

Analytic Geometry

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1 Orthonormal Basis

Basis of a vector space, where the basis vectors are orthogonal to each other and their length is 1.

Definition - Orthonormal Basis

Consider an n -dimensional vector space V and a basis $\{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n\}$ of V . If

$$\langle \mathbf{b}_i, \mathbf{b}_j \rangle = 0 \quad \text{for } i \neq j \quad (1)$$

$$\langle \mathbf{b}_i, \mathbf{b}_i \rangle = 1 \quad (2)$$

for all $i, j = 1, \dots, n$ then the basis is called an *orthonormal basis* (ONB). If only Eq. 1 is satisfied, then the basis is called an *orthogonal basis*. Note that Eq. 2 implies that every vector has length/norm 1.

Example - Orthonormal Basis

In \mathbb{R}^2 , the vectors

$$\mathbf{b}_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b}_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (3)$$

form an orthonormal basis since $\mathbf{b}_1^T \mathbf{b}_2 = 0$ and $\|\mathbf{b}_1\| = 1 = \|\mathbf{b}_2\|$.