

# MTHSC 3110 SECTION 6.1 – INNER PRODUCT, LENGTH AND ORTHOGONALITY

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## DEFINITION

Suppose that  $\vec{u}, \vec{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . We define the inner product or dot product of  $\vec{u}$  and  $\vec{v}$  as

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$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = (1)(-1) + (2)(-2) + (3)(1) = -2.$$

## THEOREM

Let  $\vec{u}, \vec{v}, \vec{w} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and let  $c$  be a scalar. Then

- 1  $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = \vec{v} \cdot \vec{u}$ .
- 2  $(\vec{u} + \vec{v}) \cdot \vec{w} = \vec{u} \cdot \vec{w} + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{w}$ .
- 3  $(c\vec{u}) \cdot \vec{v} = c(\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v})$ .
- 4  $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{u} \geq 0$  and  $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{u} = 0$  if and only if  $\vec{u} = \vec{0}$ .
- 5  $(c_1\vec{u}_1 + \cdots + c_p\vec{u}_p) \cdot \vec{w} = c_1\vec{u}_1 \cdot \vec{w} + c_p\vec{u}_p \cdot \vec{w}$ .

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## DEFINITION (LENGTH)

The *length* (or *norm*) of  $\vec{v}$  is the non-negative scalar  $\|\vec{v}\|$  defined by

$$\|\vec{v}\| = \sqrt{\vec{v} \cdot \vec{v}} = \sqrt{v_1^2 + v_2^2 + \cdots + v_n^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \|\vec{v}\|^2 = \vec{v} \cdot \vec{v}.$$

## NOTE

This definition is chosen so that the Pythagorean theorem holds (that is, in two dimensions the length  $c$  of the vector which is the hypotenuse of a right triangle with horizontal length  $a$  and vertical height  $b$  satisfies  $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ ).

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- 4 The above process is called normalizing.

## EXAMPLE

Find a unit vector which is in the same direction as  $\vec{v} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$ .

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For  $\vec{u}$  and  $\vec{v}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , the *distance between  $\vec{u}$  and  $\vec{v}$* , written as  $\text{dist}(\vec{u}, \vec{v})$  is the length of the vector  $\vec{u} - \vec{v}$ . That is,

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

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### EXAMPLE

Compute the distance  $\text{dist}\left(\begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}\right)$ .

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$$\begin{aligned}\|\vec{u} - \vec{v}\|^2 &= (\vec{u} - \vec{v}) \cdot (\vec{u} - \vec{v}) \\ &= \vec{u} \cdot \vec{u} - \vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} - \vec{v} \cdot \vec{u} + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{v} \\ &= \|\vec{u}\|^2 + \|\vec{v}\|^2 - 2\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}\end{aligned}$$



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## THEOREM (PYTHAGORUS)

$\|\vec{u} - \vec{v}\|^2 = \|\vec{u}\|^2 + \|\vec{v}\|^2$  if and only if  $\vec{u}$  and  $\vec{v}$  are orthogonal.

## DEFINITION

Suppose that  $W \leq \mathbb{R}^n$ .

- 1 If for all  $\vec{w} \in W$ ,  $\vec{z} \cdot \vec{w} = 0$ , then we say that  $\vec{z}$  is orthogonal to  $W$  and write  $z \perp W$ .
- 2 We define the orthogonal complement of  $W$  as  $W^\perp = \{\vec{z} \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \vec{z} \perp W\}$ .

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## EXAMPLE

Suppose that  $W = \text{Span} \left( \left( \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right) \right)$ .

Describe  $W^\perp$ .

## FACT

- 1  $\vec{x} \in W^\perp$  if and only if  $\vec{x} \perp \vec{w}$  for all  $\vec{w}$  in a spanning set for  $W$ .
- 2  $W^\perp \leq \mathbb{R}^n$ .

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## THEOREM

Suppose that  $A$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix.

- 1  $(\text{Row}(A))^\perp = \text{Nul}(A)$ .
- 2  $(\text{Col}(A))^\perp = \text{Nul}(A^t)$ .

## NOTE

In two or three dimensions, the projection of  $\vec{v}$  onto  $\vec{u}$  has length  $\|\vec{v}\| \cos \theta$ , where  $\theta$  is the angle between the vectors. Hence

$$\|\vec{v}\| \cos \theta = c \|\vec{u}\|$$

so that

$$\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = \|\vec{u}\| \|\vec{v}\| \cos \theta.$$

In higher dimensions than three we use this to *define* the angle between two vectors.