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## 5.8: Orthonormal bases

Definition:

A countably infinite <sup>orthonormal</sup> seq.  $\{e_n\}$  that is complete in a Hilbert space  $H$  is called an orthonormal basis.

Complete orthonormal seq.  $\Leftrightarrow$  Orthonormal basis!

Every  $x$  can be written:

$$x = \sum \langle x, e_n \rangle e_n$$

$\Downarrow$   
Schauder basis:

complete and linearly independent seq.



linearly independence and completeness.

Recall:

Weierstrass approximation:

Say, given any  $f \in C[0, 1]$  and any  $\epsilon > 0$ , we can find:

$$p_N = \sum_{n=0}^N c_n t^n \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \|f - p\|_{\infty} < \epsilon$$

$\rightarrow$  Monomials  $\{t^n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$  are complete in  $(C[0, 1], \|\cdot\|_{\infty})$ , but this does not imply that every  $f \in C[0, 1]$  can be written:

$$f = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n t^n$$

in an unique way.

Definition: Minimality

Let  $\{x_n\} \in H$  (Hilbert space).

This seq. is minimal if  $x \notin \overline{\text{span}} \{x_n\}_{n \neq m}$



16.  $\mathcal{H}$  a Hilbert space:

- $\{x_n\}$  is a ONB  $\Rightarrow$  Schauder basis  
 $\Rightarrow$  Minimal  
 $\Rightarrow$  linearly independent

Ex:

i)  $\{d_n\}$  is an ONB in  $\ell^2$

Given any  $x = (x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots) \in \ell^2$

$$\langle x, d_n \rangle = x_n \Rightarrow x = \sum \langle x, e_k \rangle e_k$$

ii) If  $\{e_1, \dots, e_d\}$  is orthon and complete in a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$  (of dim  $d$ ), then  $\{e_n\}_{n=1}^d$  is an ONB.

Ex.:  $\{e_n\}_{n=1}^d$  with  $e_n = (0, 0, \dots, 0, \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ n\text{th index}}}{1}, 0, \dots, 0)$   
is an ONB in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  (or  $\mathbb{C}^d$ ).

### 5.9: Existence of an ONB

Recall:  $\mathcal{H}$  separable if it contains a countable dense subset.

Theorem: Gram-Schmidt

$x_1, \dots, x_d$  lin. indep. vectors in a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ . Then

$\exists e_1, \dots, e_d$  orthon. vectors st:  $\text{span}\{e_1, \dots, e_k\} = \text{span}\{x_1, \dots, x_k\}$

$k=1, \dots, d$ .

proof:

1) Let  $e_1 = \frac{x_1}{\|x_1\|}$ . Then  $\text{span}\{e_1\} = \text{span}\{x_1\} = M_1$

2) Now consider  $x_2 \notin \text{span}(x_1) = M_1$

We have  $x_2 = p_2 + q_2$ ,  $p_2 \in M_1$ ,  $q_2 \in M_1^\perp$

$\rightarrow$  set  $e_2 = \frac{q_2}{\|q_2\|}$

Then  $\text{span}\{e_1, e_2\} = \text{span}\{x_1, x_2\}$

For each  $k \leq d$



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For each  $k \leq d$ , at step  $k$ , we let  $x = p_k + q_k$

orthon. proj. on  $M_k = \text{span}\{x_1, \dots, x_k\}$   
 $= \text{span}\{e_1, \dots, e_k\}$

Take  $e_k = \frac{q_k}{\|q_k\|}$ , then  $e_k \perp e_j$  for  $j=1, \dots, k-1$ ,  
and  $\text{span}\{e_1, \dots, e_k\} = \text{span}\{x_1, \dots, x_k\}$

Notice:  $P_k = \sum_{j=1}^k \langle x, e_j \rangle e_j$

Summarized:  $\{x_1, \dots, x_d\}$  linearly independent

i) set  $e_1 = \frac{x_1}{\|x_1\|}$

ii) At  $k^{\text{th}}$  step: set  $q_k = x_k - \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \langle x_k, e_j \rangle e_j \rightarrow e_k = \frac{q_k}{\|q_k\|}$

Example:

Consider  $\{t^n\}_{n=0}^d = \{1, t, t^2, \dots, t^d\}$  on  $(C[-1, 1], \|\cdot\|_2)$

Lin. indep., but not orthon.

Gram-Schmidt:

$$e_0(t) = \frac{1}{\|1\|_2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad \|1\|_2 = \left(\int_{-1}^1 1^2 dt\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$p_1(t) = \langle t, e_0 \rangle e_0(t) = \underbrace{\int_{-1}^1 t \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} dt}_{\text{odd} \rightarrow 0} \cdot e_0(t) = 0$$

$$e_1(t) = \frac{q_1}{\|q_1\|_2} = \frac{t}{\|t\|_2}, \quad \|t\|_2 = \left(\int_{-1}^1 t^2 dt\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}$$

$$e_2(t) = \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}} t$$

$$p_2(t) = \underbrace{\langle t^2, e_0 \rangle}_{\neq 0} e_0(t) + \underbrace{\langle t^2, e_1 \rangle}_{=0} e_1(t)$$

$$\langle t^2, e_0 \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \int_{-1}^1 t^2 dt = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \cdot \frac{2}{3} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3}$$

$$q_2(t) = t^2 - p_2 = t^2 - \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\|q_2\|_2 = \left(\int_{-1}^1 \left(t^2 - \frac{1}{3}\right)^2 dt\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \dots = \left(\frac{8}{45}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$



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$$e_2(t) = \frac{q_2}{\|q_2\|_2} = \frac{1}{(\frac{8}{45})^{1/2}} (t^2 - \frac{1}{3}) = \frac{5}{2\sqrt{2}} (3t^2 - 1)$$

seq. of orthon. polynomials  $\{e_0, \dots, e_d\}$  in  $C[-1, 1]$  with:  
 $\text{span}\{e_0, \dots, e_k\} = \text{span}\{1, t, \dots, t^k\} = \mathcal{P}_k$

Corollary:

If  $H$  is a finite dimensional Hilbert space, then  $H$  contains an ONB  $\{e_1, \dots, e_d\}$ , where  $d = \dim(H)$ .

Theorem:

If  $H$  is an inf. dim. separable Hilbert space, then  $H$  contains an ONB  $\{e_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ .

Proof:

$H$  separable: contains a countable dense seq.  $\{z_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$

$k_1$ : first index where  $z_{k_1} \neq 0$

set  $z_{k_1} = x_1$

$k_2$ : first index  $> k_1$  s.t.  $z_{k_2} \notin \text{span}\{x_1\}$

set  $z_{k_2} = x_2$

$k_3$ : first index  $> k_2$  s.t.  $z_{k_3} \notin \text{span}\{x_1, x_2\}$

and so on...

This gives a lin indep seq.  $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  with  $\text{span}\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} = \text{span}\{z_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$

Now apply Gram-Schmidt to  $\{x_n\}$  to obtain an orthon. seq.

$\{e_n\}$  with  $\text{span}\{e_1, \dots, e_k\} = \text{span}\{x_1, \dots, x_k\} = \text{span}\{z_1, \dots, z_k\}$

$\forall k = 1, 2, \dots$

Recall:  $\{z_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  is dense  $\Rightarrow \{e_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  dense

$\Rightarrow \{e_n\}$  is an ONB in  $H$  (bc. orthon. and complete).

5.11: The complex trigonometric system

$(C[0, 1], \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$  with  $\langle f, g \rangle = \int_0^1 f(t) \overline{g(t)} dt$  is not

complete, but  $C[0, 1] \subseteq L^2[0, 1]$ , and  $(L^2[0, 1], \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$

is complete



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$f \in C[0,1]: f: [0,1] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is cont.

Consider the exponential system:

$$E = \{e_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} = \{e^{2\pi i n t} : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

Note: i)  $|e_n(t)| = |e^{2\pi i n t}| = 1$   
 $= |\cos(2\pi n t) + i \sin(2\pi n t)|$   
 $= (\cos^2(2\pi n t) + \sin^2(2\pi n t))^{\frac{1}{2}}$

ii)  $e_n$  is 1-periodic:

$$e_n(t+1) = e^{2\pi i n (t+1)} = \underbrace{e^{2\pi i n t}}_{= e_n(t)} \underbrace{e^{2\pi i n}}_{= 1} = e_n(t)$$

iii)  $e_n \perp e_k$  for  $n \neq k$

$$\langle e_n, e_k \rangle = \int_0^1 e^{2\pi i n t} e^{-2\pi i k t} dt = \int_0^1 e^{2\pi i t (n-k)} dt$$
$$= \frac{1}{2\pi i (n-k)} e^{2\pi i (n-k) t} \Big|_{t=0}^{t=1} = 0$$

→ The seq.  $\{e_n\}$  is orthon., bc:

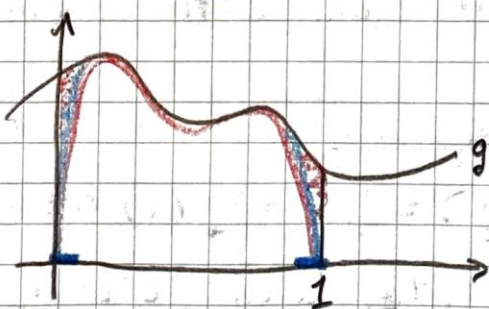
$$\|e_n\|_2^2 = \int_0^1 |e^{2\pi i n t}|^2 dt = 1$$

Claim:

$C[0,1] \subseteq L^2[0,1]$  is a dense subset. i.e.  $\forall \varepsilon > 0$

$\forall f \in L^2[0,1] \exists g \in C[0,1]$  s.t.  $\|f-g\|_2 < \varepsilon$ .

Step 2: Approx.  $g \in C[0,1]$  by periodic  $h$ , i.e.  $h \in C[0,1]$  where  $h(0) = h(1)$  and  $\|h-g\|_2 < \varepsilon$ .



$$h(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & t=0 \\ \text{linear} & 0 < t < \delta \\ g(t) & \delta < t < 1-\delta \\ \text{linear} & 1-\delta < t < 1 \\ 0 & t=1 \end{cases}$$



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step 3: Recall the Stone-Weierstrass theorem for periodic fucs:

$\exists N > 0$  and scalars  $c_n$  s.t. for:

$$P_N = \sum_{n=-N}^N c_n e^{2\pi i n t} \quad \text{we have: } \|h - P_N\|_2 < \epsilon$$

combined:  $\|f - P_N\|_2 = \|f - g + g - h + h - P_N\|_2 \leq \|f - g\|_2 + \|g - h\|_2 + \|h - P_N\|_2 < 3\epsilon$

$\Rightarrow \mathcal{E}$  is dense in  $L^2[0,1]$ , so  $\mathcal{E} = \{e^{2\pi i n t}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$   
is an ONB in  $L^2[0,1]$ .

$$\hat{f}(n) = \langle f, e_n \rangle = \int_0^1 f(t) e^{-2\pi i n t} dt$$

$\hat{f}(n)$  is the  $n$ th Fourier coefficient of  $f$ .

Theorem: (Fourier series for  $L^2[0,1]$ )

For each  $f \in L^2[0,1]$ , we have

$$f = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \hat{f}(n) e_n,$$

where this series converges in the  $\|\cdot\|_2$ -norm. Moreover;

$$\|f\|_2^2 = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} |\hat{f}(n)|^2 \quad \forall f \quad (\text{Parseval's equality})$$

and

$$\langle f, g \rangle = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \hat{f}(n) \hat{g}(n) \quad \forall f, g \in L^2[0,1] \quad (\text{Plancherel})$$

Remark:

Convergence of  $\sum \hat{f}(n) e^{2\pi i n t}$  to  $f$  is in  $L^2$ -norm, i.e. not necessarily pointwise.