

On Orthogonality in n -Normed Spaces

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Abstract

We discuss several notions of orthogonality in n -normed spaces. For each definition of orthogonality, we test whether it is equivalent to the usual one, especially when the space is also equipped with an inner product.

INTRODUCTION

Let $n \geq 2$ be a nonnegative integer and X be a vector space of dimension $d \geq n$ (including $d = \infty$). A real-valued function $\|\cdot, \dots, \cdot\|$ on $X^n = X \times \cdots \times X$ (n times) satisfying the following four properties:

- (1.1) $\|x_1, \dots, x_n\| = 0$ if and only if x_1, \dots, x_n are linearly dependent;
- (1.2) $\|x_1, \dots, x_n\|$ is invariant under permutation;
- (1.3) $\|\alpha x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\| = |\alpha| \|x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\|$ for any $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$;
- (1.4) $\|x + x', x_2, \dots, x_n\| \leq \|x, x_2, \dots, x_n\| + \|x', x_2, \dots, x_n\|$,

is called an n -norm on X , and the pair $(X, \|\cdot, \dots, \cdot\|)$ is called an n -normed space.

Next, a real-valued function $\langle \cdot, \cdot | \cdot, \dots, \cdot \rangle$ on X^{n+1} satisfying the following five properties:

(1.5) $\langle z_1, z_1 | z_2, \dots, z_n \rangle \geq 0$; $\langle z_1, z_1 | z_2, \dots, z_n \rangle = 0$ if and only if z_1, z_2, \dots, z_n are linearly dependent;

(1.6) $\langle z_1, z_1 | z_2, \dots, z_n \rangle = \langle z_{i_1}, z_{i_1} | z_{i_2}, \dots, z_{i_n} \rangle$ for every permutation (i_1, \dots, i_n) of $(1, \dots, n)$;

(1.7) $\langle x, y | z_2, \dots, z_n \rangle = \langle y, x | z_2, \dots, z_n \rangle$;

(1.8) $\langle \alpha x, y | z_2, \dots, z_n \rangle = \alpha \langle x, y | z_2, \dots, z_n \rangle$, $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$;

(1.9) $\langle x + x', y | z_2, \dots, z_n \rangle = \langle x, y | z_2, \dots, z_n \rangle + \langle x', y | z_2, \dots, z_n \rangle$,

is called an n -inner product on X , and the pair $(X, \langle \cdot, \cdot | \cdot, \dots, \cdot \rangle)$ is called an n -inner product space.

One may observe that any inner product space $(X, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ can be equipped with *the standard n -norm*

$$\|x_1, \dots, x_n\| := \sqrt{\det(\langle x_i, x_j \rangle)}.$$

Note that this n -norm can be derived from *the standard n -inner product*

$$\langle x, y | z_2, \dots, z_n \rangle := \begin{vmatrix} \langle x, y \rangle & \langle x, z_2 \rangle & \dots & \langle x, z_n \rangle \\ \langle z_2, y \rangle & \langle z_2, z_2 \rangle & \dots & \langle z_2, z_n \rangle \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \langle z_n, y \rangle & \langle z_n, z_2 \rangle & \dots & \langle z_n, z_n \rangle \end{vmatrix}.$$

A *standard n -normed space* (or a *standard n -inner product space*) is an inner product space equipped with the standard n -norm (or the standard n -inner product).

Remark. The determinan $\det(\langle x_i, x_j \rangle)$ is known as *the Gramian* of x_1, \dots, x_n . Geometrically, $\|x_1, \dots, x_n\|$ represents the volume of the n -dimensional parallelepiped spanned by x_1, \dots, x_n in X .

For further discussion about n -normed spaces and n -inner product spaces, we refer the reader to [8, 10, 15, 16].) For earlier works on 2-normed spaces and 2-inner product spaces, see [6, 4, 5].

In this paper, we shall discuss some notions of orthogonality in n -normed spaces. We recall that several notions of orthogonality in a normed space have been developed. For example, the following definitions of Pythagorean, isosceles, and the Birkhoff-James orthogonality in a (real) normed space $(X, \|\cdot\|)$ are known:

P-orthogonality: x is P-orthogonal to y (denoted by $x \perp_P y$) if only if

$$\|x + y\|^2 = \|x\|^2 + \|y\|^2.$$

I-orthogonality: x is I-orthogonal to y (denoted by $x \perp_I y$) if only if

$$\|x + y\| = \|x - y\|.$$

BJ-orthogonality: x is BJ-orthogonal to y (denoted by $x \perp_{BJ} y$) if only if

$$\|x + \alpha y\| \geq \|x\| \text{ for every } \alpha \in \mathbb{R}.$$

If X is actually equipped with an inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$, then one may observe that $x \perp_P y$, $x \perp_I y$, and $x \perp_{BJ} y$ are all equivalent to the condition that $\langle x, y \rangle = 0$, for which we have the usual orthogonality $x \perp y$. However, in a normed space which is not an inner product space, the three types of orthogonality do not imply one another. See, for example, [14] and the references therein, for basic properties of these concepts of orthogonality.

The above notions of orthogonality have been extended to 2-normed spaces by several researchers (see, for example, [2, 13, 3]), and can be extended further to n -normed spaces. The purpose of this paper is to study each notion and decide which one is most plausible.

Throughout this paper, X will always denote a real vector space, unless otherwise stated.

Let us begin with the case $n = 2$ for convenience. As the notions of orthogonality in normed spaces are inspired by that in inner product spaces, the notions of orthogonality in 2-normed spaces are also connected to that in 2-inner product spaces. In [11], it is shown that the 'standard' definition of orthogonality in a 2-inner product space $(X, \langle \cdot, \cdot | \cdot \rangle)$, where $\dim(X) \geq 3$, is the following:

Definition 2.1 (G-orthogonality in 2-inner product spaces)
 x is *G-orthogonal* to y , denoted by $x \perp_G y$, if and only if there exists a subspace V of X with $\text{codim}(V) = 1$ such that $\langle x, y | z \rangle = 0$ for all $z \in V$.

Notice that if X is a standard 2-inner product space, that is, when X is actually equipped with an inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ and the 2-inner product

$$\langle x, y|z \rangle := \begin{vmatrix} \langle x, y \rangle & \langle x, z \rangle \\ \langle z, y \rangle & \langle z, z \rangle \end{vmatrix},$$

then we have $x \perp_G y$ if and only if $x \perp y$ (see [11]).

Accordingly, we may define P-, I-, and BJ-orthogonality in a 2-normed space $(X, \|\cdot, \cdot\|)$ of dimension 3 or higher as follows:

Definition 2.2 (P-, I-, and BJ-orthogonality in 2-normed spaces)

(a) $x \perp_P y$ if only if there exists a subspace V of X with $\text{codim}(V) = 1$ such that

$$\|x + y, z\|^2 = \|x, z\|^2 + \|y, z\|^2 \quad \text{for every } z \in V;$$

(b) $x \perp_I y$ if only if there exists a subspace V of X with $\text{codim}(V) = 1$ such that

$$\|x + y, z\| = \|x - y, z\| \quad \text{for every } z \in V;$$

(c) $x \perp_{BJ} y$ if only if there exists a subspace V of X with $\text{codim}(V) = 1$ such that

$$\|x + \alpha y, z\| \geq \|x, z\| \quad \text{for every } z \in V \text{ and } \alpha \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Let us now extend these notions of orthogonality to n -normed spaces and show that in the standard case they are equivalent to the usual one.

Definition 2.3 (G -orthogonality) Let $(X, \langle \cdot, \cdot | \cdot, \dots, \cdot \rangle)$ be an n -inner product space of dimension $n + 1$ or higher. For $x, y \in X$, we say that x is G -orthogonal to y and write $x \perp^G y$ if and only if there exists a subspace V of X with $\text{codim}(V) = 1$ such that $\langle x, y | z_2, \dots, z_n \rangle = 0$ for every $z_2, \dots, z_n \in V$.

Definition 2.4 (P-, I-, and BJ-orthogonality) Let $(X, \|\cdot, \dots, \cdot\|)$ be an n -normed space of dimension $n + 1$ or higher. For $x, y \in X$, we define

(a) $x \perp_P y$ if only if there exists a subspace V of X with $\text{codim}(V) = 1$ such that

$$\|x+y, z_2, \dots, z_n\|^2 = \|x, z_2, \dots, z_n\|^2 + \|y, z_2, \dots, z_n\|^2, \quad z_2, \dots, z_n \in V$$

(b) $x \perp_I y$ if only if there exists a subspace V of X with $\text{codim}(V) = 1$ such that

$$\|x + y, z_2, \dots, z_n\| = \|x - y, z_2, \dots, z_n\|, \quad z_2, \dots, z_n \in V;$$

(c) $x \perp_{BJ} y$ if only if there exists a subspace V of X with $\text{codim}(V) = 1$ such that

$$\|x + \alpha y, z_2, \dots, z_n\| \geq \|x, z_2, \dots, z_n\|, \quad z_2, \dots, z_n \in V \text{ and } \alpha \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Note that in an n -inner product space $(X, \langle \cdot, \cdot | \cdot, \dots, \cdot \rangle)$, P-, I-, and BJ-orthogonality are equivalent to G-orthogonality. The following theorem states that in a standard n -inner product space, G-orthogonality is equivalent to the usual orthogonality (with respect to the inner product).

Theorem 2.5 (Gunawan *et al.*) *Let $(X, \langle \cdot, \cdot | \cdot, \dots, \cdot \rangle)$ be a standard n -inner product space of dimension $n + 1$ or higher. Then, $x \perp^G y$ if and only if $x \perp y$.*

Proof I

Suppose that $x \perp y$, that is, $\langle x, y \rangle = 0$. Then we can choose $V \subseteq X$ such that $V^\perp = \text{span}\{x\}$. Clearly V is a subspace of X with $\text{codim}(V) = 1$. Now, for every $z_2, z_3, \dots, z_n \in V$, we have

$$\langle x, y | z_2, \dots, z_n \rangle = \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \langle z_2, y \rangle & \langle z_2, z_2 \rangle & \dots & \langle z_2, z_n \rangle \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \langle z_n, y \rangle & \langle z_n, z_2 \rangle & \dots & \langle z_n, z_n \rangle \end{vmatrix} = 0.$$

(Alternatively, one may choose $V \subseteq X$ such that $V^\perp = \text{span}\{y\}$ and get the same result.) This shows that $x \perp^G y$.

Conversely, suppose that $x \not\perp y$, that is, $\langle x, y \rangle \neq 0$. Here x and y cannot be zero. To show that $x \not\perp^G y$, let V be a subspace of X

Proof II

with $\text{codim}(V) = 1$. We claim that there must exist $z_2, \dots, z_n \in V$ such that $\langle x, y | z_2, \dots, z_n \rangle \neq 0$.

To prove the claim, we consider several cases. The first case below is clear.

Case 1. x and y are linearly dependent. Here $y = kx$, for some $k \neq 0$, so that

$$\langle x, y | z_2, \dots, z_n \rangle = k \langle x, x | z_2, \dots, z_n \rangle = k \|x, z_2, \dots, z_n\|^2.$$

Now choose $z_2, \dots, z_n \in V$ such that x, z_2, \dots, z_n are linearly independent. This is possible since $\dim(X) \geq n + 1$ and $\text{codim}(V) = 1$. Hence, we have

$$\langle x, y | z_2, \dots, z_n \rangle = k \|x, z_2, \dots, z_n\|^2 \neq 0.$$

Proof III

Case 2. x and y are linearly independent. In this case, we consider the following subcases.

Case 2a. $x \in V$ and $y \in V$. Here we may choose $z_2 = x + y \in V$ and nonzero vectors $z_3, \dots, z_n \in V$ such that $z_3 \perp \text{span}\{x, y\}$ and $z_i \perp \text{span}\{x, y, z_3, \dots, z_{i-1}\}$ for $i = 4, \dots, n$. (Again, this is possible since $\dim(X) \geq (n + 1)$ and $\text{codim}(V) = 1$.) Hence, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle x, y | z_2, \dots, z_n \rangle &= \begin{vmatrix} \langle x, y \rangle & \langle x, x + y \rangle & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \langle x + y, y \rangle & \langle x + y, x + y \rangle & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \|z_3\|^2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & \|z_n\|^2 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= - \begin{vmatrix} \langle x, x \rangle & \langle x, y \rangle \\ \langle y, x \rangle & \langle y, y \rangle \end{vmatrix} \|z_3\|^2 \cdots \|z_n\|^2 \neq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Proof IV

(Note that the 2×2 determinant in the last expression is the Gramian of x and y , which is the square of the area of the parallelogram spanned by x and y . This determinant is positive definite because x and y are linearly independent.)

Case 2b. $x \in V$ and $y \notin V$. Here we may choose a nonzero vector $z_2 \in V$ that is orthogonal to x and nonzero vectors $z_3, \dots, z_n \in V$ such that $z_i \perp \text{span}\{x, z_2, \dots, z_{i-1}\}$ for $i = 3, \dots, n$. Hence, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle x, y | z_2, \dots, z_n \rangle &= \begin{vmatrix} \langle x, y \rangle & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \langle z_2, y \rangle & \|z_2\|^2 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \langle z_3, y \rangle & 0 & \|z_3\|^2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \langle z_n, y \rangle & 0 & 0 & \cdots & \|z_n\|^2 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= \langle x, y \rangle \|z_2\|^2 \cdots \|z_n\|^2 \neq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Proof V

Case 2c. $x \notin V$ and $y \in V$. Here we may choose a nonzero vector $z_2 \in V$ that is orthogonal to y and nonzero vectors $z_3, \dots, z_n \in V$ such that $z_i \perp \text{span}\{y, z_2, \dots, z_{i-1}\}$ for $i = 3, \dots, n$. Hence, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle x, y | z_2, \dots, z_n \rangle &= \begin{vmatrix} \langle x, y \rangle & \langle x, z_2 \rangle & \langle x, z_3 \rangle & \cdots & \langle x, z_n \rangle \\ 0 & \|z_2\|^2 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \|z_3\|^2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & \|z_n\|^2 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= \langle x, y \rangle \|z_2\|^2 \cdots \|z_n\|^2 \neq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Case 2d. $x \notin V$ and $y \notin V$. Here we can write $x = \alpha u + x'$ and $y = \beta u + y'$ where u is a fixed nonzero vector perpendicular to V ,

Proof VI

α and β are nonzero scalars, and $x', y' \in V$. Next choose $z_2 = \beta x - \alpha y = \beta x' - \alpha y' \in V$ and nonzero vectors $z_3, \dots, z_n \in V$ such that $z_3 \perp \text{span}\{x', y'\}$, and $z_i \perp \text{span}\{x', y', z_3, \dots, z_{i-1}\}$ for $i = 4, \dots, n$. Observe that for $i = 3, \dots, n$, we have

$$\langle x, z_i \rangle = \langle \alpha u + x', z_i \rangle = \alpha \langle u, z_i \rangle + \langle x', z_i \rangle = 0,$$

$$\langle z_i, y \rangle = \langle z_i, \beta u + y' \rangle = \beta \langle z_i, u \rangle + \langle z_i, y' \rangle = 0,$$

and

$$\langle z_i, z_2 \rangle = \langle z_2, z_i \rangle = \langle \beta x' - \alpha y', z_i \rangle = 0.$$

Proof VII

Hence

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \langle x, y | z_2, \dots, z_n \rangle \\
 &= \begin{vmatrix} \langle x, y \rangle & \langle x, \beta x - \alpha y \rangle & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \langle \beta x - \alpha y, y \rangle & \langle \beta x - \alpha y, \beta x - \alpha y \rangle & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \|z_3\|^2 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & \|z_n\|^2 \end{vmatrix} \\
 &= \alpha\beta \begin{vmatrix} \langle x, x \rangle & \langle x, y \rangle \\ \langle y, x \rangle & \langle y, y \rangle \end{vmatrix} \|z_2\|^2 \dots \|z_n\|^2 \neq 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

So, in any case, there must exist $z_2, \dots, z_n \in V$ such that $\langle x, y | z_2, \dots, z_n \rangle \neq 0$. This proves our claim, and hence proves the theorem.

Let $(X, \|\cdot, \dots, \cdot\|)$ be a standard n -normed space of dimension n . With respect to the G -orthogonality defined in the previous section, one may observe that two arbitrary vectors x and y are G -orthogonal to each other. Indeed, given x and y , just take $V = \text{span}\{x, u_2, \dots, u_{n-1}\}$ where x, u_2, \dots, u_{n-1} are linearly independent. Now, for every $z_2, \dots, z_n \in V$, the set $\{x, z_2, \dots, z_n\}$ is linearly dependent. Then, supposing that z_n is a linear combination of x, z_2, \dots, z_{n-1} , we get

$$\begin{aligned} \langle x, y | z_2, \dots, z_n \rangle &= \begin{vmatrix} \langle x, y \rangle & \langle x, z_2 \rangle & \dots & \langle x, z_n \rangle \\ \langle z_2, y \rangle & \langle z_2, z_2 \rangle & \dots & \langle z_2, z_n \rangle \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \langle z_n, y \rangle & \langle z_n, z_2 \rangle & \dots & \langle z_n, z_n \rangle \end{vmatrix} \\ &= \begin{vmatrix} \langle x, y \rangle & \langle x, z_2 \rangle & \dots & \langle x, z_n \rangle \\ \langle z_2, y \rangle & \langle z_2, z_2 \rangle & \dots & \langle z_2, z_n \rangle \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{vmatrix} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

(The same also happens if we take $V = \text{span}\{y, u_2, \dots, u_{n-1}\}$ where y, u_2, \dots, u_{n-1} are linearly independent.)

As a matter of fact, the concept of orthogonality in n -normed spaces of dimension n needs to be formulated in a different way.

As suggested by [10], a norm can be derived from the n -norm and so we can define P-, I-, and BJ-orthogonality using this norm. In the standard case, the derived norm can be obtained from the n -norm in such a way that it coincides with the existing one (see [9]). Thus, the three types of orthogonality which are defined by using the derived norm will coincide with the usual orthogonality (with respect to the existing inner product).

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