

Week 9 : Orthogonal Projections & Spectral Theorem (textbook § 6.6)
 Unitary & Orthogonal Operators (textbook § 6.5)

Recall the Spectral Theorems :

Spectral Theorem: Let $T: V \rightarrow V$ be a linear operator on a finite dimensional inner product space over $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}$ or \mathbb{C} . Then,

there exists an orthonormal basis β for V s.t. $[T]_{\beta}$ is diagonal

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} \text{When } \mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}, T \text{ is self adjoint, i.e. } T^* = T. \\ \text{when } \mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}, T \text{ is normal, i.e. } T^*T = TT^*. \end{cases}$$

Question: What does it mean "geometrically"?



Let us look at an example first with $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}$.

Example: Consider the linear operator $T = L_A : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ where

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{i.e. } T \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} y \\ x \end{pmatrix}.$$

Since $A^* = A \Rightarrow T$ is self-adjoint $\xrightarrow[\text{Thm.}]{\text{Spec.}} \exists$ O.N.B. β which diagonalize T

How to find this β ? Ans: Find eigenvalues / eigenvectors!

$$\text{char. poly.: } \det(A - \lambda I) = \lambda^2 - 1 \Rightarrow \text{Eigenvalues: } \lambda_1 = 1, \lambda_2 = -1$$

$$\text{Eigenspaces: } \begin{cases} E_{\lambda_1} = N(A - 1I) = N \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}. \\ E_{\lambda_2} = N(A - (-1)I) = N \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}. \end{cases}$$

$\beta' = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$ is eigenbasis BUT NOT orthonormal!

Fortunately, β' is orthogonal $\xrightarrow{\text{normalize}}$ $\beta = \left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$ O.N.B.
 (Q: why?) which diagonalize T .

Note that

$$E_{\lambda_1} \perp E_{\lambda_2}$$

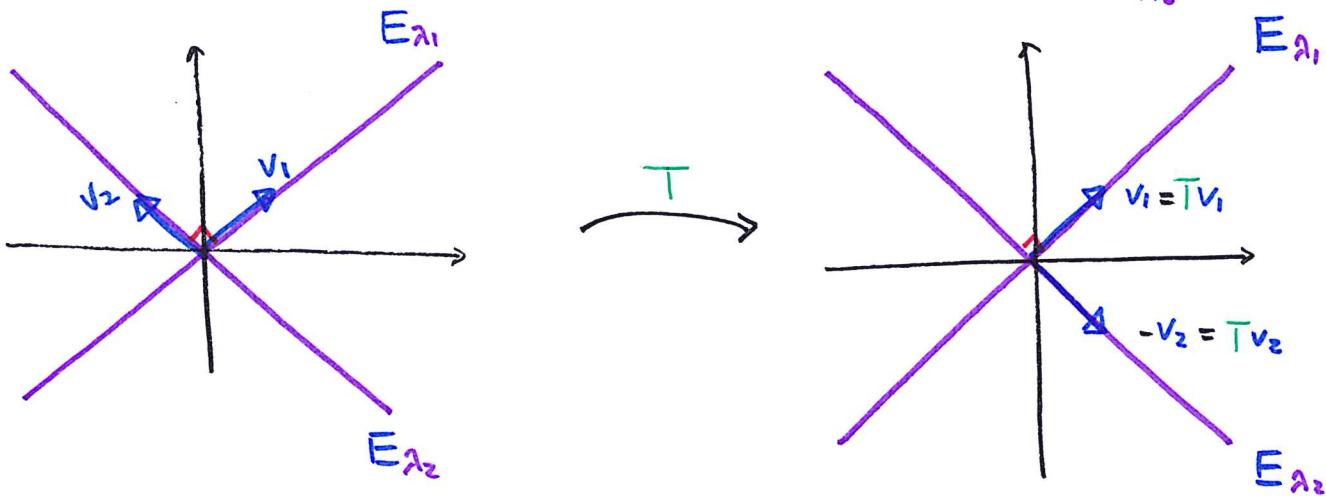
and

$$\mathbb{R}^2 = E_{\lambda_1} \oplus E_{\lambda_2}$$

"orthogonal decomposition"

The "action" of T on each of these (T -invariant) subspaces are very simple:

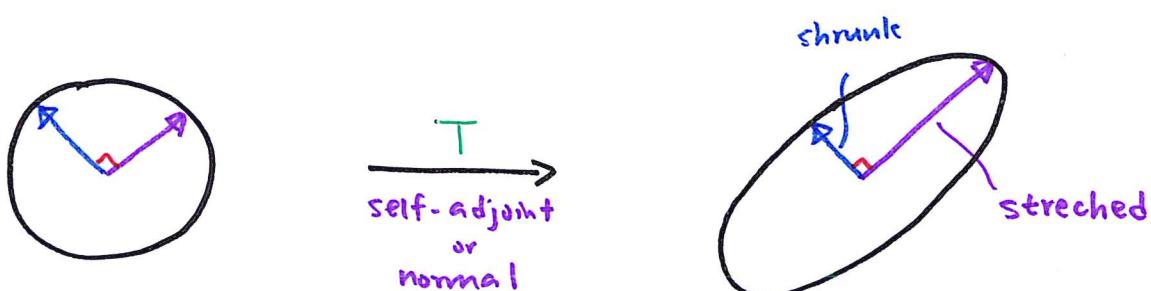
$$\begin{cases} T(v_1) = v_1 & \text{for all } v_1 \in E_{\lambda_1}, \\ T(v_2) = -v_2 & \text{for all } v_2 \in E_{\lambda_2} \end{cases}$$



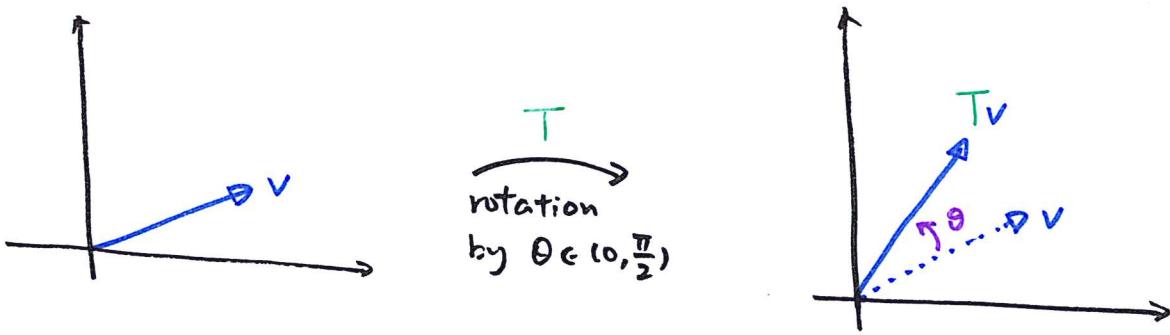
We understand the action of T by understanding its "sub-actions" on independent (orthogonal) directions. Thus, we can decompose T into its actions on the (by rescaling) smaller orthogonal subspaces!

Spectral Theorem \Rightarrow we can carry out such decomposition for self adjoint / normal operators T

Geometrically, self-adjoint/normal operators T simply do some "stretching" and "shrinking" in different perpendicular directions!!



This is not true for nondiagonalizable operators, e.g.:

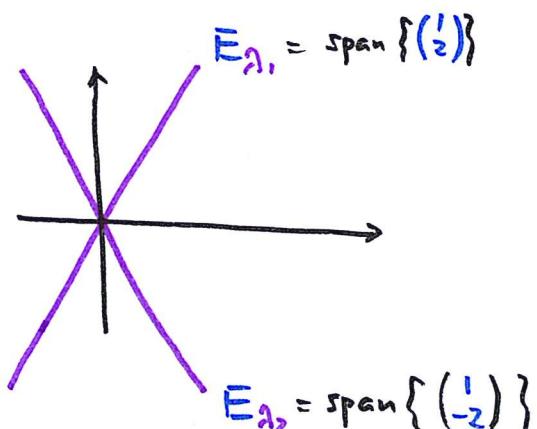


Even if T is diagonalizable, the "special shrinking/stretching" directions may NOT be \perp .

Example: $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 4 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

has eigenvalues $\lambda_1 = 3, \lambda_2 = -1$

whose eigenspaces are not orthogonal:



Only the normal / self adjoint operators have a "nice" orthogonal decomposition of V into its eigenspaces!

What about the "action" of T on vectors which do not lie on one of these eigen-directions?

ANS: Linearity!!

E.g.

$$V = E_{\lambda_1} \oplus E_{\lambda_2}$$

Orthogonal decomposition: $E_{\lambda_1} \perp E_{\lambda_2}$

ANY

$$V = V_1 + V_2$$

$$\Rightarrow TV = T V_1 + T V_2$$

$$= \lambda_1 V_1 + \lambda_2 V_2$$

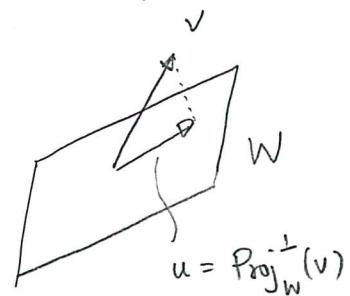
i.e.: the components of v are stretched/shrunk separately (decoupled!)

Orthogonal Projections

Recall that if $W \subset V$ is a finite dimensional subspace of an inner product space $(V, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ - which could have $\dim V = +\infty$.

We have the **orthogonal decomposition**:

$$V = W \oplus W^\perp$$



Therefore, any $v \in V$ can be uniquely written as

$$v = u + z \quad , \text{ where } u = \text{Proj}_W^\perp(v) \text{ is the orthogonal projection of } v \text{ onto } W.$$

In summary, for each $W \subset V$, we can define its **orthogonal projection** to be the map

$$T = \text{Proj}_W^\perp : V \rightarrow V$$

Some observations:

(1) Proj_W^\perp is linear.

(2) $R(T) = W$ and $N(T) = W^\perp$

So, $R(T)^\perp = N(T)$ and $N(T)^\perp = R(T)$

(3) $T^2 = T$ since projecting the second time is redundant.

(4) $T^* = T$ If V is finite dimensional, then

$$[T]_{\beta} = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} I & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) \quad \text{in some O.N.B. } \beta$$

which is clearly self adjoint!



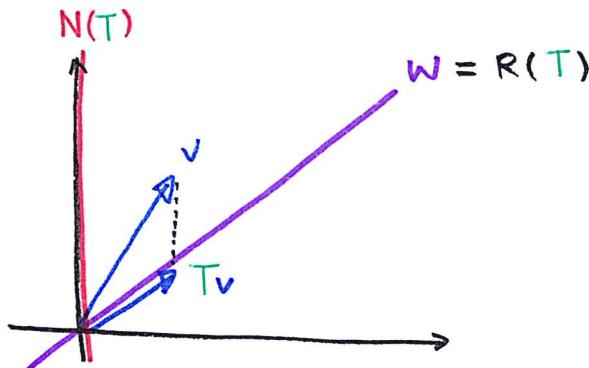
"Standard projection matrix".

Question: Given a linear operator $T: V \rightarrow V$ on an inner product space V , when is T in fact an **Orthogonal projection** onto some subspace $W \subset V$?

Projections

VS.

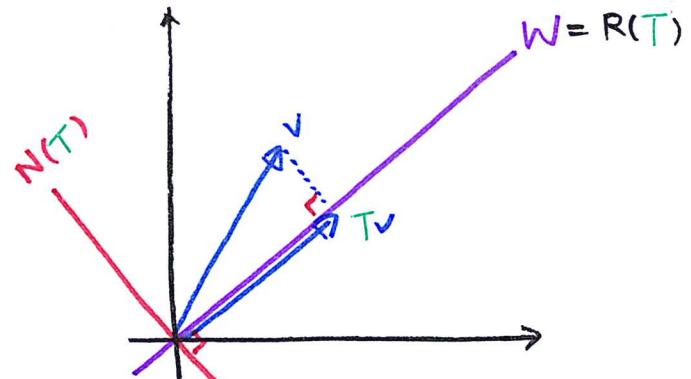
Orthogonal Projections



$$R(T)^\perp \neq N(T)$$

but $V = R(T) \oplus N(T)$

$$T^2 = T$$



$$R(T)^\perp = N(T)$$

and $V = R(T) \oplus N(T)$

$$T^2 = T = T^*$$

Defⁿ: Let $T: V \rightarrow V$ be a linear operator on an inner product space.

(i) T is a **projection** if $\boxed{T^2 = T}$

(ii) T is an **orthogonal projection** if $\boxed{T^2 = T}$ and

$$R(T)^\perp = N(T), \quad N(T)^\perp = R(T)$$

Remark: An **Orthogonal projection** T is most "efficient" that it satisfies a length decreasing property:

$$\hookrightarrow \boxed{\|Tv\| \leq \|v\| \text{ for all } v \in V}$$

(Exercise: Give an example that this is NOT true for a general projection.)

Note: When $\dim V < +\infty$, $R(T)^\perp = N(T) \Leftrightarrow N(T)^\perp = R(T)$

since $(W^\perp)^\perp = W$ for any finite dimensional subspace $W \subset V$.

The Proposition below justifies our definition of orthogonal projections.

Prop: Let $T: V \rightarrow V$ be a linear operator on an inner product space $(V, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ with $\dim V < +\infty$. (* can be removed with slightly modified conclusions)

Then, the following are equivalent (TFAE):

(i) T is an orthogonal projection.

$$(ii) T^2 = T = T^*$$

(iii) There exists a subspace $W \subset V$ s.t. $T = \text{Proj}_W^\perp$.

Proof: We will show that (iii) \Rightarrow (ii) \Rightarrow (i) \Rightarrow (iii).

(ii) \Rightarrow (i) : done before.

(i) \Rightarrow (ii) : Need to check $R(T)^\perp = N(T)$.

In general, $R(T)^\perp = N(T^*)$ (Ex: Prove this!)

Therefore, we are done as $T = T^*$.

(i) \Rightarrow (iii) : Assume $T^2 = T$ and $R(T)^\perp = N(T)$.

Define $W = R(T)$. we claim that $T = \text{Proj}_W^\perp$.

$$R(T)^\perp = N(T) \Rightarrow V = \underbrace{R(T)}_{\substack{\text{orthogonal} \\ \text{complements}}} \oplus \underbrace{N(T)}_{\substack{\text{orthogonal} \\ \text{complements}}}$$

It remains to show that

$$Ty = y \quad \text{for all } y \in R(T)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \underbrace{T(Tx)}_{\substack{\text{true since } T^2 = T}} = Tx \quad \text{for all } x \in V$$

true since $T^2 = T$.

Now, recall that the Spectral Theorems say that any normal / self adjoint operators $T: V \rightarrow V$ has an orthonormal eigenbasis β :

i.e.

$$[T]_{\beta} = \begin{pmatrix} A_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & A_k \end{pmatrix}$$

$E_{\lambda_1} \quad E_{\lambda_2} \quad \dots \quad E_{\lambda_k}$

T acts independently by rescaling by λ_i on each eigenspace E_{λ_i}

Spectral Decomposition Theorem

Let $(V, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ be a finite dim. inner product space over $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}$ or \mathbb{C} .

Suppose $T: V \rightarrow V$ is a normal ($\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}$) or self adjoint ($\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}$) operator. Denote the eigenvalues of T by

$$\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_k \quad (\text{spectrum of } T)$$

Then, V has an orthogonal decomposition into its eigenspaces:

$$V = E_{\lambda_1} \oplus E_{\lambda_2} \oplus \dots \oplus E_{\lambda_k}$$

where $E_{\lambda_i} \perp E_{\lambda_j}$
 $i \neq j$

and T has a spectral decomposition into orthogonal projections:

$$T = \lambda_1 T_1 + \lambda_2 T_2 + \dots + \lambda_k T_k$$

where $T_i = \text{Proj}_{E_{\lambda_i}}^{\perp}$

Proof: Just rephrasing the Spectral Theorems (see textbook Thm. 6.25). □

! The Spectral Decomposition Theorem has surprisingly many interesting applications !

Because it says we can decompose any normal / self adjoint operators into orthogonal projections - which is much simpler to understand .

Corollary 1:
$$g(T) = g(\lambda_1) T_1 + g(\lambda_2) T_2 + \cdots + g(\lambda_k) T_k$$
 for any polynomial g .

Example:

$$[T]_{\beta} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 I & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 I \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow [T^k]_{\beta} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1^k I & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2^k I \end{pmatrix}$$

(Exercise: Can you prove the general case?)

Corollary 2: When $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}$, T normal $\Leftrightarrow T^* = g(T)$ for some polynomial g . ($TT^* = T^*T$)

Proof: " \Leftarrow " trivial since T commutes with $g(T)$ for any polynomial g , e.g. $T(T^2 + 2T) = (T^2 + 2T)T$.

" \Rightarrow " Assume T is normal, then we have spectral decomposition

$$\begin{aligned} T &= \lambda_1 T_1 + \lambda_2 T_2 + \cdots + \lambda_k T_k \\ \rightsquigarrow T^* &= \bar{\lambda}_1 T_1 + \bar{\lambda}_2 T_2 + \cdots + \bar{\lambda}_k T_k \quad (\text{since } T_i^* = T_i) \end{aligned}$$

Choose a polynomial g st $\boxed{g(\lambda_i) = \bar{\lambda}_i \text{ for all } i}$

- which can be done by Lagrange interpolation formula.

Then, we have by Corollary 1,

$$\begin{aligned} g(T) &= g(\lambda_1) T_1 + \cdots + g(\lambda_k) T_k \\ &= \bar{\lambda}_1 T_1 + \cdots + \bar{\lambda}_k T_k = T^* \end{aligned}$$

□

By a similar argument, one can show

Corollary 3: $T = \lambda_1 T_1 + \cdots + \lambda_k T_k$

$$\Rightarrow T_i = g_i(T) \text{ for some polynomial } g_i$$

Corollary 4: Suppose $\text{IF} = \mathbb{C}$ and T is normal. Then

T is self adjoint \iff all eigenvalues of T are real.

Proof: " \Rightarrow " proved before.

" \Leftarrow " Take $T = \lambda_1 T_1 + \dots + \lambda_k T_k$ where $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\begin{aligned} \rightsquigarrow T^* &= \bar{\lambda}_1 T_1 + \dots + \bar{\lambda}_k T_k \\ &\stackrel{!}{=} \lambda_1 T_1 + \dots + \lambda_k T_k = T \end{aligned}$$

i.e. T is self adjoint!

□

When our space has extra structure... we have new concepts!

$\text{IF} = \mathbb{R}$ or \mathbb{C}	<u>Vector Spaces</u>	<u>Inner Product Spaces</u>
	$(V, +, \cdot)$	$(V, +, \cdot) \in \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$
model:	\mathbb{R}^n or \mathbb{C}^n	\mathbb{R}^n or \mathbb{C}^n with $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\text{std}}$
basis:	basis	orthonormal basis
"morphisms": or transformations	$T: V \rightarrow V$ linear (preserves $+$ & \cdot) $\boxed{T(ax+by) = aTx+bTy}$	$T: V \rightarrow V$ linear isometry (preserves $+$, \cdot & $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$) $\boxed{\langle Tx, Ty \rangle = \langle x, y \rangle}$ $(\text{IF}=\mathbb{C})$ $(\text{IF}=\mathbb{R})$ unitary / orthogonal operators
change of basis	invertible Q	$\ \cdot \ $, $x \perp y$, T^* $(\text{IF}=\mathbb{C})$ $(\text{IF}=\mathbb{R})$ unitary / orthogonal Q $\boxed{[T]_Q = Q^* [T]_{\beta} Q}$
diagonalization	eigenbasis	orthonormal eigenbasis

Orthogonal Operators on \mathbb{R}^2

Suppose $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ is a linear operator preserving the standard inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$, i.e.

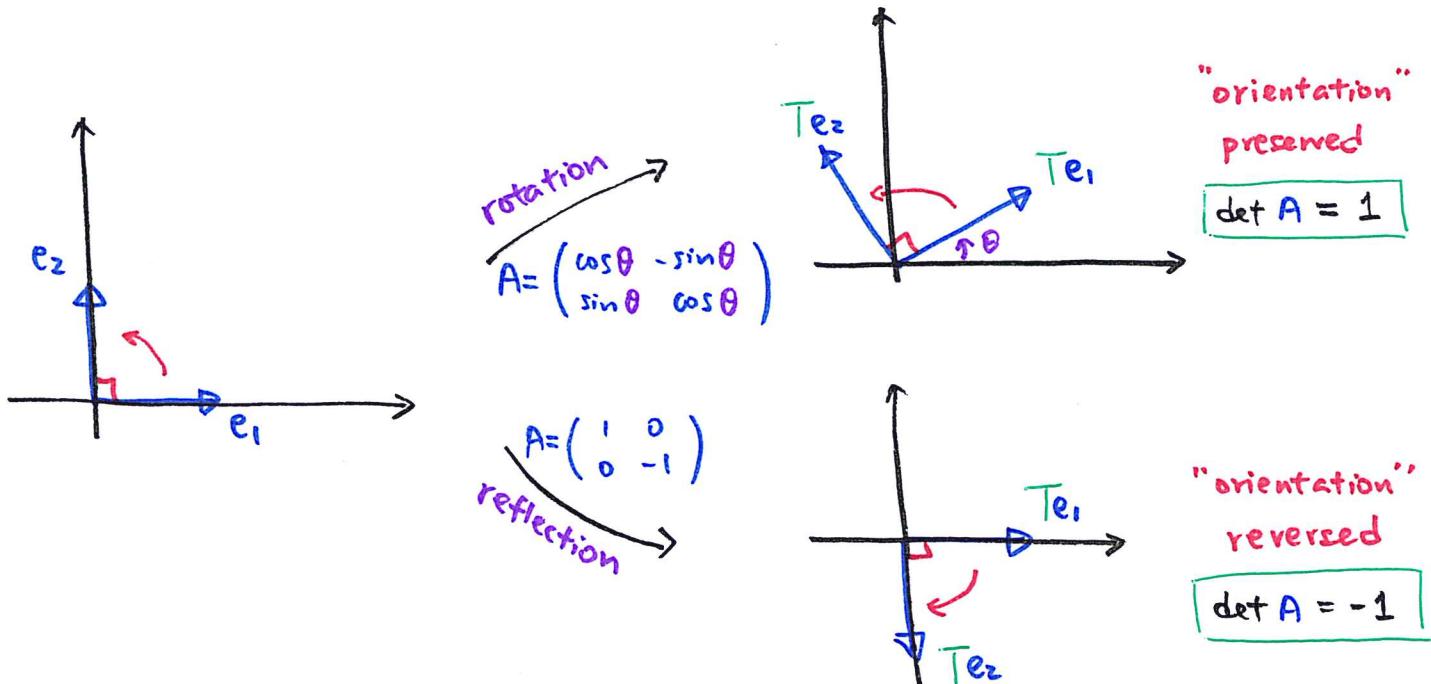
$$(*) \quad \langle Tx, Ty \rangle = \langle x, y \rangle \quad \text{for all } x, y \in \mathbb{R}^2$$

- When $x = y$ in $(*) \Rightarrow \|Tx\| = \|x\|$ "length preserved"
- Since $\langle a, b \rangle = \|a\| \|b\| \cos \theta$, ↑ this and $(*) \Rightarrow$ "angle preserved"

In particular, orthonormal basis \xrightarrow{T} orthonormal basis

$$\{e_1, e_2\} \xrightarrow{T} \{Te_1, Te_2\}$$

"standard basis"



- Any composition of rotations and reflections still preserve length and angles. In fact, these are ALL the transformations in \mathbb{R}^2 which preserve length and angles!

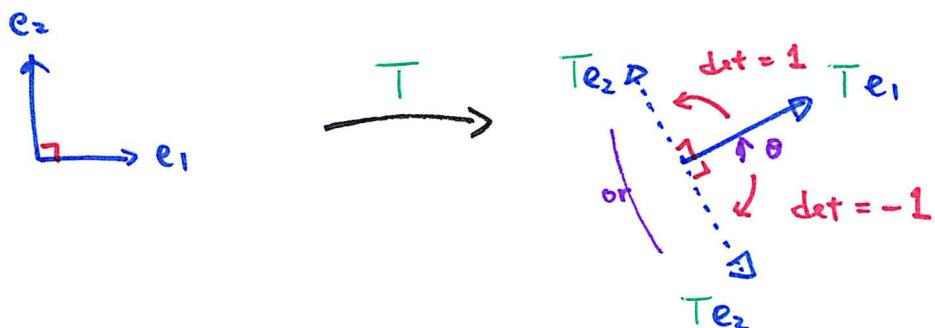
(i.e. satisfies (*))

Theorem: Any \downarrow orthogonal operator $T: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ is either a rotation ($\det = 1$) or a reflection ($\det = -1$).

Proof: Since T preserves length, Te_1 is a unit vector, which can be obtained from e_1 by rotation of some angle θ .

Since T preserves angle, Te_2 must be a unit vector $\perp Te_1$.

There are only 2 possible choices:



Since $\det(AB) = \det A \cdot \det B$, by considering the "parity":

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \text{rotation} \circ \text{rotation} = \text{rotation} & (1 \cdot 1 = 1) \\ \text{rotation} \circ \text{reflection} = \text{reflection} & (1 \cdot (-1) = -1) \\ \text{reflection} \circ \text{reflection} = \text{rotation} & ((-1) \cdot (-1) = 1) \end{array} \right.$$

Observe that the matrices of the rotations and reflections satisfy

$$\begin{pmatrix} \cos\theta & -\sin\theta \\ \sin\theta & \cos\theta \end{pmatrix}^t \begin{pmatrix} \cos\theta & -\sin\theta \\ \sin\theta & \cos\theta \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}^t \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A^t A = I = A A^t$$

"orthogonal matrix"

Example: Show that $L_A: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ where

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{represents a reflection.}$$

$$A^t A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = A A^t$$

Hence, A is orthogonal \Rightarrow ~~rotation / reflection~~
 but $\boxed{\det A = -1}$

Unitary / Orthogonal Operators & Matrices

Defⁿ: (Operator form) Let $T: V \rightarrow V$ be a linear operator on a finite dim. inner product space $(V, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$.

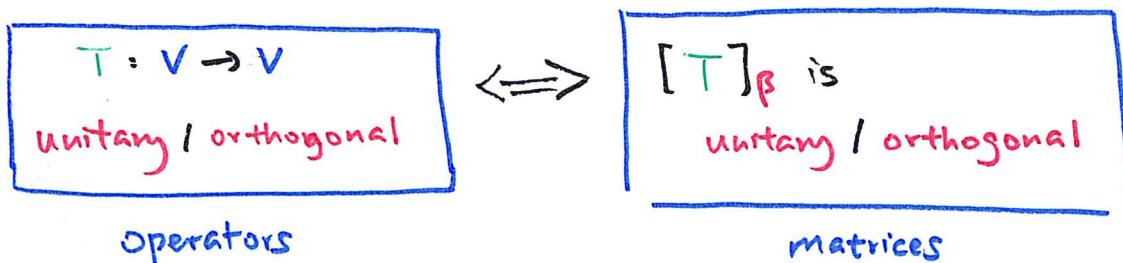
T is unitary/orthogonal iff $\|Tx\| = \|x\|$
 $(F = \mathbb{C}) \quad (F = \mathbb{R})$ for all $x \in V$

(Matrix form) A matrix $A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{F})$ is said to be

$$\text{unitary / orthogonal} \quad \text{iff} \quad (\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}) \quad (\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R})$$

The Lemma below says that they are equivalent:

Lemma : If β is an orthonormal basis for $(V, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$, then



Proof: It follows from the Theorem below and $[T^*]_{\beta} = [T]_{\beta}^*$ for O.N.B. β .

Theorem: TFAE, for $T: V \rightarrow V$ on a finite dim. inner product space $(V, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$

- (a) $\|Tx\| = \|x\|$ for all $x \in V$
- (b) $TT^* = T^*T = I$.
- (c) $\langle Tx, Ty \rangle = \langle x, y \rangle$ for all $x, y \in V$
- (d) B O.N.B $\Rightarrow T(B)$ O.N.B.
- (e) there exist some O.N.B. B s.t. $T(B)$ is O.N.B.

Proof: (a) \Rightarrow (b) We will need the following useful lemma:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{"Useful Lemma": } \boxed{\langle x, ux \rangle = 0 \text{ for all } x \in V} \quad \& \quad \boxed{u \text{ self adjoint}} \\ \Rightarrow u = T_0 : \text{zero transformation} \end{array} \right\}$$

Pf: Spectral Thm $\Rightarrow u$ diagonalizable and all eigenvalues = 0.

$$ux = \lambda x \Rightarrow \bar{\lambda} \|x\|^2 = \langle x, ux \rangle = 0.$$

By (a), we have for any $x \in V$

$$\langle x, x \rangle = \|x\|^2 = \|Tx\|^2 = \langle Tx, Tx \rangle = \langle x, T^*Tx \rangle$$

i.e. $\langle x, \underbrace{(I - T^*T)x}_{u} \rangle = 0$ for all $x \in V$

u is self-adjoint: $(I - T^*T)^* = I^* - T^*T^{**} = I - T^*T$.

"Useful Lemma" $\Rightarrow u = T_0$, i.e. $I = T^*T$. ($\Leftrightarrow I = TT^*$)

$\dim V < +\infty$

(b) \Rightarrow (c) For any $x, y \in V$.

$$\langle Tx, Ty \rangle = \langle x, T^*Ty \rangle \stackrel{(b)}{=} \langle x, y \rangle$$

$(c) \Rightarrow (d) \Rightarrow (e)$; trivial

$(e) \Rightarrow (a)$ Let $\beta = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$ be an O.N.B. for V

such that $T(\beta) = \{Tv_1, Tv_2, \dots, Tv_n\}$ is still an O.N.B.

Let any $x \in V$, we can write

$$x = a_1 v_1 + a_2 v_2 + \dots + a_n v_n \xrightarrow{\beta \text{ O.N.B.}} \|x\|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n |a_i|^2$$

$$\text{hence } Tx = a_1 T v_1 + a_2 T v_2 + \dots + a_n T v_n \xrightarrow{T(\beta) \text{ O.N.B.}} \|Tx\|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n |a_i|^2$$

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Corollary: $|\lambda| = 1$ if $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$ is an eigenvalue of a *unitary* / *orthogonal* operator.

Pf: $Tv = \lambda v \Rightarrow \|v\| = \|Tv\| = \|\lambda v\| = |\lambda| \cdot \|v\|$

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Corollary: When $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}$, T is *unitary*

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} \text{(i) } T \text{ is normal} \\ \text{(ii) } |\lambda| = 1 \text{ for all eigenvalue of } T \end{cases}$$

Proof: " \Rightarrow " unitary \Rightarrow normal, (ii) from previous corollary

" \Leftarrow " By Spectral Decomposition,

$$T = \lambda_1 T_1 + \lambda_2 T_2 + \dots + \lambda_k T_k \text{ where } |\lambda_i| = 1.$$

$$\Rightarrow T^* = \bar{\lambda}_1 T_1 + \bar{\lambda}_2 T_2 + \dots + \bar{\lambda}_k T_k.$$

Hence,

$$TT^* = (\lambda_1 T_1 + \lambda_2 T_2 + \dots + \lambda_k T_k)(\bar{\lambda}_1 T_1 + \bar{\lambda}_2 T_2 + \dots + \bar{\lambda}_k T_k)$$

$$T_i T_j = \begin{cases} T_0, & i \neq j \\ T_i, & i=j \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow &= |\lambda_1|^2 T_1 + |\lambda_2|^2 T_2 + \dots + |\lambda_k|^2 T_k \\ &= T_1 + T_2 + \dots + T_k = I \end{aligned}$$

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