

§ 1.8 An Introduction to Linear Transformations

A transformation T from \mathbb{R}^n to \mathbb{R}^m is a function
(map) $T: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ sending vectors of \mathbb{R}^n to vectors
of \mathbb{R}^m .

Here \mathbb{R}^n is the domain and \mathbb{R}^m is the codomain.

For a vector v in \mathbb{R}^n , $T(v)$ is called the
image of v in \mathbb{R}^m . The set of all $\{T(v) \mid v \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^n\}$
is the range of T .

We focus on matrix transformations, linear transformations
given by column vector matrix multiplication:

If A is an $m \times n$ matrix

$$T: \mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$$

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x \longmapsto Ax$$

Example

Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 4 & 3 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ and define $T: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ by

$$T(x) = Ax.$$

a) If $x = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ what is $T(x)$?

solution:

$$T(x) = Ax = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 4 & 3 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2+2 \\ 8+3 \\ -2+2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 11 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^3$$

b) Can we find a vector x in \mathbb{R}^2 whose image under T is $b = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 10 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$. In other words is b in the range of T ?

solution: solve $Ax = b$

$$\left[\begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 2 & 7 \\ 4 & 3 & 10 \\ -1 & 2 & 1 \end{array} \right] \longrightarrow \left[\begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 2 & 7 \\ 0 & -5 & -10 \\ 0 & 4 & 8 \end{array} \right] \longrightarrow \left[\begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

yes! $x = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ is a solution (and is unique since no free variables).

c) Is $b = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$ in the range of T ?

solution: solve $Ax = b$

$$\left[\begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 4 & 3 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \end{array} \right] \longrightarrow \left[\begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & -5 & -5 \\ 0 & 4 & 2 \end{array} \right] \longrightarrow \left[\begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 \end{array} \right]$$

inconsistent so there's no solution. $Ax = b$ has no solution so $b = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$ is not in range of T .

Defn A transformation T is linear if

- 1) $T(u+v) = T(u) + T(v)$ for all u, v in domain of T
- 2) $T(c \cdot v) = c \cdot T(v)$ for all v in domain of T and any real number c .

Notice if T is linear, then $T(0) = 0$

$$T(v-v) = T(v) + T(-v) = T(v) - T(v) = 0$$

Remark

Every matrix transformation is linear

$$1) A(x+y) = Ax + Ay$$

$$2) A(c \cdot x) = c \cdot Ax$$

Matrix transformations to and from $\mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{R}^3$ have nice geometric interpretations.

Example

Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ and define $T: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ by $x \mapsto Ax$

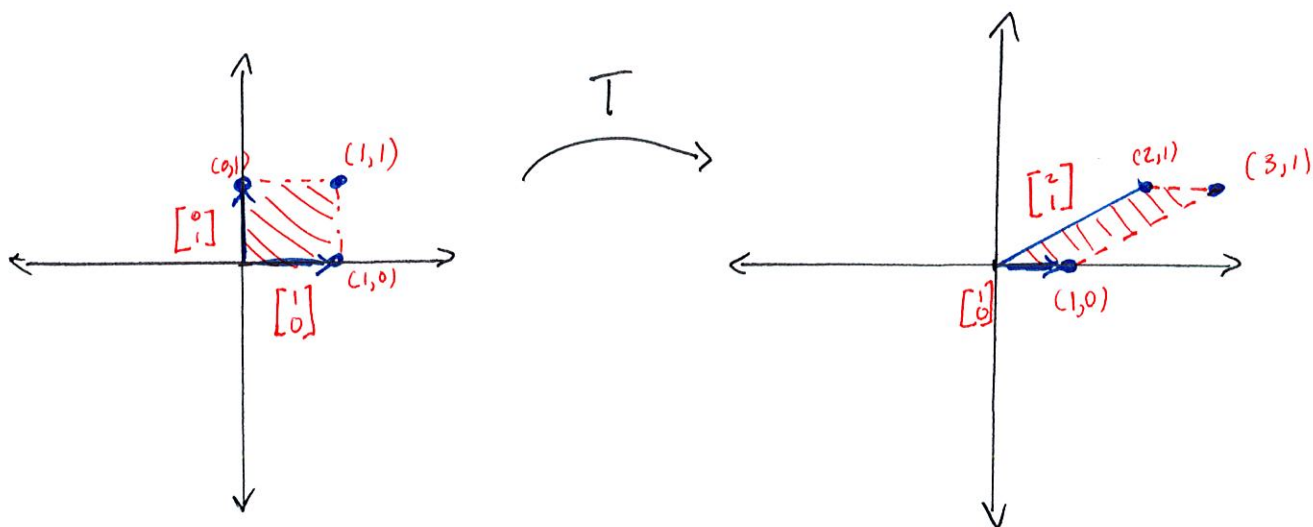
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 + 2x_2 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Not very interesting algebraically \therefore

Notice this transformation is the same as a row operation!

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{2R_2 + R_1 \rightarrow R_1} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 + 2x_2 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Geometrically,



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

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

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

This map $T(x) = Ax$ is an example of a shear transformation.

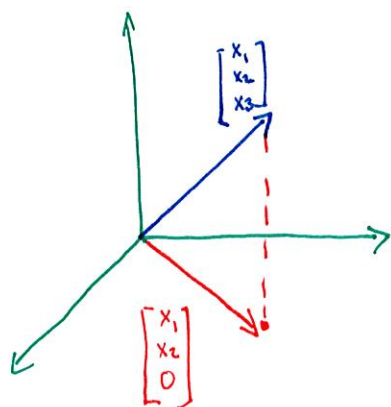
Example

Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

and let $T: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$
by $x \mapsto Ax$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Makes 3rd coordinate zero!



This is the projection
of \mathbb{R}^3 onto the x_1 - x_2 plane.

Example

let r be a real number and consider the

$$\text{transformation } T: \mathbb{R}^2 \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 \\ x \longmapsto r \cdot x$$

If $r > 1$: T is a dilation

If $r < 1$: T is a contraction

Notice this transformation is also given by

$$T(x) = Ax \quad \text{where} \quad A = \begin{bmatrix} r & 0 \\ 0 & r \end{bmatrix}.$$

Example

Suppose T is a linear transformation and

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

$$T\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$T\left(\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix}$$

what is $T\left(\begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}\right) = ?$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = 5 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + 2 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$T\left(\begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}\right) = 5 T\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}\right) + 2 T\left(\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}\right)$$

$$= 5 \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix} + 2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 30 \\ -15 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 16 \end{bmatrix} =$$

$$\boxed{\begin{bmatrix} 32 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}}$$