

Change of basis I — the idea and the matrix

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Practice problems

1. Given basis $B_1 = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ and basis $B_2 = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$, find the change of basis matrix $P_{B_2 \leftarrow B_1}$.
2. If the change of basis matrix from B_1 to B_2 is $P = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$, and a vector v has coordinates $[v]_{B_1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$, find $[v]_{B_2}$.
3. Let $P_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ and $P_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ be matrices whose columns are the bases B_1 and B_2 respectively. Find the change of basis matrix $P_{B_1 \leftarrow B_2}$.

Solutions

1. Given basis $B_1 = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ and basis $B_2 = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$, find the change of basis matrix $P_{B_2 \leftarrow B_1}$.
- Find coordinates of $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ relative to B_2 : $1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + 1 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$, so the first column is $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$.
 - Find coordinates of $\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$ relative to B_2 : $3 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + 2 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$, so the second column is $\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$.
 - Assemble the matrix.

Answer: $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$

2. If the change of basis matrix from B_1 to B_2 is $P = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$, and a vector v has coordinates $[v]_{B_1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$, find $[v]_{B_2}$.
- Use the formula $[v]_{B_2} = P_{B_2 \leftarrow B_1} [v]_{B_1}$.
 - Compute the product $\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$.
 - The first component is $2(1) + 1(-1) = 1$.
 - The second component is $0(1) + 3(-1) = -3$.

Answer: $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}$

3. Let $P_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ and $P_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ be matrices whose columns are the bases B_1 and B_2 respectively. Find the change of basis matrix $P_{B_1 \leftarrow B_2}$.
- The matrix from B_2 to B_1 is $P_{B_1 \leftarrow B_2} = P_1^{-1} P_2$.
 - Compute P_1^{-1} : for $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$, the inverse is $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$.
 - Multiply P_1^{-1} by P_2 : $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$.
 - Top left: $1(2) + (-1)(1) = 1$. Top right: $1(0) + (-1)(1) = -1$.
 - Bottom left: $0(2) + 1(1) = 1$. Bottom right: $0(0) + 1(1) = 1$.

Answer: $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$