

Since the form u_1^* is defined by the conditions $u_1^*(u_1) = 1, u_1^*(u_2) = 0, u_1^*(u_3) = 0, u_1^*(u_4) = 0$, it is represented by a row vector $(\lambda_1 \ \lambda_2 \ \lambda_3 \ \lambda_4)$ such that

$$(\lambda_1 \ \lambda_2 \ \lambda_3 \ \lambda_4) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = (1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0).$$

This implies that u_1^* is the first row of the inverse of B_4 . Since

$$B_4^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1/3 & 2/3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1/3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

the linear forms $(u_1^*, u_2^*, u_3^*, u_4^*)$ correspond to the rows of B_4^{-1} . In particular, u_1^* is represented by $(1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 1)$.

The above method works for any n . Given any basis (u_1, \dots, u_n) of \mathbb{R}^n , if P is the $n \times n$ matrix whose j th column is u_j , then the dual form u_i^* is given by the i th row of the matrix P^{-1} .

When E is of finite dimension n and (u_1, \dots, u_n) is a basis of E , by Theorem 11.4 (1), the family (u_1^*, \dots, u_n^*) is a basis of the dual space E^* . Let us see how the coordinates of a linear form $\varphi^* \in E^*$ over the dual basis (u_1^*, \dots, u_n^*) vary under a change of basis.

Let (u_1, \dots, u_n) and (v_1, \dots, v_n) be two bases of E , and let $P = (a_{ij})$ be the change of basis matrix from (u_1, \dots, u_n) to (v_1, \dots, v_n) , so that

$$v_j = \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij} u_i,$$

and let $P^{-1} = (b_{ij})$ be the inverse of P , so that

$$u_i = \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ji} v_j.$$

For fixed j , where $1 \leq j \leq n$, we want to find scalars $(c_i)_{i=1}^n$ such that

$$v_j^* = c_1 u_1^* + c_2 u_2^* + \dots + c_n u_n^*.$$

To find each c_i , we evaluate the above expression at u_i . Since $u_i^*(u_j) = \delta_{ij}$ and $v_i^*(v_j) = \delta_{ij}$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} v_j^*(u_i) &= (c_1 u_1^* + c_2 u_2^* + \dots + c_n u_n^*)(u_i) = c_i \\ v_j^*(u_i) &= v_j^*\left(\sum_{k=1}^n b_{ki} v_k\right) = b_{ji}, \end{aligned}$$