

# 5.1 Inner Product Spaces

• Recall that for  $z = x + iy \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $\bar{z} = x - iy$  and  $|z|^2 = \bar{z}z = x^2 + y^2$ .

• For  $\vec{z} = \begin{pmatrix} z_1 \\ \vdots \\ z_n \end{pmatrix}, \vec{w} = \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^n$  we define the inner product of  $\vec{z}$  and  $\vec{w}$  by

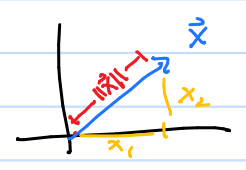
$$\langle \vec{z}, \vec{w} \rangle := \sum_{i=1}^n \bar{w}_i z_i$$

• For  $\vec{z} = \begin{pmatrix} z_1 \\ \vdots \\ z_n \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^n$  we define the norm of  $\vec{z}$  by

$$\|\vec{z}\| = \langle \vec{z}, \vec{z} \rangle^{1/2} = \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \bar{z}_i z_i \right)^{1/2} = \left( \sum_{i=1}^n |z_i|^2 \right)^{1/2}$$

**Ex** Let  $\vec{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ . Then

$$\|\vec{x}\| = \sqrt{|x_1|^2 + |x_2|^2} = \underbrace{\sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2}}_{\text{length of vector}}$$



**Def** For  $A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$ , the adjoint of  $A$  is the matrix  $A^* \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$  with entries  $(A^*)_{ij} = \overline{(A)_{ji}}$ .

• For  $\vec{w} = \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^n$ , if we think of  $\vec{w} \in M_{n \times 1}(\mathbb{C})$ , then

$$\vec{w}^* = (\bar{w}_1, \dots, \bar{w}_n) \in M_{1 \times n}(\mathbb{C})$$

and for  $\vec{z} \in \mathbb{C}^n$

$$\langle \vec{z}, \vec{w} \rangle = \bar{w}_1 z_1 + \dots + \bar{w}_n z_n = \vec{w}^* \vec{z} \quad \leftarrow \text{matrix multiplication.}$$

**Rem** Note that the inner product satisfies the following properties

- ①  $\langle \vec{w}, \vec{z} \rangle = \overline{\langle \vec{z}, \vec{w} \rangle}$
- ②  $\langle \alpha \vec{z}_1 + \beta \vec{z}_2, \vec{w} \rangle = \alpha \langle \vec{z}_1, \vec{w} \rangle + \beta \langle \vec{z}_2, \vec{w} \rangle$  for all  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{C}$
- ③  $\langle \vec{z}, \vec{z} \rangle = \|\vec{z}\|^2 \geq 0$
- ④  $\langle \vec{z}, \vec{z} \rangle = 0 \Rightarrow \vec{z} = \vec{0}$ .

**Def** Let  $V$  be vector space. A inner product on  $V$  is a map that assigns to each pair of vectors  $\vec{v}, \vec{w} \in V$  a scalar denoted  $\langle \vec{v}, \vec{w} \rangle$  with the following properties:

- ① Conjugate symmetry:  $\langle \vec{w}, \vec{v} \rangle = \overline{\langle \vec{v}, \vec{w} \rangle}$  for all  $\vec{v}, \vec{w} \in V$ .  
(If  $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}$ , then this replaced with symmetry:  $\langle \vec{w}, \vec{v} \rangle = \langle \vec{v}, \vec{w} \rangle$  for all  $\vec{v}, \vec{w} \in V$ .)
- ② Linearity:  $\langle \alpha \vec{u} + \beta \vec{v}, \vec{w} \rangle = \alpha \langle \vec{u}, \vec{w} \rangle + \beta \langle \vec{v}, \vec{w} \rangle$  for scalars  $\alpha, \beta$  and all  $\vec{u}, \vec{v}, \vec{w} \in V$ .
- ③ Non-negativity:  $\langle \vec{v}, \vec{v} \rangle \geq 0$  for all  $\vec{v} \in V$ .
- ④ Non-degeneracy:  $\langle \vec{v}, \vec{v} \rangle = 0$  if and only if  $\vec{v} = \vec{0}$ .

We call  $V$  together with the map  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  an inner product space. For each  $\vec{v} \in V$ , the norm of  $\vec{v}$  is the quantity: 
$$\|\vec{v}\| = \sqrt{\langle \vec{v}, \vec{v} \rangle}.$$

**Ex** (1)  $\mathbb{C}^n$  (and  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ) is an inner product space with inner product  
 $\langle \vec{z}, \vec{w} \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n \bar{w}_i z_i$ .

(2) Define

$$\ell^2(\mathbb{N}) = \left\{ (a_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} : a_n \in \mathbb{C}, \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |a_n|^2 < \infty \right\}$$

Then this is a vector space with operations

$$(a_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} + (b_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} = (a_n + b_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$$

$$\alpha (a_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} = (\alpha a_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$$

Moreover, it has an inner product:

$$\langle (a_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}, (b_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \rangle_{\ell^2} := \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \bar{b}_n a_n,$$

but one has to justify why the series on the right converges. Note that

$$\|(a_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}\|_{\ell^2} := \left( \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |a_n|^2 \right)^{1/2}.$$

(3) Let  $C[0,1]$  be the vector space of cts. functions  $f: [0,1] \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$  with operations

$$(f+g)(t) = f(t) + g(t)$$

$$(\alpha f)(t) = \alpha f(t)$$

This is an inner product space with inner product:

$$\langle f, g \rangle_{\ell^2} := \int_0^1 f(t) \overline{g(t)} dt.$$

Note that for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\mathbb{P}_n \subseteq C[0,1]$ .

(4)  $M_{n \times n}$  can be made into an inner product space:

$$\langle A, B \rangle_{\ell^2} := \text{Tr}(B^* A) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \bar{B}_{ij} A_{ij}$$

Note that

$$\|A\|_{\ell^2} = \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n |A_{ij}|^2 \right)^{1/2}.$$

## Properties of Inner Product Spaces

Fix an inner product space  $(V, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ . Note that (1) and (2) imply:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \vec{u}, \alpha \vec{v} + \beta \vec{w} \rangle &= \overline{\langle \alpha \vec{v} + \beta \vec{w}, \vec{u} \rangle} = \overline{\alpha \langle \vec{v}, \vec{u} \rangle + \beta \langle \vec{w}, \vec{u} \rangle} \\ &= \overline{\alpha} \overline{\langle \vec{v}, \vec{u} \rangle} + \overline{\beta} \overline{\langle \vec{w}, \vec{u} \rangle} = \overline{\alpha} \langle \vec{u}, \vec{v} \rangle + \overline{\beta} \langle \vec{u}, \vec{w} \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Thus the inner product is conjugate linear in the second coordinate.

$$(2') \quad \langle \vec{u}, \alpha \vec{v} + \beta \vec{w} \rangle = \overline{\alpha} \langle \vec{u}, \vec{v} \rangle + \overline{\beta} \langle \vec{u}, \vec{w} \rangle$$

(2) also implies (Exercise)

$$* \quad \langle \vec{v}, \vec{0} \rangle = \langle \vec{0}, \vec{v} \rangle = 0 \quad \forall \vec{v} \in V.$$

**Lemma** For  $\vec{v} \in V$ ,  $\vec{v} = \vec{0}$  if and only if

$$\langle \vec{v}, \vec{w} \rangle = 0 \quad \forall \vec{w} \in V.$$

**Proof** ( $\Rightarrow$ ) This follows from (\*).

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Note  $\|\vec{v}\| = (\langle \vec{v}, \vec{v} \rangle)^{1/2} = 0$ . So  $\vec{v} = \vec{0}$  by (4). □

**Cor** For  $\vec{x}, \vec{y} \in V$ ,  $\vec{x} = \vec{y}$  if and only if  
 $\langle \vec{x}, \vec{w} \rangle = \langle \vec{y}, \vec{w} \rangle \quad \forall \vec{w} \in V.$

Moreover, if  $A, B: U \rightarrow V$  are linear transformations, then  $A = B$  if and only if  
 $\langle A\vec{u}, \vec{w} \rangle = \langle B\vec{u}, \vec{w} \rangle \quad \forall \vec{u} \in U, \vec{w} \in V.$

**Proof** For the first statement, apply the previous lemma to  $\vec{v} := \vec{x} - \vec{y}$  and use linearity. For the second statement, the only if direction ( $\Rightarrow$ ) is obvious. For the other direction, fix  $\vec{u} \in U$ . Then the first statement implies  $A\vec{u} = B\vec{u}$ . Since  $\vec{u} \in U$  was arbitrary, we have  $A = B$ . □

**Thm** (Cauchy-Schwarz Inequality)

Let  $V$  be an inner product space. Then for any  $\vec{x}, \vec{y} \in V$

$$|\langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle| \leq \|\vec{x}\| \|\vec{y}\|.$$

**Proof** Let  $t \in \mathbb{C}$  and consider

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq \|\vec{x} - t\vec{y}\|^2 = \langle \vec{x} - t\vec{y}, \vec{x} - t\vec{y} \rangle \\ &= \langle \vec{x}, \vec{x} - t\vec{y} \rangle - t \langle \vec{y}, \vec{x} - t\vec{y} \rangle \\ &= \langle \vec{x}, \vec{x} \rangle - t \langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle - t \langle \vec{y}, \vec{x} \rangle + |t|^2 \langle \vec{y}, \vec{y} \rangle \\ &\stackrel{\circledast}{=} \|\vec{x}\|^2 - \bar{t} \langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle - t \langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle + |t|^2 \|\vec{y}\|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Set  $t := \frac{\langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle}{\|\vec{y}\|^2}$ . Then the above becomes

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq \dots \stackrel{\circledast}{=} \|\vec{x}\|^2 - \frac{|\langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle|^2}{\|\vec{y}\|^2} - \frac{|\langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle|^2}{\|\vec{y}\|^2} + \frac{|\langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle|^2}{\|\vec{y}\|^4} \cdot \|\vec{y}\|^2 \\ &= \|\vec{x}\|^2 - \frac{|\langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle|^2}{\|\vec{y}\|^2} \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\frac{|\langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle|^2}{\|\vec{y}\|^2} \leq \|\vec{x}\|^2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad |\langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle|^2 \leq \|\vec{x}\|^2 \cdot \|\vec{y}\|^2. \quad \square$$

**EX** For  $V = \mathbb{R}^2$ , you might recall

$$\langle \vec{v}, \vec{w} \rangle = \cos \theta \|\vec{v}\| \cdot \|\vec{w}\|$$

where  $\theta$  is the angle between  $\vec{v}$  and  $\vec{w}$ . Since  $-1 \leq \cos \theta \leq 1$ , we have  $|\cos \theta| \leq 1$ , so the above formula implies the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality:

$$|\langle \vec{v}, \vec{w} \rangle| = |\cos \theta| \cdot \|\vec{v}\| \cdot \|\vec{w}\| \leq \|\vec{v}\| \|\vec{w}\|. \quad \square$$

**Thm** Let  $V$  be an inner product space, and let  $\vec{x}, \vec{y} \in V$ .

① (Triangle Inequality)  $\|\vec{x} + \vec{y}\| \leq \|\vec{x}\| + \|\vec{y}\|.$

② (Polarization Identity)  $\langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle = \frac{1}{4} (\|\vec{x} + \vec{y}\|^2 - \|\vec{x} - \vec{y}\|^2 + i\|\vec{x} + i\vec{y}\|^2 - i\|\vec{x} - i\vec{y}\|^2) = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{k=1}^4 i^k \|\vec{x} + i^k \vec{y}\|^2$   
*just true if  $V$  is real vector space*

③ (Parallelogram Identity)  $\|\vec{x} + \vec{y}\|^2 + \|\vec{x} - \vec{y}\|^2 = 2(\|\vec{x}\|^2 + \|\vec{y}\|^2)$

Proof All three parts are proven by direct computation.

① We compute

$$\begin{aligned} \|\vec{x} + \vec{y}\|^2 &= \langle \vec{x} + \vec{y}, \vec{x} + \vec{y} \rangle = \|\vec{x}\|^2 + \underbrace{\langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle + \overline{\langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle}}_{= 2 \cdot \text{real part of } \langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle} + \|\vec{y}\|^2 \\ &= \|\vec{x}\|^2 + 2|\langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle| + \|\vec{y}\|^2 \\ \text{Cauchy-Schwarz} &\leq \|\vec{x}\|^2 + 2\|\vec{x}\| \cdot \|\vec{y}\| + \|\vec{y}\|^2 = (\|\vec{x}\| + \|\vec{y}\|)^2 \end{aligned}$$

② We first compute

$$\begin{aligned} \|\vec{x} + \vec{y}\|^2 + i\|\vec{x} + i\vec{y}\|^2 &= \|\vec{x}\|^2 + \langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle + \overline{\langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle} + \|\vec{y}\|^2 + i(\|\vec{x}\|^2 - i\langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle + i\overline{\langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle} + \|\vec{y}\|^2) \\ &= (1+i)(\|\vec{x}\|^2 + \|\vec{y}\|^2) + 2\langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle \end{aligned}$$

Swapping  $-\vec{y}$  for  $\vec{y}$  yields

$$\|\vec{x} - \vec{y}\|^2 + i\|\vec{x} - i\vec{y}\|^2 = (1+i)(\|\vec{x}\|^2 + \|\vec{y}\|^2) - 2\langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle.$$

Thus

$$\sum_{k=1}^4 (i)^k \|\vec{x} + (i)^k \vec{y}\|^2 = 4\langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle.$$

③ We compare

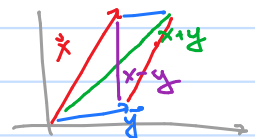
$$\begin{aligned} \|\vec{x} + \vec{y}\|^2 + \|\vec{x} - \vec{y}\|^2 &= \|\vec{x}\|^2 + \langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle + \overline{\langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle} + \|\vec{y}\|^2 + \|\vec{x}\|^2 - \langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle - \overline{\langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle} + \|\vec{y}\|^2 \\ &=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

Ex For  $V = \mathbb{R}^2$ , ① says the length of  $\vec{x} + \vec{y}$  is at most the length of  $\vec{x}$  plus the length of  $\vec{y}$ .

In other words, it's shorter to travel straight along  $\vec{x} + \vec{y}$ , rather than along  $\vec{x}$  then along  $\vec{y}$ .



② is a fact from geometry about parallelograms: the sum of the squares of the diagonals equals the sum of the squares of all four side lengths.



11/19

## Normed Vector Spaces

• We have seen that all inner products give rise to norms, but these are objects that can be studied independently.

Def For a vector space  $V$ , a norm is a map from  $V$  to  $\mathbb{R}$  satisfying:

- ① (Homogeneity)  $\|\alpha \vec{v}\| = |\alpha| \|\vec{v}\|$  for all scalars  $\alpha$  and  $\vec{v} \in V$ .
- ② (Triangle Inequality)  $\|\vec{u} + \vec{v}\| \leq \|\vec{u}\| + \|\vec{v}\|$  for all  $\vec{u}, \vec{v} \in V$ .
- ③ (Non-negativity)  $\|\vec{v}\| \geq 0$  for all  $\vec{v} \in V$ .
- ④ (Non-degeneracy)  $\|\vec{v}\| = 0$  if and only if  $\vec{v} = \vec{0}$ .

We call  $V$  along with the map  $\|\cdot\|$  a normed vector space.

Clearly every inner product space is a normed vector space, but the converse is not true.

**Ex** Fix  $1 \leq p < \infty$ . The following norms come from inner products iff  $p=2$ .

① For  $\vec{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)^T \in \mathbb{F}^n$  define

$$\|\vec{x}\|_p := \left( \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|^p \right)^{1/p} \quad \leftarrow \text{to ensure homogeneity}$$

② Define

$$\ell^p(\mathbb{N}) := \{ (a_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} : a_n \in \mathbb{C}, \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |a_n|^p < \infty \}$$

with

$$\|(a_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}\|_p := \left( \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |a_n|^p \right)^{1/p}$$

③ For  $f \in C[0,1]$  define

$$\|f\|_p := \left( \int_0^1 |f(t)|^p dt \right)^{1/p}$$

④ For  $A \in M_{m \times n}$  define

$$\|A\|_p := \text{Tr} \left( (A^*A)^{p/2} \right)^{1/p}$$

One can also make sense of  $p = \infty$  for each of the above. For example

$$\|\vec{x}\|_{\infty} = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} |x_i| \quad \text{and} \quad \|f\|_{\infty} = \max_{0 \leq t \leq 1} |f(t)|. \quad \square$$

! One way to tell if a norm comes from an inner product is the following theorem.

**Thm** Let  $V$  be a normed vector space with norm  $\|\cdot\|$ . Then the norm comes from an inner product if and only if it satisfies the parallelogram identity:

$$\|\vec{x} + \vec{y}\|^2 + \|\vec{x} - \vec{y}\|^2 = 2(\|\vec{x}\|^2 + \|\vec{y}\|^2) \quad \forall \vec{x}, \vec{y} \in V.$$

**Proof** ( $\Rightarrow$ ) This is ③ from the previous theorem.

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Homework 10. □

## S.2 Orthogonality

**Def** In an inner product space  $V$ , we say  $\vec{v}, \vec{w} \in V$  are orthogonal if  $\langle \vec{v}, \vec{w} \rangle = 0$ , in which case we write  $\vec{v} \perp \vec{w}$ .

**Ex** ① In  $\mathbb{F}^3$ ,

$$\langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ a \\ b \end{pmatrix} \rangle = 1 \cdot 0 + 0 \cdot a + 0 \cdot b = 0$$

In particular  $\vec{e}_1 \perp \vec{e}_2$  and  $\vec{e}_1 \perp \vec{e}_3$

② For the std. basis  $\vec{e}_1, \dots, \vec{e}_n \in \mathbb{F}^n$ ,  $\vec{e}_i \perp \vec{e}_j$  whenever  $i \neq j$ .

③  $C[-1,1]$  has inner product

$$\langle f, g \rangle_2 = \int_{-1}^1 f(t) \overline{g(t)} dt$$

Let  $f(t) = t^{2n}$ ,  $g(t) = t^{2m+1}$ . Then

$$\langle f, g \rangle_2 = \int_{-1}^1 t^{2n} t^{2m+1} dt = \int_{-1}^1 t^{\overbrace{2(n+m)+1}^{\text{odd}}} dt = 0$$

so  $f \perp g$ . □

• Observe that  $\vec{v} \perp \vec{v} \Leftrightarrow \langle \vec{v}, \vec{v} \rangle = 0 \Leftrightarrow \vec{v} = \vec{0}$ .

• If  $\vec{v} \perp \vec{w}$  then

$$\|\vec{v} + \vec{w}\|^2 = \|\vec{v}\|^2 + \|\vec{w}\|^2 \quad (\text{Pythagorean Identity})$$

Indeed:

$$\|\vec{v} + \vec{w}\|^2 = \langle \vec{v} + \vec{w}, \vec{v} + \vec{w} \rangle = \|\vec{v}\|^2 + \langle \vec{v}, \vec{w} \rangle + \langle \vec{w}, \vec{v} \rangle + \|\vec{w}\|^2 = \|\vec{v}\|^2 + \|\vec{w}\|^2$$

**Def** Let  $V$  be an inner product space. We say  $\vec{v} \in V$  is orthogonal to a subspace  $E \subset V$  if  $\vec{v} \perp \vec{w}$  for all  $\vec{w} \in E$ . We write  $\vec{v} \perp E$ .

We say two subspaces  $E, F \subset V$  are orthogonal if  $\vec{v} \perp \vec{w}$  for all  $\vec{v} \in E$  and  $\vec{w} \in F$ .

**Ex** Let  $A \in M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{C})$ . Then  $\text{Ker}(A) \perp \text{Ran}(A^*)$ . Indeed, let  $\vec{v} \in \text{Ker}(A)$  and  $\vec{w} \in \text{Ran}(A^*)$ .

Then  $\vec{w} = A^* \vec{u}$  for some  $\vec{u} \in \mathbb{C}^m$ . Now

$$\langle \vec{v}, \vec{w} \rangle = \vec{w}^* \vec{v} = (A^* \vec{u})^* \vec{v} = (\vec{u}^* A) \vec{v} = \vec{u}^* (A \vec{v}) = \vec{u}^* \vec{0} = 0.$$

Thus  $\vec{v} \perp \vec{w}$ . □

**Lemma** Let  $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_r \in V$  and let  $E = \text{span}\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_r\}$ . Then for  $\vec{v} \in V$ , we have  $\vec{v} \perp E$  if and only if  $\vec{v} \perp \vec{v}_k$  for each  $k=1, \dots, r$ .

**Proof** ( $\Rightarrow$ ) Since  $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_r \in E$ , this follows by definition of  $\vec{v} \perp E$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Suppose  $\vec{v} \perp \vec{v}_k$  for each  $k=1, \dots, r$ . Let  $\vec{w} \in E$ , then

$$\vec{w} = \alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_r \vec{v}_r$$

for some scalars  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r$ . We have

$$\langle \vec{v}, \vec{w} \rangle = \langle \vec{v}, \alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_r \vec{v}_r \rangle = \alpha_1 \langle \vec{v}, \vec{v}_1 \rangle + \dots + \alpha_r \langle \vec{v}, \vec{v}_r \rangle = 0$$

So  $\vec{v} \perp \vec{w}$ , and since  $\vec{w} \in E$  was arbitrary we have  $\vec{v} \perp E$ . □

**Def** In an inner product space  $V$ , a system  $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n \in V$  is called orthogonal if  $\vec{v}_i \perp \vec{v}_j$  whenever  $i \neq j$ . The system is said to be orthonormal if it is orthogonal and  $\|\vec{v}_i\| = 1$  for each  $i=1, \dots, n$ .

**Ex** In  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\vec{e}_1, \dots, \vec{e}_n$  is orthonormal. □

**Lemma** (Generalized Pythagorean Identity) Let  $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n$  be an orthogonal system. Then 11/21

$$\|\alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_n \vec{v}_n\|^2 = |\alpha_1|^2 \|\vec{v}_1\|^2 + \dots + |\alpha_n|^2 \|\vec{v}_n\|^2$$

for any scalars  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ .

**Proof** We compute

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_j \vec{v}_j \right\|^2 &= \left\langle \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_j \vec{v}_j, \sum_{k=1}^n \alpha_k \vec{v}_k \right\rangle \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \alpha_j \alpha_k \langle \vec{v}_j, \vec{v}_k \rangle \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_j \alpha_j \langle \vec{v}_j, \vec{v}_j \rangle = \sum_{j=1}^n |\alpha_j|^2 \|\vec{v}_j\|^2. \end{aligned}$$
□

**Cor** Any orthogonal system  $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n$  of non-zero vectors is linearly independent.

**Proof** Suppose

$$\alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_n \vec{v}_n = \vec{0}$$

for some scalars  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ . Then using the lemma we have

$$0 = \|\vec{0}\|^2 = \|\alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_n \vec{v}_n\|^2 = |\alpha_1|^2 \|\vec{v}_1\|^2 + \dots + |\alpha_n|^2 \|\vec{v}_n\|^2$$

Note  $\|\vec{v}_j\| \neq 0$  since  $\vec{v}_j \neq \vec{0}$  for each  $j=1, \dots, n$ . So the only way the sum of non-negative numbers on the right equals zero is if  $|\alpha_1|^2 = \dots = |\alpha_n|^2 = 0 \Rightarrow \alpha_1 = \dots = \alpha_n = 0$ .

Thus  $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n$  are linearly independent. □

**Ex** In  $C[-1,1]$ , consider

$$f_n(t) := e^{i\pi n t} \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

We claim  $f_n \perp f_m$  for  $n \neq m$ . **Fact**  $e^{ix} = \cos(x) + i \sin(x)$  for  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . Thus

$$\langle f_n, f_m \rangle_2 = \int_{-1}^1 f_n(t) \overline{f_m(t)} dt = \int_{-1}^1 e^{i\pi n t} e^{-i\pi m t} dt = \int_{-1}^1 e^{i\pi(n-m)t} dt$$

$$= \int_{-1}^1 \cos(\pi(n-m)t) + i \sin(\pi(n-m)t) dt$$

$$\stackrel{n-m \neq 0}{=} \left[ \frac{\sin(\pi(n-m)t)}{\pi(n-m)} - i \frac{\cos(\pi(n-m)t)}{\pi(n-m)} \right]_{-1}^1 = 0$$

**Exercise**: compute  $\langle f_n, f_n \rangle_2$ .

Thus for any  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $f_{-N}, f_{-(N-1)}, \dots, f_{-1}, f_0, f_1, \dots, f_N$  is an orthogonal system, and so by

The lemma it is linearly independent. Since we can increase  $N$  to however large we want, it follows that  $C[-1,1]$  is infinite dimensional.

Fact "Fourier Analysis" says  $\{f_n: n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  is generating for  $C[-1,1]$  (in a certain sense).  $\square$

## Orthonormal Bases

Def An orthogonal (resp. orthonormal) basis is an orthogonal (resp. orthonormal) system that is also a basis (i.e. generating).

• Recall that given an arbitrary basis  $B$  for  $V$ , computing coordinate vectors can be hard. E.g. for  $\vec{x} \in \mathbb{F}^n$

$$[\vec{x}]_B = [I]_B^B [\vec{x}]_S = ([I]_B^S)^{-1} \vec{x}$$

What makes orthogonal basis nice is that these are much easier to find.

Prop Let  $V$  be an inner product space, and let  $B = \{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n\}$  be an orthogonal basis. Then for any  $\vec{x} \in V$ ,

$$[\vec{x}]_B = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)^T$$

where

$$* \quad \alpha_k = \frac{\langle \vec{x}, \vec{v}_k \rangle}{\|\vec{v}_k\|^2} \quad k=1, \dots, n.$$

Proof Since  $B$  is a basis we know

$$\vec{x} = \alpha_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \alpha_n \vec{v}_n$$

for some scalars  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ . We must show these scalars are as in (\*). For  $1 \leq k \leq n$ , we have

$$\langle \vec{x}, \vec{v}_k \rangle = \left\langle \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_j \vec{v}_j, \vec{v}_k \right\rangle = \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_j \langle \vec{v}_j, \vec{v}_k \rangle = \alpha_k \langle \vec{v}_k, \vec{v}_k \rangle = \alpha_k \|\vec{v}_k\|^2.$$

Solving for  $\alpha_k$  yields (\*).  $\square$

• Note that this proposition implies

$$\vec{x} = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\langle \vec{x}, \vec{v}_k \rangle}{\|\vec{v}_k\|^2} \vec{v}_k$$

for all  $\vec{x} \in V$ . If we further assume that  $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n$  is orthonormal, then this simplifies to

$$\vec{x} = \sum_{k=1}^n \langle \vec{x}, \vec{v}_k \rangle \vec{v}_k.$$



### 5.3 Orthogonal projections and Gram-Schmidt orthogonalization

**Def** Let  $V$  be an inner product space and let  $E \subset V$  be a subspace. An orthogonal projection onto  $E$  is a linear transformation  $P_E: V \rightarrow V$  satisfying

- ①  $P_E(\vec{v}) \in E$  for all  $\vec{v} \in V$ .
- ②  $(\vec{v} - P_E(\vec{v})) \perp E$  for all  $\vec{v} \in V$ .

**Ex** Let  $E = \text{span}\{\vec{e}_2, \vec{e}_3\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3$ . Then  $P_E\left(\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix}\right) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix}$ . Indeed, it clearly satisfies ① and

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} - P_E\left(\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix}\right) = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = x\vec{e}_1 \perp E. \quad \square$$

**Prop** Let  $V$  be an inner product space and let  $E$  be a subspace. Suppose  $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_r$  is an orthogonal basis for  $E$ . Then the orthogonal projection onto  $E$  is given by

$$P_E(\vec{v}) = \sum_{k=1}^r \frac{\langle \vec{v}, \vec{v}_k \rangle}{\|\vec{v}_k\|^2} \vec{v}_k.$$

**Proof** First note that  $P_E$  is linear by the linearity of the inner product. Also,

$$P_E(\vec{v}) \in \text{span}\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_r\} = E$$

so  $P_E$  satisfies ①. So it remains to check ②. By the first Lemma in Section 5.2, it suffices to show  $(\vec{v} - P_E(\vec{v})) \perp \vec{v}_k$  for each  $k=1, \dots, r$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \vec{v} - P_E(\vec{v}), \vec{v}_k \rangle &= \langle \vec{v}, \vec{v}_k \rangle - \langle P_E(\vec{v}), \vec{v}_k \rangle \\ &= \langle \vec{v}, \vec{v}_k \rangle - \left\langle \sum_{j=1}^r \frac{\langle \vec{v}, \vec{v}_j \rangle}{\|\vec{v}_j\|^2} \vec{v}_j, \vec{v}_k \right\rangle \\ &= \langle \vec{v}, \vec{v}_k \rangle - \sum_{j=1}^r \frac{\langle \vec{v}, \vec{v}_j \rangle}{\|\vec{v}_j\|^2} \langle \vec{v}_j, \vec{v}_k \rangle \\ &= \langle \vec{v}, \vec{v}_k \rangle - \frac{\langle \vec{v}, \vec{v}_k \rangle \langle \vec{v}_k, \vec{v}_k \rangle}{\|\vec{v}_k\|^2} \\ &= \langle \vec{v}, \vec{v}_k \rangle - \langle \vec{v}, \vec{v}_k \rangle = 0. \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

**Ex** Recall that in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ ,  $\langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle = \vec{y}^* \vec{x}$ . Thus for a subspace  $E \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  with orthogonal basis  $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_r$  the Proposition says:

$$P_E(\vec{x}) = \sum_{k=1}^r \frac{1}{\|\vec{v}_k\|^2} (\vec{v}_k^* \vec{x}) \vec{v}_k = \sum_{k=1}^r \frac{1}{\|\vec{v}_k\|^2} \vec{v}_k \vec{v}_k^* \vec{x}$$

Observe that  $\vec{v}_k \vec{v}_k^* \in M_{n \times n} \cdot M_{n \times n} = \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ . It follows that

$$[P_E] = \sum_{k=1}^r \frac{1}{\|\vec{v}_k\|^2} \vec{v}_k \vec{v}_k^* \in M_{n \times n}. \quad \square$$

**Thm** Let  $V$  be an inner product space and let  $P_E$  be an orthogonal projection onto a subspace  $E$ . Then for all  $\vec{v} \in V$  and all  $\vec{x} \in E$

$$\|\vec{v} - P_E(\vec{v})\| = \|\vec{v} - \vec{x}\|$$

That is,  $P_E(\vec{v})$  minimizes the distance from  $\vec{v}$  to  $E$ . Moreover, if for some  $\vec{x} \in E$

$$\|\vec{v} - P_E(\vec{v})\| = \|\vec{v} - \vec{x}\|$$

Then  $P_E(\vec{v}) = \vec{x}$ . Consequently, any orthogonal projection onto  $E$  is unique.

Proof For  $\vec{v} \in V$  and  $\vec{x} \in E$ , note that

$$\vec{v} - \vec{x} = \underbrace{\vec{v} - P_E(\vec{v})}_{\perp E} + \underbrace{P_E(\vec{v}) - \vec{x}}_{\in E}$$

So by the Pythagorean theorem

$$\begin{aligned} \|\vec{v} - \vec{x}\|^2 &= \|(\vec{v} - P_E(\vec{v})) + (P_E(\vec{v}) - \vec{x})\|^2 \\ &= \|\vec{v} - P_E(\vec{v})\|^2 + \|P_E(\vec{v}) - \vec{x}\|^2 \geq \|\vec{v} - P_E(\vec{v})\|^2 \end{aligned}$$

which proves the first part. Note that  $\|\vec{v} - \vec{x}\| = \|\vec{v} - P_E(\vec{v})\|$  is only possible if

$$\|P_E(\vec{v}) - \vec{x}\| = 0 \iff P_E(\vec{v}) - \vec{x} = \vec{0} \iff P_E(\vec{v}) = \vec{x}.$$

Finally, let  $P'_E$  be another orthogonal projection onto  $E$ . Then by the first part of the theorem

$$\|\vec{v} - P_E(\vec{v})\| \leq \|\vec{v} - P'_E(\vec{v})\|$$

and reversing the roles of  $P_E$  and  $P'_E$  we get  $\|\vec{v} - P_E(\vec{v})\| = \|\vec{v} - P'_E(\vec{v})\|$ . So by the second part of the theorem we have  $P_E(\vec{v}) = P'_E(\vec{v})$ . Since  $\vec{v} \in V$  was arbitrary, this implies  $P_E = P'_E$ . □

## Gram-Schmidt Orthogonalization Algorithm

11/26

From the first proposition in this section, we see that we can always define  $P_E$  provided  $E$  has an orthogonal basis. In this subsection we show this is always the case.

The following algorithm takes in a linearly independent system  $\vec{x}_1, \dots, \vec{x}_n$  and constructs an orthogonal system  $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n$  s.t.

$$\text{span}\{\vec{x}_1, \dots, \vec{x}_n\} = \text{span}\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n\}$$

Moreover, for each  $r \leq n$  it satisfies

$$\text{span}\{\vec{x}_1, \dots, \vec{x}_r\} = \text{span}\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_r\}$$

**Step 1** Set  $\vec{v}_1 := \vec{x}_1$  and denote  $E_1 := \text{span}\{\vec{x}_1\} = \text{span}\{\vec{v}_1\}$

**Step 2** Set

$$\vec{v}_2 := \vec{x}_2 - P_{E_1} \vec{x}_2 = \vec{x}_2 - \frac{\langle \vec{x}_2, \vec{v}_1 \rangle}{\|\vec{v}_1\|^2} \vec{v}_1$$

Note that  $\vec{v}_2 \perp E_1$  by definition of  $P_{E_1}$ . In particular,  $\vec{v}_2 \perp \vec{v}_1$ .

Denote  $E_2 := \text{span}\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2\} = \text{span}\{\vec{x}_1, \vec{x}_2\}$

**Step 3** Set

$$\vec{v}_3 := \vec{x}_3 - P_{E_2} \vec{x}_3 = \vec{x}_3 - \frac{\langle \vec{x}_3, \vec{v}_1 \rangle}{\|\vec{v}_1\|^2} \vec{v}_1 - \frac{\langle \vec{x}_3, \vec{v}_2 \rangle}{\|\vec{v}_2\|^2} \vec{v}_2$$

Then  $\vec{v}_3 \perp E_2$  and in particular  $\vec{v}_3 \perp \vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_3 \perp \vec{v}_2$ . Note that  $\vec{x}_3 \notin E_2$  since  $E_2 = \text{span}\{\vec{x}_1, \vec{x}_2\}$  and  $\vec{x}_1, \vec{x}_2, \vec{x}_3$  are lin. indep. Thus  $\vec{v}_3 \neq \vec{0}$ .

⋮

**Step  $r+1$**  Suppose we have already iterated the above process  $r$  times to construct an orthogonal system  $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_r$  (of non-zero vectors) such that  $E_r := \text{span}\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_r\} = \text{span}\{\vec{x}_1, \dots, \vec{x}_r\}$

Define

$$\vec{v}_{r+1} := \vec{x}_{r+1} - P_{E_r} \vec{x}_{r+1} = \vec{x}_{r+1} - \sum_{k=1}^r \frac{\langle \vec{x}_{r+1}, \vec{v}_k \rangle}{\|\vec{v}_k\|^2} \vec{v}_k$$

Then  $\vec{v}_{r+1} \perp E_r$  and therefore  $\vec{v}_{r+1} \perp \vec{v}_k$  for  $k=1, \dots, r$ . Also, since  $\vec{x}_{r+1} \notin E_r$  by lin. indep. of  $\vec{x}_1, \dots, \vec{x}_r, \vec{x}_{r+1}$ , we have  $\vec{v}_{r+1} \neq \vec{0}$ .

Iterating this process  $n$  times yields the desired orthogonal system  $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n$ .  $\square$

**Ex** In  $\mathbb{R}^3$

$$\vec{x}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \vec{x}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad \vec{x}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

**Step 1**  $\vec{v}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

**Step 2**  $\vec{v}_2 = \vec{x}_2 - \frac{\langle \vec{x}_2, \vec{v}_1 \rangle}{\|\vec{v}_1\|^2} \vec{v}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} - \frac{0+1+2}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

**Step 3**  $\vec{v}_3 = \vec{x}_3 - \frac{\langle \vec{x}_3, \vec{v}_1 \rangle}{\|\vec{v}_1\|^2} \vec{v}_1 - \frac{\langle \vec{x}_3, \vec{v}_2 \rangle}{\|\vec{v}_2\|^2} \vec{v}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} - \frac{1+0+2}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} - \frac{-1+0+2}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$   
 $= \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} -1/2 \\ 0 \\ 1/2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1/2 \\ -1 \\ 1/2 \end{pmatrix}$

So

$$\vec{v}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \vec{v}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \vec{v}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1/2 \\ -1 \\ 1/2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Let  $E := \text{span}\{\vec{x}_1, \vec{x}_2\} = \text{span}\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2\}$ . Then  $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2$  is an orthogonal basis for  $E$  and so we know the formula for  $P_E$ . Let's write out its matrix representation (with respect to the standard basis  $S$ ):

$$[P_E]_S^S = \frac{1}{\|\vec{v}_1\|^2} \vec{v}_1 \cdot \vec{v}_1^T + \frac{1}{\|\vec{v}_2\|^2} \vec{v}_2 \cdot \vec{v}_2^T = \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot (1 \ 1 \ 1) + \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot (-1 \ 0 \ 1)$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5/6 & 1/3 & -1/6 \\ 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 \\ -1/6 & 1/3 & 5/6 \end{pmatrix}$$

**Rem** Note that if  $\vec{u}_k := \frac{\vec{v}_k}{\|\vec{v}_k\|}$  for  $k=1, \dots, n$  then  $\vec{u}_1, \dots, \vec{u}_n$  is an orthonormal system which satisfies

$$\text{span}\{\vec{u}_1, \dots, \vec{u}_r\} = \text{span}\{\vec{x}_1, \dots, \vec{x}_r\} \quad r=1, \dots, n.$$

## Orthogonal Complement

**Def** For a subset  $S \subset V$ , its orthogonal complement is the set  $S^\perp := \{ \vec{x} \in V : \vec{x} \perp S \}$

**Prop**  $S^\perp$  is always a subspace (even if  $S$  is not). Also  $(S^\perp)^\perp = \text{span } S$

In particular,  $S = (S^\perp)^\perp$  if and only if  $S$  is a subspace

**Proof** Homework 11. □

**Lemma** Let  $E \subset V$  be a subspace. Then  $E \cap E^\perp = \{ \vec{0} \}$ .

**Proof** Let  $\vec{x} \in E \cap E^\perp$  then  $\langle \vec{x}, \vec{x} \rangle = 0$

so  $\vec{x} = \vec{0}$  by non-degeneracy. □

**Thm** Let  $V$  be an inner product space and let  $E \subset V$  be a subspace. Then for every  $\vec{v} \in V$  there exists unique  $\vec{v}_1 \in E$  and  $\vec{v}_2 \in E^\perp$  s.t.  $\vec{v} = \vec{v}_1 + \vec{v}_2$ .

**Proof** Let  $P_E$  be the orthogonal projection onto  $E$ . Given  $\vec{v} \in V$ , set  $\vec{v}_1 := P_E(\vec{v})$  and  $\vec{v}_2 := \vec{v} - P_E(\vec{v})$ . Then  $\vec{v}_1 \in E$  and  $\vec{v}_2 \in E^\perp$  by def. of  $P_E$ . Also  $\vec{v}_1 + \vec{v}_2 = P_E(\vec{v}) + \vec{v} - P_E(\vec{v}) = \vec{v}$ .

Suppose  $\vec{w}_1 \in E$  and  $\vec{w}_2 \in E^\perp$  also satisfy  $\vec{w}_1 + \vec{w}_2 = \vec{v}$ . Then

$$\vec{v}_1 + \vec{v}_2 = \vec{w}_1 + \vec{w}_2$$

$$\vec{v}_1 - \vec{w}_1 = \vec{w}_2 - \vec{v}_2$$

Note that  $\vec{v}_1 - \vec{w}_1 \in E$  while  $\vec{w}_2 - \vec{v}_2 \in E^\perp$ . Thus  $\vec{v}_1 - \vec{w}_1 = \vec{w}_2 - \vec{v}_2 \in E \cap E^\perp = \{ \vec{0} \}$  by the lemma.

So  $\vec{v}_1 - \vec{w}_1 = \vec{0} \Rightarrow \vec{v}_1 = \vec{w}_1$  and  $\vec{w}_2 - \vec{v}_2 = \vec{0} \Rightarrow \vec{w}_2 = \vec{v}_2$ . Hence  $\vec{v}_1$  and  $\vec{v}_2$  are unique. □

• Whenever  $E_1, E_2 \subset V$  are subspaces s.t. every  $\vec{v} \in V$  can be written uniquely as  $\vec{v} = \vec{v}_1 + \vec{v}_2$  for  $\vec{v}_1 \in E_1$  and  $\vec{v}_2 \in E_2$ , we write

$$V = E_1 \oplus E_2.$$

The above theorem says

$$V = E \oplus E^\perp.$$

**Cor** For a subspace  $E \subset V$ ,

$$\dim(E) + \dim(E^\perp) = \dim(V)$$

**Proof** Using Gram-Schmidt, we can find orthogonal bases  $B$  and  $C$  for  $E$  and  $E^\perp$  respectively. Then  $B \cup C$  is orthogonal and therefore lin. indep. The theorem tells us  $B \cup C$  is generating. Hence  $B \cup C$  is a basis for  $V$ . □

## 5.4 Method of Least Squares

Let  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$  be an inconsistent linear system. Since there is no solution, we cannot solve it exactly, but we can solve it approximately. That is, we can find  $\vec{x}$  s.t.  $\|A\vec{x} - \vec{b}\|$  is as small as possible

Note:

$$\|A\vec{x} - \vec{b}\|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^m |(A\vec{x})_i - b_i|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^m \left| \underbrace{\sum_{j=1}^n (A)_{ij} x_j}_{\text{"least squares"}} - b_i \right|^2$$

Obviously  $A\vec{x} \in \text{Ran}(A)$  for all  $\vec{x} \in \mathbb{F}^n$ . Let  $P$  be the orthogonal projection onto  $\text{Ran}(A)$ . Then by a theorem from Section 5.3 we have:

$$\|\vec{b} - P\vec{b}\| = \|\vec{b} - A\vec{x}\| \quad \forall \vec{x} \in \mathbb{F}^n$$

So we want to find  $\vec{x}$  s.t.  $A\vec{x} = P\vec{b}$ .

**Thm** Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  and let  $P$  the orthogonal projection onto  $\text{Ran}(A)$ . For  $\vec{x} \in \mathbb{F}^n$ ,  $A\vec{x} = P\vec{b}$  if and only if  $A^*A\vec{x} = A^*\vec{b}$ .

**Proof** Since  $A\vec{x} \in \text{Ran}(A)$ ,  $A\vec{x} = P\vec{b}$  iff  $(\vec{b} - A\vec{x}) \perp \text{Ran}(A)$ . Let  $\vec{a}_1, \dots, \vec{a}_n$  be the columns of  $A$ . Then  $\text{Ran}(A)$  (the column space of  $A$ ) is generated by  $\vec{a}_1, \dots, \vec{a}_n$ , and so  $(\vec{b} - A\vec{x}) \perp \text{Ran}(A)$  iff

$$\langle \vec{b} - A\vec{x}, \vec{a}_j \rangle = 0 \quad \text{for each } j=1, \dots, n.$$

$$\vec{a}_j^* (\vec{b} - A\vec{x}) = 0$$

iff

$$\vec{0} = \begin{pmatrix} \vec{a}_1^* (\vec{b} - A\vec{x}) \\ \vdots \\ \vec{a}_n^* (\vec{b} - A\vec{x}) \end{pmatrix} = A^* (\vec{b} - A\vec{x})$$

iff  $A^*A\vec{x} = A^*\vec{b}$ . □

Suppose we are given data points  $(x_i, y_i)$ ,  $i=1, \dots, n$  and want to find the line  $y = ax + b$  that "best fits" our data. That means find the values  $a, b$  that minimize:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n |y_i - (ax_i + b)|^2$$

This is equivalent to applying the method of least squares to the linear system

$$\underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} x_1 & 1 \\ x_2 & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ x_n & 1 \end{pmatrix}}_A \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}}_{\vec{x}} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix}}_{\vec{b}}$$

The theorem tells us this is equivalent to solving  $A^*A\vec{x} = A^*\vec{b}$ .

**Ex** Suppose our data set is:

$$(-2, 4), (-1, 2), (0, 1), (2, 1), (3, 1)$$

So we will find the least squares solution to

$$\begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

we have

$$A^T A = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & -1 & 0 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 18 & 2 \\ 2 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$A^T \vec{b} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & -1 & 0 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -5 \\ 9 \end{pmatrix}$$

So we must solve:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 18 & 2 \\ 2 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -5 \\ 9 \end{pmatrix} \implies \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1/2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Thus the line  $y = -\frac{1}{2}x + 2$  best fits the data. □

- Note that a typical reason for a lin. sys.  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$  to be inconsistent is that it is "overdetermined"; that is, it has more equations than unknowns:  $m > n$  for  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ . That is,  $A$  is tall. But then  $A^T A$  is  $n \times n$  and so has been compressed.
- There was not anything special about trying to fit a line to our data. If we wanted to find a parabola  $y = ax^2 + bx + c$  that best fits our data, we would apply the least squares method to

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1^2 & x_1 & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ x_n^2 & x_n & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix}$$

**Ex** Using the same data as before, we have

$$\begin{pmatrix} 4 & -2 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 4 & 2 & 1 \\ 9 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Then

$$A^T A = \begin{pmatrix} 114 & 26 & 18 \\ 26 & 18 & 2 \\ 18 & 2 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad A^T \vec{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 31 \\ -5 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix}$$

And  $A^T A \vec{x} = A^T \vec{b}$  has solution

$$\begin{pmatrix} 43/154 \\ -62/77 \\ 86/77 \end{pmatrix}$$

So that the parabola best fitting our data is  $y = \frac{43}{154}x^2 + \frac{-62}{77}x + \frac{86}{77}$ . □

- More generally, if we think our data should be best modeled by a curve

of the form

$$y = a_1 f_1(x) + a_2 f_2(x) + \dots + a_d f_d(x)$$

for functions  $f_1, \dots, f_d$ , then we would apply the least squares method to

$$\begin{pmatrix} f_1(x_1) & f_2(x_1) & \dots & f_d(x_1) \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ f_1(x_n) & f_2(x_n) & \dots & f_d(x_n) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ \vdots \\ a_d \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix}$$

- One issue we might run into is that  $A^*A$  need not be invertible. However, since it is square, we know it is invertible iff it has a pivot in every column iff  $\text{Ker}(A^*A) = \{\vec{0}\}$ .

**Thm** For  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $\text{Ker}(A) = \text{Ker}(A^*A)$

**Proof** (clearly  $\text{Ker}(A) \subset \text{Ker}(A^*A)$ ). Now, suppose  $\vec{x} \in \text{Ker}(A^*A)$ . Then

$$\|A\vec{x}\|^2 = \langle A\vec{x}, A\vec{x} \rangle = \langle \vec{x}, A^*A\vec{x} \rangle = \langle \vec{x}, \vec{0} \rangle = 0$$

where we have used an exercise on Homework 12. Thus  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0} \Rightarrow \vec{x} \in \text{Ker}(A)$ .

It follows that  $\text{Ker}(A^*A) \subset \text{Ker}(A)$  and so we have equality.  $\square$

**Cor**  $A^*A$  is invertible if and only if  $\text{rank}(A) = n$ .

**Proof** From the discussion preceding the theorem, we know  $A^*A$  is invertible iff  $\text{Ker}(A^*A) = \{\vec{0}\}$ . By the theorem, this is equivalent to  $\text{Ker}(A) = \{\vec{0}\}$ , and by rank-nullity this is in turn equivalent to  $\text{rank}(A) = n$ .  $\square$

**Cor** If  $\text{rank}(A) = n$ , then  $P_{\text{ran}(A)} = A(A^*A)^{-1}A^*$ .

**Proof** By the previous corollary,  $A^*A$  is invertible. By the first theorem in this section, for any  $\vec{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m$  we have  $P_{\text{ran}(A)}\vec{b} = A\vec{x}$  where  $\vec{x}$  is a solution of  $A^*A\vec{x} = A^*\vec{b}$ . Thus

$$\vec{x} = (A^*A)^{-1}A^*\vec{b}$$

and so

$$P_{\text{ran}(A)}\vec{b} = A\vec{x} = A(A^*A)^{-1}A^*\vec{b}.$$

Since  $\vec{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m$  was arbitrary, we obtain  $P_{\text{ran}(A)} = A(A^*A)^{-1}A^*$ .  $\square$

## Polar Decomposition and Singular Values

**Def** A self-adjoint matrix  $A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$  is called positive semi-definite if

$$\langle A\vec{x}, \vec{x} \rangle \geq 0 \quad \forall \vec{x} \in \mathbb{C}^n$$

In this case we write  $A \geq 0$ .  $A$  is called positive definite if

$$\langle A\vec{x}, \vec{x} \rangle > 0 \quad \forall \vec{x} \in \mathbb{C}^n \text{ with } \vec{x} \neq \vec{0}.$$

In this case we write  $A > 0$ .

**Ex** Let  $A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$  (not necessarily square). Then by Homework 12 Exercise 4, for any  $\vec{x} \in \mathbb{C}^n$

$$\langle A^*A\vec{x}, \vec{x} \rangle = \langle A\vec{x}, A\vec{x} \rangle = \|A\vec{x}\|^2 \geq 0.$$

Thus  $A^*A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$  is positive semi-definite. □

**Thm** Let  $A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$  be self-adjoint.

①  $A$  is positive semi-definite if and only if  $\sigma(A) \subset [0, \infty)$

②  $A$  is positive definite if and only if  $\sigma(A) \subset (0, \infty)$

**Proof** By Homework 12 Exercise 4,  $A$  is diagonalizable

$$A = U \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix}}_{=: D} U^*$$

with  $U$  a unitary matrix.

By Homework 12 Exercise 2,

$$\langle A\vec{x}, \vec{x} \rangle = \langle UDU^*\vec{x}, \vec{x} \rangle = \langle DU^*\vec{x}, U^*\vec{x} \rangle$$

Thus  $A$  is positive (semi-)definite if and only if  $D$  is positive (semi-)definite.

For  $\vec{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)^T \in \mathbb{C}^n$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle D\vec{x}, \vec{x} \rangle &= \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 x_1 \\ \vdots \\ \lambda_n x_n \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle = \lambda_1 x_1 \bar{x}_1 + \dots + \lambda_n x_n \bar{x}_n \\ &= \lambda_1 |x_1|^2 + \dots + \lambda_n |x_n|^2 \end{aligned}$$

This is  $> 0$  ( $\geq 0$ ) for all  $\vec{x}$  if and only if  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n > 0$  ( $\geq 0$ ). □

**Cor** If  $A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$  is positive semi-definite then there exists a positive semi-definite matrix  $\sqrt{A} \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$  such that  $A = (\sqrt{A})^2$ .

**Proof** With  $U$  and  $D$  as in the theorem, take

$$\sqrt{A} := U \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1^{1/2} & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \lambda_n^{1/2} \end{pmatrix} U^*.$$

← not square

**Def** For  $A \in M_{m \times n}(\mathbb{C})$ , the absolute value of  $A$  is

$$|A| := \sqrt{A^*A} \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$$

The eigenvalues of  $|A|$  are called the singular values of  $A$ . □



**Rem** Note that the eigenvalues of  $|A| = \sqrt{A^*A}$  are the square-roots of the eigenvalues of  $A^*A$ .

• Suppose  $A$  has singular values  $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n$ . Let  $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n$  be an orthonormal basis of eigenvectors for  $|A|$  corresponding to eigenvalues  $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n$  (respectively). Observe

$$A^*A\vec{v}_i = |A|^2\vec{v}_i = |A|(|A|\vec{v}_i) = |A|(\sigma_i\vec{v}_i) = \sigma_i^2\vec{v}_i.$$

So  $\vec{v}_i$  is an eigenvector of  $A^*A$  with eigenvalue  $\sigma_i^2$ .

**Lemma 1** Assume  $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_r$  are the non-zero singular values of  $A$  for some  $r \in \mathbb{N}$ . If

$$\vec{w}_k := \frac{1}{\sigma_k} A\vec{v}_k \quad k=1, \dots, r$$

then  $\vec{w}_1, \dots, \vec{w}_r$  is an orthonormal system.

**Proof** For  $j, k=1, \dots, r$  we have

$$\langle \vec{w}_j, \vec{w}_k \rangle = \frac{1}{\sigma_j \sigma_k} \langle A\vec{v}_j, A\vec{v}_k \rangle = \frac{1}{\sigma_j \sigma_k} \langle A^*A\vec{v}_j, \vec{v}_k \rangle = \frac{1}{\sigma_j \sigma_k} \langle \sigma_j^2 \vec{v}_j, \vec{v}_k \rangle = \frac{\sigma_j^2}{\sigma_j \sigma_k} \langle \vec{v}_j, \vec{v}_k \rangle.$$

If  $j \neq k$ , this is zero. Otherwise  $j=k$  and we obtain  $\frac{\sigma_j^2}{\sigma_j \sigma_j} \|\vec{v}_j\|^2 = 1$  □

**Lemma 2** For any  $\vec{x} \in \mathbb{C}^n$

$$\| |A| \vec{x} \| = \| A \vec{x} \|$$

Consequently,  $\ker(|A|) = \ker(A)$

**Proof** we compute

$$\| |A| \vec{x} \|^2 = \langle |A| \vec{x}, |A| \vec{x} \rangle = \langle |A|^2 \vec{x}, \vec{x} \rangle = \langle A^*A \vec{x}, \vec{x} \rangle = \langle A \vec{x}, A \vec{x} \rangle = \| A \vec{x} \|^2$$

In particular,  $|A| \vec{x} = \vec{0}$  iff  $\| |A| \vec{x} \| = 0$  iff  $\| A \vec{x} \| = 0$  iff  $A \vec{x} = \vec{0}$ . □

**Thm** (Polar Decomposition) For a square matrix  $A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$  there exists a unitary matrix  $U \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$  such that

$$A = U |A|$$

**Proof** Let  $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n$  be an orthonormal basis of eigenvectors of  $|A|$  corresponding to eigenvalues  $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n$ . Assume  $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_r$  are the non-zero eigenvalues. Then  $\vec{v}_{r+1}, \dots, \vec{v}_n$  is a basis for  $\ker(|A|) = \ker(A)$  (by Lemma 2). By the rank-nullity theorem, since  $A$  is square

$$\dim(\ker(A^*)) = \dim(\ker(A)) = n - r$$

Let  $\vec{w}_{r+1}, \dots, \vec{w}_n$  be an orthonormal basis for  $\ker(A^*)$  and for  $k=1, \dots, r$  let

$$\vec{w}_k := \frac{1}{\sigma_k} A\vec{v}_k.$$

Then  $\vec{w}_1, \dots, \vec{w}_r$  is an orthonormal system by Lemma 1 and are orthogonal to  $\ker(A^*)$  by an example from Section 5.2. Hence  $\vec{w}_1, \dots, \vec{w}_r, \vec{w}_{r+1}, \dots, \vec{w}_n$  is an orthonormal basis for  $\mathbb{C}^n$ .

Define  $U: \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^n$  by  $U(\vec{v}_i) = \vec{w}_i$ . Since  $U$  takes an orthonormal basis to an orthonormal basis,  $U$  is unitary (Exercise: prove this).

It remains to show  $U|A| = A$ . For any  $\vec{x} \in \mathbb{C}^n$  we have

$$\vec{x} = \sum_{i=1}^r \alpha_i \vec{v}_i$$

for some scalars  $\alpha_i$ . Recall the  $\vec{v}_i$ 's are eigenvectors of  $|A|$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} U|A|\vec{x} &= U\left(\sum_{i=1}^r \alpha_i |A|\vec{v}_i\right) = U\left(\sum_{i=1}^r \alpha_i \sigma_i \vec{v}_i\right) = U\left(\sum_{i=1}^r \alpha_i \sigma_i \vec{v}_i\right) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^r \alpha_i \sigma_i U\vec{v}_i = \sum_{i=1}^r \alpha_i \sigma_i \vec{w}_i = \sum_{i=1}^r \alpha_i A\vec{v}_i = A\left(\sum_{i=1}^r \alpha_i \vec{v}_i\right) = A\vec{x} \end{aligned}$$

where we have used  $\vec{v}_{r+1}, \dots, \vec{v}_n \in \text{Ker}(A)$  in the last equality. □

**Rem** Compare the above theorem to the fact that for any  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $z = e^{i\theta} |z|$  for some  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$ . Note that  $\overline{e^{i\theta}} = e^{-i\theta} = (e^{i\theta})^{-1}$ .