

# Orthogonality

Def 10.1.7: Let  $V$  be an inner product space.

$\alpha, \beta$  are orthogonal if  $\langle \alpha, \beta \rangle = 0$

(This is the same condition as  $\langle \beta, \alpha \rangle = 0$ )

Given  $W \subseteq V$  a subspace,  $\alpha \in V$  is orthogonal to  $W$  if  $\langle \alpha, \beta \rangle = 0 \quad \forall \beta \in W$

Ex:  $V = C^0([- \pi, \pi])$ , with inner product  $\langle f, g \rangle = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) g(x) dx$

Then  $\sin x, \cos x$  are orthogonal:  $\langle \sin x, \cos x \rangle = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin x \cos x dx = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{\sin 2x}{2} dx = \frac{\cos 2x}{4} \Big|_{-\pi}^{\pi} = \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{4} = 0$

Def 10.1.7:  $S \subseteq V$  is an orthogonal set if  $\forall \alpha, \beta \in S$   
with  $\alpha \neq \beta$ , we have  $\langle \alpha, \beta \rangle = 0$

$S$  is an orthogonal basis for  $V$  if it is  
an orthogonal set and also a basis for  $V$ .

Th. 10.1.8: An orthogonal set of non-zero  
vectors is linearly independent.

Proof: see 2207 week 12 p3 — that argument  
still works for infinite sets because each  
linear dependence relation only involves finitely-many  
vectors.

Th. 10.1.17: Let  $\{\xi_1, \dots, \xi_k\}$  be an orthogonal basis for  $W \subseteq V$ .

Then, for  $\alpha \in V$

$$\text{Proj}_W(\alpha) = \frac{\langle \xi_1, \alpha \rangle}{\langle \xi_1, \xi_1 \rangle} \xi_1 + \dots + \frac{\langle \xi_k, \alpha \rangle}{\langle \xi_k, \xi_k \rangle} \xi_k$$

order is important

is the closest point in  $W$  to  $\alpha$ .

$$\text{i.e. } \|\alpha - \text{Proj}_W(\alpha)\| < \|\alpha - \beta\| \quad \forall \beta \in W, \beta \neq \text{Proj}_W(\alpha)$$

and  $\alpha - \text{Proj}_W(\alpha)$  is orthogonal to  $W$ .

If  $W$  is infinite-dimensional, then  $\text{Proj}_W(\alpha)$  is the vector in  $W$  such that  $\alpha - \text{Proj}_W(\alpha)$  is orthogonal to  $W$ , if this vector exists.

Ex: (Fourier Series)  $V = C^0([- \pi, \pi])$   $\langle f, g \rangle = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x)g(x) dx$

It can be shown that (using trig identities):

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos mx \cos kx dx = 0 \quad \text{if } m \neq k$$

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin mx \sin kx dx = 0 \quad \text{if } m \neq k$$

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos mx \sin kx dx = 0$$

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos mx dx = 0, \quad \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin mx dx = 0.$$

$\therefore \{1, \cos x, \cos 2x, \dots, \cos nx, \sin x, \sin 2x, \dots, \sin nx\}$   
is an orthogonal set.

Given  $f \in C^0([- \pi, \pi])$ , its best approximation in

$\text{Span}\{1, \cos x, \dots, \cos nx, \sin x, \dots, \sin nx\}$  is

$$\frac{\langle 1, f \rangle}{\langle 1, 1 \rangle} 1 + \frac{\langle \cos x, f \rangle}{\langle \cos x, \cos x \rangle} \cos x + \dots$$

$$+ \dots + \frac{\langle \cos nx, f \rangle}{\langle \cos nx, \cos nx \rangle} \cos nx + \dots$$

$\therefore$  coefficient of  $\cos kx$  is

$$\frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos kx f(x) dx$$

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (\cos kx)^2 dx$$

Th. 10.1.10: Gram-Schmidt algorithm for  
producing orthogonal bases

Let  $\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s\}$  be a basis for  $W$ .

Set  $\tilde{\alpha}_1 = \alpha_1$        $W_1 = \text{Span}\{\tilde{\alpha}_1\}$

$\tilde{\alpha}_2 = \alpha_2 - \text{Proj}_{W_1}(\alpha_2)$        $W_2 = \text{Span}\{\tilde{\alpha}_1, \tilde{\alpha}_2\}$

$\tilde{\alpha}_3 = \alpha_3 - \text{Proj}_{W_2}(\alpha_3)$

$\vdots$

Then  $\{\tilde{\alpha}_1, \dots, \tilde{\alpha}_s\}$  is an orthogonal basis for  $W$ .

$$\text{Ex: } V = C^0([-1, 1]) \quad \langle f, g \rangle = \int_{-1}^1 f(x)g(x) dx$$

We apply Gram-Schmidt to  $1, x^2, x^4$  to find the (even) Legendre polynomials  
(one example of a family of orthogonal polynomials)

$$\tilde{x}_1 = 1 \quad W_1 = \text{Span}\{\tilde{x}_1\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{x}_2 &= x^2 - \text{Proj}_{W_1}(x^2) \\ &= x^2 - \frac{\langle 1, x^2 \rangle}{\langle 1, 1 \rangle} 1 = x^2 - \frac{\int_{-1}^1 x^2 dx}{\int_{-1}^1 1 dx} = x^2 - \frac{\left. \frac{x^3}{3} \right|_{-1}^1}{2} = x^2 - \frac{1}{3} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Check: } \langle x^2 - \frac{1}{3}, 1 \rangle = \int_{-1}^1 x^2 - \frac{1}{3} dx = \left. \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x}{3} \right|_{-1}^1 = 0$$

$$W_2 = \text{Span}\{\tilde{x}_1, \tilde{x}_2\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{x}_3 &= x^4 - \text{Proj}_{W_2}(x^4) \\ &= x^4 - \left( \frac{\langle 1, x^4 \rangle}{\langle 1, 1 \rangle} 1 + \frac{\langle x^2 - \frac{1}{3}, x^4 \rangle}{\langle x^2 - \frac{1}{3}, x^2 - \frac{1}{3} \rangle} (x^2 - \frac{1}{3}) \right) \\ &= x^4 - \left( \frac{\int_{-1}^1 x^4 dx}{\int_{-1}^1 1 dx} + \frac{\int_{-1}^1 (x^2 - \frac{1}{3}) x^4 dx}{\int_{-1}^1 (x^2 - \frac{1}{3})^2 dx} \right) (x^2 - \frac{1}{3}) \end{aligned}$$

= ...

$$\begin{aligned} &= x^4 - \left( \frac{1}{5} + \frac{6}{7} (x^2 - \frac{1}{3}) \right) \\ &= x^4 - \frac{6}{7} x^2 + \frac{3}{35} \end{aligned}$$



diagonalise a quadratic form

$$P^{-1}AP \neq D = P^TAP$$

diagonal entries of  $D \neq$  eigenvalues

if  $P$  is an orthogonal matrix,  
then  $P^{-1} = P^T$ .