

FRAMES AND TIME-FREQUENCY ANALYSIS

LECTURE 1: FRAMES

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READING

For background on Hilbert spaces and operator theory:

Chapters 1–2 in C. Heil, *A Basis Theory Primer*, Birkhäuser, Boston, 2011.

For background on the Fourier transform:

Chapter 9 in C. Heil, *A Basis Theory Primer*, Birkhäuser, Boston, 2011.

A short general survey article on frames:

C. Heil, *WHAT IS ... a frame?*, *Notices Amer. Math. Soc.*, 60 (2013), pp. 748–750.

Today's lecture is based upon:

Chapter 7, Chapter 8 (Sections 8.1-8.5) in C. Heil, *A Basis Theory Primer*, Birkhäuser, Boston, 2011.

Also see:

C. E. Heil and D. F. Walnut, *Continuous and discrete wavelet transforms*, *SIAM Review*, 31 (1989), pp. 628–666.

For an introduction to frames in *finite dimensions*:

D. Han, K. Kornelson, D. Larson, and E. Weber, *Frames for Undergraduates*, AMS, Providence, 2007.

ORTHONORMAL SEQUENCES

Theorem 1. Let H be a Hilbert space, let $\mathcal{E} = \{e_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be an orthonormal sequence in H , and set

$$M = \overline{\text{span}}(\mathcal{E}) = \overline{\text{span}}\{e_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}.$$

Then the following statements hold.

(a) *Bessel's Inequality*:
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\langle x, e_n \rangle|^2 \leq \|x\|^2 \quad \text{for all } x \in H.$$

(b) If the series $x = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n e_n$ converges, then $c_n = \langle x, e_n \rangle$ for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

(c) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n e_n$ converges $\iff \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |c_n|^2 < \infty$.

(d) If $x = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n e_n$ converges, then it converges *unconditionally*, i.e., it converges regardless of the ordering of the index set.

(e) If $x \in H$, then:
$$p = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle x, e_n \rangle e_n$$

is the orthogonal projection of x onto M , and $\|p\|^2 = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\langle x, e_n \rangle|^2$.

(f) If $x \in H$, then

$$x \in M \iff x = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle x, e_n \rangle e_n \iff \|x\|^2 = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\langle x, e_n \rangle|^2. \quad \diamond$$

ORTHONORMAL BASES

Theorem 2. If H is a Hilbert space and $\{e_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is an orthonormal sequence in H , then the following five statements are equivalent.

(a) $\{e_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is *complete*, i.e., $\overline{\text{span}}\{e_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} = H$.

(b) $\{e_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a *Schauder basis* for H , i.e., for each $x \in H$ there exists a *unique* sequence of scalars $(c_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ such that $x = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n e_n$.

(c) If $x \in H$, then

$$x = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle x, e_n \rangle e_n,$$

where this series converges in the norm of H (in this case it converges unconditionally).

(d) *Plancherel's Equality*:

$$\|x\|^2 = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\langle x, e_n \rangle|^2 \quad \text{for all } x \in H.$$

(e) *Parseval's Equality*:

$$\langle x, y \rangle = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle x, e_n \rangle \langle e_n, y \rangle \quad \text{for all } x, y \in H. \quad \diamond$$

Benefits: *uniqueness, stability, unconditionality.*

STUPID EXAMPLE

Let $H = \mathbb{R}^2$, and set

$$x_1 = (1, 0), \quad x_2 = (0, 1), \quad x_3 = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right), \quad x_4 = \left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right).$$

Each of $\{x_1, x_2\}$ and $\{x_3, x_4\}$ is an orthonormal basis for \mathbb{R}^2 , so

$$\sum_{n=1}^4 |\langle x, x_n \rangle|^2 = 2 \|x\|^2, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^2.$$

Therefore

$$\{2^{-1/2}x_1, 2^{-1/2}x_2, 2^{-1/2}x_3, 2^{-1/2}x_4\}$$

satisfies the Plancherel Equality, but it is not orthogonal and is not a basis for \mathbb{R}^2 .

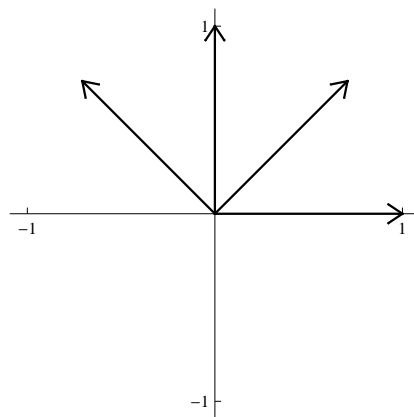


FIGURE 1. A union of two orthonormal bases.

MERCEDES FRAME

Let $H = \mathbb{R}^2$, and set

$$x_1 = (0, 1), \quad x_2 = \left(-\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}\right), \quad x_3 = \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}\right).$$

Then $\sum_{n=1}^3 |\langle x, x_n \rangle|^2 = \frac{3}{2} \|x\|^2$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^2$. Therefore, if we set $c = (2/3)^{1/2}$, then

$$\{cx_1, cx_2, cx_3\}$$

satisfies $\sum_{n=1}^3 |\langle x, cx_n \rangle|^2 = \|x\|^2$, but it is not orthogonal, not a basis, and not a union of orthonormal bases.

(Can you see that the Mercedes frame is the orthogonal projection of an orthonormal basis for \mathbb{R}^3 onto a two-dimensional plane?)

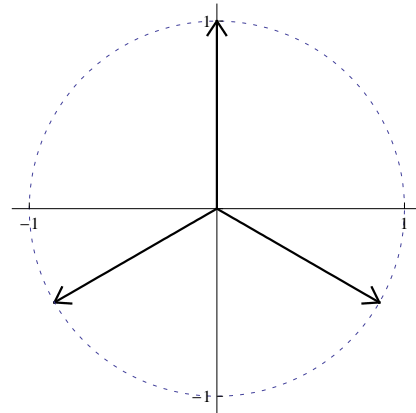


FIGURE 2. The three vectors of the Mercedes frame. A dashed unit circle is included for comparison, and also to motivate its alternative name (the *peace frame*).

FRAMES

Plancherel Equality for an ONB: $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\langle x, e_n \rangle|^2 = \|x\|^2$, **all** $x \in H$.

Definition 3 (Frame). [Duffin and Schaeffer, 1952] A sequence $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ in a Hilbert space H is a *frame* for H if there exist constants $A, B > 0$ such that the following *pseudo-Plancherel formula* holds:

$$\forall x \in H, \quad A \|x\|^2 \leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\langle x, x_n \rangle|^2 \leq B \|x\|^2.$$

- (a) A and B are called *frame bounds*. A is a *lower frame bound*, and B is an *upper frame bound*.
- (b) The largest possible lower frame bound is the *optimal lower frame bound*, and the smallest possible upper frame bound is the *optimal upper frame bound*.
- (c) The frame is *tight* if we can take $A = B$.
- (d) It is a *Parseval frame* if the Plancherel Equality holds (i.e., we can take $A = B = 1$).
- (e) It is an *exact frame* if it ceases to be a frame whenever any single element is deleted from the sequence. \diamond

EXAMPLES

(a) ONB \iff exact Parseval frame.

(b) Let $\{e_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be an ONB. Then $\{0, e_1, e_2, \dots\}$ is an inexact Parseval frame.

(c) $\{e_1, e_1, e_2, e_2, \dots\}$ is an inexact tight frame ($A = B = 2$).

(d) $\{e_1, e_2/\sqrt{2}, e_2/\sqrt{2}, e_3/\sqrt{3}, e_3/\sqrt{3}, e_3/\sqrt{3}, \dots\}$ is an inexact Parseval frame, and no nonredundant subsequence is a frame.

THE TRIGONOMETRIC SYSTEM

Let $L^2[0, 1]$ be the Lebesgue space of complex-valued, square-integrable functions on $[0, 1]$ with inner product

$$\langle f, g \rangle = \int_0^1 f(t) \overline{g(t)} dt.$$

The *trigonometric system*

$$\mathcal{E}_1 = \{e_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} = \{e^{2\pi i n t}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$$

is an ONB for $L^2[0, 1]$. Fix $b > 0$ and consider

$$\mathcal{E}_b = \{e_{bn}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} = \{e^{2\pi i b n t}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}},$$

as a system in $L^2[0, 1]$ (even though e_{bn} is $1/b$ -periodic, restrict the domain to $[0, 1]$).

Case 1: $b > 1$. Each element of \mathcal{E}_b is $1/b$ -periodic, and $1/b < 1$. We can construct a function $f \in L^2[0, 1]$ such that

$$f \perp e_{bn}, \quad \text{all } n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

Hence \mathcal{E}_b is *not complete*, i.e., $\overline{\text{span}}(\mathcal{E}_b) \subsetneq L^2[0, 1]$.

Case 2: $b < 1$. Each element of \mathcal{E}_b is $1/b$ -periodic, but $1/b > 1$. Think of $L^2[0, 1]$ as a proper subspace of $L^2[0, 1/b]$ (extend functions in $L^2[0, 1]$ by zero). Let P be the

orthogonal projection of $L^2[0, 1/b]$ onto $L^2[0, 1]$:

$$Pf = f \chi_{[0,1]}, \quad f \in L^2[0, 1/b].$$

Set

$$\{f_{bn}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} = \{b^{1/2} e_{bn}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}, \quad \text{domain} = [0, 1/b].$$

This is an ONB for $L^2[0, 1/b]$ and

$$b^{1/2} \mathcal{E}_b = \{b^{1/2} e_{bn}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} = \{Pf_{bn}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}, \quad \text{domain} = [0, 1],$$

is the image of an ONB under an orthogonal projection. Given $f \in L^2[0, 1]$, let $g \in L^2[0, 1/b]$ be f extended by zero to $[0, 1/b]$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} |\langle f, e_{bn} \rangle_{L^2[0,1]}|^2 &= \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} |\langle f, e_{bn} \rangle_{L^2[0,1]}|^2 = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \left| \int_0^1 f(t) \overline{e_{bn}(t)} dt \right|^2 \\ &= \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} |\langle Pg, b^{-1/2} Pf_{bn} \rangle_{L^2[0,1/b]}|^2 \quad (\text{extend by zero to } [0, 1/b]) \\ &= \frac{1}{b} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} |\langle P^2 g, f_{bn} \rangle_{L^2[0,1/b]}|^2 \quad (P^* = P, P^2 = P, Pg = g) \\ &= \frac{1}{b} \|g\|_{L^2[0,1/b]}^2 = \frac{1}{b} \int_0^{1/b} |g|^2 \quad (\text{Plancherel: } \sum |\langle h, f_{bn} \rangle|^2 = \|h\|) \\ &= \frac{1}{b} \|f\|_{L^2[0,1]}^2 = \frac{1}{b} \int_0^1 |f|^2. \end{aligned}$$

We have proved the following.

Theorem 4. $\mathcal{E}_b = \{e_{bn}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ is a *tight frame* for $L^2[0, 1]$, with $A = B = 1/b$. Consequently, for all $f \in L^2[0, 1]$ we have

$$\frac{1}{b} f = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \langle f, e_{bn} \rangle e_{bn} = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \langle f, e^{2\pi i b n t} \rangle e^{2\pi i b n t},$$

where this series converges (unconditionally) in L^2 -norm. \diamond

We will show that the *Classical (Shannon) Sampling Theorem* is a corollary of **Theorem 4!**

Assignment 1. (a) Show that \mathcal{E}_b is not a Schauder basis for $L^2[0, 1]$ by finding two two distinct ways to write the constant function as $1 = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} c_n e_{bn}$, where the series converges in L^2 -norm.

(b) Prove that $\{e_{nb}\}_{n \neq 0}$ is complete in $L^2[0, 1]$ (only the zero function is orthogonal to every e_{nb} with $n \neq 0$).

(c) Is \mathcal{E}_b linearly dependent in the linear algebra sense (does not some nontrivial finite linear combination equal the zero function)?

(d) (Harder) Is \mathcal{E}_b “infinitely overcomplete” or just “finitely overcomplete”? (How many elements can be removed and still leave a complete set?) \diamond

THE FOURIER TRANSFORM

The *Fourier transform* of $f \in L^1(\mathbb{R})$ is

$$\widehat{f}(\xi) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) e^{-2\pi i \xi x} dx, \quad \xi \in \mathbb{R}.$$

The *inverse Fourier transform* of $f \in L^1(\mathbb{R})$ is

$$\check{f}(\xi) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) e^{2\pi i \xi x} dx, \quad \xi \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Theorem 5 (Inversion Formula). If $f, \widehat{f} \in L^1(\mathbb{R})$, then f and \widehat{f} are continuous, and

$$f(x) = (\widehat{f})^\vee(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \widehat{f}(\xi) e^{2\pi i \xi x} d\xi$$

with equality holding pointwise for each x . \diamond

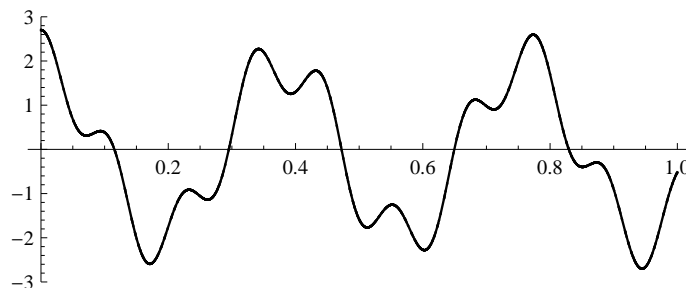


FIGURE 3. Graph of $\varphi(x) = 2 \cos(2\pi\sqrt{7}x) + 0.7 \cos(2\pi 9x)$ for $0 \leq x \leq 1$.

Lemma 6. If $f \in C_c^2(\mathbb{R})$ then $\widehat{f} \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ and $\|\widehat{f}\|_2 = \|f\|_2$. \diamond

Hence $\mathcal{F}: f \mapsto \widehat{f}$ is an isometric map from a dense subset of $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ into $L^2(\mathbb{R})$. Consequently, \mathcal{F} has an extension to a unitary map

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}: L^2(\mathbb{R}) &\rightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R}) \\ f &\mapsto \widehat{f} \end{aligned} \quad (\text{linear, bijective, isometric } \|\widehat{f}\|_2 = \|f\|_2).$$

Recall that $\{e_{bn}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ is a tight frame for $L^2[-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]$. Extend e_{bn} by zero to all of \mathbb{R} :

$$e_{bn}(x) = e^{2\pi ibnt} \chi(t) = \begin{cases} e^{2\pi ibnt}, & |t| \leq \frac{1}{2}, \\ 0, & |t| > \frac{1}{2}, \end{cases} \quad \text{where } \chi = \chi_{[-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]}$$

If we think of $L^2[-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]$ as being a subspace of $L^2(\mathbb{R})$, then $\{e_{bn}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ is a tight frame for that subspace. As the Fourier transform is unitary,

$$\{s_{bn}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} = \{(e_{bn}\chi)^\vee\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$$

is a tight frame for the *Paley–Wiener space*

$$\text{PW} = \{f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}) : \text{supp}(\widehat{f}) \subseteq [-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]\}.$$

(Functions in this space are said to be *bandlimited* to $[-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]$). Hence for all $f \in \text{PW}$,

$$f = b \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \langle f, s_{bn} \rangle s_{bn}.$$

To compute $s_{bn} = (e_{bn}\chi)^\vee$, first verify that $\check{\chi}(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \chi_{[-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]}(t) e^{2\pi ixt} dt = \frac{\sin \pi x}{\pi x}$.

This is the *sinc function*. Then

$$s_{bn}(x) = (e^{2\pi ibnt}\chi)^\vee(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{2\pi ibnt} \chi_{[-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]}(t) e^{2\pi ixt} dt = \frac{\sin \pi(x + bn)}{\pi(x + bn)}.$$

Furthermore,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle f, s_{bn} \rangle &= \langle \hat{f}, (s_{bn})^\wedge \rangle = \langle \hat{f}, e_{bn} \rangle = \int_{-1/2}^{1/2} \hat{f}(\xi) \overline{e_{bn}}(\xi) d\xi = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{f}(\xi) e^{-2\pi ibn\xi} d\xi \\ &= (\hat{f})^\vee(-bn) = f(-bn). \end{aligned}$$

Corollary 7 (Classical Sampling Theorem). Fix $f \in \text{PW}$, i.e., $f \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ is bandlimited to $[-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]$. Then for $0 < b \leq 1$,

$$f(x) = b \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \langle f, s_{bn} \rangle s_{bn}(x) = b \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} f(bn) \frac{\sin \pi(x - bn)}{\pi(x - bn)},$$

where this series converges (unconditionally) in L^2 -norm. \diamond

Every bandlimited function is determined by its *samples* $f(bn)$ (if we sample quickly enough). This is the basis for digital encoding of analog signals. If $b < 1$ then the frame is not exact, which gives enhanced *robustness against noise*.

BESSEL SEQUENCES

Definition 8 (Bessel Sequence). A sequence $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ in a Hilbert space H is a *Bessel sequence* if

$$\forall x \in H, \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\langle x, x_n \rangle|^2 < \infty.$$

Theorem 9. Let $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a Bessel sequence, and let $Cx = (\langle x, x_n \rangle)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ for $x \in H$ (the *analysis map* or *coefficient map*). Then the following statements hold.

(a) C is a bounded mapping of H into ℓ^2 , and there exists a constant $B > 0$ such that

$$\forall x \in H, \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\langle x, x_n \rangle|^2 \leq B \|x\|^2.$$

(b) If $(c_n) \in \ell^2$, then the series $\sum c_n x_n$ converges unconditionally in H , and $Rc = \sum c_n x_n$ defines a bounded map of ℓ^2 into H (the *synthesis map* or *reconstruction map*).

(c) $R = C^*$ and $\|R\| = \|C\| \leq B^{1/2}$. Consequently,

$$\forall (c_n) \in \ell^2, \quad \left\| \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n x_n \right\|^2 \leq B \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |c_n|^2.$$

(d) If $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is complete, then C is injective and $\text{range}(R)$ is dense in H . \diamond

Assignment 2. Prove statement (a). Uniform Boundedness Principle!

Proof. (b) Choose $c = (c_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \in \ell^2$. Then for $0 \leq M < N$ we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\left\| \sum_{n=M+1}^N c_n x_n \right\| &= \sup_{\|y\|=1} \left| \sum_{n=M+1}^N \langle c_n x_n, y \rangle \right| \\
&\leq \sup_{\|y\|=1} \sum_{n=M+1}^N |c_n| |\langle x_n, y \rangle| \\
&\leq \sup_{\|y\|=1} \left(\sum_{n=M+1}^N |c_n|^2 \right)^{1/2} \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\langle x_n, y \rangle|^2 \right)^{1/2} \\
&\leq \sup_{\|y\|=1} B \|y\| \left(\sum_{n=M+1}^N |c_n|^2 \right)^{1/2} \\
&= B \left(\sum_{n=M+1}^N |c_n|^2 \right)^{1/2},
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore $\sum c_n x_n$ is a Cauchy series and hence converges. If $\sigma: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is a bijection, then the same argument applies to $\sum c_{\sigma(n)} x_{\sigma(n)}$. Therefore the series converges unconditionally. Taking $M = 1$ and letting $N \rightarrow \infty$, we obtain

$$\|Rc\| = \left\| \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n x_n \right\| \leq B \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |c_n|^2 \right)^{1/2} = B \|c\|_2,$$

so R is bounded and $\|R\| \leq B$.

(c) Given $c = (c_n) \in \ell^2$ and $y \in H$, we have

$$Rc = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n x_n \in H \quad \text{and} \quad Cy = \{\langle x_n, y \rangle_{n \in \mathbb{N}}\} \in \ell^2.$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \langle c, R^*y \rangle &= \langle Rc, y \rangle \\ &= \left\langle \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n x_n, y \right\rangle \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \langle x_n, y \rangle \\ &= \left\langle (c_n), \{\langle y, x_n \rangle\} \right\rangle = \langle c, Cy \rangle, \end{aligned}$$

so $C = R^*$. □

Benefits of a Bessel sequence: $\sum c_n x_n$ *converges unconditionally; bounded analysis and synthesis maps.*

Drawbacks: What does $\sum c_n x_n$ converge to? *C and R need not be invertible (lack of stability). $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ need not be complete (its span need not be dense).*

Assignment 3. Let $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a sequence in a Hilbert space H , and let $\{\delta_n\}$ be the standard basis for ℓ^2 . Prove that the following statements are equivalent.

- (a) $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a Bessel sequence in H , i.e., $\sum |\langle x, x_n \rangle|^2 < \infty$ for every x .
- (b) There exists a constant $B > 0$ and a dense set $E \subseteq H$ such that

$$\forall x \in E, \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\langle x, x_n \rangle|^2 \leq B \|x\|^2.$$

- (c) There exists a constant $B > 0$ such that

$$\forall N \in \mathbb{N}, \quad \forall c_1, \dots, c_N \in \mathbb{F}, \quad \left\| \sum_{n=1}^N c_n x_n \right\|^2 \leq B \sum_{n=1}^N |c_n|^2.$$

- (d) The series $\sum c_n x_n$ converges for each sequence $(c_n) \in \ell^2$.
- (e) There exists a bounded operator $R: \ell^2 \rightarrow H$ such that $R\delta_n = x_n$ for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$.
- (f) There exists an orthonormal sequence $\{e_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ in H and a bounded operator $T \in \mathcal{B}(H)$ such that $Te_n = x_n$ for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Further, when these hold, the operator R appearing in part (e) is the synthesis operator for $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$, and $\overline{\text{span}}\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} = \overline{\text{range}}(R)$.

Bessel sequences are images of ONBs under bounded maps. (This statement makes Bessel sequences seem much simpler than they are!)

THE FRAME OPERATOR

The *frame operator* for a Bessel sequence is

$$Sx = RCx = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle x, x_n \rangle x_n, \quad x \in H.$$

Note that

$$\langle Sx, x \rangle = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle x, x_n \rangle \langle x_n, x \rangle = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\langle x, x_n \rangle|^2.$$

Example: If $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is an ONB, then $S = I!$ \diamond

Fact (good assignment, but we'll prove more): If $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a tight frame ($A = B$), then $S = AI!$ This can happen even when the frame is not exact (“includes redundancy” in some sense). Hence

$$\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \text{ tight frame} \implies Ax = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle x, x_n \rangle x_n, \quad x \in H. \quad \diamond$$

This is for a tight frame, but we will prove that if $\{x_n\}$ is *any* frame then we have *stable frame expansions*.

FRAME EXPANSIONS

Theorem 10. If $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a frame for H with frame bounds A, B , then the following statements hold.

(a) The frame operator $S: H \rightarrow H$ is a *topological isomorphism* (linear, bijective, continuous, with continuous inverse). It need not be isometric, but it satisfies the operator inequalities $AI \leq S \leq BI$.

(b) S^{-1} is a topological isomorphism, and $B^{-1}I \leq S^{-1} \leq A^{-1}I$.

(c) $\{S^{-1}x_n\}$ is a frame with frame bounds B^{-1}, A^{-1} .

(d) For each $x \in H$,

$$x = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle x, S^{-1}x_n \rangle x_n = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle x, x_n \rangle S^{-1}x_n,$$

and these series converge unconditionally in the norm of H .

(e) If the frame is A -tight, then $S = AI$, $S^{-1} = A^{-1}I$, and

$$\forall x \in H, \quad x = A^{-1} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle x, x_n \rangle x_n. \quad \diamond$$

We write $\tilde{x}_n = S^{-1}x_n$, and call $\{\tilde{x}_n\}$ the *canonical dual frame*.

Proof. (a) $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is Bessel, so $S = RC = C^*C$ is bounded and positive. Also,

$$\langle Sx, x \rangle = \left\langle \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle x, x_n \rangle x_n, x \right\rangle = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\langle x, x_n \rangle|^2 \leq B \|x\|^2 = \langle BIx, x \rangle.$$

The definition of the operator inequality $S \leq BI$ is that

$$S \leq BI \quad \text{means} \quad \langle Sx, x \rangle \leq \langle BIx, x \rangle \text{ for every } x.$$

Hence $S \leq BI$, and similarly $S \geq AI$.

Reasonable, but needs justification:

$$AI \leq S \leq BI \implies S \text{ is bounded, linear, and } S^{-1} \text{ is invertible.}$$

Example argument:

$$A \|x\|^2 = \langle AIx, x \rangle \leq \langle Sx, x \rangle \leq \|Sx\| \|x\|,$$

so $\|Sx\| \geq A \|x\|$. This implies S is injective and has closed range.

(b) Also reasonable, but needs justification:

$$AI \leq S \leq BI \implies S^{-1}AI \leq S^{-1}S \leq S^{-1}BI,$$

which yields $B^{-1}I \leq S^{-1} \leq A^{-1}I$. ($\leftarrow \exists$ typo in printouts here!)

(c) The image of a frame under a topological isomorphism is a frame, so $\{S^{-1}x_n\}$ is a frame.

(d) Recall

$$Sx = RCx = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle x, x_n \rangle x_n.$$

Since S is self-adjoint, we therefore have

$$x = S(S^{-1}x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle S^{-1}x, x_n \rangle x_n = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle x, S^{-1}x_n \rangle x_n.$$

Also, since S^{-1} is continuous

$$x = S^{-1}(Sx) = S^{-1}\left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle x, x_n \rangle x_n\right) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle x, x_n \rangle S^{-1}x_n. \quad \square$$

Hence, with $\tilde{x}_n = S^{-1}x_n$,

$$x = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle x, \tilde{x}_n \rangle x_n = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle x, x_n \rangle \tilde{x}_n, \quad x \in H.$$

An *alternative dual* is a sequence $\{y_n\}$ such that

$$x = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle x, y_n \rangle x_n, \quad x \in H.$$

THE CANONICAL PARSEVAL FRAME

Since S and S^{-1} are both positive operators, they have square roots $S^{1/2}$ and $S^{-1/2}$.

Corollary 11. (Every frame is the image of a tight frame under a topological isomorphism.)

Let $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a frame.

- (a) $S^{-1/2}$ is a topological isomorphism, and $\{S^{-1/2}x_n\}$ is a Parseval frame.
- (b) $\langle x_n, \tilde{x}_n \rangle = \|S^{-1/2}x_n\|^2$, and $0 \leq \langle x_n, \tilde{x}_n \rangle \leq 1$ for every n .
- (c) $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is exact if and only if $\{S^{-1/2}x_n\}$ is an ONB.

Proof. (a) $S^{-1/2}$ is a topological isomorphism because S is. Therefore $\{S^{-1/2}x_n\}$ is a frame, and

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle x, S^{-1/2}x_n \rangle S^{-1/2}x_n = S^{-1/2}SS^{-1/2}x = x = Ix.$$

It follows that $\{S^{-1/2}x_n\}$ is a Parseval frame.

(b) Since $S^{-1/2}$ is self-adjoint,

$$\langle x_n, \tilde{x}_n \rangle = \langle x_n, S^{-1}x_n \rangle = \langle S^{-1/2}x_n, S^{-1/2}x_n \rangle = \|S^{-1/2}x_n\|^2.$$

Since $\{S^{-1/2}x_n\}$ is 1-tight, $\|S^{-1/2}x_n\|^2 \leq 1$ for every n (see **Assignment 5**). □

We write $x_n^\# = S^{-1/2}x_n$, and call $\{x_n^\#\}$ the *canonical Parseval frame*.

OVERCOMPLETENESS

Theorem 12. Let $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a frame for H . If $x = \sum c_n x_n$ for some scalars (c_n) , then

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |c_n|^2 = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\langle x, \tilde{x}_n \rangle|^2 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\langle x, \tilde{x}_n \rangle - c_n|^2.$$

In particular, the “canonical sequence” $(\langle x, \tilde{x}_n \rangle)$ has minimal ℓ^2 -norm among all such (c_n) .

Proof. $x = \sum a_n x_n$ where $a_n = \langle x, \tilde{x}_n \rangle$. If $x = \sum c_n x_n$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \langle x, S^{-1}x \rangle &= \left\langle \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n x_n, S^{-1}x \right\rangle \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \langle \tilde{x}_n, x \rangle \quad (S^{-1} \text{ is self-adjoint}) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \bar{a}_n = \langle (a_n), (a_n) \rangle_{\ell^2} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\langle x, S^{-1}x \rangle = \left\langle \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n x_n, S^{-1}x \right\rangle = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \langle \tilde{x}_n, x \rangle = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \bar{a}_n = \langle (c_n), (a_n) \rangle_{\ell^2}.$$

Therefore $(c_n - a_n)$ is orthogonal to (a_n) in ℓ^2 , the Pythagorean Theorem implies that

$$\|(c_n)\|_{\ell^2}^2 = \|(c_n - a_n) + (a_n)\|_{\ell^2}^2 = \|(c_n - a_n)\|_{\ell^2}^2 + \|(a_n)\|_{\ell^2}^2. \quad \square$$

Theorem 13. Let $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a frame.

(a) For each $m \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$\sum_{n \neq m} |\langle x_m, \tilde{x}_n \rangle|^2 = \frac{1 - |\langle x_m, \tilde{x}_m \rangle|^2 - |1 - \langle x_m, \tilde{x}_m \rangle|^2}{2}.$$

(b) If $\langle x_m, \tilde{x}_m \rangle = 1$, then $\langle x_m, \tilde{x}_n \rangle = 0$ for $n \neq m$.

(c) The removal of a vector from a frame leaves either a frame or an incomplete set. Specifically,

$$\langle x_m, \tilde{x}_m \rangle \neq 1 \implies \{x_n\}_{n \neq m} \text{ is a frame,}$$

$$\langle x_m, \tilde{x}_m \rangle = 1 \implies \{x_n\}_{n \neq m} \text{ is incomplete.}$$

Proof. Fix m , let $a_n = \langle x_m, \tilde{x}_n \rangle$. Then $x_m = \sum a_n x_n$ and $x_m = \sum \delta_{mn} x_n$. By Theorem 12,

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\delta_{mn}|^2 = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |a_n|^2 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |a_n - \delta_{mn}|^2 \\ &= |a_m|^2 + \sum_{n \neq m} |a_n|^2 + |a_m - 1|^2 + \sum_{n \neq m} |a_n|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Rearranging gives statement (a).

(b) If $\langle x_m, \tilde{x}_m \rangle = 1$, then $\sum_{n \neq m} |\langle x_m, \tilde{x}_n \rangle|^2 = 0$.

(c) If $\langle x_m, \tilde{x}_m \rangle = 1$, then $\tilde{x}_m \perp x_n$ for every $n \neq m$. However, $\tilde{x}_m \neq 0$ since $\langle \tilde{x}_m, x_m \rangle = 1 \neq 0$. Therefore $\{x_n\}_{n \neq m}$ is incomplete.

If $\langle x_m, \tilde{x}_m \rangle \neq 1$, let $a_n = \langle x_m, \tilde{x}_n \rangle$. Then $x_m = \sum a_n x_n$, but $a_m \neq 1$, so $x_m = \frac{1}{1-a_m} \sum_{n \neq m} a_n x_n$. Hence

$$|\langle x, x_m \rangle|^2 = \left| \frac{1}{1-a_m} \sum_{n \neq m} a_n \langle x, x_n \rangle \right|^2 \leq C \sum_{n \neq m} |\langle x, x_n \rangle|^2.$$

Therefore,

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\langle x, x_n \rangle|^2 = |\langle x, x_m \rangle|^2 + \sum_{n \neq m} |\langle x, x_n \rangle|^2 \leq (1+C) \sum_{n \neq m} |\langle x, x_n \rangle|^2.$$

Hence, if A, B are frame bounds for $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ then

$$\frac{A}{1+C} \|x\|^2 \leq \frac{1}{1+C} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\langle x, x_n \rangle|^2 \leq \sum_{n \neq m} |\langle x, x_n \rangle|^2 \leq B \|x\|^2,$$

so $\{x_n\}_{n \neq m}$ has frame bounds $A/(1+C), B$. □

Assignment 4. Let $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a frame. Prove that the following are equivalent.

- (a) $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is exact.
- (b) $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $\{\tilde{x}_n\}$ are *biorthogonal*, i.e., $\langle x_m, \tilde{x}_n \rangle = \delta_{mn}$.
- (c) $\langle x_n, \tilde{x}_n \rangle = 1$ for all n .

Consequently, if $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is A -tight, then the following are equivalent.

- (a') $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is exact.
- (b') $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is an orthogonal basis for H .
- (c') $\|x_n\|^2 = A$ for all n . \diamond

Assignment 5. Assume $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a frame with frame bounds A, B .

- (a) $\|x_n\|^2 \leq B$ for every n .
- (b) If $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is exact then $A \leq \|x_n\|^2$ for every n . \diamond

Assignment 6. Frames are preserved by topological isomorphisms: If $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a frame and $T: H \rightarrow K$ is a topological isomorphism, then $\{Tx_n\}$ is a frame for K . \diamond

Theorem 14. Given a sequence $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$, the following are equivalent.

- (a) $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is an exact frame.
- (b) $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a bounded unconditional basis.
- (c) $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a Riesz basis.

Proof. (a) \Rightarrow (b). Assume $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is an exact frame for H . By assignment, $A \leq \|x_n\|^2 \leq B$ (this is the *bounded* part). Also,

$$x = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle x, \tilde{x}_n \rangle x_n, \quad x \in H,$$

with *unconditional* convergence of the series. Also by assignment, $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $\{\tilde{x}_n\}$ are biorthogonal. This implies that the scalars in the preceding equation are unique (this is the *Schauder basis* part).

(b) \Leftrightarrow (c). Fact from Hilbert spaces.

(c) \Rightarrow (a). If $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a *Riesz basis* then, by definition, there exists an orthonormal basis $\{e_n\}$ and a topological isomorphism $T: H \rightarrow H$ such that $T e_n = x_n$. Since $\{e_n\}$ is an exact frame and exact frames are preserved by topological isomorphisms, $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ must also be an exact frame. \square

Useful characterizations of Riesz bases.

Theorem 15. Given a sequence $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$, the following statements are equivalent.

- (a) $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a Riesz basis for H (i.e., it is the image of an ONB under a topological isomorphism).
- (b) $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a bounded unconditional basis for H .
- (c) $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a basis for H , and

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n x_n \text{ converges} \iff \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |c_n|^2 < \infty.$$

- (d) $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is complete in H and there exist constants $A, B > 0$ such that

$$\forall c_1, \dots, c_N, \quad A \sum_{n=1}^N |c_n|^2 \leq \left\| \sum_{n=1}^N c_n x_n \right\|^2 \leq B \sum_{n=1}^N |c_n|^2.$$

- (e) There is an equivalent inner product (\cdot, \cdot) for H such that $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is an orthonormal basis for H with respect to (\cdot, \cdot) .
- (f) $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a complete Bessel sequence and possesses a biorthogonal system $\{y_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ that is also a complete Bessel sequence.
- (g) $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is complete, and multiplication of vectors in ℓ^2 by the *Gram matrix* $G = [\langle x_n, x_m \rangle]_{m, n \in \mathbb{N}}$ defines a topological isomorphism of ℓ^2 onto itself.

Assignment 7. Some implications related to bases.

ONB

\implies Riesz basis (image of an ONB under invertible map)
 $\not\Leftarrow$

\implies Schauder basis $\left(x = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n x_n \text{ uniquely}\right)$
 $\not\Leftarrow$

\implies \exists biorthogonal system $(\langle x_m, y_n \rangle = \delta_{mn})$
 $\not\Leftarrow$

\iff minimal $(x_m \notin \overline{\text{span}}\{x_n\}_{n \neq m}, \text{ every } m)$

\implies ω -independent $\left(\sum c_n x_n = 0 \implies c_n = 0\right)$
 $\not\Leftarrow$

\implies finitely independent (usual linear algebra independence) \diamond
 $\not\Leftarrow$

Assignment 8. Some implications related to frames.

ONB

\implies Riesz basis (image of an ONB under invertible map)
 $\not\Leftarrow$

\iff exact frame \iff bounded unconditional basis

\implies frame
 $\not\Leftarrow$

\implies complete set (span is dense) \diamond
 $\not\Leftarrow$

Frames provide a *unconditional representations with redundancy*:

$$x = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle x, \tilde{x}_n \rangle x_n.$$

PROBLEMS ON RIESZ BASES

Numbers correspond to “A Basis Theory Primer.”

7.16. Show directly that if $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is complete and $\|\sum_{n=1}^N c_n x_n\|^2 = \sum_{n=1}^N |c_n|^2$ for all $N \in \mathbb{N}$ and $c_1, \dots, c_N \in \mathbb{F}$, then $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is an ONB.

7.20 (Assume the results of 7.18 and 7.19.) Set $e_b(x) = e^{2\pi i b x}$. Prove the following statements.

(a) $T_k f(x) = x^k f(x)$ is a bounded map of $L^2[-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]$ into itself, with operator norm $\|T_k\| = 2^{-k}$.

(b) If $a_{nk} = -\frac{(2\pi i(\lambda_n - n))^k}{k!}$, then $e_n - e_{\lambda_n} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_{nk} T_k e_n$, where the series converges absolutely in $L^2[-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]$.

(c) If $\delta = \sup_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} |n - \lambda_n| < (\ln 2)/\pi \approx 0.22\dots$, then $\{e^{2\pi i \lambda_n x}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ is a Riesz basis for $L^2[-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]$.

Remark: This result (due to Duffin and Eachus) is not quite optimal. *Kadec's $\frac{1}{4}$ -Theorem* states that if $\delta < \frac{1}{4}$ then $\{e^{2\pi i \lambda_n x}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ is a Riesz basis for $L^2[-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]$ (and $\frac{1}{4}$ is optimal).

PROBLEMS ON FRAMES

8.4. Let $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a sequence in H . Assume $A \|x\|^2 \leq \sum |\langle x, x_n \rangle|^2 \leq B \|x\|^2$ for x in some dense subset E . Show that $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a frame (thus it suffices to establish the frame condition on some dense, “nice” subset).

8.6. Let $\{x_n\}$ be an A -tight frame. Prove the following.

(a) $\|x_n\|^2 \leq A$ for every n .

(b) If $\|x_m\|^2 < A$ for some m , then $\{x_n\}_{n \neq m}$ is a frame and the optimal lower frame bound for $\{x_n\}_{n \neq m}$ is $A - \|x_m\|^2$.

(c) If $\|x_m\|^2 = A$ for some m , then $x_m \perp x_n$ for all $n \neq m$.

8.11. Let v_1, \dots, v_n be vectors in \mathbb{F}^d ($\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}$ or \mathbb{C}). Give direct proofs of the following.

(a) $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ is a Bessel sequence in \mathbb{F}^d , its synthesis operator corresponds to multiplication by the matrix R that has v_1, \dots, v_n as columns, and its analysis operator is $C = R^*$, the Hermitian of the matrix R .

(b) The following are equivalent: (i) $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ spans \mathbb{F}^d , (ii) $S = C^*C$ is positive definite, (iii) $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ is a frame for \mathbb{F}^d . Further, in case these hold, the optimal frame bounds for $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ are λ_1, λ_d , where λ_1 is the smallest eigenvalue of S and λ_d is the largest eigenvalue.

(c) The following are equivalent: (i) $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ is linearly independent, (ii) $G = CC^*$ is positive definite, (iii) $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ is a Riesz sequence (a Riesz basis for its span).

8.15. Alternative proof that the frame operator is a topological isomorphism.

(a) Show that if $U, V \in \mathcal{B}(H)$ are positive and $U \leq V$ then $\|U\| \leq \|V\|$.

(b) Let S be the frame operator for a frame $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ that has frame bounds A, B . Prove the operator inequality

$$0 \leq I - \frac{2}{A+B}S \leq \frac{B-A}{B+A}I,$$

and use this (and Neumann series) to show S is a topological isomorphism.

8.18. Let $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a frame for H . Let C, R, S be the analysis, synthesis, and frame operators for $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$, and let \tilde{C}, \tilde{R} be the analysis and synthesis operators for the canonical dual frame $\{\tilde{x}_n\}$. Prove the following.

(a) $\tilde{C} = CS^{-1}$ and $\tilde{R} = S^{-1}R$.

(b) The orthogonal projection P of ℓ^2 onto $\text{range}(C)$ is

$$Pc = C\tilde{R}c = CS^{-1}Rc = \left\{ \left\langle \sum_n c_n \tilde{x}_n, x_k \right\rangle \right\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}, \quad c = (c_n) \in \ell^2.$$