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COMPACT EMBEDDING

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Recall the following result from [1]:

THEOREM 1. Let X and Y be Hilbert spaces, (u_n) and (v_n) be orthonormal sequences in X and Y, respectively, and (λ_n) be a sequence of scalars such that $\lambda_n \to 0$. Then the following hold:

- (1) For every $x \in X$, the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \lambda_n \langle x, u_n \rangle v_n$ converges in Y.
- (2) The map $T: X \to Y$ defined by

$$Tx = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \lambda_n \langle x, u_n \rangle v_n, \quad x \in X,$$

is a compact operator.

Let X be a Hilbert space, and $\{u_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ be an orthonormal basis of X, and (σ_n) be a sequence of scalars such that $\sigma_n \to 0$. Let

$$D := \Big\{ x \in X : \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{|\langle x, u_n \rangle|^2}{\sigma_n^2} < \infty \Big\}.$$

Then, D is a subspace of X. Define

$$\langle x, y \rangle_0 := \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sigma_n^2} \langle x, u_n \rangle \langle u_n, y \rangle, \quad x, y \in X_0.$$

Then $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_0$ is an inner product on D, and X_0 with $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_0$ is a Hilbert space. Let us denote this Hilbert space by X_0 . Note that, for $x \in X_0$,

$$\langle x, u_k \rangle_0 = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sigma_n^2} \langle x, u_n \rangle \langle u_n, u_k \rangle = \frac{1}{\sigma_k^2} \langle x, u_k \rangle \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{N},$$

and

$$\langle u_{\ell}, u_k \rangle_0 = \frac{1}{\sigma_k^2} \langle u_{\ell}, u_k \rangle = \frac{\delta_{k\ell}}{\sigma_k^2} \quad \forall k, \ell \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Let

$$\varphi_n := \sigma_n u_n, \quad n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Then we have (φ_n) is an orthonrmal sequence in X_0 with respect to $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_0$. Note that for every $x \in X_0$,

$$x = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle x, u_n \rangle u_n = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle x, \varphi_n \rangle_0 \varphi_n$$

and

$$x = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle x, u_n \rangle u_n = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sigma_n \langle x, \varphi_n \rangle_0 u_n.$$

Thus, we have proved the following theorem.

THEOREM 2. The identity operator $I_0 : X_0 \to X$ is a compact operator with singular value decomposition

$$I_0 x = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle x, u_n \rangle u_n = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sigma_n \langle x, \varphi_n \rangle_0 u_n, \quad x \in X_0.$$

In view of the last theorem, X_0 is said to be **compactly imbedded** in X.

References

[1] M.T. Nair, Functional Analysis: A First Course, Prentice-Hall of India, New Delhi, 2002.

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