

# Inner Product

The inner product of two vectors  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ \vdots \\ u_n \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{bmatrix}$

is defined as

$$\mathbf{u}^T \cdot \mathbf{v} = [u_1 \quad u_2 \quad \cdots \quad u_n] \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{bmatrix} = u_1 v_1 + u_2 v_2 + \cdots + u_n v_n$$

This is the dot product between  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$ .

Ex. Compute  $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}$  for  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -5 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}$

## Properties of the Inner Product

1)  $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{a}$

2)  $\mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{c}) = \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c}$

3)  $(c\mathbf{a}) \cdot \mathbf{b} = c(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}) = \mathbf{a} \cdot (c\mathbf{b})$

4)  $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a} \geq 0$  and  $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a} = 0$  if and only if  $\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{0}$

Def. The length (or norm) of a vector is denoted  $\|\mathbf{a}\|$

Thm. The length of vector  $\mathbf{a} = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \end{bmatrix}$  is  $\|\mathbf{a}\| = \sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2}$

The length of vector  $\mathbf{a} = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{bmatrix}$  is  $\|\mathbf{a}\| = \sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2}$

Note 1:  $\|\mathbf{a}\|^2 = \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}$

Note 2:  $\|c\mathbf{a}\| = |c| \|\mathbf{a}\| \leftarrow$  Prove it.

Def. A unit vector is a vector whose length is 1.

→ This process is sometimes called normalization.

The unit vector in the direction of  $\mathbf{a}$  is

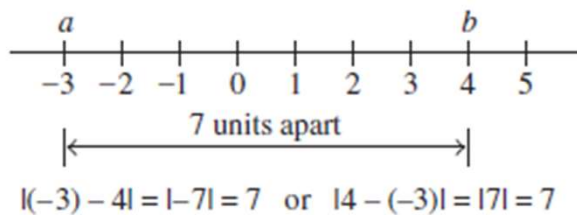
$$\mathbf{u} = \frac{\mathbf{a}}{\|\mathbf{a}\|}$$

Ex. Find the unit vector in the direction of  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ -2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

Ex. Let  $W$  be a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^2$  spanned by  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 2/3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ .  
Find a unit vector that is a basis for  $W$ .

## Distance:

In 1-D, the distance between points  $a$  and  $b$  is  $|b - a|$



In higher dimensions, this can be extended to be

$$\text{dist}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) = \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}\|$$

Ex. Find  $\text{dist}\left(\begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}\right)$ .

Note this is same as using the distance formula on the points  $(7,1)$  and  $(3,2)$ .



The inner product is used to find the angle between two vectors:

Thm. If  $\theta$  is the angle between  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$ , then

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = \|\mathbf{a}\| \|\mathbf{b}\| \cos \theta$$

Ex. Find the angle between  $\mathbf{a} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$

Thm. Two vectors  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  are orthogonal if  $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = 0$ .

Orthogonal = Perpendicular = Normal

Ex. Show that  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$  are orthogonal

Thm. Pythagorean Theorem

Two vectors  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  are orthogonal if and only if

$$\|\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}\|^2 = \|\mathbf{u}\|^2 + \|\mathbf{v}\|^2$$

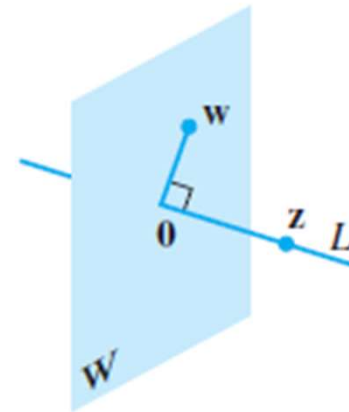
Ex. Verify this for  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$

Def. If  $\mathbf{z}$  is orthogonal to every vector in a subspace  $W$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , we say  $\mathbf{z}$  is orthogonal to  $W$ .

The set of all vectors orthogonal to  $W$  is called the orthogonal complement of  $W$ , and is denoted  $W^\perp$  (called “ $W$  perpendicular” or “ $W$  perp”).

- $W^\perp$  is itself a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

If  $W$  is a plane (through the origin) in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , then  $W^\perp$  is the set of all vectors orthogonal to the plane.



- A vector  $\mathbf{x}$  is in  $W^\perp$  if and only if  $\mathbf{x}$  is orthogonal to every vector in a set that spans  $W$ .

Ex. Is  $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  in  $W^\perp$  where  $W = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ ?

Ex. Evaluate  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$

Note:  $A\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} (\text{Row}_1 A) \cdot \mathbf{x} \\ (\text{Row}_2 A) \cdot \mathbf{x} \\ \vdots \\ (\text{Row}_n A) \cdot \mathbf{x} \end{bmatrix}$

→ If  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  (meaning  $\mathbf{x}$  is in  $\text{Nul } A$ ) then  $(\text{Row}_k A) \cdot \mathbf{x} = 0$

→  $\mathbf{x}$  is orthogonal to every row of  $A$

→  $\mathbf{x}$  is in  $(\text{Row } A)^\perp$

$$(\text{Row } A)^\perp = \text{Nul } A$$

Also,  $\text{Col } A = \text{Row } (A^T)$

→  $(\text{Col } A)^\perp = (\text{Row } A^T)^\perp = \text{Nul } A^T$

Def. A set  $S = \{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_p\}$  of vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is called an orthogonal set if each pair of distinct vectors in the set is orthogonal.

$\rightarrow \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_j = 0$  as long as  $i \neq j$

Ex. Show that  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -4 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  is an orthogonal set.



An orthogonal set is linearly independent.

→ Let's prove it.

Def. An orthogonal basis is a basis for a subspace that is also an orthogonal set.

→ The standard basis of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \dots, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  is an orthogonal basis.

→ An orthogonal basis is useful because it's easy to compute the weights.

Thm. If  $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \mathbf{b}_2, \dots, \mathbf{b}_p\}$  is an orthogonal basis of  $W$ , and if  $\mathbf{y}$  is in  $W$  ( $\mathbf{y} = c_1\mathbf{b}_1 + c_2\mathbf{b}_2 + \dots + c_p\mathbf{b}_p$ ), then the weights are given by

$$c_j = \frac{\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{b}_j}{\mathbf{b}_j \cdot \mathbf{b}_j}$$

→ This makes it easy to find the coordinate vector

$$[\mathbf{y}]_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ \vdots \\ c_p \end{bmatrix}$$

→ Let's prove it.



Ex. Express  $\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 1 \\ -8 \end{bmatrix}$  as a linear combination of the vectors

in the orthogonal basis  $S = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -4 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ .

Without this trick, we have to solve the system of equations.

Given a vector  $\mathbf{u}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , consider the problem of decomposing a vector  $\mathbf{y}$  into the sum of two vectors: one that is in the direction of  $\mathbf{u}$  and the other that is orthogonal to  $\mathbf{u}$ :

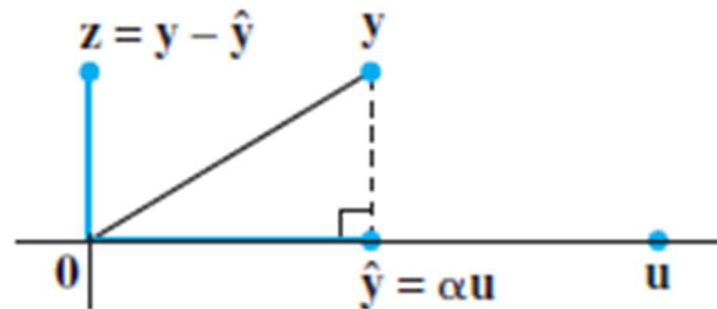
$$\mathbf{y} = \hat{\mathbf{y}} + \mathbf{z}$$

$\hat{\mathbf{y}}$  is in the direction of  $\mathbf{u}$ , so  $\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \alpha\mathbf{u}$ .

→ This is called the orthogonal projection of  $\mathbf{y}$  onto  $\mathbf{u}$

$\mathbf{z}$  is called the component of  $\mathbf{y}$  orthogonal to  $\mathbf{u}$

→ Let's find a formula for  $\alpha$



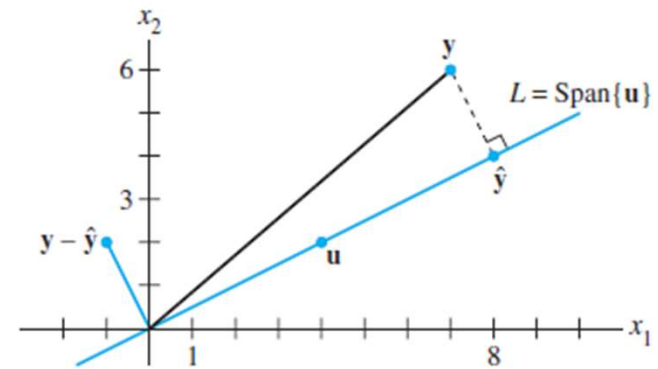
If the  $L$  is the line containing  $\mathbf{u}$  (all multiples of  $\mathbf{u}$ ), we can write

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \text{proj}_L \mathbf{y} = \frac{\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}}{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{u}} \mathbf{u}$$

Ex. Let  $\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ . Write  $\mathbf{y}$  as the sum of a vector in  $\text{Span}\{\mathbf{u}\}$  and a vector orthogonal to  $\mathbf{u}$ .



Ex. In the previous example, find the distance from  $\mathbf{y}$  to the line containing  $\mathbf{u}$ .



Def. An orthonormal set is an orthogonal set of unit vectors.

If a subspace is spanned by an orthonormal set, then the set is called an orthonormal basis for the subspace.

Ex. Show that  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 3/\sqrt{11} \\ 1/\sqrt{11} \\ 1/\sqrt{11} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1/\sqrt{6} \\ 2/\sqrt{6} \\ 1/\sqrt{6} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1/\sqrt{66} \\ -4/\sqrt{66} \\ 7/\sqrt{66} \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  is an orthonormal set.

This is the earlier orthogonal set where each vector is made into a unit vector.

Thm. A matrix  $U$  (not necessarily square) has orthonormal columns if and only if  $U^T U = I$ .

→ Prove it

Thm. Let  $U$  be a matrix with orthonormal columns.

i.  $\|U\mathbf{x}\| = \|\mathbf{x}\|$

ii.  $(U\mathbf{x}) \cdot (U\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{y}$

iii.  $(U\mathbf{x}) \cdot (U\mathbf{y}) = 0$  if and only if  $\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{y} = 0$

→ This means that the transformation  $\mathbf{x} \mapsto U\mathbf{x}$  preserves length and orthogonality

If  $U$  is a square matrix with orthonormal columns, then

$$U^T U = I$$

$$\rightarrow U^T = U^{-1}$$

→ We call this an orthogonal matrix

→ In this case, the rows of  $U$  are orthonormal as well

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3/\sqrt{11} & -1/\sqrt{6} & -1/\sqrt{66} \\ 1/\sqrt{11} & 2/\sqrt{6} & -4/\sqrt{66} \\ 1/\sqrt{11} & 1/\sqrt{6} & 7/\sqrt{66} \end{bmatrix}$$