

# Chapter 5: Linear Transformations

Greg Knapp

March 11, 2024

## 1 Introduction

- One of the purposes of mathematics is to model things we see in the real world.
- What happens in the real world? Things change!
- If you have a chemical reaction occurring in a big vat, then the temperature of the reaction is a function of a bunch of things:
  - Which point you pick in the vat
  - How long the reaction has been proceeding
  - Which chemicals you're combining.
- So we want to be able to analyze functions with many inputs
- Sometimes, we also want to analyze functions with many outputs.
- For example, think about my position in the world as a function of time.
- That function has three dimensions worth of outputs because we live in a three dimensional space.
- Notation: we denote a function which has  $n$  inputs and  $m$  outputs with the notation  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ .  $T$  is the name of the function, it takes inputs which live in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , and outputs vectors which live in  $\mathbb{R}^m$ .

**Ex:** Consider the function  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  defined by

$$T \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} e^x \\ x^2 y^3 \\ \ln(y^2 + 1) \end{pmatrix}.$$

- Instead of writing  $T(\vec{v})$  like we usually do in calculus, sometimes, we just write  $T\vec{v}$ .
- Now, the above example of a function is very complicated.
- We don't have enough background to just study  $T$  right away, so we're going to start with the "simplest" functions there are: linear functions.

**Def:** A linear function/linear transformation/linear map is any function  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  which satisfies the following two properties:

- $T(\vec{v} + \vec{w}) = T\vec{v} + T\vec{w}$  for every  $\vec{v}, \vec{w} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .
- $T(c\vec{v}) = cT\vec{v}$  for every  $c \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\vec{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

**Ex:** Is the function  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  defined by

$$T \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x + 2y \\ 3x + 4y \end{pmatrix}$$

a linear transformation?

**Ex:** Is the function  $T : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by  $Tx = 2x + 1$  a linear transformation? What about  $U : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by  $Ux = 2x$ ?

**Ex:** Is the function  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  defined by

$$T \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$$

a linear transformation?

- General fact: if  $A$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix, then  $T_A : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  defined by  $T\vec{v} = A\vec{v}$  is a linear transformation.

**TPS:** Which of the following are true?

- Every function  $\mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  is linear.
- If  $T : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is defined by  $T(x) = kx$  for some constant  $k$ , then  $T$  is linear.
- If  $T : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is linear, then there exists a constant  $k$  so that  $T(x) = kx$ .
- Aside: let's learn to visualize matrix transformations.
- Functions that you are used to graphing have one input and one output.
- It's possible for us to graph functions with two inputs and one output.
- But we can't just draw a graph of functions with two inputs and two outputs.
- So instead, we need to be clever: <https://www.geogebra.org/m/YCZa8TAH>
- Try some matrices and just kind of see what happens.

**Ex:** Is the function  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  defined by “ $T\vec{v} = \text{rotate } \vec{v} \text{ by } \pi/2$ ” a linear map?

- Draw the picture.
- Alternatively, we could give a matrix!
- Go to <https://www.geogebra.org/m/YCZa8TAH> and use the matrix  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ .

**Ex:** Let

$$\vec{v} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{w} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

If  $T : \mathbb{R}^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  is a linear transformation with

$$T\vec{v} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad T\vec{w} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

what is  $T(2\vec{v} - \vec{w})$ ?

## 2 Matrices for Linear Transformations

**Ex:** Suppose that  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  is a linear transformation with

$$T \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad T \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

1. What is  $T(2, 0)$ ?

2. What is  $T(1, 1)$ ?
3. What is  $T(-100, 3)$ ?
4. What is  $T(x, y)$ ?

- Note that this exercise could be repeated easily if I change up the numbers: if you know  $T(1, 0)$  and  $T(0, 1)$ , you can write a formula for  $T(x, y)$ !
- More than that: if you have a linear function  $T$  and you know  $T(1, 0)$  and  $T(0, 1)$ , then  $T$  has a matrix and its first column is  $T(1, 0)$  and its second column is  $T(0, 1)$ .
- This turns out to generalize very nicely.
- Notation: For any  $n$  and any  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , let  $\vec{e}_i$  denote the  $i$ th column of  $I_n$ .
- This is a silly way of saying that  $e_i$  denotes the vector with a 1 in the  $i$ th entry and 0 everywhere else.
- Fact: if  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  is a linear map, then for every  $\vec{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $T\vec{v} = A\vec{v}$  where

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} | & | & \cdots & | \\ T(e_1) & T(e_2) & \cdots & T(e_n) \\ | & | & \cdots & | \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Ex:** Find the matrix of the linear transformation  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  which has

$$T \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad T \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Ex:** Let  $\vec{w} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ . Is function  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  which has  $T\vec{v} = \text{proj}_{\vec{w}}(\vec{v})$  a linear map? If so, what is its matrix?

**Ex:** Find the matrix of the linear transformation  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  which has

$$T \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad T \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- Goal: figure out  $T(1, 0)$  and  $T(0, 1)$ .
- To do this, write  $(1, 0)$  as a linear combination of  $(1, 1)$  and  $(-1, 2)$ .
- $(1, 0) = \frac{2}{3}(1, 1) - \frac{1}{3}(-1, 2)$
- Also, write  $(0, 1)$  as a linear combination of  $(1, 1)$  and  $(-1, 2)$ .
- $(0, 1) = \frac{1}{3}(1, 1) + \frac{1}{3}(-1, 2)$ .
- Then compute  $T(1, 0)$  and  $T(0, 1)$ .

- Notice that writing  $(1, 0)$  as a linear combination of  $(1, 1)$  and  $(-1, 2)$  is equivalent to solving

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- Likewise, writing  $(0, 1)$  as a linear combination of  $(1, 1)$  and  $(-1, 2)$  is equivalent to solving

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} w \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- We can solve these two systems at the same by solving

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x & w \\ y & z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- Oh wait, that's matrix inversion!
- What did we do to the inverse matrix to get the matrix of  $T$ ? We applied  $x$  to  $T(1, 1)$  and  $y$  to  $T(-1, 2)$  to get the first column of the matrix. Likewise for the other column.
- Leap: we multiplied the matrix whose columns were  $T(v_1)$  and  $(v_2)$  by the inverse of the matrix whose columns are  $v_1$  and  $v_2$ .
- General process: Suppose that  $v_1, \dots, v_n \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and suppose that the matrix

$$V = \begin{pmatrix} | & | & \cdots & | \\ v_1 & v_2 & \cdots & v_n \\ | & | & \cdots & | \end{pmatrix}$$

is invertible. If  $T$  is a linear map with  $Tv_1 = b_1, \dots, Tv_n = b_n$ , then the matrix of  $T$  is given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} | & | & \cdots & | \\ b_1 & b_2 & \cdots & b_n \\ | & | & \cdots & | \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} | & | & \cdots & | \\ v_1 & v_2 & \cdots & v_n \\ | & | & \cdots & | \end{pmatrix}^{-1}.$$

**TPS:** Which of the following are true?

1. The map  $\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} x+y \\ xy \end{pmatrix}$  is linear.
  2. If  $T : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  is a linear map, then  $T(\vec{v} \times \vec{w}) = T(\vec{v})T(\vec{w})$  for every  $\vec{v}$  and  $\vec{w}$ .
  3. If  $v_1, \dots, v_n \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  is linear, and you know  $T(v_1), T(v_2), \dots, T(v_n)$ , then you can compute  $T(v)$  for any  $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .
- Sometimes, we don't have enough information to construct the full matrix, but this can turn out to be okay.

**Ex:** Suppose that  $T : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  is linear and  $T(1, 0, 0) = (1, 1)$ , and  $T(1, 1, 0) = (3, 4)$ . What is  $T(3, 7, 0)$ ? What is  $T(1, 0, 1)$ ?

### 3 Special Linear Transformations

- There are two especially interesting types of linear transformations: rotations and reflections.

**Ex:** Find the matrix of the linear map  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  which rotates any vector by an angle  $\theta$ .

- $Te_1 = (\cos \theta, \sin \theta)$
- $Te_2 = (-\sin \theta, \cos \theta)$

**Ex:** Find the matrix of the linear map  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  given by reflection across the line  $y = mx$ .

- We'll just do  $Te_1$  in class.
- Draw the right triangle with vertices  $(1, 0)$ ,  $(0, 0)$ ,  $(1, m)$ .
- Label the angle at the origin as  $\theta$
- Then we know that  $\cos \theta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+m^2}}$  and  $\sin \theta = \frac{m}{\sqrt{1+m^2}}$ .
- We also know that  $Te_1$  is a rotation of  $e_1$  by an angle  $2\theta$ .
- So  $Te_1 = (\cos(2\theta), \sin(2\theta)) = (\cos^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta, 2 \sin \theta \cos \theta)$ .
- Now write everything in terms of  $m$  and call it a day.
- End result: the matrix of  $T$  is

$$\frac{1}{1+m^2} \begin{pmatrix} 1-m^2 & 2m \\ 2m & m^2-1 \end{pmatrix}$$

## 4 Composition and Inversion

- We can do a bunch of things with matrices, like add, scale, multiply, and sometimes divide them.
- What do these matrix operations mean in terms of the corresponding functions.
- Addition and scaling are easy: you can add and scale functions!
- Matrix multiplication is tricky however.
- Let's say you have a function  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  and a function  $S : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$ .
- Let's say that  $T$  has some matrix  $A$  (note that  $A$  is  $m \times n$ ) and  $S$  has a matrix  $B$  (note that  $B$  is  $p \times m$ ).
- What function does  $BA$  correspond to?
- It corresponds to  $x \mapsto BAx$ , i.e. first multiply by  $A$ , then by  $B$ , i.e. first apply  $T$ , then apply  $S$ .
- This is what we mean by function composition.
  - Note that  $T \circ S$  means “first  $S$  then  $T$ .”

**Ex:** What is the matrix of the linear map  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  formed by first reflecting across the line  $y = 2x$  and then rotating counterclockwise by  $\pi/3$ ?

**Ex:** What is the matrix of the linear map  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  formed by first rotating counterclockwise by  $\theta$  then rotating counterclockwise by  $\psi$ ?

- First: note that this is one rotation by  $\theta + \psi$
- Second: note that this is function composition, so multiply the appropriate matrices.
- We recover trig identities!
- What about matrix inversion?
- Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  invertible matrix which corresponds to the linear map  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ .
- Then  $A^{-1}$  corresponds to a linear map  $S : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ .
- How do  $T$  and  $S$  interact?
- If I do  $T \circ S$ , that corresponds to  $AA^{-1} = I_n$ , which corresponds to the identity map.
- Likewise with  $S \circ T$ .
- We find that matrix inverses correspond to function inverses.
- The inverse matrix “undoes” the original matrix.

**Ex:** What is the inverse of the rotation by  $\theta$  matrix?

- We find this by noting that we can “undo” the action by rotating by  $-\theta$  and then writing down that matrix.
- We don't have to invert the rotation matrix.

**TPS:** Which of the following are true?

1. The composition of two linear maps must be a linear map.
  2. If a linear map has an inverse, then the inverse must be a linear map.
  3. Every linear map has an inverse.
- Note: the phrase “ $T$  maps  $U$  to  $B$ ” means “ $T(U) = B$ .”

**Ex:** Let  $T : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  be the linear map whose matrix is

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Find a vector  $U$  so that  $T$  maps  $U$  to  $(1, 0, 1)$ .

**Ex:** Let  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  be the linear transformation so that

$$T \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } T \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Compute  $T^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ .

- Write  $(0, 1)$  as a linear combination of  $(3, 3)$  and  $(-1, 0)$ .
- Then apply  $T^{-1}$  to both sides.

## 5 Exam Review

**Ex:** Which of the following are true?

- If  $A$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix, then  $\det(\text{adj } A) = \det(A)^{n-1}$ .
  - \* True because  $A(\text{adj } A) = \det(A)I_n$ .
- Let  $\vec{v}, \vec{w} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Suppose that  $\|\vec{w}\| = 1$  and  $\text{proj}_{\vec{w}}(\vec{v})$  has length  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Then  $\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w} = \frac{1}{2}$ .
  - \* False because we could have  $\vec{w} \cdot \vec{v} = \pm \frac{1}{2}$ .
- Suppose that  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  is a linear map and that

$$T \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } T \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then the matrix of  $T$  must be  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ .

- \* True because you know  $T$  on a basis of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

**Def:** Let  $n \geq 3$ . Two lines  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  are called skew lines if they do not intersect, but are not parallel.

- Notation: the phrase “the point  $A(1, 1, 1)$ ” means the same thing as “the point  $A = (1, 1, 1)$ .”
- Rotations are understood to always be counterclockwise (unless otherwise specified)
- Know your unit circle!