Linear Algebra 2

Lecture #13

Matrices of linear functions between non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces

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- This lecture has three parts:

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    1. Matrices of linear functions between non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces

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  2. Change of basis (transition) matrices

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  2. Change of basis (transition) matrices
  3. Similar matrices

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Theorem 1.10.5

Let $\mathbb{F}$ be a field, and let $f : \mathbb{F}^m \to \mathbb{F}^n$ be a linear function. Then there exists a unique matrix A (called the *standard matrix of f*) s.t. for all $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}^m$, we have that $f(\mathbf{x}) = A\mathbf{x}$. Moreover, the standard matrix A of f is given by

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} f(\mathbf{e}_1) & \dots & f(\mathbf{e}_m) \end{bmatrix},$$

where $\mathbf{e}_1, \dots, \mathbf{e}_m$ are the standard basis vectors of $\mathbb{F}^m$.

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- Linear functions between general vector spaces do **not** have standard matrices.
- However, we can associate a matrix to a linear function between non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces, provided we have first specified a basis of the domain and a basis of the codomain.

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- Linear functions between general vector spaces do **not** have standard matrices.
- However, we can associate a matrix to a linear function between non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces, provided we have first specified a basis of the domain and a basis of the codomain.
- First, we review some of the results from previous lectures.

Theorem 3.2.7

Let V be a vector space over a field $\mathbb{F}$, and let $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n \in V$. Then the following are equivalent:

(i) $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$ is a basis of V;

(ii) for all vectors $\mathbf{v} \in V$, there exist **unique** scalars $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \in \mathbb{F}$ s.t. $\mathbf{v} = \alpha_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_n \mathbf{v}_n$.

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- Suppose $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n\}$ $(n \geq 1)$ is a basis of a vector space V over a field $\mathbb{F}$. Then by Theorem 3.2.7, to every vector $\mathbf{v} \in V$, we can associate a unique vector

$$\left[\ \mathbf{v}\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}} \ := \ \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_n \end{bmatrix}$$

in $\mathbb{F}^n$ s.t. $\mathbf{v} = \alpha_1\mathbf{b}_1 + \dots + \alpha_n\mathbf{b}_n$; the vector $\left[\ \mathbf{v}\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}}$ is called the *coordinate vector* of $\mathbf{v}$ associated with the basis $\mathcal{B}$.

- **Remark:** Suppose that $\mathbb{F}$ is a field, and that $\mathcal{E}_n = \{\mathbf{e}_1, \dots, \mathbf{e}_n\}$ is the standard basis of $\mathbb{F}^n$.
  - Then for all vectors $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & \dots & x_n \end{bmatrix}^T$ in $\mathbb{F}^n$, we have that

$$\mathbf{x} \quad = \quad x_1\mathbf{e}_1 + \dots + x_n\mathbf{e}_n,$$

    and consequently,

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} \end{bmatrix}_{\mathcal{E}_n} \quad = \quad \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & \dots & x_n \end{bmatrix}^T \quad = \quad \mathbf{x}.$$

Proposition 3.2.9

Let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n\}$ $(n \geq 1)$ be a basis of a vector space V over a field $\mathbb{F}$. Then for all $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, we have that $\left[\ \mathbf{b}_i\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}} = \mathbf{e}_i^n$.

Proof. Fix $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$. Then

$$\mathbf{b}_i \quad = \quad 0\mathbf{b}_1 + \cdots + 0\mathbf{b}_{i-1} + 1\mathbf{b}_i + 0\mathbf{b}_{i+1} + \cdots + 0\mathbf{b}_n$$

and consequently,

$$\left[\ \mathbf{b}_i\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}} \quad = \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \leftarrow i\text{-th entry}$$

i.e. $\left[\ \mathbf{b}_i\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}} = \mathbf{e}_i^n$. □

Theorem 4.3.2

Let U and V be vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$, and assume that U is finite-dimensional. Let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_n\}$ be a basis of U, and let $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n \in V$.[a] Then there exists a unique linear function $f : U \to V$ s.t. $f(\mathbf{u}_1) = \mathbf{v}_1, \dots, f(\mathbf{u}_n) = \mathbf{v}_n$. Moreover, if the vector space U is non-trivial (i.e. $n \neq 0$), then this unique linear function $f : U \to V$ satisfies the following: for all $\mathbf{u} \in U$, we have that

$$f(\mathbf{u}) \quad = \quad \alpha_1\mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_n\mathbf{v}_n,$$

where $\left[\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{u} \end{array}\right]_{\mathcal{B}} = \left[\begin{array}{ccc} \alpha_1 & \dots & \alpha_n \end{array}\right]^T$. On the other hand, if U is trivial (i.e. $U = \{\mathbf{0}\}$),[b] then $f : U \to V$ is given by $f(\mathbf{0}) = \mathbf{0}$.

---

[a] Here, $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n$ are arbitrary vectors in V. They are not necessarily pairwise distinct.

[b] Note that in this case, we have that $n = 0$ and $\mathcal{B} = \emptyset$.

Corollary 4.3.3

Let U and V be vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$, and assume that U is finite-dimensional. Let $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_k\}$ be a linearly independent set of vectors in U, and let $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k \in V$.[a] Then there exists a linear function $f : U \to V$ s.t. $f(\mathbf{u}_1) = \mathbf{v}_1, \dots, f(\mathbf{u}_k) = \mathbf{v}_k$. Moreover, if V is non-trivial, then this linear function f is unique iff $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_k\}$ is a basis of U.

---

[a] Here, $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k$ are arbitrary vectors in V. They are not necessarily pairwise distinct.

- Standard matrices once again:

Theorem 1.10.5

Let $\mathbb{F}$ be a field, and let $f : \mathbb{F}^m \to \mathbb{F}^n$ be a linear function. Then there exists a unique matrix A (called the *standard matrix of f*) s.t. for all $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}^m$, we have that $f(\mathbf{x}) = A\mathbf{x}$. Moreover, the standard matrix A of f is given by

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} f(\mathbf{e}_1) & \dots & f(\mathbf{e}_m) \end{bmatrix},$$

where $\mathbf{e}_1, \dots, \mathbf{e}_m$ are the standard basis vectors of $\mathbb{F}^m$.

- Let's generalize this (next slide)!

Theorem 4.5.1

Let U and V be non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$. Let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ be a basis of U, let $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be a basis of V, and let $f : U \to V$ be a linear function. Then exists a unique matrix in $\mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$, denoted by ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}$ and called the *matrix of f with respect to $\mathcal{B}$ and $\mathcal{C}$*, s.t. for all $\mathbf{u} \in U$, we have that

$$ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} \Big[\ \mathbf{u}\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} \ = \ \Big[\ f(\mathbf{u})\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}}. $$

Moreover, the matrix ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}$ is given by

$$ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} \ = \ \Big[\ \Big[\ f(\mathbf{b}_1)\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}} \ \dots \ \Big[\ f(\mathbf{b}_m)\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}}\ \Big]. $$

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$$ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} \Big[\ \mathbf{u}\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} = \Big[\ f(\mathbf{u})\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}}. $$

Moreover, the matrix ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}$ is given by

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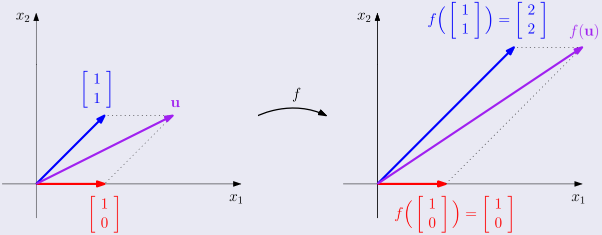
- First an example and a remark, then a proof.

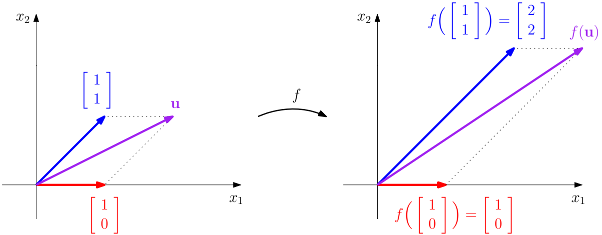
Example 4.5.2

Consider the basis $\mathcal{B} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ of $\mathbb{R}^2$, and consider the unique linear function $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}^2$ that satisfies the following:

- $f\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$,
- $f\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$.

Compute the matrix ${}_{\mathcal{B}}\left[\ f \ \right]_{\mathcal{B}}$.





- **Remark:** The fact that $\mathcal{B} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ is a basis of $\mathbb{R}^2$ follows from the fact that $\text{rank}\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = 2$ and from the Invertible Matrix Theorem. The existence and uniqueness of the linear function f follows from Theorem 4.3.2.

Solution. Using the formula from Theorem 4.5.1, we compute:

$$
\begin{aligned}
{}_{\mathcal{B}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} &= \left[\ \left[\ f\left(\begin{bmatrix}1\\0\end{bmatrix}\right)\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}} \quad \left[\ f\left(\begin{bmatrix}1\\1\end{bmatrix}\right)\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}}\ \right] \\
&= \left[\ \left[\ \begin{bmatrix}1\\0\end{bmatrix}\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}} \quad \left[\ \begin{bmatrix}2\\2\end{bmatrix}\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}}\ \right] \\
&= \begin{bmatrix}1 & 0\\0 & 2\end{bmatrix}.
\end{aligned}
$$

□

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  - Indeed, if $\mathbb{F}$ is a field and $f : \mathbb{F}^m \to \mathbb{F}^n$ is a linear function, then the matrix
  $$ {}_{\mathcal{E}_n}\left[\ f\ \right]_{\mathcal{E}_m} $$
  is precisely the **standard matrix** of f, where as usual, $\mathcal{E}_m = \{\mathbf{e}_1^m, \dots, \mathbf{e}_m^m\}$ is the standard basis of $\mathbb{F}^m$, and $\mathcal{E}_n = \{\mathbf{e}_1^n, \dots, \mathbf{e}_n^n\}$ is the standard basis of $\mathbb{F}^n$.

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  - Indeed, if $\mathbb{F}$ is a field and $f : \mathbb{F}^m \to \mathbb{F}^n$ is a linear function, then the matrix
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  - Indeed, suppose that $\mathbb{F}$ be a field, that $f : \mathbb{F}^m \to \mathbb{F}^n$ is a linear function, and that A is the standard matrix of f.

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  - Indeed, suppose that $\mathbb{F}$ be a field, that $f : \mathbb{F}^m \to \mathbb{F}^n$ is a linear function, and that A is the standard matrix of f.
  - Then for all $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{F}^m$, we have the following:
$$ A\Big[\ \mathbf{u}\ \Big]_{\mathcal{E}_m} \quad = \quad A\mathbf{u} \quad = \quad f(\mathbf{u}) \quad = \quad \Big[\ f(\mathbf{u})\ \Big]_{\mathcal{E}_n}. $$

- **Remark:** Matrices of the form ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$ are generalizations of standard matrices.
  - Indeed, if $\mathbb{F}$ is a field and $f : \mathbb{F}^m \to \mathbb{F}^n$ is a linear function, then the matrix
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    is precisely the **standard matrix** of f, where as usual, $\mathcal{E}_m = \{\mathbf{e}_1^m, \dots, \mathbf{e}_m^m\}$ is the standard basis of $\mathbb{F}^m$, and $\mathcal{E}_n = \{\mathbf{e}_1^n, \dots, \mathbf{e}_n^n\}$ is the standard basis of $\mathbb{F}^n$.
  - Indeed, suppose that $\mathbb{F}$ be a field, that $f : \mathbb{F}^m \to \mathbb{F}^n$ is a linear function, and that A is the standard matrix of f.
  - Then for all $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{F}^m$, we have the following:
$$ A\big[\ \mathbf{u}\ \big]_{\mathcal{E}_m} \ = \ A\mathbf{u} \ = \ f(\mathbf{u}) \ = \ \big[\ f(\mathbf{u})\ \big]_{\mathcal{E}_n}. $$
  - Now the uniqueness part of Theorem 4.5.1 guarantees that $A = {}_{\mathcal{E}_n}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{E}_m}$, i.e. ${}_{\mathcal{E}_n}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{E}_m}$ is the standard matrix of f.

Theorem 4.5.1

Let U and V be non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$. Let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ be a basis of U, let $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be a basis of V, and let $f : U \rightarrow V$ be a linear function. Then exists a unique matrix in $\mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$, denoted by ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$ and called the *matrix of f with respect to $\mathcal{B}$ and $\mathcal{C}$*, s.t. for all $\mathbf{u} \in U$, we have that

$$ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} \Big[\ \mathbf{u}\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} = \Big[\ f(\mathbf{u})\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}}. $$

Moreover, the matrix ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$ is given by

$$ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} = \Big[\ \Big[\ f(\mathbf{b}_1)\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}}\ \dots\ \Big[\ f(\mathbf{b}_m)\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}}\ \Big]. $$

- Let's prove the theorem!

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$$\left[\left[f(\mathbf{b}_1) \right]_{\mathcal{C}} \quad \ldots \quad \left[f(\mathbf{b}_m) \right]_{\mathcal{C}} \right] \left[\mathbf{u} \right]_{\mathcal{B}} \;=\; \left[f(\mathbf{u}) \right]_{\mathcal{C}}.$$

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Set

$$\left[\mathbf{u} \right]_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \beta_m \end{bmatrix},$$

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We then compute (next slide):

Proof (continued).

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left[\; \left[\; f(\mathbf{b}_1) \; \right]_{\mathcal{C}} \quad \dots \quad \left[\; f(\mathbf{b}_m) \; \right]_{\mathcal{C}} \; \right] \left[\; \mathbf{u} \; \right]_{\mathcal{B}} \\
= \quad & \left[\; \left[\; f(\mathbf{b}_1) \; \right]_{\mathcal{C}} \quad \dots \quad \left[\; f(\mathbf{b}_m) \; \right]_{\mathcal{C}} \; \right] \begin{bmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \beta_m \end{bmatrix} \\
= \quad & \beta_1 \left[\; f(\mathbf{b}_1) \; \right]_{\mathcal{C}} + \dots + \beta_m \left[\; f(\mathbf{b}_m) \; \right]_{\mathcal{C}} \\
\overset{(*)}{=} \quad & \left[\; \beta_1 f(\mathbf{b}_1) + \dots + \beta_m f(\mathbf{b}_m) \; \right]_{\mathcal{C}} \\
\overset{(**)}{=} \quad & \left[\; f\big(\beta_1 \mathbf{b}_1 + \dots + \beta_m \mathbf{b}_m\big) \; \right]_{\mathcal{C}} \\
= \quad & \left[\; f(\mathbf{u}) \; \right]_{\mathcal{C}},
\end{aligned}$$

where (*) follows from the fact that $\left[\; \cdot \; \right]_{\mathcal{C}} : V \to \mathbb{F}^n$ is an isomorphism (and in particular, a linear function), and (**) follows from the fact that f is linear.

Proof (continued). **Uniqueness.**

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$$A \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u} \end{bmatrix}_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} f(\mathbf{u}) \end{bmatrix}_{\mathcal{C}}.$$

We must show that

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} f(\mathbf{b}_1) \end{bmatrix}_{\mathcal{C}} & \dots & \begin{bmatrix} f(\mathbf{b}_m) \end{bmatrix}_{\mathcal{C}} \end{bmatrix}.$$

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We prove this by showing that the two matrices have the same corresponding columns, that is, that $\mathbf{a}_i = \begin{bmatrix} f(\mathbf{b}_i) \end{bmatrix}_{\mathcal{C}}$ for all indices $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$.

Proof (continued). **Uniqueness.** Fix any matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_1 & \dots & \mathbf{a}_m \end{bmatrix}$ in $\mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$ that has the property that for all $\mathbf{u} \in U$, we have that

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We prove this by showing that the two matrices have the same corresponding columns, that is, that $\mathbf{a}_i = \begin{bmatrix} f(\mathbf{b}_i) \end{bmatrix}_{\mathcal{C}}$ for all indices $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$. Indeed, for all $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$, we have the following (next slide):

Proof (continued).

$$\begin{array}{rcll} \mathbf{a}_i & = & A\mathbf{e}_i^m & \text{by Proposition 1.4.4} \\ & = & A\left[\ \mathbf{b}_i\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}} & \text{because } \left[\ \mathbf{b}_i\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}} = \mathbf{e}_i^m \text{ (by Proposition 3.2.9)} \\ & = & \left[\ f(\mathbf{b}_i)\ \right]_{\mathcal{C}} & \text{by the choice of } A. \end{array}$$

This proves that $A = \left[\ \left[\ f(\mathbf{b}_1)\ \right]_{\mathcal{C}} \ \ \dots \ \ \left[\ f(\mathbf{b}_m)\ \right]_{\mathcal{C}}\ \right]$, and we are done. □

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$$ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \ \big[\ \mathbf{u}\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \ = \ \big[\ f(\mathbf{u})\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}}. $$

Moreover, the matrix ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}$ is given by

$$ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \ = \ \Big[\ \big[\ f(\mathbf{b}_1)\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}} \ \dots \ \big[\ f(\mathbf{b}_m)\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}}\ \Big]. $$

- **Remark:** Suppose that U and V are non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$, that $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ and $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ are bases of U and V, respectively, and that $f : U \to V$ is a linear function, as in Theorem 4.5.1.

- **Remark:** Suppose that U and V are non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$, that $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ and $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ are bases of U and V, respectively, and that $f : U \to V$ is a linear function, as in Theorem 4.5.1.
  - Then the uniqueness part of Theorem 4.5.1 guarantees that if $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$ is **any** matrix that satisfies the property that for all $\mathbf{u} \in U$, we have that

$$A \left[\ \mathbf{u}\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}} \ = \ \left[\ f(\mathbf{u})\ \right]_{\mathcal{C}},$$

    then we in fact have that $A = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\left[\ f\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}}$.
  - We will use this observation repeatedly.

- Reminder:

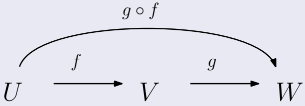
Proposition 4.1.7

Let U, V, and W be vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$. Then all the following hold:

(a) for all linear functions $f, g : U \to V$, the function $f + g$ is linear;

(b) for all linear functions $f : U \to V$ and scalars $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}$, the function $\alpha f : U \to V$ is linear;

(c) for all linear functions $f : U \to V$ and $g : V \to W$, the function $g \circ f$ is linear.



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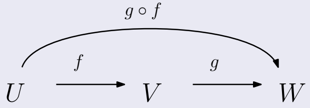

- What about the matrices of sums, scalar multiples, and compositions of linear functions?
  - Next slide!

Theorem 4.5.3

Let U, V, and W be non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$. Let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ be a basis of U, let $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be a basis of V, and let $\mathcal{D} = \{\mathbf{d}_1, \dots, \mathbf{d}_p\}$ be a basis of W. Then all the following hold:

(a) for all linear functions $f, g : U \to V$, the function $f + g$ is linear, and moreover,
$$_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f + g\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \ = \ _{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} + {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ g\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}};$$

(b) for all linear functions $f : U \to V$ and scalars $\alpha \in U$, the function αf is linear, and moreover,
$$_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ \alpha f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \ = \ \alpha\ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}};$$

(c) for all linear functions $f : U \to V$ and $g : V \to W$, the function $g \circ f$ is linear, and moreover,
$$_{\mathcal{D}}\big[\ g \circ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \ = \ _{\mathcal{D}}\big[\ g\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}}\ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}.$$

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Let U, V, and W be non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$. Let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ be a basis of U, let $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be a basis of V, and let $\mathcal{D} = \{\mathbf{d}_1, \dots, \mathbf{d}_p\}$ be a basis of W. Then all the following hold:

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(b) for all linear functions $f : U \to V$ and scalars $\alpha \in U$, the function αf is linear, and moreover,

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(c) for all linear functions $f : U \to V$ and $g : V \to W$, the function $g \circ f$ is linear, and moreover,

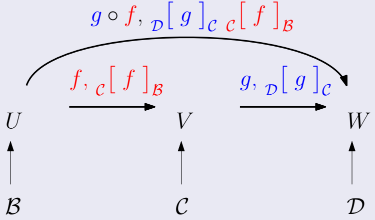
$$_{\mathcal{D}}\left[\ g \circ f\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}} \ = \ _{\mathcal{D}}\left[\ g\ \right]_{\mathcal{C}}\ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\left[\ f\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}}.$$

- We prove (c). The proofs of (a) and (b) are left as an exercise.

Theorem 4.5.3

- (c) for all linear functions $f : U \to V$ and $g : V \to W$, the function $g \circ f$ is linear, and moreover,

$$_{\mathcal{D}}[\ g \circ f\ ]_{\mathcal{B}} \;=\; _{\mathcal{D}}[\ g\ ]_{\mathcal{C}}\ _{\mathcal{C}}[\ f\ ]_{\mathcal{B}}.$$



Proof. The fact that $g \circ f$ is linear follows from Proposition 4.1.7(c).

Theorem 4.5.3

(c) for all linear functions $f : U \to V$ and $g : V \to W$, the function $g \circ f$ is linear, and moreover,

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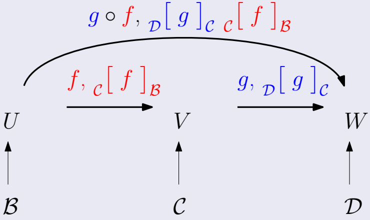

Proof. The fact that $g \circ f$ is linear follows from Proposition 4.1.7(c). It remains to show that

$$ {}_{\mathcal{D}}[\ g \circ f\ ]_{\mathcal{B}} \;=\; {}_{\mathcal{D}}[\ g\ ]_{\mathcal{C}}\ {}_{\mathcal{C}}[\ f\ ]_{\mathcal{B}}. $$

Proof (continued).

Claim. *For all* $\mathbf{u} \in U$, *we have that*

$$\left({}_{\mathcal{D}}\Big[\ g\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}}\ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} \right) \Big[\ \mathbf{u}\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} \ = \ \Big[\ (g \circ f)(\mathbf{u})\ \Big]_{\mathcal{D}}.$$

Proof of the Claim.

Proof (continued).

Claim. *For all* $\mathbf{u} \in U$*, we have that*

$$\Big({}_{\mathcal{D}}\Big[\ g\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}}\ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} \Big)\ \Big[\ \mathbf{u}\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} \ = \ \Big[\ (g \circ f)(\mathbf{u})\ \Big]_{\mathcal{D}}.$$

Proof of the Claim. For all $\mathbf{u} \in U$, we have the following:

$$\begin{aligned} \Big({}_{\mathcal{D}}\big[\ g\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}}\ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \Big)\ \big[\ \mathbf{u}\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} &= {}_{\mathcal{D}}\big[\ g\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}} \Big({}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}\ \big[\ \mathbf{u}\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \Big) \\ &= {}_{\mathcal{D}}\big[\ g\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}}\ \big[\ f(\mathbf{u})\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}} \\ &= \big[\ g\big(f(\mathbf{u})\big)\ \big]_{\mathcal{D}} \\ &= \big[\ (g \circ f)(\mathbf{u})\ \big]_{\mathcal{D}}. \end{aligned}$$

This proves the Claim. ♦

Proof (continued).

Claim. *For all* $\mathbf{u} \in U$, *we have that*

$$\left({}_{\mathcal{D}}\Big[\ g\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}}\ \ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} \right)\ \Big[\ \mathbf{u}\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}\ =\ \Big[\ (g \circ f)(\mathbf{u})\ \Big]_{\mathcal{D}}.$$

Proof (continued).

Claim. *For all* $\mathbf{u} \in U$, *we have that*

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The Claim and the uniqueness part of Theorem 4.5.1 now imply that

$${}_{\mathcal{D}}\Big[\ g \circ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} \ = \ {}_{\mathcal{D}}\Big[\ g\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}}\ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}},$$

which is what we needed to show. □

Theorem 4.5.3

Let U, V, and W be non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$. Let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ be a basis of U, let $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be a basis of V, and let $\mathcal{D} = \{\mathbf{d}_1, \dots, \mathbf{d}_p\}$ be a basis of W. Then all the following hold:

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- We have already seen that it is possible to use the standard matrix of a linear function $f : \mathbb{F}^n \to \mathbb{F}^m$ (where $\mathbb{F}$ is a field) in order to determine various properties of f.

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- Our goal will be to generalize those results to linear functions between arbitrary non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces and the matrices of those linear functions (see Theorem 4.5.4 in a couple of slides).
- Let's first review those old results (and some relevant definitions).

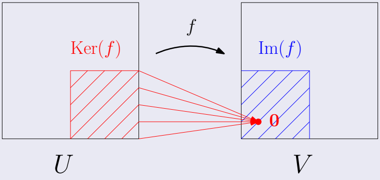
Definition

Given a **linear** function $f : U \to V$, where U and V are vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$, the *kernel* of f is defined to be the set

$$\mathrm{Ker}(f) \quad := \quad \{\mathbf{u} \in U \mid f(\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{0}\}.$$

The *image* of f is the set

$$\mathrm{Im}(f) \quad := \quad \{f(\mathbf{u}) \mid \mathbf{u} \in U\}.$$



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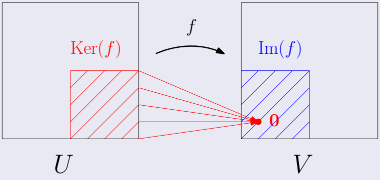

- Reminder: By Theorem 4.2.3, $\mathrm{Ker}(f)$ is a subspace of U, and Im is a subspace of V.

Proposition 4.2.7

Let $\mathbb{F}$ be a field, let $f : \mathbb{F}^m \to \mathbb{F}^n$ be a linear function, and let $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$ be the standard matrix of f. Then both the following hold:

(a) $\text{rank}(f) = \text{rank}(A)$;

(b) $\dim\big(\text{Ker}(f)\big) = \dim\big(\text{Nul}(A)\big)$.

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- (a) $\text{rank}(f) = \text{rank}(A)$;
- (b) $\dim\big(\text{Ker}(f)\big) = \dim\big(\text{Nul}(A)\big)$.

Theorem 1.10.8

Let $\mathbb{F}$ be a field, let $f : \mathbb{F}^m \to \mathbb{F}^n$ be a linear function, and let $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$ be the standard matrix of f. Then both the following hold:

- (a) f is one-to-one iff $\text{rank}(A) = m$ (i.e. A has full column rank);
- (b) f is onto iff $\text{rank}(A) = n$ (i.e. A has full row rank).

Theorem 1.11.9 (abridged)

Let $\mathbb{F}$ be a field, let $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$ be a square matrix, and let $f : \mathbb{F}^n \to \mathbb{F}^n$ be given by $f(\mathbf{x}) = A\mathbf{x}$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}^n$. Then f is linear and its standard matrix is A. Furthermore, the following are equivalent:

(a) f is an isomorphism;

(b) A is invertible.

Moreover, in this case, f^{-1} is an isomorphism and its standard matrix is A^{-1}.

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- No matrices, but still relevant to our topic:

Theorem 4.2.4

Let U and V be vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$, and let $f : U \to V$ be a linear function. Then f is one-to-one iff $\text{Ker}(f) = \{\mathbf{0}\}$.

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- No matrices, but still relevant to our topic:

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Let U and V be vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$, and let $f : U \to V$ be a linear function. Then f is one-to-one iff $\mathrm{Ker}(f) = \{\mathbf{0}\}$.

- Now let's generalize these results!

Theorem 4.5.4

Let U and V be non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$. Let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ be a basis of U, let $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be a basis of V, and let $f : U \to V$ be a linear function.[a] Then all the following hold:

(a) $\text{rank}(f) = \text{rank}\Big({}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}\Big)$;

(b) $\dim(\text{Ker}(f)) = \dim\Big(\text{Nul}\Big({}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}\Big)\Big)$;

(c) f is one-to-one iff $\text{Nul}\Big({}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}\Big) = \{\mathbf{0}\}$;

(d) f is one-to-one iff $\text{rank}\Big({}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}\Big) = m$ (i.e. the matrix ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}$ has full column rank);

(e) f is onto iff $\text{rank}\Big({}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}\Big) = n$ (i.e. the matrix ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}$ has full row rank);

---

[a] Note that this means that $\dim(U) = m$, $\dim(V) = n$, and ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$.

Theorem 4.5.4 (continued)

Let U and V be non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$. Let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ be a basis of U, let $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be a basis of V, and let $f : U \to V$ be a linear function.[a] Then all the following hold:

(f) f is an isomorphism iff the matrix ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}$ is invertible (and in particular, square);

(g) if f is an isomorphism, then ${}_{\mathcal{B}}\big[\ f^{-1}\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}} = \Big({}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}\Big)^{-1}$.

---

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- The full proof is in the Lecture Notes.
- Here, we prove parts (a), (b), (c).

Theorem 4.5.4

(a) $\text{rank}(f) = \text{rank}\Big({}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}\Big)$;

Proof of (a).

Theorem 4.5.4

(a) $\text{rank}(f) = \text{rank}\Big({}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}\Big)$;

Proof of (a). By Theorem 4.5.1, we have that

$$ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \ = \ \Big[\ \big[\ f(\mathbf{b}_1)\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}} \ \ \dots \ \ \big[\ f(\mathbf{b}_m)\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}}\ \Big]. $$

We now compute:

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{rank}(f) &= \dim\Big(\text{Span}\big(f(\mathbf{b}_1), \dots, f(\mathbf{b}_m)\big)\Big) \\
&= \dim\Big(\text{Span}\big(\big[\ f(\mathbf{b}_1)\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}}, \dots, \big[\ f(\mathbf{b}_m)\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}}\big)\Big) \\
&= \dim\Big(\text{Col}\Big(\Big[\ \big[\ f(\mathbf{b}_1)\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}} \ \ \dots \ \ \big[\ f(\mathbf{b}_m)\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}}\ \Big]\Big)\Big) \\
&= \dim\Big(\text{Col}\big({}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}\big)\Big) \ = \ \text{rank}\Big({}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}\Big).
\end{aligned}$$

□

Theorem 4.5.4

(b) $\dim(\mathrm{Ker}(f)) = \dim\Big(\mathrm{Nul}\Big({}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}\Big)\Big)$;

Proof of (b).

Theorem 4.5.4

(b) $\dim(\text{Ker}(f)) = \dim\Big(\text{Nul}\big({}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}\big)\Big)$;

Proof of (b). We first observe that

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{rank}(f) + \dim(\text{Ker}(f)) &\overset{(*)}{=} \dim(U) = m \\
&\overset{(**)}{=} \text{rank}\big({}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}\big) + \dim\Big(\text{Nul}\big({}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}\big)\Big)
\end{aligned}$$

where (*) follows from the rank-nullity theorem for linear functions, and (**) follows from the rank-nullity theorem for matrices (since ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}$ is an $n \times m$ matrix).

Theorem 4.5.4

(b) $\dim(\mathrm{Ker}(f)) = \dim\Big(\mathrm{Nul}\big({}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}\big)\Big)$;

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But by (a), we have that $\mathrm{rank}(f) = \mathrm{rank}\big({}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}\big)$. Therefore, $\dim(\mathrm{Ker}(f)) = \dim\Big(\mathrm{Nul}\big({}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}\big)\Big)$. $\square$

Theorem 4.5.4

(c) f is one-to-one iff $\mathrm{Nul}\left({}_{\mathcal{C}}\left[\ f\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}} \right) = \{\mathbf{0}\}$;

Proof of (c).

Theorem 4.5.4

(c) f is one-to-one iff $\text{Nul}\left({}_{\mathcal{C}}\left[\ f\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}}\right) = \{\mathbf{0}\}$;

Proof of (c). We have the following sequence of equivalent statements:

$$\begin{aligned} f \text{ is one-to-one} \quad & \overset{(*)}{\iff} \quad \text{Ker}(f) = \{\mathbf{0}\} \\ & \iff \quad \dim\big(\text{Ker}(f)\big) = 0 \\ & \overset{(**)}{\iff} \quad \dim\Big(\text{Nul}\left({}_{\mathcal{C}}\left[\ f\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}}\right)\Big) = 0 \\ & \iff \quad \text{Nul}\left({}_{\mathcal{C}}\left[\ f\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}}\right) = \{\mathbf{0}\}, \end{aligned}$$

where (*) follows from Theorem 4.2.4, and (**) follows from part (b). □

Theorem 4.5.4

Let U and V be non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$. Let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ be a basis of U, let $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be a basis of V, and let $f : U \to V$ be a linear function.[a] Then all the following hold:

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(c) f is one-to-one iff $\text{Nul}\Big({}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \Big) = \{\mathbf{0}\}$;

(d) f is one-to-one iff $\text{rank}\Big({}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \Big) = m$ (i.e. the matrix ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}$ has full column rank);

(e) f is onto iff $\text{rank}\Big({}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \Big) = n$ (i.e. the matrix ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}$ has full row rank);

---

[a] Note that this means that $\dim(U) = m$, $\dim(V) = n$, and ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$.

Theorem 4.5.4 (continued)

Let U and V be non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$. Let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ be a basis of U, let $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be a basis of V, and let $f : U \to V$ be a linear function.[a] Then all the following hold:

(f) f is an isomorphism iff the matrix ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\left[\ f\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}}$ is invertible (and in particular, square);

(g) if f is an isomorphism, then ${}_{\mathcal{B}}\left[\ f^{-1}\ \right]_{\mathcal{C}} = \left({}_{\mathcal{C}}\left[\ f\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}}\right)^{-1}$.

---

[a] Note that this means that $\dim(U) = m$, $\dim(V) = n$, and ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\left[\ f\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}} \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$.

- Suppose that U and V are non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$, that $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ is a basis of U, and that $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ is a basis of V.

- Suppose that U and V are non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$, that $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ is a basis of U, and that $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ is a basis of V.
- By Theorem 4.5.1, to every linear function $f : U \to V$, we can associate a unique matrix $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$ (which we denoted by ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}$) s.t. for all $\mathbf{u} \in U$, we have that

$$A \big[\ \mathbf{u}\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \ = \ \big[\ f(\mathbf{u})\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}}.$$

- Suppose that U and V are non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$, that $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ is a basis of U, and that $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ is a basis of V.
- By Theorem 4.5.1, to every linear function $f : U \to V$, we can associate a unique matrix $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$ (which we denoted by ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\left[\ f\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}}$) s.t. for all $\mathbf{u} \in U$, we have that

$$A \left[\ \mathbf{u}\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}} \ = \ \left[\ f(\mathbf{u})\ \right]_{\mathcal{C}}.$$

- How about the converse? Is it true that for every matrix $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$, there exists a linear function $f : U \to V$ s.t. $A = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\left[\ f\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}}$?

- Suppose that U and V are non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$, that $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ is a basis of U, and that $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ is a basis of V.
- By Theorem 4.5.1, to every linear function $f : U \to V$, we can associate a unique matrix $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$ (which we denoted by ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\left[\ f\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}}$) s.t. for all $\mathbf{u} \in U$, we have that

$$A\left[\ \mathbf{u}\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}} \ = \ \left[\ f(\mathbf{u})\ \right]_{\mathcal{C}}.$$

- How about the converse? Is it true that for every matrix $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$, there exists a linear function $f : U \to V$ s.t. $A = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\left[\ f\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}}$?
- As our next proposition shows, this is indeed true, but the proof is not completely obvious: it relies on several different theorems that we have proven so far.

Proposition 4.5.5

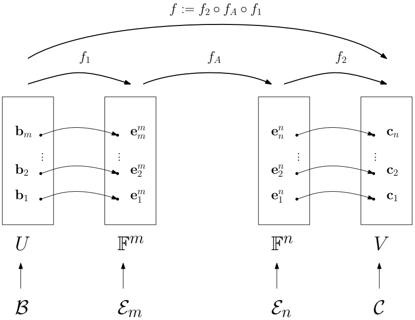
Let U and V be non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$, let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ be a basis of U, and let $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be a basis of V. Then for every matrix $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$, there exists a unique linear function $f : U \to V$ s.t. $A = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}$.

Proof (outline).

Proposition 4.5.5

Let U and V be non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$, let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ be a basis of U, and let $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be a basis of V. Then for every matrix $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$, there exists a unique linear function $f : U \to V$ s.t. $A = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$.

Proof (outline). **Existence.** The basic idea is in the diagram below. (The full details are in the Lecture Notes.)



Proposition 4.5.5

Let U and V be non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$, let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ be a basis of U, and let $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be a basis of V. Then for every matrix $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$, there exists a unique linear function $f : U \to V$ s.t. $A = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$.

Proof (outline, continued). **Uniqueness.**

Proposition 4.5.5

Let U and V be non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$, let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ be a basis of U, and let $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be a basis of V. Then for every matrix $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n\times m}$, there exists a unique linear function $f : U \to V$ s.t. $A = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$.

Proof (outline, continued). **Uniqueness.** Suppose that $f, g : U \to V$ are linear functions s.t. ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} = A$ and ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ g\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} = A$. WTS $f = g$.

Proposition 4.5.5

Let U and V be non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$, let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ be a basis of U, and let $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be a basis of V. Then for every matrix $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$, there exists a unique linear function $f : U \to V$ s.t. $A = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}$.

Proof (outline, continued). **Uniqueness.** Suppose that $f, g : U \to V$ are linear functions s.t. ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} = A$ and ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ g\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} = A$. WTS $f = g$. First of all, note that $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$:

$$\big[\ f(\mathbf{b}_i)\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}} \;=\; \underbrace{{}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}}_{=A}\big[\ \mathbf{b}_i\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \;=\; \underbrace{{}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ g\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}}_{=A}\big[\ \mathbf{b}_i\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \;=\; \big[\ g(\mathbf{b}_i)\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}},$$

Proposition 4.5.5

Let U and V be non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$, let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ be a basis of U, and let $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be a basis of V. Then for every matrix $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$, there exists a unique linear function $f : U \to V$ s.t. $A = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$.

Proof (outline, continued). **Uniqueness.** Suppose that $f, g : U \to V$ are linear functions s.t. ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} = A$ and ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ g\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} = A$. WTS $f = g$. First of all, note that $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$:

$$\Big[\ f(\mathbf{b}_i)\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}} = \underbrace{{}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}}_{=A} \Big[\ \mathbf{b}_i\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} = \underbrace{{}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ g\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}}_{=A} \Big[\ \mathbf{b}_i\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} = \Big[\ g(\mathbf{b}_i)\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}},$$

and consequently, $f(\mathbf{b}_i) = g(\mathbf{b}_i)$ (because $\Big[\ \cdot\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}} : V \to \mathbb{F}^n$ is an isomorphism and therefore one-to-one).

Proposition 4.5.5

Let U and V be non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$, let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ be a basis of U, and let $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be a basis of V. Then for every matrix $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$, there exists a unique linear function $f : U \to V$ s.t. $A = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}$.

Proof (outline, continued). **Uniqueness.** Suppose that $f, g : U \to V$ are linear functions s.t. ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} = A$ and ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ g\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} = A$. WTS $f = g$. First of all, note that $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$:

$$\big[\ f(\mathbf{b}_i)\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}} = \underbrace{{}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}}_{=A} \big[\ \mathbf{b}_i\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} = \underbrace{{}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ g\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}}_{=A} \big[\ \mathbf{b}_i\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} = \big[\ g(\mathbf{b}_i)\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}},$$

and consequently, $f(\mathbf{b}_i) = g(\mathbf{b}_i)$ (because $\big[\ \cdot\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}} : V \to \mathbb{F}^n$ is an isomorphism and therefore one-to-one). But now since $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ is a basis of U and $f, g : U \to V$ are linear, the uniqueness part of Theorem 4.3.2 guarantees that $f = g$. $\square$

Theorem 4.5.1

Let U and V be non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$. Let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ be a basis of U, let $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be a basis of V, and let $f : U \to V$ be a linear function. Then exists a unique matrix in $\mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$, denoted by ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$ and called the *matrix of* f *with respect to* $\mathcal{B}$ *and* $\mathcal{C}$, s.t. for all $\mathbf{u} \in U$, we have that

$$ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \ \big[\ \mathbf{u}\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \ = \ \big[\ f(\mathbf{u})\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}}. $$

Moreover, the matrix ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$ is given by

$$ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \ = \ \Big[\ \big[\ f(\mathbf{b}_1)\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}} \ \ \dots \ \ \big[\ f(\mathbf{b}_m)\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}}\ \Big]. $$

Proposition 4.5.5

Let U and V be non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$, let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ be a basis of U, and let $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be a basis of V. Then for every matrix $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$, there exists a unique linear function $f : U \to V$ s.t. $A = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$.

- **Remark:** Suppose that U and V are non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$, and recall that $\mathrm{Hom}(U, V)$, the set of all linear functions from U to V, is a vector space over the field $\mathbb{F}$ (vector addition and scalar multiplication in this vector space are the usual addition and scalar multiplication of functions).

- **Remark:** Suppose that U and V are non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$, and recall that $\mathrm{Hom}(U, V)$, the set of all linear functions from U to V, is a vector space over the field $\mathbb{F}$ (vector addition and scalar multiplication in this vector space are the usual addition and scalar multiplication of functions).
- Set $m := \dim(U)$ and $n := \dim(V)$, and let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ and $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be bases of U and V, respectively.

- **Remark:** Suppose that U and V are non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$, and recall that $\text{Hom}(U, V)$, the set of all linear functions from U to V, is a vector space over the field $\mathbb{F}$ (vector addition and scalar multiplication in this vector space are the usual addition and scalar multiplication of functions).
- Set $m := \dim(U)$ and $n := \dim(V)$, and let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ and $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be bases of U and V, respectively.
- By Theorem 4.5.1 and Proposition 4.5.5, ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ \cdot\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} : \text{Hom}(U, V) \to \mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$ is a bijection, and by Theorem 4.5.3(a-b), it is also a linear function.

- **Remark:** Suppose that U and V are non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$, and recall that $\text{Hom}(U, V)$, the set of all linear functions from U to V, is a vector space over the field $\mathbb{F}$ (vector addition and scalar multiplication in this vector space are the usual addition and scalar multiplication of functions).
- Set $m := \dim(U)$ and $n := \dim(V)$, and let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ and $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be bases of U and V, respectively.
- By Theorem 4.5.1 and Proposition 4.5.5, ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\cdot \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} : \text{Hom}(U, V) \to \mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$ is a bijection, and by Theorem 4.5.3(a-b), it is also a linear function.
- So, ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\cdot \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} : \text{Hom}(U, V) \to \mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$ is in fact an isomorphism.

- **Remark:** Suppose that U and V are non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$, and recall that $\text{Hom}(U, V)$, the set of all linear functions from U to V, is a vector space over the field $\mathbb{F}$ (vector addition and scalar multiplication in this vector space are the usual addition and scalar multiplication of functions).
- Set $m := \dim(U)$ and $n := \dim(V)$, and let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_m\}$ and $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be bases of U and V, respectively.
- By Theorem 4.5.1 and Proposition 4.5.5, ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\cdot \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} : \text{Hom}(U, V) \to \mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$ is a bijection, and by Theorem 4.5.3(a-b), it is also a linear function.
- So, ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\cdot \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} : \text{Hom}(U, V) \to \mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$ is in fact an isomorphism.
- By Theorem 4.2.14(c), it follows that $\dim\Big(\text{Hom}(U, V)\Big) = \dim(\mathbb{F}^{n \times m}) = nm$.

2. Change of basis (transition) matrices

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Definition

Given a non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector space V over a field $\mathbb{F}$, and bases $\mathcal{B}$ and $\mathcal{C}$ of V, we call the matrix ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$ the *change of basis matrix from* $\mathcal{B}$ *to* $\mathcal{C}$ or the *transition matrix from* $\mathcal{B}$ *to* $\mathcal{C}$.

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Definition

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Proposition 4.5.6

Let V be a non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector space over a field $\mathbb{F}$, and let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n\}$ and $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be bases of V. Then the change of basis matrix ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}$ satisfies:

$$ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \big[\ \mathbf{v}\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} = \big[\ \mathbf{v}\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}} \qquad \forall \mathbf{v} \in V. $$

Moreover, this matrix is given by the formula

$$ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} = \Big[\ \big[\ \mathbf{b}_1\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}}\ \ \dots\ \ \big[\ \mathbf{b}_n\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}}\ \Big]. $$

Proposition 4.5.6

Let V be a non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector space over a field $\mathbb{F}$, and let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{b}_n\}$ and $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be bases of V. Then the change of basis matrix ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$ satisfies:

$$ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}\ \big[\ \mathbf{v}\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \;=\; \big[\ \mathbf{v}\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}} \qquad \forall \mathbf{v} \in V. $$

Moreover, this matrix is given by the formula

$$ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \;=\; \Big[\ \big[\ \mathbf{b}_1\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}} \ \ \ldots \ \ \big[\ \mathbf{b}_n\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}}\ \Big]. $$

Proof.

Proposition 4.5.6

Let V be a non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector space over a field $\mathbb{F}$, and let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n\}$ and $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be bases of V. Then the change of basis matrix ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$ satisfies:

$$ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \ \big[\ \mathbf{v}\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \ = \ \big[\ \mathbf{v}\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}} \qquad \forall \mathbf{v} \in V. $$

Moreover, this matrix is given by the formula

$$ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \ = \ \Big[\ \big[\ \mathbf{b}_1\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}} \ \ \dots \ \ \big[\ \mathbf{b}_n\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}}\ \Big]. $$

Proof. The first statement follows straight from the definition of a change of basis matrix; indeed, for all vectors $\mathbf{v} \in V$, we have that

$$ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} \ \Big[\ \mathbf{v}\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} \ = \ \Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V(\mathbf{v})\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}} \ = \ \Big[\ \mathbf{v}\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}}. $$

Proposition 4.5.6

Let V be a non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector space over a field $\mathbb{F}$, and let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n\}$ and $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be bases of V. Then the change of basis matrix ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$ satisfies:

$$ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} \Big[\ \mathbf{v}\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} \ = \ \Big[\ \mathbf{v}\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}} \qquad \forall \mathbf{v} \in V. $$

Moreover, this matrix is given by the formula

$$ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} \ = \ \Big[\ \Big[\ \mathbf{b}_1\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}} \ \dots \ \Big[\ \mathbf{b}_n\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}}\ \Big]. $$

Proof (continued). For the second statement, we observe that

$$ \begin{aligned} {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} &\overset{(*)}{=} \Big[\ \Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V(\mathbf{b}_1)\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}} \ \dots \ \Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V(\mathbf{b}_m)\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}}\ \Big] \\ &= \Big[\ \Big[\ \mathbf{b}_1\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}} \ \dots \ \Big[\ \mathbf{b}_m\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}}\ \Big] \end{aligned} $$

where (*) follows from Theorem 4.5.1. □

Proposition 4.5.7

Let V be a non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector space over a field $\mathbb{F}$, and let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n\}$ and $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be bases of V. Then the change of basis matrices ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$ and ${}_{\mathcal{B}}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}}$ are invertible, and moreover, they are each other's inverses.

Proof.

Proposition 4.5.7

Let V be a non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector space over a field $\mathbb{F}$, and let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n\}$ and $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be bases of V. Then the change of basis matrices ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}$ and ${}_{\mathcal{B}}\big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}}$ are invertible, and moreover, they are each other's inverses.

Proof. Clearly, $\mathrm{Id}_V : V \to V$ is an isomorphism, and so by Theorem 4.5.4(f), matrices ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}$ and ${}_{\mathcal{B}}\big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}}$ are both invertible. Moreover,

$$ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \overset{(*)}{=} {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V^{-1}\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \overset{(**)}{=} \Big({}_{\mathcal{B}}\big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}} \Big)^{-1}, $$

where (*) follows from the fact that $\mathrm{Id}_V^{-1} = \mathrm{Id}_V$, and (**) follows from Theorem 4.5.4(g). This completes the argument. □

- For the special case of $\mathbb{F}^n$ (where $\mathbb{F}$ is a field), we get a nice formula for change of basis matrices (below).

- For the special case of $\mathbb{F}^n$ (where $\mathbb{F}$ is a field), we get a nice formula for change of basis matrices (below).

Theorem 4.5.9

Let $\mathbb{F}$ be a field, and let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n\}$ and $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be two bases of $\mathbb{F}^n$. Set $B := \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{b}_1 & \dots & \mathbf{b}_n \end{bmatrix}$ and $C := \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{c}_1 & \dots & \mathbf{c}_n \end{bmatrix}$. Then the matrix ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\begin{bmatrix} \mathrm{Id}_{\mathbb{F}^n} \end{bmatrix}_{\mathcal{B}}$ is invertible, and it is given by the formula

$$ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\begin{bmatrix} \mathrm{Id}_{\mathbb{F}^n} \end{bmatrix}_{\mathcal{B}} \quad = \quad C^{-1}B. $$

- For the special case of $\mathbb{F}^n$ (where $\mathbb{F}$ is a field), we get a nice formula for change of basis matrices (below).

Theorem 4.5.9

Let $\mathbb{F}$ be a field, and let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n\}$ and $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be two bases of $\mathbb{F}^n$. Set $B := \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{b}_1 & \dots & \mathbf{b}_n \end{bmatrix}$ and $C := \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{c}_1 & \dots & \mathbf{c}_n \end{bmatrix}$. Then the matrix ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\begin{bmatrix} \mathrm{Id}_{\mathbb{F}^n} \end{bmatrix}_{\mathcal{B}}$ is invertible, and it is given by the formula

$$ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\begin{bmatrix} \mathrm{Id}_{\mathbb{F}^n} \end{bmatrix}_{\mathcal{B}} \quad = \quad C^{-1}B. $$

- To prove Theorem 4.5.9, we need a technical lemma.

Lemma 4.5.8

Let $\mathbb{F}$ be a field, let $\mathcal{E}_n = \{\mathbf{e}_1, \dots, \mathbf{e}_n\}$ be the standard basis of $\mathbb{F}^n$, and let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n\}$ be any basis of $\mathbb{F}^n$. Set $B := \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{b}_1 & \dots & \mathbf{b}_n \end{bmatrix}$. Then B is invertible, and moreover,

$$ {}_{\mathcal{E}_n}\begin{bmatrix} \mathrm{Id}_{\mathbb{F}^n} \end{bmatrix}_{\mathcal{B}} = B \qquad \text{and} \qquad {}_{\mathcal{B}}\begin{bmatrix} \mathrm{Id}_{\mathbb{F}^n} \end{bmatrix}_{\mathcal{E}_n} = B^{-1}. $$

Proof.

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Let $\mathbb{F}$ be a field, let $\mathcal{E}_n = \{\mathbf{e}_1, \dots, \mathbf{e}_n\}$ be the standard basis of $\mathbb{F}^n$, and let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n\}$ be any basis of $\mathbb{F}^n$. Set $B := \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{b}_1 & \dots & \mathbf{b}_n \end{bmatrix}$. Then B is invertible, and moreover,

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Proof. Let us first prove that ${}_{\mathcal{E}_n}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_{\mathbb{F}^n} \ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} = B$.

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Proof. Let us first prove that ${}_{\mathcal{E}_n}\begin{bmatrix} \text{Id}_{\mathbb{F}^n} \end{bmatrix}_{\mathcal{B}} = B$. In view of the uniqueness part of Theorem 4.5.1, it suffices to show that $\forall \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{F}^n$: $B\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{v} \end{bmatrix}_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{v} \end{bmatrix}_{\mathcal{E}_n}$.

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$$_{\mathcal{E}_n}\begin{bmatrix} \mathrm{Id}_{\mathbb{F}^n} \end{bmatrix}_{\mathcal{B}} = B \qquad \text{and} \qquad _{\mathcal{B}}\begin{bmatrix} \mathrm{Id}_{\mathbb{F}^n} \end{bmatrix}_{\mathcal{E}_n} = B^{-1}.$$

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$$B\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{v} \end{bmatrix}_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{b}_1 & \dots & \mathbf{b}_n \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \beta_n \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \beta_i\mathbf{b}_i = \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{v} \end{bmatrix}_{\mathcal{E}_n}.$$

This proves that $_{\mathcal{E}_n}\begin{bmatrix} \mathrm{Id}_{\mathbb{F}^n} \end{bmatrix}_{\mathcal{B}} = B$.

Lemma 4.5.8

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$$_{\mathcal{E}_n}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_{\mathbb{F}^n}\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} = B \qquad \text{and} \qquad _{\mathcal{B}}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_{\mathbb{F}^n}\ \Big]_{\mathcal{E}_n} = B^{-1}.$$

Proof (continued). Reminder: $_{\mathcal{E}_n}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_{\mathbb{F}^n}\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} = B$.

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Let $\mathbb{F}$ be a field, let $\mathcal{E}_n = \{\mathbf{e}_1, \dots, \mathbf{e}_n\}$ be the standard basis of $\mathbb{F}^n$, and let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n\}$ be any basis of $\mathbb{F}^n$. Set $B := \left[\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{b}_1 & \dots & \mathbf{b}_n \end{array}\right]$. Then B is invertible, and moreover,

$$ {}_{\mathcal{E}_n}\left[\begin{array}{c} \mathrm{Id}_{\mathbb{F}^n} \end{array}\right]_{\mathcal{B}} = B \qquad \text{and} \qquad {}_{\mathcal{B}}\left[\begin{array}{c} \mathrm{Id}_{\mathbb{F}^n} \end{array}\right]_{\mathcal{E}_n} = B^{-1}. $$

Proof (continued). Reminder: ${}_{\mathcal{E}_n}\left[\begin{array}{c} \mathrm{Id}_{\mathbb{F}^n} \end{array}\right]_{\mathcal{B}} = B$.

The fact that B is invertible and that ${}_{\mathcal{B}}\left[\begin{array}{c} \mathrm{Id}_{\mathbb{F}^n} \end{array}\right]_{\mathcal{E}_n} = B^{-1}$ now follows from Proposition 4.5.7. $\square$

Theorem 4.5.9

Let $\mathbb{F}$ be a field, and let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n\}$ and $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be two bases of $\mathbb{F}^n$. Set $B := \left[\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{b}_1 & \dots & \mathbf{b}_n \end{array}\right]$ and $C := \left[\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{c}_1 & \dots & \mathbf{c}_n \end{array}\right]$. Then the matrix ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\left[\begin{array}{c} \text{Id}_{\mathbb{F}^n} \end{array}\right]_{\mathcal{B}}$ is invertible, and it is given by the formula

$$ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\left[\begin{array}{c} \text{Id}_{\mathbb{F}^n} \end{array}\right]_{\mathcal{B}} \quad = \quad C^{-1}B. $$

Proof.

Theorem 4.5.9

Let $\mathbb{F}$ be a field, and let $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n\}$ and $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ be two bases of $\mathbb{F}^n$. Set $B := \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{b}_1 & \dots & \mathbf{b}_n \end{bmatrix}$ and $C := \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{c}_1 & \dots & \mathbf{c}_n \end{bmatrix}$. Then the matrix ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\begin{bmatrix} \mathrm{Id}_{\mathbb{F}^n} \end{bmatrix}_{\mathcal{B}}$ is invertible, and it is given by the formula

$$ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\begin{bmatrix} \mathrm{Id}_{\mathbb{F}^n} \end{bmatrix}_{\mathcal{B}} = C^{-1}B. $$

Proof. The fact that ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\begin{bmatrix} \mathrm{Id}_{\mathbb{F}^n} \end{bmatrix}_{\mathcal{B}}$ is invertible follows from Proposition 4.5.7. To prove that the formula for this matrix is correct, we observe that

$$ \begin{aligned} {}_{\mathcal{C}}\begin{bmatrix} \mathrm{Id}_{\mathbb{F}^n} \end{bmatrix}_{\mathcal{B}} &= {}_{\mathcal{C}}\begin{bmatrix} \mathrm{Id}_{\mathbb{F}^n} \circ \mathrm{Id}_{\mathbb{F}^n} \end{bmatrix}_{\mathcal{B}} \overset{(*)}{=} {}_{\mathcal{C}}\begin{bmatrix} \mathrm{Id}_{\mathbb{F}^n} \end{bmatrix}_{\mathcal{E}_n} {}_{\mathcal{E}_n}\begin{bmatrix} \mathrm{Id}_{\mathbb{F}^n} \end{bmatrix}_{\mathcal{B}} \\ &\overset{(**)}{=} C^{-1}B, \end{aligned} $$

where (*) follows from Theorem 4.5.3, and (**) follows from Lemma 4.5.8. □

- The following proposition is simply a special case of Theorem 4.5.3(c), but it is used for computation particularly often.

- The following proposition is simply a special case of Theorem 4.5.3(c), but it is used for computation particularly often.

Proposition 4.5.10

Let U and V be non-trivial, finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field $\mathbb{F}$, let $\mathcal{B}_1$ and $\mathcal{B}_2$ be bases of U, let $\mathcal{C}_1$ and $\mathcal{C}_2$ be bases of V, and let $f : U \to V$ be a linear function. Then

$$\begin{aligned} {}_{\mathcal{C}_2}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}_2} &= {}_{\mathcal{C}_2}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V \circ f \circ \mathrm{Id}_U\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}_2} \\ &= {}_{\mathcal{C}_2}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}_1}\ {}_{\mathcal{C}_1}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}_1}\ {}_{\mathcal{B}_1}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_U\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}_2} \end{aligned}$$

Proof. This follows immediately from Theorem 4.5.3(c). □

- Let us now return to the linear function f from Example 4.5.2: we would like to compute its standard matrix.

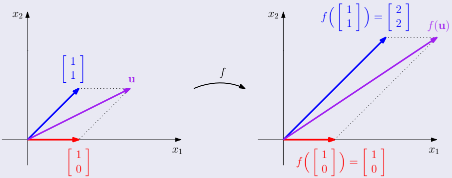
- Let us now return to the linear function f from Example 4.5.2: we would like to compute its standard matrix.

Example 4.5.11

Consider the basis $\mathcal{B} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ of $\mathbb{R}^2$, and consider the unique linear function $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}^2$ that satisfies the following:

- $f\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$;
- $f\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$.

Compute the standard matrix of the linear function f.



Solution. In Example 4.5.2, we saw that ${}_{\mathcal{B}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$.

Now, we set $B := \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$,[1] and we compute $B^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

Then the standard matrix of f is

$$\begin{aligned}
{}_{\mathcal{E}_2}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{E}_2} &= {}_{\mathcal{E}_2}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_{\mathbb{R}^2}\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}\ {}_{\mathcal{B}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}\ {}_{\mathcal{B}}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_{\mathbb{R}^2}\ \Big]_{\mathcal{E}_2} && \text{by Prop. 4.5.10} \\
&= B\ {}_{\mathcal{B}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}\ B^{-1} && \text{by Lemma 4.5.8} \\
&= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\
&= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}.
\end{aligned}$$

---

[1] So, the columns of B are the vectors of the basis $\mathcal{B}$, arranged from left to right in the order in which they appear in $\mathcal{B}$.

Solution (continued). Reminder: ${}_{\mathcal{E}_2}\left[\ f\ \right]_{\mathcal{E}_2} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$.

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Optional: Let us check that our answer is correct. Indeed, we have that

- $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = f\Big(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \Big)$;
- $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = f\Big(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \Big)$.

So, our answer is correct. $\square$

- Our next proposition essentially states that change of basis matrices are precisely the invertible matrices.

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Proposition 4.5.12

Let $\mathbb{F}$ be a field, let $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$ be a matrix, and let V be any n-dimensional vector space over the field $\mathbb{F}$. Then the following are equivalent:

(a) A is invertible;

(b) for all bases $\mathcal{B}$ of V, there exists a basis $\mathcal{C}$ of V s.t. $A = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\left[\ \mathrm{Id}_V \ \right]_{\mathcal{B}}$;

(c) for all bases $\mathcal{C}$ of V, there exists a basis $\mathcal{B}$ of V s.t. $A = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\left[\ \mathrm{Id}_V \ \right]_{\mathcal{B}}$;

(d) there exist bases $\mathcal{B}$ and $\mathcal{C}$ of V s.t. $A = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\left[\ \mathrm{Id}_V \ \right]_{\mathcal{B}}$.

Proof. Clearly, it is enough to prove the implications shown in the diagram below.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & (a) & & \\ & \swarrow\!\!\swarrow & \Uparrow & \searrow\!\!\searrow & \\ (b) & \Longrightarrow & (d) & \Longleftarrow & (c) \end{array}$$

Proof. Clearly, it is enough to prove the implications shown in the diagram below.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & (a) & & \\ & \swarrow & \Uparrow & \searrow & \\ (b) & \Longrightarrow & (d) & \Longleftarrow & (c) \end{array}$$

Since V has at least one n-element basis (because $\dim(V) = n$), we see that (b) implies (d), and that (c) implies (d).

Proof. Clearly, it is enough to prove the implications shown in the diagram below.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & \swarrow\!\!\!\!\swarrow & (a) & \searrow\!\!\!\!\searrow & \\ & & \Uparrow & & \\ (b) & \Longrightarrow & (d) & \Longleftarrow & (c) \end{array}$$

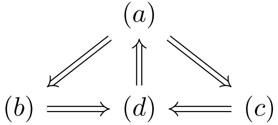
Since V has at least one n-element basis (because $\dim(V) = n$), we see that (b) implies (d), and that (c) implies (d). Further, by Proposition 4.5.7, (d) implies (a).

Proof. Clearly, it is enough to prove the implications shown in the diagram below.

$$
\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & (a) & & \\
 & \swarrow & \Uparrow & \searrow & \\
(b) & \Longrightarrow & (d) & \Longleftarrow & (c)
\end{array}
$$

Since V has at least one n-element basis (because $\dim(V) = n$), we see that (b) implies (d), and that (c) implies (d). Further, by Proposition 4.5.7, (d) implies (a). It remains to show that (a) implies (b) and (c).

Proof. Clearly, it is enough to prove the implications shown in the diagram below.



Since V has at least one n-element basis (because $\dim(V) = n$), we see that (b) implies (d), and that (c) implies (d). Further, by Proposition 4.5.7, (d) implies (a). It remains to show that (a) implies (b) and (c). We prove the former; the proof of the latter is similar and is left as an exercise.

Proof (continued). So, assume that (a) is true; we must prove (b).

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Fix any basis $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n\}$ of V; we must construct a basis $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ of V s.t. $A = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\left[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}}$.

Proof (continued). So, assume that (a) is true; we must prove (b).

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Using Proposition 4.5.5, we let $f : V \to V$ be the (unique) linear function s.t. $A = {}_{\mathcal{B}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$.

Proof (continued). So, assume that (a) is true; we must prove (b).

Fix any basis $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n\}$ of V; we must construct a basis $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ of V s.t. $A = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$.

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Since A is invertible, Theorem 4.5.4(f) guarantees that f is an isomorphism.

Proof (continued). So, assume that (a) is true; we must prove (b).

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Proof (continued). So, assume that (a) is true; we must prove (b).

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$$\mathbf{c}_i \quad := \quad f^{-1}(\mathbf{b}_i).$$

Proof (continued). So, assume that (a) is true; we must prove (b).

Fix any basis $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n\}$ of V; we must construct a basis $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\}$ of V s.t. $A = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$.

Using Proposition 4.5.5, we let $f : V \to V$ be the (unique) linear function s.t. $A = {}_{\mathcal{B}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$.

Since A is invertible, Theorem 4.5.4(f) guarantees that f is an isomorphism. Then by Proposition 4.4.1, $f^{-1} : V \to V$ is also an isomorphism. For each index $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, we set

$$\mathbf{c}_i \quad := \quad f^{-1}(\mathbf{b}_i).$$

Since $f^{-1} : V \to V$ is an isomorphism and $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n\}$ is a basis of V, Theorem 4.4.4(c) implies that $\{f^{-1}(\mathbf{b}_1), \dots, f^{-1}(\mathbf{b}_n)\} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\} =: \mathcal{C}$ is also a basis of V.

Proof (continued). Reminder: $A = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$;
$\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\} = \{f^{-1}(\mathbf{b}_1), \dots, f^{-1}(\mathbf{b}_n)\}$.

Proof (continued). Reminder: $A = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\operatorname{Id}_V \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$;
$\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\} = \{f^{-1}(\mathbf{b}_1), \dots, f^{-1}(\mathbf{b}_n)\}$.

Now, we claim that $A = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\operatorname{Id}_V \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$.

Proof (continued). Reminder: $A = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$;
$\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\} = \{f^{-1}(\mathbf{b}_1), \dots, f^{-1}(\mathbf{b}_n)\}$.

Now, we claim that $A = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$. First, we note that

$$\begin{aligned} {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} &= {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f^{-1} \circ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \\ &= {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f^{-1}\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}\ \underbrace{{}_{\mathcal{B}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}}_{=A} \qquad \text{by Theorem 4.5.3(c)} \\ &= {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f^{-1}\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}\ A. \end{aligned}$$

Proof (continued). Reminder: $A = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$;
$\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\} = \{f^{-1}(\mathbf{b}_1), \dots, f^{-1}(\mathbf{b}_n)\}$.

Now, we claim that $A = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$. First, we note that

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It now suffices to show that ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f^{-1}\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} = I_n$, for it will then immediately follow that $A = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$, which is what we need.

Proof (continued). Reminder: $A = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$;
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It now suffices to show that ${}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f^{-1}\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}} = I_n$, for it will then immediately follow that $A = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$, which is what we need. We compute (next slide):

Proof (continued). Reminder: $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n\}$, $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n\} = \{f^{-1}(\mathbf{b}_1), \dots, f^{-1}(\mathbf{b}_n)\}$.

$$
\begin{aligned}
{}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f^{-1}\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} &\overset{(*)}{=} \Big[\ \big[\ f^{-1}(\mathbf{b}_1)\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}} \quad \dots \quad \big[\ f^{-1}(\mathbf{b}_n)\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}}\ \Big] \\
&= \Big[\ \big[\ \mathbf{c}_1\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}} \quad \dots \quad \big[\ \mathbf{c}_n\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}}\ \Big] \\
&\overset{(**)}{=} \big[\ \mathbf{e}_1^n \quad \dots \quad \mathbf{e}_n^n\ \big] \;=\; I_n,
\end{aligned}
$$

where (*) follows from Theorem 4.5.1, and (**) follows from Proposition 3.2.8. This proves (b), and we are done. □

3. Similar matrices

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Definition

Let $\mathbb{F}$ be a field. Given matrices $A, B \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$, we say that A is *similar* to B if there exists an invertible matrix $P \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$ s.t. $B = P^{-1}AP$.

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- By Proposition 4.5.13 (below), matrix similarity is an equivalence relation on $\mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$.

Proposition 4.5.13

Let $\mathbb{F}$ be a field. Then all the following hold:

a. $\forall A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$: A is similar to A;
b. $\forall A, B \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$: if A is similar to B, then B is similar to A;
c. $\forall A, B, C \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$: if A is similar to B and B is similar to C, then A is similar to C.

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Proof. (a) Fix a matrix $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$. Then $A = I_n^{-1} A I_n$, and it follows that A is similar to itself.

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Proof. (a) Fix a matrix $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$. Then $A = I_n^{-1} A I_n$, and it follows that A is similar to itself.

(b) Fix a matrices $A, B \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$, and assume that A is similar to B.

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Proof. (a) Fix a matrix $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$. Then $A = I_n^{-1} A I_n$, and it follows that A is similar to itself.

(b) Fix a matrices $A, B \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$, and assume that A is similar to B. Then there exists an invertible matrix $P \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$ s.t. $B = P^{-1} A P$.

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(b) Fix a matrices $A, B \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$, and assume that A is similar to B. Then there exists an invertible matrix $P \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$ s.t. $B = P^{-1}AP$. But then $A = PBP^{-1} = (P^{-1})^{-1}BP^{-1}$, and it follows that B is similar to A.

Proposition 4.5.13

(c) $\forall A, B, C \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$: if A is similar to B and B is similar to C, then A is similar to C.

Proof (continued). (c) Fix matrices $A, B, C \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$, and assume that A is similar to B and that B is similar to C. Then there exist invertible matrices $P, Q \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$ s.t. $B = P^{-1}AP$ and $C = Q^{-1}BQ$. But now

$$\begin{aligned} C &= Q^{-1}BQ \\ &= Q^{-1}(P^{-1}AP)Q \\ &= (Q^{-1}P^{-1})A(PQ) \\ &= (PQ)^{-1}A(PQ), \end{aligned}$$

and it follows that A is similar to C. □

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- **Remark:** By Proposition 4.5.13(b), the similarity relation on $\mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$ (where $\mathbb{F}$ is a field) is symmetric.

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  - Consequently, we may speak of matrices $A, B \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$ as being similar or not being similar **to each other**.
  - In particular, in what follows, we will often write something like "let $A, B \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$ be similar matrices."
    - This means that A is similar to B and vice versa.

Proposition 4.5.14

Let $\mathbb{F}$ be a field, and let $A, B \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$ be similar matrices, say $B = P^{-1}AP$ for some invertible matrix $P \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$. Then A is invertible iff B is invertible, and in this case, $B^{-1} = P^{-1}A^{-1}P$ and $A^{-1} = PB^{-1}P^{-1}$.

Proof.

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Proof. Since $B = P^{-1}AP$, we have that $A = PBP^{-1}$. Since P and P^{-1} are invertible, Proposition 1.11.8(e) guarantees that A is invertible iff B is invertible. Suppose now that A and B are invertible. Then

$$B^{-1} = (P^{-1}AP)^{-1} = P^{-1}A^{-1}(P^{-1})^{-1} = P^{-1}A^{-1}P.$$

But now since $B^{-1} = P^{-1}A^{-1}P$, we immediately get that $A^{-1} = PB^{-1}P^{-1}$. This completes the argument. □

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Proposition 4.5.15

Let $\mathbb{F}$ be a field, and let $A, B \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$ be similar matrices, say $B = P^{-1}AP$ for some invertible matrix $P \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$. Then for all non-negative integers m, we have that $B^m = P^{-1}A^mP$, and in particular, A^m and B^m are similar. Moreover, if A and B are invertible,[a] then we in fact have that $B^m = P^{-1}A^mP$ for all integers m.

[a] By Proposition 4.5.14, A is invertible iff B is invertible.

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Proof. We first prove that $B^m = P^{-1}A^mP$ for all non-negative integers m. We proceed by induction on m.

For $m = 0$, we note that $B^0 = I_n$ and $P^{-1}A^0P = P^{-1}I_nP = P^{-1}P = I_n$, and so $B^0 = P^{-1}A^0P$.

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Now, fix a non-negative integer m, and assume inductively that $B^m = P^{-1}A^mP$. We then have that (next slide):

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Proof (continued).

$$\begin{aligned} B^{m+1} \quad = \quad B^m B \quad & \stackrel{\text{ind. hyp.}}{=} \quad (\underbrace{P^{-1}A^mP}_{=B^m})(\underbrace{P^{-1}AP}_{=B}) \\ & = \quad P^{-1}A^m(\underbrace{PP^{-1}}_{=I_n})AP \\ & = \quad P^{-1}A^mAP \;=\; P^{-1}A^{m+1}P, \end{aligned}$$

This completes the induction.

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Proof (continued). Reminder: $B^m = P^{-1}A^mP \ \ \forall m \in \mathbb{N}_0$.

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Assume now that A and B are invertible.

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Proof (continued). Reminder: $B^m = P^{-1}A^mP \;\; \forall m \in \mathbb{N}_0$.

Assume now that A and B are invertible. By Proposition 4.5.14, we have that $B^{-1} = P^{-1}A^{-1}P$.

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Proof (continued). Reminder: $B^m = P^{-1}A^mP \;\; \forall m \in \mathbb{N}_0$.

Assume now that A and B are invertible. By Proposition 4.5.14, we have that $B^{-1} = P^{-1}A^{-1}P$. But now by an argument completely analogous to the above, we get that for all nonegative integers m, we have that $(B^{-1})^m = P^{-1}(A^{-1})^mP$, that is, $B^{-m} = P^{-1}A^{-m}P$.

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Let $\mathbb{F}$ be a field, and let $A, B \in \mathbb{F}^{n\times n}$ be similar matrices, say $B = P^{-1}AP$ for some invertible matrix $P \in \mathbb{F}^{n\times n}$. Then for all non-negative integers m, we have that $B^m = P^{-1}A^mP$, and in particular, A^m and B^m are similar. Moreover, if A and B are invertible, then we in fact have that $B^m = P^{-1}A^mP$ for all integers m.

Proof (continued). Reminder: $B^m = P^{-1}A^mP \;\; \forall m \in \mathbb{N}_0$.

Assume now that A and B are invertible. By Proposition 4.5.14, we have that $B^{-1} = P^{-1}A^{-1}P$. But now by an argument completely analogous to the above, we get that for all nonegative integers m, we have that $(B^{-1})^m = P^{-1}(A^{-1})^mP$, that is, $B^{-m} = P^{-1}A^{-m}P$. Combined with the above, this implies that $B^m = P^{-1}A^mP$ for all integers m. □

- Our next theorem essentially states that two $n \times n$ matrices are similar iff they represent the same linear function from an n-dimensional vector space to itself, but possibly with respect to different bases.

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Theorem 4.5.16

Let $\mathbb{F}$ be a field, let $B, C \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$ be matrices, and let V be an n-dimensional vector space over the field $\mathbb{F}$. Then the following are equivalent:

(a) B and C are similar;

(b) for all bases $\mathcal{B}$ of V and linear functions $f : V \to V$ s.t. $B = {}_{\mathcal{B}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}$, there exists a basis $\mathcal{C}$ of V s.t. $C = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}}$;

(c) for all bases $\mathcal{C}$ of V and linear functions $f : V \to V$ s.t. $C = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}}$, there exists a basis $\mathcal{B}$ of V s.t. $B = {}_{\mathcal{B}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}$;

(d) there exist bases $\mathcal{B}$ and $\mathcal{C}$ of V and a linear function $f : V \to V$ s.t. $B = {}_{\mathcal{B}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}$ and $C = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}}$.

Proof. Clearly, it is enough to prove the implications shown in the diagram below.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & (a) & & \\ & \swarrow & \Uparrow & \searrow & \\ (b) & \Longrightarrow & (d) & \Longleftarrow & (c) \end{array}$$

Proof. Clearly, it is enough to prove the implications shown in the diagram below.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & (a) & & \\ & \swarrow & \Uparrow & \searrow & \\ (b) & \Longrightarrow & (d) & \Longleftarrow & (c) \end{array}$$

But since matrix similarity in $\mathbb{F}^{n\times n}$ is symmetric (by Proposition 4.5.13(b)), the proofs of the implications "(a) $\Longrightarrow$ (b)" and "(a) $\Longrightarrow$ (c)" are completely analogous, as are the proofs of the implications "(b) $\Longrightarrow$ (d)" and "(c) $\Longrightarrow$ (d)."

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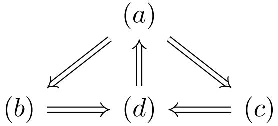

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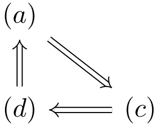
So, it is enough to prove the implications shown in the diagram below.



Proof (continued). First, we assume (a) and prove (c).

Proof (continued). First, we assume (a) and prove (c). Assume that $\mathcal{C}$ is a basis of V and that $f : V \to V$ is a linear function s.t. $C = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}}$.

Proof (continued). First, we assume (a) and prove (c). Assume that $\mathcal{C}$ is a basis of V and that $f : V \to V$ is a linear function s.t. $C = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\left[\ f\ \right]_{\mathcal{C}}$. WTS there exists a basis $\mathcal{B}$ of V s.t. $B = {}_{\mathcal{B}}\left[\ f\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}}$.

Proof (continued). First, we assume (a) and prove (c). Assume that $\mathcal{C}$ is a basis of V and that $f : V \to V$ is a linear function s.t. $C = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\left[\ f \ \right]_{\mathcal{C}}$. WTS there exists a basis $\mathcal{B}$ of V s.t. $B = {}_{\mathcal{B}}\left[\ f \ \right]_{\mathcal{B}}$. By (a), matrices B and C are similar, which by definition means that there exists an invertible matrix $P \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$ s.t. $B = P^{-1}CP$.

Proof (continued). First, we assume (a) and prove (c). Assume that $\mathcal{C}$ is a basis of V and that $f : V \to V$ is a linear function s.t. $C = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}}$. WTS there exists a basis $\mathcal{B}$ of V s.t. $B = {}_{\mathcal{B}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$. By (a), matrices B and C are similar, which by definition means that there exists an invertible matrix $P \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$ s.t. $B = P^{-1}CP$. Since P is invertible, Proposition 4.5.12 guarantees that there exists a basis $\mathcal{B}$ of V s.t. $P = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$.

Proof (continued). First, we assume (a) and prove (c). Assume that $\mathcal{C}$ is a basis of V and that $f : V \to V$ is a linear function s.t. $C = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}}$. WTS there exists a basis $\mathcal{B}$ of V s.t. $B = {}_{\mathcal{B}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$. By (a), matrices B and C are similar, which by definition means that there exists an invertible matrix $P \in \mathbb{F}^{n\times n}$ s.t. $B = P^{-1}CP$. Since P is invertible, Proposition 4.5.12 guarantees that there exists a basis $\mathcal{B}$ of V s.t. $P = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$. But now we have that

$$\begin{aligned} B \ = \ P^{-1}CP \ &= \ \Big({}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \Big)^{-1} \ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}} \ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \\ &\overset{(*)}{=} \ {}_{\mathcal{B}}\big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}} \ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}} \ {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \\ &\overset{(**)}{=} \ {}_{\mathcal{B}}\big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V \circ f \circ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \ = \ {}_{\mathcal{B}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}, \end{aligned}$$

where (*) follows from Proposition 4.5.7, and (**) follows from Theorem 4.5.3(c). This proves (c).

Proof (continued). Next, we assume (c) and prove (d).

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Proof (continued). Next, we assume (c) and prove (d). Since V is an n-dimensional vector space, it has a basis $\mathcal{C}$ of size n. Next, by Proposition 4.5.5, there exists a (unique) linear function $f : V \to V$ s.t. $C = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}}$. But then by (c), there exists a basis $\mathcal{B}$ of V s.t. $B = {}_{\mathcal{B}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$. This proves (d).

Proof (continued). Next, we assume (c) and prove (d). Since V is an n-dimensional vector space, it has a basis $\mathcal{C}$ of size n. Next, by Proposition 4.5.5, there exists a (unique) linear function $f : V \to V$ s.t. $C = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}}$. But then by (c), there exists a basis $\mathcal{B}$ of V s.t. $B = {}_{\mathcal{B}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$. This proves (d).

- **Remark:** The implication "(c) $\implies$ (d)" may seem trivial, but in fact it is not!
  - To get this implication, we need to make sure that (c) is not just "vacuously true" due to there not existing any $\mathcal{C}$ and f s.t. $C = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}}$.
  - The existence of the basis $\mathcal{C}$ follows immediately from dimension considerations, but the existence of a linear function $f : V \to V$ s.t. $C = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}}$ only follows from the not entirely trivial Proposition 4.5.5.

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Proof (continued). Finally, we assume (d) and prove (a). Using (d), we fix bases $\mathcal{B}$ and $\mathcal{C}$ of V and a linear function $f : V \to V$ s.t. $B = {}_{\mathcal{B}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$ and $C = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}}$.

Proof (continued). Finally, we assume (d) and prove (a). Using (d), we fix bases $\mathcal{B}$ and $\mathcal{C}$ of V and a linear function $f : V \to V$ s.t. $B = {}_{\mathcal{B}}\left[\ f\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}}$ and $C = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\left[\ f\ \right]_{\mathcal{C}}$. Set $P := {}_{\mathcal{B}}\left[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \right]_{\mathcal{C}}$.

Proof (continued). Finally, we assume (d) and prove (a).
Using (d), we fix bases $\mathcal{B}$ and $\mathcal{C}$ of V and a linear function $f : V \to V$ s.t. $B = {}_{\mathcal{B}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}$ and $C = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}}$. Set $P := {}_{\mathcal{B}}\big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}}$. By Proposition 4.5.7, P is invertible and satisfies $P^{-1} = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}$. We now compute:

$$\begin{aligned} P^{-1}BP &= {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}\ {}_{\mathcal{B}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}\ {}_{\mathcal{B}}\big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}} \\ &\overset{(*)}{=} {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ \mathrm{Id}_V \circ f \circ \mathrm{Id}_V\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}} \\ &= {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}} = C, \end{aligned}$$

where (*) follows from Theorem 4.5.3(c). So, B and C are similar.
This proves (a), and we are done. □

Theorem 4.5.16

Let $\mathbb{F}$ be a field, let $B, C \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$ be matrices, and let V be an n-dimensional vector space over the field $\mathbb{F}$. Then the following are equivalent:

(a) B and C are similar;

(b) for all bases $\mathcal{B}$ of V and linear functions $f : V \to V$ s.t. $B = {}_{\mathcal{B}}\left[\ f\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}}$, there exists a basis $\mathcal{C}$ of V s.t. $C = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\left[\ f\ \right]_{\mathcal{C}}$;

(c) for all bases $\mathcal{C}$ of V and linear functions $f : V \to V$ s.t. $C = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\left[\ f\ \right]_{\mathcal{C}}$, there exists a basis $\mathcal{B}$ of V s.t. $B = {}_{\mathcal{B}}\left[\ f\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}}$;

(d) there exist bases $\mathcal{B}$ and $\mathcal{C}$ of V and a linear function $f : V \to V$ s.t. $B = {}_{\mathcal{B}}\left[\ f\ \right]_{\mathcal{B}}$ and $C = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\left[\ f\ \right]_{\mathcal{C}}$.

Corollary 4.5.17

Let $\mathbb{F}$ be a field, and let $B, C \in \mathbb{F}^{n\times n}$ be similar matrices. Then $\text{rank}(B) = \text{rank}(C)$.

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- This follows immediately from the definition of matrix similarity and from Proposition 3.3.14(c) (below).

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Proposition 3.3.14

Let $\mathbb{F}$ be a field, and let $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times m}$. Then all the following hold:

(a) for all invertible matrices $S \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$: $\text{rank}(SA) = \text{rank}(A)$;

(b) for all invertible matrices $S \in \mathbb{F}^{m \times m}$: $\text{rank}(AS) = \text{rank}(A)$;

(c) for all invertible matrices $S_1 \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$ and $S_2 \in \mathbb{F}^{m \times m}$: $\text{rank}(S_1 A S_2) = \text{rank}(A)$.

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(c) for all invertible matrices $S_1 \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$ and $S_2 \in \mathbb{F}^{m \times m}$: $\text{rank}(S_1 A S_2) = \text{rank}(A)$.

- However, let us give a different proof of Corollary 4.5.17, one relying on Theorem 4.5.16 (in order to illustrate how Theorem 4.5.16 can be used).

Corollary 4.5.17

Let $\mathbb{F}$ be a field, and let $B, C \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$ be similar matrices. Then $\text{rank}(B) = \text{rank}(C)$.

Proof.

Corollary 4.5.17

Let $\mathbb{F}$ be a field, and let $B, C \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$ be similar matrices. Then $\text{rank}(B) = \text{rank}(C)$.

Proof. Since B and C are similar, Theorem 4.5.16 guarantees that there exist bases $\mathcal{B}$ and $\mathcal{C}$ of $\mathbb{F}^n$ and a linear function $f : \mathbb{F}^n \to \mathbb{F}^n$ such that $B = {}_{\mathcal{B}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{B}}$ and $C = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\Big[\ f\ \Big]_{\mathcal{C}}$. But then

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{rank}(B) &= \text{rank}\Big({}_{\mathcal{B}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}}\Big) && \text{because } B = {}_{\mathcal{B}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{B}} \\
&= \text{rank}(f) && \text{by Theorem 4.5.4(a)} \\
&= \text{rank}\Big({}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}}\Big) && \text{by Theorem 4.5.4(a)} \\
&= \text{rank}(C) && \text{because } C = {}_{\mathcal{C}}\big[\ f\ \big]_{\mathcal{C}},
\end{aligned}$$

and we are done. □