

Motivation:

In section 4.1, we extended the concept of length and distance from \mathbb{R}^2 to \mathbb{R}^n by using dot product on \mathbb{R}^n . The dot product, called Euclidean inner product, is only one of several inner product that can be defined on \mathbb{R}^n . We will extend the concept one step further—inner product for general vector spaces. To distinguish between standard inner product and other possible inner product, we use notation:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} &= \text{Euclidean inner (dot) product} \\ \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle &= \text{general inner product for vector space } V.\end{aligned}$$

I Definition:

Let \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} and \mathbf{w} be vectors in a vector space V , and let c be any scalar. An inner product on V is a function that associates a real number $\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle$ with each pair of vectors \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} and satisfies the following axioms:

- (1) $\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u} \rangle$ (symmetry)
- (2) $\langle \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle$ (additivity)
- (3) $\langle c\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = c\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle$ (homogeneity)
- (4) $\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v} \rangle \geq 0$ and $\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = 0$ iff $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$. (positivity)

Remark: A vector space with an inner product is called inner product space.

Ex 1: Euclidean inner product for \mathbb{R}^n

Let $\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = u_1v_1 + u_2v_2 + \cdots + u_nv_n$. Verify the 4 axioms above.

Ex 2: A different inner product for \mathbb{R}^3 : weight Euclidean inner product

Let $\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = 2u_1v_1 + u_2v_2 + 3u_3v_3$. Verify the axioms:

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle &= 2u_1v_1 + u_2v_2 + 3u_3v_3 = 2v_1u_1 + v_2u_2 + 3v_3u_3 = \langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u} \rangle \\ \langle \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle &= 2(u_1 + v_1)w_1 + (u_2 + v_2)w_2 + 3(u_3 + v_3)w_3 \\ &= 2u_1w_1 + 2v_1w_1 + u_2w_2 + v_2w_2 + 3u_3w_3 + 3v_3w_3 = \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle \\ \langle c\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle &= 2cu_1v_1 + cu_2v_2 + 3cu_3v_3 = c(2u_1v_1 + u_2v_2 + 3u_3v_3) = c\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle \\ \langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v} \rangle &= 2v_1^2 + v_2^2 + 3v_3^2 \geq 0 \text{ and } \langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = 0 \text{ iff } v_1 = v_2 = v_3 = 0; \text{ i.e., } \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}.\end{aligned}$$

Ex 3: Inner product on P_n

Let $\mathbf{p} = a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx_n$ and $\mathbf{q} = b_0 + b_1x + \cdots + b_nx_n$.

Define $\langle \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q} \rangle = a_0b_0 + a_1b_1 + \cdots + a_nb_n$

Ex 4: Inner product on M_{mn}

Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & a_2 \\ a_3 & a_4 \end{bmatrix}$, $B = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 & b_2 \\ b_3 & b_4 \end{bmatrix}$ Define $\langle A, B \rangle = a_1b_1 + a_2b_2 + a_3b_3 + a_4b_4$.

Ex 5: Let V be vector space of differentiable functions. For $p(x)$ and $q(x)$ in V , define

$$\langle p(x), q(x) \rangle = \left. \frac{d}{dx}[p(x)q(x)] \right|_{x=0}$$

Determine if $\langle p(x), q(x) \rangle$ is an inner product on V .

II Some properties of inner product: Let $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}$ be vectors in inner product space V , and let c be any real scalar.

- (1) $\langle \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{0} \rangle = 0$
- (2) $\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w} \rangle$
- (3) $\langle \mathbf{u}, c\mathbf{v} \rangle = c\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle$

Proof:

- (1) $\langle \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = \langle 0\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = 0\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = 0$
- (2) $\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{u} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{u} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w} \rangle$
- (3) $\langle \mathbf{u}, c\mathbf{v} \rangle = \langle c\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u} \rangle = c\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u} \rangle = c\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle$

III Definition of norm, distance, and angle:

Let \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} be vectors in an inner product space V .

- (1) Norm of \mathbf{u} is $\|\mathbf{u}\| = \sqrt{\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u} \rangle}$.
- (2) Distance between \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} is $d(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) = \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}\|$.
- (3) Angle between two non-zero vectors \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} is given by

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle}{\|\mathbf{u}\|\|\mathbf{v}\|} \quad 0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$$

- (4) \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} are orthogonal if and only if

$$\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = 0$$

Remark:

- If $\|\mathbf{v}\| = 1$, then \mathbf{v} is called unit vector.
- If \mathbf{v} is any non-zero vector, then $\mathbf{u} = \frac{\mathbf{v}}{\|\mathbf{v}\|}$ is unit vector and is called unit vector in direction of \mathbf{v} .

Ex 6: Let $\mathbf{p} = 1 - 2x^2$ and $\mathbf{q} = 4 - 2x + x_2$ be polynomials in P_2 with inner product as defined in example above.

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q} \rangle &= 4 \cdot 1 + 0 \cdot (-2) + (-2) \cdot (-1) = 2 \\ \|\mathbf{p}\| &= \sqrt{\langle \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{p} \rangle} = \sqrt{5} \\ \|\mathbf{q}\| &= \sqrt{\langle \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{q} \rangle} = \sqrt{21} \\ d(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) &= \|\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q}\| = \|-3 + 2x - 3x^2\| = \sqrt{22} \\ \cos \theta &= \frac{\langle \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q} \rangle}{\|\mathbf{p}\|\|\mathbf{q}\|} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}\sqrt{21}} \implies \theta = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{105}} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Ex 7: Let A be an invertible $n \times n$ matrix. Then

$$\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = (A\mathbf{u}) \cdot \mathbf{v}$$

is an inner product on \mathbb{R}^n generated by A .

Suppose that $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$. Compute the cosine of \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} where $\mathbf{u} = (-1, 0)$ and $\mathbf{v} = (2, 1)$.

Answer: see lecture notes.