

6.2. & 6.3 Orthogonal sets and orthogonal Projections

Def A set of vectors in \mathbb{R}^n , $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p\}$ is called an orthogonal set if

$$v_i \cdot v_j = 0 \text{ for all } i \neq j$$

$$\|v_i\| \neq 0 \text{ for all } i$$

Example $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1/2 \\ -2 \\ 7/2 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ is an orthogonal set in \mathbb{R}^3 .

Theorem 1 If $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p\}$ is an orthogonal set then $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p\}$ is linearly independent.

Proof Let c_1, c_2, \dots, c_p be numbers such that

$$c_1 v_1 + c_2 v_2 + \dots + c_p v_p = 0$$

Take the dot product of the above identity with v_1 :

$$c_1 (v_1 \cdot v_1) + c_2 (v_1 \cdot v_2) + \dots + c_p (v_1 \cdot v_p) = v_1 \cdot 0 = 0$$

But $v_1 \cdot v_2 = 0 = v_1 \cdot v_3 = \dots = v_1 \cdot v_p$ because the set $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p\}$ is orthogonal. We get

$$c_1 \|v_1\|^2 = 0 \Rightarrow c_1 = 0 \text{ since } \|v_1\| \neq 0.$$

Similarly we find that $c_1 = c_2 = \dots = c_p = 0$
So $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p\}$ is linearly indep.

Theorem 2 If $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p\}$ is an orthogonal set
and y is in span $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p\}$ then:

$$y = \frac{v_1 \cdot y}{v_1 \cdot v_1} v_1 + \frac{v_2 \cdot y}{v_2 \cdot v_2} v_2 + \dots + \frac{v_p \cdot y}{v_p \cdot v_p} v_p$$

Remark If $X = \text{span}\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p\}$ then $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p\}$
is a basis for X and the above theorem shows
how to write any element in X as a linear combination
of the vectors in the basis.

Example $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1/2 \\ -2 \\ 7/2 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ is an orthogonal set

and it spans \mathbb{R}^3 (why?). Using Theorem 2
we can write

$$y = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \text{ as.}$$

$$y = \frac{8}{11} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{6}{6} \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{6}{33/2} \begin{bmatrix} -1/2 \\ -2 \\ 7/2 \end{bmatrix}$$

because $[3, 1, 1]^T \cdot y = 8$, $\|[3, 1, 1]^T\|^2 = 11 \dots$

Proof of Theorem 2 y in span $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p\}$
 \Rightarrow there exists coefficients c_1, c_2, \dots, c_p such that

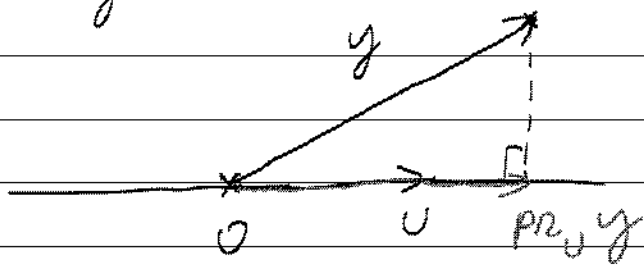
$$y = c_1 v_1 + c_2 v_2 + \dots + c_p v_p.$$

Take the dot product of the above with v_1 and use $v_1 \cdot v_2, v_1 \cdot v_3, \dots, v_1 \cdot v_p$ are all zero:

$$v_1 \cdot y = c_1 (v_1 \cdot v_1) \Rightarrow c_1 = \frac{v_1 \cdot y}{v_1 \cdot v_1}$$

Similarly $c_2 = \frac{v_2 \cdot y}{v_2 \cdot v_2}$, \dots , $c_p = \frac{v_p \cdot y}{v_p \cdot v_p}$.

Projection on a line Let y and v be vectors in \mathbb{R}^n . Consider the line span $\{v\}$. We are seeking the vector on the line that is closest to y :



Def $P_{\text{span}\{U\}} y$ is a vector in $\text{span}\{U\}$ such that

$$(y - P_{\text{span}\{U\}} y) \cdot U = 0$$

How to find $P_{\text{span}\{U\}} y$:

Let $z = y - P_{\text{span}\{U\}} y$ and $P_{\text{span}\{U\}} y = \alpha U$. Then

$$y = \alpha U + z \quad \text{and} \quad z \cdot U = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow U \cdot y = \alpha(U \cdot U) + \cancel{U \cdot z}^0 \Rightarrow \alpha = \frac{U \cdot y}{U \cdot U}$$

So

$$P_{\text{span}\{U\}} y = \frac{U \cdot y}{U \cdot U} U$$

Example $y = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad U = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$

$$P_{\text{span}\{U\}} y = \frac{8}{5} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Remark $P_{\text{span}\{U\}} y$ is the closest vector in $\text{span}\{U\}$ to y . Any other vector βU will have

$$\|y - \beta U\|^2 = \|y - P_{\text{span}\{U\}} y + P_{\text{span}\{U\}} y - \beta U\|^2$$

Pythagora
$$= \|y - P_{\text{span}\{U\}} y\|^2 + \|P_{\text{span}\{U\}} y - \beta U\|^2$$

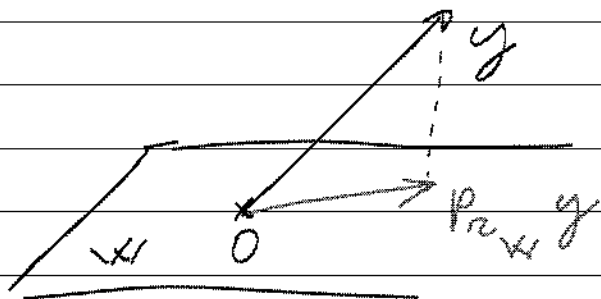
$$(y - P_{\text{span}\{U\}} y) \cdot (P_{\text{span}\{U\}} y - \beta U) = 0$$

Hence $\|y - \beta U\|^2 \geq \|y - P_{\text{span}\{U\}} y\|^2$ with equality iff $\beta U = P_{\text{span}\{U\}} y$

Remark Theorem 2 can be restated as $y \in \text{span}\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p\}$, $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p\}$ orthogonal set then

$$y = P_{v_1} y + P_{v_2} y + \dots + P_{v_p} y$$

Projection on a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n Let y be a vector in \mathbb{R}^n and W a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n . As before we are looking for the vector in W closest to y :



Def $P_{W} y$ is the vector in W such that

$y - P_{W} y$ is orthogonal to all vectors in W

How to find $P_{W} y$:

Let $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p\}$ be an orthogonal basis in W .

Then, for some weights c_1, c_2, \dots, c_p we have

$$P_{\mathcal{W}} y = c_1 u_1 + c_2 u_2 + \dots + c_p u_p$$

Denote $z = y - P_{\mathcal{W}} y$. We have

$$y = P_{\mathcal{W}} y + z = c_1 u_1 + c_2 u_2 + \dots + c_p u_p + z$$

and $z \cdot u_1 = 0 = z \cdot u_2 = \dots = z \cdot u_p$.

$$u_1 \cdot y = c_1 (u_1 \cdot u_1) + c_2 (u_1 \cdot u_2) + \dots + c_p (u_1 \cdot u_p) \neq u_1 \cdot z$$

$$\Rightarrow c_1 = \frac{u_1 \cdot y}{u_1 \cdot u_1}$$

$$\text{Similarly } c_2 = \frac{u_2 \cdot y}{u_2 \cdot u_2}, \dots, c_p = \frac{u_p \cdot y}{u_p \cdot u_p}$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} P_{\mathcal{W}} y &= \frac{u_1 \cdot y}{u_1 \cdot u_1} u_1 + \frac{u_2 \cdot y}{u_2 \cdot u_2} u_2 + \dots + \frac{u_p \cdot y}{u_p \cdot u_p} u_p \\ &= P_{u_1} y + P_{u_2} y + \dots + P_{u_p} y \end{aligned}$$

where $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_p\}$ is an orthogonal basis in \mathcal{W}

Example $W = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ $y = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$

Find $P_{W} y$!

$$P_{W} y = \frac{8}{11} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{6}{6} \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Because $\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}^T \cdot y = 8$, $\| \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}^T \|^2 = 11$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}^T \cdot y = 6 \quad \| \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}^T \|^2 = 6$$

Remark $P_{W} y$ is the closest vector in W to y because for any other vector U in W :

$$\| y - U \|^2 = \| y - P_{W} y + \underbrace{P_{W} y - U}_{\text{in } W} \|^2$$

Pythagora
 $= \| y - P_{W} y \|^2 + \| P_{W} y - U \|^2$

So $\| y - U \|^2 \geq \| y - P_{W} y \|^2$ with equality iff

$$U = P_{W} y !$$