

Week 9: Orthogonal Projections & Spectral Theorem (textbook § 6.6)
 Unitary & Orthogonal Operators (textbook § 6.5)

Recall the Spectral Theorems:

Spectral Theorem: Let $T: V \rightarrow V$ be a linear operator on a finite dimensional inner product space over $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}$ or \mathbb{C} . Then,

there exists an orthonormal basis β for V s.t. $[T]_{\beta}$ is diagonal

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} \text{When } \mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}, T \text{ is self adjoint, i.e. } \boxed{T^* = T}. \\ \text{When } \mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}, T \text{ is normal, i.e. } \boxed{T^* T = T T^*}. \end{cases}$$

Question: What does it mean "geometrically"?



Let us look at an example first with $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}$.

Example: Consider the linear operator $T = L_A: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ where

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{i.e.} \quad T \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} y \\ x \end{pmatrix}.$$

Since $A^t = A \Rightarrow T$ is self-adjoint $\xRightarrow{\text{Spec. Thm.}}$ \exists O.N.B. β which diagonalize T

How to find this β ? Ans: Find eigenvalues / eigenvectors!

char. poly.: $\det(A - \lambda I) = \lambda^2 - 1 \Rightarrow$ Eigenvalues: $\boxed{\lambda_1 = 1, \lambda_2 = -1}$

$$\text{Eigenspaces: } \begin{cases} E_{\lambda_1} = N(A - 1I) = N \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}. \\ E_{\lambda_2} = N(A - (-1)I) = N \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}. \end{cases}$$

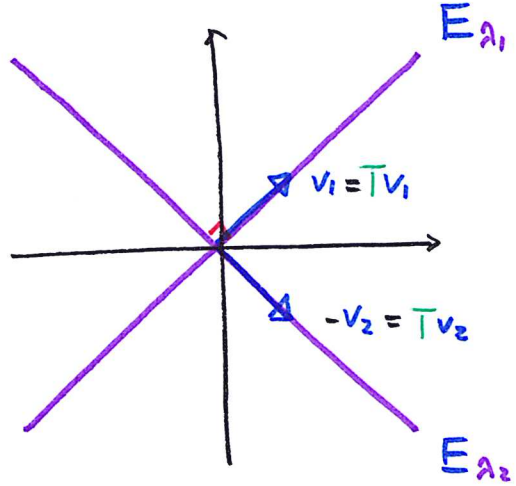
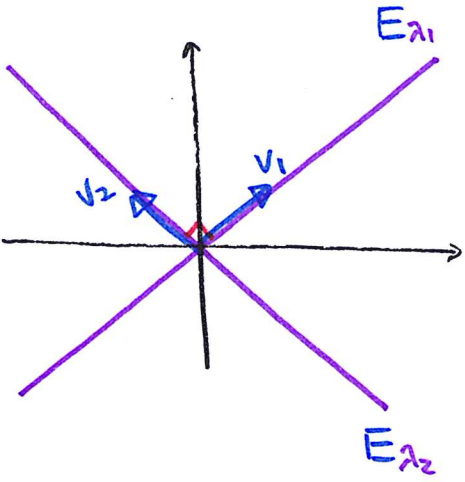
$\beta' = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$ is eigenbasis BUT NOT orthonormal!

Fortunately, β' is orthogonal $\xRightarrow{\text{normalize}}$ $\beta = \left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$ O.N.B.
 (Q: why?) which diagonalize T .

Note that $E_{\lambda_1} \perp E_{\lambda_2}$ and $\mathbb{R}^2 = E_{\lambda_1} \oplus E_{\lambda_2}$ "orthogonal decomposition"

The "action" of T on each of these (T -invariant) subspaces are very simple:

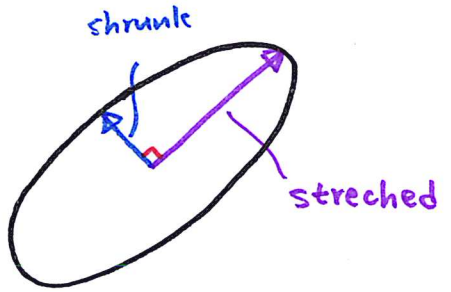
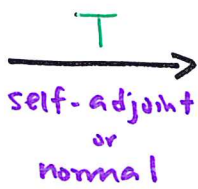
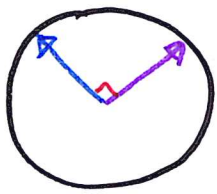
$$\begin{cases} T(v_1) = v_1 & \text{for all } v_1 \in E_{\lambda_1} \\ T(v_2) = -v_2 & \text{for all } v_2 \in E_{\lambda_2} \end{cases}$$



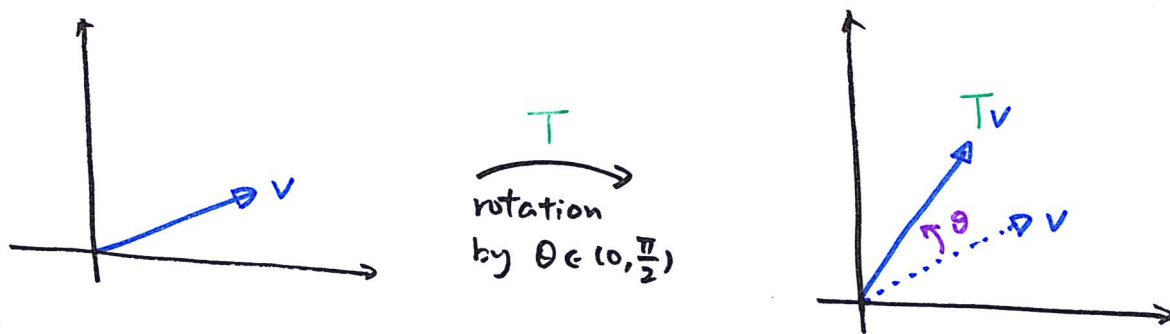
We understand the action of T by understanding its "sub-actions" on independent (orthogonal) directions. Thus, we can decompose T into its actions on the smaller orthogonal subspaces! (by rescaling)

Spectral Theorem \implies we can carry out such decomposition for self adjoint / normal operators T

Geometrically, self-adjoint / normal operators T simply do some "stretching" and "shrinking" in different perpendicular directions!!



This is not true for **nondiagonalizable** operators, e.g:



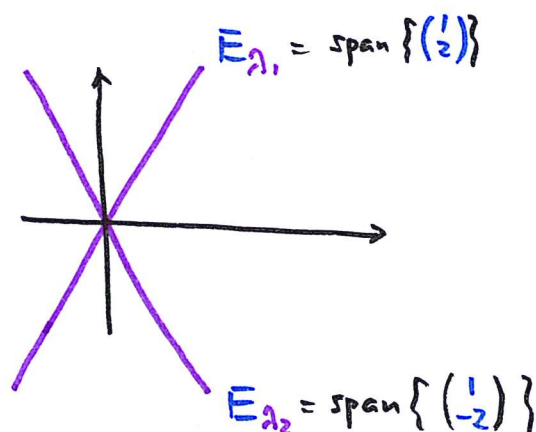
[There is no special "shrinking / stretching" directions!]

Even if T is diagonalizable, the "special shrinking / stretching" directions may NOT be \perp .

Example: $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 4 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

has eigenvalues $\lambda_1 = 3, \lambda_2 = -1$

whose eigenspaces are not orthogonal:



Only the **normal / self adjoint** operators have a "nice" orthogonal decomposition of V into its eigenspaces!

What about the "action" of T on vectors which do not lie on one of these eigen-directions?

ANS: Linearity!!

E.g. $V = E_{\lambda_1} \oplus E_{\lambda_2}$ orthogonal decomposition: $E_{\lambda_1} \perp E_{\lambda_2}$

ANY $v = v_1 + v_2 \Rightarrow Tv = Tv_1 + Tv_2 = \lambda_1 v_1 + \lambda_2 v_2$

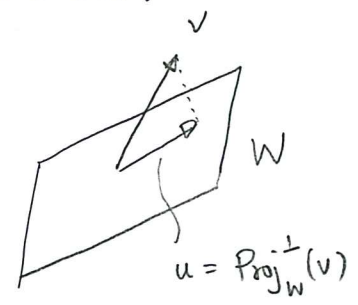
i.e.: the components of v are stretched/shrunk separately (decoupled!)

Orthogonal Projections

Recall that if $W \subset V$ is a finite dimensional subspace of an inner product space $(V, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ - which could have $\dim V = +\infty$.

We have the **orthogonal decomposition**:

$$V = W \oplus W^\perp$$



Therefore, any $v \in V$ can be uniquely written as

$$v = \underbrace{u}_{\in W} + \underbrace{z}_{\in W^\perp}, \text{ where } u = \text{Proj}_W^\perp(v) \text{ is the orthogonal projection of } v \text{ onto } W.$$

In summary, for each $W \subset V$, we can define its **orthogonal projection** to be the map

$$T = \text{Proj}_W^\perp : V \rightarrow V$$

Some observations:

(1) Proj_W^\perp is linear.

(2) $R(T) = W$ and $N(T) = W^\perp$

So, $R(T)^\perp = N(T)$ and $N(T)^\perp = R(T)$

(3) $T^2 = T$ since projecting the second time is redundant.

(4) $T^* = T$ If V is finite dimensional, then

$$[T]_\beta = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} I & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) \text{ in some O.N.B. } \beta \text{ which is clearly self adjoint!}$$

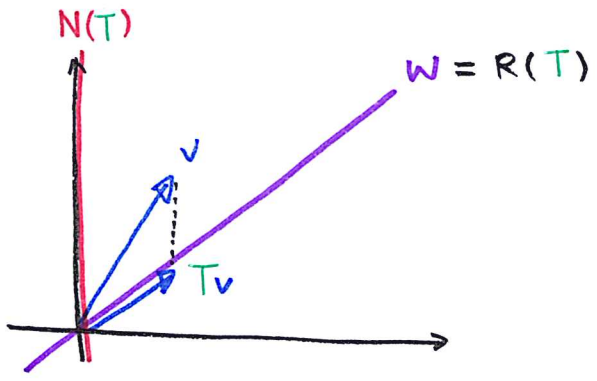
↑
"standard projection matrix".

Question: Given a linear operator $T: V \rightarrow V$ on an inner product space V , when is T in fact an **orthogonal projection** onto some subspace $W \subset V$?

Projections

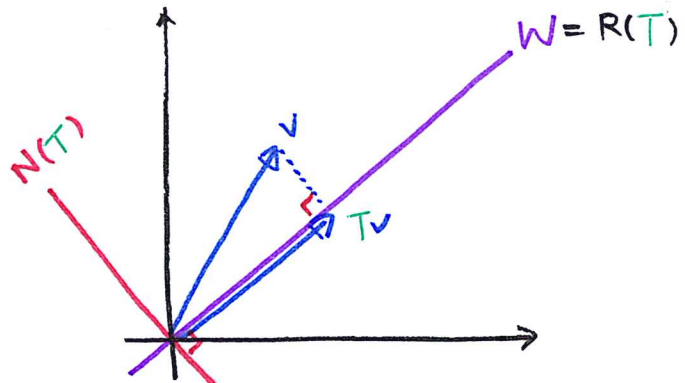
VS.

Orthogonal Projections



$R(T)^\perp \neq N(T)$

but $V = R(T) \oplus N(T)$
 $T^2 = T$



$R(T)^\perp = N(T)$

and $V = R(T) \oplus N(T)$
 $T^2 = T = T^*$

Defⁿ: Let $T: V \rightarrow V$ be a linear operator on an inner product space.

(i) T is a **projection** if $T^2 = T$

(ii) T is an **orthogonal projection** if $T^2 = T$ and

$R(T)^\perp = N(T), N(T)^\perp = R(T)$

Remark: An **orthogonal projection** T is most "efficient" that it satisfies a length decreasing property:

$\hookrightarrow \|Tv\| \leq \|v\|$ for all $v \in V$

(Exercise: Give an example that this is NOT true for a general projection.)

Note: when $\dim V < +\infty$, $R(T)^\perp = N(T) \iff N(T)^\perp = R(T)$
 since $(W^\perp)^\perp = W$ for any finite dimensional subspace $W \subset V$.

The Proposition below justifies our definition of orthogonal projections.

Prop: Let $T: V \rightarrow V$ be a linear operator on an inner product space $(V, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ with $\dim V < +\infty$. (* can be removed with slightly modified conclusions)

Then, the following are equivalent (TFAE):

- (i) T is an orthogonal projection.
- (ii) $T^2 = T = T^*$
- (iii) There exists a subspace $W \subset V$ s.t. $T = \text{Proj}_W^\perp$.

Proof: We will show that (iii) \Rightarrow (ii) \Rightarrow (i) \Rightarrow (iii).

(iii) \Rightarrow (ii) : done before.

(ii) \Rightarrow (i) : Need to check $R(T)^\perp = N(T)$.

In general, $R(T)^\perp = N(T^*)$ (Ex: Prove this!)

Therefore, we are done as $T = T^*$.

(i) \Rightarrow (iii) : Assume $T^2 = T$ and $R(T)^\perp = N(T)$.

Define $W = R(T)$. we claim that $T = \text{Proj}_W^\perp$.

$$R(T)^\perp = N(T) \Rightarrow V = \underset{\substack{W \\ \parallel}}{R(T)} \oplus \underset{\substack{W^\perp \\ \parallel}}{N(T)}$$

orthogonal complements

It remains to show that

$$Ty = y \quad \text{for all } y \in R(T)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow T(Tx) = Tx \quad \text{for all } x \in V$$

true since $T^2 = T$.

Now, recall that the Spectral Theorems say that any **normal / self adjoint** operators $T: V \rightarrow V$ has an orthonormal eigenbasis β :

i.e.

$$[T]_{\beta} = \begin{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} \lambda_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & E_{\lambda_1} \end{matrix} & & \\ & \begin{matrix} \lambda_2 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & E_{\lambda_2} \end{matrix} & & \\ & & \dots & & \\ & & & \begin{matrix} \lambda_k & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & E_{\lambda_k} \end{matrix} & & \end{pmatrix}$$

T acts independently by rescaling by λ_i on each eigenspace E_{λ_i}

Spectral Decomposition Theorem

Let $(V, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ be a finite dim. inner product space over $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}$ or \mathbb{C} .

Suppose $T: V \rightarrow V$ is a **normal** ($\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}$) or **self adjoint** ($\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}$) operator. Denote the eigenvalues of T by

$$\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_k \quad (\text{spectrum of } T)$$

Then, V has an orthogonal decomposition into its eigenspaces:

$$V = E_{\lambda_1} \oplus E_{\lambda_2} \oplus \dots \oplus E_{\lambda_k}$$

where $E_{\lambda_i} \perp E_{\lambda_j}$
 $i \neq j$

and T has a **spectral decomposition** into orthogonal projections:

$$T = \lambda_1 T_1 + \lambda_2 T_2 + \dots + \lambda_k T_k$$

where $T_i = \text{Proj}_{E_{\lambda_i}}^{\perp}$

Proof: Just rephrasing the Spectral Theorems (see textbook Thm. 6.25). □

! The Spectral Decomposition Theorem has surprisingly many interesting applications!

Because it says we can decompose any normal / self adjoint operators into orthogonal projections - which is much simpler to understand.

Corollary 1: $g(T) = g(\lambda_1)T_1 + g(\lambda_2)T_2 + \dots + g(\lambda_k)T_k$

for any polynomial g .

Example:

$$[T]_{\beta} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 I & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 I \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow [T^k]_{\beta} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1^k I & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2^k I \end{pmatrix}$$

(Exercise: Can you prove the general case?)

Corollary 2: When $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}$, T normal $\Leftrightarrow T^* = g(T)$ for some polynomial g .
($TT^* = T^*T$)

Proof: " \Leftarrow " trivial since T commutes with $g(T)$ for any polynomial g , e.g. $T(T^2 + 2T) = (T^2 + 2T)T$.

" \Rightarrow " Assume T is normal, then we have spectral decomposition

$$T = \lambda_1 T_1 + \lambda_2 T_2 + \dots + \lambda_k T_k$$

$$\rightsquigarrow T^* = \bar{\lambda}_1 T_1 + \bar{\lambda}_2 T_2 + \dots + \bar{\lambda}_k T_k \quad \left(\text{since } T_i^* = T_i \right)$$

Choose a polynomial g st $g(\lambda_i) = \bar{\lambda}_i$ for all i

- which can be done by Lagrange interpolation formula.

Then, we have by Corollary 1,

$$\begin{aligned} g(T) &= g(\lambda_1)T_1 + \dots + g(\lambda_k)T_k \\ &= \bar{\lambda}_1 T_1 + \dots + \bar{\lambda}_k T_k = T^* \end{aligned}$$

□

By a similar argument, one can show

Corollary 3: $T = \lambda_1 T_1 + \dots + \lambda_k T_k$

$\Rightarrow T_i = g_i(T)$ for some polynomial g_i

Corollary 4: Suppose $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}$ and T is normal. Then

T is self adjoint \iff all eigenvalues of T are real.

Proof: " \implies " proved before.

" \impliedby " Take $T = \lambda_1 T_1 + \dots + \lambda_k T_k$ where $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\begin{aligned} \rightsquigarrow T^* &= \bar{\lambda}_1 T_1 + \dots + \bar{\lambda}_k T_k \\ &= \lambda_1 T_1 + \dots + \lambda_k T_k = T \end{aligned}$$

i.e. T is self adjoint!

□

When our space has extra structure... we have new concepts!

$\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}$ or \mathbb{C}	<u>Vector Spaces</u>	<u>Inner Product Spaces</u>
	$(V, +, \cdot)$	$(V, +, \cdot) \text{ \& } \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$
model :	\mathbb{R}^n or \mathbb{C}^n	\mathbb{R}^n or \mathbb{C}^n with $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\text{std}}$
basis :	basis	orthonormal basis
"morphisms" : or transformations	$T : V \rightarrow V$ linear (preserves $+$ & \cdot) $T(ax+by) = aTx + bTy$	$T : V \rightarrow V$ linear isometry (preserves $+$, \cdot & $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$) $\langle Tx, Ty \rangle = \langle x, y \rangle$ ($\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}$) / ($\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}$) unitary / orthogonal operators
		$\ \cdot \ $, $x \perp y$, T^*
change of basis :	invertible Q $[T]_{\sigma} = Q^{-1} [T]_{\beta} Q$	($\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}$) / ($\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}$) unitary / orthogonal Q $[T]_{\sigma} = Q^* [T]_{\beta} Q$
diagonalization :	eigenbasis	orthonormal eigenbasis

Orthogonal Operators on \mathbb{R}^2

Suppose $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ is a linear operator preserving the standard inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$, i.e.

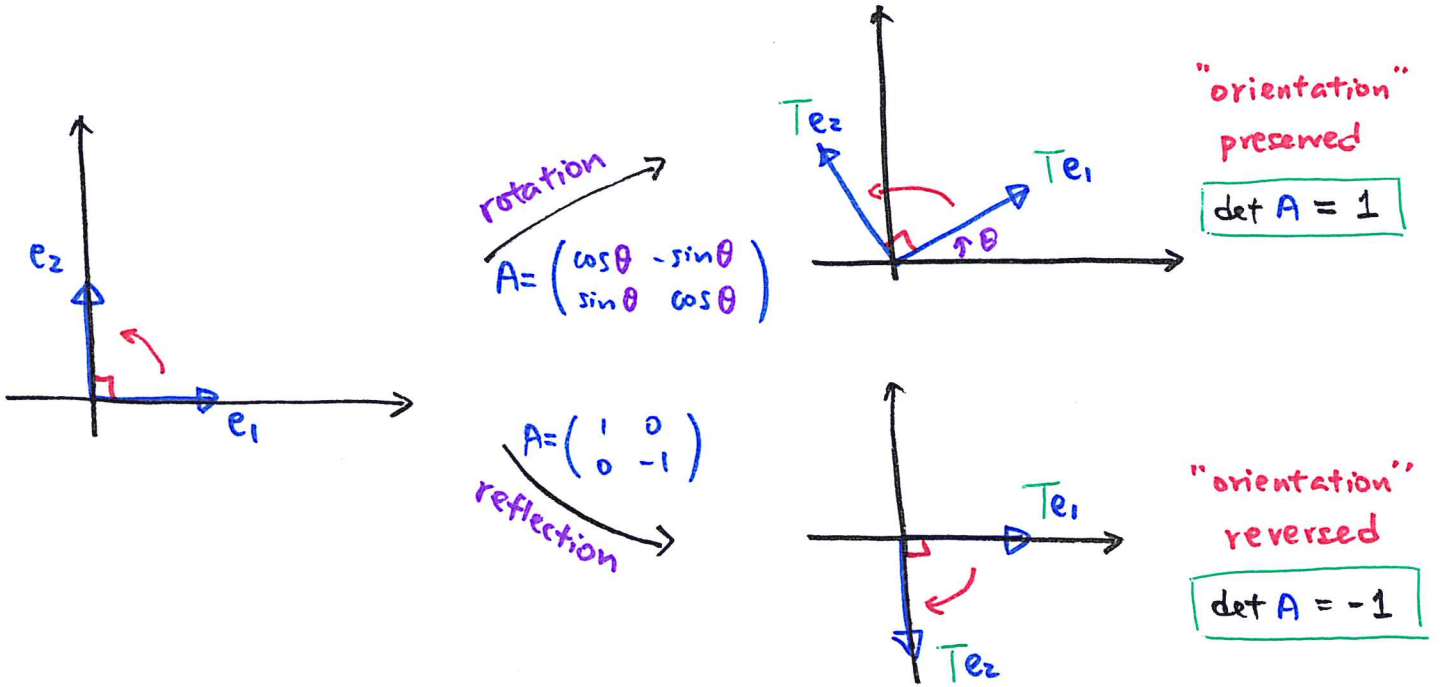
$$(*) \quad \langle Tx, Ty \rangle = \langle x, y \rangle \quad \text{for all } x, y \in \mathbb{R}^2$$

- When $x=y$ in $(*) \Rightarrow \|Tx\| = \|x\|$ "length preserved"
- Since $\langle a, b \rangle = \|a\| \|b\| \cos \theta$, \uparrow this and $(*) \Rightarrow$ "angle preserved"

In particular, orthonormal basis \xrightarrow{T} orthonormal basis

$$\{e_1, e_2\} \xrightarrow{T} \{Te_1, Te_2\}$$

"standard basis"



- Any composition of rotations and reflections still preserve length and angles. In fact, these are ALL the transformations in \mathbb{R}^2 which preserve length and angles!

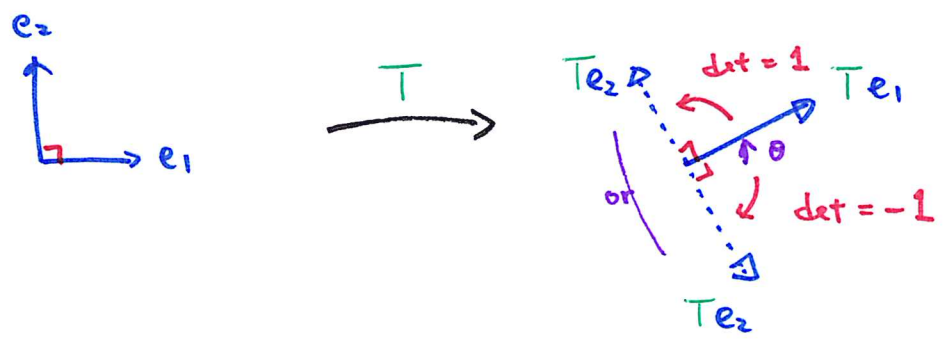
(i.e. satisfies (*))

Theorem: Any **orthogonal** operator $T: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ is either a **rotation** ($\det = 1$) or a **reflection** ($\det = -1$).

Proof: Since T preserves length, Te_1 is a unit vector, which can be obtained from e_1 by rotation of some angle θ .

Since T preserves angle, Te_2 must be a unit vector $\perp Te_1$.

There are only 2 possible choices:



□

Since $\det(AB) = \det A \cdot \det B$, by considering the "parity":

- rotation \circ rotation = rotation ($1 \cdot 1 = 1$)
- rotation \circ reflection = reflection ($1 \cdot (-1) = -1$)
- reflection \circ reflection = rotation ($(-1) \cdot (-1) = 1$)

Observe that the matrices of the **rotations** and **reflections** satisfy

$$\begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}^t \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}^t \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A^t A = I = A A^t$$

"orthogonal matrix"

Example: Show that $L_A: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ where

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} & \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} \\ \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \end{pmatrix} \text{ represents a reflection.}$$

Sol:

$$A^t A = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} & \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} \\ \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} & \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} \\ \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = A A^t$$

Hence, A is orthogonal \Rightarrow ~~rotation~~ / reflection
but $\det A = -1$

Unitary / Orthogonal Operators & Matrices

Defⁿ: (Operator form) Let $T: V \rightarrow V$ be a linear operator on a finite dim. inner product space (V, \langle, \rangle) .

$$T \text{ is unitary / orthogonal iff } \begin{cases} \|Tx\| = \|x\| \\ \text{for all } x \in V \end{cases}$$

($F = \mathbb{C}$) ($F = \mathbb{R}$)

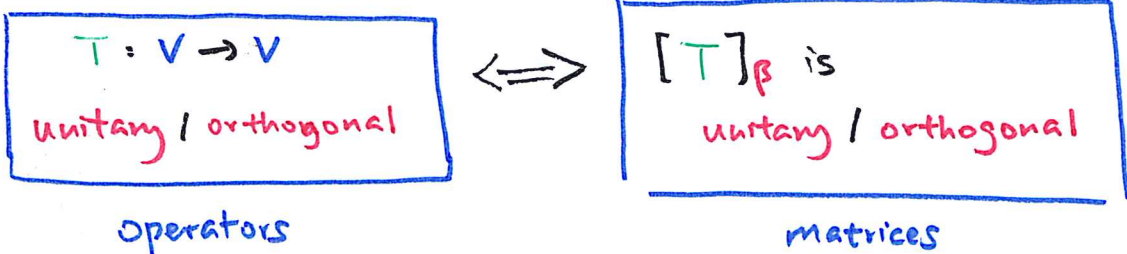
(Matrix form) A matrix $A \in M_{n \times n}(F)$ is said to be

$$\text{unitary / orthogonal iff } AA^* = I = A^*A$$

($F = \mathbb{C}$) ($F = \mathbb{R}$)

The Lemma below says that they are equivalent:

Lemma: If β is an orthonormal basis for (V, \langle, \rangle) , then



Proof: It follows from the Theorem below and $[T^*]_\beta = [T]_\beta^*$ for O.N.B. β .

Theorem: TFAE, for $T: V \rightarrow V$ on a finite dim. inner product space $(V, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$

(a) $\|Tx\| = \|x\|$ for all $x \in V$

(b) $TT^* = T^*T = I$.

(c) $\langle Tx, Ty \rangle = \langle x, y \rangle$ for all $x, y \in V$

(d) β O.N.B $\Rightarrow T(\beta)$ O.N.B.

(e) there exist some O.N.B. β s.t. $T(\beta)$ is O.N.B.

Proof: (a) \Rightarrow (b) We will need the following useful lemma:

"Useful Lemma": $\langle x, Ux \rangle = 0$ for all $x \in V$ & U self adjoint
 $\Rightarrow U = T_0$: zero transformation

Pf: Spectral Thm $\Rightarrow U$ diagonalizable and all eigenvalues = 0.

$$Ux = \lambda x \Rightarrow \bar{\lambda} \|x\|^2 = \langle x, Ux \rangle = 0.$$

By (a), we have for any $x \in V$

$$\langle x, x \rangle = \|x\|^2 = \|Tx\|^2 = \langle Tx, Tx \rangle = \langle x, T^*Tx \rangle$$

i.e. $\langle x, \underbrace{(I - T^*T)}_U x \rangle = 0$ for all $x \in V$

U is self-adjoint: $(I - T^*T)^* = I - T^*T^{**} = I - T^*T$.

"Useful Lemma" $\Rightarrow U = T_0$, i.e. $I = T^*T$. ($\Leftrightarrow I = TT^*$)

\uparrow
 $\dim V < +\infty$

(b) \Rightarrow (c) For any $x, y \in V$.

$$\langle Tx, Ty \rangle = \langle x, T^*Ty \rangle \stackrel{(b)}{=} \langle x, y \rangle$$

(c) \Rightarrow (d) \Rightarrow (e) : trivial

(e) \Rightarrow (a) Let $\beta = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$ be an O.N.B. for V

Such that $T(\beta) = \{Tv_1, Tv_2, \dots, Tv_n\}$ is still an O.N.B.

Let any $x \in V$, we can write

$$x = a_1 v_1 + a_2 v_2 + \dots + a_n v_n \xrightarrow{\beta \text{ O.N.B.}} \|x\|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n |a_i|^2$$

$$\text{hence } Tx = a_1 Tv_1 + a_2 Tv_2 + \dots + a_n Tv_n \xrightarrow{T(\beta) \text{ O.N.B.}} \|Tx\|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n |a_i|^2$$

_____ \square

Corollary: $|\lambda| = 1$ if $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$ is an eigenvalue of a unitary / orthogonal operator.

Pf: $Tv = \lambda v \Rightarrow \|v\| = \|Tv\| = \|\lambda v\| = |\lambda| \cdot \|v\|$

_____ \square

Corollary: when $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}$, T is unitary

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} \text{(i) } T \text{ is normal} \\ \text{(ii) } |\lambda| = 1 \text{ for all eigenvalue of } T \end{cases}$$

Proof: " \Rightarrow " unitary \Rightarrow normal, (ii) from previous corollary

" \Leftarrow " By Spectral Decomposition,

$$T = \lambda_1 T_1 + \lambda_2 T_2 + \dots + \lambda_k T_k, \text{ where } |\lambda_i| = 1.$$

$$\Rightarrow T^* = \bar{\lambda}_1 T_1 + \bar{\lambda}_2 T_2 + \dots + \bar{\lambda}_k T_k.$$

Hence,

$$T T^* = (\lambda_1 T_1 + \lambda_2 T_2 + \dots + \lambda_k T_k) (\bar{\lambda}_1 T_1 + \bar{\lambda}_2 T_2 + \dots + \bar{\lambda}_k T_k)$$

$$\boxed{T_i T_j = \begin{cases} T_0, & i \neq j \\ T_i, & i = j \end{cases}} \rightarrow = |\lambda_1|^2 T_1 + |\lambda_2|^2 T_2 + \dots + |\lambda_k|^2 T_k = T_1 + T_2 + \dots + T_k = I$$

_____ \square