Correspondences obtained by using ordered bases

Using an ordered basis to represent a vector as columns of scalars

Using an ordered basis $B = \{b_1, \ldots, b_n\}$ for a vector space V, there is a bijective correspondence between the vectors in V and vectors in \mathbb{R}^n . I will remind you of this correspondence and also define some convenient terminology.

Any vector $v \in V$ can be expressed uniquely as $v = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i b_i$ where $\alpha_i \in \mathbb{R}$. Then v corresponds to the column vector $\operatorname{Rep}_B(v) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ defined by

$$\operatorname{Rep}_B(p(x)) = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_2 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_n \end{pmatrix}.$$

The correspondence

$$V \longleftrightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$$
$$v \longleftrightarrow \operatorname{Rep}_B(v)$$

is one-to-one since every vector in the space can be expressed as a linear combination of the basis vectors uniquely and the correspondence is onto since every linear combination of the basis vectors is a vector in the space.

Note that the correspondence depends on the choice of ordered basis B, and that dependence is reflected in the notation $\operatorname{Rep}_B(v)$.

Problem 1. Let V be the space of polynomials of degree less than or equal to four. The set

$$B = \{1 + x, 1 - x, 1 - 2x^2, 1 + x - x^3, x^2 - x^4\}$$

is a basis for V. Use the ordered basis B to obtain a correspondence between $V \leftrightarrow \mathbb{R}^5$.

(a) Give the polynomials in V that correspond to the vectors

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ and } \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -2 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Answer.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1\\0\\0\\0\\0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ means } 1e_1 = 1 + x$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1\\0\\0\\-1\\0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ means } 1e_1 - 1e_4 = 1 + x - (1 + x - x^3) = x^3.$$
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1\\0\\-2\\-2\\-1\\1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ means } 1e_1 - 2e_3 - e_4 + e_5 = 1 + x - 2(1 - 2x^2) - (1 + x - x^3) + x^2 - x^4 = -2 + 5x^2 + x^3 - x^4$$

(b) Give the vectors in \mathbb{R}^5 that correspond to the polynomials

$$x^3$$
, $3x^2$, $2x^4 - 7$, and $4x^4 - 14$

Answer. From above, we know

$$x^3 \leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1\\ 0\\ 0\\ -1\\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

To find the vector that corresponds to $3x^2$, write

$$3x^{2} = \alpha_{1}e_{1} + \alpha_{2}e_{2} + \alpha_{3}e_{3} + \alpha_{4}e_{4} + \alpha_{5}e_{5}$$

= $\alpha_{1} + \alpha_{2} + \alpha_{3} + \alpha_{4} + (\alpha_{1} - \alpha_{2} + \alpha_{4})x + (\alpha_{5} - 2\alpha_{3})x^{2} - \alpha_{4}x^{3} - \alpha_{5}x^{4}.$

Since $3x^2$ has no x^3 or x^4 terms, $\alpha_5 = \alpha_4 = 0$. So

$$3x^{2} = \alpha_{1} + \alpha_{2} + \alpha_{3} + (\alpha 1 - \alpha 2)x - 2\alpha_{3}x^{2}$$

So, $3 = -2\alpha_3 \Rightarrow \alpha_3 = -\frac{3}{2}$. Then, setting the constant and linear terms equal to zero yields

$$\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 = -\frac{3}{2} = 0$$
 and $\alpha_1 - \alpha_2 = 0 \Rightarrow \alpha_1 = \frac{3}{4}$ and $\alpha_2 = \frac{3}{4}$.

So,

$$3x^2 \leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \frac{3}{4} \\ \frac{3}{4} \\ -\frac{3}{2} \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

To express $2x^4 - 7 = \alpha_1 e_1 + \alpha_2 e_2 + \alpha_3 e_3 + \alpha_4 e_4 + \alpha_5 e_5$, note that $-2e_5 - e_3 = 2x^4 - 1$. Also note that $(e_1 + e_2) = 2 \Rightarrow -3e_1 - 3e_2) = -6$. So, $-2e_5 - e_3 - 3e_1 - 3e_2 = 2x^4 - 7$. So,

$$2x^4 - 7 \leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ -3 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Finally, since $4x^4 - 14 = 2(2x^4 - 7)$, we have

$$4x^4 - 14 \leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -6\\ -6\\ -2\\ 0\\ -4 \end{pmatrix}$$

Using ordered bases to represent linear transformations as a matrix of scalars

Given an ordered basis $B_V = \{v_1, \ldots, v_k\}$ of a vector space V and an ordered basis $B_W = \{w_1, \ldots, w_n\}$ of W, there's a bijective correspondence between linear transformations $T : V \to W$ and $n \times k$ matrices of scalars, defined as follows:

Given a linear transformation $T: V \to W$, define a matrix $\operatorname{Rep}_{B_V, B_W}(T)$ by setting the *i*-th column to be $\operatorname{Rep}_{B_W}(T(v_i))$.

To put it another way, for each basis vector $v_i \in B_V$, the vector $T(v_i)$ is an element of W and so it can be expressed uniquely in terms of the basis B_W :

$$T(v_i) = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} w_j$$

The numbers a_{ij} for i = 1, ..., k and j = 1, ..., n define the $n \times k$ matrix

$$\operatorname{Rep}_{B_V,B_W}(T) = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1k} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2k} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \cdots & a_{nk} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Notice, the *i*-th column of the matrix $\operatorname{Rep}_{B_V,B_W}(T)$ is the column of scalars

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{i1} \\ a_{i2} \\ \vdots \\ a_{in} \end{pmatrix} = \operatorname{Rep}_{B_W}(T(v_i)).$$

Problem 2. As before, let V be the space of polynomials of degree less than or equal to four and let

$$B = \{1 + x, 1 - x, 1 - 2x^2, 1 + x - x^3, x^2 - x^4\}$$

be a basis for V. The function $T: V \to V$ defined by T(p) = p'(t) + p(0) defines a linear transformation.

(a) Using the correspondence $V \longleftrightarrow \mathbb{R}^5$, express T as a matrix $\operatorname{Rep}_{B,B}(T)$.

Answer. Compute T of each basis vector:

$$Te_1 = 2 = e_1 + e_2$$

$$Te_2 = 0$$

$$Te_3 = -4x + 1 = \frac{3}{2}e_1 - \frac{5}{2}e_2$$

$$Te_4 = 2 - 3x^2 = \frac{1}{4}e_1 + \frac{1}{4}e_2 + \frac{3}{2}e_3$$

$$Te_5 = 2x - 4x^3 = -3e_1 - e_2 + 4e_4$$

Thus,

$$\operatorname{Rep}_{B,B}(T) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \frac{3}{2} & \frac{1}{4} & -3\\ 1 & 0 & -\frac{5}{2} & \frac{1}{4} & -1\\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{3}{2} & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

(b) Compute the polynomial $T(x^3)$ and compute the following product of a matrix with a vector: 7 `

$$\operatorname{Rep}_{B,B}(T) \begin{pmatrix} 1\\ 0\\ 0\\ -1\\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Answer. First, note that $T(x^3) = 3x^2$. Also that $\operatorname{Rep}_B(x^3) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$. Computing

the product

$$\operatorname{Rep}_{B,B}(T)\begin{pmatrix}1\\0\\0\\-1\\0\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}1&0&\frac{3}{2}&\frac{1}{4}&-3\\1&0&-\frac{5}{2}&\frac{1}{4}&-1\\0&0&0&\frac{3}{2}&0\\0&0&0&0&4\\0&0&0&0&0\end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix}1\\0\\-1\\0\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}\frac{3}{4}\\\frac{3}{4}\\-\frac{3}{2}\\0\\0\end{pmatrix}.$$
Note that the result $\begin{pmatrix}\frac{3}{4}\\-\frac{3}{4}\\-\frac{3}{2}\\0\\0\end{pmatrix}$ is the vector that corresponds to $3x^2$. That is,

$$\operatorname{Rep}_{-\frac{3}{2}}(T)\operatorname{Rep}_{-}(T^3) = \operatorname{Rep}_{-}(T(T^3)).$$

 $\operatorname{Rep}_{B,B}(T)\operatorname{Rep}_B(x^\circ) = \operatorname{Rep}_B(T(x^\circ)).$

(c) Let $B' = \{1, t, t^2, t^3, t^4\}$ and compute the matrix $\operatorname{Rep}_{B,B'}(T)$. Here, let $\{1, t, t^2, t^3, t^4\} = \{b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4, b_5\}$ and express

$$Te_1 = 2 = 2b_1$$

$$Te_2 = 0$$

$$Te_3 = 1 - 4x = b_1 - 4b_2$$

$$Te_4 = 2 - 3x^2 = 2b_1 - 3b_3$$

$$Te_5 = 2x - 4x^3 = 2b_2 - 4b_4$$

$$Rep_{B,B'}(T) = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -4 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

As a consistency check, we compute

$$\operatorname{Rep}_{B,B'}(T)\begin{pmatrix}1\\0\\0\\-1\\0\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}2&0&1&2&0\\0&0&-4&0&2\\0&0&0&-3&0\\0&0&0&0&-4\\0&0&0&0&0\end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix}1\\0\\0\\-1\\0\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}0\\0\\3\\0\\0\end{pmatrix}$$

which is the representatative of $3x^2$ in the basis B'. Thus,

$$\operatorname{Rep}_{B,B'}(T)\operatorname{Rep}_B(x^3) = \operatorname{Rep}_{B'}(T(x^3))$$

as expected.

(d) Find a basis B'' of V so that the matrix $\operatorname{Rep}_{B,B''}(T)$ is *diagonal* with either 1 or 0 on the diagonal.

Answer. Here's one solution. Let $B'' = \{2, x^4, 1 - 4x, 2 - 3x^2, 4x^3\}$ then

Composition of linear transformations

Problem 3. This is a variation of problems 28 and 29 in section 2.8 of the Apostol's book. Let V be the space of all real polynomials. Define linear transformations by

$$\begin{array}{ll} D:V \rightarrow V & S:V \rightarrow V & T:V \rightarrow V \\ p(t) \mapsto p'(t) & p(t) \mapsto tp(t) & p(t) \mapsto tp'(t) \end{array}$$

(a) Let $p(t) = 2 + 3t - t^2 + 4t^3$ Determine the image of p under

$$D, S, T, DT, TD, DS, SD, ST, TS, DT - TD, T^2D^2 - D^2T^2.$$

Answer. For SD and DS, see the part (d) of this problem. For the others, here are some computations:

$$Dp = 3 - 2t + 12t^2, \quad Sp = 2t + 3t^2 - t^3 + 4t^4, \quad Tp = 3t - 2t^2 + 12t^3,$$

$$\begin{split} DTp &= D(3t-2t^2+12t^3) = 3-4t+36t^2, \quad TDp = T(3-2t+12t^2) = t(-2+24t) = -2t+24t^2\\ DSp &= D(2t+3t^2-t^3+4t^4) = 2+6t-3t^2+16t^3, \quad SDp = S(3-2t+12t^2) = 3t-2t^2+12t^3.\\ \text{et cetera. Note that } DT - TD = (3-4t+36t^2) - (-2t+24t^2) = 3-2t+12t^2 = Dp.\\ \text{For the last one:} \end{split}$$

$$\begin{split} (T^2D^2 - D^2T^2)p &= T^2D^2p - D^2T^2p \\ &= T^2p'' - D^2T(tp') \\ &= T(tp''') - D^2(t(p' + tp'')) \\ &= T(tp''') - D^2(tp' + t^2p'') \\ &= t(p''' + t^2p''') - D(p' + tp'' + 2tp'' + t^2p''') \\ &= tp''' + t^3p'''' - (p'' + p'' + tp''' + 2tp''' + 2tp''' + t^3p'''') \\ &= -4p'' - 4tp''' \end{split}$$

 So

$$(T^2D^2 - D^2T^2)(2 + 3t - t^2 + 4t^3) = -4(-2 + 24t) - 4t(24) = 8 - 192t.$$

(b) Find the kernel of T, T - Id, and DT - 2D.

Answer. If $p \in \text{ker}(T)$ then $tp' = 0 \Rightarrow p' = 0 \Rightarrow p = c$ for some constant c. Thus ker(T) is the space of constant polynomials.

If $p \in \ker(T - \mathrm{Id})$ then $tp' - p = 0 \Rightarrow tp' = p \Rightarrow p(t) = ct$ for some constant t. Thus, $\ker(T - \mathrm{Id})$ is the one dimensional subspace of polynomials of the form ct for some constant c; i.e., the span of $\{t\}$.

A quick check reveals that (DT - 2D)(p) = tp'' - p', so to determine for which polynomials p, we have (DT - 2D)(p) = 0, write $p(t) = c_0 + c_1t + c_2t^2 + \cdots + c_nt^n$. Then

$$tp''(t) - p'(t) = 2c_2t + 6c_3t^2 + \dots + (n)(n-1)c_nt^{n-1} - (c_1 + 2c_2t + 3c_3t^2 + \dots + nc_nt^{n-1})$$

= $-c_1 + 3c_2t^2 + \dots + (n)(n-2)c_nt^{n-1}$

Setting $tp''(t) - p'(t) = 0 \Leftrightarrow c_1 = c_3 = \cdots = c_n = 0$. Thus, the kernel of DT - 2D consists of all polynomials of the form $p(t) = c_0 + c_2 t^2$; i.e. the span of $\{1, t^2\}$.

(c) Does D have a left inverse or a right inverse?

Answer. Since D has a nontrivial kernel, it does not have a left inverse. To see this, let p be the constant polynomial p(t) = 1. For any linear map $F: V \to V$, we have

$$FD(p) = F(0) = 0 \neq p$$

and so $FD \neq Id$ for any linear $F: V \rightarrow V$.

The map D does have a right inverse. Here's one: Let $I: V \to V$ be defined by $I(p) = \int_0^t p(s) ds$. Then

$$DI(p(t)) = D \int_0^t p(s)ds = p(t).$$

The last equality follows from the fundamental theorem of calculus. So DI = Id and we see that I is a right inverse of D.

The fact that D has a set-theoretic right inverse says that D is onto; i.e. every polynomial is the derivative of another polynomial (certainly true — every polynomial has many antiderivatives). However, to say that D has a right inverse that is a linear transformation says that an antiderivative for each polynomial can be chosen so the totality of choices defines a linear map (this is only true if we choose the "constant of integration" to be zero).

(d) Let $S: V \to V$ be defined by $p(t) \mapsto tp(t)$. Compute DS - SD and, more generally, $DS^n - S^n D$.

Answer. DS(p) = D(tp) = p + tp', SD(p) = S(p') = tp', and (DS - SD)(p) = p + tp' - tp' = p. So DS - SD = Id.

More generally, $DS^{n}(p) = t^{n}p = nt^{n-1}p + t^{n}p'$, $S^{n}D(p) = S^{n}(p') = t^{n}p'$, and $(DS^{n} - S^{n}D)(p) = nt^{n-1}p$.

Inner products and best approximation

Problem 4. Let V be the space of polynomials of degree less than or equal to three and let

$$\langle p,q \rangle = p(0)q(0) + p'(0)q'(0) + p(1)q(1) + p'(1)q'(1).$$

(a) Prove that $\langle p, q \rangle$ defines an inner product on V. In particular, prove that if $\langle p, p \rangle = 0$ then p = 0. *Hint:* first prove the lemma that if p is a polynomial and a is a number for which p(a) = 0 and p'(a) = 0, then there exists a polynomial q so that $p(x) = (x - a)^2 q(x)$.

Answer. It's straightforward to check that \langle , \rangle as defined is symmetric and bilinear, and it's clear that as a sum of squares, $\langle p, p \rangle \geq 0$ for all $p \in V$. The one property that's not straightforward to check is that $\langle p, p \rangle = 0$ only for the zero polynomial. To check this, we first prove the lemma in the hint.

Lemma. If p is a polynomial and a is a number for which p(a) = 0 and p'(a) = 0, then there exists a polynomial q so that $p(t) = (t - a)^2 q(t)$.

Proof. First, recall that if p is any polynomial and a is a number for which p(a) = 0, then there exists a polynomial q so that that

$$p(t) = (t-a)q(t).$$

Now assume that for a particular polynomial p we have p(a) = 0 and p'(a) = 0. Since p(a) = 0 then there exists a polynomial q with p(t) = (t - a)q(t). Note that p'(t) = (t-a)q'(t)+q(t). Since p'(a) = 0 we have 0 = p'(a) = (a-a)q'(a)+q(a) = q(a). Since q is a polynomial for which q(a) = 0, there exists a polynomial r of degree so that q(t) = (t-a)r(t). Therefore,

$$p(t) = (t - a)^2 r(t).$$

Now suppose that $\langle p, p \rangle = 0$. Then $p(0)^2 + p'(0)^2 + p(1)^2 + p'(1)^2 = 0 \Rightarrow p(0) = p'(0) = p(1) = p'(1) = 0$. Since p(0) = 0 and p'(0) = 0, we know p(t) is divisible by t^2 . Since p(1) = p'(1) = 0 we know p(t) is divisible by $(t - 1)^2$. The only polynomial of degree less than or equal to three that's divisible by both t^2 and $(t - 1)^2$ is zero.

(b) Compute the angle between the polynomials $2t^3 - 3t^2$ and 1.

Answer. A quick computation gives

$$\frac{\langle 2x^3 - 3x^2, 1 \rangle}{\sqrt{\langle 2x^3 - 3x^2, 2x^3 - 3x^2 \rangle}\sqrt{\langle 1, 1 \rangle}} = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

So the angle between these two polynomials is

$$\arccos\left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right) = \frac{3\pi}{4}.$$

(c) Use Gram-Schmidt to replace the basis $\{1, t, t^2, t^3\}$ by an orthogonormal set.

Answer. There's a lot of computation to do this, the result is

$$\left\{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{2t-1}{\sqrt{10}}, \frac{(t-1)t}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{10t^3 - 15t^2 + t + 2}{\sqrt{10}}\right\}$$

(d) The following polynomials form a very nice basis for V.

$$e_1 = t(t-1)^2$$

$$e_2 = t^2(t-1)$$

$$e_3 = (2t+1)(t-1)^2$$

$$e_4 = t^2(1-2(t-1))$$

Projecting an arbitrary differentiable function f onto V yields a linear combination of the basis vectors

$$a_1e_1 + a_2e_2 + a_3e_3 + a_4e_4.$$

Describe (simply!) the coefficients a_i in terms of the function f. The simplicity of this description explains why $\{e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4\}$ is such a nice basis for V.

Answer. In general, for any orthonormal basis $\{e_1, \ldots, e_n\}$ of V, the projection of an any f onto V is obtained by

$$\operatorname{Proj}_V(f) = \sum_{i=1}^n \langle f, e_i \rangle e_i.$$

Now, each term in the sum above $\langle f, e_i \rangle$ is a sum of four products

$$e_i(0)f(0) + e'_i(0)f'(0) + e_i(1)f'(1) + e'_i(1)f'(1)$$

Now, here's what's so special about the given basis:

$$e'_1(0) = 1$$
 and $e_1(0) = e_1(1) = e'_1(1) = 0$
 $e'_2(1) = 1$ and $e_2(0) = e_2(1) = e'_2(0) = 0$
 $e_3(0) = 1$ and $e_3(1) = e'_3(0) = e'_3(1) = 0$
 $e_4(1) = 1$ and $e_4(0) = e'_4(0) = e'_4(1) = 0$

So, instead of a complicated express for $\langle f, e_i \rangle$, we have simply

$$\langle f, e_1 \rangle = f'(0), \quad \langle f, e_2 \rangle = f'(1), \quad \langle f, e_3 \rangle = f(0), \quad \langle f, e_4 \rangle = f(1).$$

So,

$$\operatorname{Proj}_{V}(f) = f'(0)e_{1} + f'(1)e_{2} + f(0)e_{3} + f(1)e_{4}.$$

Problem 5. Each of the pictures below shows a polynomial approximation for $\cos(2t)$. Five of them are degree four polynomials obtained by projection onto the subspace of quartic polynomials, using one of the following inner products.

$$\begin{split} \langle f,g\rangle_1 &= f(2)g(2) + f'(2)g'(2) + f''(2)g''(2) + f'''(2)g'''(2) \\ \langle f,g\rangle_2 &= \int_0^4 f(t)g(t)dt \\ \langle f,g\rangle_3 &= f(0)g(0) + f(1)g(1) + f(2)g(2) + f(3)g(3) + f(4)g(4) \\ \langle f,g\rangle_4 &= f(0)g(0) + f(2)g(2) + f'(2)g'(2) + f''(2)g''(2) + f(4)g(4) \\ \langle f,g\rangle_5 &= f(0)g(0) + f'(0)g'(0) + f(2)g(2) + f(4)g(4) + f'(4)g'(4) \end{split}$$

The sixth approximation is obtained by "gluing together" two degree two polynomials defined on [0, 2] and [2, 4], each determined by projection using, respectively, the inner products

$$\langle f,g \rangle_6 = f(0)g(0) + f(2)g(2) + f'(2)g'(2) \langle f,g \rangle_7 = f(2)g(2) + f'(2)g'(2) + f(4)g(4)$$

