

SECTION 2.4
EXERCISE #21

2.4.21 Prove that the two column vectors of a 2×2 matrix A are orthogonal unit vectors if and only if $A^T A = I$. Demonstrate that the matrix representations for the rigid motions in Examples 1 and 2 satisfy this condition.

Proof

Let the column vectors of A be $\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{bmatrix}$.
Then $A = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 & v_1 \\ u_2 & v_2 \end{bmatrix}$ and $A^T = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 & u_2 \\ v_1 & v_2 \end{bmatrix}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So } A^T A &= \begin{bmatrix} u_1 & u_2 \\ v_1 & v_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_1 & v_1 \\ u_2 & v_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 u_1 + u_2 u_2 & u_1 v_1 + u_2 v_2 \\ u_1 v_1 + u_2 v_2 & v_1 v_1 + v_2 v_2 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \vec{u} \cdot \vec{u} & \vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} \\ \vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} & \vec{v} \cdot \vec{v} \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence $A^T A = I$ if and only if $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{u} = 1$ and $\vec{v} \cdot \vec{v} = 1$ (i.e., $\|\vec{u}\| = 1$ and $\|\vec{v}\| = 1$), and $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = 0$ (i.e., \vec{u} and \vec{v} are orthogonal), as claimed. ■

Note This result holds for $n \times n$ matrices as well and motivates the definition of orthogonal matrix in section 6.3.

Solution

The rigid motion of Example 2 (see pages 156-57) is $A = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$. With the columns as

$$\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta \\ \sin \theta \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} -\sin \theta \\ \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \text{ we have}$$

$$\vec{u} \cdot \vec{u} = \cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta = 1, \quad \vec{v} \cdot \vec{v} = (-\sin \theta)^2 + \cos^2 \theta = 1,$$

and $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = \cos \theta (-\sin \theta) + \sin \theta \cos \theta = 0$ and so A satisfies this condition (so $A^T A = I$).

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SECTION 2.4

EXERCISE #21 (continued)

The rigid motion of Example 2 is described by
 $A = \begin{bmatrix} -3/5 & 4/5 \\ 4/5 & 3/5 \end{bmatrix}$. With the columns as

$$\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} -3/5 \\ 4/5 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 4/5 \\ 3/5 \end{bmatrix} \text{ we have}$$

$$\vec{u} \cdot \vec{u} = \left(\frac{-3}{5}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{4}{5}\right)^2 = \frac{9+16}{25} = \frac{25}{25} = 1,$$

$$\vec{v} \cdot \vec{v} = \left(\frac{4}{5}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^2 = \frac{16+9}{25} = \frac{25}{25} = 1, \text{ and}$$

$$\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = \left(\frac{-3}{5}\right)\left(\frac{4}{5}\right) + \left(\frac{4}{5}\right)\left(\frac{3}{5}\right) = \frac{-12+12}{25} = \frac{0}{25} = 0.$$

As $\|\vec{u}\| = \|\vec{v}\| = 1$, \vec{u} is perpendicular to \vec{v}
and so A satisfies "this condition"
(or $A^T A = I$). \square