

1. Proposition: If $L_1, L_2 : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ are linear mappings, then so is the composition $L_3 = L_1 \circ L_2$.

Proof. First, it is clear that the composition $L_3(\mathbf{v}) = L_1(L_2(\mathbf{v}))$ is a well-defined mapping, taking $L_3 : \mathbb{R}^2 \xrightarrow{L_2} \mathbb{R}^2 \xrightarrow{L_1} \mathbb{R}^2$. We must also check the defining properties of a linear mapping, assuming these properties for L_1, L_2 :

$$\begin{aligned} L_3(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) &= L_1(L_2(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v})) = L_1(L_2(\mathbf{u}) + L_2(\mathbf{v})) \\ &= L_1(L_2(\mathbf{u})) + L_1(L_2(\mathbf{v})) = L_3(\mathbf{u}) + L_3(\mathbf{v}), \end{aligned}$$

$$L_3(s\mathbf{v}) = L_1(L_2(s\mathbf{v})) = L_1(sL_2(\mathbf{v})) = sL_1(L_2(\mathbf{v})) = sL_3(\mathbf{v}).$$

Hence L_3 is linear.

2a. Given $P(\mathbf{v}) = \frac{\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{a}}{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}} \mathbf{a}$, we have:

$$P(P(\mathbf{v})) = \frac{\left(\frac{\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{a}}{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}} \mathbf{a}\right) \cdot \mathbf{a}}{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}} \mathbf{a} = \frac{\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{a}}{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}} \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}}{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}} \mathbf{a} = P(\mathbf{v}).$$

Thus $\text{Proj}_{\mathbf{a}} \circ \text{Proj}_{\mathbf{a}} = \text{Proj}_{\mathbf{a}}$, and it is geometrically clear that projecting a second time to the \mathbf{a} -line has no effect. If $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, a_2)$, the matrix is:

$$[\text{Proj}_{\mathbf{a}}] = \frac{1}{a_1^2 + a_2^2} \begin{bmatrix} a_1^2 & a_1 a_2 \\ a_1 a_2 & a_2^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

where the scalar at left multiplies every entry of the matrix.

2b. Given $R(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{v} - 2\frac{\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{a}}{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}} \mathbf{a}$, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} R(R(\mathbf{v})) &= \left(\mathbf{v} - 2\frac{\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{a}}{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}} \mathbf{a}\right) - 2\frac{\left(\mathbf{v} - 2\frac{\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{a}}{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}} \mathbf{a}\right) \cdot \mathbf{a}}{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}} \mathbf{a} \\ &= \mathbf{v} - 2\frac{\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{a}}{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}} \mathbf{a} - 2\frac{\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{a}}{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}} \mathbf{a} + 4\frac{\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{a}}{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}} \mathbf{a} \\ &= \mathbf{v}. \end{aligned}$$

That is, $\text{Ref}_{\mathbf{a}} \circ \text{Ref}_{\mathbf{a}} = \text{I}$, the identity mapping $I(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{v}$ with matrix $[\text{I}] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

2c. The rotation is defined by: $R(x, y) = x(\cos \theta, \sin \theta) + y(-\sin \theta, \cos \theta)$. In particular taking $(x, y) = R(\mathbf{i}) = (\cos \theta, \sin \theta)$ gives:

$$\begin{aligned} R(R(\mathbf{i})) &= R(\cos \theta, \sin \theta) = \cos \theta(\cos \theta, \sin \theta) + \sin \theta(-\sin \theta, \cos \theta) \\ &= (\cos^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta, 2 \sin \theta \cos \theta), \end{aligned}$$

and similarly $R(R(\mathbf{j})) = (-2 \sin \theta \cos \theta, \cos^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta)$. Simplifying with the Double Angle Formulas from trigonometry, we find the matrix:

$$[\text{Rot}_{\theta} \circ \text{Rot}_{\theta}] = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(2\theta) & -\sin(2\theta) \\ \sin(2\theta) & \cos(2\theta) \end{bmatrix} = [\text{Rot}_{2\theta}].$$

Geometrically, this means two successive rotations by θ produce rotation by 2θ .

2d. If $R_1(x, y) = x(0, 1) + y(-1, 0) = (-y, x)$ and $R_2(x, y) = (-x, y)$, then: $R_1(R_2(x, y)) = R_2(-x, y) = (-y, -x)$, with matrix: $[R_1 \circ R_2] = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$. Drawing this shows it is $\text{Ref}_{(1,1)}$, reflection of the direction $\mathbf{a} = (1, 1)$ across the perpendicular line $y = -x$.

3. The linear mapping $R = \text{Ref}_{\mathbf{a}}$ reflects the vector $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, a_2)$ across its perpendicular line $a_1x + a_2y = 0$. Since we know $R(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{v} - 2\frac{\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{a}}{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}} \mathbf{a}$, we have:

$$R(\mathbf{i}) = (1, 0) - 2\frac{a_1}{a_1^2 + a_2^2}(a_1, a_2) = \frac{1}{a_1^2 + a_2^2}(a_2^2 - a_1^2, -2a_1a_2)$$

and similarly $R(\mathbf{j}) = \frac{1}{a_1^2 + a_2^2}(-2a_1a_2, a_1^2 - a_2^2)$. Writing these as columns gives the matrix:

$$[\text{Ref}_{\mathbf{a}}] = \frac{1}{a_1^2 + a_2^2} \begin{bmatrix} a_2^2 - a_1^2 & -2a_1a_2 \\ -2a_1a_2 & a_1^2 - a_2^2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The scalar on the left multiplies each element of the matrix; it disappears if $|\mathbf{a}| = 1$.