MATH 311

Topics in Applied Mathematics I

Lecture 29:
Orthogonality in inner product spaces.

Norm

The notion of *norm* generalizes the notion of length of a vector in $\mathbb{R}^n$.

Definition. Let V be a vector space. A function $\alpha : V \to \mathbb{R}$, usually denoted $\alpha(\mathbf{x}) = \|\mathbf{x}\|$, is called a **norm** on V if it has the following properties:

(i) $\|\mathbf{x}\| \geq 0$, $\|\mathbf{x}\| = 0$ only for $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ (positivity)
(ii) $\|r\mathbf{x}\| = |r| \, \|\mathbf{x}\|$ for all $r \in \mathbb{R}$ (homogeneity)
(iii) $\|\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y}\| \leq \|\mathbf{x}\| + \|\mathbf{y}\|$ (triangle inequality)

A **normed vector space** is a vector space endowed with a norm. The norm defines a distance function on the normed vector space: $\operatorname{dist}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|$.

Examples. $V = \mathbb{R}^n$, $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

- $\|\mathbf{x}\|_\infty = \max(|x_1|, |x_2|, \ldots, |x_n|)$.
- $\|\mathbf{x}\|_p = \big(|x_1|^p + |x_2|^p + \cdots + |x_n|^p\big)^{1/p}$, $p \geq 1$.

Examples. $V = C[a, b]$, $f : [a, b] \to \mathbb{R}$.

- $\|f\|_\infty = \max\limits_{a \leq x \leq b} |f(x)|$.
- $\|f\|_p = \left(\int_a^b |f(x)|^p \, dx\right)^{1/p}$, $p \geq 1$.

Inner product

The notion of *inner product* generalizes the notion of dot product of vectors in $\mathbb{R}^n$.

Definition. Let V be a vector space. A function $\beta : V \times V \to \mathbb{R}$, usually denoted $\beta(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle$, is called an **inner product** on V if it is positive, symmetric, and bilinear. That is, if

(i) $\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x} \rangle \geq 0$, $\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x} \rangle = 0$ only for $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ (positivity)
(ii) $\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x} \rangle$ (symmetry)
(iii) $\langle r\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle = r\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle$ (homogeneity)
(iv) $\langle \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z} \rangle$ (distributive law)

An **inner product space** is a vector space endowed with an inner product.

Examples. $V = \mathbb{R}^n$.

- $\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle = \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{y} = x_1 y_1 + x_2 y_2 + \cdots + x_n y_n$.
- $\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle = d_1 x_1 y_1 + d_2 x_2 y_2 + \cdots + d_n x_n y_n$,

where $d_1, d_2, \ldots, d_n > 0$.

Examples. $V = C[a, b]$.

- $\langle f, g \rangle = \int_a^b f(x) g(x)\, dx$.
- $\langle f, g \rangle = \int_a^b f(x) g(x) w(x)\, dx$,

where w is bounded, piecewise continuous, and $w > 0$ everywhere on $[a, b]$.

Theorem Suppose $\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle$ is an inner product on a vector space V. Then

$$\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle^2 \leq \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x} \rangle \langle \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y} \rangle \quad \text{for all } \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in V.$$

Proof: For any $t \in \mathbb{R}$ let $\mathbf{v}_t = \mathbf{x} + t\mathbf{y}$. Then

$$\langle \mathbf{v}_t, \mathbf{v}_t \rangle = \langle \mathbf{x} + t\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x} + t\mathbf{y} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x} + t\mathbf{y} \rangle + t\langle \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x} + t\mathbf{y} \rangle$$
$$= \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x} \rangle + t\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle + t\langle \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x} \rangle + t^2\langle \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y} \rangle.$$

Assume that $\mathbf{y} \neq \mathbf{0}$ and let $t = -\dfrac{\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle}{\langle \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y} \rangle}$. Then

$$\langle \mathbf{v}_t, \mathbf{v}_t \rangle = \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x} \rangle + t\langle \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x} \rangle - \frac{\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle^2}{\langle \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y} \rangle}.$$

Since $\langle \mathbf{v}_t, \mathbf{v}_t \rangle \geq 0$, the desired inequality follows. In the case $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0}$, we have $\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y} \rangle = 0$.

Cauchy-Schwarz Inequality:

$$|\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle| \leq \sqrt{\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x} \rangle}\,\sqrt{\langle \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y} \rangle}.$$

Corollary 1 $|\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{y}| \leq \|\mathbf{x}\|\,\|\mathbf{y}\|$ for all $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

Equivalently, for all $x_i, y_i \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$(x_1y_1 + \cdots + x_ny_n)^2 \leq (x_1^2 + \cdots + x_n^2)(y_1^2 + \cdots + y_n^2).$$

Corollary 2 For any $f, g \in C[a, b]$,

$$\left(\int_a^b f(x)g(x)\,dx\right)^2 \leq \int_a^b |f(x)|^2\,dx \cdot \int_a^b |g(x)|^2\,dx.$$

Norms induced by inner products

Theorem Suppose $\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle$ is an inner product on a vector space V. Then $\|\mathbf{x}\| = \sqrt{\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x} \rangle}$ is a norm.

Proof: Positivity is obvious. Homogeneity:

$$\|r\mathbf{x}\| = \sqrt{\langle r\mathbf{x}, r\mathbf{x} \rangle} = \sqrt{r^2 \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x} \rangle} = |r| \sqrt{\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x} \rangle}.$$

Triangle inequality (follows from Cauchy-Schwarz's):

$$\begin{aligned}
\|\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y}\|^2 &= \langle \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} \rangle \\
&= \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y} \rangle \\
&\leq \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x} \rangle + |\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle| + |\langle \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x} \rangle| + \langle \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y} \rangle \\
&\leq \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 + 2\|\mathbf{x}\| \, \|\mathbf{y}\| + \|\mathbf{y}\|^2 = (\|\mathbf{x}\| + \|\mathbf{y}\|)^2.
\end{aligned}$$

Examples. • The length of a vector in $\mathbb{R}^n$,

$$\|\mathbf{x}\| = \sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \cdots + x_n^2},$$

is the norm induced by the dot product

$$\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{y} = x_1 y_1 + x_2 y_2 + \cdots + x_n y_n.$$

• The norm $\|f\|_2 = \left(\int_a^b |f(x)|^2 \, dx \right)^{1/2}$ on the vector space $C[a, b]$ is induced by the inner product

$$\langle f, g \rangle = \int_a^b f(x) g(x) \, dx.$$

Angle

Let V be an inner product space with an inner product $\langle\cdot,\cdot\rangle$ and the induced norm $\|\cdot\|$. Then

$$|\langle \mathbf{x},\mathbf{y}\rangle| \leq \|\mathbf{x}\|\,\|\mathbf{y}\|$$

for all $\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y}\in V$ (the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality). Therefore we can define the **angle** between nonzero vectors in V by

$$\angle(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y}) = \arccos \frac{\langle \mathbf{x},\mathbf{y}\rangle}{\|\mathbf{x}\|\,\|\mathbf{y}\|}.$$

Then $\langle \mathbf{x},\mathbf{y}\rangle = \|\mathbf{x}\|\,\|\mathbf{y}\|\cos\angle(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y})$.

In particular, vectors $\mathbf{x}$ and $\mathbf{y}$ are **orthogonal** (denoted $\mathbf{x}\perp\mathbf{y}$) if $\langle \mathbf{x},\mathbf{y}\rangle = 0$.

Orthogonal sets

Let V be an inner product space with an inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ and the induced norm $\| \cdot \|$.

Definition. A nonempty set $S \subset V$ of nonzero vectors is called an **orthogonal set** if all vectors in S are mutually orthogonal. That is, $\mathbf{0} \notin S$ and $\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle = 0$ for any $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in S$, $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{y}$.
An orthogonal set $S \subset V$ is called **orthonormal** if $\|\mathbf{x}\| = 1$ for any $\mathbf{x} \in S$.

Example. The standard basis $\mathbf{e}_1 = (1, 0, 0, \dots, 0)$, $\mathbf{e}_2 = (0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$, ..., $\mathbf{e}_n = (0, 0, 0, \dots, 1)$ in $\mathbb{R}^n$. It is an orthonormal set.

Example

- $V = C[-\pi, \pi]$, $\langle f, g \rangle = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x)g(x)\,dx$.

$f_1(x) = \sin x$, $f_2(x) = \sin 2x$, $\ldots$, $f_n(x) = \sin nx$, $\ldots$

$$\langle f_m, f_n \rangle = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin(mx)\sin(nx)\,dx = \begin{cases} \pi & \text{if } m = n, \\ 0 & \text{if } m \neq n. \end{cases}$$

Thus the set $\{f_1, f_2, f_3, \ldots\}$ is orthogonal but not orthonormal.

It is orthonormal with respect to a scaled inner product

$$\langle\langle f, g \rangle\rangle = \frac{1}{\pi}\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x)g(x)\,dx.$$

Orthogonality $\Longrightarrow$ linear independence

Theorem Suppose $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_k$ are nonzero vectors that form an orthogonal set. Then $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_k$ are linearly independent.

Proof: Suppose $t_1\mathbf{v}_1 + t_2\mathbf{v}_2 + \cdots + t_k\mathbf{v}_k = \mathbf{0}$ for some $t_1, t_2, \ldots, t_k \in \mathbb{R}$.

Then for any index $1 \leq i \leq k$ we have

$$\langle t_1\mathbf{v}_1 + t_2\mathbf{v}_2 + \cdots + t_k\mathbf{v}_k, \mathbf{v}_i\rangle = \langle \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{v}_i\rangle = 0.$$

$$\Longrightarrow \; t_1\langle \mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_i\rangle + t_2\langle \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_i\rangle + \cdots + t_k\langle \mathbf{v}_k, \mathbf{v}_i\rangle = 0$$

By orthogonality, $t_i\langle \mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{v}_i\rangle = 0 \;\Longrightarrow\; t_i = 0.$

Orthonormal bases

Let $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n$ be an orthonormal basis for an inner product space V.

Theorem Let $\mathbf{x} = x_1\mathbf{v}_1 + x_2\mathbf{v}_2 + \cdots + x_n\mathbf{v}_n$ and $\mathbf{y} = y_1\mathbf{v}_1 + y_2\mathbf{v}_2 + \cdots + y_n\mathbf{v}_n$, where $x_i, y_j \in \mathbb{R}$. Then

(i) $\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle = x_1y_1 + x_2y_2 + \cdots + x_ny_n$,

(ii) $\|\mathbf{x}\| = \sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \cdots + x_n^2}$.

Proof: (ii) follows from (i) when $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{x}$.

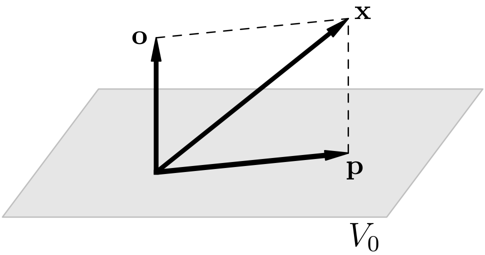
$$\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle = \left\langle \sum_{i=1}^n x_i\mathbf{v}_i, \sum_{j=1}^n y_j\mathbf{v}_j \right\rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \left\langle \mathbf{v}_i, \sum_{j=1}^n y_j\mathbf{v}_j \right\rangle$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n x_iy_j\langle \mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{v}_j \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n x_iy_i.$$

Orthogonal projection

Theorem Let V be an inner product space and V_0 be a finite-dimensional subspace of V. Then any vector $\mathbf{x} \in V$ is uniquely represented as $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{o}$, where $\mathbf{p} \in V_0$ and $\mathbf{o} \perp V_0$.

The component $\mathbf{p}$ is called the **orthogonal projection** of the vector $\mathbf{x}$ onto the subspace V_0.



The projection $\mathbf{p}$ is closer to $\mathbf{x}$ than any other vector in V_0. Hence the distance from $\mathbf{x}$ to V_0 is $\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}\| = \|\mathbf{o}\|$.

Let V be an inner product space. Let $\mathbf{p}$ be the orthogonal projection of a vector $\mathbf{x} \in V$ onto a finite-dimensional subspace V_0.

If V_0 is a one-dimensional subspace spanned by a vector $\mathbf{v}$ then $\mathbf{p} = \dfrac{\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v} \rangle}{\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v} \rangle}\mathbf{v}$.

If $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_n$ is an orthogonal basis for V_0 then

$$\mathbf{p} = \frac{\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}_1 \rangle}{\langle \mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_1 \rangle}\mathbf{v}_1 + \frac{\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}_2 \rangle}{\langle \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_2 \rangle}\mathbf{v}_2 + \cdots + \frac{\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}_n \rangle}{\langle \mathbf{v}_n, \mathbf{v}_n \rangle}\mathbf{v}_n.$$

Indeed, $\langle \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{v}_i \rangle = \displaystyle\sum_{j=1}^{n} \frac{\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}_j \rangle}{\langle \mathbf{v}_j, \mathbf{v}_j \rangle}\langle \mathbf{v}_j, \mathbf{v}_i \rangle = \frac{\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}_i \rangle}{\langle \mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{v}_i \rangle}\langle \mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{v}_i \rangle = \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}_i \rangle$

$\implies \langle \mathbf{x}-\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{v}_i \rangle = 0 \implies \mathbf{x}-\mathbf{p} \perp \mathbf{v}_i \implies \mathbf{x}-\mathbf{p} \perp V_0$.

Coordinates relative to an orthogonal basis

Theorem If $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_n$ is an orthogonal basis for an inner product space V, then

$$\mathbf{x} = \frac{\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}_1 \rangle}{\langle \mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_1 \rangle}\mathbf{v}_1 + \frac{\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}_2 \rangle}{\langle \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_2 \rangle}\mathbf{v}_2 + \cdots + \frac{\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}_n \rangle}{\langle \mathbf{v}_n, \mathbf{v}_n \rangle}\mathbf{v}_n$$

for any vector $\mathbf{x} \in V$.

Corollary If $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_n$ is an orthonormal basis for an inner product space V, then

$$\mathbf{x} = \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}_1 \rangle \mathbf{v}_1 + \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}_2 \rangle \mathbf{v}_2 + \cdots + \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}_n \rangle \mathbf{v}_n$$

for any vector $\mathbf{x} \in V$.