

Orthogonal Bases

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$$c_1\mathbf{0} + c_2\mathbf{v}_2 + \dots + c_r\mathbf{v}_r = \mathbf{0}.$$

Simply set $c_1 = 1$ and the rest of the $c_j = 0$.

Now suppose $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_r\}$ is orthogonal and that

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We can multiply this by \mathbf{v}_j^T to get

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To see this, let S be a subspace. It is enough to find an orthogonal spanning set in S : it will automatically be independent. Then we can replace each vector \mathbf{v}_j with $(1/\|\mathbf{v}_j\|)\mathbf{v}_j$ to get an orthonormal basis.

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We can repeat this until we have an orthogonal set $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_r\}$ in S with $r = \dim S$. Since the set is independent and its size is $\dim S$, it must also be spanning and so is a basis.

Theorem

Let S is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n and let $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_r\}$ be an orthogonal basis for S . If \mathbf{v} is any vector in \mathbb{R}^n and \mathbf{p} the element of S that is closest to \mathbf{v} , then

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Notice that each term in the sum $\sum_{j=1}^r \frac{\mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{v}_j}{\mathbf{v}_j^T \mathbf{v}_j} \mathbf{v}_j$ has the same formula as the vector projection of \mathbf{v} onto \mathbf{v}_j .

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To see why this is true, recall that the closest vector \mathbf{p} is the one that makes $\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{p} \perp S$.

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To see why this is true, recall that the closest vector \mathbf{p} is the one that makes $\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{p} \perp S$. So we only need to check that this formula makes $\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{p} \perp \mathbf{v}_i$ for each of the basis vectors \mathbf{v}_i .

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{v}_i^T (\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{p}) &= \mathbf{v}_i^T \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}_i^T \sum_{j=1}^r \frac{\mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{v}_j}{\mathbf{v}_j^T \mathbf{v}_j} \mathbf{v}_j \\ &= \mathbf{v}_i^T \mathbf{v} - \sum_{j=1}^r \frac{\mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{v}_j}{\mathbf{v}_j^T \mathbf{v}_j} \mathbf{v}_i^T \mathbf{v}_j \\ &= \mathbf{v}_i^T \mathbf{v} - \frac{\mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{v}_i}{\mathbf{v}_i^T \mathbf{v}_i} \mathbf{v}_i^T \mathbf{v}_i = \mathbf{v}_i^T \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{v}_i = 0\end{aligned}$$

Some key properties of the scalar product:

1. $\mathbf{0}^T \mathbf{0} = 0$, and if $\mathbf{v} \neq \mathbf{0}$ then $\mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{v} > 0$.

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We have seen that, because of the first of these, we can use $\|\mathbf{v}\| = (\mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{v})^{1/2}$ as a measure of the size of \mathbf{v} . Moreover, in the special cases \mathbb{R}^2 and \mathbb{R}^3 , $\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|$ is the distance between the points with coordinates \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{y} .

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1. $\langle \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0} \rangle = 0$, and if $f \neq \mathbf{0}$ then $\langle f, f \rangle > 0$.
2. $\langle f, g \rangle = \langle g, f \rangle$.
3. $\langle \alpha f + \beta g, h \rangle = \alpha \langle f, h \rangle + \beta \langle g, h \rangle$.

This suggests the following definition.

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If V is a vector space, then an *inner product* is an operation that assigns, to any pair of vectors \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{y} in V , a real number $\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle$ satisfying

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For example, this inner product applied to two polynomials $f(x) = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2$ and $g(x) = b_0 + b_1x + b_2x^2$ gives

$$\begin{aligned} \langle f, g \rangle &= a_0b_0 + (1/2)(a_0b_1 + a_1b_0) + (1/3)(a_0b_2 + a_1b_1 + a_2b_0) \\ &\quad + (1/4)(a_1b_2 + a_2b_1) + (1/5)a_2b_2 \end{aligned}$$

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We prove this by

$$\begin{aligned}\|\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y}\|^2 &= \langle \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} \rangle \\ &= \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} \rangle \\ &= \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y} \rangle \\ &= \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 + \|\mathbf{y}\|^2\end{aligned}$$

Theorem (Cauchy-Schwarz Inequality)

For any \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{y} in an inner product space,

$$|\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle| \leq \|\mathbf{x}\| \|\mathbf{y}\|$$

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Otherwise consider the following for any real numbers α and β

$$0 \leq \langle \alpha \mathbf{x} - \beta \mathbf{y}, \alpha \mathbf{x} - \beta \mathbf{y} \rangle$$

$$0 \leq \langle \alpha \mathbf{x}, \alpha \mathbf{x} \rangle + \langle \alpha \mathbf{x}, -\beta \mathbf{y} \rangle + \langle -\beta \mathbf{y}, \alpha \mathbf{x} \rangle + \langle -\beta \mathbf{y}, -\beta \mathbf{y} \rangle$$

$$0 \leq \alpha^2 \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x} \rangle - \alpha\beta \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle - \alpha\beta \langle \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x} \rangle + \beta^2 \langle \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y} \rangle$$

$$0 \leq \alpha^2 \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 - 2\alpha\beta \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle + \beta^2 \|\mathbf{y}\|^2$$

Altogether we get

$$\alpha\beta \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle \leq (1/2)(\alpha^2 \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 + \beta^2 \|\mathbf{y}\|^2)$$

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Since this holds for any α, β , let $\alpha = 1/\|\mathbf{x}\|$ and $\beta = 1/\|\mathbf{y}\|$ to get

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Theorem (Triangle Inequality)

For any pair of vectors \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{y} , $\|\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y}\| \leq \|\mathbf{x}\| + \|\mathbf{y}\|$.

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$$\begin{aligned}\|\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y}\|^2 &= \langle \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} \rangle \\ &= \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 + 2 \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle + \|\mathbf{y}\|^2 \\ &\leq \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 + 2 \|\mathbf{x}\| \|\mathbf{y}\| + \|\mathbf{y}\|^2 = (\|\mathbf{x}\| + \|\mathbf{y}\|)^2\end{aligned}$$

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Then take square roots to get $\|\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y}\| \leq \|\mathbf{x}\| + \|\mathbf{y}\|$.

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Then take square roots to get $\|\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y}\| \leq \|\mathbf{x}\| + \|\mathbf{y}\|$.

This allows us to express the distance between vectors by

$$d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|$$

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Then take square roots to get $\|\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y}\| \leq \|\mathbf{x}\| + \|\mathbf{y}\|$.

This allows us to express the distance between vectors by

$d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|$ and deduce that

$$\begin{aligned}d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) &= \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z}\| = \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{z}\| \\ &\leq \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\| + \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{z}\| = d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) + d(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z})\end{aligned}$$