

Bases and Coordinates

Linear Algebra
MATH 2076



Coordinates and Coordinate Vectors

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Note that $[\vec{v}]_{\mathcal{B}}$ is a vector in \mathbb{R}^p .

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Let $\vec{a}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix}$, $\vec{a}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ -5 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix}$, $\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 2 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$, $\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$, $\mathcal{B} = \{\vec{a}_1, \vec{a}_2\}$ and $\mathbb{V} = \text{Span } \mathcal{B}$.

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In this setting, finding coord vectors $[\vec{v}]_{\mathcal{B}}$ (for \vec{v} in \mathbb{V}) is just the problem of solving $A\vec{x} = \vec{v}$ where $A = [\vec{a}_1 \ \vec{a}_2 \ \cdots \ \vec{a}_p]$.

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Again, while \vec{v} is a vector in \mathbb{R}^n , $[\vec{v}]_{\mathcal{B}}$ is a vector in \mathbb{R}^p .

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What if \mathbb{V} is a vector subspace of some \mathbb{R}^n ?

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The inverse of $\mathbb{R}^p \xrightarrow{T} \mathcal{Rng}(T) = \mathbb{V}$ is the \mathcal{B} -coord mapping $\mathbb{V} \xrightarrow{[\cdot]_{\mathcal{B}}} \mathbb{R}^p$.

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This is also what tells us that the \mathcal{B} -coord mapping $\mathbb{V} \xrightarrow{[\cdot]_{\mathcal{B}}} \mathbb{R}^p$ is a linear transformation.