$ , then  
 $v_j = -\frac{1}{\alpha_j} (\sum_{i \neq j} \alpha_i v_i) \in \text{Span}(\{v_i \mid i \neq j\})$ .

Observe:

$$S = \{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n\} \quad \Leftrightarrow \begin{array}{c} \text{nullspace of} \\ \left( \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline & & & \\ \hline v_1 & v_2 & \cdots & v_n \\ \hline \end{array} \right) \end{array} \text{ is } \{\vec{0}\}.$$

$\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n$  is linearly independent

To check if a set is linearly independent, compute the nullspace.

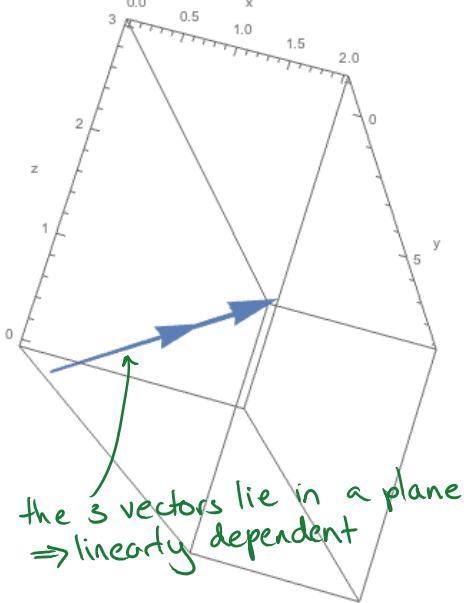
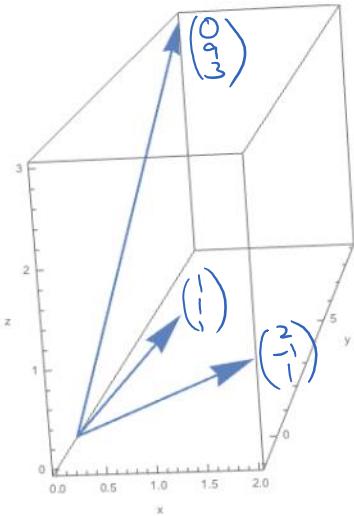
Example: Are these vectors linearly independent of each other?

$$(1, 1, 1), (2, -1, 1), (0, 9, 3)$$

Answer:

```
data = {{1, 1, 1}, {2, -1, 1}, {0, 9, 3}};
ParametricPlot3D[data*u, {u, 0, 1}, AxesLabel -> {"x", "y", "z"}] /. Line -> Arrow
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$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 9 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = 6 \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} - 3 \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

OR  $6 \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} - 3 \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 9 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \vec{0}$

∴ For any linear function  $f$ ,

$$f(0, 9, 3) = 6 \cdot f(1, 1, 1) - 3 \cdot f(2, -1, 1).$$

## BASIS AND DIMENSION

Definition: A **basis** for a vector space  $V$  is a **linearly independent** set that spans  $V$ .

**dimension( $V$ )** = # of vectors in a basis

(Theorem: Two bases for the same space must have the same size.)

Example:  $\mathbb{R}^n$

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

Standard basis for  $\mathbb{R}^n$

$$\vec{e}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

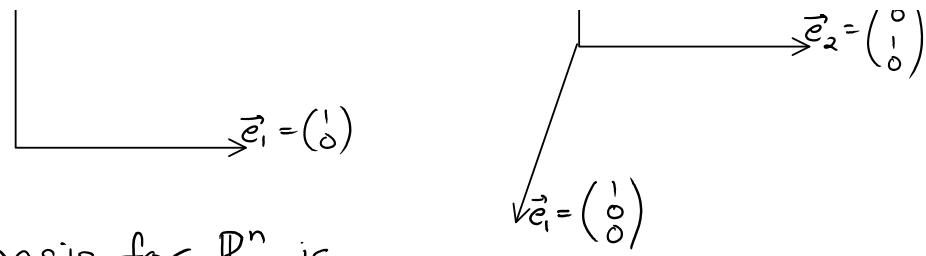
$\mathbb{R}^2:$

$$\mathbb{R}^3:$$

$\vec{e}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

$\vec{e}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$

$\mathbb{R}^2$ :



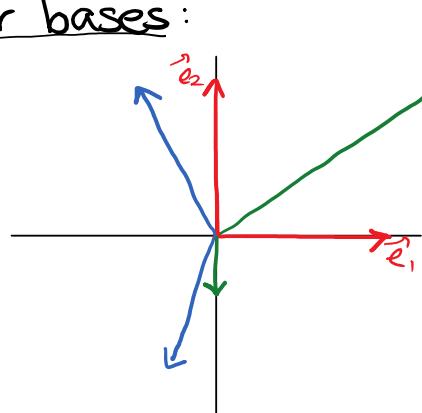
A basis for  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is

$\{\vec{e}_1 = (1, 0, \dots, 0), \vec{e}_2 = (0, 1, 0, \dots, 0), \dots, \vec{e}_n = (0, \dots, 0, 1)\}$ .

linearly indep. ✓ span ✓

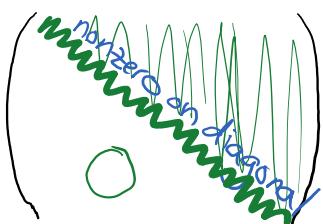
Other bases:

$\mathbb{R}^2$ :



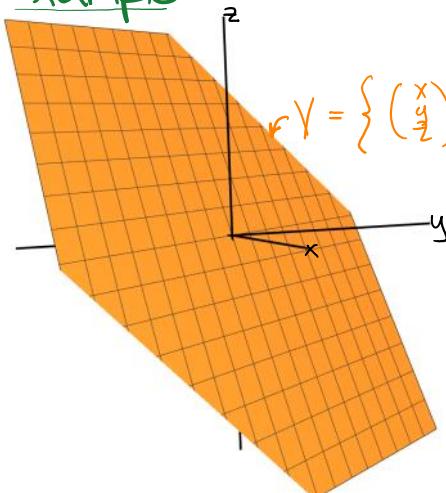
Any two linearly independent vectors form a basis  
(because they span the plane)

$\mathbb{R}^n$ :



The columns are a basis  
lin. indep. ✓  
span  $\mathbb{R}^n$  ✓

Example:



$$\text{Dim}(V) = 2$$

many bases, e.g.,

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{or } \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Observe: Any  $\vec{v} \in V$  is in  $\text{Span}(\{\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}\})$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ -x-y \end{pmatrix} = x \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + y \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Example: Give a basis for the span of

$$(1, 1, 1), (2, -1, 1), (0, 9, 3)$$

Answer: Let  $V = \text{Span}\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \vec{v}_3\}$

Then  $V = R(A)$  for  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 9 \\ 1 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$

$$A^T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 9 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_2 - 2R_1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 9 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_3 - 3R_2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow V = \text{Span}\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2\} = \text{Span}\{(1), (3)\}$$

↑  
different bases for V

### EXAMPLES

Space	Dimension	Basis
• $2 \times 2$ matrices	4	$\{(00), (01), (10), (11)\}$ $\{(10), (01), (00), (11)\}$
• $2 \times 2$ symmetric matrices	3	$\{(00), (01), (10)\}$
• $A = A^T = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ b & c \end{pmatrix}$		
• $2 \times 2$ antisymmetric matrices	1	$\{(01)\}$
• $A = -A^T = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & a \\ -a & 0 \end{pmatrix}$		
• polynomials in $x$ of degree $\leq 2$	3	$\{1, x, x^2\}$
• $a + bx + cx^2$		
• polynomials in $x$ and $y$ with total degree $\leq 2$	6	$\{1, x, x^2, y, y^2, xy\}$
• $a + bx + cx^2 + dy + ey^2 + fxy$		
• polynomials in $x$	$\infty$	$\{1, x, x^2, x^3, \dots\}$
• $N((1 1 1 \dots 1))$	$n-1$	$\{\vec{e}_1 - \vec{e}_2, \vec{e}_1 - \vec{e}_3, \dots, \vec{e}_1 - \vec{e}_n\}$
$= \{\vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n = 0\}$		
• functions $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$	$\infty$ !	
• functions $f: \Sigma_{O, B^2} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$	4	

- functions  $f: \{0,1\}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  3  
 that are symmetric:  $f(x,y) = f(y,x)$   
 $f(0,0), f(0,1) = f(1,0), f(1,1)$

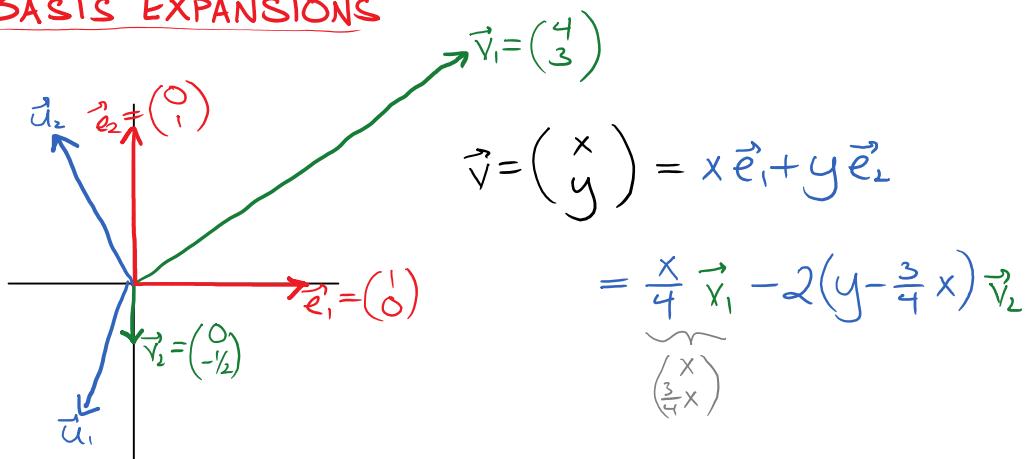
EXAMPLES: Different bases for the same space

- Any linearly independent set  $S$  is a basis for  $\text{Span}(S)$ .  
dimension =  $|S|$
  - $V = \{\text{polynomials of degree } \leq n\}$ 
    - $\{1, x, x^2, \dots, x^n\}$  form a basis
    - Hermite polynomials  
 $\{1, x, x^2 - 1, x^3 - 3x, x^4 - 6x^2 + 3, \dots, (-1)^n e^{x^2} \frac{d^n}{dx^n}(e^{-x^2})\}$  is another

- $\mathbb{C}^n$     n dimensions over  $\mathbb{C}$ 
    - standard basis  $e_1, \dots, e_n$
    - Fourier basis  $y_j = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{k=0}^n w^{jk} e_k$   
where  $w = e^{2\pi i/n}$

Exercise: Why is  $\{v_j\}$  linearly independent?

## BASIS EXPANSIONS



Def:  $(\begin{smallmatrix} x \\ y \end{smallmatrix})$  are the coordinates of  $\vec{v}$  in the standard basis  
 $(\frac{x}{4}, -2(y - \frac{3}{4}x))$  are  $\vec{v}$ 's coordinates in the  $\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2\}$  basis

Example: "Hadamard basis" for  $\mathbb{R}^2$

$$\mathcal{B}_H = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

a) Let  $\vec{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} = x_1 \vec{e}_1 + x_2 \vec{e}_2$ .

What are its coordinates in the Hadamard basis?

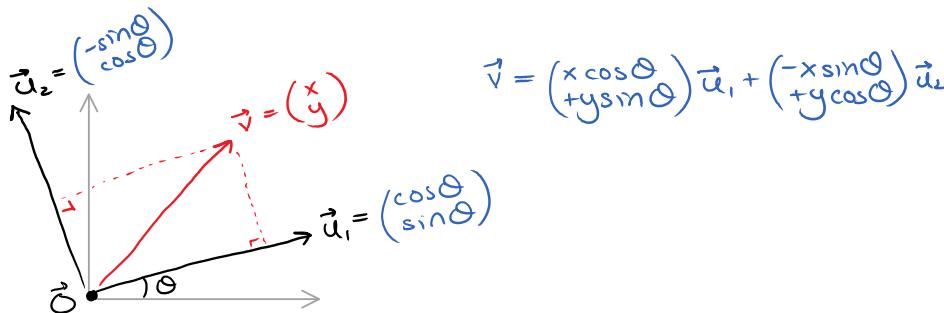
$$\frac{x_1+x_2}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{x_1-x_2}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = \vec{x} \quad \checkmark$$

b) In the Hadamard basis, let  $\vec{y} = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix}$ .

Express  $\vec{y}$  in the standard basis.

$$\vec{y} = y_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + y_2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} y_1+y_2 \\ y_1-y_2 \end{pmatrix} = (y_1+y_2) \vec{e}_1 + (y_1-y_2) \vec{e}_2.$$

Example: Rotated basis



Observe: The new coordinates are related to the old coordinates by an invertible matrix:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta \\ -x \sin \theta + y \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}$$

Why care?

① Makes all (finite-dimensional, real) vector spaces look just like  $\mathbb{R}^n$

e.g.  $a+bx+cx^2+dx^3 \longleftrightarrow (a, b, c, d) \in \mathbb{R}^4$

for the polynomial basis  $1, x, x^2, x^3$

② Specifying a linear transformation on a basis

gives its values everywhere.

$$f(a_1 v_1 + a_2 v_2 + \dots + a_n v_n) = \sum_j a_j f(v_j)$$

③ Dimension measures the "size" of a vector space...

Example: Polynomials in  $x$  of degree  $\leq 3$

one basis:  $1, x, x^2, x^3$   
coordinates of  $a+bx+cx^2+dx^3$  are  $\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ d \end{pmatrix}$

$$1 \quad 1 \quad x \quad x^2 \quad x^3$$

coordinates of  $a+bx+cx^2+dx^3$  are  $(\vec{z})$

In this basis, consider the matrix

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}_{4 \times 4}$$

$$A \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ d \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} b \\ 2c \\ 3d \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \leftrightarrow b + 2cx + 3dx^2$$

$\Rightarrow A$  corresponds to differentiation  $(\frac{d}{dx})$ .

Theorem 1: Any two bases for the same space must have the same # of elements. ("Dimension makes sense")

Theorem 2: If  $U$  is a subspace of  $V$  and  $U \neq V$ , then  $\dim(U) < \dim(V)$ .

Proof of Theorem 1:

Let  $S = \{s_1, \dots, s_m\}$  be two bases for a vector space  $V$ .  
 $T = \{t_1, \dots, t_n\}$

Assume  $m < n$ .

Goal: Show  $T$  is linearly dependent.

Let

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} | & | & & | \\ t_1 & t_2 & \cdots & t_n \end{pmatrix}$$

be the matrix whose columns are the vectors  $t_j$  expanded in the basis  $S$ . (Thus  $t_j = \sum_{i=1}^m B_{ij} s_i$ .)

$B$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix.

Lemma:

$$\boxed{\begin{matrix} & n \\ m & A \\ & m < n \end{matrix}} \Rightarrow N(A) \neq \{\vec{0}\}$$

ie., it is more!

$$\Rightarrow N(B) \neq \{\vec{0}\}$$

$\Rightarrow$  its columns, the vectors in  $T$ , are linearly dependent.  $\checkmark \square$

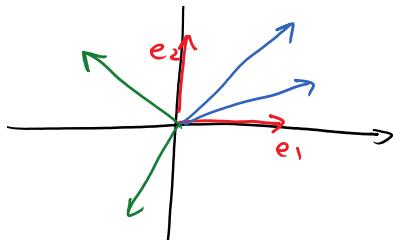
Corollary: If  $\dim(V) = n$ , then any linearly independent set  $S \subseteq V$  with  $n$  elements is a basis for  $V$ .

We saw this before for  $\mathbb{R}^2$ : Proof idea: If  $\text{Span}(S) \neq V$ , then



there is  $v \in V, v \notin \text{Span}(S)$ .

Let  $T = S \cup \{v\}$ , with  $n+1$  elts.



there is  $v \in V$ ,  $v \notin \text{Span}(S)$ .

Let  $T = S \cup \{v\}$ , with  $n+1$  elts.  
By the above argument,  $T$  is linearly dependent, a contradiction.  $\square$

Theorem 2: If  $U$  is a subspace of  $V$  and  $U \neq V$ , then  $\dim(U) < \dim(V)$ .

Proof: Assume  $\dim(U) = \dim(V) = n$ .

Let  $S$  be a basis for  $U$ . By the corollary,  
 $S$  is a basis for  $V$ , too:  $U = V$ . Contradiction.  $\square$

Another way to think about it:

- a basis is a **minimal spanning set** (if you remove anything, it won't span  $V$ )
- a basis is a **maximal independent set** (adding anything will create a dependency)

Use the proof of Theorem 1 to show this formally.

## Changing basis

Example: Haar basis for  $\mathbb{R}^4$

$$\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

$$\text{Let } \vec{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{pmatrix} = x_1 \vec{e}_1 + x_2 \vec{e}_2 + x_3 \vec{e}_3 + x_4 \vec{e}_4$$

What are its coordinates in the Haar basis?

$$\vec{x} = a(1, 1, 1, 1) + b(1, 1, -1, -1) + c(1, -1, 0, 0) + d(0, 0, 1, -1)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ d \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow a = \frac{x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4}{4}, \quad c = \frac{x_1 - x_2}{2}$$

$$b = \frac{x_1 + x_2 - x_3 - x_4}{4}, \quad d = \frac{x_3 - x_4}{2}$$

Example: Two bases for  $\mathbb{R}^4$

$$B = \left\{ \vec{e}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \vec{e}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \vec{e}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \vec{e}_4 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

$$B' = \left\{ \vec{v}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \vec{v}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \vec{v}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \vec{v}_4 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

If  $\vec{\omega} = \vec{v}_1 + 2\vec{v}_2 + 3\vec{v}_3 + 4\vec{v}_4$   
 $= \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}_{B'} \leftarrow \text{in the } B' \text{ basis}$

$$\vec{\omega} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}_{B'} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -10 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}_B \leftarrow \text{in the } B \text{ basis}$$

since  $\vec{v}_1 = \vec{e}_1, \vec{v}_2 = \vec{e}_2, \vec{v}_3 = -\vec{e}_1 + \vec{e}_3, \vec{v}_4 = -3\vec{e}_2 + \vec{e}_4$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{e}_1 &= \vec{v}_1 \\ \vec{e}_2 &= \vec{v}_2 \\ \vec{e}_3 &= \vec{v}_1 + \vec{v}_3 \\ \vec{e}_4 &= 3\vec{v}_2 + \vec{v}_4 \end{aligned} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -10 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$[B' \rightarrow B] = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 & v_2 & v_3 & v_4 \\ e_1 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ e_2 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -3 \\ e_3 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ e_4 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{changes from } B' \\ \text{expansion to } B \\ \text{basis expansion} \end{array}$$

$$[B \rightarrow B'] = \begin{pmatrix} e_1 & e_2 & e_3 & e_4 \\ v_1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ v_2 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 \\ v_3 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ v_4 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{changes from} \\ B \text{ to } B' \end{array}$$

Observe: These matrices are inverses of each other:

$$[B' \rightarrow B] \cdot [B \rightarrow B'] = [B \rightarrow B'] [B' \rightarrow B]$$

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

(The most common mistake here is giving the transposes of the desired matrices.)