



## Why

We abstract the notion of inner product to an arbitrary vector space.

## Definition

Suppose  $\mathbf{F}$  is a field which is either  $\mathbf{R}$  or  $\mathbf{C}$ . Let  $(V, \mathbf{F})$  be a vector space. Then a function  $f : V \times V \rightarrow \mathbf{F}$  is an *inner product* on  $V$  if

1.  $f(x, x) \geq 0$ ,  $f(x, x) = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = 0$ ;
2.  $f(x, y) = \overline{f(y, x)}$
3.  $f(ax + by, z) = a f(x, z) + b f(y, z)$

A *inner product space* (or *pre-Hilbert space*) is a tuple  $(V, f)$  where  $V$  is an inner product space over  $\mathbf{F}$  and  $f : V^2 \rightarrow \mathbf{F}$  is an inner product.

## Notation

Suppose  $V$  is a vector space over the field  $\mathbf{F}$ . We regularly denote an arbitrary inner product for  $V$  by  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : V^2 \rightarrow \mathbf{F}$ . So we would denote the inner product of the vector  $x$  with the vector  $y$  by  $\langle x, y \rangle$ .



