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## $\rho$ -ORTHOGONALITY PROPERTIES IN 2-NORMED SPACE

YUNNA MA\*

College of Science, Tianjin University of Technology, Tianjin, 300384, China

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**Abstract.** In this paper, we define two 2-norm derivatives in 2-normed space and give some results. We use 2-norm derivatives to study the  $\rho$ -orthogonality in 2-normed space. We define  $\rho$ -orthogonality,  $\rho_+$ -orthogonality,  $\rho_-$ -orthogonality in 2-normed space and give some properties of it.

**Keywords:** orthogonality; 2-norm derivative; 2-normed space.

**2010 AMS Subject Classification:** 46A70, 46C99.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The study of orthogonal properties in normed space is an important research direction. There have been many studies in orthogonal properties on normed space. Many scholars [1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9] have put forward a variety of orthogonal relations. For the study of  $\rho$ -orthogonality, the author [10] have defined it by norm derivative. The norm derivatives are also called superior and inferior semi-inner products. They also proved that when the derivatives of two norms are equal, it is equivalent to that the space is smooth. Other properties of  $\rho$ -orthogonality are also proved in [11, 12, 13, 19, 20].

In 1965, Gähler [5] introduced the concept of 2-normed space, which is a generalization of normed space. However, there are few studies on the orthogonal properties of 2-normed space.

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\*Corresponding author

E-mail address: [mayunna1997@163.com](mailto:mayunna1997@163.com)

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In 1975, White and Diminnie [14] gave a characterization of 2-inner product space by using the partial derivatives of bifunctionals. In 2006, the concepts of P-orthogonality, I-orthogonality, BJ-orthogonality in 2-normed space have been given in [17]. In 2007, Mazaheri and Nezhad [15] gave the definition of b-orthogonality in 2-normed space and gave some results in this field.

In this paper, we mainly study  $\rho$ -orthogonality in 2-normed space. We define two 2-norm derivatives in 2-normed space. We prove some properties of 2-norm derivatives. We find the relationship between 2-norm derivative and 2-inner product and the relationship between 2-norm derivative and 2-semi-inner product. We also define  $\rho$ -orthogonality,  $\rho_+$ -orthogonality,  $\rho_-$ -orthogonality in 2-normed space and give some properties of it.

## 2. MAIN RESULTS

We first introduce the concepts of 2-normed space and 2-inner product space. The concept of 2-normed space was introduced by Gähler, which was widely generalized by other scholars [5, 6, 7].

Let  $X$  be a real linear space of dimension greater than 1 and let  $\|\cdot, \cdot\|$  be a real valued function on  $X \times X$  satisfying the following conditions:

- (a)  $\|x, y\| = 0$  if and only if  $x, y$  are linearly dependent;
- (b)  $\|x, y\| = \|y, x\|$ ;
- (c)  $\|\alpha x, y\| = |\alpha| \|x, y\|$  for  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ ;
- (d)  $\|x, y + z\| \leq \|x, y\| + \|x, z\|$  for every  $x, y, z \in X$ .

$\|\cdot, \cdot\|$  is called a 2-norm and  $(X, \|\cdot, \cdot\|)$  is called a 2-normed space. Some basic properties of 2-normed space, which are nonnegative and  $\|x, y + \alpha x\| = \|x, y\|$  for all  $x, y \in X$  and for each  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Ehret [6] gave the concept of 2-inner product space. Let  $(\cdot, \cdot | \cdot)$  be a real valued function on  $X \times X \times X$  which satisfies the following conditions:

- (a)  $(x, x | z) \geq 0$ ,  $(x, x | z) = 0$ , if and only if  $x$  and  $z$  are linearly dependent;
- (b)  $(x, x | z) = (z, z | x)$ ;
- (c)  $(x, y | z) = (y, x | z)$ ;
- (d)  $(\alpha x, y | z) = \alpha (x, y | z)$  for  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ ;
- (e)  $(x + x', y | z) = (x, y | z) + (x', y | z)$  for every  $x, x', y, z \in X$ .

$(\cdot, \cdot | \cdot)$  is called a 2-inner product and  $(X, (\cdot, \cdot | \cdot))$  is called a 2-inner product space.

Ehret [16] proved that if  $(X, (\cdot, \cdot | \cdot))$  is a 2-inner product space, then  $\|x, y\| = (x, x | y)^{\frac{1}{2}}$  defines a 2-norm.

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $(X, \|\cdot, \cdot\|)$  be a real 2-normed space. We define two mappings  $\rho'_+(x, y; z)$ ,  $\rho'_-(x, y; z) : X \times X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$\rho'_+(x, y; z) := \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\|x + ty, z\|^2 - \|x, z\|^2}{2t}.$$

$$\rho'_-(x, y; z) := \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{\|x + ty, z\|^2 - \|x, z\|^2}{2t}.$$

The mappings  $\rho'_+(x, y; z)$ ,  $\rho'_-(x, y; z)$  are called 2-norm derivatives.

**Remark 2.2.** (a) According to the above definition, we can verify that

$$\begin{aligned} \rho'_\pm(x, y; z) &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^\pm} \frac{\|x + ty, z\|^2 - \|x, z\|^2}{2t} \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^\pm} \frac{\|x + ty, z\| + \|x, z\|}{2} \frac{\|x + ty, z\| - \|x, z\|}{t} \\ &= \|x, z\| \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^\pm} \frac{\|x + ty, z\| - \|x, z\|}{t}. \end{aligned}$$

In particular, if  $z = \alpha x$  or  $z = \beta y$  for  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $\rho'_\pm(x, y; z) = 0$ .

*Proof.* (i) If  $z = \alpha x$ , then

$$\rho'_\pm(x, y; \alpha x) = \|x, \alpha x\| \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^\pm} \frac{\|x + ty, \alpha x\| - \|x, \alpha x\|}{t} = 0.$$

(ii) If  $z = \beta y$ , then

$$\rho'_\pm(x, y; \beta y) = \|x, \beta y\| \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^\pm} \frac{\|x + ty, \beta y\| - \|x, \beta y\|}{t} = 0.$$

□

(b) For  $x, y, z \in X$ , limits  $\rho'_+(x, y; z)$ ,  $\rho'_-(x, y; z)$  exists.

*Proof.* Suppose  $f(t) = \frac{\|x + ty, z\| - \|x, z\|}{t}$ . If  $0 < t_1 < t_2$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}
& f(t_1) - f(t_2) \\
&= \frac{\|x + t_1y, z\| - \|x, z\|}{t_1} - \frac{\|x + t_2y, z\| - \|x, z\|}{t_2} \\
&= \frac{\|t_2x + t_1t_2y, z\| - \|t_1x + t_1t_2y, z\| + (t_1 - t_2)\|x, z\|}{t_1t_2} \\
&\leq \frac{\|(t_2 - t_1)x, z\| + (t_1 - t_2)\|x, z\|}{t_1t_2} \\
&= 0.
\end{aligned}$$

So  $f(t)$  is a monotonically increasing function with infimum. By the similar method, if  $t_1 < t_2 < 0$ , then  $f(t)$  is a monotonically increasing function with supremum. Consequently the limit exists.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.3.** *Let  $(X, \|\cdot, \cdot\|)$  be a real 2-normed space. Suppose  $\rho'_+(x, y; z), \rho'_-(x, y; z) : X \times X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are defined as above. Let  $x, y, z \in X, \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then*

- (a) *There is always  $\rho'_-(x, y; z) \leq \rho'_+(x, y; z)$ .*
- (b)  $\rho'_\pm(\alpha x, y; z) = \alpha \rho'_\pm(x, y; z) = \rho'_\pm(x, \alpha y; z), \quad \alpha \geq 0.$
- (b')  $\rho'_\pm(\alpha x, y; z) = \alpha \rho'_\mp(x, y; z) = \rho'_\pm(x, \alpha y; z), \quad \alpha < 0.$
- (c)  $\rho'_\pm(x, \alpha x + \beta y; z) = \alpha \|x, z\|^2 + \beta \rho'_\pm(x, y; z).$
- (d)  $|\rho'_\pm(x, y; z)| \leq \|x, z\| \|y, z\|.$
- (e) *If  $\|y_n, z\| \rightarrow \|y, z\|, y_n \in X (n = 1, 2, \dots)$ , then  $\rho'_\pm(x, y_n; z) \rightarrow \rho'_\pm(x, y; z)$ .*

*Proof.* The proof is as follows.

(a) Suppose  $f(t) = \frac{\|x + ty, z\| - \|x, z\|}{t}$ . If  $t_1 < 0 < t_2$ , by the similar method used in Remark 2.2(b), then we can get  $f(t_1) - f(t_2) \leq 0, f(t_1) \leq f(t_2)$ . Consequently we have  $\rho'_-(x, y; z) \leq \rho'_+(x, y; z)$ .

(b) Take  $x, y, z \in X, \alpha \geq 0$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}
\rho'_\pm(\alpha x, y; z) &= \|\alpha x, z\| \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^\pm} \frac{\|\alpha x + ty, z\| - \|\alpha x, z\|}{t} \\
&= \alpha \|x, z\| \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^\pm} \frac{\|x + \frac{t}{\alpha}y, z\| - \|x, z\|}{\frac{t}{\alpha}} \\
&= \alpha \|x, z\| \lim_{s \rightarrow 0^\pm} \frac{\|x + sy, z\| - \|x, z\|}{s} \quad (s = \frac{t}{\alpha})
\end{aligned}$$

$$= \alpha \rho'_{\pm}(x, y; z).$$

Similarly

$$\begin{aligned} \rho'_{\pm}(x, \alpha y; z) &= \|x, z\| \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \frac{\|x + t\alpha y, z\| - \|x, z\|}{t} \\ &= \alpha \|x, z\| \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \frac{\|x + t\alpha y, z\| - \|x, z\|}{t\alpha} \\ &= \alpha \|x, z\| \lim_{s \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \frac{\|x + sy, z\| - \|x, z\|}{s} \quad (s = \alpha t) \\ &= \alpha \rho'_{\pm}(x, y; z). \end{aligned}$$

So  $\rho'_{\pm}(\alpha x, y; z) = \alpha \rho'_{\pm}(x, y; z) = \rho'_{\pm}(x, \alpha y; z)$ .

(b') When  $\alpha < 0$ , the proof method is the same as (b).

(c) Take  $x, y, z \in X$ ,  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$ . Suppose  $t$  is small enough such that  $1 + t\alpha > 0$ . Then

(i) If  $\beta = 0$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \rho'_{\pm}(x, \alpha x; z) &= \|x, z\| \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \frac{\|x + t\alpha x, z\| - \|x, z\|}{t} \\ &= \|x, z\| \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \frac{t\alpha \|x, z\|}{t} \\ &= \alpha \|x, z\|^2. \end{aligned}$$

(ii) If  $\beta \neq 0$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \rho'_{\pm}(x, \alpha x + \beta y; z) &= \|x, z\| \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \frac{\|x + t(\alpha x + \beta y), z\| - \|x, z\|}{t} \\ &= \|x, z\| \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \frac{(1 + t\alpha)(\|x + \frac{t\beta}{1+t\alpha}y, z\| - \|x, z\|) + t\alpha \|x, z\|}{t} \\ &= \alpha \|x, z\|^2 + \|x, z\| \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \frac{\|x + \frac{t\beta}{1+t\alpha}y, z\| - \|x, z\|}{\frac{t\beta}{1+t\alpha}} \beta \\ &= \alpha \|x, z\|^2 + \|x, z\| \lim_{s \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \frac{\|x + sy, z\| - \|x, z\|}{s} \beta \quad (s = \frac{t\beta}{1+t\alpha}) \\ &= \alpha \|x, z\|^2 + \beta \rho'_{\pm}(x, y; z). \end{aligned}$$

(d) Take  $x, y, z \in X$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} |\rho'_{\pm}(x, y; z)| &= \|x, z\| \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \left| \frac{\|x + ty, z\| - \|x, z\|}{t} \right| \\ &\leq \|x, z\| \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \left| \frac{\|x, z\| + |t| \|y, z\| - \|x, z\|}{t} \right| \\ &\leq \|x, z\| \|y, z\|. \end{aligned}$$

(e) Take  $x, z \in X$ . Suppose  $\|y_n, z\| \rightarrow \|y, z\|$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} &\rho'_{\pm}(x, y_n; z) - \rho'_{\pm}(x, y; z) \\ &= \|x, z\| \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \frac{\|x + ty_n, z\| - \|x, z\|}{t} - \|x, z\| \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \frac{\|x + ty, z\| - \|x, z\|}{t} \\ &= \|x, z\| \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \frac{\|x + ty_n, z\| - \|x + ty, z\|}{t} \\ &\leq \|x, z\| \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \frac{\|ty_n - ty, z\|}{t} \\ &= \|x, z\| \|y_n - y, z\| \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned}$$

□

**Proposition 2.4.** *If  $(X, (\cdot, \cdot | \cdot))$  is a 2-inner product space with 2-norm defined by  $\|x, z\| = (x, x | z)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ , then we can get*

$$\rho'_+(x, y; z) = (x, y | z) = \rho'_-(x, y; z).$$

*Proof.* For the integrity of the content, we will give its proof process

$$\begin{aligned} \rho'_{\pm}(x, y; z) &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \frac{\|x + ty, z\|^2 - \|x, z\|^2}{2t} \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \frac{(x + ty, x + ty | z) - (x, x | z)}{2t} \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \frac{(x, x | z) + 2t(x, y | z) + t^2(y, y | z) - (x, x | z)}{2t} \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \frac{2t(x, y | z) + t^2(y, y | z)}{2t} \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \frac{2(x, y | z) + t(y, y | z)}{2} \\ &= (x, y | z). \end{aligned}$$

Obviously, if  $z = \alpha x$  or  $z = \beta y$ , the result also true. Therefore  $\rho'_+(x, y; z) = (x, y|z) = \rho'_-(x, y; z)$ .

The proposition is proved.  $\square$

**Definition 2.5.** ([7]) Let  $[\cdot, \cdot|\cdot]$  be a real valued function on  $X \times X \times X$  which satisfies the following conditions:

(a)  $[x, x|z] \geq 0$ ,  $[x, x|z] = 0$  if and only if  $x$  and  $z$  are linearly dependent;

(b)  $[\alpha x, y|z] = \alpha[x, y|z]$  for  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ ;

(c)  $[x + x', y|z] = [x, y|z] + [x', y|z]$ ;

(d)  $|[x, y|z]| \leq [x, x|z]^{\frac{1}{2}}[y, y|z]^{\frac{1}{2}}$  for every  $x, x', y, z \in X$ .

$[\cdot, \cdot|\cdot]$  is a 2-semi-inner product and  $(X, [\cdot, \cdot|\cdot])$  is called a 2-semi-inner product space. A 2-semi-inner-product space is a 2-normed space with the 2-norm  $\|x, z\| = [x, x|z]^{\frac{1}{2}}$  provided  $[x, x|z] = [z, z|x]$  [18].

**Proposition 2.6.** If  $(X, [\cdot, \cdot|\cdot])$  is a 2-semi-inner product space with  $[x, x|z] = [z, z|x]$ , then we can get

$$\rho'_{\pm}(x, y; z) = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} [y, x + ty|z].$$

*Proof.* According to the Theorem 2.3(d) and  $\|x, z\| = [x, x|z]^{\frac{1}{2}}$ , we can get

$$\begin{aligned} \rho'_{\pm}(x, y; z) &= \|x, z\| \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \frac{\|x + ty, z\| - \|x, z\|}{t} \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \frac{\|x + ty, z\| - \|x, z\|}{t} \|x + ty, z\| \\ &\leq \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \frac{[x + ty, x + ty|z] - [x, x + ty|z]}{t} \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} [y, x + ty|z] \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \frac{[x + 2ty, x + ty|z] - [x + ty, x + ty|z]}{t} \\ &\leq \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \frac{\|x + 2ty, z\| \|x + ty, z\| - \|x + ty, z\|^2}{t} \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \frac{\|x + 2ty, z\| - \|x + ty, z\|}{t} \|x, z\| \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \left[ 2 \frac{\|x + 2ty, z\| - \|x, z\|}{2t} - \frac{\|x + ty, z\| - \|x, z\|}{t} \right] \|x, z\| \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^\pm} \frac{\|x + ty, z\| - \|x, z\|}{t} \|x, z\| \\
&= \rho'_\pm(x, y; z).
\end{aligned}$$

(i) If  $z = \alpha x$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}
\rho'_\pm(x, y; \alpha x) &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^\pm} \frac{\|x + ty, \alpha x\|^2 - \|x, \alpha x\|^2}{2t} = 0, \\
0 &\leq \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^\pm} [y, x + ty | \alpha x] \\
&\leq \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^\pm} [y, y | \alpha x]^{\frac{1}{2}} [x + ty, x + ty | \alpha x]^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
&= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^\pm} \|y, \alpha x\| \|x + ty, \alpha x\| \\
&= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^\pm} \alpha^2 t \|x, y\| \\
&= 0.
\end{aligned}$$

(ii) If  $z = \beta y$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}
\rho'_\pm(x, y; \beta y) &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^\pm} \frac{\|x + ty, \beta y\|^2 - \|x, \beta y\|^2}{2t} = 0, \\
0 &\leq \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^\pm} [y, x + ty | \beta y] \\
&\leq \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^\pm} [y, y | \beta y]^{\frac{1}{2}} [x + ty, x + ty | \beta y]^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
&= 0.
\end{aligned}$$

□

For any arbitrary non-zero elements  $x, y \in X$ , let  $V(x, y)$  denote the subspace of  $X$  generated by  $x, y$ .

Compared with the definition of  $\rho$ -orthogonality in normed space, we give the definition of  $\rho$ -orthogonality in 2-normed space.

**Definition 2.7.** Let  $(X, \|\cdot, \cdot\|)$  be a real 2-normed space. Let  $x, y, z \in X$  and  $z \notin V(x, y)$ . We define  $\rho_+$ -orthogonality,  $\rho_-$ -orthogonality,  $\rho$ -orthogonality as follows.

(a) We call  $x$  is  $\rho_+$ -orthogonality to  $y$  denoted by  $x \perp_{\rho_+} y$ , if  $\rho'_+(x, y; z) = 0$  for each  $z \notin V(x, y)$ .

(b) We call  $x$  is  $\rho_-$ -orthogonality to  $y$  denoted by  $x \perp_{\rho_-} y$ , if  $\rho'_-(x, y; z) = 0$  for each  $z \notin V(x, y)$ .

(c) We call  $x$  is  $\rho$ -orthogonality to  $y$  denoted by  $x \perp_{\rho} y$ , if  $\rho'_+(x, y; z) + \rho'_-(x, y; z) = 0$  for each  $z \notin V(x, y)$ .

The above case is that  $z \notin V(x, y)$ . If  $z \in V(x, y)$ , we need to pay attention to the following two cases

**Remark 2.8.** Let  $(X, \|\cdot, \cdot\|)$  be a real 2-normed space. Take  $x, y, z \in X$  and  $z \in V(x, y)$ .

(a) Take  $z = \alpha x + \beta y$ ,  $\alpha\beta \neq 0$ . If  $\rho'_{\pm}(x, y; z) = 0$ , then  $y = sx$ .

(b) Take  $z = \beta y$  or  $z = \alpha x$ ,  $\alpha \neq 0$ ,  $\beta \neq 0$ . Then we can get  $\rho'_{\pm}(x, y; z) = 0$ .

*Proof.* (a) Suppose  $z = \alpha x + \beta y$ ,  $\alpha\beta \neq 0$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \rho'_{\pm}(x, y; z) &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \frac{\|x + ty, \alpha x + \beta y\|^2 - \|x, \alpha x + \beta y\|^2}{2t} \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \frac{|\beta - \alpha t|^2 \|x, y\|^2 - \beta^2 \|x, y\|^2}{2t} \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^{\pm}} \frac{(-2\alpha\beta t + \alpha^2 t^2) \|x, y\|^2}{2t} \\ &= -2\alpha\beta \|x, y\|^2. \end{aligned}$$

So if  $\rho'_{\pm}(x, y; z) = 0$ , that is  $\|x, y\| = 0$ , then  $y = sx$ .

(b) The conclusion has been given in Remark 2.2. □

**Theorem 2.9.** Let  $(X, \|\cdot, \cdot\|)$  be a real 2-normed space. Then the following conditions are equivalent:

(a)  $\rho'_+ = \rho'_-$ ;

(b)  $\perp_{\rho_+} \subset \perp_{\rho_-}$ ;

(c)  $\perp_{\rho_-} \subset \perp_{\rho_+}$ ;

(d)  $\perp_{\rho_-} = \perp_{\rho_+}$ ;

(e)  $\perp_{\rho_+} \subset \perp_{\rho}$ ;

(f)  $\perp_{\rho} \subset \perp_{\rho_+}$ ;

(g)  $\perp_{\rho} = \perp_{\rho_+}$ ;

(h)  $\perp_{\rho_-} \subset \perp_{\rho}$ ;

(i)  $\perp_{\rho} \subset \perp_{\rho_-}$ ;

(j)  $\perp_{\rho} = \perp_{\rho_-}$ .

*Proof.* We first prove that  $(a) \Leftrightarrow (b) \Leftrightarrow (d)$ . We know that  $(a) \Rightarrow (d) \Rightarrow (b)$  is obvious. Next we prove that  $(b) \Rightarrow (a)$ . Suppose that  $(b)$  holds. Let  $x, y, z \in X$  and  $z \notin V(x, y)$  (We may assume  $x \neq 0$ , otherwise  $(a)$  holds trivially). We define  $\alpha := \frac{\rho'_+(x, y; z)}{\|x, z\|^2}$ ,  $w := -\alpha x + y$ . From Theorem 2.3(c), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \rho'_+(x, w; z) &= \rho'_+(x, -\alpha x + y; z) \\ &= -\alpha \|x, z\|^2 + \rho'_+(x, y; z) \\ &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $x \perp_{\rho_+} w$ . According to the hypothesis, we can get,  $x \perp_{\rho_-} w$ ,

$$\rho'_-(x, -\alpha x + y; z) = 0.$$

According to Theorem 2.3(c), we can get

$$\rho'_-(x, -\alpha x + y; z) = -\alpha \|x, z\|^2 + \rho'_-(x, y; z) = 0.$$

Therefore, we can get  $\rho'_+(x, y; z) = \rho'_-(x, y; z)$ , which proves  $(a)$ .

We also know that  $(a) \Rightarrow (d) \Rightarrow (c)$  and the proof of  $(c) \Rightarrow (a)$  can also be obtained. So we can prove that  $(a) \Leftrightarrow (b) \Leftrightarrow (c) \Leftrightarrow (d)$ .

With the above proof, we can also prove that  $(a) \Leftrightarrow (e) \Leftrightarrow (f) \Leftrightarrow (g)$  and  $(a) \Leftrightarrow (h) \Leftrightarrow (i) \Leftrightarrow (j)$ . □

**Definition 2.10.** Let  $(X, \|\cdot, \cdot\|)$  be a 2-normed space. Let  $x, y, z \in X$ . We call  $x$  is  $b$ -orthogonality to  $y$  denoted by  $x \perp^b y$  if  $\|x + ty, z\| \geq \|x, z\|$  for every real number  $t$  and each element  $z \notin V(x, y)$ .

**Theorem 2.11.** Let  $(X, \|\cdot, \cdot\|)$  be a real 2-normed space. Let  $x, y, z \in X$  and  $z \notin V(x, y)$ . Then the following statements are equivalent:

(a)  $\rho'_-(x, y; z) \leq 0 \leq \rho'_+(x, y; z)$ ;

(b)  $x \perp^b y$ .

*Proof.* (a)  $\Rightarrow$  (b). Suppose that  $\rho'_-(x, y; z) \leq 0 \leq \rho'_+(x, y; z)$ .

If  $t \geq 0$ , it follows from Theorem 2.3(d) that

$$\rho'_+(x, x + ty; z) \leq \|x, z\| \|x + ty, z\|.$$

In addition, according to Theorem 2.3(c),

$$\rho'_+(x, x + ty; z) = t\rho'_+(x, y; z) + \|x, z\|^2,$$

which implies

$$t\rho'_+(x, y; z) \leq (\|x + ty, z\| - \|x, z\|)\|x, z\|.$$

Since  $\rho'_+(x, y; z) \geq 0, t \geq 0$ , we have

$$\|x + ty, z\| - \|x, z\| \geq 0.$$

Since  $\rho'_-(x, y; z) \leq 0$ , from Theorem 2.3(b) we get  $-\rho'_-(x, y; z) = \rho'_+(x, -y; z) \geq 0$  which implies that  $\|x - ty, z\| - \|x, z\| \geq 0$  for all  $t \geq 0$ . Consequently, we get  $x \perp^b y$ . (a)  $\Rightarrow$  (b) is proved.

(b)  $\Rightarrow$  (a). Suppose that  $x \perp^b y$ . According to the definition of b-orthogonality, we know  $\|x + ty, z\| \geq \|x, z\|$ . Therefore, we can get  $\rho'_-(x, y; z) \leq 0 \leq \rho'_+(x, y; z)$ . (b)  $\Rightarrow$  (a) is proved.  $\square$

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## CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The author(s) declare that there is no conflict of interests.

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