

Recall:

- An orthogonal set of vectors $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k\}$ in \mathbb{R}^n is a set of vectors that are pairwise orthogonal.
- Fact: Orthogonal set \Rightarrow Linearly independent set
- An orthogonal basis is a basis for a subspace that is also an orthogonal set.

Example: Find an orthogonal basis for the subspace

$$x + 2y - z = 0$$

Solution: We just need to find two linearly independent vectors in that plane:

For instance $\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$

- Finding coordinates with respect to an orthogonal basis

Theorem: If $B = \{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$ is an orthogonal basis for a subspace H then the coordinates of a vector

v are:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{v \cdot v_1}{v_1 \cdot v_1} \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix}$$

v are:

$$[v]_B = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{v \cdot v_1}{v_1 \cdot v_1} \\ \frac{v \cdot v_2}{v_2 \cdot v_2} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{v \cdot v_k}{v_k \cdot v_k} \end{pmatrix}$$

↓
coordinates of
 v with respect
to B

Example: Consider the orthogonal basis for \mathbb{R}^3

$$B = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -4 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

\uparrow v_1 \uparrow v_2 \uparrow v_3

Find the coordinates of $v = \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 1 \\ -8 \end{pmatrix}$ with respect to B .

Solution:

Because this is an orthogonal basis,

we can find the coordinates as:

$$[v]_B = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{v \cdot v_1}{v_1 \cdot v_1} \\ \frac{v \cdot v_2}{v_2 \cdot v_2} \\ \frac{v \cdot v_3}{v_3 \cdot v_3} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{11}{11} \\ \frac{-12}{6} \\ \frac{-66}{66} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Proof of the theorem:

The coordinates of v with respect to B are the coefficients we need to use to write

$$v = a_1 v_1 + a_2 v_2 + a_3 v_3 + \dots + a_k v_k$$

Taking dot product with v_1 we get

$$v \cdot v_1 = a_1 v_1 \cdot v_1 + a_2 \cancel{v_2 \cdot v_1} + a_3 \cancel{v_3 \cdot v_1} + \dots + a_k \cancel{v_k \cdot v_1}$$

$$V_1 \cdot V = a_1 V_1 \cdot V_1 + a_2 \cancel{V_1 \cdot V_2} + a_3 \cancel{V_1 \cdot V_3} + \dots + a_k \cancel{V_1 \cdot V_k}$$

$$\frac{V_1 \cdot V}{V_1 \cdot V_1} = a_1$$

A similar argument, taking dot product with other V_i s, we get

$$\frac{V_2 \cdot V}{V_2 \cdot V_2} = a_2 \quad \dots \quad \frac{V_k \cdot V}{V_k \cdot V_k} = a_k \quad \square$$

Orthonormal sets:

Definition: An orthonormal set is an orthogonal set of vectors all of length equal to 1.

Example: We can turn the orthogonal set in the previous example into an orthonormal set by dividing the vectors by their

length:

$$\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 3/\sqrt{11} \\ 1/\sqrt{11} \\ 1/\sqrt{11} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -1/\sqrt{6} \\ 2/\sqrt{6} \\ 1/\sqrt{6} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -1/\sqrt{66} \\ -4/\sqrt{66} \\ 7/\sqrt{66} \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

Remark: If B is an orthonormal basis, the formula above for the coordinates of a vector becomes even simpler:

$$r_i = \begin{pmatrix} v \cdot v_1 \\ v \cdot v_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$[v]_B = \begin{pmatrix} v \cdot v_1 \\ v \cdot v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v \cdot v_k \end{pmatrix}$$

Orthogonal projections:

Proposition: Suppose H is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n .

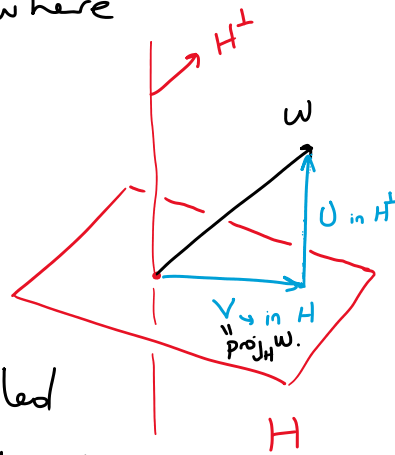
Any vector w in \mathbb{R}^n can be decomposed

as

$$w = v + u \quad \text{where}$$

v is in H

and u is in H^\perp



The vector v is called
the projection of w onto H

denoted by $\text{proj}_H w$.

If $B = \{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$ is an orthogonal
basis for H then

$$\text{proj}_H w = \frac{w \cdot v_1}{v_1 \cdot v_1} v_1 + \frac{w \cdot v_2}{v_2 \cdot v_2} v_2 + \dots + \frac{w \cdot v_k}{v_k \cdot v_k} v_k$$

Example: Find the projection of

$$w = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

onto the plane $x + 2y - z = 0$.

$$W = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \text{ on } \mathbb{R}^2$$

Solution: We computed above an orthogonal

basis for the plane
 $B = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$

The projection of W onto the plane is

$$\text{Proj}_H W = \frac{W \cdot v_1}{v_1 \cdot v_1} v_1 + \frac{W \cdot v_2}{v_2 \cdot v_2} v_2$$

$$= \frac{3}{2} v_1 + \frac{5}{3} v_2$$

$$= \frac{3}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{5}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 19/6 \\ -5/3 \\ -1/6 \end{pmatrix}$$

Proof of the proposition:

Suppose w is in \mathbb{R}^n and $B = \{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$ is an orthogonal basis for H .

$$\text{Let } v = \frac{w \cdot v_1}{v_1 \cdot v_1} v_1 + \dots + \frac{w \cdot v_k}{v_k \cdot v_k} v_k$$

This vector v is in H , because it is a combination of the v.s.

We need to check that $w - v$ is in H^\perp .

To check this, we need to check

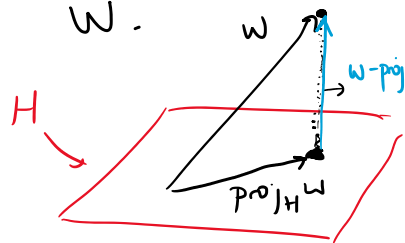
To check this, we need to check that $w-v$ is orthogonal to all the v_i

$$\begin{aligned}
 (W-v) \cdot v_1 &= W \cdot v_1 - v \cdot v_1 \\
 &= W \cdot v_1 - \left(\frac{W \cdot v_1}{v_1 \cdot v_1} v_1 + \dots + \frac{W \cdot v_k}{v_k \cdot v_k} v_k \right) \cdot v_1 \\
 &= W \cdot v_1 - \frac{W \cdot v_1}{v_1 \cdot v_1} \cancel{v_1 \cdot v_1} - \frac{W \cdot v_2}{v_2 \cdot v_2} \cancel{v_2 \cdot v_1} - \dots - \frac{W \cdot v_k}{v_k \cdot v_k} \cancel{v_k \cdot v_1} \\
 &= W \cdot v_1 - W \cdot v_1 \\
 &= 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

This shows that $w-v$ is orthogonal to all the v_i , so it is in H^\perp . □

Proposition: The projection $\text{proj}_H w$ is the vector in H that is closest to the vector w .

In other words,



$$\text{dist}(w, \text{proj}_H w) \leq \text{dist}(w, v)$$

for any $v \in H$.

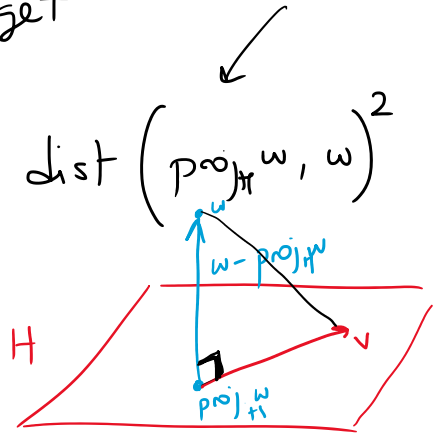
Proof: $w - \text{proj}_H w$ is orthogonal to any

vector v in H .

Using the Pythagorean Theorem, we get

$$\text{dist}(v, w)^2 = \text{dist}(v, \text{proj}_H w)^2 + \text{dist}(\text{proj}_H w, w)^2$$

for any v in H



So

$$\text{dist}(v, w)^2 \geq \text{dist}(\text{proj}_H w, w)^2$$

$$\text{so } \text{dist}(v, w) \geq \text{dist}(\text{proj}_H w, w) \quad \blacksquare$$