
Math 22 –
Linear Algebra and its
applications

- Lecture 19 -

Instructor: Bjoern Muetzel

GENERAL INFORMATION

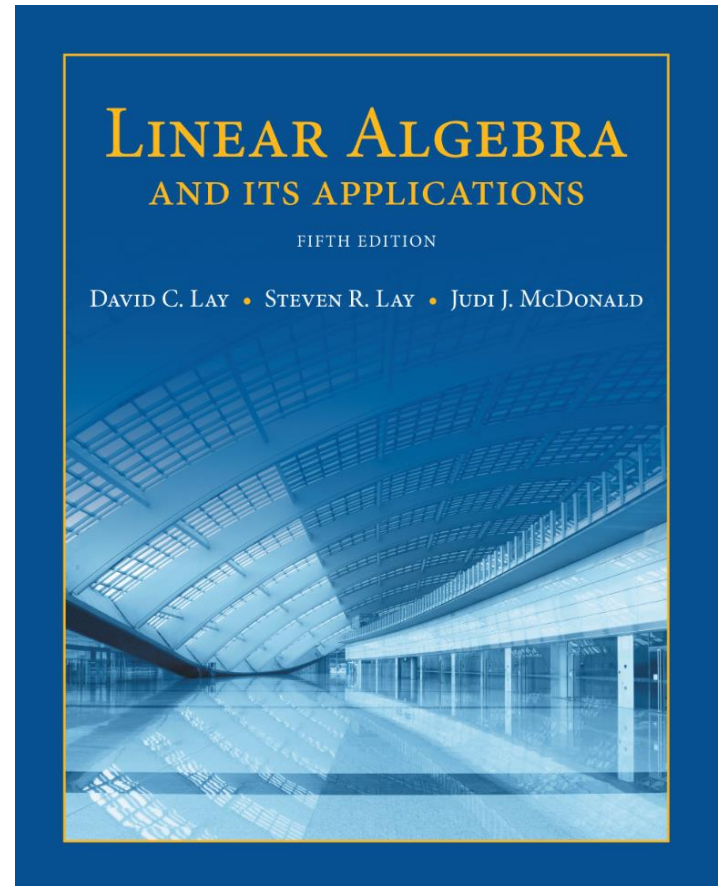
- **Office hours:** Tu 1-3 pm, Th, Sun 2-4 pm in **KH 229**
Tutorial: Tu, Th, Sun 7-9 pm in **KH 105**
- **Homework 6:** due **Wednesday** at **4 pm** outside **KH 008**. Please divide into the parts **A, C** and **D. Exercise 1 b)** is **optional**.
- **Wednesday:** Quiz!
- **Midterm 2:** Friday **Nov 1** at **4 pm** in **Carpenter 013**
 - **Topics: Chapter 2.1 – 4.7** (included)
 - about **8-9** questions
 - **Practice exam 2** available on Sunday

4

Vector Spaces

4.7

CHANGE OF BASIS



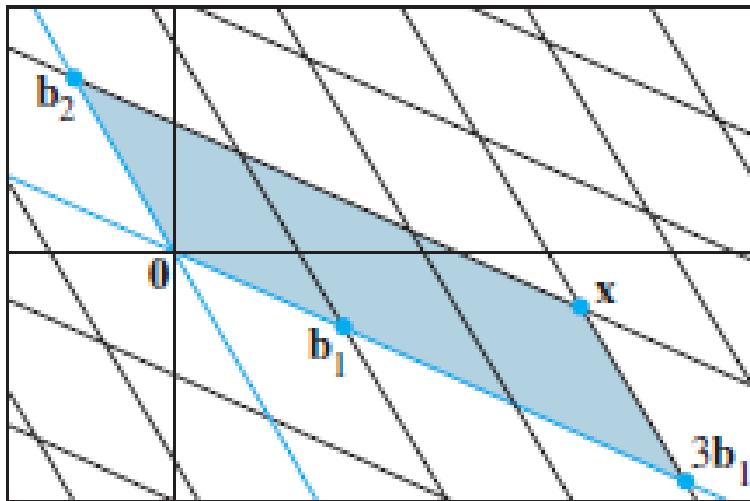
Summary:

Given a description of a **vector** with respect to **two different bases** then the **change-of-coordinates matrix** allows us to switch from one description to another.

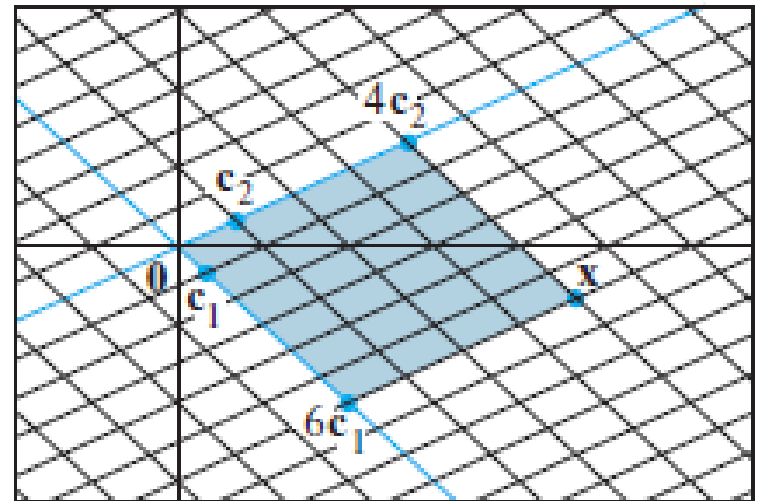
GEOMETRIC INTERPRETATION

Example: Consider the two bases for \mathbb{R}^2

$$B = \{b_1, b_2\} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \text{ and } C = \{c_1, c_2\} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0.3 \\ -0.3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0.8 \\ 0.2 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$



(a)



(b)

FIGURE 1 Two coordinate systems for the same vector space.

Question: Let \mathbf{x} in \mathbb{R}^2 be given in B-coordinates $[\mathbf{x}]_B$. What are $[\mathbf{x}]_C$?

GEOMETRIC INTERPRETATION

CHANGE OF BASIS IN \mathbb{R}^n

Let $B = \{b_1, \dots, b_n\}$ and $C = \{c_1, \dots, c_n\}$ in \mathbb{R}^n be two different bases.

How can we pass from B-coordinates to C-coordinates and vice versa?

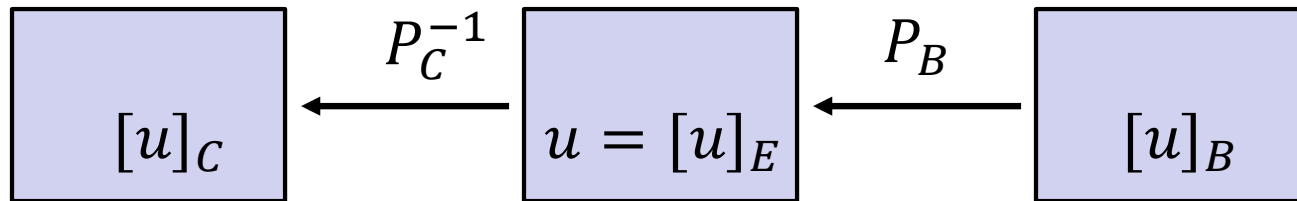
- If $B = \{b_1, \dots, b_n\}$ and $E = \{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$ is the standard basis in \mathbb{R}^n , then we know the answer. We have seen in **Lecture 16**:
- **Reminder:** $P_B = [b_1, \dots, b_n]$ is the **change-of-coordinates matrix** from B to the standard basis E in \mathbb{R}^n . For any u in \mathbb{R}^n

$$\boxed{u = [u]_E = P_B [u]_B} \quad \text{and} \quad \boxed{[u]_B = P_B^{-1} [u]_E = P_B^{-1} u}$$

and therefore P_B^{-1} is a **change-of-coordinate matrix** from E to B.

This means we can pass from B-coordinates to E-coordinates and then to C-coordinates:

$$u = P_B [u]_B \quad \text{and} \quad [u]_C = P_C^{-1} u \quad \text{hence} \quad [u]_C = P_C^{-1} \cdot P_B [u]_B.$$



Theorem: If $B = \{b_1, \dots, b_n\}$ and $C = \{c_1, \dots, c_n\}$ in \mathbb{R}^n are two different bases, then the coordinates $[u]_C$ and $[u]_B$ satisfy:

$$[u]_C = P_C^{-1} \cdot P_B [u]_B = P_C^B [u]_B$$

We call $P_C^B = P_{C \leftarrow B}$ the **change-of-coordinates matrix from B to C**.

CHANGE OF BASIS IN \mathbb{R}^n

- **Example:** Consider the two bases in \mathbb{R}^2

$$B = \{b_1, b_2\} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -9 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -5 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \quad \text{and} \quad C = \{c_1, c_2\} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

Find the change-of-coordinates matrix $P_C^B = P_{C \leftarrow B}$ from B to C.

CHANGE OF BASIS IN GENERAL

- **Theorem 15:** Let $B = \{b_1, \dots, b_n\}$ and $C = \{c_1, \dots, c_n\}$ be bases for a vector space V . Then there is a unique $n \times n$ matrix $P_C^B = P_{C \leftarrow B}$ such that

$$\boxed{[x]_C = P_C^B [x]_B} \quad (1)$$

- The columns of P_C^B are the C -coordinate vectors of the vectors in the basis B . That is

$$\boxed{P_C^B = [[b_1]_C, [b_2]_C, \dots, [b_n]_C]} \quad (2)$$

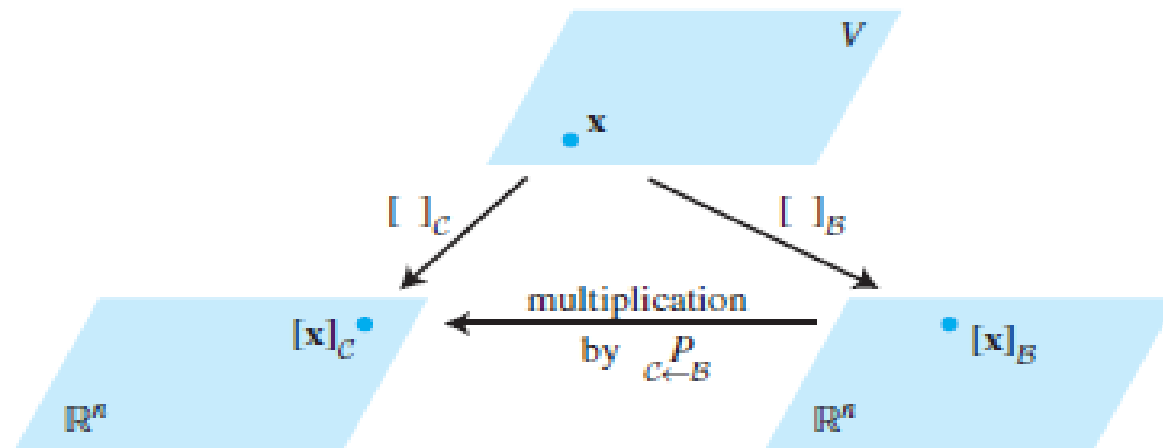


FIGURE 2 Two coordinate systems for V .

Proof: Follows from the linearity of the coordinate map.

Definition: The matrix $P_C^B = P_{C \leftarrow B}$ in **Theorem 15** is called the **change-of-coordinates matrix from B to C**.

Multiplication by P_C^B converts B -coordinates into C -coordinates:

Theorem: Let $B = \{b_1, \dots, b_n\}$ and $C = \{c_1, \dots, c_n\}$ be bases for a vector space V . Then

a)
$$P_B^C = P_{B \leftarrow C} = (P_{C \leftarrow B})^{-1} = (P_C^B)^{-1} \quad \text{or}$$

b)
$$[x]_C = P_C^B [x]_B \quad \text{and} \quad [x]_B = (P_C^B)^{-1} [x]_C$$

Note: To change coordinates between two **nonstandard bases** in \mathbb{R}^n , we need **Theorem 15**. The theorem shows that to solve the change-of-basis problem, we need the coordinate vectors of the old basis relative to the new basis.

CHANGE OF BASIS IN GENERAL

Proof of the Theorem:

- 1.) The columns of P_B^C are linearly independent because they are the coordinate vectors of the linearly independent set B . We have by (1)

$$[x]_C = P_C^B [x]_B.$$

- 2.) Since P_C^B is square, it must be invertible, by the Invertible Matrix Theorem. Left-multiplying both sides of Equation (1) by its inverse matrix $(P_C^B)^{-1}$ yields

$$(P_C^B)^{-1} [x]_C = [x]_B.$$

- 3.) Thus $(P_C^B)^{-1}$ is the matrix that converts C-coordinates into B-coordinates. That is $(P_C^B)^{-1} = P_B^C$.

Example: Consider the bases $B = \{b_1, b_2\}$ and $C = \{c_1, c_2\}$ of a two-dimensional subspace V in \mathbb{R}^{100} . Let u in V be given in B -coordinates by $[u]_B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix}$. We know that $b_1 = c_1 - c_2$ and $b_2 = c_1 + c_2$.

1.) Find the C -coordinates of u .

2.) Write down $P_C^B = P_{C \leftarrow B}$ and calculate $P_B^C = P_{B \leftarrow C}$.