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Pythagorean theorem in inner product spaces

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- Let  $X$  be an inner product space (over  $\mathbb{R}$  or  $\mathbb{C}$ ) and  $x, y \in X$  two orthogonal vectors. Then

$$\|x + y\|^2 = \|x\|^2 + \|y\|^2.$$

**Proof :** As  $x \perp y$  one has  $\langle x, y \rangle = 0$ . Then

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

*Remark*— This theorem is valid (with the same proof) for spaces with a semi-definite inner product.