

§ 3.2 - Matrix Mappings and Linear Mappings

In high school you studied functions from \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{R} .

Ex: The function $f(x) = x^2$ assigns to each x in the domain (\mathbb{R}) a unique value y in the codomain (also \mathbb{R}). We say that f maps x to y , or that y is the image of x under f .

In this section we will begin to study functions on higher dimensional spaces:

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

(domain) (codomain)

These are sometimes called mappings, transformations, or operators.

Matrix Mappings

Let A be an $m \times n$ matrix. We know that if \vec{x} is a vector in \mathbb{R}^n , then $A\vec{x}$ is a vector in \mathbb{R}^m .

This gives us a mapping $f_A: \mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ defined by

$$f_A(\vec{x}) = A\vec{x}.$$

We commonly call this the **matrix mapping corresponding to A**.

Note: If $f: \mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is a mapping that sends

$\vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ to $\vec{y} \in \mathbb{R}^m$, it would be correct to write

$$f\left(\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_m \end{bmatrix}.$$

Instead, however, we typically write $f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_m \end{bmatrix}$

or $f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_m)$. This looks a little cleaner!

Ex: If $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 2 & 4 \\ 3 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$, then A is 3×2 .

By above, we can view this as a matrix mapping

$$f_A: \mathbb{R}^2 \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$$

that sends \vec{x} to $A\vec{x}$.

We have $f_A(2,1) = A \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 2 & 4 \\ 3 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 8 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix}$

and $f_A(1,-1) = A \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 2 & 4 \\ 3 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

Ex: If $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$ then A is 2×3

This gives us a matrix mapping $f_A: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$.

We have ... $f_A(1,0,0) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

$$f_A(0,1,0) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Note: This makes sense! We know from §3.1 that

$$A\vec{e}_i = i^{\text{th}} \text{ column of } A.$$

$$f_A(1,1,0) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$f_A(2,0,0) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Notice that

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \underline{f_A(1,1,0) = f_A(1,0,0) + f_A(0,1,0);}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = 2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \underline{f_A(2,0,0) = 2 f_A(1,0,0).}$$

This is no coincidence!

Theorem: If A is an $m \times n$ matrix, then the matrix mapping $f_A: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ satisfies

(L1): $f_A(\vec{x} + \vec{y}) = f_A(\vec{x}) + f_A(\vec{y})$ for all $\vec{x}, \vec{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$

(L2): $f_A(t\vec{x}) = t f_A(\vec{x})$ for all $\vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n, t \in \mathbb{R}$.

Proof: (L1): $f_A(\vec{x} + \vec{y}) = A(\vec{x} + \vec{y}) = A\vec{x} + A\vec{y} = f_A(\vec{x}) + f_A(\vec{y})$

(L2): $f_A(t\vec{x}) = A(t\vec{x}) = t(A\vec{x}) = t f_A(\vec{x})$



These two properties are SUPER important!

Let's see why!

Ex: Suppose A is a 3×3 matrix and we know

$$f_A(1, 0, 0) = (3, 3, 1),$$

$$f_A(0, 1, 0) = (-1, 0, 1)$$

$$f_A(0, 0, 1) = (0, 2, 0).$$

What is $f_A(1, 4, 2)$?

Solution: Since $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = 1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + 4 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + 2 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$, we have

$$f_A(1, 4, 2) = f_A(1, 0, 0) + 4 f_A(0, 1, 0) + 2 f_A(0, 0, 1)$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + 4 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + 2 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 7 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

So why are (L1) and (L2) important?

Because if a function $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ satisfies (L1) and (L2) and we know $f(\bar{x}_1), f(\bar{x}_2), \dots, f(\bar{x}_k)$, then we can find

$$f(t_1 \vec{x}_1 + t_2 \vec{x}_2 + \dots + t_k \vec{x}_k) = t_1 f(\vec{x}_1) + t_2 f(\vec{x}_2) + \dots + t_k f(\vec{x}_k).$$

For a matrix mapping we can say even more!

Since $f_A(\vec{e}_i) = A\vec{e}_i = i^{\text{th}}$ column of A , we have

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} f_A(\vec{e}_1) & f_A(\vec{e}_2) & \dots & f_A(\vec{e}_n) \end{bmatrix}$$

So f_A is entirely determined by what it does to the standard basis!

Ex: From the previous example,

$$f_A(1, 0, 0) = (3, 3, 1), \quad f_A(0, 1, 0) = (-1, 0, 1), \quad f_A(0, 0, 1) = (0, 2, 0)$$

$$\text{So } A = \begin{bmatrix} f_A(\vec{e}_1) & f_A(\vec{e}_2) & f_A(\vec{e}_3) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Linear Mappings

We saw above that matrix mappings satisfy (L1) and (L2). Are there other maps with these properties?

Definition: If a function $L: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ satisfies

(L1) $L(\vec{x} + \vec{y}) = L(\vec{x}) + L(\vec{y})$ for all $\vec{x}, \vec{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, and

(L2) $L(t\vec{x}) = tL(\vec{x})$ for all $\vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $t \in \mathbb{R}$,

We call L a linear mapping or a linear transformation.

Ex: Show that the map $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ given by

$$f(x_1, x_2) = (x_2, x_1 - 2x_2) \text{ is linear.}$$

Solution: We must show

$$(L1) \quad \underline{f(\vec{x} + \vec{y}) = f(\vec{x}) + f(\vec{y})} \quad \text{and} \quad (L2) \quad \underline{f(t\vec{x}) = tf(\vec{x})}$$

for all $\vec{x}, \vec{y} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ and $t \in \mathbb{R}$.

$$\begin{aligned} (L1) \quad f(\vec{x} + \vec{y}) &= f(x_1 + y_1, x_2 + y_2) \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} x_2 + y_2 \\ (x_1 + y_1) - 2(x_2 + y_2) \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} x_2 + y_2 \\ (x_1 - 2x_2) + (y_1 - 2y_2) \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ x_1 - 2x_2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_1 - 2y_2 \end{bmatrix} = f(x_1, x_2) + f(y_1, y_2).$$

\therefore (L1) holds.

$$(L2): f(t\vec{x}) = f(tx_1, tx_2)$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} tx_2 \\ tx_1 - 2(tx_2) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} tx_2 \\ t(x_1 - 2x_2) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= t \begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ x_1 - 2x_2 \end{bmatrix} = t f(x_1, x_2) \quad \therefore \text{(L2) holds.}$$

Since f satisfies (L1) and (L2), f is linear!



To show a function is NOT linear, we must exhibit specific vectors that violate (L1) or (L2).

Ex: Show that the function $g: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ given by $g(x_1, x_2, x_3) = (x_1, x_2, x_3)$ is NOT linear.

Solution: Note that $g(1,1,1) = \begin{bmatrix} (1)(1) \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ and

$$g(2,2,2) = \begin{bmatrix} (2)(2) \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}. \quad \text{Uh oh...}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = 2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{but} \quad g(2,2,2) = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \neq 2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 2g(1,1,1)$$

\therefore (L2) fails, so g is NOT linear!

Alternative argument:

$$g(1,0,0) = \begin{bmatrix} (1)(0) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad g(0,1,0) = \begin{bmatrix} (0)(1) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{but } g(1,1,0) = \begin{bmatrix} (1)(1) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$\text{So } \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{but}$$

$$g(1,1,0) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \neq \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = g(1,0,0) + g(0,1,0).$$

Thus, (L1) fails, so g is NOT linear.

Ex: Is $h: \mathbb{R}^3 \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ given by

$$h(x_1, x_2, x_3) = (x_1 - x_2, x_1 + 4x_3)$$

a linear map?

Solution: Let's try to prove

$$(L1) \quad \underline{h(\vec{x} + \vec{y}) = h(\vec{x}) + h(\vec{y})} \quad \text{and} \quad (L2) \quad \underline{h(t\vec{x}) = t h(\vec{x})}$$

for all $\vec{x}, \vec{y} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ and $t \in \mathbb{R}$.

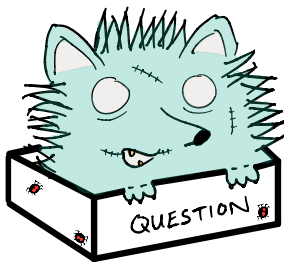
$$\begin{aligned} (L1): \quad h(\vec{x} + \vec{y}) &= h(x_1 + y_1, x_2 + y_2, x_3 + y_3) \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} (x_1 + y_1) - (x_2 + y_2) \\ (x_1 + y_1) + 4(x_3 + y_3) \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} (x_1 - x_2) + (y_1 - y_2) \\ (x_1 + 4x_3) + (y_1 + 4y_3) \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} x_1 - x_2 \\ x_1 + 4x_3 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} y_1 - y_2 \\ y_1 + 4y_3 \end{bmatrix} = h(\vec{x}) + h(\vec{y}). \end{aligned}$$

\therefore (L1) holds.

$$\begin{aligned}
 (L2) \quad h(t\vec{x}) &= h(tx_1, tx_2, tx_3) \\
 &= \begin{bmatrix} tx_1 - tx_2 \\ tx_1 + 4(tx_3) \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= \begin{bmatrix} t(x_1 - x_2) \\ t(x_1 + 4x_3) \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= t \begin{bmatrix} x_1 - x_2 \\ x_1 + 4x_3 \end{bmatrix} = t h(\vec{x})
 \end{aligned}$$

\therefore (L2) holds

Since h satisfies (L1) and (L2), h is linear.



We know that some linear mappings (matrix mappings) can be described using matrices. Can matrices be used to describe all linear mappings?

Hmm... to answer this let's consider an example.

Ex: Consider the mapping $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ given by

$$f(x_1, x_2) = (x_2, x_1 - x_2),$$

which we showed above is linear.

If this were a matrix mapping f_A , then its columns should be ...

$$1^{\text{st}} \text{ column} = f(\vec{e}_1) = f(1, 0) = (0, 1)$$

$$2^{\text{nd}} \text{ column} = f(\vec{e}_2) = f(0, 1) = (1, -1).$$

Taking $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$ we get

$$f_A(x_1, x_2) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ x_1 - x_2 \end{bmatrix} = f(x_1, x_2)$$

So yes, f is a matrix mapping! It turns out this is always the case.

Theorem: If $L: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is linear, then L can be represented as a matrix mapping with matrix

$$[L] = [L(\vec{e}_1) \quad L(\vec{e}_2) \quad \dots \quad L(\vec{e}_n)]$$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned}
 L(\vec{x}) &= L(x_1\vec{e}_1 + x_2\vec{e}_2 + \dots + x_n\vec{e}_n) \\
 &= x_1 L(\vec{e}_1) + x_2 L(\vec{e}_2) + \dots + x_n L(\vec{e}_n) \\
 &= \begin{bmatrix} L(\vec{e}_1) & L(\vec{e}_2) & \dots & L(\vec{e}_n) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= [L] \vec{x}
 \end{aligned}$$

Ex: Above, we saw that $h: \mathbb{R}^3 \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ given by

$$h(x_1, x_2, x_3) = (x_1 - x_2, x_1 + 4x_3)$$

is linear. How can we represent this as a matrix mapping? Use this to find $h(2, 1, 0)$.

Solution: The corresponding matrix is

$$[h] = [h(\vec{e}_1) \quad h(\vec{e}_2) \quad h(\vec{e}_3)]$$

Since

$$h(\vec{e}_1) = h(1, 0, 0) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$h(\vec{e}_2) = h(0, 1, 0) = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{and}$$

$$h(\vec{e}_3) = h(0, 0, 1) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}; \quad \text{we have}$$

$$[h] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Let's find $h(2,1,0)$!

$$h(2,1,0) = [h] \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Combinations of Mappings

Suppose we have functions

$$L: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m, \quad M: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m, \quad \text{and } t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

From these functions, we can make new functions:

[Sum] $L+M: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ given by $(L+M)(\vec{x}) = L(\vec{x}) + M(\vec{x})$

[Multiple] $tL: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ given by $(tL)(\vec{x}) = tL(\vec{x}),$

FACT: If L and M are linear, then so are $L+M$ and tL !

[This is not a tough fact to prove, but it is tedious.
Try it as an exercise!]

Note: If L and M are linear, we can find $[L]$ and $[M]$ by calculating $L(\vec{e}_i)$ and $M(\vec{e}_i)$.

Can we use $[L]$ and $[M]$ to find $[L+M]$?

Can we use $[L]$ to find $[tL]$?

Yes! It turns out that $[L+M] = [L] + [M]$

and $[tL] = t[L]$.

Why? Well, for any $\vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} [L+M]\vec{x} &= (L+M)\vec{x} \\ &= L(\vec{x}) + M(\vec{x}) \\ &= [L]\vec{x} + M[\vec{x}] = ([L] + [M])\vec{x} \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore [L+M] = [L] + [M]$ by Q3 of Assignment 7.

Exercise: Imitate the above argument to show that

$$[tL] = t[L].$$

Ex: Consider the mappings $L(x_1, x_2) = (x_1, x_1 + x_2)$

$$M(x_1, x_2) = (x_2, x_1 - x_2).$$

(As an exercise, show that L and M are linear.)

By the above FACT, the functions

$$\begin{aligned} (L+M)(x_1, x_2) &= L(x_1, x_2) + M(x_1, x_2) \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_1 + x_2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ x_1 - x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 + x_2 \\ 2x_1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (2L)(x_1, x_2) &= 2L(x_1, x_2) \\ &= 2 \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_1 + x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2x_1 \\ 2x_1 + 2x_2 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

are also linear.

What are $[L]$, $[M]$, $[L+M]$, $[2L]$?

We have $[L] = [L(\vec{e}_1) \ L(\vec{e}_2)] = \underline{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}}$

$$[M] = [M(\vec{e}_1) \ M(\vec{e}_2)] = \underline{\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}}$$

We could do the same thing to find $[L+M]$ and $[2L]$,
OR we could use the equations

$$[L+M] = [L] + [M] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} = \underline{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}}$$

$$[2L] = 2[L] = 2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \underline{\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}}$$

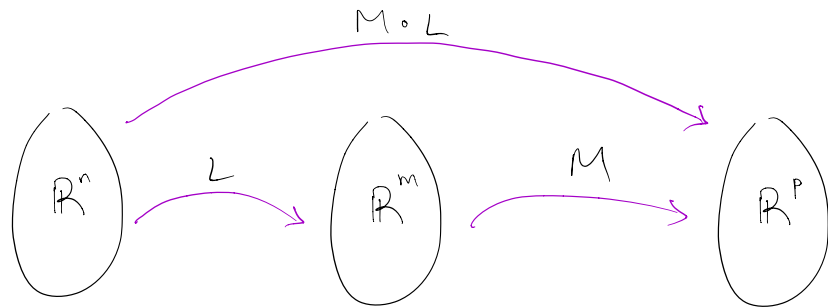
Compositions

Suppose we have mappings $L: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ and $M: \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$. We can form the composition

$$M \circ L: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p \text{ given by } (M \circ L)(\vec{x}) = M(L(\vec{x}))$$

\hookrightarrow [We read this right to left.
First apply L , then apply M]

Pictorially ...



Just like in the cases of addition and scalar multiplication, we have ...

If L and M are linear, then so is $M \circ L$

Why? Well, if $\vec{x}, \vec{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $t \in \mathbb{R}$, then

$$\begin{aligned}(M \circ L)(\vec{x} + \vec{y}) &= M(L(\vec{x} + \vec{y})) \\ &= M(L(\vec{x}) + L(\vec{y})) && \text{(as } L \text{ is linear)} \\ &= M(L(\vec{x})) + M(L(\vec{y})) && \text{(as } M \text{ is linear)} \\ &= (M \circ L)(\vec{x}) + (M \circ L)(\vec{y}) && \therefore \underline{(L1) \text{ holds}}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}(M \circ L)(t\vec{x}) &= M(L(t\vec{x})) \\ &= M(tL(\vec{x})) && \text{(as } L \text{ is linear)}\end{aligned}$$

$$= t M(L(\vec{x})) \quad (\text{as } M \text{ is linear})$$

$$= t (M \circ L)(\vec{x}) \quad \therefore \underline{(L2) \text{ holds}}$$

Just like before, if L and M are linear and we know $[L]$ and $[M]$, then we can find $[M \circ L]$.

Indeed, if \vec{x} is any vector in \mathbb{R}^n , then

$$\begin{aligned} [M \circ L] \vec{x} &= (M \circ L)(\vec{x}) \\ &= M(L(\vec{x})) \\ &= M([L] \vec{x}) = [M][L] \vec{x}. \end{aligned}$$

By Q3 of Assignment 7, we have $[M \circ L] = [M][L]$.

Ex: Consider the linear mappings from the previous example:

$$L(x_1, x_2) = (x_1, x_1 + x_2), \quad M(x_1, x_2) = (x_2, x_1 - x_2).$$

We found that $[L] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ and $[M] = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$.

By the above results, the composition map

$$\begin{aligned} (M \circ L)(x_1, x_2) &= M(L(x_1, x_2)) \\ &= M(x_1, x_1 + x_2) = (x_1 + x_2, -x_2) \end{aligned}$$

is also linear.

What is $[M \circ L]$?

We could find this by computing $(M \circ L)(\vec{e}_1)$ and $(M \circ L)(\vec{e}_2)$... OR we could use

$$[M \circ L] = [M][L] = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \underline{\underline{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}}}$$