

# Assignment: Written Assignment 5

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Due Date: 03/12/2018

## List Your Collaborators:

- Problem 1: None

- Problem 2: None

- Problem 3: None

- Problem 4: Not Applicable

- Problem 5: Not Applicable

- Problem 6: Not Applicable

**Problem 1:** Let  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  be a linear transformation. Is it always possible to find a basis  $\alpha = (\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2)$  of  $\mathbb{R}^2$  such that  $[T]_\alpha \neq [T]$ ? Either prove this is true, or give a counterexample (with justification).

*Solution:* We assume that it is always possible to find a basis  $\alpha = (\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2)$  of  $\mathbb{R}^2$  such that  $[T]_\alpha \neq [T]$  where  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  is an arbitrary linear transformation. Consider the case in which  $T$  is the linear transformation with standard matrix  $[T] = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ . Notice that  $[T] = [id] = I$  by Definition 3.2.7. Let  $\alpha = (\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2)$  be an arbitrary basis of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , and fix  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $\vec{u}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ c \end{pmatrix}, \vec{u}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} b \\ d \end{pmatrix}$ . Let  $P = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$ . Applying Proposition 3.4.7, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} [T]_\alpha &= P^{-1}[T]P = P^{-1}IP && \text{(By definition of } [T]) \\ &= P^{-1}P && \text{(By Proposition 3.2.8)} \\ &= I && \text{(By definition)} \end{aligned}$$

So  $[T]_\alpha = I$  for any basis  $\alpha$ , and so it follows that, in this specific case,  $[T]_\alpha = [T]$  for any basis  $\alpha$ . We assumed that it is always possible to find a basis  $\alpha = (\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2)$  of  $\mathbb{R}^2$  such that  $[T]_\alpha \neq [T]$  for an arbitrary linear transformation  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ , however we have found a linear transformation  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  with  $[T]_\alpha = [T]$  for *any* basis  $\alpha$ . This contradicts our assumption, so it must be the case that it is not *always* possible to find a basis  $\alpha = (\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2)$  of  $\mathbb{R}^2$  such that  $[T]_\alpha \neq [T]$  for an arbitrary linear transformation  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ .

**Problem 2:** Let  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  be a linear transformation, and let  $\alpha = (\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2)$  and  $\beta = (\vec{w}_1, \vec{w}_2)$  be bases of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . Show that there exists an invertible  $2 \times 2$  matrix  $R$  with  $[T]_\beta = R^{-1} \cdot [T]_\alpha \cdot R$ , and explicitly describe how to calculate  $R$ .

*Solution:* Fix  $a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $\vec{u}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ c \end{pmatrix}, \vec{u}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} b \\ d \end{pmatrix}, \vec{w}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} e \\ g \end{pmatrix}, \vec{w}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} f \\ h \end{pmatrix}$ , and let  $P = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}, Q = \begin{pmatrix} e & f \\ g & h \end{pmatrix}$ . We have that  $\alpha = (\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2)$  and  $\beta = (\vec{w}_1, \vec{w}_2)$  are bases of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , so by definition of basis, we have that  $\text{Span}(\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2) = \mathbb{R}^2$  and  $\text{Span}(\vec{w}_1, \vec{w}_2) = \mathbb{R}^2$ . Applying Theorem 2.3.10, it follows that  $ad - bc \neq 0$  and  $eh - fg \neq 0$ , and so by Proposition 3.3.16, we conclude that  $P$  and  $Q$  are invertible and have unique inverses which, by definition, are denoted by  $P^{-1}$  and  $Q^{-1}$  respectively. By Proposition 3.4.7, we have  $[T]_\alpha = P^{-1}[T]P$  and  $[T]_\beta = Q^{-1}[T]Q$ . We want to show that there exists an invertible  $2 \times 2$  matrix  $R$  with  $[T]_\beta = R^{-1} \cdot [T]_\alpha \cdot R$ , so we will need to express  $[T]_\beta$  in terms of  $R^{-1}, R$ , and  $[T]_\alpha$ . We do this as follows: We first solve for  $[T]$  in terms of  $P^{-1}, P$ , and  $[T]_\alpha$ . We start with the equation  $[T]_\alpha = P^{-1}[T]P$ . Taking the matrix product with  $P$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} P[T]_\alpha &= PP^{-1}[T]P = I[T]P && \text{(By definition of inverse)} \\ &= [T]P && \text{(By Proposition 3.2.8)} \end{aligned}$$

We then take the matrix product with  $P^{-1}$ , giving  $P[T]_\alpha P^{-1} = [T]PP^{-1}$ . The right hand side simplifies to  $[T]I$  (by the definition of inverse), which then further simplifies to  $[T]$  (by Proposition 2.3.8). So we have that  $[T] = P[T]_\alpha P^{-1}$ . Substituting for  $[T]$  in  $[T]_\beta = Q^{-1}[T]Q$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} [T]_\beta &= Q^{-1}(P[T]_\alpha P^{-1})Q \\ &= (Q^{-1}P)[T]_\alpha(P^{-1}Q) && \text{(By Proposition 3.2.6)} \end{aligned}$$

Recall that  $P$  and  $Q$  are invertible. By Proposition 3.1.18, it follows that  $P^{-1}$  and  $Q^{-1}$  are invertible. Notice that  $(Q^{-1}P) = (Q)^{-1}(P^{-1})^{-1} = (P^{-1}Q)^{-1}$  by Proposition 3.3.18. So we can rewrite our equation as  $[T]_\beta = (P^{-1}Q)^{-1}[T]_\alpha(P^{-1}Q)$ . Letting  $P^{-1}Q = R$ , we get  $[T]_\beta = (R)^{-1}[T]_\alpha(R) = R^{-1}[T]_\alpha R$ .  $P^{-1}Q$  is invertible, so  $R$  is invertible. We conclude that, for a linear transformation  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ , where  $\alpha = (\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2)$  and  $\beta = (\vec{w}_1, \vec{w}_2)$  are bases of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , and fixing  $a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $\vec{u}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ c \end{pmatrix}, \vec{u}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} b \\ d \end{pmatrix}, \vec{w}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} e \\ g \end{pmatrix}, \vec{w}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} f \\ h \end{pmatrix}$

and defining two  $2 \times 2$  matrices  $P$  and  $Q$  by letting  $P = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}, Q = \begin{pmatrix} e & f \\ g & h \end{pmatrix}$ , there exists an invertible  $2 \times 2$  matrix  $R = P^{-1}Q$  with  $[T]_\beta = R^{-1}[T]_\alpha R$ . We if we know the explicit values for  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  we can calculate  $R$  by the definition of matrix multiplication, that is, if we know the explicit values of  $a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h \in \mathbb{R}$ , then we know the explicit value of  $P^{-1}$  (given by Proposition 3.3.16) and the explicit value of  $Q$ , and we can compute

$$R = P^{-1}Q = \frac{1}{ad-bc} \begin{pmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} e & f \\ g & h \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{ad-bc} \begin{pmatrix} de - bg & df - bh \\ -ce + ag & -cf + ah \end{pmatrix} = R$$

**Problem 3:** Given two  $2 \times 2$  matrices  $A$  and  $B$ , write  $A \sim B$  to mean that there exists a  $2 \times 2$  invertible matrix  $P$  with  $B = P^{-1}AP$ .

*Cultural Aside:* Using Problem 2 along with our work in class, it follows that  $A \sim B$  if and only if  $A$  and  $B$  are both representations of a common linear transformation  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ , but with respect to possibly different coordinates. In this problem, you are proving that  $\sim$  is something called an *equivalence relation*, a concept that you will see repeatedly throughout your mathematical journey.

a. Show that  $A \sim A$  for all  $2 \times 2$   $A$ .

*Solution:* Let  $A$  be an arbitrary  $2 \times 2$  matrix. We assume that  $A \approx A$  for all  $2 \times 2$   $A$ , and it follows from the definition of  $\sim$  that for all  $2 \times 2$  matrices  $P$ , we have  $A \neq P^{-1}AP$ . Consider the case in which  $P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ . Notice that  $1 \cdot 1 - 0 \cdot 0 = 1 \neq 0$ , so  $P$  is indeed invertible. By

Proposition 3.3.16,  $P$  has a unique inverse  $P^{-1}$  given by  $P^{-1} = \frac{1}{1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -0 \\ -0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = P$ .

So by assumption, we have that  $A \neq PAP$ . Notice that  $P = I$  by definition 3.3.16. Applying Proposition 3.2.8, we have that  $IA = A$  and  $AI = A$ , so it follows that  $PA = A$  and  $AP = A$ . So we have that  $(PA)P = AP = A$ . By our previous equation  $A \neq PAP$ , we conclude that  $A \neq A$ . This is clearly a contradiction, as for any particular  $2 \times 2$  matrix  $A$ , it is always the case that  $A = A$ . So it must be that case that our assumption that  $A \approx A$  for all  $2 \times 2$   $A$  is false, and so it must indeed be the case that  $A \sim A$  for all  $2 \times 2$  matrices  $A$ , that is, that there exists a  $2 \times 2$  invertible matrix  $P$  with  $A = P^{-1}AP$  for all  $2 \times 2$  matrices  $A$ . Because  $A$  was arbitrary, the result follows.

b. Show that if  $A$  and  $B$  are  $2 \times 2$  matrices with  $A \sim B$ , then  $B \sim A$ .

*Solution:* Let  $A, B$  be arbitrary  $2 \times 2$  matrices such that  $A \sim B$ . By definition of  $A \sim B$ , there exists a  $2 \times 2$  invertible matrix  $P$  with  $B = P^{-1}AP$ . We can manipulate this equation by taking the matrix product with  $P$  yielding  $PB = PP^{-1}AP = IAP$  (by the definition of inverse matrix). It follows that  $PB = AP$  (by Proposition 3.2.8). Taking the matrix product with  $P^{-1}$ , we get  $PBP^{-1} = APP^{-1} = AI = A$ . We conclude that  $PBP^{-1} = A$ . Because  $P$  is invertible,  $P^{-1}$  is invertible, and it follows that  $(P^{-1})^{-1} = P$  (by Proposition 3.3.18), and we rewrite our equation as  $A = (P^{-1})^{-1}B(P^{-1})$ . Letting  $P^{-1} = Q$ , we rewrite our equation as  $A = Q^{-1}BQ$ . Because  $P^{-1}$  is invertible,  $Q$  is invertible, and so  $A = Q^{-1}BQ$  satisfies the definition of  $B \sim A$ . Because  $A, B$  were arbitrary, the result follows.

c. Show if  $A, B$  and  $C$  are  $2 \times 2$  with both  $A \sim B$  and  $B \sim C$ , then  $A \sim C$ .

*Solution:* Let  $A, B, C$  be arbitrary  $2 \times 2$  matrices with  $A \sim B$  and  $B \sim C$ . By definition of  $\sim$ , there exist invertible  $2 \times 2$  matrices  $P$  and  $Q$  with  $B = P^{-1}AP$  and  $C = Q^{-1}BQ$ .

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Substituting for  $B$  into the second equation, we get

$$C = Q^{-1}(P^{-1}AP)Q = (Q^{-1}P^{-1})A(PQ) \quad (\text{By Proposition 3.2.6})$$

Notice that  $Q^{-1}P^{-1} = (PQ)^{-1}$  by Proposition 3.3.18, so we can rewrite the previous equation as  $C = (PQ)^{-1}A(PQ)$ . Letting  $PQ = R$ , we rewrite our equation as  $C = (R)^{-1}A(R) = R^{-1}AR$ .  $P$  and  $Q$  are both invertible, so by Proposition 3.3.18,  $R$  is invertible, and so  $C = R^{-1}AR$  satisfies the definition of  $A \sim C$ . Because  $A, B, C$  were arbitrary, the result follows.