

## Lecture 24: Bases & Coordinates for abstract vector spaces

Recall  $B = \{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_r\}$  is a basis for  $V$  (= abstr. vector space) if

(1)  $B$  spans  $V$ , i.e.  $V = \text{Sp}(\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_r)$

$$= \{ \alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_r \vec{v}_r : \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r \in \mathbb{R} \}$$

&

(2)  $B$  is linearly independent, i.e. the only solution to

$$\vec{0} = \alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_r \vec{v}_r \quad \text{is} \quad \alpha_1 = \dots = \alpha_r = 0.$$

Examples: ①  $\text{Mat}_{2 \times 3}$  has basis  $\{E_{11}, E_{12}, E_{13}, E_{21}, E_{22}, E_{23}\}$  (6 elem)

(Lecture 23) ②  $\text{Mat}_{m \times n}$  —————  $\{E_{c,j} \mid \begin{matrix} c=1, \dots, m \\ j=1, \dots, n \end{matrix}\}$  ( $m \cdot n$  elem)

③  $\mathcal{P}_d = \{a_0 + a_1 x + \dots + a_d x^d\}$  has basis  $\{1, x, x^2, \dots, x^d\}$   
 $a_0, \dots, a_d \in \mathbb{R}$  ( $d+1$  elem)

Key fact: All basis of a vector space  $V$  have the same number of elements. We define this number as the dimension of  $V$ .

⚠  $C[0,1]$  has no basis.

ALGORITHM for computing basis from spanning sets (same as in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ )

INPUT:  $S = \{ \vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_r \}$  a spanning set for  $V$

OUTPUT: A subset  $B$  of  $S$  that is a basis for  $V$ .

Step 1: Pick  $S$  and ask if  $S$  is li/ld.

• If  $S$  is LI, output  $S$

• Otherwise, use a nontrivial relation to write one  $\vec{v}_i$  as a lin. comb of the remaining vectors.

$$S_{\text{new}} = S \setminus \{ \vec{v}_i \} = \text{"remove } \vec{v}_i \text{ from } S"$$

Step 2: Repeat Step 1 with  $S_{\text{new}}$ , etc.

Example.  $S = \{ 1, (x+1)^2, (x-1)^2, x \}$  spans  $\mathcal{P}_2 = \text{Sp}(1, x, x^2)$  because  
 $1$  in  $\text{Sp}(S)$ ,  $x$  in  $\text{Sp}(S)$ ,  $x^2 = (x-1)^2 - 2x - 1$  in  $\text{Sp}(S)$ .

•  $S$  is LD Unique relation:  $0 = (x+1)^2 - (x-1)^2 - 4x$

Opt 1:  $S_{\text{new}} = \{ 1, (x+1)^2, x \}$  LI, Opt 2  $S_{\text{new}} = \{ 1, (x-1)^2, x \}$  LI, Opt 3  $S_{\text{new}} = \{ 1, (x-1)^2, (x+1)^2 \}$  LI

# Coordinate Systems from bases

Example 1  $\mathbb{R}^n$  has coordinate system induced by  $B = \{\vec{e}_1, \dots, \vec{e}_n\}$

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

$\vec{e}_1$                        $\vec{e}_2$                        $\vec{e}_3$

↑                      ↑                      ↑  
coordinates from B

$\rightsquigarrow \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}_B = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^6$  ("our usual coordinate system for  $\mathbb{R}^n$  comes from the standard basis  $B'$ ")

Example 2  $\text{Mat}_{m \times n}$  has coord. system induced by  $B = \{E_{ij} \mid \begin{matrix} i=1, \dots, m \\ j=1, \dots, n \end{matrix}\}$

$$A = (a_{ij}) = a_{11}E_{11} + \dots + a_{1n}E_{1n} + a_{21}E_{21} + \dots + a_{mn}E_{mn}$$

Ex  $m=2$   
 $n=3$

$$\begin{bmatrix} [a_{11} \ a_{12} \ a_{13}] \\ [a_{21} \ a_{22} \ a_{23}] \end{bmatrix}_B = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} \\ a_{12} \\ a_{13} \\ a_{21} \\ a_{22} \\ a_{23} \end{bmatrix} \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^6$$

$\text{Mat}_{2 \times 3}$   
 $E_{ij}$

↔

$\mathbb{R}^6$   
 $e_k$   
 $k=i(n-1)+j$

Example 3  $\mathcal{P}_d$  has coord system induced by the basis of monomials

$$[a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + \dots + a_d x^d]_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} a_0 \\ a_1 \\ \vdots \\ a_d \end{bmatrix} \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^{d+1} \quad \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{B} = \{1, x, x^2, \dots, x^d\} \\ \mathcal{P}_d \longleftrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d+1} \\ x^i \longmapsto e_{i+1} \end{array}$$

Summary: If  $\mathcal{B} = \{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p\}$  is a basis for  $\mathbb{R}^n$  then we can identify  $\mathbb{V}$  with  $\mathbb{R}^p$ , using the "coordinate system" induced by  $\mathcal{B}$ .

Theorem 1: Given a vector space  $\mathbb{V}$  with basis  $\mathcal{B} = \{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p\}$ , each vector  $\vec{v}$  in  $\mathbb{V}$  can be uniquely represented as a linear comb of  $\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p\}$ ; meaning  $\vec{v} = \alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_p \vec{v}_p$  and  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_p$  are unique

We call  $\boxed{[\vec{v}]_{\mathcal{B}} := \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_p \end{bmatrix}} \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^p$  the coordinates of  $\vec{v}$  with respect to  $\mathcal{B}$

Why? •  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_p$  exist because  $\mathcal{B}$  spans

• Uniqueness: If 2 solutions  $\alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_p \vec{v}_p = \vec{v} = \beta_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \beta_p \vec{v}_p$

Then  $(\alpha_1 - \beta_1) \vec{v}_1 + \dots + (\alpha_p - \beta_p) \vec{v}_p = \vec{0}$  &  $\mathcal{B}$  li forces  $\alpha_1 = \beta_1, \dots, \alpha_p = \beta_p$ .

Consequence: We can identify  $V$  with  $\mathbb{R}^p$  via  $\vec{v} \longleftrightarrow [\vec{v}]_B$

Moreover, we have a map  $\Psi: V \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$  that satisfies  
 $\vec{v} \longmapsto [\vec{v}]_B$

(1)  $\Psi$  is a bijection (1-to-1 map,  $\Psi^{-1}([\vec{v}]_B) = a_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + a_p \vec{v}_p$ )

(2)  $\Psi$  respects the linear structure in both  $V$  &  $\mathbb{R}^p$   
(both are vector spaces)

$$\bullet \quad \Psi(\vec{v} + \vec{w}) = \Psi(\vec{v}) + \Psi(\vec{w})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{v} &= \alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_p \vec{v}_p \\ + \vec{w} &= \beta_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \beta_p \vec{v}_p \end{aligned} \quad \& \quad \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_p \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \beta_p \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 + \beta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_p + \beta_p \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\vec{v} + \vec{w} = (\alpha_1 + \beta_1) \vec{v}_1 + \dots + (\alpha_p + \beta_p) \vec{v}_p$$

$$\bullet \quad \Psi(a\vec{v}) = a\Psi(\vec{v})$$

$$a\vec{v} = a(\alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_p \vec{v}_p) = (a\alpha_1) \vec{v}_1 + \dots + (a\alpha_p) \vec{v}_p \quad \& \quad a \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_p \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a\alpha_1 \\ \vdots \\ a\alpha_p \end{bmatrix}$$

# Examples

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \left[ \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 & b \\ 0 & c & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right]_{\{E_{11}, E_{12}, E_{13}, E_{21}, E_{22}, E_{23}\}} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ c \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\left[ \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 & b \\ 0 & c & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right]_{\{E_{11}, E_{21}, E_{12}, E_{22}, E_{13}, E_{23}\}} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ c \\ b \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

So order of elements in the basis matters!

$$\textcircled{2} \quad W = \text{Sp}(E_{11}, E_{13}, E_{22}) \longleftrightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a & 0 & b \\ 0 & c & 0 \end{bmatrix} \longleftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} = [A]_{\{E_{11}, E_{13}, E_{22}\}}$$

$$= aE_{11} + bE_{13} + cE_{22}$$

$$\textcircled{3} \quad \mathcal{P}_2 = \{a + bx + cx^2\} \quad \mathcal{P}_2 \longleftrightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$$

$$[a + bx + cx^2]_{\{1, x, x^2\}} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\textcircled{4} \quad W = \mathcal{P}_2 \text{ subspace of } \mathcal{P}_3 \quad [a + bx + cx^2]_{\{1, x, x^2, x^3\}} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad W \longleftrightarrow \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^4 : x_4 = 0 \right\}$$

Lemma: Identification of coordinates behaves well with respect to addition & scalar multiplication

①  $[\vec{0}]_B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^p$  if  $B = \{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p\}$

②  $[\vec{v} + \vec{w}]_B = [\vec{v}]_B + [\vec{w}]_B \in \mathbb{R}^p$

③  $[\alpha \vec{v}]_B = \alpha [\vec{v}]_B$

Q: What else can we do with coordinates? A Decide li, spanning, bases!

Theorem 2: Fix  $V$  a vector space with basis  $B = \{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p\}$ . Consider a set  $S = \{\vec{w}_1, \dots, \vec{w}_r\}$  of vectors in  $V$ . & write  $T = \{[\vec{w}_1]_B, \dots, [\vec{w}_r]_B\}$  for the vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^p$ .

Then ① A vector  $\vec{v}$  is in  $\text{Sp}(\vec{w}_1, \dots, \vec{w}_r)$  if, and only if,  $[\vec{v}]_B$  is in  $\text{Sp}([\vec{w}_1]_B, \dots, [\vec{w}_r]_B)$ .

② The set  $S$  is li if, and only if,  $T$  is li in  $\mathbb{R}^p$ .

Why? (1)  $\vec{v} = \alpha_1 \vec{w}_1 + \dots + \alpha_r \vec{w}_r$  & take  $[\ ]_B$ . By Lemma we set

$$[\vec{v}]_B = \alpha_1 [\vec{w}_1]_B + \dots + \alpha_r [\vec{w}_r]_B. \quad \text{We can reverse the process!}$$

(2) Take  $\vec{v} = \vec{0}$  & use (1).

Consequence 1: All bases for  $V$  have the same number of elements.

(because this is true for  $\mathbb{R}^p$ ) Call this number = dimension of  $V$ .

Why? Take  $B$  &  $B'$  two bases for  $V$  with  $p = |B| \leq |B'| = p'$

Use  $[ ]_{B'}$ . &  $S=B = \{ \vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_p \}$  spans  $V$ , so

$\{ [ \vec{v}_1 ]_{B'}, \dots, [ \vec{v}_p ]_{B'} \}$  spans  $\mathbb{R}^{p'}$ . Then:  $p \geq p'$  & so  $p = p'$   
( $p$  vectors) (because  $p' \geq p$  &  $p \geq p'$ )

Consequence 2: Fix  $V$  a vector space of dimension  $p$ . Then

- ① A set of  $p+1$  or more vectors in  $V$  is linearly dependent.
- ② Any set of  $p-1$  or fewer \_\_\_\_\_ cannot span  $V$ .
- ③ \_\_\_\_\_  $p$  linearly indep vectors in  $V$  is a basis for  $V$ .
- ④ \_\_\_\_\_  $p$  vectors in  $V$  that spans  $V$  \_\_\_\_\_.

Why? This is true for  $\mathbb{R}^p$  (see Lecture 17)



Example:  $S = \{ \underset{\vec{v}_1}{1}, \underset{\vec{v}_2}{(x+1)^2}, \underset{\vec{v}_3}{(x-1)^2}, \underset{\vec{v}_4}{x} \}$  in  $\mathcal{P}_2$   $\dim \mathcal{P}_2 = 3$   
 $B = \{1, x, x^2\}$

$$[1]_B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad [(x+1)^2]_B = [x^2 + 2x + 1]_B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$[(x-1)^2]_B = [x^2 - 2x + 1]_B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad [x]_B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

•  $S$  is l.d because  $T = \{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \}$  is l.d in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

• Find relations in  $S$  using relations for  $T$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_2 \leftrightarrow R_3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & -2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - 2R_2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -4 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_3 \rightarrow \frac{R_3}{-4}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{4} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\xrightarrow{\substack{R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - R_3 \\ R_1 \rightarrow R_1 - R_3}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & \frac{1}{4} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \frac{1}{4} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{4} \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_1 \rightarrow R_1 - R_2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \frac{1}{4} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{4} \end{bmatrix}$$

REF

$x_1, x_2, x_3$  dep  
 $x_4$  indep

$$\begin{cases} x_1 = 0 \\ x_2 = -\frac{1}{4}x_4 \\ x_3 = \frac{1}{4}x_4 \end{cases}$$

All relations come from  $-\begin{bmatrix} \vec{v}_2 \end{bmatrix}_B + \begin{bmatrix} \vec{v}_3 \end{bmatrix}_B + 4\begin{bmatrix} \vec{v}_4 \end{bmatrix}_B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  ( $x_4 = 4$ )

So  $\boxed{-\vec{v}_2 + \vec{v}_3 + 4\vec{v}_4 = \vec{0}}$  "generates all relations in  $S$ !"

$$-\vec{v}_2 + \vec{v}_3 + 4\vec{v}_4 = \vec{0}$$

$$\& \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1/4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1/4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$(\vec{v}_1)_B$   $(\vec{v}_2)_B$   $(\vec{v}_3)_B$   $(\vec{v}_4)_B$  REF

•  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  is l.d. & any pair of these vectors is li.

Same is true for  $\{\vec{v}_2, \vec{v}_3, \vec{v}_4\}$

•  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  is li in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , so it's a basis for  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . Therefore

$\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \vec{v}_3\}$  is a basis for  $\mathcal{V} = \mathcal{P}_2$ .

In particular  $x^2$  in  $\text{Sp}(\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \vec{v}_3)$ .

$$\begin{matrix} \updownarrow [ ]_B \\ \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \text{ in } \text{Sp} \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) \end{matrix}$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{array} \right] \longrightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -4 & -4 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 \end{array} \right] \longrightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right] \longrightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = (-2) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + 1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + 1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\rightsquigarrow x^2 = (-2)1 + 1(x+1)^2 + 1(x-1)^2$$

same scalars!