6.1 Inner Products

DEFINITION 1 An ***inner product*** on a real vector space V is a function that associates a real number $\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle$ with each pair of vectors in V in such a way that the following axioms are satisfied for all vectors $\mathbf{u}$, $\mathbf{v}$, and $\mathbf{w}$ in V and all scalars k.

1. $\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u} \rangle$ [Symmetry axiom]
2. $\langle \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle$ [Additivity axiom]
3. $\langle k\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = k\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle$ [Homogeneity axiom]
4. $\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v} \rangle \geq 0$ and $\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = 0$ if and only if $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$ [Positivity axiom]

A real vector space with an inner product is called a ***real inner product space***.

If $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, u_2, \ldots, u_n)$ and $\mathbf{v} = (v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_n)$ are vectors in R^n, then we define the inner product of the vectors $\mathbf{u}$ and $\mathbf{v}$ in R^n to be

$$\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = u_1 v_1 + u_2 v_2 + \cdots + u_n v_n$$

This inner product is commonly called the ***Euclidean inner product*** (or the ***standard inner product***) on R^n to distinguish it from other possible inner products that might be defined on R^n. We call R^n with the Euclidean inner product ***Euclidean n-space***.

EXAMPLE

Calculate $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}$ for the following vectors in R^4:

$$\mathbf{u} = (-1, 3, 5, 7), \quad \mathbf{v} = (-3, -4, 1, 0)$$

$$\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = (-1)(-3) + (3)(-4) + (5)(1) + (7)(0) = -4$$

EXAMPLE 1 Weighted Euclidean Inner Product

Let $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, u_2)$ and $\mathbf{v} = (v_1, v_2)$ be vectors in R^2. Verify that the weighted Euclidean inner product

$$\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = 3u_1v_1 + 2u_2v_2 \tag{3}$$

satisfies the four inner product axioms.

Solution

Axiom 1: Interchanging **u** and **v** in Formula (3) does not change the sum on the right side, so $\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u} \rangle$.

Axiom 2: If $\mathbf{w} = (w_1, w_2)$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle &= 3(u_1 + v_1)w_1 + 2(u_2 + v_2)w_2 \\ &= 3(u_1w_1 + v_1w_1) + 2(u_2w_2 + v_2w_2) \\ &= (3u_1w_1 + 2u_2w_2) + (3v_1w_1 + 2v_2w_2) \\ &= \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle \end{aligned}$$

Axiom 3: $$\begin{aligned} \langle k\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle &= 3(ku_1)v_1 + 2(ku_2)v_2 \\ &= k(3u_1v_1 + 2u_2v_2) \\ &= k\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle \end{aligned}$$

Axiom 4: $\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = 3(v_1v_1) + 2(v_2v_2) = 3v_1^2 + 2v_2^2 \geq 0$ with equality if and only if $v_1 = v_2 = 0$, that is, if and only if $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$. ◀

DEFINITION 2 If V is a real inner product space, then the ***norm*** (or ***length***) of a vector $\mathbf{v}$ in V is denoted by $\|\mathbf{v}\|$ and is defined by

$$\|\mathbf{v}\| = \sqrt{\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v} \rangle}$$

and the ***distance*** between two vectors is denoted by $d(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v})$ and is defined by

$$d(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) = \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}\| = \sqrt{\langle \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v} \rangle}$$

A vector of norm 1 is called a ***unit vector***.

THEOREM 6.1.1 *If* $\mathbf{u}$ *and* $\mathbf{v}$ *are vectors in a real inner product space* V, *and if* k *is a scalar, then:*

(*a*) $\|\mathbf{v}\| \geq 0$ *with equality if and only if* $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$.

(*b*) $\|k\mathbf{v}\| = |k|\|\mathbf{v}\|$.

(*c*) $d(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) = d(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u})$.

(*d*) $d(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) \geq 0$ *with equality if and only if* $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{v}$.

▶ EXAMPLE 6 The Standard Inner Product on M_{nn}

If $\mathbf{u} = U$ and $\mathbf{v} = V$ are matrices in the vector space M_{nn}, then the formula

$$\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = \operatorname{tr}(U^T V) \tag{8}$$

defines an inner product on M_{nn} called the ***standard inner product*** on that space (see Definition 8 of Section 1.3 for a definition of trace). This can be proved by confirming that the four inner product space axioms are satisfied, but we can see why this is so by computing (8) for the 2×2 matrices

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 & u_2 \\ u_3 & u_4 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad V = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 & v_2 \\ v_3 & v_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

This yields

$$\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = \operatorname{tr}(U^T V) = u_1 v_1 + u_2 v_2 + u_3 v_3 + u_4 v_4$$

which is just the dot product of the corresponding entries in the two matrices. And it follows from this that

$$\|\mathbf{u}\| = \sqrt{\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u} \rangle} = \sqrt{\operatorname{tr}\langle U^T U \rangle} = \sqrt{u_1^2 + u_2^2 + u_3^2 + u_4^2}$$

For example, if

$$\mathbf{u} = U = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{v} = V = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

then

$$\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = \operatorname{tr}(U^T V) = 1(-1) + 2(0) + 3(3) + 4(2) = 16$$

and

$$\|\mathbf{u}\| = \sqrt{\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u} \rangle} = \sqrt{\operatorname{tr}(U^T U)} = \sqrt{1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + 4^2} = \sqrt{30}$$

$$\|\mathbf{v}\| = \sqrt{\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v} \rangle} = \sqrt{\operatorname{tr}(V^T V)} = \sqrt{(-1)^2 + 0^2 + 3^2 + 2^2} = \sqrt{14}$$

▶ EXAMPLE 7 The Standard Inner Product on P_n

If

$$\mathbf{p} = a_0 + a_1 x + \cdots + a_n x^n \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{q} = b_0 + b_1 x + \cdots + b_n x^n$$

are polynomials in P_n, then the following formula defines an inner product on P_n (verify) that we will call the ***standard inner product*** on this space:

$$\langle \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q} \rangle = a_0 b_0 + a_1 b_1 + \cdots + a_n b_n \tag{9}$$

The norm of a polynomial $\mathbf{p}$ relative to this inner product is

$$\|\mathbf{p}\| = \sqrt{\langle \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{p} \rangle} = \sqrt{a_0^2 + a_1^2 + \cdots + a_n^2}$$

Algebraic Properties of Inner Products

The following theorem lists some of the algebraic properties of inner products that follow from the inner product axioms. This result is a generalization of Theorem 3.2.3, which applied only to the dot product on R^n.

THEOREM 6.1.2 *If* $\mathbf{u}$, $\mathbf{v}$, *and* $\mathbf{w}$ *are vectors in a real inner product space* V, *and if* k *is a scalar, then:*

(*a*) $\langle \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{v}\rangle = \langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{0}\rangle = 0$

(*b*) $\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}+\mathbf{w}\rangle = \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}\rangle + \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w}\rangle$

(*c*) $\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}-\mathbf{w}\rangle = \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}\rangle - \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w}\rangle$

(*d*) $\langle \mathbf{u}-\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}\rangle = \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w}\rangle - \langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}\rangle$

(*e*) $k\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}\rangle = \langle \mathbf{u}, k\mathbf{v}\rangle$

EXAMPLE 12 Calculating with Inner Products

$$
\begin{aligned}
\langle \mathbf{u}-2\mathbf{v}, 3\mathbf{u}+4\mathbf{v}\rangle &= \langle \mathbf{u}, 3\mathbf{u}+4\mathbf{v}\rangle - \langle 2\mathbf{v}, 3\mathbf{u}+4\mathbf{v}\rangle \\
&= \langle \mathbf{u}, 3\mathbf{u}\rangle + \langle \mathbf{u}, 4\mathbf{v}\rangle - \langle 2\mathbf{v}, 3\mathbf{u}\rangle - \langle 2\mathbf{v}, 4\mathbf{v}\rangle \\
&= 3\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u}\rangle + 4\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}\rangle - 6\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u}\rangle - 8\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v}\rangle \\
&= 3\|\mathbf{u}\|^2 + 4\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}\rangle - 6\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}\rangle - 8\|\mathbf{v}\|^2 \\
&= 3\|\mathbf{u}\|^2 - 2\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}\rangle - 8\|\mathbf{v}\|^2
\end{aligned}
$$

6.2 Angle and Orthogonality in Inner Product Spaces

THEOREM 6.2.1 Cauchy–Schwarz Inequality

If **u** *and* **v** *are vectors in a real inner product space* V, *then*

$$|\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}\rangle| \leq \|\mathbf{u}\|\,\|\mathbf{v}\| \tag{3}$$

The following two alternative forms of the Cauchy–Schwarz inequality are useful to know:

$$\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}\rangle^2 \leq \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u}\rangle\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v}\rangle \tag{4}$$

$$\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}\rangle^2 \leq \|\mathbf{u}\|^2\|\mathbf{v}\|^2 \tag{5}$$

Angle Between Vectors Our next goal is to define what is meant by the "angle" between vectors in a real inner product space.

This enables us to *define* the ***angle*** θ ***between*** **u** ***and*** **v** to be

$$\theta = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}\rangle}{\|\mathbf{u}\|\,\|\mathbf{v}\|}\right) \tag{8}$$

EXAMPLE 1 Cosine of the Angle Between Vectors in M_{22}

Let M_{22} have the standard inner product. Find the cosine of the angle between the vectors

$$\mathbf{u} = U = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{v} = V = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Solution We showed in Example 6 of the previous section that

$$\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}\rangle = 16, \quad \|\mathbf{u}\| = \sqrt{30}, \quad \|\mathbf{v}\| = \sqrt{14}$$

from which it follows that

$$\cos\theta = \frac{\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}\rangle}{\|\mathbf{u}\|\|\mathbf{v}\|} = \frac{16}{\sqrt{30}\sqrt{14}} \approx 0.78$$

Properties of Length and Distance in General Inner Product Spaces

THEOREM 6.2.2 *If* $\mathbf{u}$, $\mathbf{v}$, *and* $\mathbf{w}$ *are vectors in a real inner product space* V, *and if* k *is any scalar, then*:

(*a*) $\|\mathbf{u}+\mathbf{v}\| \leq \|\mathbf{u}\| + \|\mathbf{v}\|$ **[Triangle inequality for vectors]**

(*b*) $d(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) \leq d(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w}) + d(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{v})$ **[Triangle inequality for distances]**