

# Bilinear Forms

$V$  vector spaces.

$B: V \times V \rightarrow F$  is a bilinear form if  $B(v, -)$  and  $B(-, w)$  are linear for each fixed  $v, w \in V$ .

Generalizes idea of inner product.

Ex:  $B: M_n(F) \times M_n(F) \rightarrow F$   
 $B(A, C) = \text{Tr}(AC)$  is bilinear

Associated to  $B$  are two maps

$$R_B: V \rightarrow V^* \quad v \mapsto B(v, -)$$

$$L_B: V \rightarrow V^* \quad w \mapsto B(-, w)$$

$B$  is non-degenerate if  $R_B$  and  $L_B$  are injective. If  $V$  is f.d. note this is the same as saying they are isomorphisms.

It's sufficient to work with just  $R_B$  if  $V$  is f.d.:

Prop:  $(R_B)^* = L_B$  under the iso  $V^{**} \cong V$ .

Proof:

$(R_B)^*$ :  $V^{**} \rightarrow V^*$  and we have  $V \cong V^{**}$  by  $v \mapsto \text{eval}_v$ . We get the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} V^{**} & \xrightarrow{(R_B)^*} & V^* \\ \uparrow \text{eval} & \nearrow & \\ V & & \end{array}$$

By def, for  $\alpha \in V^{**}$  we have  $(R_B)^*(\alpha) = \alpha \circ R_B \in V^*$ . We have  $\alpha = \text{eval}_v$  for some  $v \in V$ , so  
for  $x \in V$ ,  $(\alpha \circ R_B)(x) = (\text{eval}_v \circ R_B)(x) = \text{eval}_v(R_B(x)) = \text{eval}_v(B(x, -)) = B(x, v)$ .

That is,  $\text{eval}_v \circ R_B$  is the map  $V \rightarrow F$  given by  $x \mapsto B(x, v)$

which agrees with  $L_B(v)$ . Thus under  $V \xrightarrow{\cong} \text{eval}_v$  we have  $(R_B)^* = L_B \quad \square$

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Let  $B(v) =$  bilinear forms on  $V$ .

Two points of view for bilinear forms for  $V$  f.d:

$$1.) \quad B(V) \cong M_n(F) \quad \text{via} \\ B \longmapsto [B]_\beta$$

where  $[B]_\beta$  has  $i, j$  entry  $B(v_i, v_j)$   
for  $\beta = \{v_i\}$  basis of  $V$ .

For a matrix  $A \in M_n(F)$  we get a bilinear form by

$$B(v, w) = [v]_\beta^t A [w]_\beta.$$

$$2.) \quad B(V) \cong \mathcal{L}(V, V^*) \quad \text{via} \\ B \longmapsto R_B$$

This says bilinear forms pick out lin. maps from  $V$  to  $V^*$ .

The first approach uses coordinates, while the second is coordinate free.

Can talk about forms in either language:

e.g.

$$[B]_B \text{ invertible} \Leftrightarrow B \text{ non-degenerate} \\ \Leftrightarrow R_B \text{ is iso.}$$

Since  $V \cong V^*$  there's a natural bilinear form

$$B: V \times V^* \rightarrow F \quad \text{given by} \\ (v, f) \mapsto f(v)$$

$R_B$  is the map  $V \rightarrow \text{eval}_v$   
and this is an iso, so this form  
is non-degenerate.

if  $T: V \rightarrow V$  one can see

$$B(v, T^*(f)) = B(Tv, f)$$

So that duals are some sort of  
adjoint

In fact, we can define an adjoint of  $T$

$$\text{by } T^{\text{adj}}: V \rightarrow V \\ T^{\text{adj}} = L_B^{-1} \circ T^* \circ L_B$$

Then  $B_{\mathbb{R}}(v, T^{\text{adj}}(w)) = B_w(Tv, w)$  for

all  $v, w \in V$ . Compare this with what I did last week!

Last connection: for  $B$  symmetric, non-degenerate define for  $W \subseteq V$

$$W^\perp = \left\{ v \in V : B(v, x) = 0 \text{ for all } x \in W \right\} \quad \text{annihilator}$$

if  $v \in W^\perp$  then  $R_B(v)(x) = 0$  for all  $x \in W$  so  $R_B(v)(x) \in W^\circ \leftarrow$

i.e.  $R_B$  maps  $W^\perp$  to  $W^\circ$ . So again.

Orthogonality  $\rightsquigarrow$  duality