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Chapter 5 Norms, Inner Products and Orthogonality

5.1 Vector Norms

Euclidean Vector Norm

For a vector $x_{n \times 1}$, the **euclidean norm** of x is defined to be:

- $\|x\| = (\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \sqrt{x^T x}$ whenever $x \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}$
- $\|x\| = (\sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \sqrt{x^* x}$ whenever $x \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times 1}$

Several points to note:

1. Recall that if $z = a + ib$, then $\bar{z} = a - ib$, and the magnitude of z is $|z| = \sqrt{z\bar{z}} = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$.

2. The definition of euclidean norm guarantees that for all scalars α ,

- $\|x\| \geq 0$
- $\|x\| = 0 \iff x = 0$
- $\|\alpha x\| = |\alpha| \|x\|$

3. Given a vector $x \neq 0$, we **normalize** x by setting $u = \frac{x}{\|x\|}$ to have another vector that points in the same direction as x , it's easy to see that

$$\|u\| = \left\| \frac{x}{\|x\|} \right\| = \frac{1}{\|x\|} \|x\| = 1$$

4. For vectors in \mathbb{R}^n and \mathbb{C}^n , the **distance** between u and v is naturally defined to be $\|u - v\|$.

Standard Inner Product

The scalar terms defined by

$$x^T y = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i \in \mathbb{R} \quad \text{and} \quad x^* y = \sum_{i=1}^n \bar{x}_i y_i \in \mathbb{C}$$

are called the **standard inner products** for \mathbb{R}^n and \mathbb{C}^n , respectively.