

In a numerical course I often ask my students to construct a “nontrivial” transformation matrix and, inevitably, they have a difficult time. Here I want you to construct one by using the steps I outline below. Each of you will have a different transformation matrix so you will have to perform certain steps to suggest your construction is valid but you may still not have a correct result, but this is how the real world operates. You will need a calculator but use absolutely no more than three significant figures.

Assume the basis \mathbf{e}_i is known and components of vectors in Problem 1 are given with respect to this basis.

1. Construct a new basis \mathbf{E}_i , and the transformation matrix $[{}^E a^e]$ by performing the following steps:

- (i) Pick three distinct nonzero numbers as components v_i of a vector \mathbf{v} .
- (ii) Construct a second vector, \mathbf{u} , by choosing arbitrary numbers for the first two components u_1 and u_2 . Obtain the third component so that the equation $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$ is satisfied.
- (iii) Construct a new orthonormal basis, \mathbf{E}_i , as follows:

$$\mathbf{E}_1 = \frac{\mathbf{v}}{|\mathbf{v}|} \quad \mathbf{E}_2 = \frac{\mathbf{u}}{|\mathbf{u}|} \quad \mathbf{E}_3 = \mathbf{E}_1 \times \mathbf{E}_2$$

- (iv) Use the components of these vectors appropriately to construct the matrix $[{}^E a^e]$.

2. Show that your transformation matrix is orthogonal and the determinant is $+1$.

3. Choose three nonzero distinct numbers as the components, w_i^E , of a vector, \mathbf{w} , with respect to the basis \mathbf{E}_i . Find the components w_i^e .

4. Show that $w_i^e w_i^e = w_A^E w_A^E$.

5. Pick components, Z_i^e , with respect to the basis, \mathbf{e}_i , for another vector, \mathbf{Z} .

Evaluate $\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{Z}$.