

1. CHANGE OF BASIS FORMULAS.

1.1. Notation. Old basis \mathfrak{B} , new basis \mathfrak{B}' . Usually, the old basis is $\mathfrak{B} = (e_1, \dots, e_n)$ (i.e., it is the “standard basis”), and the new basis is $\mathfrak{B}' = (v_1, \dots, v_n)$, where v_1, \dots, v_n are some n linearly independent vectors.

Recall that $[w]_{\mathfrak{B}'} = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{bmatrix}$ means that $w = a_1 v_1 + \dots + a_n v_n$. Also recall

that

$$\mathfrak{B}'[T]_{\mathfrak{B}'} = [[Tv_1]_{\mathfrak{B}'}, \dots, [Tv_n]_{\mathfrak{B}'}]$$

is the matrix whose columns are the coordinates in the basis \mathfrak{B}' of T applied to the elements of \mathfrak{B}' .

1.2. Goal. We assume that we know how to compute coordinates with respect to the old basis (this is very easy indeed if \mathfrak{B} is the standard basis: in

this case if $w = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{bmatrix}$, then $[w]_{\mathfrak{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{bmatrix}$, and if T is the linear trans-

formation $T(v) = Av$, where A is some $n \times n$ matrix, then $\mathfrak{B}[T]_{\mathfrak{B}} = A$). *The goal is to compute $[w]_{\mathfrak{B}'}$ and $\mathfrak{B}'[T]_{\mathfrak{B}'}$ in terms of $[w]_{\mathfrak{B}}$ and $\mathfrak{B}[T]_{\mathfrak{B}}$.*

1.3. Change of basis matrix.

$$\mathfrak{B}S_{\mathfrak{B}'} = \begin{bmatrix} | & & | \\ v_1 & \cdots & v_n \\ | & & | \end{bmatrix} = [[v_1]_{\mathfrak{B}}, \dots, [v_n]_{\mathfrak{B}}].$$

Thus columns of $\mathfrak{B}S_{\mathfrak{B}'}$ are elements of the new basis expressed in terms of the old basis.

Fact. $(\mathfrak{B}S_{\mathfrak{B}'})^{-1} = \mathfrak{B}'S_{\mathfrak{B}}$, i.e., it is the matrix whose columns are elements of the old basis \mathfrak{B} expressed in terms of the new basis \mathfrak{B}' .

From this, you get many nice formulas:

$$[w]_{\mathfrak{B}'} = \mathfrak{B}'S_{\mathfrak{B}}[w]_{\mathfrak{B}}$$

$$\mathfrak{B}'[T]_{\mathfrak{B}'} = \mathfrak{B}'S_{\mathfrak{B}} \mathfrak{B}[T]_{\mathfrak{B}} \mathfrak{B}S_{\mathfrak{B}'} = \mathfrak{B}'S_{\mathfrak{B}} \mathfrak{B}[T]_{\mathfrak{B}} (\mathfrak{B}'S_{\mathfrak{B}})^{-1}.$$

Exercise. (do not turn in). (a) Check that $[Tw]_{\mathfrak{B}'} = \mathfrak{B}'[T]_{\mathfrak{B}'} [w]_{\mathfrak{B}'}$ (use the fact that $[Tw]_{\mathfrak{B}} = \mathfrak{B}[T]_{\mathfrak{B}} [w]_{\mathfrak{B}}$).

(b) Make sense of $\mathfrak{B}[T]_{\mathfrak{B}'}$ and $\mathfrak{B}'[T]_{\mathfrak{B}}$ along the lines of the definition of $\mathfrak{B}'[T]_{\mathfrak{B}'}$ (the first of these has as columns the coordinates in \mathfrak{B} of the vectors obtained by applying T to the elements of \mathfrak{B}'). Find formulas for these in terms of $\mathfrak{B}[T]_{\mathfrak{B}}$ and $\mathfrak{B}'S_{\mathfrak{B}}$.

(c) What are $\mathfrak{B}[I]_{\mathfrak{B}'}$ and $\mathfrak{B}'[I]_{\mathfrak{B}}$, where I denotes the identity transformation $Iv = v$?