

Step-1

Consider that S is the subspace of \mathbf{R}^n .

The objective is to explain the meaning of $(S^\perp)^\perp = S$ and why it is true.

Step-2

Here, the meaning of $(S^\perp)^\perp = S$ is that the orthogonal complement of any given subspace is uniquely determined.

That is if S^\perp is the orthogonal complement subspace of S and S is the orthogonal complement subspace of S^\perp .

Step-3

Recall the following:

If S is the orthogonal complement subspace of S^\perp then, $x \cdot y = 0$ for all $x \in S^\perp, y \in S$.

Step-4

Consider, that, $x \in S^\perp, y \in S, z \in (S^\perp)^\perp$, none of them is 0. then, observe the following;

As S and S^\perp are orthogonal complement of each other.

So, $x \cdot y = 0, \forall x \in S^\perp, y \in S$, {By the definition of *orthogonal* complement subspace}.

Also, $x \cdot z = 0, x \in S^\perp, z \in (S^\perp)^\perp$ {By the definition of *orthogonal* complement subspace}.

Step-5

Note that, orthogonal complement of any given subspace is uniquely determined.

So, the orthogonal complement of the element x is also unique.

But here, y and z are both the orthogonal complement. Which is the contradiction.

So, $y = z$.

As, y and z were chosen arbitrary.

So, it is true for all the elements of $x \in S^\perp, y \in S, z \in (S^\perp)^\perp$.

Therefore, $(S^\perp)^\perp = S$.