ON SOME ORTHOGONALLY ADDITIVE FUNCTIONS ON INNER PRODUCT SPACES

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Dedicated to Professors Zoltán Daróczy and Imre Kátai
on their 75th birthday

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Abstract. Let $E$ be a real inner product space of dimension at least 2. If $f : E \to E$ satisfies
$$f(x + y) = f(x) + f(y) \quad \text{for all orthogonal } x, y \in E,$$
and
$$f(f(x)) = x \quad \text{for } x \in E,$$
then $f$ is additive.

Let $E$ be a real inner product space of dimension at least 2.
A function $f$ mapping $E$ into on abelian group is called orthogonally additive, if
$$f(x + y) = f(x) + f(y) \quad \text{for all } x, y \in E \text{ with } x \perp y.$$
It is well known, see [3, Corollary 10] and [1, Theorem 1], that every orthogonally additive function $f$ defined on $E$ has the form

$$f(x) = a(\|x\|^2) + b(x) \quad \text{for } x \in E,$$

where $a$ and $b$ are additive functions uniquely determined by $f$.

Our main result says that every involutory orthogonally additive function is additive.

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Theorem 1. If \( f : E \to E \) is orthogonally additive and
\[
(2) \quad f(f(x)) = x \quad \text{for } x \in E,
\]
then \( f \) is additive.

Proof. Let \((u|v)\) denote the inner product of \(u, v \in E\).

As mentioned above \( f \) has form (1) with additive functions \( a : \mathbb{R} \to E \) and \( b : E \to E \). It follows from (1) that
\[
\|f(x)\|^2 = \|a(\|x\|^2)\|^2 + 2(a(\|x\|^2)b(x)) + \|b(x)\|^2 \quad \text{for } x \in E,
\]
which jointly with (2) and (1) gives
\[
x = a(\|f(x)\|^2) + b(f(x)) = \\
= a(\|a(\|x\|^2)\|^2 + 2(a(\|x\|^2)b(x)) + \|b(x)\|^2) + b(a(\|x\|^2) + b(x))
\]
for \( x \in E \). Hence, if \( x \in E \) and \( r \in \mathbb{Q} \), then
\[
rx = r^4a(\|a(\|x\|^2)\|^2) + 2r^3a(a(\|x\|^2)b(x)) + r^2a(\|b(x)\|^2) + \\
+ r^2b(a(\|x\|^2)) + rb(b(x)).
\]
Consequently,
\[
(3) \quad b(b(x)) = x \quad \text{and} \quad a((a(\|x\|^2)b(x))) = 0 \quad \text{for } x \in E.
\]
In particular for all \( x, y \in E \) we have
\[
0 = a((a(\|x + y\|^2)b(x + y))) = \\
= a((a(\|x\|^2)b(y)) + 2(a(|x|y)b(x + y)) + (a(\|y\|^2)b(x))),
\]
i.e.,
\[
a((a(\|x\|^2)b(y)) + 2(a(|x|y)b(x))) = -a((a(\|y\|^2)b(x)) + 2(a(|x|y)b(y))).
\]
As the function of \( x \in E \), the left–hand side is even, whereas the right–hand side is odd, and so on each side we have zero for every \( x, y \in E \). Hence
\[
(4) \quad a((a(\|x\|^2)b(y))) = 0 \quad \text{for all orthogonal } x, y \in E.
\]
Now, if \( z \in E \) and \( \alpha \in (0, \infty) \), then finding an \( x \in E \) such that \( x \perp b(z) \) and \( \|x\|^2 = \alpha \) and applying (3) and (4) we see that
\[
a((a(\alpha)|z)) = a((a(\|x\|^2)b(b(z)))) = 0.
\]
This shows that
\[(5) \quad a((a(\alpha)|x)) = 0 \quad \text{for} \ \alpha \in \mathbb{R} \ \text{and} \ x \in E.\]

Suppose \(a(\alpha) \neq 0\) for some \(\alpha \in \mathbb{R}\). Then
\[
\left( a(\alpha)|\alpha \frac{a(\alpha)}{\|a(\alpha)\|^2} \right) = \alpha
\]
and by (5) we have
\[
a(\alpha) = a \left( \left( a(\alpha)|\alpha \frac{a(\alpha)}{\|a(\alpha)\|^2} \right) \right) = 0.
\]

The contradiction obtained proves that \(a = 0\) and (1) gives \(f = b\). 

\[\blacksquare\]

**Remark 1.** Let \(H_0\) be a basis of the vector space \(\mathbb{R}\) over \(\mathbb{Q}\) and let \(H\) be a basis of the vector space \(E\) over \(\mathbb{Q}\). Then (cf. [2, Theorem 4.2.3])
\[
c = \text{card } H_0 \leq \text{card } H.
\]

If \(H_1\) and \(H_2\) are disjoint subsets of \(H\) such that
\[
1 \leq \text{card } H_1 \leq c \quad \text{and} \quad \text{card } H_2 = \text{card } H,
\]
and \(a : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow E\) and \(b : E \rightarrow E\) are additive functions such that
\[
a(H_0) = H_1, \quad b(H) = H_2
\]
and \(b\) is injective, then the function \(f : E \rightarrow E\) given by (1) is orthogonally additive, injective and it is not additive.

To see that \(f\) is injective it is enough to observe that if \(x, y \in E\) and \(f(x) = f(y)\), then
\[
a(||x||^2) - a(||y||^2) = b(y) - b(x),
\]
the left–hand side belongs to \(\text{Lin}_Q H_1\) and the right–hand side is in \(\text{Lin}_Q H_2\), whence \(b(x) = b(y)\) and, consequently, \(x = y\).

**Remark 2.** Assume
\[
E = E_1 \oplus E_2, \quad E_1 \perp E_2 \quad \text{and} \quad \dim E_1 = 1.
\]

Fix an \(e \in E_1\) with \(||e|| = 1\), let \(a_0 : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\) and \(b_0 : E_2 \rightarrow E_2\) be additive functions such that
\[
a_0([0, \infty)) = \mathbb{R}, \quad b_0(E_2) = E_2
\]
and define $a : \mathbb{R} \to E$ and $b : E \to E$ by

$$a(\alpha) = a_0(\alpha)e, \quad b(\alpha e + x_2) = b_0(x_2) \quad \text{for } \alpha \in \mathbb{R} \text{ and } x_2 \in E_2.$$  

Then the function $f : E \to E$ given by (1) is orthogonally additive, $f(E) = E$ and $f$ is not additive.

To see that $f(E) = E$ fix arbitrarily $y \in E$. Then $y = \beta e + y_2$ where $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$, $y_2 \in E_2$ and $y_2 = b_0(x_2)$ for some $x_2 \in E_2$, $\beta - a_0(\|x_2\|^2) = a_0(\alpha)$ for some $\alpha \in [0, \infty)$. Consequently $\| \sqrt{\alpha} e + x_2 \|^2 = \alpha + \|x_2\|^2$ and

$$f(\sqrt{\alpha} e + x_2) = a_0(\alpha + \|x_2\|^2)e + b_0(x_2) = \beta e + y_2 = y.$$  

We have been unable to find an example of a bijective orthogonally additive function $f : E \to E$ which is not additive.

**Remark 3.** If $a : \mathbb{R} \to E$ and $b : E \to E$ are linear and the function $f : E \to E$ given by (1) is bijective, then it is linear.

**Proof.** As for some $x_0 \in E$ we have

$$-a(1) = f(x_0) = \|x_0\|^2a(1) + b(x_0),$$  

it follows that

$$(\|x_0\|^2 + 1)a(1) = -b(x_0)$$  

and so

$$a(1) = b(y_0),$$  

where $y_0 = -\frac{1}{\|x_0\|^2}x_0$. Consequently

$$f(x) = \|x\|^2a(1) + b(x) = b(\|x\|^2y_0 + x)$$  

for $x \in E$. Suppose $y_0 \neq 0$. Then

$$f \left( -\frac{1}{\|y_0\|^2}y_0 \right) = b \left( \frac{1}{\|y_0\|^2}y_0 - \frac{1}{\|y_0\|^2}y_0 \right) = 0 = f(0)$$  

which contradicts the injectivity of $f$. Hence $y_0 = 0$ and $f = b$.  

**References**


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