

Orthogonal Vectors in \mathbb{R}^n

Definition Two vectors \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} in \mathbb{R}^n are called orthogonal if $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$.

Pythagorean's formula If \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} are orthogonal then $|\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}|^2 = |\mathbf{u}|^2 + |\mathbf{v}|^2$.

Theorem If nonzero vectors $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k$ are mutually orthogonal they are linearly independent.

Orthogonal Complements

Definition A vector \mathbf{u} is orthogonal to a subspace V of \mathbb{R}^n provided that \mathbf{u} is orthogonal to every vector in V . The set of all those vectors in \mathbb{R}^n that are orthogonal to the subspace V is called the orthogonal complement of V .

We denote the orthogonal complement of V by V^\perp .

Properties

1. V^\perp is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n ,
2. the only vector that lies in both V and V^\perp is zero vector,
3. $(V^\perp)^\perp = V$.

$$\dim V + \dim V^\perp = n$$