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Wednesday, April 1

On Monday, we discussed orthogonal projections and orthogonal complements.

Theorem If  $V$  is an inner product space, and  $W$  is a finite dimensional subspace of  $V$ , then

$$V = W \oplus W^\perp$$

Proof Let  $(e_1, \dots, e_n)$  be an ON basis of  $W$ . If  $v \in V$

$$v = (\langle v, e_1 \rangle e_1 + \dots + \langle v, e_n \rangle e_n) + w'$$

Question: What if  $\dim W = \infty$ ?

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Then the statement is

- Still true?

- False?

⋮

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Counterexample:  $V = \ell_2(\mathbb{R})$

= set of  $\mathbb{R}$ -valued sequences  $(a_1, a_2, \dots)$   
such that  $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |a_i|^2$  converges.

$V$  contains elements like

$$e_1 = (1, 0, 0, \dots)$$

$$e_2 = (0, 1, 0, \dots)$$

$$e_3 = (0, 0, 1, \dots)$$

$\vdots$

$$e_n = (0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots)$$

$\vdots$

Let  $W = \text{span}(e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n, \dots)$

$$W \neq V$$

Why not?

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The space  $W$  is the space of finite sequences, of the form

$$(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_N, 0, 0, 0, \dots)$$

Hence, for example,

$$v = (1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \dots, \frac{1}{n}, \dots) \notin W$$

$$\left( v \in V \text{ because } 1 + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{4^2} + \dots = \frac{\pi^2}{6} < \infty. \right)$$

$$W^\perp = \{ v \in V \mid \langle v, e_i \rangle = 0 \}$$

$$\text{But if } v = (a_1, \dots, a_n, \dots), \quad \langle v, e_i \rangle = a_i$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So } W^\perp &= \{ (a_1, \dots, a_n, \dots) \text{ st } a_j = 0 \forall j \} \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

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Problem: The vector space  $W$

is not complete for the metric induced

by  $\langle, \rangle$ . E.g.,  $(1, 0, \dots)$ ,  $(1, \frac{1}{2}, 0, \dots)$ ,

$(1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, 0, \dots)$ ,  $(1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \dots)$ , ...

is a Cauchy sequence in  $W$  which

does not have a limit in  $W$ .

Definition A Hilbert space is

an inner product space that is complete for  $\| \cdot \|$ .

Remark: An infinite dimensional

Hilbert space is always of uncountable dimension!

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Back to  $\dim V < \infty$ .

Recall that on Monday we defined the adjoint of  $T: V \rightarrow V$  as the unique operator  $T^*: V \rightarrow V$  satisfying

$$\langle Tv, w \rangle = \langle v, T^*w \rangle$$

Example of the adjoint:

$V = L^2(\mathbb{R}) =$  space of square integrable functions on  $\mathbb{R}$   
 $= \left\{ f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ s.t. } \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x)^2 dx < \infty \right\}$   
and  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f^{(n)}(x)^2 < \infty$

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$$T: V \rightarrow V$$

$$T(f) = \frac{d}{dx} f(x)$$

$$T^* = ?$$

What is the adjoint of  $T$ ?

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$$\begin{aligned}\langle Tf, g \rangle &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f'(x) g(x) dx \\ &= - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) g'(x) dx\end{aligned}$$

(Integration by parts!)

Hence  $T^* = -T$ .

We want to single out those linear transformations that enjoy a special relation with their adjoint.



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Definition: A linear transformation

$T: V \rightarrow V$  is self adjoint if

$T^* = T$ , i.e., if

$$\langle Tv, w \rangle = \langle v, Tw \rangle \quad \forall v, w \in V. \quad \square$$

Remark A matrix  $M \in M_n(\mathbb{R})$

(resp. in  $M_n(\mathbb{C})$ ) is said to

be symmetric (resp. hermitian)

if  $M^t = M$  (resp.  $M^t = \overline{M}$ ).

Lemma  $T$  is self-adjoint if

and only if its matrix in an

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orthonormal basis is symmetric  
( $F = \mathbb{R}$ ) or hermitian ( $F = \mathbb{C}$ ).

Examples:

(1) Let  $V = F^n$  with the standard dot product. Then multiplication by a hermitian symmetric matrix is self-adjoint. ( $M = (m_{ij})$ ,  $m_{ij} = \overline{m_{ji}}$ )

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ b & a \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Char poly of } T &= x^2 - 2ax + (a^2 - b^2) \\ &= (x - (a-b))(x - (a+b)) \end{aligned}$$

So  $T$  is diagonalisable =

$f_T(x)$  has distinct roots in  $F$ , if  $b \neq 0$

$T = \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & a \end{pmatrix}$  if  $b = 0$ .

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(2) If  $W \subseteq V$ , then  $P_W: V \rightarrow V$

is self-adjoint.

Proof Let  $v = v_1 + v_2$ ,  $v_1 \in W$ ,  $v_2 \in W^\perp$   
 $u = u_1 + u_2$ ,  $u_1 \in W$ ,  $u_2 \in W^\perp$

$$\langle P_W(v), u \rangle = \langle v_1, u_1 + u_2 \rangle = \langle v_1, u_1 \rangle$$

$$\langle v, P(u) \rangle = \langle v_1 + v_2, u_1 \rangle = \langle v_1, u_1 \rangle$$

(3)  $V = L^2(\mathbb{C})$   $u(x) \in L^2(\mathbb{C})$

$T(f) = u(x) \cdot f(x)$  is linear

$$\langle Tf, g \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u(x) f(x) \cdot \overline{g(x)} dx$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \overline{u(x) g(x)} dx = \langle f, T^*g \rangle$$

where  $T^*(g) = \overline{u(x)} g(x)$

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Proposition: If  $T$  is self-adjoint, then  $\langle Tv, v \rangle \in \mathbb{R}$ .  
In particular, any eigenvalue of  $T$  is real.

Proof  $\langle Tv, v \rangle = \langle v, Tv \rangle = \overline{\langle Tv, v \rangle}$   $\square$

Remark: This proposition is trivial when  $F = \mathbb{R}$ .

Proposition If  $F = \mathbb{C}$ , and  $\langle Tv, v \rangle \in \mathbb{R}$  for all  $v$ , then  $T$  is self adjoint.

Proof If  $\langle Tv, v \rangle \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  
 $\langle Tv, v \rangle = \langle v, T^*v \rangle = \langle T^*v, v \rangle$   
 $\therefore \langle (T - T^*)v, v \rangle = 0 \quad \forall v.$

The proposition will now follow from =

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Lemma Suppose that  $\langle T(v), v \rangle = 0$   
 $\forall v$ . Then  $T = 0$ .

Proof  $\langle T(u+iv), u+iv \rangle = \langle T(u), v \rangle$   
 $+ \langle T(v), u \rangle$

$$0 = \langle T(u+iv), u+iv \rangle$$
$$= -i \langle T(u), v \rangle + i \langle T(v), u \rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \langle T(u), v \rangle + \langle T(v), u \rangle = 0 \\ \langle T(u), v \rangle - \langle T(v), u \rangle = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle T(u), v \rangle = 0 \quad \forall u, v$$

$$\Rightarrow T(u) = 0 \quad \forall u. \quad \square$$

Remark: The hypothesis  $F = \mathbb{C}$  is

crucial for this lemma to hold.

Why?

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For example, the transformation

$$T: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$T(x, y) = (y, -x) \quad (\text{rotation by}$$

a  $90^\circ$  angle) satisfies

$$\langle T(v), v \rangle = 0 \quad \forall v$$

but  $T \neq 0$ .

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## Orthogonal and Unitary Transformations

Theorem: The following are equivalent:

- ①  $T T^* = T^* T = \text{id}$
- ②  $T$  sends one ON basis to another
- ③  $T$  carries any ON basis to another
- ④  $\langle T(v), T(w) \rangle = \langle v, w \rangle \quad \forall v, w \in V$
- ⑤  $\|T(v)\| = \|v\|$

$$\text{①} \Rightarrow \text{④} \quad \langle T(v), T(w) \rangle = \langle v, T^* T w \rangle = \langle v, w \rangle$$

$$\text{④} \Rightarrow \text{⑤} \quad \text{Set } v = w$$

$$\text{⑤} \Rightarrow \text{①} \quad \langle T v, T v \rangle = \langle v, v \rangle \quad \forall v \in V$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle v, (\text{id} - T^* T) v \rangle = 0 \quad \forall v \in V$$

$$\Rightarrow (\text{id} - T^* T) = 0$$

Rest is left as an exercise.

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Definition: A transformation

satisfying these equivalent properties is called orthogonal (if  $F = \mathbb{R}$ ) or unitary (if  $F = \mathbb{C}$ ).

$T$  is orthogonal/unitary if its matrix relative to an orthonormal basis has columns that form an orthonormal system in  $F^n$ .

The set of orthogonal/unitary matrices forms a group

$O(V) =$  group of orthogonal transformations on  $V$  ( $F = \mathbb{R}$ )

$U(V) =$  group of unitary transf. ( $F = \mathbb{C}$ ).



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$SO(V) :=$  "special orthogonal group"  
= orthogonal transformations of  
determinant one.

$SU(V) :=$  "special unitary group."

Examples (1)  $V = \mathbb{R}^2$   
 $SO(V) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \cos\theta & \sin\theta \\ -\sin\theta & \cos\theta \end{pmatrix} \right\}$   
 $= \mathbb{R}/2\pi\mathbb{Z} = \{e^{i\theta}\}$   
 $= S^1$  (circle)

(2)  $V = \mathbb{C}^2$   
 $SU(V) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & -\bar{b} \\ b & \bar{a} \end{pmatrix} \right\} \quad |a|^2 + |b|^2 = 1$   
 $= S^3$  (three-dimensional  
sphere in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ .

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Groups like  $SO(V)$ ,  $SU(V)$ ,

$O(V)$ ,  $U(V)$  are a rich source

of examples of real Lie

Groups.



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We are now ready to state the spectral theorem for self-adjoint operators.

Theorem Let  $T: V \rightarrow V$  be a self-adjoint operator on a finite-dimensional inner product space. Then  $V$  admits an orthonormal basis of eigenvectors for  $T$ . In particular,  $T$  is diagonalisable.

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## Spectral theorem, concrete formulation

$F = \mathbb{R}$  If  $M$  is a symmetric matrix, it can be written as

$$M = P D P^{-1}, \quad \text{where } P \text{ is}$$

orthogonal and  $D$  is diagonal.

$F = \mathbb{C}$  If  $M$  is a hermitian matrix, then it can be written as

$$M = U D U^{-1}, \quad \text{where } U \text{ is unitary}$$

and  $D$  is diagonal.

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On Friday, we will prove  
this theorem.