

$\Rightarrow P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$. Again, the coordinates of u_1, u_2, u_3 appear as the columns in P . Observe that P is simply the matrix whose columns are the basis vectors of B . This is true only because the original basis was the usual basis E .

2. The definition of the change-of-basis matrix Q tells us to write each of the (usual) basis vectors in E as a linear combination of the basis elements of B . This yields

$$e_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = -2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + 2 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} - 1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = -2u_1 + 2u_2 - 1u_3$$

$$e_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = -2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + 1 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + 0 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = -2u_1 + 1u_2 + 0u_3$$

$$e_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = 3 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - 2 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + 1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = 3u_1 - 2u_2 + 1u_3$$

$$\Rightarrow Q = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & -2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & -2 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

We emphasize that to find Q , we need to solve three 3×3 systems of linear equations each of e_1, e_2, e_3 . Alternatively, we can find $Q = P^{-1}$ by forming the matrix $M = [P, I]$ and row reducing M to row canonical form as

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow M &= [P|I] \\ &= \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 2 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \sim \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & -2 & -2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 1 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] = [I|P^{-1}] \\ Q = P^{-1} &= \begin{bmatrix} -2 & -2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & -2 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

(Here we have used the fact that Q is the inverse of P .)

The result in above is true in general. We state this result formally since it occurs often.

Proposition : The change-of-basis matrix from the usual basis E of \mathbb{R}^n to any basis B of \mathbb{R}^n is the matrix P whose columns are, respectively, the basis vectors of B .

Applications of Change-of-Basis Matrix

First we show how a change of basis affects the coordinates of a vector in a vector space V . **Theorem :** Let P be the change-of-basis matrix from a basis B to a basis B' in a vector space V . Then, for any vector $v \in V$, we have

$$P[v]_{B'} = [v]_B \text{ and hence } [v]_{B'} = P^{-1}[v]_B$$

Namely, if we multiply the coordinates of v in the original basis B by P , we get the coordinates of v in the new basis B' .

Remark 1: Although P is called the change-of-basis matrix from the old basis B to the new basis B' , we emphasize that it is P that transforms the coordinates of v in the original basis B into the coordinates of v in the new basis B' .

Remark 2: Because of the above theorem, many texts call $Q = P^{-1}$, not P , the transition matrix from the old basis P to the new basis B' . Some texts also refer to Q as the change-of-coordinates matrix.

Theorem : Let P be the change-of-basis matrix from a basis B to a basis B' in a vector space V . Then, for any linear operator T on V ,

$$[T]_{B'} = P^{-1}[T]_B P$$

That is, if A and B are the matrix representations of T relative, respectively, to B and B' , then $B = P^{-1}AP$.

Example : Consider the following two bases of \mathbb{R}^3

$$E = \{e_1, e_2, e_3\} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}, \text{ and } B = \{u_1, u_2, u_3\} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

1. Write $v = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$ as a Linear combination of u_1, u_2, u_3 or, equivalently, find $[v]_B$.

2. Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & -2 \\ 2 & -4 & 1 \\ 3 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$, which may be viewed as a Linear operator on \mathbb{R}^3 . Find the matrix C that represents A relative to the basis B .

Solution: The change-of-basis matrix P from E to B and its inverse P^{-1} were obtained in earlier example

1. One way to do this is to directly solve the vector equation $v = xu_1 + yu_2 + zu_3$, that is,

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} = x \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + y \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + z \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \implies \begin{cases} x + 2y + z = 1 \\ y + 2z = 3 \\ x + 2y + 2z = 5 \end{cases}.$$

The solution is $x = 7, y = -5, z = 4$, so $v = 7u_1 - 5u_2 + 4u_3$

$$\implies [v]_B = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ -5 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}.$$

On the other hand, we know that $[v]_E = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$, since E is the usual basis, and we already know P^{-1} . Therefore, by

$$[v]_B = P^{-1}[v]_E = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & -2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & -2 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

Thus, again, $[v]_B = 7u_1 - 5u_2 + 4u_3$.

2. The definition of the matrix representation of A relative to the basis B tells us to write each of $A(u_1), A(u_2), A(u_3)$ as a linear combination of the basis vectors u_1, u_2, u_3 of B . This yields

$$A(u_1) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & -2 \\ 2 & -4 & 1 \\ 3 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 3 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} = 11 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - 5 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + 6 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = 11u_1 - 5u_2 + 6u_3$$

$$A(u_2) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & -2 \\ 2 & -4 & 1 \\ 3 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} = 21 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - 14 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + 8 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = 21u_1 - 14u_2 + 8u_3$$

$$A(u_3) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & -2 \\ 2 & -4 & 1 \\ 3 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} = 17 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - 8 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + 2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = 17u_1 - 8u_2 + 2u_3$$

$$\implies C = \begin{bmatrix} 11 & 21 & 17 \\ -5 & -14 & -8 \\ 6 & 8 & 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

We emphasize that to find C , we need to solve three 3×3 systems of linear equations each of $A(u_1), A(u_2), A(u_3)$. On the other hand, since we know P and P^{-1} , we can use the theorem. That is,

$$C = P^{-1}AP = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & -2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & -2 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & -2 \\ 2 & -4 & 1 \\ 3 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 11 & 21 & 17 \\ -5 & -14 & -8 \\ 6 & 8 & 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

This, as expected, gives the same result.

Example : Consider the following two basis of \mathbb{R}^3

$$E = \{e_1, e_2, e_3\} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}, \text{ and } B = \{u_1, u_2, u_3\} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

Then find

1. The change of basis matrix P from E to B
2. The change of basis matrix Q from B back to E

Solution:

1. Since,

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = 1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + 2 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + 0 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = 1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + 3 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + 2 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = 0 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + 1 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + 3 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Therefore, the change-of-basis matrix P from E to B is given by

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

2. Expressing each vector of E as a linear combination of the basis vector of B by first finding the coordinate of an arbitrary

$$\text{vector } u = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \end{bmatrix} = \alpha_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \alpha_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + \alpha_3 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{array}{ccccccc} \alpha_1 & + & \alpha_2 & + & & = & u_1 \\ 2\alpha_1 & + & 3\alpha_2 & + & \alpha_3 & = & u_2 \\ & & 2\alpha_2 & + & 3\alpha_3 & = & u_3 \end{array}$$

Solving for α_1, α_2 and α_3 we get

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \alpha_1 & = & 7u_1 - 3u_2 + u_3 \\ \alpha_2 & = & -6u_1 + 3u_2 - u_3 \\ \alpha_3 & = & 4u_1 - 2u_2 + u_3 \end{array}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \end{bmatrix} = (7u_1 - 3u_2 + u_3) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + (-6u_1 + 3u_2 - u_3) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + (4u_1 - 2u_2 + u_3) \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow [u]_B = \begin{bmatrix} 7u_1 - 3u_2 + u_3 \\ -6u_1 + 3u_2 - u_3 \\ 4u_1 - 2u_2 + u_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$e_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = 7 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} - 6 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + 4 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$e_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = -3 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + 3 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} - 2 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$e_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} - 1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + 1 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Therefore, the change-of-basis matrix Q from B to E is given by

$$Q = \begin{bmatrix} -7 & -3 & 1 \\ 6 & 3 & -1 \\ 4 & -2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Alternatively, we can find $Q = P^{-1}$ by forming the matrix $M = [P, I]$ and row reducing M to row canonical form as

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow M = [P|I] &= \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 3 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \sim \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 3 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \\ &\sim \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 & -2 & 1 \end{array} \right] \\ &\sim \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 7 & -3 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -6 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 & -2 & 1 \end{array} \right] \\ &= [I|P^{-1}] \end{aligned}$$

$$Q = P^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} -7 & -3 & 1 \\ 6 & 3 & -1 \\ 4 & -2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Theorem : For any vector $v \in V$, $[T]_B^{B'}[v]_B = [T(v)]_{B'}$.

Theorem : Let P be the change-of-basis matrix from a basis B_1 to a basis B'_1 in V , and let Q be the change-of-basis matrix from B_2 to a basis B'_2 in V in U . Then, for any linear map $F : V \rightarrow U$

$$[T]_{B'_1}^{B'_2} = Q^{-1}[T]_{B_1}^{B_2}P$$