

TUT11\_adjoint\_isometry\_and\_unitary

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Adjoint, isometry and unitary

MATB24 TUT5  
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### 1 Adjoint of a linear transformation

- Definition:** Let  $V, W$  be inner product space. Let  $A : V \rightarrow W$  be an operator, then the adjoint of  $A$  is the operator  $A^*$ :  $W \rightarrow V$  such that
$$(Ax, y) = (x, A^*y) \quad \forall x \in V, y \in W$$
- Definition:** For a  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$ , its adjoint  $A^* := A^T$ . Given the definition, it satisfies the property
$$(Ax, y) = (x, A^*y) \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{C}^n, y \in \mathbb{C}^m$$

**Question**

Let  $A$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix. Show that  $\text{Ker} A = \text{Ker}(A^*A)$

( $\Rightarrow$ ) Let  $x \in \text{Ker}(A)$ , st  $Ax = 0$   
wts  $x \in \text{Ker}(A^*A)$   
 $(A^*A)(x) = A^*(Ax) = A^*(0) = 0$   
st  $x \in \text{Ker}(A^*A)$

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Let  $x \in \text{Ker}(A^*A)$ , st  $(A^*A)x = 0$   
wts  $x \in \text{Ker}(A)$   
 $\|Ax\|^2 = (Ax, Ax)$  by def of norm.  
 $= (x, A^*Ax)$  by definition of adjoint.  
 $= (x, 0)$  by assumption.  
 $= \overline{(0, x)}$  by conjugate symmetry.  
 $= \overline{(0, x, x)} = \overline{0(x, x)}$  by linearity wrt first component.  
 $= \overline{0} \overline{(x, x)} = 0 \overline{(x, x)} = 0$   
st  $Ax = 0$  by non-degeneracy.  
hence  $x \in \text{Ker}(A)$   $\square$

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### 2 Isometries and unitary operators

- Definition:** An operator  $U : X \rightarrow Y$  is called an isometry, if it preserves the norm. That is
$$\|Ux\| = \|x\| \quad \forall x \in X$$

Some useful facts about isometry:

- An operator  $U : X \rightarrow Y$  is an isometry if and only if
$$(x, y) = (Ux, Uy) \quad \forall x, y \in X$$
- An operator  $U : X \rightarrow Y$  is an isometry if and only if  $U^*U = I$

**Definition:** An isometry  $U : X \rightarrow Y$  is a unitary operator if it is invertible.  
Some useful facts about unitary operator:

- If  $U : X \rightarrow Y$  is a unitary operator, then  $U^{-1} = U^*$
- An isometry  $U : X \rightarrow Y$  is a unitary operator if and only if  $\dim X = \dim Y$

**Questions**

- Show that a product of unitary matrices is unitary.  
Let  $A, B$  be unitary matrices, then  $A, B$  must be square matrices.  
since for example,  $A: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ , then  $n = \dim(\mathbb{R}^n) = \dim(\mathbb{R}^m) = m$   
similarly to the matrix  $B$ . st  $AB$  is also a square matrix, ie  $AB: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ .  
It suffices to show  $AB$  is an isometry.  
 $(AB)^*AB = (\overline{AB})^T AB = \overline{B^T A^T} AB = B^* A^* A B = B^* I B = B^* B = I$   
st  $AB$  is an isometry  
hence by (2),  $AB$  is a unitary operator  $\square$

Assume  $\|Ux\| = \|x\|$  for all  $x \in X$ ,  
then  $U$  is isometry by the definition.  
Notice dimensions of the domain and codomain of  $U$  are the same.  
st given  $U$  is isometry,  $U$  is unitary.  $\square$

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3. Let  $A, B$  be  $n \times n$  matrices. Show that  $\text{trace}(AB) = \text{trace}(BA)$ . Conclude that similar matrices have the same trace.

① Let  $A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & \dots & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix}$  and  $B = \begin{pmatrix} b_{11} & \dots & b_{1n} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ b_{n1} & \dots & b_{nn} \end{pmatrix}$   
wts  $AB = \begin{pmatrix} \sum_{i=1}^n a_{1i}b_{i1} & \dots & \sum_{i=1}^n a_{1i}b_{in} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ni}b_{i1} & \dots & \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ni}b_{in} \end{pmatrix}$  and  $BA = \begin{pmatrix} \sum_{i=1}^n b_{1i}a_{i1} & \dots & \sum_{i=1}^n b_{1i}a_{in} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \sum_{i=1}^n b_{ni}a_{i1} & \dots & \sum_{i=1}^n b_{ni}a_{in} \end{pmatrix}$   
then  $\text{trace}(AB) = \sum_{j=1}^n \left( \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij}b_{ji} \right)$   
 $= \sum_{j=1}^n (a_{1j}b_{j1} + \dots + a_{nj}b_{jn})$   
 $= (\underbrace{a_{11}b_{11}}_{j=1} + \dots + \underbrace{a_{1n}b_{n1}}_{j=n}) + \dots + (\underbrace{a_{n1}b_{1n}}_{j=1} + \dots + \underbrace{a_{nn}b_{nn}}_{j=n})$   
 $\text{trace}(BA) = \sum_{j=1}^n \left( \sum_{i=1}^n b_{ji}a_{ij} \right)$   
 $= \sum_{j=1}^n (b_{j1}a_{1j} + \dots + b_{jn}a_{nj})$   
 $= (\underbrace{b_{11}a_{11}}_{j=1} + \dots + \underbrace{b_{1n}a_{1n}}_{j=n}) + \dots + (\underbrace{b_{n1}a_{n1}}_{j=1} + \dots + \underbrace{b_{nn}a_{nn}}_{j=n})$   
 $= (b_{11}a_{11} + \dots + b_{n1}a_{1n}) + \dots + (b_{1n}a_{11} + \dots + b_{nn}a_{nn})$   
 $= \text{trace}(AB)$

②. Assume  $A, B$  are similar matrices,  
then  $A = PBP^{-1}$  for some invertible  $P$   
 $\text{trace}(A) = \text{trace}(PBP^{-1})$   
 $= \text{trace}(P(BP^{-1})) = \text{trace}((BP^{-1})P)$  by ①  
 $= \text{trace}(BP^{-1}P) = \text{trace}(BI) = \text{trace}(B)$   $\square$