

Section 6.2: Orthogonal Sets

Definition: An **orthogonal basis** for a subspace W of \mathbb{R}^n is a basis that is also an orthogonal set.

Theorem: Let $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_p\}$ be an orthogonal basis for a subspace W of \mathbb{R}^n . Then each vector \mathbf{y} in W can be written as the linear combination

$$\mathbf{y} = c_1\mathbf{u}_1 + c_2\mathbf{u}_2 + \cdots + c_p\mathbf{u}_p, \quad \text{where the weights}$$

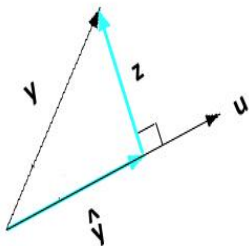
$$c_j = \frac{\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}_j}{\mathbf{u}_j \cdot \mathbf{u}_j}.$$

Projection

Given a nonzero vector \mathbf{u} , suppose we wish to decompose another nonzero vector \mathbf{y} into a sum of the form

$$\mathbf{y} = \hat{\mathbf{y}} + \mathbf{z}$$

in such a way that $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ is parallel to \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{z} is perpendicular to \mathbf{u} .



Projection onto the subspace $L = \text{Span}\{\mathbf{u}\}$

Notation: $\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \text{proj}_L \mathbf{y} = \left(\frac{\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}}{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{u}} \right) \mathbf{u}$

The distance between \mathbf{y} and L is the norm $\|\mathbf{y} - \text{proj}_L \mathbf{y}\|$.

Orthonormal Sets

Definition: A set $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_p\}$ is called an **orthonormal set** if it is an orthogonal set of **unit vectors**.

Definition: An **orthonormal basis** of a subspace W of \mathbb{R}^n is a basis that is also an orthonormal set.

Example: Show that $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \frac{3}{5} \\ \frac{4}{5} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{4}{5} \\ \frac{3}{5} \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ is an orthonormal basis for \mathbb{R}^2 .

To show this is a basis, note $\det \begin{bmatrix} \frac{3}{5} & \frac{3}{5} \\ \frac{4}{5} & \frac{4}{5} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{9}{25} - \frac{16}{25} = -\frac{7}{25} \neq 0$

The columns are lin. independent and span \mathbb{R}^2 .

(Invertible matrix theorem)

To see that it's orthonormal, note

$$\vec{u}_1 \cdot \vec{u}_1 = \left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{4}{5}\right)^2 = \frac{25}{25} = 1 \Rightarrow \|\vec{u}_1\| = \sqrt{1} = 1$$

$$\vec{u}_1 \cdot \vec{u}_2 = \frac{3}{5}\left(-\frac{4}{5}\right) + \frac{4}{5}\left(\frac{3}{5}\right) = 0$$

$$\vec{u}_2 \cdot \vec{u}_2 = \left(-\frac{4}{5}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^2 = \frac{25}{25} = 1 \Rightarrow \|\vec{u}_2\| = \sqrt{1} = 1$$

They are orthogonal unit vectors, so

we have an orthonormal basis for \mathbb{R}^2 .

Orthogonal Matrix

Consider the matrix $U = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{3}{5} & -\frac{4}{5} \\ \frac{4}{5} & \frac{3}{5} \end{bmatrix}$ whose columns are the vectors in the last example. Compute the product

$$U^T U = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{3}{5} & \frac{4}{5} \\ \frac{4}{5} & \frac{3}{5} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{3}{5} & -\frac{4}{5} \\ \frac{4}{5} & \frac{3}{5} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{4}{5}\right)^2 & -\frac{12}{25} + \frac{12}{25} \\ -\frac{12}{25} + \frac{12}{25} & \left(-\frac{4}{5}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^2 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

What does this say about U^{-1} ?

It must be that $U^{-1} = U^T$

Orthogonal Matrix

Definition: A square matrix U is called an **orthogonal matrix** if $U^T = U^{-1}$.

Theorem: An $n \times n$ matrix U is orthogonal if and only if its columns form an orthonormal basis of \mathbb{R}^n .

The linear transformation associated to an orthogonal matrix preserves *lengths* and *angles* in the following sense:

Theorem: Orthogonal Matrices

Let U be an $n \times n$ orthogonal matrix and \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{y} vectors in \mathbb{R}^n . Then

(a) $\|U\mathbf{x}\| = \|\mathbf{x}\|$

(b) $(U\mathbf{x}) \cdot (U\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{y}$, in particular

(c) $(U\mathbf{x}) \cdot (U\mathbf{y}) = 0$ if and only if $\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{y} = 0$.

Proof (of (a)):

Recall $\|\vec{x}\|^2 = \vec{x} \cdot \vec{x}$

$$\vec{x} \cdot \vec{x} = \vec{x}^T \vec{x}$$

and $(U\vec{x})^T = \vec{x}^T U^T$

Note that

$$\|u\vec{x}\|^2 = (u\vec{x})^T (u\vec{x})$$

$$= \vec{x}^T u^T u \vec{x}$$

$$= \vec{x}^T (u^T u) \vec{x}$$

$$= \vec{x}^T I \vec{x}$$

$$= \vec{x}^T \vec{x}$$

$$= \|\vec{x}\|^2$$

Since $\|u\vec{x}\|$ and $\|\vec{x}\|$ are nonnegative, we can take the square root to get

$$\|u\vec{x}\| = \|\vec{x}\|.$$

Section 6.3: Orthogonal Projections

Equating points with position vectors, we may wish to find the point $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ in a subspace W of \mathbb{R}^n that is *closest* to a given point \mathbf{y} .

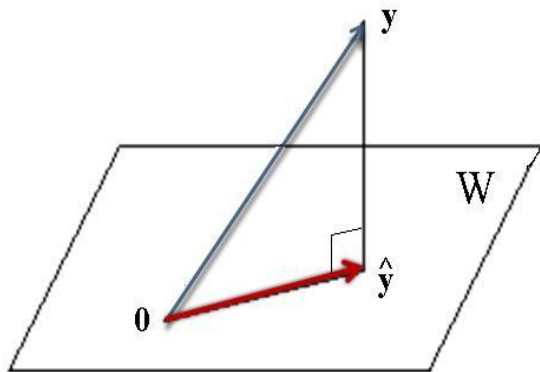


Figure: Illustration of an orthogonal projection. Note that $\text{dist}(\mathbf{y}, \hat{\mathbf{y}})$ is the shortest distance between \mathbf{y} and the points on W .

Orthogonal Decomposition Theorem

Let W be a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n . Each vector \mathbf{y} in \mathbb{R}^n can be written uniquely as a sum

$$\mathbf{y} = \hat{\mathbf{y}} + \mathbf{z}$$

where $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ is in W and \mathbf{z} is in W^\perp .

If $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_p\}$ is **any orthogonal basis** for W , then

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \sum_{j=1}^p \left(\frac{\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}_j}{\mathbf{u}_j \cdot \mathbf{u}_j} \right) \mathbf{u}_j, \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{z} = \mathbf{y} - \hat{\mathbf{y}}.$$

Remark: Note that the basis must be orthogonal, but otherwise the vector $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ is **independent** of the particular basis used!

Remark: The vector $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ is called the **orthogonal projection of \mathbf{y} onto W** . We can denote it

$$\text{proj}_W \mathbf{y}.$$

Example

Let $\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 8 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ and

$$W = \text{Span} \left\{ \overset{\vec{u}_1}{\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}}, \overset{\vec{u}_2}{\begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}} \right\}.$$

(a) Verify that the spanning vectors for W given are an orthogonal basis for W .

They are lin. independent. Note $\begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \neq k \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ for any k .

$$\vec{u}_1 \cdot \vec{u}_2 = 2(-2) + 1(2) + 2(1) = -4 + 2 + 2 = 0$$

They are orthogonal.

Example Continued...

$$W = \text{Span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 8 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

(b) Find the orthogonal projection of \mathbf{y} onto W .

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \frac{\vec{u}_1 \cdot \vec{y}}{\vec{u}_1 \cdot \vec{u}_1} \vec{u}_1 + \frac{\vec{u}_2 \cdot \vec{y}}{\vec{u}_2 \cdot \vec{u}_2} \vec{u}_2$$

$$\vec{u}_1 \cdot \vec{y} = 2 \cdot 4 + 1 \cdot 8 + 2 \cdot 1 = 18, \quad \vec{u}_2 \cdot \vec{y} = -2(4) + 2(8) + 1(1) = 9$$

$$\vec{u}_1 \cdot \vec{u}_1 = 2^2 + 1^2 + 2^2 = 9, \quad \vec{u}_2 \cdot \vec{u}_2 = (-2)^2 + 2^2 + 1 = 9$$

$$\hat{y} = \frac{18}{9} \vec{u}_1 + \frac{9}{9} \vec{u}_2 = 2 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + 1 \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

(c) Find the shortest distance between \mathbf{y} and the subspace W .

If $\vec{y} = \hat{\vec{y}} + \vec{z}$, then $\vec{z} = \vec{y} - \hat{\vec{y}}$, and the distance is $\|\vec{z}\|$ since \vec{z} is \perp to W .

$$\vec{z} = \vec{y} - \hat{\vec{y}} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 8 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\|\vec{z}\| = \sqrt{2^2 + 4^2 + (-4)^2} = \sqrt{4 + 16 + 16} = \sqrt{36} = 6$$

Computing Orthogonal Projections

Theorem: If $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_p\}$ is an **orthonormal** basis of a subspace W of \mathbb{R}^n , and \mathbf{y} is any vector in \mathbb{R}^n then

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \text{proj}_W \mathbf{y} = \sum_{j=1}^p (\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}_j) \mathbf{u}_j.$$

And, if U is the matrix $U = [\mathbf{u}_1 \ \cdots \ \mathbf{u}_p]$, then the above is equivalent to

$$\text{proj}_W \mathbf{y} = UU^T \mathbf{y}.$$

Remark: In general, U is not square; it's $n \times p$. So even though UU^T will be a square matrix, it is not the same matrix as $U^T U$ and it is not the identity matrix.

Example

$$W = \text{Span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

Find an orthonormal basis $\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2\}$ for W . Then compute the matrices $U^T U$ and $U U^T$ where $U = [\vec{v}_1 \ \vec{v}_2]$.

$$\vec{v}_1 = \frac{\vec{u}_1}{\|\vec{u}_1\|} = \frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2/3 \\ 1/3 \\ 2/3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\vec{v}_2 = \frac{\vec{u}_2}{\|\vec{u}_2\|} = \frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2/3 \\ 2/3 \\ 1/3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} 2/3 & -2/3 \\ 1/3 & 2/3 \\ 2/3 & 1/3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$U^T U = \frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 2 \\ -2 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -2 \\ 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{9} \begin{bmatrix} 9 & 0 \\ 0 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$U U^T = \frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -2 \\ 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 2 \\ -2 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{9} \begin{bmatrix} 8 & -2 & 2 \\ -2 & 5 & 4 \\ 2 & 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example

$$W = \text{Span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 8 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Use the matrix formulation to find $\text{proj}_W \mathbf{y}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\mathbf{y}} &= \text{proj}_W \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{U}^T \mathbf{y} = \frac{1}{9} \begin{bmatrix} 8 & -2 & 2 \\ -2 & 5 & 4 \\ 2 & 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 8 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$