

## Lecture 5

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Topic: Riesz Representation theorem

**Definition 5.1** A vector space  $X$  is said to be the direct sum of two subspaces  $Y$  and  $Z$  if written

$$X = Y \oplus Z$$

if each  $x \in X$  has unique representation of the form  $x = y + z$ , where  $y \in Y$  and  $z \in Z$ .

**Remark 5.2** In case of a general Hilbert space  $H$ , we are mainly interested in representing  $H$  as a direct sum of a closed subspace  $Y$  of  $H$  and its orthogonal complement,

$$Y^\perp = \{z \in H \mid z \perp Y\} = \text{the set of all vectors orthogonal to } Y.$$

**Theorem 5.3** Let  $Y$  be any closed subspace of a Hilbert space  $H$ , then

$$H = Y \oplus Y^\perp.$$

## Riesz Representation theorem for functionals

**Theorem 5.4** Every bounded linear functional  $f$  on a Hilbert space  $H$  can be represented by means of inner product as

$$f(x) = \langle x, z \rangle, \quad \forall x \in H, \quad (1)$$

where  $z$  which depends upon  $f$  is unique and has the norm

$$\|z\| = \|f\|. \quad (2)$$

Proof: We need to prove that

- (a)  $f$  has representation (1).
- (b)  $z$  in (1) is unique.
- (c) (2) hold.

(a): If  $f = 0$ , then (1) and (2) hold trivially if we choose  $z = 0$ . Let  $f \neq 0$ . To motivate the idea of the proof, let us investigate what properties  $z$  must have such that (1) holds. First of all  $z \neq 0$  because otherwise  $f = 0$ , which is a contradiction. If for some  $x \in H$ ,  $f(x) = \langle x, z \rangle = 0$ , then  $x \in \mathcal{N}(f)$  and  $z \perp \mathcal{N}(f)^\perp$ . This suggests that we must consider  $\mathcal{N}(f)$  and  $\mathcal{N}(f)^\perp$ . Since  $\mathcal{N}(f)$  is closed, therefore by previous theorem, we have

$$H = \mathcal{N}(f) \oplus \mathcal{N}(f)^\perp$$

Since  $f \neq 0$ , therefore,  $H \neq \mathcal{N}(f)$  so that  $\mathcal{N}(f) \neq \{0\}$ . So choose  $0 \neq z_0 \in \mathcal{N}(f)^\perp$  and define

$$\begin{aligned} v &= f(x)z_0 - f(z_0)x \\ \Rightarrow f(v) &= f(x)f(z_0) - f(z_0)f(x) = 0, \end{aligned}$$

so that  $v \in \mathcal{N}(f)$ . Since  $z_0 \in \mathcal{N}(f)^\perp$ , therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \langle v, z_0 \rangle \\ &= \langle f(x)z_0 - f(z_0)x, z_0 \rangle \\ &= f(x) \langle z_0, z_0 \rangle - f(z_0) \langle x, z_0 \rangle \\ \Rightarrow f(x) \langle z_0, z_0 \rangle &= f(z_0) \langle x, z_0 \rangle \\ \Rightarrow f(x) &= \frac{f(z_0)}{\langle z_0, z_0 \rangle} \langle x, z_0 \rangle = \langle x, \frac{\overline{f(z_0)}}{\langle z_0, z_0 \rangle} z_0 \rangle \\ \Rightarrow f(x) &= \langle x, z \rangle, \text{ where } z = \frac{\overline{f(z_0)}}{\langle z_0, z_0 \rangle} z_0. \end{aligned}$$

(b): Suppose that for all  $x \in X$ ,

$$f(x) = \langle x, z \rangle = \langle x, z_1 \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned}\Rightarrow \langle x, z \rangle - \langle x, z_1 \rangle &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow \langle x, z - z_1 \rangle &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Choose  $x = z - z_1$  so that

$$\begin{aligned}\langle z - z_1, z - z_1 \rangle &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow \|z - z_1\|^2 &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow \|z - z_1\| &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow z - z_1 &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow z &= z_1.\end{aligned}$$

So  $z$  in (1) is unique.

(C): If  $f = 0$  and  $z = 0$ , then (2) holds trivially. Let  $f \neq 0$  and  $z \neq 0$  and replace  $x$  with  $z$  in (1) to get

$$\begin{aligned}f(z) &= \langle z, z \rangle = \|z\|^2 \\ \Rightarrow \|z\|^2 = f(z) &\leq |f(z)| \quad (\text{because a number is less equal its absolute value}) \\ &\leq \|f\| \|z\| \quad (\text{because } f \text{ is bounded}) \\ \Rightarrow \|z\| &\leq \|f\|\end{aligned}\tag{3}$$

Now consider

$$\begin{aligned}f(x) &= \langle x, z \rangle \\ \Rightarrow |f(x)| &= | \langle x, z \rangle | \\ &\leq \|x\| \|z\| \quad (\text{by Schwarz Inequality}) \\ \Rightarrow \frac{|f(x)|}{\|x\|} &\leq \|z\| \\ \Rightarrow \sup_{x \neq 0} \frac{|f(x)|}{\|x\|} &\leq \|z\| \\ \Rightarrow \|f\| &\leq \|z\|.\end{aligned}\tag{4}$$

From (3) and (4), we obtain  $\|f\| = \|z\|$ . This completes the proof. ■