

## Change of basis

Let  $\alpha = (v_1, \dots, v_n)$ ,  $\beta = (w_1, \dots, w_m)$  be ordered bases of  $F^n, F^m$  resp.

If  $f: F^n \rightarrow F^m$  is a linear transformation,

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 F^n & \xrightarrow{f} & F^m \\
 \text{Rep}_\alpha \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{Rep}_\beta \\
 F^n & \xrightarrow{\quad} & F^m
 \end{array}$$

*commutes.*

$A_\alpha^\beta(f)$  conflating  $A_\alpha^\beta(f) \in F^{m \times n}$

Each map has a "matrix name" with respect to the standard ordered bases of  $F^n, F^m$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 F^n & \xrightarrow{A} & F^m \\
 M \downarrow P & \nearrow & \downarrow N Q \\
 F^n & \xrightarrow{B} & F^m
 \end{array}$$

Note  $\text{Rep}_\alpha^{-1}: e_i \mapsto v_i$ ,  $\text{Rep}_\beta^{-1}: e_j \mapsto w_j$  so

$$M^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ v_1 & v_2 & \dots & v_n \\ 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix} =: P \quad \text{and} \quad N^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ w_1 & w_2 & \dots & w_m \\ 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix} =: Q$$

Thus

$$B = Q^{-1} A P$$

change of basis formula

E.g. Consider the linear transformation

$$f: \mathbb{R}^3 \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$(x, y, z) \longmapsto (x+3y+2z, 2y+z)$$

$$e_1 \mapsto (1, 0)$$

$$e_2 \mapsto (3, 2)$$

$$e_3 \mapsto (2, 1)$$

with (std basis) matrix  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ .

Choose ordered bases

$$\alpha = ((1, 0, 0), (1, 1, 0), (1, 1, 1)) \text{ of } \mathbb{R}^3$$

$$\beta = ((0, 1), (1, 1)) \text{ of } \mathbb{R}^2.$$

To find  $A_{\alpha}^{\beta}(f)$ , create

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

$$Q = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Compute  $Q^{-1}$  :

$$\left( \begin{array}{cc|cc} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{\text{G-J}} \left( \begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

so  $A_{\alpha}^{\beta}(f) = Q^{-1}AP = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -2 & -3 \\ 1 & 4 & 6 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$\alpha = ((1,0,0), (1,1,0), (1,1,1)) \text{ of } \mathbb{R}^3$$

$$\beta = ((0,1), (1,1)) \text{ of } \mathbb{R}^2.$$

$$\text{Check: } f(1,0,0) = (1,0) = -(0,1) + (1,1)$$

$$f(1,1,0) = (4,2) = -2(0,1) + 4(1,1)$$

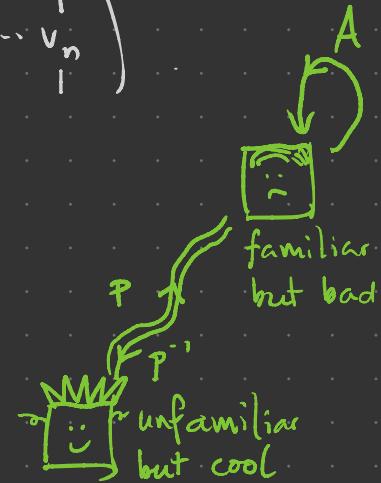
$$f(1,1,1) = (6,3) = -3(0,1) + 6(1,1) \quad \checkmark$$

Important special case :

$$V = W = F^n, \alpha = \beta = (v_1, \dots, v_n). \text{ Let } P = \begin{pmatrix} | & | \\ v_1 & \dots & v_n \\ | & | \end{pmatrix}$$

If  $A \in F^{n \times n}$  and  $B = A_\alpha^\alpha(A)$ , then

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F^n & \xrightarrow{A} & F^n \\ P^{-1} \downarrow & & \downarrow P^{-1} \\ F^n & \xrightarrow{B} & F^n \end{array} \quad \text{i.e.} \quad B = P^{-1} A P$$



We say  $B$  is formed by conjugating  $A$  by  $P$ .

E.g. Let  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\alpha = ((1,1), (-1,0))$ .

Then  $P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  and (check)  $P^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ .

$$\text{Thus } B = P^{-1} A P = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Huh!  $B = A$  in this case!

Check :  $A \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$

$$A \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = -\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Question What does  $A = P^{-1}AP$  mean algebraically?  
And geometrically? 

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

u



$\xrightarrow{A}$



$\xrightarrow{A}$



$$\begin{aligned} PA &= P(P^{-1}AP) \\ &= (PP^{-1})AP \\ &= AP \end{aligned}$$

$A$  and  $P$  commute!

E.g. Let  $\binom{x}{k} = \frac{x(x-1) \cdots (x-k+1)}{k!} \in \mathbb{R}[x]$ .

For instance,  $\binom{x}{0} = 1$

$$\binom{x}{1} = x$$

$$\binom{x}{2} = \frac{x(x-1)}{2} = \frac{1}{2}x^2 - \frac{1}{2}x$$

$$\binom{x}{3} = \frac{x(x-1)(x-2)}{3!} = \frac{1}{6}x^3 - \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \frac{1}{3}x$$

$\mathbb{R}[x]_{\leq 3}$   
 as  $\mathbb{R}^4$  with  
 $1 \leftrightarrow e_1$   
 $x \leftrightarrow e_2$   
 $x^2 \leftrightarrow e_3$   
 $x^3 \leftrightarrow e_4$

Set  $P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{3} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{6} \end{pmatrix}$  with columns the  $[1, x, x^2, x^3]$  coordinates  
 of  $\binom{x}{0}, \binom{x}{1}, \binom{x}{2}, \binom{x}{3}$ .

Get  $\mathbb{R}[x]_{\leq 3} \xrightarrow{\frac{d}{dx}} \mathbb{R}[x]_{\leq 3}$ , where A represents differentiation  
 in the  $\binom{x}{k}$  basis.

$$\begin{matrix} P^{-1} \\ \downarrow \end{matrix} \quad \begin{matrix} \frac{d}{dx} \\ \downarrow P^{-1} \end{matrix}$$

$$\mathbb{R}[x]_{\leq 3} \xrightarrow{A} \mathbb{R}[x]_{\leq 3}$$

In the  $x^k$  basis,  $\frac{d}{dx} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ .

$$\text{Thus } A = P^{-1} \frac{d}{dx} P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 6 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{3} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{6} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{3} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$\frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{1}{2}x^2 - \frac{1}{2}x \right) = x - \frac{1}{2}$

Now check:

$$\frac{d}{dx} \binom{x}{0} = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \binom{x}{2} = \binom{x}{1} - \frac{1}{2} \binom{x}{0}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \binom{x}{1} = \binom{x}{0}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \binom{x}{3} = \binom{x}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \binom{x}{1} + \frac{1}{3} \binom{x}{0}$$

$\frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{1}{6}x^3 - \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \frac{1}{3}x \right) = \frac{1}{2}x^2 - x + \frac{1}{3}$

Fact The entries of  $P$  are  $\frac{1}{n!} s(n, k)$  for  $s(n, k)$  the  
(signed) Stirling numbers of the first kind.

The entries of  $P^{-1}$  are  $k! \left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} n \\ k \end{smallmatrix} \right\}$  for  $\left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} n \\ k \end{smallmatrix} \right\}$  the  
Stirling numbers of the second kind.

Fact A polynomial takes  $\mathbb{Z}$  to  $\mathbb{Z}$  iff it is an integer  
linear combo of binomial polynomials  $\binom{x}{k}$ .

I.e.  $a_0 + a_1 x + \dots + a_n x^n$  takes  $\mathbb{Z}$  to  $\mathbb{Z}$  iff

$P^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} a_0 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{pmatrix}$  is a vector with integer coordinates.

(See Tao blog post on Zulip.)