

Section 1.9: The Matrix for a Linear Transformation

Recall that **Definition:** A transformation $T : \mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is **linear** provided

- (i) $T(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = T(\mathbf{u}) + T(\mathbf{v})$ for every \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} in the domain of T , and
- (ii) $T(c\mathbf{u}) = cT(\mathbf{u})$ for every scalar c and vector \mathbf{u} in the domain of T .

Theorem

Let $T : \mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ be a linear transformation. There exists a unique $m \times n$ matrix A such that

$$T(\mathbf{x}) = A\mathbf{x} \quad \text{for every } \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

Moreover, this matrix, called the **standard matrix** for the linear transformation T is

$$A = [T(\mathbf{e}_1) \quad T(\mathbf{e}_2) \quad \cdots \quad T(\mathbf{e}_n)].$$

Example¹

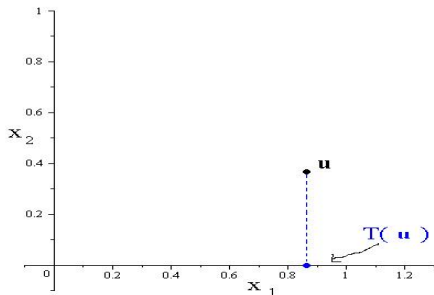
Let $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ be the projection transformation that projects each point onto the x_1 axis

$$T\left(\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Find the standard matrix for T .

we need $T(\vec{e}_1)$
and $T(\vec{e}_2)$.

$$T(\vec{e}_1) = T\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



¹See pages 73–75 in Lay for matrices associated with other geometric transformations on \mathbb{R}^2

$$T(\vec{e}_2) = T\left(\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A = [T(\vec{e}_1) \ T(\vec{e}_2)] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Note $T\left(\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}\right) = A \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$

$$= x_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

The Property **Onto**

Definition: A mapping $T : \mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is said to be **onto** \mathbb{R}^m if each \mathbf{b} in \mathbb{R}^m is the image of at least one \mathbf{x} in \mathbb{R}^n —i.e. if the range of T is all of the codomain.

If $T : \mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is an **onto** transformation, then the equation

$$T(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{b}$$

is always solvable. If T is a linear transformation with standard matrix A , then this is equivalent to saying $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ is always consistent.

Determine if the transformation is onto.

Note
 $T: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$

$$T(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}.$$

Let \vec{b} in \mathbb{R}^m be arbitrary. Here $m = 2$.

Consider $\vec{b} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \end{bmatrix}$ and the matrix equation

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The augmented matrix is

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 & b_1 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & b_2 \end{bmatrix} \text{ which is in rref.}$$

The fourth column can not be a pivot column. Hence the equation $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$ is always consistent.

Hence T is onto.

The Property **One to One**

Definition: A mapping $T : \mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is said to be **one to one** if each \mathbf{b} in \mathbb{R}^m is the image of **at most one** \mathbf{x} in \mathbb{R}^n .

If $T : \mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is a **one to one** transformation, then the equation

$$T(\mathbf{x}) = T(\mathbf{y}) \quad \text{is only true when} \quad \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}.$$

Determine if the transformation is one to one.

$$T(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}.$$

Letting \vec{b} be in \mathbb{R}^2 , we had the ref for

$$T(\vec{x}) = \vec{b} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 & b_1 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & b_2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

we can read the solution set

$$x_1 + 2x_3 = b_1$$

$$x_2 + 3x_3 = b_2$$

\Rightarrow

$$x_1 = b_1 - 2x_3$$

$$x_2 = b_2 - 3x_3$$

x_3 -free

Any vector $\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_3 \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

satisfies $T(\vec{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \end{bmatrix}$. The system
has infinitely many solutions, hence
 T is not one to one.

Some Theorems on Onto and One to One

Theorem: Let $T : \mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ be a linear transformation. Then T is one to one if and only if the homogeneous equation $T(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{0}$ has only the trivial solution.

Theorem: Let $T : \mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ be a linear transformation, and let A be the standard matrix for T . Then

- (i) T is onto if and only if the columns of A span \mathbb{R}^m , and
- (ii) T is one to one if and only if the columns of A are linearly independent.

Example

Let $T(x_1, x_2) = (x_1, 2x_1 - x_2, 3x_2)$. Verify that T is one to one. Is T onto?

Note $T: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$

$$T\left(\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ 2x_1 - x_2 \\ 3x_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Find the matrix A :

$$T(\vec{e}_1) = T\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$T(\vec{e}_2) = T\left(\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Let's verify that $T(\vec{x}) = A\vec{x}$

$$T\left(\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ 2x_1 - x_2 \\ 3x_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = x_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ 2x_1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -x_2 \\ 3x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ 2x_1 - x_2 \\ 3x_2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \checkmark$$

To show that T is one to one, we can show that $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$ has only the trivial solution.

$$A\vec{x} = \vec{0} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{rref}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$x_1 = 0$$
$$x_2 = 0$$

$A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$ has only the trivial solution. T is one to one.

As for whether T is onto, let $\vec{b} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix}$

and consider $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$. The augmented matrix is

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & b_1 \\ 2 & -1 & b_2 \\ 0 & 3 & b_3 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{rref}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & b_1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2b_1 - b_2 \\ 0 & 0 & b_3 + 3b_2 - 6b_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

The system is inconsistent if

$$b_3 + 3b_2 - 6b_1 \neq 0.$$

T is not onto.