

4.4

orthogonal bases

Given, two vectors \vec{u}, \vec{v}

$$\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ \vdots \\ u_n \end{bmatrix}, \quad \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{bmatrix} \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^n,$$

the dot product of $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}$ is:

$$\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = u_1 v_1 + u_2 v_2 + \dots + u_n v_n$$

and the following properties hold:

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. $(c\vec{u}) \cdot \vec{v} = \vec{u} \cdot (c\vec{v}) = c(\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v})$

4. $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{u} \geq 0$, and $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = 0$ only when $\vec{u} = \vec{0}$.

 \vec{u} and \vec{v} are perpendicular iff $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = 0$ Def:A collection of vectors in \mathbb{R}^n is called orthogonal if any two are perpendicular.

\Rightarrow A set of vectors $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k\}$ in \mathbb{R}^n is called orthogonal set if $\vec{v}_i \cdot \vec{v}_j = 0$ for all v_i, v_j with $i \neq j$.

Ex:

Show that $\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$ is an orthogonal set of vectors,

while

$$v_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad v_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 11 \\ -1 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}, \quad v_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -2 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

check

$$v_1 \cdot v_2 = 0$$

$$= 11 + (-4) + (-7)$$

$$= 0$$

$$v_1 \cdot v_3 = 0$$

$$= 3 + (-8) + 5$$

$$= 0$$

$$v_2 \cdot v_3 = 0$$

$$= 33 + (+2) + (-35)$$

$$= 0$$

Theorem:

if v_1, \dots, v_k are orthogonal (all non-zero), then they are linearly independent.

proof:

suppose $a_1, \dots, a_k \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$a_1 \vec{v}_1 + a_2 \vec{v}_2 + \dots + a_k \vec{v}_k = \vec{0} \rightarrow \text{want to show that}$$

$$a_1 = a_2 = \dots = a_k = 0$$

choose any i such that $1 \leq i \leq k$:

then

$$(a_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + a_k \vec{v}_k) \cdot \vec{v}_i = \vec{0} \cdot \vec{v}_i$$

Def:

A vector is called normal if $\|\vec{v}\| = 1$

A collection of vectors in \mathbb{R}^n

$v_1, \dots, v_k \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is called orthonormal

if they are orthogonal and each $\|\vec{v}_i\| = 1$.

An orthonormal basis is a basis that is made up of orthonormal vectors.

Ex.

The standard basis for \mathbb{R}^n

$\{z_1, z_2, z_n\}$ is an orthonormal basis.

$$v_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad v_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 11 \\ -1 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix} \quad v_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -2 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

we have shown these are orthogonal \Rightarrow linearly independent \Rightarrow 3 linearly independent vectors in \mathbb{R}^3

\Rightarrow in a basis for \mathbb{R}^3

Normalizing

$$\bar{u}_1 = \frac{\bar{v}_1}{\|v_1\|} \quad \bar{u}_2 = \frac{\bar{v}_2}{\|v_2\|} \quad \bar{u}_3 = \frac{\bar{v}_3}{\|v_3\|}$$

$\Rightarrow \{u_1, u_2, u_3\}$ is an orthonormal basis for \mathbb{R}^3 .