Computational Complexity

Chapter 3. Forms 3.1. σ-Sesquilinear Forms—Proofs of Theorems

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Lemma 3.1

Lemma 3.1. Let U be a subspace of $V_k(\mathbb{F})$. If b is a non-degenerate σ -sesquilinear form on $\mathsf{V}_k(\mathbb{F})$ then dim $U+$ dim $U^\perp=k.$

Proof. Let $\{e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_r\}$ be a basis for U . Define linear maps α_i for $i=1,2,\ldots,r$ as $\alpha_i(v)=b(e_i,v)$ (if b is an inner product, then $\alpha_i(v)$ is the projection of v onto basis vector e_i).

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If $\sum_{i=1}^{n} \lambda_i \alpha_i = 0$ then, by definition, $\sum_{i=1}^{r} \lambda_i \alpha_i(v) = 0$ for all $v \in V_k(\mathbb{F})$. Therefore, because b is linear in the first position,

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0 = \sum_{i=1}^r \lambda_i \alpha_i(v) = \sim_{i=1}^r \lambda_i b(e_i, v) = b\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i e_i, v\right)
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and so $\sum_{i=1}^r \lambda_i e_i = 0$ since b is nondegenerate by hypothesis. Since $\{e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_r\}$ be a basis for U, then the e_i are linearly independent and so we must have $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = \cdots = \lambda_r = 0$. This implies that $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \ldots, \alpha_r$ are linearly independent.

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