

Coordinates and Change of Basis

Definition 1. Let $B = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$ be a basis for \mathbb{R}^n . If $\mathbf{v} = x_1\mathbf{v}_1 + x_2\mathbf{v}_2 + \dots + x_n\mathbf{v}_n$, then x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n are called the coordinates of \mathbf{v} with respect to B . In this case, we write

$$[\mathbf{v}]_B = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Examples 2. Let $S_3 = \{\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \mathbf{e}_3\}$ be the standard basis in \mathbb{R}^3 and let $B = \{(1, 1, 0), (1, 0, 1), (0, 1, 1)\}$. For $\mathbf{v} = (1, 2, 3)$, we compute $[\mathbf{v}]_{S_3}$ and $[\mathbf{v}]_B$. It is clear that $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{e}_1 + 2\mathbf{e}_2 + 3\mathbf{e}_3$ and so

$$[\mathbf{v}]_{S_3} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

To write

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = x_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + x_2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + x_3 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

we must solve

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We find that

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

That is,

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

and so

$$[\mathbf{v}]_B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Theorem 3. Let $B = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$ and $C = \{\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2, \dots, \mathbf{w}_n\}$ be bases for \mathbb{R}^n . If

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{v}_1 &= c_{11}\mathbf{w}_1 + c_{21}\mathbf{w}_2 + \dots + c_{n1}\mathbf{w}_n \\ \mathbf{v}_2 &= c_{12}\mathbf{w}_1 + c_{22}\mathbf{w}_2 + \dots + c_{n2}\mathbf{w}_n \\ &\vdots \\ \mathbf{v}_n &= c_{1n}\mathbf{w}_1 + c_{2n}\mathbf{w}_2 + \dots + c_{nn}\mathbf{w}_n\end{aligned}$$

and

$$Q = \begin{bmatrix} c_{11} & c_{12} & \cdots & c_{1n} \\ c_{21} & c_{22} & \cdots & c_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_{n1} & c_{n2} & \cdots & c_{nn} \end{bmatrix},$$

then

$$Q[\mathbf{x}]_B = [\mathbf{x}]_C.$$

Moreover, the matrix Q is invertible.

Proof. Choose any $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Since $B = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$ is a basis of \mathbb{R}^n , we can write

$$\mathbf{x} = x_1\mathbf{v}_1 + x_2\mathbf{v}_2 + \dots + x_n\mathbf{v}_n.$$

Hence,

$$[\mathbf{x}]_B = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Then

$$Q[\mathbf{x}]_B = \begin{bmatrix} c_{11} & c_{12} & \cdots & c_{1n} \\ c_{21} & c_{22} & \cdots & c_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_{n1} & c_{n2} & \cdots & c_{nn} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} c_{11}x_1 + c_{12}x_2 + \dots + c_{1n}x_n \\ c_{21}x_1 + c_{22}x_2 + \dots + c_{2n}x_n \\ \vdots \\ c_{n1}x_1 + c_{n2}x_2 + \dots + c_{nn}x_n \end{bmatrix}.$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{x} &= x_1\mathbf{v}_1 + x_2\mathbf{v}_2 + \dots + x_n\mathbf{v}_n \\ &= x_1 \sum_{i=1}^n c_{i1}\mathbf{w}_i + x_2 \sum_{i=1}^n c_{i2}\mathbf{w}_i + \dots + x_n \sum_{i=1}^n c_{in}\mathbf{w}_i \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n (c_{i1}x_1 + c_{i2}x_2 + \dots + c_{in}x_n)\mathbf{w}_i\end{aligned}$$

and so

$$[\mathbf{x}]_C = \begin{bmatrix} c_{11}x_1 + c_{12}x_2 + \dots + c_{1n}x_n \\ c_{21}x_1 + c_{22}x_2 + \dots + c_{2n}x_n \\ \vdots \\ c_{n1}x_1 + c_{n2}x_2 + \dots + c_{nn}x_n \end{bmatrix}.$$

Therefore, $Q[\mathbf{x}]_B = [\mathbf{x}]_C$ as needed. For invertibility, the same procedure as above (but writing the \mathbf{w} s in terms of the \mathbf{v} s) furnishes a matrix P such that $[\mathbf{x}]_B = P[\mathbf{x}]_C$. For every $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, we have $[\mathbf{x}]_B = P[\mathbf{x}]_C$ and so $PQ[\mathbf{x}]_B = P[\mathbf{x}]_C = [\mathbf{x}]_B$. Therefore, $PQ = I_n$ which is equivalent to the fact that $Q = P^{-1}$.

Example 4. Let $B = \{(1, 1, 0), (1, 0, 1), (0, 1, 1)\}$ and $C = \{(1, 2, 4), (-1, 2, 0), (2, 4, 0)\}$. We find the matrix Q that $Q[\mathbf{x}]_B = [\mathbf{x}]_C$ for all \mathbf{x} in \mathbb{R}^3 . To do this, we must write the basis B in terms of C . That is, we must solve

$$\begin{aligned} c_{11} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} + c_{21} \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + c_{31} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ c_{12} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} + c_{22} \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + c_{32} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ c_{13} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} + c_{23} \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + c_{33} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

We find that

$$Q = \begin{bmatrix} c_{11} & c_{12} & c_{13} \\ c_{21} & c_{22} & c_{23} \\ c_{31} & c_{32} & c_{33} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} \\ -\frac{1}{4} & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{4} \\ \frac{3}{8} & \frac{1}{8} & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Theorem 5. Let $B = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$ be a basis for \mathbb{R}^n and let $C = \{\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2, \dots, \mathbf{w}_m\}$ be a basis for \mathbb{R}^m . If $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is a linear transformation, there exists a matrix $M(T, B, C) \in \mathcal{M}_{m \times n}$ such that $M(T, B, C)[\mathbf{x}]_B = [T(\mathbf{x})]_C$ for every $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

Proof. Since $T(\mathbf{v}_j) \in \mathbb{R}^m$ and $C = \{\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2, \dots, \mathbf{w}_m\}$ is a basis, we can write

$$\begin{aligned} T(\mathbf{v}_1) &= a_{11}\mathbf{w}_1 + a_{21}\mathbf{w}_2 + \dots + a_{m1}\mathbf{w}_m \\ T(\mathbf{v}_2) &= a_{12}\mathbf{w}_1 + a_{22}\mathbf{w}_2 + \dots + a_{m2}\mathbf{w}_m \\ &\vdots \\ T(\mathbf{v}_n) &= a_{1n}\mathbf{w}_1 + a_{2n}\mathbf{w}_2 + \dots + a_{mn}\mathbf{w}_m. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$[T(\mathbf{v}_1)]_C = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} \\ a_{21} \\ \vdots \\ a_{m1} \end{bmatrix}, [T(\mathbf{v}_2)]_C = \begin{bmatrix} a_{12} \\ a_{22} \\ \vdots \\ a_{m2} \end{bmatrix}, \dots, [T(\mathbf{v}_n)]_C = \begin{bmatrix} a_{1n} \\ a_{2n} \\ \vdots \\ a_{mn} \end{bmatrix}$$

Set

$$M(T, B, C) = [[T(\mathbf{v}_1)]_C \mid [T(\mathbf{v}_2)]_C \mid \cdots \mid [T(\mathbf{v}_n)]_C].$$

and write $\mathbf{x} = x_1\mathbf{v}_1 + x_2\mathbf{v}_2 + \cdots + x_n\mathbf{v}_n$. Since

$$T(\mathbf{x}) = T\left(\sum_{j=1}^n x_j \mathbf{v}_j\right) = \sum_{j=1}^n x_j T(\mathbf{v}_j) = \sum_{j=1}^n x_j \left(\sum_{k=1}^m a_{kj} \mathbf{w}_k\right) = \sum_{k=1}^m \left(\sum_{j=1}^n x_j a_{kj}\right) \mathbf{w}_k,$$

we have that

$$[T(\mathbf{x})]_C = \begin{bmatrix} \sum_{j=1}^n x_j a_{1j} \\ \sum_{j=1}^n x_j a_{2j} \\ \vdots \\ \sum_{j=1}^n x_j a_{mj} \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{j=1}^n x_j \begin{bmatrix} a_{1j} \\ a_{2j} \\ \vdots \\ a_{mj} \end{bmatrix}.$$

On the other hand,

$$M(T, B, C) [\mathbf{x}]_B = M(T, B, C) \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{j=1}^n x_j [T(\mathbf{v}_j)]_C = \sum_{j=1}^n x_j \begin{bmatrix} a_{1j} \\ a_{2j} \\ \vdots \\ a_{mj} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Therefore, $M(T, B, C) [\mathbf{x}]_B = [T(\mathbf{x})]_C$ as needed.

Definition 6. Let $B = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$ be a basis for \mathbb{R}^n and let $C = \{\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2, \dots, \mathbf{w}_m\}$ be a basis for \mathbb{R}^m . If $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is a linear transformation, then $M(T, B, C)$ is called the matrix of the transformation T with respect to the bases B, C .

Example 7. Let $B = \{(1, 1, 0), (1, 0, 1), (0, 1, 1)\}$ be a basis of \mathbb{R}^3 and let $C = \{(1, 1), (-2, 1)\}$ be a basis of \mathbb{R}^2 . If $T : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ is given by

$$T \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2x + 3y + z \\ 3x + 3y + z \end{pmatrix},$$

we compute $M(T, B, C)$.

$$T \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} = c_{11} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + c_{21} \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

and so

$$\begin{pmatrix} c_{11} \\ c_{21} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{17}{3} \\ \frac{1}{3} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Similarly

$$T \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = c_{12} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + c_{22} \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

and so

$$\begin{pmatrix} c_{12} \\ c_{22} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{11}{3} \\ \frac{1}{3} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Finally

$$T \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = c_{13} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + c_{23} \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

and so

$$\begin{pmatrix} c_{13} \\ c_{23} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Therefore,

$$M(T, B, C) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{17}{3} & \frac{11}{3} & 4 \\ \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} 17 & 11 & 12 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Theorem 8. Let $B = \{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$ and $C = \{\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2, \dots, \mathbf{w}_n\}$ be bases for \mathbb{R}^n . If $Q \in \mathcal{M}_n$ is the matrix such that $Q[\mathbf{x}]_B = [\mathbf{x}]_C$, then $Q = M(1_{\mathbb{R}^n}, B, C)$.

Proof. We have $M(1_{\mathbb{R}^n}, B, C)[\mathbf{x}]_B = [1_{\mathbb{R}^n}(\mathbf{x})]_C = [\mathbf{x}]_C = Q[\mathbf{x}]_B$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$. It follows that

Theorem 9. Let B, C, D be bases for $\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}^p, \mathbb{R}^m$ (resp) and let $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$ and $S : \mathbb{R}^p \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ be linear transformations. Then $M(S \circ T, B, D) = M(S, C, D)M(T, B, C)$.

Proof. Choose any $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and consider the coordinate vector $[\mathbf{x}]_B$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} & M(S \circ T, B, D)[\mathbf{x}]_B \\ &= [(S \circ T)(\mathbf{x})]_D \\ &= [S(T(\mathbf{x}))]_D \\ &= M(S, C, D)[T(\mathbf{x})]_C \\ &= M(S, C, D)M(T, B, C)[\mathbf{x}]_B. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that $M(S \circ T, B, D) = M(S, C, D)M(T, B, C)$.

Example 10. Let $B = \{(1, 1, 0), (1, 0, 1), (0, 1, 1)\}$ be a basis of \mathbb{R}^3 and let $C = \{(1, 1), (-2, 1)\}$ be a basis of \mathbb{R}^2 . If $T : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ is given by

$$T \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2x + 3y + z \\ 3x + 3y + z \end{pmatrix},$$

we compute $M(T, B, C)$ using a different method from the one in Example 7. Let E_3 and E_2 be the standard bases of \mathbb{R}^3 and \mathbb{R}^2 (resp). We have

$$\begin{aligned}
& M(1_{\mathbb{R}^2}, E_2, C)M(T, E_3, E_2) \\
&= M(1_{\mathbb{R}^2} \circ T, E_3, C) \\
&= M(T, E_3, C) \\
&= M(T \circ 1_{\mathbb{R}^3}, E_3, C) \\
&= M(T, B, C)M(1_{\mathbb{R}^3}, E_3, B).
\end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$M(T, B, C) = M(1_{\mathbb{R}^2}, E_2, C)M(T, E_3, E_2)M(1_{\mathbb{R}^3}, E_3, C)^{-1}.$$

It is easy to check that

$$M(1_{\mathbb{R}^2}, E_2, C) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1}$$

and

$$M(T, E_3, E_2) = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 3 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

and

$$M(1_{\mathbb{R}^3}, E_3, C)^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Therefore,

$$M(T, B, C) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 3 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{17}{3} & \frac{11}{3} & 4 \\ \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

as expected. Here is a picture

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathbb{R}^3 & \xrightarrow{\quad M(T, E_3, E_2) \quad} & \mathbb{R}^2 \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
M(1_{\mathbb{R}^3}, E_3, C) & & M(1_{\mathbb{R}^2}, E_2, C) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
\mathbb{R}^3 & \xrightarrow{\quad M(T, B, C) \quad} & \mathbb{R}^2
\end{array}$$

Theorem 11. Let B_1, B_2 be bases for \mathbb{R}^n and let C_1, C_2 be bases for \mathbb{R}^m . If $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is a linear transformation, then $\text{rank}(M(T, B_1, C_1)) = \text{rank}(M(T, B_2, C_2))$.

Proof. Exercise.

Definition 12. Let B be any basis for \mathbb{R}^n and let C be any basis for \mathbb{R}^m . If $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is a linear transformation, we define the rank of the transformation T to be $\text{rank}(M(T, B, C))$. By Theorem 11, this number is well-defined. That is, $\text{rank}(M(T, B, C))$ does not depend on the choice of bases B, C .

Definition 13.

Exercises

1. Let

$$B = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \text{ and } C = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

be bases of \mathbb{R}^2 and \mathbb{R}^3 (resp). Let $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ be given by

$$T \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x + 2y \\ -x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$$

and let

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} -7 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix}$$

- Find the image $T(\mathbf{x})$ of the vector \mathbf{x} under the action of T .
- Find the change of basis matrices $P = M(1_{\mathbb{R}^2}, S_2, B)$ and $Q = M(1_{\mathbb{R}^3}, S_3, C)$.
- Use part (b) to compute $[\mathbf{x}]_B$ and $[T(\mathbf{x})]_C$.
- Find $M(T, B, C)$ using the method of Example 7.
- Find $M(T, B, C)$ using the method of Example 10.
- Check your answer in part (c) by verifying that $M(T, B, C)[\mathbf{x}]_B = [T(\mathbf{x})]_C$.

2. Let

$$B = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \text{ and } C = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

be bases of \mathbb{R}^2 . If

$$M(T, B, B) = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 7 \\ -3 & 7 \end{bmatrix},$$

find $M(T, B, B)$.

3. Prove Theorem 11. Let B_1, B_2 be bases for \mathbb{R}^n and let C_1, C_2 be bases for \mathbb{R}^m . If $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is a linear transformation, then $\text{rank}(M(T, B_1, C_1)) = \text{rank}(M(T, B_2, C_2))$.

4. Let $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a linear transformation and suppose that $V \leq \mathbb{R}^n$ is invariant under T (that is, $T(V) \subseteq V$). Prove that there exists a basis B such that

$$M(T, B, B) = \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ 0 & C \end{bmatrix}$$

where A is a $\dim(V) \times \dim(V)$ matrix.

5. Let $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ be a linear transformation of $\text{rank}(T) = r$. Prove that there exist bases B, C of $\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}^m$ (resp) such that

$$M(T, B, C) = \begin{bmatrix} I_r & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Do you see how this establishes the Rank Nullity Theorem?

Similarity

Definition. Define a relation \sim on \mathcal{M}_n given by $A \sim B$ if and only if there exists an invertible matrix $P \in \mathcal{M}_n$ such that $B = PAP^{-1}$. If $A \sim B$, we say that A is similar to B . This relation is a special case of Example 10 where $B = PAQ^{-1}$.

6. Prove that \sim is an equivalence relation on \mathcal{M}_n .

7. Prove that $A \sim A'$ if and only if A and A' represent the same linear transformation $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$. That is, $A \sim A'$ if and only if $A = M(T, B, B)$ and $A' = M(T, B', B')$ for some bases B, B' of \mathbb{R}^n .

8. Prove that if $A \sim B$, then $A^{-1} \sim B^{-1}$ and $A^T \sim B^T$.