

When a basis \mathcal{B} is chosen for an n -dimensional vector space V , the associated coordinate mapping onto \mathbb{R}^n provides a coordinate system for V . Each x in V is identified uniquely by its \mathcal{B} coordinate vector $[x]_{\mathcal{B}}$.

Ex 1

Consider two bases $\mathcal{B} = \{b_1, b_2\}$ and $C = \{c_1, c_2\}$ for a vector space V , such that

$$b_1 = 4c_1 + c_2 \quad b_2 = -6c_1 + c_2$$

Suppose that

$$x = 3b_1 + b_2$$

That is, suppose $[x]_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$. Find $[x]_C$.

Apply the coordinate mapping determined by C .

$$\begin{aligned} [x]_C &= [3b_1 + b_2]_C \\ [x]_C &= \begin{bmatrix} [b_1]_C & [b_2]_C \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ [x]_C &= \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -6 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \boxed{\begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}} \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 5

Let $\mathcal{B} = \{b_1, \dots, b_n\}$ & $C = \{c_1, \dots, c_n\}$ be bases for a vector space V . There is a unique $n \times n$ matrix P such that

$$[x]_C = P_{C \leftarrow B} [x]_B$$

and $P_{C \leftarrow B}$ is given by $P_{C \leftarrow B} = \begin{bmatrix} [b_1]_C & [b_2]_C & \dots & [b_n]_C \end{bmatrix}$