

Suppose you have \mathbb{R}^n with the standard basis $\underline{e} = \{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$ and another basis $\underline{w} = \{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$

There are two types of "change of basis" matrices

#1: The change of coordinate matrix from \underline{w} to \underline{e}

$$P_{\underline{e} \leftarrow \underline{w}} [x]_{\underline{w}} = [x]_{\underline{e}}, \quad \forall \text{ vector } x \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

(e.g. when $x = v_i$, we have $P_{\underline{e} \leftarrow \underline{w}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = [w_i]_{\underline{e}}$, so $P_{\underline{e} \leftarrow \underline{w}} = (w_1, \dots, w_n)$)

#2: The matrix which takes the \underline{w} vectors to the \underline{e} vectors

$$P_{\underline{w} \leftarrow \underline{e}} (w_i) = e_i$$

These two matrices are inverses of each other!

The reason for the choice of notation / terminology is that

I believe #1 is more important than #2 in the big picture

Now suppose you have a linear function $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ and you wish to represent it with respect to two types of bases: either (\underline{e} of \mathbb{R}^n and \underline{e} of \mathbb{R}^m) or (\underline{w} of \mathbb{R}^n and \underline{v} of \mathbb{R}^m)

$$[f(z)]_{\underline{e}} = B [z]_{\underline{e}}$$

(*)

$$[f(z)]_{\underline{v}} = A [z]_{\underline{w}}$$

The relation between A and B is $A = P_{\underline{v} \leftarrow \underline{e}} B P_{\underline{e} \leftarrow \underline{w}}$

(Thm 16.1, change of basis for matrices)

This is all in line with #1 above; in terms of

#2, we have $P_{\underline{e} \leftarrow \underline{w}} e_i = w_i$

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$$B P_{\underline{e} \leftarrow \underline{w}} e_i = B w_i = \sum_{j=1}^m a_{ji} v_j$$

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$$A e_i = P_{\underline{v} \leftarrow \underline{e}} B P_{\underline{e} \leftarrow \underline{w}} e_i = \sum_{j=1}^m a_{ji} e_j$$

Entries of A in the ($\underline{e}, \underline{e}$) basis match entries of B in ($\underline{w}, \underline{v}$) basis

(as we saw in Lecture 16, intro)

Though this might seem "the other way around from
⊛ above, it is actually equivalent to it, and in
fact the same kind of pseudo-paradox as the
distinction between #1 and #2