

## 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

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

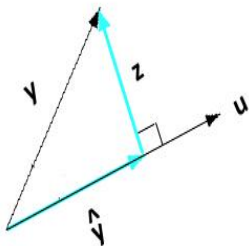
$$c_j = \frac{\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}_j}{\mathbf{u}_j \cdot \mathbf{u}_j}.$$

## 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

Since  $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$  is parallel to  $\mathbf{u}$ , there is a scalar  $\alpha$  such that

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \alpha \mathbf{u}.$$

$$\vec{y} = \hat{\mathbf{y}} + \vec{z} = \alpha \vec{u} + \vec{z} \quad \text{we want } \vec{z} \perp \vec{u} \text{ i.e. } \vec{z} \cdot \vec{u} = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{y} \cdot \vec{u} &= (\alpha \vec{u} + \vec{z}) \cdot \vec{u} \\ &= \alpha \vec{u} \cdot \vec{u} + \vec{z} \cdot \vec{u} \\ &= \alpha \vec{u} \cdot \vec{u} + 0 = \alpha \vec{u} \cdot \vec{u}\end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha = \frac{\vec{y} \cdot \vec{u}}{\vec{u} \cdot \vec{u}}$$

## 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  $\|\mathbf{y} - \text{proj}_L \mathbf{y}\|$ .

## Example:

Let  $\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ . Write  $\mathbf{y} = \hat{\mathbf{y}} + \mathbf{z}$  where  $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$  is in  $\text{Span}\{\mathbf{u}\}$  and  $\mathbf{z}$  is orthogonal to  $\mathbf{u}$ .

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \frac{\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}}{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{u}} \mathbf{u}$$

$$\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u} = 7(4) + 6(2) = 40$$

$$\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{u} = 4^2 + 2^2 = 20$$

$$= \frac{40}{20} \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= 2 \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

↑  $\mathbf{z}$       ↑  $\mathbf{u}$

$$\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{y} - \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Example Continued...

Determine the distance between the point  $(7, 6)$  and the line  $\text{Span}\{\mathbf{u}\}$ .

The distance is  $\|\vec{z}\| = \sqrt{(-1)^2 + 2^2} = \sqrt{5}$

## 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 it's a basis consider  $\det \begin{bmatrix} \frac{3}{5} & -\frac{4}{5} \\ \frac{4}{5} & \frac{3}{5} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{9}{25} + \frac{16}{25} = 1 \neq 0$

The columns are lin. independent  
and span  $\mathbb{R}^2$  (invertible matrix thm).

We have a basis for  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

$$\text{Let } \vec{u}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 3/5 \\ 4/5 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \vec{u}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -4/5 \\ 3/5 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

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

$$\vec{u}_1 \cdot \vec{u}_2 = \frac{3}{5} \left(-\frac{4}{5}\right) + \frac{4}{5} \left(\frac{3}{5}\right) = -\frac{12}{25} + \frac{12}{25} = 0$$

They are orthogonal unit vectors. Hence  
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  $U^{-1}$ ?

$$U^{-1} = U^T$$

# 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  $\|\vec{x}\|^2 = \vec{x} \cdot \vec{x}$ ,  $\vec{x} \cdot \vec{x} = \vec{x}^T \vec{x}$

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

$$\begin{aligned}\|u\vec{x}\|^2 &= (u\vec{x})^T(u\vec{x}) \\ &= \vec{x}^T u^T(u\vec{x}) \\ &= \vec{x}^T(u^T u)\vec{x} \\ &= \vec{x}^T I \vec{x} \\ &= \vec{x}^T \vec{x} \\ &= \|\vec{x}\|^2\end{aligned}$$

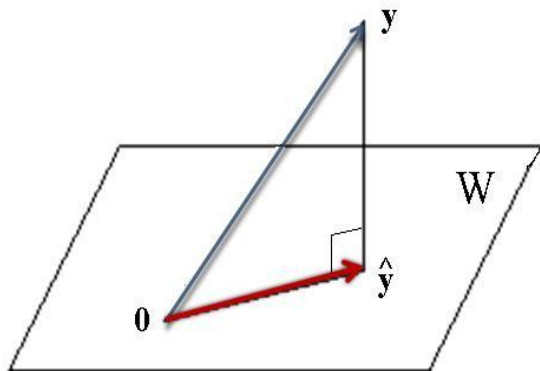
Taking the square root of both sides,

since the norms are nonnegative

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

## 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

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

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

Noting that  $\vec{v}_1 \neq k\vec{v}_2$  for any scalar  $k$ , they are linearly independent.

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

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  $W$ .

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

$$\vec{y} \cdot \vec{v}_1 = 2 \cdot 4 + 1 \cdot 8 + 2 \cdot 1 = 18$$

$$\vec{v}_1 \cdot \vec{v}_1 = 2^2 + 1^2 + 2^2 = 9$$

$$\vec{y} \cdot \vec{v}_2 = -2(4) + 2(8) + 1(1) = 9$$

$$\vec{v}_2 \cdot \vec{v}_2 = (-2)^2 + 2^2 + 1^2 = 9$$

$$\hat{y} = \frac{18}{9} \vec{v}_1 + \frac{9}{9} \vec{v}_2$$

$$= 2 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + 1 \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

If  $\vec{y} = \hat{\vec{y}} + \vec{z}$  then the distance is

$$\|\vec{z}\| = \|\vec{y} - \hat{\vec{y}}\|.$$

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

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

## 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}^T \vec{\mathbf{y}} = \frac{1}{7} \begin{bmatrix} 8 & -2 & 2 \\ -2 & 5 & 4 \\ 2 & 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 8 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$