

Coordinate Vectors

Suppose $B = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \mathbf{b}_2, \dots, \mathbf{b}_p\}$ is a basis for a subspace H . For each $\mathbf{x} \in H$, the *coordinates of \mathbf{x} relative to B* are the weights c_1, c_2, \dots, c_p such that

$$\mathbf{x} = c_1\mathbf{b}_1 + c_2\mathbf{b}_2 + \dots + c_p\mathbf{b}_p,$$

and the vector in \mathbb{R}^p

$$[\mathbf{x}]_B = \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ \vdots \\ c_p \end{bmatrix}$$

Is called the *coordinate vector of \mathbf{x} relative to B* or the *B -coordinate vector of \mathbf{x}* .

$$\text{Suppose } A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & -4 & 4 \end{bmatrix}.$$

We have seen that a basis for $\text{Col } A$ is $B = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$.

Is $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$ in $\text{Col } A$? If so, find $[\mathbf{x}]_B$, the B -coordinate vector of \mathbf{x} .