

Lecture 3

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Topic: Inner Product Space and Hilbert Space

Definition 3.1 An inner product on a vector space X is a mapping from $X \times X$ into a scalar field K of X i.e. it is a mapping $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle: X \times X \rightarrow K$ such that for all $x, y, z \in X$ and for all scalars α we have

$$(i) \langle x + y, z \rangle = \langle x, z \rangle + \langle y, z \rangle$$

$$(ii) \langle \alpha x, y \rangle = \alpha \langle x, y \rangle$$

$$(iii) \langle x, y \rangle = \overline{\langle y, x \rangle}$$

$$(iv) \langle x, x \rangle = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = 0$$

The pair $(\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle, X)$ is called the inner product space. A complete inner product space is called a Hilbert space.

Remark 3.2 From (i) and (ii), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \alpha x + \beta y, z \rangle &= \langle \alpha x, z \rangle + \langle \beta y, z \rangle \\ &= \alpha \langle x, z \rangle + \beta \langle y, z \rangle \end{aligned}$$

and from (iii), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle x, \beta y \rangle &= \overline{\langle \beta y, x \rangle} = \overline{\beta \langle y, x \rangle} \\ &= \overline{\beta} \overline{\langle y, x \rangle} = \overline{\beta} \langle x, y \rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{i.e. } \langle x, \beta y \rangle = \overline{\beta} \langle x, y \rangle$$

Definition 3.3 An inner product defines a norm on a vector space X by

$$\|x\| = \sqrt{\langle x, x \rangle}$$

and metric on X is given by

$$d(x, y) = \|x - y\| = \sqrt{\langle x - y, x - y \rangle}.$$

Remark 3.4 *Every inner product space is a normed space but converse is not true in general.*

Theorem 3.5 *Every inner product space X satisfies the parallelogram identity*

$$\|x + y\|^2 + \|x - y\|^2 = 2(\|x\|^2 + \|y\|^2) \quad \forall x, y \in X.$$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{L.H.S.} &= \|x + y\|^2 + \|x - y\|^2 \\ &= \langle x + y, x + y \rangle + \langle x - y, x - y \rangle \\ &= \langle x, x + y \rangle + \langle y, x + y \rangle + \langle x, x - y \rangle - \langle y, x - y \rangle \\ &= \langle x, x \rangle + \langle x, y \rangle + \langle y, x \rangle + \langle y, y \rangle + \langle x, x \rangle - \langle x, y \rangle \\ &\quad - \langle y, x \rangle + \langle y, y \rangle \\ &= 2(\langle x, x \rangle + \langle y, y \rangle) \\ &= 2(\|x\|^2 + \|y\|^2) \\ &= \text{R.H.S.} \end{aligned}$$

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Example 3.6 *Consider $X = C[a, b]$ with $\|x\| = \max_{t \in [a, b]} |x(t)|$. We know that $(C[a, b], \|x\|)$ is a normed space. Show that $C[a, b]$ is not an inner product space.*

Solution: Consider $x(t) = 1$ and $y(t) = \frac{t-a}{b-a}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} (x + y)(t) &= x(t) + y(t) = 1 + \frac{t - a}{b - a} \\ (x - y)(t) &= x(t) - y(t) = 1 - \frac{t - a}{b - a} \end{aligned}$$

Note that $y'(t) = \frac{1}{b-a} > 0$ so that y is increasing. Then

$$\begin{aligned}\|x\| &= \max_{t \in [a,b]} |x(t)| = 1, \\ \|y\| &= \max_{t \in [a,b]} |y(t)| = \max_{t \in [a,b]} \left| \frac{t-a}{b-a} \right| = \frac{b-a}{b-a} = 1, \\ \|x+y\| &= \max_{t \in [a,b]} |x(t) + y(t)| = \max_{t \in [a,b]} \left| 1 + \frac{t-a}{b-a} \right| = 2, \\ \|x-y\| &= \max_{t \in [a,b]} |x(t) - y(t)| = \max_{t \in [a,b]} \left| 1 - \frac{t-a}{b-a} \right| = 1.\end{aligned}$$

So

$$\begin{aligned}\|x+y\|^2 + \|x-y\|^2 &= (2)^2 + (1)^2 = 5, \\ 2(\|x\|^2 + \|y\|^2) &= 2(1+1) = 4 \\ \Rightarrow \|x+y\|^2 + \|x-y\|^2 &\neq 2(\|x\|^2 + \|y\|^2)\end{aligned}$$

So $c[a, b]$ is not an inner product space. ■

Example 3.7 Consider $X = l^p$, $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ with $\|x\| = \left(\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |\xi_i|^p \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}$. Show that l^p is not an inner product space except when $p = 2$.

Solution: Choose $x = (1, 1, 0, 0, \dots)$ and $y = (1, -1, 0, 0, \dots)$, then $x + y = (2, 0, 0, \dots)$. Now

$$\begin{aligned}\|x\| &= 2^{\frac{1}{p}}, \\ \|y\| &= 2^{\frac{1}{p}}, \\ \|x+y\| &= 2, \\ \|x-y\| &= 2.\end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}\|x+y\|^2 + \|x-y\|^2 &= 4 + 4 = 8, \\ 2(\|x\|^2 + \|y\|^2) &= 2(2^{\frac{2}{p}} + 2^{\frac{2}{p}}) = 4 \times 2^{\frac{2}{p}}\end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow \|x + y\|^2 + \|x - y\|^2 = 2(\|x\|^2 + \|y\|^2)$ if and only if $8 = 4 \times 2^{\frac{2}{p}}$ i.e. if and only if $p = 2$. If $p \neq 2$, then parallelogram law is not satisfied. So l^p is not an inner product space when $p \neq 2$. \blacksquare

Example 3.8 Consider $X = l^2$ with $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle: l^2 \times l^2 \rightarrow K$ by $\langle x, y \rangle = \sum_1^{\infty} \xi_i \bar{\eta}_i$, where $x = (\xi_i)_1^{\infty}$ and $y = (\eta_i)_1^{\infty} \in l^2$. Show that l^2 is an inner product space.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} (i) \quad \langle x_1 + x_2, y \rangle &= \sum_1^{\infty} (\xi_i^{(1)} + \xi_i^{(2)}) \bar{\eta}_i, \\ &= \sum_1^{\infty} \xi_i^{(1)} \bar{\eta}_i + \sum_1^{\infty} \xi_i^{(2)} \bar{\eta}_i, \\ &= \langle x_1, y \rangle + \langle x_2, y \rangle, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (ii) \quad \langle \alpha x, y \rangle &= \sum_1^{\infty} (\alpha \xi_i) \bar{\eta}_i, \\ &= \alpha \sum_1^{\infty} \xi_i \bar{\eta}_i, \\ &= \alpha \langle x, y \rangle, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (iii) \quad \langle x, y \rangle &= \sum_1^{\infty} \xi_i \bar{\eta}_i, \\ &= \overline{\sum_1^{\infty} \eta_i \bar{\xi}_i}, \\ &= \overline{\langle y, x \rangle}, \end{aligned}$$

$$(iv) \quad \langle x, x \rangle = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \sum_1^{\infty} \xi_i \bar{\xi}_i = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \sum_1^{\infty} |\xi_i|^2 = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \xi_i = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x = 0$$

So l^2 is an inner product space. ■

Lemma 3.9 *An inner product on an inner product space X and the corresponding norm satisfy*

$$\langle x, y \rangle \leq \|x\| \|y\|, \quad (\text{Schwarz Inequality}) \quad (1)$$

where equality holds if and only if $\{x, y\}$ is linearly dependent.

Proof: If $y = 0$, then (1) is trivially true because in this case $\|y\| = 0$ and $\langle x, 0 \rangle = \langle x, 0 \times x \rangle = 0 \times \langle x, x \rangle = 0$. If $y \neq 0$, then for any scalar α , we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq \|x - \alpha y\|^2 = \langle x - \alpha y, x - \alpha y \rangle \\ &= \langle x, x - \alpha y \rangle - \alpha \langle y, x - \alpha y \rangle \\ &= \langle x, x \rangle - \bar{\alpha} \langle x, y \rangle - \alpha \langle y, x \rangle + \alpha \bar{\alpha} \langle y, y \rangle \\ &= \langle x, x \rangle - \bar{\alpha} \langle x, y \rangle - \alpha [\langle y, x \rangle - \bar{\alpha} \langle y, y \rangle] \end{aligned}$$

Choose α such that $\bar{\alpha} = \frac{\langle y, x \rangle}{\langle y, y \rangle}$ in above expression, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq \|x - \alpha y\|^2 = \langle x, x \rangle - \bar{\alpha} \langle x, y \rangle \\ &= \langle x, x \rangle - \frac{\langle y, x \rangle}{\langle y, y \rangle} \langle x, y \rangle \\ &= \langle x, x \rangle - \frac{\langle y, x \rangle \langle x, y \rangle}{\langle y, y \rangle} \\ &= \langle x, x \rangle - \frac{\overline{\langle x, y \rangle} \langle x, y \rangle}{\langle y, y \rangle} \\ &= \langle x, x \rangle - \frac{|\langle x, y \rangle|^2}{\langle y, y \rangle} \\ \langle x, x \rangle &\geq \frac{|\langle x, y \rangle|^2}{\|y\|^2} \\ \|x\|^2 &\geq \frac{|\langle x, y \rangle|^2}{\|y\|^2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle x, y \rangle^2 &\leq \|x\|^2 \|y\|^2 \\ \langle x, y \rangle &\leq \|x\| \|y\|. \end{aligned}$$

The equality holds in above discussion if and only if

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \|x - \alpha y\|^2 \\ \Leftrightarrow 0 &= \|x - \alpha y\| \\ \Leftrightarrow 0 &= x - \alpha y \\ \Leftrightarrow 0x &= \alpha y \end{aligned}$$

so that $\{x, y\}$ is linearly dependent. ■