

Problem Statement: Find the matrix (with respect to standard bases) of the linear operator $L: \mathcal{P}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_2$ defined by

$$L(p)(t) = \int_0^t p(\tau) d\tau + p'(t).$$

Solution: First the bases of the function must be defined. The natural basis for \mathcal{P}_1 is $\{t, 1\}$ and the natural basis for \mathcal{P}_2 is $\{t^2, t, 1\}$, where $p(t)$ is in \mathcal{P}_1 and $L(p)(t)$ is in \mathcal{P}_2 .

The matrix is defined as that matrix C which makes $L(p)(t) = Cp(t)$ and can be found by applying L to each of the components of the basis for \mathcal{P}_1 and placing these in columns. That is:

$$\begin{array}{l} t^2 \rightarrow \\ t \rightarrow \\ 1 \rightarrow \end{array} \begin{pmatrix} L(t) & L(1) \\ | & | \\ \perp & \perp \end{pmatrix} = C$$

Place t and 1 into L to find these values and place them into the matrix:

$$\begin{aligned} L(t) &= \frac{t^2}{2} + 1 \\ L(1) &= t \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

This can easily be checked by substituting an arbitrary \mathcal{P}_1 polynomial into both forms, the standard method and the matrix derived above. For example:

$$\begin{aligned} L(3t + 5) &= \frac{3}{2}t^2 + 5t + 3 \\ L(3t + 5) &= Cp(t) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{3}{2} \\ 5 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Which are equivalent results.