

# Orthogonality and linear independence



## Angle between two vectors

Recall that if  $\theta$  is the angle between two vectors  $u$  and  $v$  (of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ) on the subspace spanned by them, then

$$\cos(\theta) = \frac{u \cdot v}{\|u\| \|v\|} .$$

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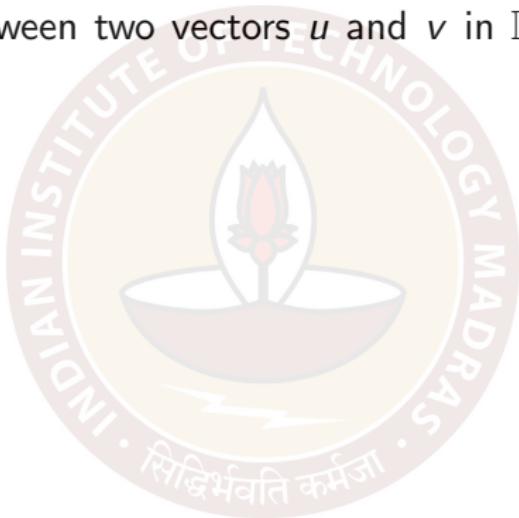
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Recall also that the dot product and the length are special cases of an inner product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  is and a norm on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

# The geometric intuition of orthogonal vectors

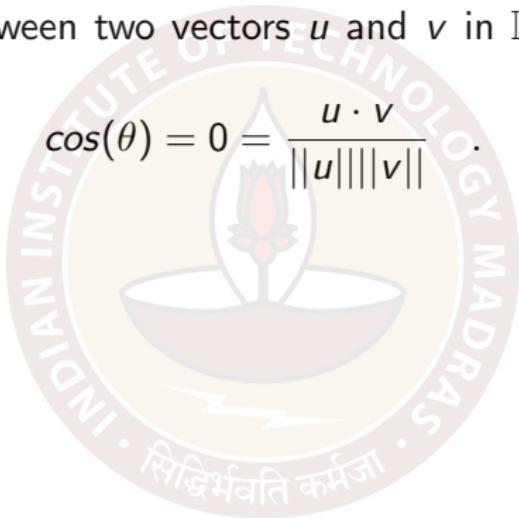
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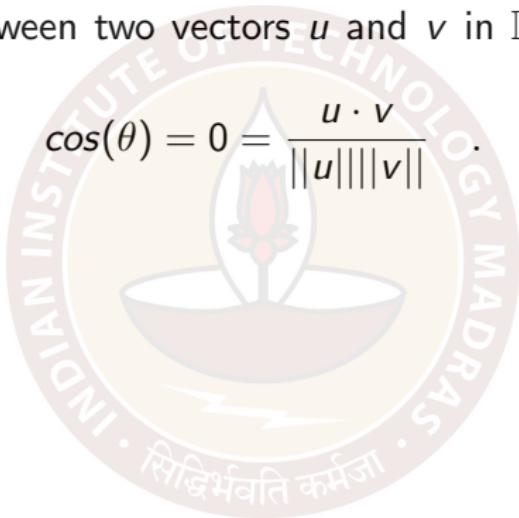


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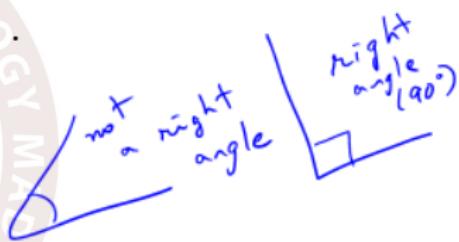
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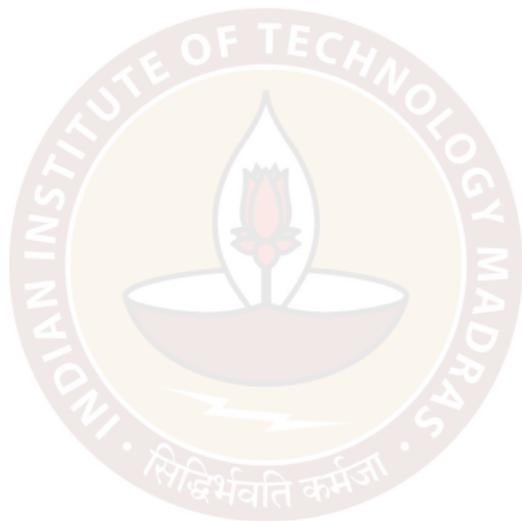
Then  $u \cdot v = 0$ .

e.g.  $(1, 2, 3)$  and  $(2, 2, -2)$  are orthogonal.

$$(1, 2, 3) \cdot (2, 2, -2) = 1 \times 2 + 2 \times 2 + 3 \times (-2) \\ = 2 + 4 - 6 = 0.$$

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$$\langle u, v \rangle = x_1y_1 - (x_1y_2 + x_2y_1) + 2x_2y_2$$

where  $u = (x_1, x_2)$  and  $v = (y_1, y_2)$ .

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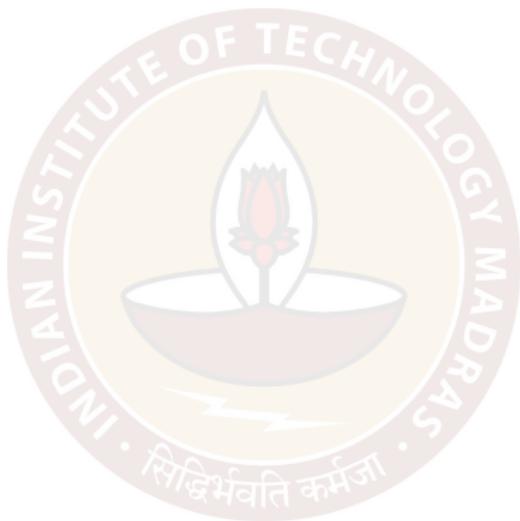
where  $u = (x_1, x_2)$  and  $v = (y_1, y_2)$ .

Then the vectors  $(1, 1)$  and  $(1, 0)$  are orthogonal (w.r.t. this inner product).

$$\begin{aligned}\langle (1, 1), (1, 0) \rangle &= x_1y_1 - (x_1y_2 + x_2y_1) + 2x_2y_2 \\ &= 1 \cdot 0 - 1 \cdot 0 \\ &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

# An orthogonal set of vectors

An **orthogonal set** of vectors of an inner product space  $V$  is a set of vectors whose elements are mutually orthogonal.

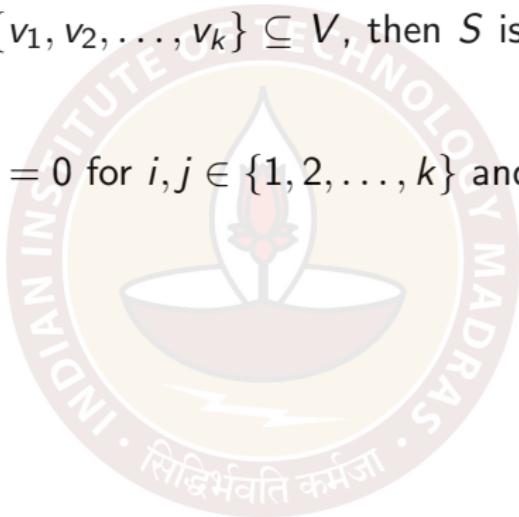


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Explicitly, if  $S = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k\} \subseteq V$ , then  $S$  is an orthogonal set of vectors if

$$\langle v_i, v_j \rangle = 0 \text{ for } i, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, k\} \text{ and } i \neq j.$$



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e.g. consider  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with the usual inner product i.e. the dot product. Then the set  $S = \{(4, 3, -2), (-3, 2, -3), (-5, 18, 17)\}$  is an orthogonal set of vectors.

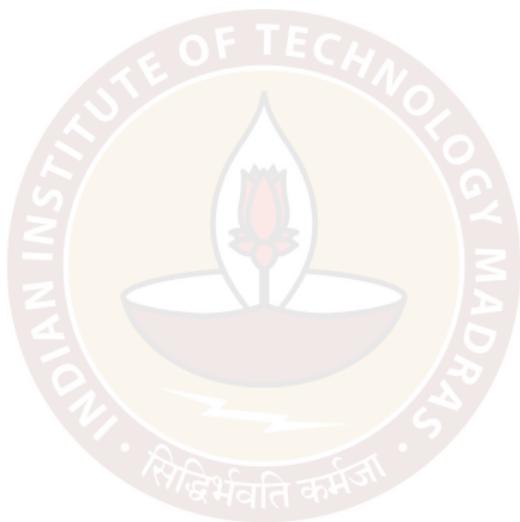
$$(4, 3, -2) \cdot (-3, 2, -3) = 4 \times (-3) + 3 \times 2 + (-2) \times (-3) \\ = -12 + 6 + 6 = 0.$$

$$(4, 3, -2) \cdot (-5, 18, 17) = -20 + 54 - 34 = 0$$

$$(-3, 2, -3) \cdot (-5, 18, 17) = 15 + 36 - 51 = 0.$$

# Orthogonality and linear independence

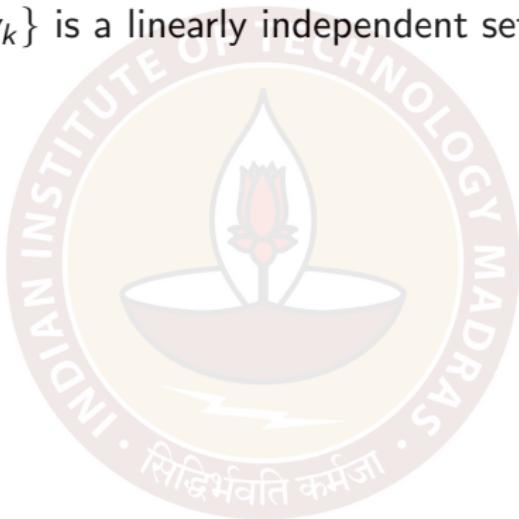
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Suppose  $\sum_{i=1}^k c_i v_i = 0$

Then  $\left\langle \sum_{i=1}^k c_i v_i, v_i \right\rangle = \langle 0, v_i \rangle = 0$

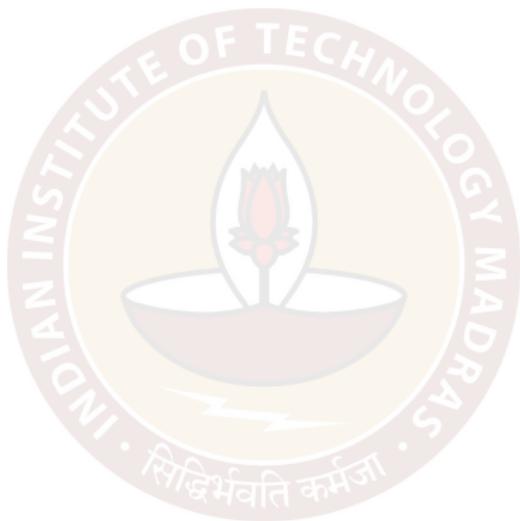
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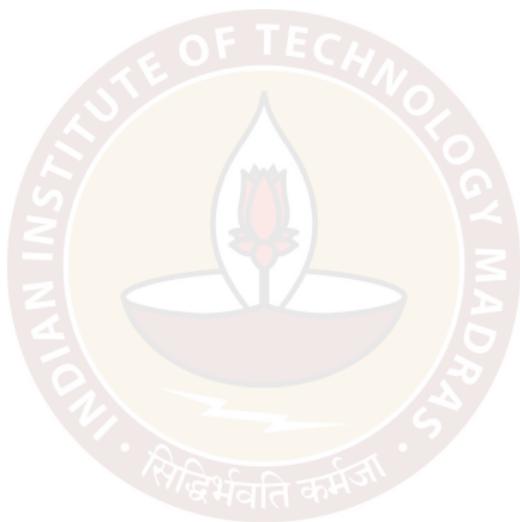
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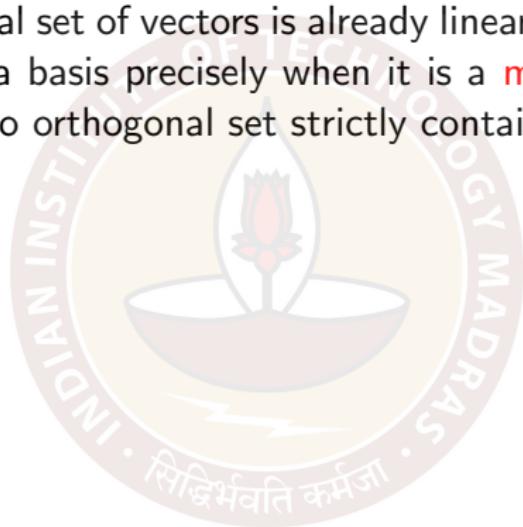
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Since an orthogonal set of vectors is already linearly independent, an orthogonal set is a basis precisely when it is a **maximal orthogonal set** (i.e. there is no orthogonal set strictly containing this one).



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