An Explicit Formula for Angles between Subspaces of an $n$-Inner Product Space

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Abstract. We discuss angles between two subspaces of an inner product space. This paper is an extension of the work by Gunawan et al [7]. We present an explicit formula for angles between two subspaces of an $n$-inner product space. Moreover, we study its connection with angles in an inner product space.

Keywords: angles, inner product space, $n$-inner product space.

1. INTRODUCTION

In an inner product space, we can calculate angles between two subspaces. Since the 1950’s, the concept of angles between two subspaces of the Euclidean space $\mathbb{R}^d$ has been studied by many researchers [2]. Application of angles between two subspaces in an inner product space can be found in the fields of computing and statistics. For example, measuring the similarity of images of three-dimensional objects is invariant under the displacement of the object and the position of the camera [8]. In statistics, the angle between two subspaces is related to canonical (or principal) angles which are measures of dependency of one set of random variables on another [1]. In 2001, Risteksi and Trencevski [10] introduced a definition of angles between two subspaces of $\mathbb{R}^d$ using determinant Gram and explained their connection with canonical angles. Gunawan et al. [6,7] refined their definition and gave the formulas for angles between two subspaces in an inner product space of arbitrary dimension. They also explained the connection with canonical angles by using elementary calculus and linear algebra and some application examples.

Let $(X,\langle\cdot,\cdot\rangle)$ be a real inner product space. If $U = \text{span}\{u\}$ is a 1-dimensional subspace and $V = \text{span}\{v_1,\cdots,v_q\}$ is a $q$-dimensional subspace of $X$, then the angle between subspaces $U$ and $V$ is defined by $\theta$ with $0 \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$ and $\cos \theta = \frac{\|u\|^2}{\|v\|^2}$. In formula, $u_\perp$ denotes the (orthogonal) projection of $u$ on $V$ and $\|\cdot\| = \langle\cdot,\cdot\rangle^{1/2}$. Gunawan et al [7] showed that the value of $\cos \theta$ is equal to the ratio between the length of the projection of $u$ on $V$ and the length of $u$ 

$$
\cos \theta = \frac{\|u_\perp\|^2}{\|u\|^2}.
$$

Likewise, if $U = \text{span}\{u,w_2,\cdots,w_p\}$ and $V = \text{span}\{v,w_2,\cdots,w_p\}$ are $p$-dimensional subspaces of $X$ that intersects on ($p - 1$)-dimensional subspace $W = \text{span}\{w_2,\cdots,w_p\}$ with $p \geq 2$ then the value of $\cos \theta$ is equal to the ratio between the volume of the $p$-dimensional parallelepiped spanned by the projection of $u, w_2, \cdots, w_p$ on $V$ and the volume of the $p$-dimensional parallelepiped spanned by $u, w_2, \cdots, w_p$ [7].

In this paper, we will give some explicit formulas for angles between two subspaces in various cases of an inner product space of arbitrary dimension. This research is a further development of the work of Gunawan et al. In the next section, we will formulate angles in an $n$-inner product space and will show the connection between angles in an inner product space and in an $n$-inner product space.

2. METHODS

We have a method to obtain the result in this research. The first study, we study about angles between subspaces in an inner product space and give some explicit formulas. After that, we will formulate angles in an $n$-inner product space. To obtain the result, we use norm equivalent for showing the connection between angles in an inner product space and in an $n$-inner product space.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Angles between subspaces in an inner product space

In this subsection, we will discuss angles between subspaces in an inner product space. Let $(X,\langle\cdot,\cdot\rangle)$ be an inner product space and consider the standar $n$-inner product.
as in [4,9]. Then, the following function \(\|x_1, \ldots, x_n\| = (x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n)^\top x_1, \ldots, x_n\) defines the standard n-norm. Geometrically, \(\|x_1, \ldots, x_n\|\) represents the volume of the n-dimensional parallelepiped spanned by \(x_1, \ldots, x_n\) (see[4,5]. Using definition in [7], we will determine an formula for the cosine of the angle between subspaces \(U\) and \(V\) that intersects on subspaces \(W\) of \((X, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)\) as follows.

**Proposition 1.** Let \((X, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)\) be a real inner product space. If \(U = \text{span}\{u, w_1, \ldots, w_r\}\) is a \(1 + r\)-dimensional subspace and \(V = \text{span}\{v_1, \ldots, v_q, w_1,\ldots, w_r\}\) is a \((q + r)\)-dimensional subspace of \(X\) that intersects on \(r\)-dimensional subspace \(W = \text{span}\{w_1, \ldots, w_r\}\) with \(q, r \geq 1\) then the angle between subspaces \(U\) and \(V\) is \(\theta\) with

\[
\cos^2 \theta = \frac{\langle u^\top V, u^\top W \rangle}{\|u^\top V\|_W^2} \quad \text{where} \quad \langle u^\top V \rangle_W \text{ and } u^\top W \text{ are the orthogonal complement of } u^\top \text{ and } \text{ on } W.
\]

**Proof.** The projection of \(u^\top\) on \(V\) is \(u^\top V\). Next, we may write \(u^\top W = u^\top V + u^\top V\) where \(u^\top V\) is the projection of \(u^\top\) on \(W\) and \(u^\top V\) is the orthogonal complement of \(u^\top\) on \(W\). In line with this, we may write \(u = u^\top W + u^\top W\) where \(u^\top W\) is the projection of \(u\) on \(W\) and \(u^\top W\) is the orthogonal complement of \(u\) on \(W\). Using the standard \((1 + r)\)-norm, we obtain

\[
\cos^2 \theta = \frac{\|u^\top V, u^\top W \|^2}{\|u^\top W\|^2} = \frac{\|u^\top V, u^\top W \|^2}{\|u^\top W\|^2}.
\]

This formula tells us that the value of \(\cos \theta\) is equal to the ratio between the length of the orthogonal complement of \(u^\top\) on \(W\) and the length of the projection of \(u^\top\) on \(W\). More generally, the angle that intersects on subspaces \(W = \text{span}\{w_1, \ldots, w_r\}\) of \(X\) is poured in following theorem:

**Theorem 2.** Let \((X, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)\) be a real inner product space. If \(U = \text{span}\{u_1, \ldots, u_p, w_1, \ldots, w_r\}\) is a \((p + r)\)-dimensional subspace and \(V = \text{span}\{v_1, \ldots, v_q, w_1,\ldots, w_r\}\) is a \((q + r)\)-dimensional subspace of \(X\) with \(p \leq q\) that intersects on \(r\)-dimensional subspace \(W = \text{span}\{w_1, \ldots, w_r\}\) with \(r \geq 1\) then the angle between subspaces \(U\) and \(V\) is \(\theta\) with

\[
\cos^2 \theta = \frac{\|u_1^\top W, \ldots, u_p^\top W \|^2}{\|u_1^\top W, \ldots, u_p^\top W \|^2} \quad \text{where} \quad \langle u_i^\top W \rangle_W \text{ and } u_i^\top W \text{ are the orthogonal complement of } u_i^\top \text{ and } \text{ on } W \text{ for } i = 1, \ldots, p.
\]

**Proof.** The projection of \(u_i^\top\) on \(V\) is \(u_i^\top V\). Next, we may write \(u_i^\top W = u_i^\top V + u_i^\top V\) where \(u_i^\top V\) is the projection of \(u_i^\top\) on \(W\) and \(u_i^\top V\) is the orthogonal complement of \(u_i^\top\) on \(W\). In line with this, we may write \(u_i = (u_i^\top W) + (u_i^\top V)\) where \(u_i^\top W\) is the projection of \(u_i\) on \(W\) and \(u_i^\top W\) is the orthogonal complement of \(u_i\) on \(W\) for \(i = 1, \ldots, p\). Using the standard \((p + r)\)-norm, we obtain

\[
\cos^2 \theta = \frac{\|u_1^\top W, \ldots, u_p^\top W \|^2}{\|u_1^\top W, \ldots, u_p^\top W \|^2} = \frac{\|u_1^\top V, u_1^\top V + u_1^\top V \|^2}{\|u_1^\top V, u_1^\top V + u_1^\top V \|^2} = \frac{\|u_1^\top V, u_1^\top V \|^2}{\|u_1^\top V, u_1^\top V \|^2}.
\]

### 3.2 Angles between subspaces in an n-inner product space

In this subsection, we will discuss angles between subspaces in an n-inner product space and its connection with angles in an inner product space. Let \((X, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)\) be a real n-inner product space with \(n \geq 2\). Fix a linearly independent set \(\{a_1, \ldots, a_n\}\) in \(X\) with respect to \(\{a_1, \ldots, a_n\}\), define the function \(\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle^*\) by

\[
\langle x, y \rangle^* = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \langle x, a_i \rangle a_i
\]

for each \(x, y \in X\). According to [3], the function \(\langle x, y \rangle^*\) defines an inner product on \(X\). Moreover \(\|x\|^* = \left\|\sum_{i=1}^{n} \langle x, a_i \rangle a_i \right\|^2\) defines a norm that corresponds to an inner product \(\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle^*\) on \(X\). Next, using an inner product \(\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle^*\), we have a new standard n-inner product \(\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle^*\) on \(X\), namely
and a new standard $n$-norm $\|x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_n\|^* = (\langle x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_n \rangle^*)^2$. Furthermore, one may also use an inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle^*$ and its induced norm to study the angle between subspaces in an $n$-inner product space. As in [7] with the new standard $n$-norm, we define the angle between subspaces in an $n$-inner product space.

**Definition 3.** Let $(X, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ be a real $n$-inner product space. If $U = \text{span}\{u_1, \ldots, u_p\}$ is a $p$-dimensional subspace and $V = \text{span}\{v_1, \ldots, v_q\}$ is a $q$-dimensional subspace of $X$ with $p \leq q$, then the angle between subspaces $U$ and $V$ is defined by

$$\cos^2 \theta = \frac{(\text{det} [\langle u_i, v_j \rangle]^*)^2}{(\|u_1, \ldots, u_p\|_n^p)^2 (\|v_1, \ldots, v_q\|_n^q)^2},$$

where $u_i^*$ denote the projection of $u_i$ on $V$ for each $i = 1, \ldots, p$ and $\|\cdot\|_n^q$ denotes the standard $p$-norm on $(X, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle^*)$.

According to Definition 3, for case $p = q$, we have an explicit formula the cosine of the angle $\theta$ that can be obtained as follows.

**Proposition 4.** Let $(X, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ be a real $n$-inner product space. If $U = \text{span}\{u_1, \ldots, u_p\}$ and $V = \text{span}\{v_1, \ldots, v_p\}$ are $p$-dimensional subspaces of $X$ then the angle between subspaces $U$ and $V$ is $\theta$ with $\cos^2 \theta = (\text{det} [\langle u_i, v_j \rangle]^*)^2 /

\left( (\|u_1, \ldots, u_p\|_n^p)^2 (\|v_1, \ldots, v_p\|_n^p)^2 \right).

**Proof.** The projection of $u_i$ on $V$ for $i = 1, \ldots, p$ may be expressed as $u_i^* = \sum_{k=1}^p \alpha_{ik} v_k$. Observe that

$$\langle u_i^*, u_j^* \rangle = \langle u_i, u_j \rangle^* = \sum_{k=1}^p \alpha_{ik} \langle u_k, v_k \rangle^*$$

for $i, j = 1, \ldots, p$. Hence we have

$$\left( \left\| u_1^*, \ldots, u_p^* \right\|_n^p \right)^2 = \left( \left\| u_1, \ldots, u_p \right\|_n^p \right)^2 = \left\| \begin{array}{c} \sum_{k=1}^p \alpha_{1k} \langle u_1, v_k \rangle^* \vdots \\ \vdots \sum_{k=1}^p \alpha_{pk} \langle u_p, v_k \rangle^* \end{array} \right\|_n^p = \left( \begin{array}{c} \langle u_1, v_1 \rangle^* \vdots \\ \vdots \langle u_p, v_1 \rangle^* \end{array} \right) \left\| \begin{array}{c} \alpha_{11} \vdots \\ \vdots \alpha_{pp} \end{array} \right\|_n^p = \left( \begin{array}{c} \langle u_1, v_1 \rangle^* \vdots \\ \vdots \langle u_p, v_1 \rangle^* \end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{c} \alpha_{11} \vdots \\ \vdots \alpha_{pp} \end{array} \right).$$

Because of $\langle u_i, v_i \rangle^* = \langle u_i^*, v_i^* \rangle$ with $i = 1, \ldots, p$, we obtain

$$\left( \left\| u_1^*, \ldots, u_p^* \right\|_n^p \right)^2 = \left( \left\| u_1, \ldots, u_p \right\|_n^p \right)^2 = \left( \text{det} [\langle u_i, v_j \rangle]^* \right)^2 (\|u_1, \ldots, u_p\|_n^p)^2 (\|v_1, \ldots, v_p\|_n^p)^2.

Consequently, we have

$$\cos^2 \theta = \frac{\left( \text{det} [\langle u_i, v_j \rangle]^* \right)^2}{(\|u_1, \ldots, u_p\|_n^p)^2 (\|v_1, \ldots, v_p\|_n^p)^2}.\]$$

Next, we will determine a formula for the cosine of the angle between subspaces $U$ and $V$ that intersects on subspaces $W$ of $(X, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$. The formula for the angle $U = \text{span}\{u, w_1, \ldots, w_r\}$ and $V = \text{span}\{v_1, \ldots, v_q, w_{r+1}, \ldots, w_r\}$ can be obtained as follows.

**Proposition 5.** Let $(X, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ be a real $n$-inner product space. If $U = \text{span}\{u, w_1, \ldots, w_r\}$ is a $(1 + r)$-dimensional subspace and $V = \text{span}\{v_1, \ldots, v_q, w_{r+1}, \ldots, w_r\}$ is a $(q + r)$-dimensional subspace on $X$ that intersects on $r$-dimensional subspace $W = \text{span}\{w_{r+1}, \ldots, w_r\}$ with $r \geq 1$ then the angle between subspaces $U$ and $V$ is $(0 \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{2})$, with $\cos^2 \theta = \frac{(\|u^r\|_n^r)^2}{(\|u\|_n)}$, where $u^r$ and $u^r_W$ are the orthogonal complement of $u^r$ and $u$, respectively, on $W$.

**Proof.** Writing $u^r = (u^r)_W + (u^r)_W$ and $u = u_W + u_W$ and using the new standard $(1 + r)$-norm, we obtain

$$\cos^2 \theta = \frac{(\|u^r, w_1, \ldots, w_r\|_n^{1+r})^2}{(\|u, w_1, \ldots, w_r\|_n^{1+r})^2} = \frac{(\|u^r W + (u^r)_W, w_1, \ldots, w_r\|_n^{1+r})^2}{(\|u_W + (u^r)_W, w_1, \ldots, w_r\|_n^{1+r})^2}.$$
More generally, using Definition 7 and following the proof of Theorem 4, the angle and $\theta$ with $\pi$ can be obtained as follows.

**Theorem 6.** Let $\langle X, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle \rangle$ be a real $\mathbb{R}$-inner product space. If $U = \text{span}\{u_1, \ldots, u_p, w_1, \ldots, w_r\}$ and $V = \text{span}\{v_1, \ldots, v_q, w_1, \ldots, w_r\}$ with $p \leq q$ can be obtained as follows.

Before we discuss the connection between angles in an inner product space and in an $n$-inner product space, we have equivalent norm on $(X, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ with norm $\|\cdot\|_n$ where $\{a_1, \ldots, a_n\}$ are an orthonormal set on $(X, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ as follows.

**Proposition 7.** [6] Norm $\|\cdot\|_n$ equivalent with the norm that corresponds to the inner product $\|\cdot\|_n$ on $(X, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$. Namely, $\|x\| \leq \|x\|_n \leq \sqrt{n}\|x\|$ for every $x \in X$.

From this proposition, we have the connection between angles in an inner product space and in an $n$-inner product space, namely

**Theorem 8.** If $\theta$ is the angle between subspaces $U$ and $V$ of $(X, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ and $\theta^*$ is the angle between subspaces $U$ and $V$ of $(X, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ with $\dim U = 1 + r$, $\dim V = q + r$ for $q \geq 1$ and $\dim (U \cap V) = r$ for $r \geq 1$ then

$$\frac{1}{n} \cos^2 \theta \leq \cos^2 \theta^* \leq n \cos^2 \theta.$$

**Proof.** Writing $U = \text{span}\{u_1, w_1, \ldots, w_r\}$, $V = \text{span}\{v_1, \ldots, v_q, w_1, \ldots, w_r\}$ and $U \cap V = \text{span}\{w_1, \ldots, w_r\}$. Next, using Proposition 7, we have

$$\frac{n}{\|u^*_n\|^2} \leq \frac{\|\langle u^*_n \rangle \|^2}{\|\langle u^*_n \rangle \|^2} \leq \frac{\|u^*_n\|^2}{\|u^*_n\|^2},$$

with $\langle u^*_n \rangle$ and $u^*_n$ are the orthogonal complement of $u^*_n$ and $u$, respectively, on $W$. According to Proposition 1 and 3, we have

$$\frac{1}{n} \cos^2 \theta = \left(\frac{\|\langle u^*_n \rangle \|^2}{\|u^*_n\|^2}\right)$$

and

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\|\langle u^*_n \rangle \|^2}{\|u^*_n\|^2}.$$

Hence, we obtain $\frac{1}{n} \cos^2 \theta \leq \cos^2 \theta^* \leq n \cos^2 \theta$.

By Theorem 8 for $n = 1$, the value of $\frac{1}{n} \cos^2 \theta^*$ is equal to the value of $\frac{1}{n} \cos \theta$. Nevertheless, the upper bound of $\cos \theta^*$ for $n \geq 2$ is inappropriate because its value is greater than 1. If $\cos \theta = 1$ then the lower bound of $\cos \theta^*$ is $\frac{1}{n}$.

4. CONCLUSIONS

We have given a formula for angles between two subspaces $U$ and $V$ that intersects on subspaces $W$ of an inner product space of arbitrary dimension. Moreover, we have given a formula for angles in an $n$-inner product space. Using this result, we have proved the connection between angles between two subspaces $U$ and $V$ in an inner product space and in an $n$-inner product space where $\dim U = 1 + r$, $\dim V = q + r$ for $q \geq 1$ and $\dim (U \cap V) = r$ for $r \geq 1$.

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5. REFERENCES