

Matrices of Linear Transformations

A linear transformation $T : \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^m$ can always be written as a matrix multiplication.

$$T(\vec{x}) = M \cdot \vec{x}$$

where $M \in M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{F})$.

Example 1

Let $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ be a linear transformation defined by

$$T \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad T \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

Since $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ is a basis, the transformation is completely determined by the above:

$$\begin{aligned} T \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} &= T \left(x \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + y \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = x \cdot T \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + y \cdot T \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= x \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + y \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3x + 2y \\ -x + y \\ 2x - 5y \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 \\ -1 & 1 \\ 2 & -5 \end{bmatrix}}_M \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Hence any image is computed by left multiplication with the matrix M , e.g.

$$T \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 \\ -1 & 1 \\ 2 & -5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 13 \\ -1 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix}$$

so that

$$T : \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} 13 \\ -1 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix}$$

Even though $T : \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^m$ is just one type of linear transformations, it is crucial in dealing with $T : \mathbb{V} \rightarrow \mathbb{W}$ in general.

Example 2

Let $T : P_2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow M_{2 \times 2}(\mathbb{R})$ be a linear transformation defined by

$$T(at^2 + bt + c) = \begin{bmatrix} a + b & b - 2c \\ 3a + 2b & a + b + c \end{bmatrix}$$

For example: $t^2 + 3t - 2 \xrightarrow{T} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 7 \\ 9 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$

Clearly there is no matrix M such that: $M \cdot (t^2 + 3t - 2) = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 7 \\ 9 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$.

We can however rewrite both vectors with respect to their standard bases:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} & & \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 7 \\ 9 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ t^2 + 3t - 2 & \xrightarrow{T} & \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 7 \\ 9 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

We basically reduced it to a transformation of the previous type: $\mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^4$.

In general for this transformation we have:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} & & \begin{bmatrix} a + b \\ b - 2c \\ 3a + 2b \\ a + b + c \end{bmatrix} \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ at^2 + bt + c & \xrightarrow{T} & \begin{bmatrix} a + b & b - 2c \\ 3a + 2b & a + b + c \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

A matrix transforms $\begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} a + b \\ b - 2c \\ 3a + 2b \\ a + b + c \end{bmatrix}$ as follows $\begin{bmatrix} a + b \\ b - 2c \\ 3a + 2b \\ a + b + c \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 \\ 3 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}$

This procedure we can use in general for any linear transformations $T : \mathbb{V} \rightarrow \mathbb{W}$.
 We can even use any basis α for \mathbb{V} and any basis β for \mathbb{W} .

- * Rewrite every vector $\vec{v} \in \mathbb{V}$ with respect to the basis α using φ_α : $\varphi_\alpha(\vec{v}) = [\vec{v}]_\alpha$
- * Rewrite every vector $\vec{w} \in \mathbb{W}$ with respect to the basis β using φ_β : $\varphi_\beta(\vec{w}) = [\vec{w}]_\beta$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 [\vec{v}]_\alpha & & [T(\vec{v})]_\beta \\
 \uparrow \varphi_\alpha & & \uparrow \varphi_\beta \\
 \vec{v} & \xrightarrow{T} & T(\vec{v})
 \end{array}$$

Note that if $\dim(\mathbb{V}) = n$ and $\dim(\mathbb{W}) = m$ then

$$\begin{aligned}
 \varphi_\alpha : \mathbb{V} &\rightarrow \mathbb{F}^n \\
 \varphi_\beta : \mathbb{W} &\rightarrow \mathbb{F}^m
 \end{aligned}$$

so that we have the following maps between the spaces \mathbb{V} , \mathbb{W} , \mathbb{F}^n and \mathbb{F}^m :

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathbb{F}^n & \xrightarrow{\beta T_\alpha} & \mathbb{F}^m \\
 \uparrow \varphi_\alpha & & \uparrow \varphi_\beta \\
 \mathbb{V} & \xrightarrow{T} & \mathbb{W}
 \end{array}$$

Note that we named the map between \mathbb{F}^n and \mathbb{F}^m :

$$\boxed{\beta T_\alpha}$$

The map βT_α mirrors the map T :

$$\begin{aligned}
 \vec{v} &\xrightarrow{T} T(\vec{v}) \\
 [\vec{v}]_\alpha &\xrightarrow{\beta T_\alpha} [T(\vec{v})]_\beta
 \end{aligned}$$

The maps T and ${}_{\beta}T_{\alpha}$ are describing the same transformation, from different perspectives:

* T maps $\vec{v} \in \mathbb{V}$ to $T(\vec{v}) \in \mathbb{W}$,

$$\vec{v} \xrightarrow{T} T(\vec{v})$$

* ${}_{\beta}T_{\alpha}$ maps $[\vec{v}]_{\alpha} \in \mathbb{F}^n$ to $[T(\vec{v})]_{\beta} \in \mathbb{F}^m$

$$[\vec{v}]_{\alpha} \xrightarrow{{}_{\beta}T_{\alpha}} [T(\vec{v})]_{\beta}$$

But: \vec{v} and $[\vec{v}]_{\alpha}$ are referring to the same vector, except \vec{v} is in the original space \mathbb{V} and $[\vec{v}]_{\alpha}$ is in \mathbb{F}^n , and is the coordinate vector of \vec{v} with respect to the basis α .

Similarly, $T(\vec{v})$ and $[T(\vec{v})]_{\beta}$ are referring to the same vector, except $T(\vec{v})$ is in the original space \mathbb{W} and $[T(\vec{v})]_{\beta}$ is in \mathbb{F}^m , and is the coordinate vector of $T(\vec{v})$ with respect to the basis β .

This link defines the transformation ${}_{\beta}T_{\alpha} : \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^m$: ${}_{\beta}T_{\alpha}([\vec{v}]_{\alpha}) = [T(\vec{v})]_{\beta}$
or if you like:

$${}_{\beta}T_{\alpha} = \varphi_{\beta} \circ T \circ \varphi_{\alpha}^{-1}$$

taking the route indicated in the next diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} [\vec{v}]_{\alpha} & \xrightarrow{{}_{\beta}T_{\alpha}} & [T(\vec{v})]_{\beta} \\ \downarrow \varphi_{\alpha}^{-1} & \searrow \varphi_{\beta} \circ T \circ \varphi_{\alpha}^{-1} & \uparrow \varphi_{\beta} \\ \vec{v} & \xrightarrow{T} & T(\vec{v}) \end{array}$$

or equivalently: ${}_{\beta}T_{\alpha} \circ \varphi_{\alpha} = \varphi_{\beta} \circ T$ which indeed gives us

$${}_{\beta}T_{\alpha}([\vec{v}]_{\alpha}) = {}_{\beta}T_{\alpha}(\varphi_{\alpha}(\vec{v})) = ({}_{\beta}T_{\alpha} \circ \varphi_{\alpha})(\vec{v}) = (\varphi_{\beta} \circ T)(\vec{v}) = \varphi_{\beta}(T(\vec{v})) = [T(\vec{v})]_{\beta}$$

Definition 1

Let $T : \mathbb{V} \rightarrow \mathbb{W}$ be a linear transformation, with $\dim(\mathbb{V}) = n$ and $\dim(\mathbb{W}) = m$. Let α be a basis of \mathbb{V} , and β a basis of \mathbb{W} .

The transformation ${}_{\beta}T_{\alpha} : \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^m$ is defined by any of the following

$${}_{\beta}T_{\alpha}([v]_{\alpha}) = [T(v)]_{\beta}$$

$${}_{\beta}T_{\alpha} \circ \varphi_{\alpha} = \varphi_{\beta} \circ T$$

$${}_{\beta}T_{\alpha} = \varphi_{\beta} \circ T \circ \varphi_{\alpha}^{-1}$$

Since ${}_{\beta}T_{\alpha} : \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^m$ this transformation can be performed by a matrix multiplication:

$${}_{\beta}T_{\alpha}(\vec{x}) = M \cdot \vec{x}$$

This matrix is called ${}_{\beta}[T]_{\alpha}$, so that

$${}_{\beta}T_{\alpha}(\vec{x}) = {}_{\beta}[T]_{\alpha} \cdot \vec{x}$$

We'll first define the matrix ${}_{\beta}[T]_{\alpha}$, and then show that indeed ${}_{\beta}T_{\alpha}(\vec{x}) = {}_{\beta}[T]_{\alpha} \cdot \vec{x}$.

Definition 2

Let $T : \mathbb{V} \rightarrow \mathbb{W}$ be a linear transformation. Let $\alpha = \{\vec{a}_1, \vec{a}_2, \dots, \vec{a}_n\}$ be a basis of \mathbb{V} , and β a basis of \mathbb{W} . The matrix ${}_{\beta}[T]_{\alpha}$ is defined by

$${}_{\beta}[T]_{\alpha} = \begin{bmatrix} \uparrow & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ [T(\vec{a}_1)]_{\beta} & [T(\vec{a}_2)]_{\beta} & \cdots & [T(\vec{a}_n)]_{\beta} \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & & \downarrow \end{bmatrix}$$

Example 3

Let $T : P_2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow M_{2 \times 2}(\mathbb{R})$ be defined by

$$T(at^2 + bt + c) = \begin{bmatrix} a + b & -5a - 2c \\ a + b + c & a - 9c \end{bmatrix}$$

Let $\alpha = \{t^2 + 3t - 1, t^2 + t + 2, t^2 + 4t - 3\}$ be a basis of $P_2(\mathbb{R})$, and

Let $\beta = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 5 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ be a basis of $M_{2 \times 2}(\mathbb{R})$.

We'll compute ${}_{\beta}[T]_{\alpha}$ the matrix of ${}_{\beta}T_{\alpha}$.

$$\textbf{(a)} \quad T(\vec{a}_1) = T(t^2 + 3t - 1) = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -3 \\ 3 & 10 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and therefore} \quad [T(\vec{a}_1)]_{\beta} = \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 17 \\ 2 \\ -10 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\textbf{(b)} \quad T(\vec{a}_2) = T(t^2 + t + 2) = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -9 \\ 4 & -17 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and therefore} \quad [T(\vec{a}_2)]_{\beta} = \begin{bmatrix} -6 \\ 51 \\ 8 \\ -43 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\textbf{(c)} \quad T(\vec{a}_3) = T(t^2 + 4t - 3) = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 1 \\ 2 & 28 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and therefore} \quad [T(\vec{a}_3)]_{\beta} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -11 \\ -3 \\ 16 \end{bmatrix}$$

so that

$${}_{\beta}[T]_{\alpha} = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & -6 & 0 \\ 17 & 51 & -11 \\ 2 & 8 & -3 \\ -10 & -43 & 16 \end{bmatrix}$$

For example let $\vec{v} = 3t^2 + 4t + 5$ then

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} & \xrightarrow{{}_{\beta}T_{\alpha}} & \begin{bmatrix} -18 \\ 147 \\ 23 \\ -122 \end{bmatrix} \\ \uparrow \varphi_{\alpha} & & \uparrow \varphi_{\beta} \\ 3t^2 + 4t + 5 & \xrightarrow{T} & \begin{bmatrix} 7 & -25 \\ 12 & -42 \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

And indeed

$$\begin{bmatrix} -3 & -6 & 0 \\ 17 & 51 & -11 \\ 2 & 8 & -3 \\ -10 & -43 & 16 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -18 \\ 147 \\ 23 \\ -122 \end{bmatrix}$$

Theorem 1

If $T : \mathbb{V} \rightarrow \mathbb{W}$ is a linear transformation then

$${}_{\beta}T_{\alpha}(\vec{x}) = {}_{\beta}[T]_{\alpha} \cdot \vec{x}$$

so that

$$[T(\vec{v})]_{\beta} = {}_{\beta}[T]_{\alpha} \cdot [\vec{v}]_{\alpha}$$

Proof:

Let $T : \mathbb{V} \rightarrow \mathbb{W}$ be a linear transformation, and let

$$\alpha = \{\vec{a}_1, \vec{a}_2, \dots, \vec{a}_n\} \text{ be a basis of } \mathbb{V}$$

and

$$\beta \text{ be a basis of } \mathbb{W}$$

then if $[\vec{v}]_{\alpha} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{bmatrix}$ we can compute $T(\vec{v})$ as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} T(\vec{v}) &= T(v_1 \cdot \vec{a}_1 + v_2 \cdot \vec{a}_2 + \dots + v_n \cdot \vec{a}_n) \\ &= v_1 \cdot T(\vec{a}_1) + v_2 \cdot T(\vec{a}_2) + \dots + v_n \cdot T(\vec{a}_n) \end{aligned}$$

so that expressed with respect to β we get

$$\begin{aligned} [T(\vec{v})]_{\beta} &= [v_1 \cdot T(\vec{a}_1) + v_2 \cdot T(\vec{a}_2) + \dots + v_n \cdot T(\vec{a}_n)]_{\beta} \\ &= v_1 \cdot [T(\vec{a}_1)]_{\beta} + v_2 \cdot [T(\vec{a}_2)]_{\beta} + \dots + v_n \cdot [T(\vec{a}_n)]_{\beta} \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$[T(\vec{v})]_{\beta} = \begin{bmatrix} \uparrow & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ [T(\vec{a}_1)]_{\beta} & [T(\vec{a}_2)]_{\beta} & \cdots & [T(\vec{a}_n)]_{\beta} \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & & \downarrow \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{bmatrix}$$

so that

$$[T(\vec{v})]_{\beta} = {}_{\beta}[T]_{\alpha} \cdot [\vec{v}]_{\alpha}$$

and since

$$[\vec{v}]_{\alpha} \xrightarrow{{}_{\beta}T_{\alpha}} [T(\vec{v})]_{\beta}$$

${}_{\beta}[T]_{\alpha}$ is exactly the matrix that performs this operation:

$$[\vec{v}]_{\alpha} \xrightarrow{{}_{\beta}T_{\alpha}} {}_{\beta}[T]_{\alpha} \cdot [\vec{v}]_{\alpha} \quad \square$$

As we mentioned before, it often happens that when we write everything with respect to the standard bases, things become easier.

In particular ${}_S[T]_S$ is usually easier to find than ${}_B[T]_B$.

Example 4

Let $T : P_2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow M_{2 \times 2}(\mathbb{R})$ be a linear transformation defined by

$$T(t^2) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 5 & 4 \end{bmatrix}, \quad T(t) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad T(1) = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 2 \\ 1 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

The transformation is completely determined by the above:

$$\begin{aligned} T(xt^2 + yt + z) &= x \cdot T(t^2) + y \cdot T(t) + z \cdot T(1) \\ &= x \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 5 & 4 \end{bmatrix} + y \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} + z \cdot \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 2 \\ 1 & -5 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} x + y - z & 3x - y + 2z \\ 5x - 2y + z & 4x + 3y - 5z \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Here is the corresponding diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} & \xrightarrow{{}_S T_S} & \begin{bmatrix} x + y - z \\ 3x - y + 2z \\ 5x - 2y + z \\ 4x + 3y - 5z \end{bmatrix} \\ \uparrow \varphi_S & & \uparrow \varphi_S \\ xt^2 + yt + z & \xrightarrow{T} & \begin{bmatrix} x + y - z & 3x - y + 2z \\ 5x - 2y + z & 4x + 3y - 5z \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

Hence

$$\begin{bmatrix} x + y - z \\ 3x - y + 2z \\ 5x - 2y + z \\ 4x + 3y - 5z \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \textcolor{red}{1} & \textcolor{blue}{1} & -1 \\ \textcolor{red}{3} & \textcolor{blue}{-1} & 2 \\ \textcolor{red}{5} & \textcolor{blue}{-2} & 1 \\ \textcolor{red}{4} & \textcolor{blue}{3} & -5 \end{bmatrix}}_{{}_S[T]_S} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$$

and as you can see, its columns are precisely: $[T(t^2)]_S$, $[T(t)]_S$ and $[T(1)]_S$ since

$$T(t^2) = \begin{bmatrix} \textcolor{red}{1} & \textcolor{red}{3} \\ \textcolor{red}{5} & \textcolor{red}{4} \end{bmatrix}, \quad T(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \textcolor{blue}{1} & \textcolor{blue}{-1} \\ \textcolor{blue}{-2} & \textcolor{blue}{3} \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad T(1) = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 2 \\ 1 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

So in particular for $\vec{v} = 4t^2 - 3t - 2$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -3 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} & \xrightarrow{sT_s} & \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 11 \\ 24 \\ 17 \end{bmatrix} \\
 \uparrow \varphi_s & & \uparrow \varphi_s \\
 4t^2 - 3t - 2 & \xrightarrow{T} & \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 11 \\ 24 & 17 \end{bmatrix}
 \end{array}$$

and indeed

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 3 & -1 & 2 \\ 5 & -2 & 1 \\ 4 & 3 & -5 \end{bmatrix}}_{s[T]_s} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -3 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 11 \\ 24 \\ 17 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example 5

Let $T : U_{2 \times 2}(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow P_3(\mathbb{R})$ be a linear transformation defined by

$$T \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = 3t^2 - 2t + 4, \quad T \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = 2t^3 + 5t - 6 \quad \text{and} \quad T \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = 6t^3 + 7t$$

Then

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 s[T]_s = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & 6 \\ 3 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 5 & 7 \\ 4 & -6 & 0 \end{bmatrix} & & \\
 \uparrow \varphi_s & \uparrow \varphi_s & \uparrow \varphi_s \\
 T \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = 3t^2 - 2t + 4 & T \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = 2t^3 + 5t - 6 & T \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = 6t^3 + 7t
 \end{array}$$

where s and S are the standard bases of $U_{2 \times 2}(\mathbb{R})$ and $P_3(\mathbb{R})$.

Alternatively we could have computed

$$\begin{aligned}
 T \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ 0 & z \end{bmatrix} &= T \left(x \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + y \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + z \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) \\
 &= x \cdot T \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + y \cdot T \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + z \cdot T \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= x \cdot (3t^2 - 2t + 4) + y \cdot (2t^3 + 5t - 6) + z \cdot (6t^3 + 7t) \\
 &= (2y + 6z) \cdot t^3 + 3x \cdot t^2 + (-2x + 5y + 7z) \cdot t + (4x - 6y)
 \end{aligned}$$

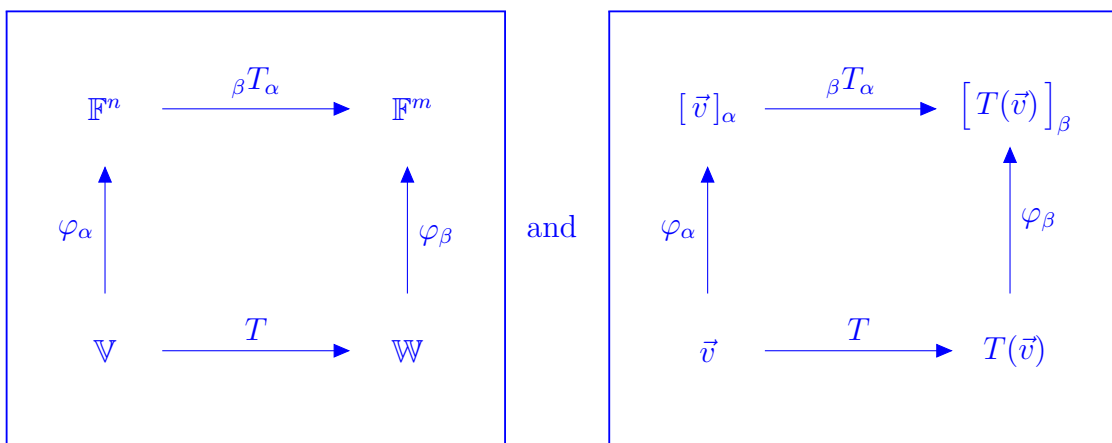
Hence $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\beta T_\alpha} \begin{bmatrix} 2y + 6z \\ 3x \\ -2x + 5y + 7z \\ 4x - 6y \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & 6 \\ 3 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 5 & 7 \\ 4 & -6 & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{s[T]_s} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$

Summary: βT_α and how to compute $\beta[T]_\alpha$

$$T: \mathbb{V} \rightarrow \mathbb{W}$$

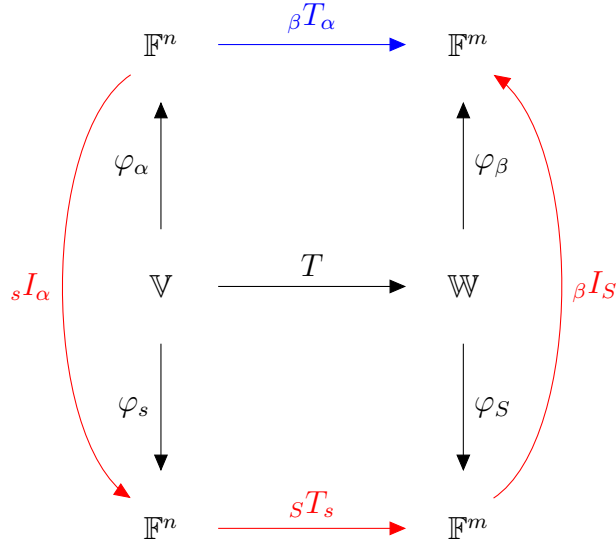
$$\beta[T]_\alpha = \begin{bmatrix} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ [T(\vec{a}_1)]_\beta \\ \downarrow \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ [T(\vec{a}_2)]_\beta \\ \downarrow \end{array} & \cdots & \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ [T(\vec{a}_n)]_\beta \\ \downarrow \end{array} \end{bmatrix}$$

Corresponding diagrams



But since it is often easier to compute ${}_s[T]_s$ we can compute ${}_\beta[T]_\alpha$ using this matrix as follows:

$${}_\beta[T]_\alpha = {}_\beta C_S \cdot {}_s[T]_s \cdot {}_s C_\alpha$$



since

$${}_\beta T_\alpha = {}_\beta I_S \cdot {}_s T_s \cdot {}_s I_\alpha$$

where ${}_s I_\alpha$ is the map defined by

$${}_s I_\alpha : [\vec{v}]_\alpha \longmapsto [\vec{v}]_s$$

i.e. ${}_s I_\alpha$ is the transformation that takes a vector $[\vec{v}]_\alpha$, which is the vector $\vec{v} \in V$ expressed with respect to the basis α , and maps it to $[\vec{v}]_s$, which is the same vector but now expressed with respect to the standard basis s . [Here we use I because it is basically the identity map]

This we can do with the matrix ${}_s C_\alpha$

$$[\vec{v}]_s = {}_s C_\alpha \cdot [\vec{v}]_\alpha$$

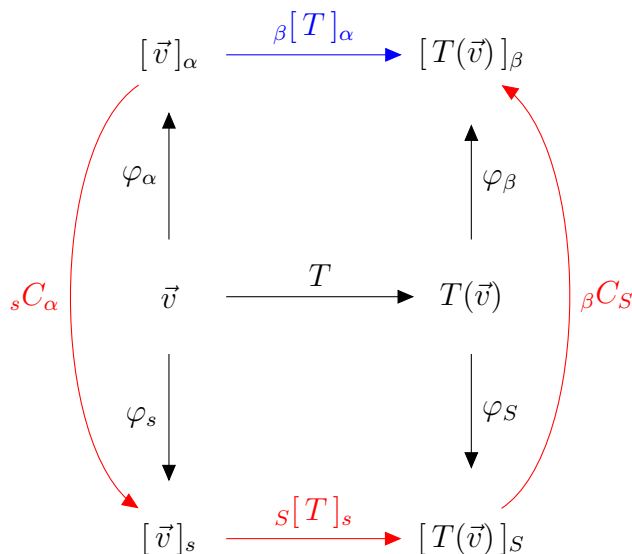
Similarly for ${}_\beta I_S$ which is defined by

$${}_\beta I_S : [\vec{w}]_S \longmapsto [\vec{w}]_\beta$$

a transformation we can perform using the matrix ${}_\beta C_S (= {}_s C_\beta^{-1})$

$$[\vec{w}]_\beta = {}_\beta C_S \cdot [\vec{w}]_S$$

Let's look at the following diagram where instead of the names of the functions, we indicate all the **matrices** used for each map, and what vector is being mapped to what image vector



Instead of performing the transformation

$$[\vec{v}]_{\alpha} \longmapsto [T(\vec{v})]_{\beta}$$

using the matrix ${}_{\beta}[T]_{\alpha}$ as follows

$${}_{\beta}[T]_{\alpha} \cdot [\vec{v}]_{\alpha} = [T(\vec{v})]_{\beta}$$

we take the longer, but often simpler route

$$[\vec{v}]_{\alpha} \longmapsto [\vec{v}]_s \longmapsto [T(\vec{v})]_s \longmapsto [T(\vec{v})]_{\beta}$$

using three matrices

$${}_{\beta}C_s \cdot {}_s[T]_s \cdot {}_sC_{\alpha} \cdot [\vec{v}]_{\alpha} = [T(\vec{v})]_{\beta}$$

where each of these matrices can be found easily. This shows that

$${}_{\beta}[T]_{\alpha} = {}_{\beta}C_s \cdot {}_s[T]_s \cdot {}_sC_{\alpha}$$

or if you like

$${}_{\beta}[T]_{\alpha} = {}_{\beta}[I]_s \cdot {}_s[T]_s \cdot {}_s[I]_{\alpha}$$

This sounds all much more abstract than it actually is. Let's do a bunch of examples.

Example 6

Let $T : P_2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow M_{2 \times 2}(\mathbb{R})$ defined by

$$T(at^2 + bt + c) = \begin{bmatrix} 3a + 6b - 3c & a + 17b - 7c \\ 6a + 12b - 6c & 13a - 4b - c \end{bmatrix}$$

The following bases are given

$$\alpha = \{t^2 + 2t + 1, \quad t^2 + 3t + 1, \quad t^2 + 2\}$$

and

$$\beta = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

and of course the usual standard bases.

Since
$$\begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{sT_s} \begin{bmatrix} 3a + 6b - 3c \\ a + 17b - 7c \\ 6a + 12b - 6c \\ 13a - 4b - c \end{bmatrix}$$

$${}_s[T]_s = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 6 & -3 \\ 1 & 17 & -7 \\ 6 & 12 & -6 \\ 13 & -4 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

and

$${}_sC_\alpha = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad {}_sC_\beta = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

These three matrices where easy to find, and now give us

$$\begin{aligned} {}_\beta[T]_\alpha &= {}_\beta C_S \cdot {}_S[T]_s \cdot {}_s C_\alpha \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 6 & -3 \\ 1 & 17 & -7 \\ 6 & 12 & -6 \\ 13 & -4 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 44 & 81 & -41 \\ -100 & -189 & 103 \\ 108 & 207 & -117 \\ 60 & 108 & -51 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Let's also find ${}_\beta[T]_\alpha$ the other way

$$\text{using } {}_{\beta}[T]_{\alpha} = \left[\begin{array}{ccc} \uparrow & \uparrow & \uparrow \\ [T(\vec{a}_1)]_{\beta} & [T(\vec{a}_2)]_{\beta} & \cdots [T(\vec{a}_n)]_{\beta} \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \end{array} \right]$$

$$\text{(a) } T(\vec{\alpha}_1) = T(t^2 + 2t + 1) = \begin{bmatrix} 12 & 28 \\ 24 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow [T(\vec{\alpha}_1)]_{\beta} = \begin{bmatrix} 44 \\ -100 \\ 108 \\ 60 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{(b) } T(\vec{\alpha}_2) = T(t^2 + 3t + 1) = \begin{bmatrix} 18 & 45 \\ 36 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow [T(\vec{\alpha}_2)]_{\beta} = \begin{bmatrix} 81 \\ -189 \\ 207 \\ 108 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{(c) } T(\vec{\alpha}_3) = T(t^2 + 2) = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & -13 \\ -6 & 11 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow [T(\vec{\alpha}_3)]_{\beta} = \begin{bmatrix} -41 \\ 103 \\ -117 \\ -51 \end{bmatrix}$$

where the last parts were computed with one row reduction

$$\text{rref} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 1 & 12 & 18 & -3 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & 2 & 28 & 45 & -13 \\ 3 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 24 & 36 & -6 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 4 & 0 & 11 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 44 & 81 & -41 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -100 & -189 & 103 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 108 & 207 & -117 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 60 & 108 & -51 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{Hence } {}_{\beta}[T]_{\alpha} = \begin{bmatrix} 44 & 81 & -41 \\ -100 & -189 & 103 \\ 108 & 207 & -117 \\ 60 & 108 & -51 \end{bmatrix}$$

Both ways are fine. You can do it either way. Once you understand both paths the computations are fairly straightforward in either case. Let's look at one example of a particular \vec{v}

$$\begin{array}{ccc} [\vec{v}]_{\alpha} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} & \xrightarrow{{}_{\beta}T_{\alpha}} & [T(\vec{v})]_{\beta} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ -11 \\ 9 \\ 12 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 44 & 81 & -41 \\ -100 & -189 & 103 \\ 108 & 207 & -117 \\ 60 & 108 & -51 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ \uparrow \varphi_{\alpha} & & \uparrow \varphi_{\beta} \\ \vec{v} = t^2 + t + 1 & \xrightarrow{T} & T(\vec{v}) = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 11 \\ 12 & 8 \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

Example 7

Let $T : \mathbb{R}^4 \rightarrow P_3(\mathbb{R})$ defined by

$$T \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ d \end{bmatrix} = (a - b)t^3 + (2a - c + 5d)t^2 + (b - c)t + 3c - 2d$$

The following bases are given

$$\alpha = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

and

$$\beta = \{ t^3 + 2t^2 + 1, \quad t^3 + 3t - 5, \quad t^2 + 2t + 1, \quad t^3 + 3t^2 + 3 \}$$

and of course the usual standard bases.

Since $\begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ d \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{sT_s} \begin{bmatrix} a - b \\ 2a - c + 5d \\ b - c \\ 3c - 2d \end{bmatrix}$

$${}_s[T]_s = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & -1 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

and

$${}_sC_\alpha = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad {}_sC_\beta = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 3 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & -5 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

These three matrices were easy to find, and now give us

$$\begin{aligned} {}_\beta[T]_\alpha &= {}_\beta C_S \cdot {}_S[T]_s \cdot {}_s C_\alpha \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 3 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & -5 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & -1 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} -259 & 33 & -56 & -97 \\ 55 & -7 & 11 & 20 \\ -82 & 10 & -17 & -30 \\ 204 & -25 & 44 & 76 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Let's also find ${}_{\beta}[T]_{\alpha}$ the other way using ${}_{\beta}[T]_{\alpha} = \left[\begin{array}{ccc} \uparrow & \uparrow & \uparrow \\ [T(\vec{a}_1)]_{\beta} & [T(\vec{a}_2)]_{\beta} & \cdots & [T(\vec{a}_n)]_{\beta} \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \end{array} \right]$

$$\text{(a)} \quad T(\vec{\alpha}_1) = T \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = 12t^2 + t - 4 \quad \Rightarrow \quad [T(\vec{\alpha}_1)]_{\beta} = \begin{bmatrix} -259 \\ 55 \\ -82 \\ 204 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{(b)} \quad T(\vec{\alpha}_2) = T \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = t^3 + t^2 - t + 3 \quad \Rightarrow \quad [T(\vec{\alpha}_2)]_{\beta} = \begin{bmatrix} 33 \\ -7 \\ 10 \\ -25 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{(c)} \quad T(\vec{\alpha}_3) = T \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = -t^3 + 3t^2 - t + 4 \quad \Rightarrow \quad [T(\vec{\alpha}_3)]_{\beta} = \begin{bmatrix} -56 \\ 11 \\ -17 \\ 44 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{(d)} \quad T(\vec{\alpha}_4) = T \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = -t^3 + 4t^2 + 1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad [T(\vec{\alpha}_4)]_{\beta} = \begin{bmatrix} -97 \\ 20 \\ -30 \\ 76 \end{bmatrix}$$

where the last parts were computed with one row reduction

$$\text{rref} \left[\begin{array}{cccccccc} 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 & 3 & 12 & 1 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 3 & 2 & 1 & 1 & -1 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & -5 & 1 & 3 & -4 & 3 & 4 & 1 \end{array} \right] = \left[\begin{array}{cccccccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -259 & 33 & -56 & -97 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 55 & -7 & 11 & 20 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -82 & 10 & -17 & -30 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 204 & -25 & 44 & 76 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\text{Hence } {}_{\beta}[T]_{\alpha} = \begin{bmatrix} -259 & 33 & -56 & -97 \\ 55 & -7 & 11 & 20 \\ -82 & 10 & -17 & -30 \\ 204 & -25 & 44 & 76 \end{bmatrix}$$

Both ways are fine. You can do it either way. Once you understand both paths the computations are fairly straightforward in either case. And ... essentially equivalent

Example 8

Let $T : P_2(\mathbb{F}_7) \rightarrow M_{2 \times 3}(\mathbb{F}_7)$ be defined by

$$T(at^2 + bt + c) = \begin{bmatrix} 2a + b & a + b + c & 3b + 4c \\ 0 & 2a + 5c & 3a + 2b \end{bmatrix}$$

Since

$$\begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{sT_s} \begin{bmatrix} 2a + b \\ a + b + c \\ 3b + 4c \\ 0 \\ 2a + 5c \\ 3a + 2b \end{bmatrix}$$

we find that

$$s[T]_s = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 5 \\ 3 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

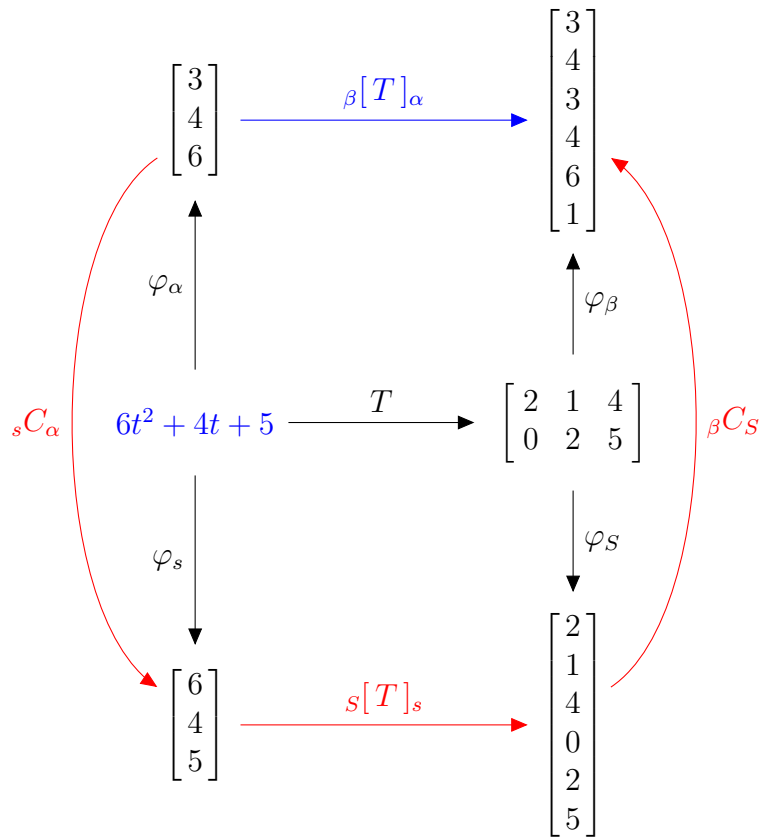
If $\alpha = \{t^2 + 2t + 1, t^2 + 3t + 1, t^2 + 2\}$

and $\beta = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 4 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 & 5 \\ 6 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 5 & 3 \\ 1 & 4 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 5 & 0 \\ 2 & 4 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} {}_\beta[T]_\alpha &= {}_\beta C_S \cdot s[T]_s \cdot {}_s C_\alpha \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 6 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 5 & 5 \\ 1 & 3 & 0 & 5 & 3 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 6 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 4 & 2 & 4 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 5 \\ 3 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 5 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 0 \\ 1 & 3 & 5 \\ 6 & 5 & 6 \\ 3 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 6 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Let's look at the diagram for $\vec{v} = 6t^2 + 4t + 5$



Here are the TI-Nspire calculations of both the blue and red paths, using the matrices:

${}_sC_\alpha$, ${}_s[T]_s$, ${}_sC_\beta$ and ${}_\beta[T]_\alpha$ [respectively]

$s7\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}\right)$	$\begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$
$s7\left(\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 5 \\ 3 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}\right)$	$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 4 \\ 0 \\ 2 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$
$s7mi7\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 6 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 5 & 5 \\ 1 & 3 & 0 & 5 & 3 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 6 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 4 & 2 & 4 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 4 \\ 0 \\ 2 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}\right)$	$\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 6 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$
$s7\left(\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 5 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 0 \\ 1 & 3 & 5 \\ 6 & 5 & 6 \\ 3 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 6 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}\right)$	$\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 6 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$