

**Important Ideas and Useful Facts:**

- (i) **Matrix exponentials:** If  $M$  is a real square matrix then we may form the *matrix exponential*

$$e^M = I + M + \frac{M^2}{2!} + \frac{M^3}{3!} + \dots$$

It is a theorem that the series always converges. If  $M$  is a diagonal  $n \times n$  matrix with diagonal entries  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  then  $e^M$  is also diagonal with diagonal entries  $e^{\lambda_1}, \dots, e^{\lambda_n}$ . If  $A, B$  and  $P$  are real square matrices of the same size,  $P$  invertible, and  $B = P^{-1}AP$  then

$$e^B = P^{-1}e^AP.$$

If  $A$  and  $B$  commute, that is,  $AB = BA$ , then  $e^{A+B} = e^Ae^B$ .

- (ii) **Solving systems of differential equations:** Suppose that we have  $n$  differentiable functions  $x_1 = x_1(t), x_2 = x_2(t), \dots, x_n = x_n(t)$  of a real variable  $t$  that satisfy the following system of differential equations with constant coefficients:

$$\begin{aligned} x_1' &= a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n \\ x_2' &= a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \dots + a_{2n}x_n \\ &\vdots \\ x_n' &= a_{n1}x_1 + a_{n2}x_2 + \dots + a_{nn}x_n \end{aligned}$$

Put  $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\mathbf{x}' = \begin{bmatrix} x_1' \\ x_2' \\ \vdots \\ x_n' \end{bmatrix}$  and  $A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \dots & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix}$ , so that the system may

be expressed in matrix form  $\mathbf{x}' = A\mathbf{x}$ . The solution to this system is

$$\mathbf{x} = e^{tA}\mathbf{c}$$

where  $\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{x}(0)$  is a column vector of constants.

- (iii) **Linear transformations (general case):** Let  $V$  and  $W$  be vector spaces over a field  $F$ . A function  $T : V \rightarrow W$  is called a *linear transformation* if  $T$  respects vector addition and scalar multiplication, that is, for all  $\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \in V$  and  $\lambda \in F$ ,

$$T(\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}) = T(\mathbf{v}) + T(\mathbf{w}) \quad \text{and} \quad T(\lambda\mathbf{v}) = \lambda T(\mathbf{v}),$$

or, equivalently,  $T$  preserves linear combinations, that is for all  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2 \in V$  and  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in F$ ,

$$T(\lambda_1\mathbf{v}_1 + \lambda_2\mathbf{v}_2) = \lambda_1T(\mathbf{v}_1) + \lambda_2T(\mathbf{v}_2).$$

If  $V = W$  then  $T$  is called a *linear operator*. If  $T$  is bijective (one-one and onto) then  $T$  is called a *vector space isomorphism*. The composite of linear transformations, when defined, is also a linear transformation.

- (iv) **Matrix of a linear transformation with respect to choice of bases:** Let  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be a linear transformation, and let  $B = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n\}$  and  $D = \{\mathbf{d}_1, \dots, \mathbf{d}_m\}$  be ordered bases for  $V$  and  $W$  respectively. Define the *matrix of  $T$  with respect to  $B$  and  $D$*  to be

$$[T]_D^B = [ [T(\mathbf{b}_1)]_D \quad \dots \quad [T(\mathbf{b}_n)]_D ] ,$$

by which we mean that we write down, in order, columns of coordinates, in  $W$  with respect to  $D$ , of the images under  $T$  of successive basis elements from  $B$ . Note that  $[T]_D^B$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix. It follows from the definitions that, for all  $\mathbf{v} \in V$ ,

$$[T(\mathbf{v})]_D = [T]_D^B[\mathbf{v}]_B ,$$

enabling the effect of the linear transformation  $T$  to be described in terms of matrix multiplication between coordinates of vectors. If  $S : U \rightarrow V$  is another linear transformation, where  $A$  is an ordered basis for  $U$ , so that  $T \circ S : U \rightarrow W$  is also a linear transformation, then

$$[T \circ S]_D^A = [T]_D^B[S]_B^A .$$

- (v) **The identity linear operator:** Given any vector space  $V$  the mapping  $\text{id} = \text{id}_V : V \rightarrow V$  where  $\text{id}(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{v}$ , fixing all vectors in  $V$ , is called the *identity linear transformation* or *identity operator*. If  $V$  is  $n$ -dimensional and  $B$  is any basis for  $V$  then  $[\text{id}]_B^B = I_n$ , the  $n \times n$  identity matrix. If  $T : V \rightarrow W$  is a linear transformations then

$$T \circ \text{id}_V = T \quad \text{and} \quad \text{id}_W \circ T = T .$$

Further, if  $T$  is a vector space isomorphism, so that  $T$  is invertible and  $T^{-1} : W \rightarrow V$ , then

$$T^{-1} \circ T = \text{id}_V \quad \text{and} \quad T \circ T^{-1} = \text{id}_W .$$

- (vi) **Change of basis matrix:** Let  $B$  and  $D$  be any bases for an  $n$ -dimensional vector space  $V$ . The matrix  $[\text{id}]_D^B$  is called a *change of basis matrix* and has the effect of converting coordinates of vectors with respect to  $B$  into coordinates with respect to  $D$ , in the following sense, for any vector  $\mathbf{v} \in V$ :

$$[\text{id}]_D^B[\mathbf{v}]_B = [\mathbf{v}]_D .$$

Furthermore, the change of basis matrices  $[\text{id}]_D^B$  and  $[\text{id}]_B^D$  are mutually inverse, that is,

$$[\text{id}]_D^B[\text{id}]_B^D = [\text{id}]_B^D[\text{id}]_D^B = I_n .$$

- (vii) **Kernel and image of a linear transformation:** Let  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be a linear transformation. Define the *kernel* of  $T$  to be  $\ker(T) = \{\mathbf{v} \in V \mid T(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{0}\}$ , which is a subspace of  $V$ , and the *image* of  $T$  to be  $\text{im}(T) = \{T(\mathbf{v}) \mid \mathbf{v} \in V\}$ , which is a subspace of  $W$ .
- (viii) **Criterion using the kernel for a linear transformation to be injective:** If  $T : V \rightarrow W$  is a linear transformation then  $T$  is injective (one-one) if and only if  $\ker(T) = \{\mathbf{0}\}$ .
- (ix) **Rank-nullity Theorem for linear transformations:** If  $T : V \rightarrow W$  is a linear transformation then  $\dim(V) = \dim(\ker(T)) + \dim(\text{im}(T))$ .

## Tutorial Exercises:

1. Find the exponential matrix  $e^{tA}$  where  $A$  is each of the following matrices:

$$(a) \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad (b) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (c) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad (d) \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -6 \\ 3 & -4 \end{bmatrix}$$

2. Solve the following systems of differential equations, where  $x = x(t)$  and  $y = y(t)$  are differentiable functions of a real variable  $t$ , with the same initial conditions

$$x(0) = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad y(0) = 2$$

in each case:

$$\begin{array}{ll} (a) & \begin{cases} x' = -x \\ y' = 2y \end{cases} & (b) & \begin{cases} x' = x + y \\ y' = x + y \end{cases} \\ (c) & \begin{cases} x' = x + 3y \\ y' = 2x + 2y \end{cases} & (d) & \begin{cases} x' = 5x - 6y \\ y' = 3x - 4y \end{cases} \end{array}$$

3. Let  $B = \{(1, 0), (0, 1)\}$  be the standard basis for  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . Put

$$D = \{(1, 1), (-1, 0)\}.$$

Explain why  $D$  is a basis for  $\mathbb{R}^2$  and then write down the following matrices:

$$A = [\text{id}]_B^B, \quad C = [\text{id}]_D^D \quad \text{and} \quad E = [\text{id}]_B^D.$$

Now find  $E^{-1}$  in the usual way and check that indeed

$$E^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} [(1, 0)]_D & [(0, 1)]_D \end{bmatrix} = [\text{id}]_D^B.$$

4. Let  $f, g : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  be linear transformations given by the following rules:

$$f(x, y) = (x + 2y, 3x - 4y) \quad \text{and} \quad g(x, y) = (3x - y, 2y).$$

- (a) Find each of the following, by direct calculation, where  $B$  and  $D$  are the bases for  $\mathbb{R}^2$  in the previous exercise:

$$[f]_B^B, \quad [f]_D^D, \quad [g]_B^B, \quad [g]_D^D.$$

(If you have done this correctly, you should have produced a diagonal matrix representation for  $g$ .)

- (b) Check, as the theory predicts, that the following equations hold:

$$[f]_D^D = [\text{id}]_D^B [f]_B^B [\text{id}]_B^D \quad \text{and} \quad [g]_D^D = [\text{id}]_D^B [g]_B^B [\text{id}]_B^D.$$

- (c)\* Find rules for linear operators  $h, k : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  such that  $[h]_B^B = [f]_D^D$  and  $[k]_B^B = [f]_D^D$ .

- 5.\* Working over  $\mathbb{R}$ , let  $B = \{1, x, x^2\}$  be the standard basis for the vector space  $\mathbb{P}_2$  of polynomials of degree at most 2. Put

$$D = \{1 + x^2, x + 2x^2, 1 + 2x + 3x^2\}.$$

Explain why  $D$  is a basis for  $\mathbb{P}_2$  and then write down the matrix  $E = [\text{id}]_B^D$ . Now find  $E^{-1}$  in the usual way and check that indeed

$$E^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} [1]_D & [x]_D & [x^2]_D \end{bmatrix} = [\text{id}]_D^B.$$

**Further Exercises:**

6. Let  $B = \{(1, 0, 0), (0, 1, 0), (0, 0, 1)\}$  be the standard basis for  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . Put

$$D = \{(1, 0, 1), (1, 1, 0), (1, 1, 1)\}.$$

Explain why  $D$  is a basis for  $\mathbb{R}^3$  and then write down the matrix  $E = [\text{id}]_B^D$ . Now find  $E^{-1}$  in the usual way and check that indeed

$$E^{-1} = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} [(1, 0, 0)]_D & [(0, 1, 0)]_D & [(0, 0, 1)]_D \end{array} \right] = [\text{id}]_D^B.$$

7. Find the exponential matrix  $e^{tA}$  where  $A$  is each of the following matrices:

$$(a) \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad (b) \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (c) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

8. Solve the following systems of differential equations, where  $x = x(t)$ ,  $y = y(t)$  and  $z = z(t)$  are differentiable functions of a real variable  $t$ , with the same initial conditions

$$x(0) = -1, \quad y(0) = -4 \quad \text{and} \quad z(0) = 2$$

in each case:

$$(a) \begin{array}{l} x' = -x \\ y' = 2y \\ z' = 3z \end{array} \quad (b) \begin{array}{l} x' = y - z \\ y' = x + z \\ z' = x + y \end{array}$$

$$(c) \begin{array}{l} x' = x + y + 2z \\ y' = -y \\ z' = 2x + y + z \end{array}$$

9. Consider the real matrix  $M = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 5 & -3 \\ 1 & -4 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$ .

- (a) Write down the rule for the linear transformation  $f : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  such that the matrix of  $f$  with respect to the standard bases is  $M$ .
- (b) Explain briefly why  $B = \{(1, 1, 1), (1, 1, 0), (1, 0, 0)\}$  and  $D = \{(1, 3), (2, 5)\}$  are bases for  $\mathbb{R}^3$  and  $\mathbb{R}^2$  respectively.
- (c)\* Find the matrix  $[f]_D^B$  of  $f$  with respect to  $B$  and  $D$ .

- 10.\* Let  $D$  be the differential operator that takes a differentiable function to its derivative. Explain why each of the following sets is a basis of the subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{R}}$  that it generates:

$$B_1 = \{1, x, x^2, x^3\}, \quad B_2 = \{\sin x, \cos x\}, \quad B_3 = \{e^x, e^{2x}, xe^{2x}\}.$$

Each of these subspaces consists of differentiable functions on which  $D$  acts as an operator. Find  $[D]_{B_i}^{B_i}$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3$  and calculate the rank and nullity of  $D$  in each case.