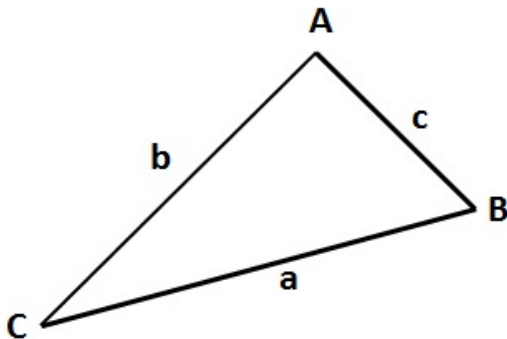


Recall the Law of Cosines

For triangle with angles A , B , C and opposite sides of lengths a , b , and c , respectively,

$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2 - 2ab \cos(C)$$



Geometry of the Dot Product

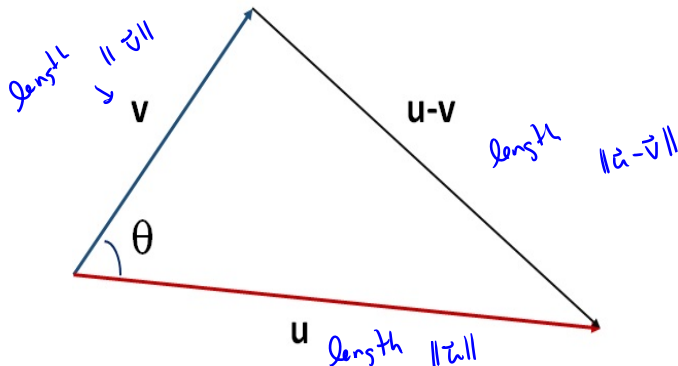


Figure: We can use the law of cosines to show that in \mathbb{R}^2 that $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}$ is related to the angle between the two (nonzero) vectors. This holds in \mathbb{R}^n . We're just restricting n to 2 for ease of computation.

By the law of cosines

$$\|\vec{u} - \vec{v}\|^2 = \|\vec{u}\|^2 + \|\vec{v}\|^2 - 2\|\vec{u}\|\|\vec{v}\|\cos\theta$$

$$\begin{aligned}\|\vec{u} - \vec{v}\|^2 &= (\vec{u} - \vec{v}) \cdot (\vec{u} - \vec{v}) \\ &= \vec{u} \cdot \vec{u} - \vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} - \vec{v} \cdot \vec{u} + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{v} \\ &= \|\vec{u}\|^2 - 2\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} + \|\vec{v}\|^2\end{aligned}$$

$$\cancel{\|\vec{u}\|^2} - 2\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} + \cancel{\|\vec{v}\|^2} = \cancel{\|\vec{u}\|^2} + \cancel{\|\vec{v}\|^2} - 2\|\vec{u}\|\|\vec{v}\|\cos\theta$$

$$\cancel{-2\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}} = \cancel{-2\|\vec{u}\|\|\vec{v}\|\cos\theta}$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad \vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = \|\vec{u}\| \|\vec{v}\| \cos \theta$$

Section 6.2: Orthogonal Sets

Remark: We know that if $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_p\}$ is a basis for a subspace W of \mathbb{R}^n , then each vector \mathbf{x} in W can be realized (uniquely) as a sum

$$\mathbf{x} = c_1 \mathbf{b}_1 + \dots + c_p \mathbf{b}_p.$$

If n is very large, the computations needed to determine the coefficients c_1, \dots, c_p may require a lot of time (and machine memory).

Question: Can we seek a basis whose nature simplifies this task? And what properties should such a basis possess?

Orthogonal Sets

Definition: An indexed set $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_p\}$ in \mathbb{R}^n is said to be an **orthogonal set** provided each pair of distinct vectors in the set is orthogonal. That is, provided

$$\mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_j = 0 \quad \text{whenever} \quad i \neq j.$$

Example: Show that the set $\left\{ \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{\vec{u}_1}, \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{\vec{u}_2}, \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -4 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}}_{\vec{u}_3} \right\}$ is an orthogonal set.

$$\vec{u}_1 \cdot \vec{u}_2 = 3(-1) + 1(2) + 1(1) = -3 + 2 + 1 = 0$$

$$\vec{u}_1 \cdot \vec{u}_3 = 3(-1) + 1(-4) + 1(7) = -3 - 4 + 7 = 0$$

$$\vec{u}_2 \cdot \vec{u}_3 = (-1)(-1) + 2(-4) + 1(7) = 1 - 8 + 7 = 0$$

The set is orthogonal.

Orthogonal Basis

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

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

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

Note

$$\vec{y} = c_1 \vec{u}_1 + c_2 \vec{u}_2 + \dots + c_{j-1} \vec{u}_{j-1} + c_j \vec{u}_j + c_{j+1} \vec{u}_{j+1} + \dots + c_p \vec{u}_p$$

$$\vec{y} \cdot \vec{u}_j = (c_1 \vec{u}_1 + \dots + c_p \vec{u}_p) \cdot \vec{u}_j$$

$$= c_1 \underbrace{\vec{u}_1 \cdot \vec{u}_j}_{0''} + c_2 \underbrace{\vec{u}_2 \cdot \vec{u}_j}_{0''} + \dots + c_j \underbrace{\vec{u}_j \cdot \vec{u}_j}_{c_j \|\vec{u}_j\|^2} + \dots + c_p \underbrace{\vec{u}_p \cdot \vec{u}_j}_{0''}$$

$$\Rightarrow c_j = \frac{\vec{y} \cdot \vec{u}_j}{\|\vec{u}_j\|^2}$$

Example

$\left\{ \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{\vec{u}_1}, \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{\vec{u}_2}, \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -4 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}}_{\vec{u}_3} \right\}$ is an orthogonal basis of \mathbb{R}^3 . Express the vector $\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ as a linear combination of the basis vectors.

$$\|\vec{u}_1\|^2 = 9+1+1 = 11, \quad \|\vec{u}_2\|^2 = 1+4+1 = 6, \quad \|\vec{u}_3\|^2 = 1+16+49 = 66$$

$$\vec{y} \cdot \vec{u}_1 = -2(3) + 3(1) + 0 = -3$$

$$\vec{y} \cdot \vec{u}_2 = -2(-1) + 3(2) + 0 = 8$$

$$\vec{y} \cdot \vec{u}_3 = -2(-1) + 3(-4) = -10$$

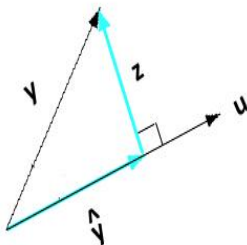
$$\vec{y} = \frac{-3}{11} \vec{u}_1 + \frac{8}{6} \vec{u}_2 - \frac{10}{66} \vec{u}_3$$

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 α such that

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

We need $\vec{y} = \hat{y} + \vec{z}$ with $\vec{z} \cdot \vec{u} = 0$

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{y} \cdot \vec{u} &= (\hat{y} + \vec{z}) \cdot \vec{u} = \hat{y} \cdot \vec{u} + \vec{z} \cdot \vec{u} \\ &= \hat{y} \cdot \vec{u} \quad \text{setting } \hat{y} = \alpha \vec{u}\end{aligned}$$

$$= (\alpha \vec{u}) \cdot \vec{u}$$

$$= \alpha (\vec{u} \cdot \vec{u})$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha = \frac{\vec{y} \cdot \vec{u}}{\|\vec{u}\|^2}$$

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

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

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} .

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \frac{\vec{\mathbf{y}} \cdot \vec{\mathbf{u}}}{\|\vec{\mathbf{u}}\|^2} \vec{\mathbf{u}} = \frac{7 \cdot 4 + 6 \cdot 2}{4^2 + 2^2} \vec{\mathbf{u}} = \frac{40}{20} \vec{\mathbf{u}} = 2\vec{\mathbf{u}} = \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

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

Example Continued...

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

The distance is $\|\vec{z}\|$.

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

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 $\left\{ \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \frac{3}{5} \\ \frac{4}{5} \end{bmatrix}}_{\vec{u}_1}, \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} -\frac{4}{5} \\ \frac{3}{5} \end{bmatrix}}_{\vec{u}_2} \right\}$ is an orthonormal basis for \mathbb{R}^2 .

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

$$\|\vec{u}_1\|^2 = \left(\frac{3}{5} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{4}{5} \right)^2 = \frac{9+16}{25} = \frac{25}{25} = 1$$

$$\|\vec{u}_2\|^2 = \left(-\frac{4}{5} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{3}{5} \right)^2 = \frac{16+9}{25} = 1$$

The set is orthonormal.

To see that $\{\tilde{u}_1, \tilde{u}_2\}$ is a basis for \mathbb{R}^2 ,

Note that $\det \begin{bmatrix} \frac{3}{5} & -\frac{4}{5} \\ \frac{4}{5} & \frac{3}{5} \end{bmatrix} = \left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^2 - \left(-\frac{4}{5}\right)\left(\frac{4}{5}\right) = 1$

The columns are lin. independent, hence they form a basis for \mathbb{R}^2 .

Hence the set is 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

$$U^T U = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{3}{5} & \frac{4}{5} \\ -\frac{4}{5} & \frac{3}{5} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{3}{5} & -\frac{4}{5} \\ \frac{4}{5} & \frac{3}{5} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

This shows that $U^T = U^{-1}$

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

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 it's 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)):

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

By definition of the dot product.

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

Since

$$(AB)^T = B^T A^T$$

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

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

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

Hence $\|U \vec{x}\| = \|\vec{x}\|$