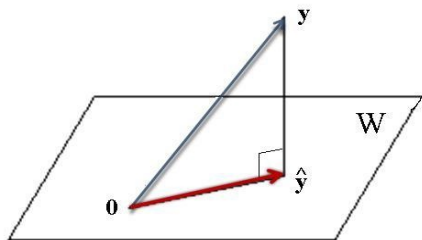


## Section 6.3: Orthogonal Projections



**Figure:** Given a subspace  $W$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and a vector  $\mathbf{y}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , we can express  $\mathbf{y}$  uniquely as a sum  $\text{proj}_W \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{z}$  where  $\text{proj}_W \mathbf{y}$  is in  $W$  and  $\mathbf{z}$  is in  $W^\perp$ . Note that  $\text{proj}_W \mathbf{y}$  is the point in  $W$  *closest* to  $\mathbf{y}$  and  $\|\mathbf{z}\|$  is the *distance* between  $\mathbf{y}$  and  $W$ .

## 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:** The formula for  $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$  is the sum of the projections of  $\mathbf{y}$  onto each line  $\text{Span}\{\mathbf{u}_j\}$ .

$$\text{proj}_W \mathbf{y} = \text{proj}_{\mathbf{u}_1} \mathbf{y} + \text{proj}_{\mathbf{u}_2} \mathbf{y} + \cdots + \text{proj}_{\mathbf{u}_p} \mathbf{y}.$$

## Example

Let  $\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 8 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\mathbf{u}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\mathbf{u}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $W = \text{Span}\{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2\}$ .

We verified that  $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2\}$  is orthogonal basis for  $W$ , and we found that

$$\text{proj}_W \mathbf{y} = \left( \frac{\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}_1}{\mathbf{u}_1 \cdot \mathbf{u}_1} \right) \mathbf{u}_1 + \left( \frac{\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}_2}{\mathbf{u}_2 \cdot \mathbf{u}_2} \right) \mathbf{u}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The orthogonal part was

$$\mathbf{y} - \text{proj}_W \mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 8 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The distance between  $\mathbf{y}$  and  $W$  was found to be

$$\text{dist}(W, \mathbf{y}) = \|\mathbf{y} - \text{proj}_W \mathbf{y}\| = \sqrt{2^2 + 4^2 + (-4)^2} = 6.$$

# 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

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

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

Let  $\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $W = \text{Span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2\}$ . Find an

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

$$\text{Set } \vec{u}_1 = \frac{1}{\|\vec{v}_1\|} \vec{v}_1 \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{u}_2 = \frac{1}{\|\vec{v}_2\|} \vec{v}_2$$

$$\|\vec{v}_1\|^2 = 2^2 + 1^2 + 2^2 = 9 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \|\vec{v}_1\| = \|\vec{v}_2\| = 3$$

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

$$\vec{u}_1 = \frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2/3 \\ 1/3 \\ 2/3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \vec{u}_2 = \frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2/3 \\ 2/3 \\ 1/3 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

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

$2 \times 3$     $3 \times 2$   
 $\underbrace{\hspace{2em}}$   
 $2 \times 2$

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

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

$3 \times 2$     $2 \times 3$   
 $\underbrace{\hspace{2em}}$   
 $3 \times 3$

Note :  $(uu^T)^T = (u^T)^T u^T = uu^T$

Such matrices are called  
symmetric.

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

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

$$\text{proj}_W \vec{y} = U U^T \vec{y}$$

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

$$= \frac{1}{9} \begin{bmatrix} 8(4) - 2(8) + 2(1) \\ -2(4) + 5(8) + 4(1) \\ 2(4) + 4(8) + 5(1) \end{bmatrix}$$



$$= \frac{1}{9} \begin{bmatrix} 18 \\ 36 \\ 45 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

same as  
before:

## Section 6.4: Gram-Schmidt Orthogonalization

### Big Question:

Given any-old basis for a subspace  $W$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , can we construct an orthogonal basis for that same space?

**Example:** Let  $W = \text{Span}\{\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2\} = \text{Span}\left\{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}\right\}$ . Find an orthogonal basis  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2\}$  that spans  $W$ .

Since  $\vec{v}_1$  and  $\vec{v}_2$  are in  $W$ , we can write them in terms of the basis.

$$\vec{v}_1 = a_1 \vec{x}_1 + a_2 \vec{x}_2$$

$$\vec{v}_2 = b_1 \vec{x}_1 + b_2 \vec{x}_2$$

Let's set  $a_1 = 1$  and  $a_2 = 0$

Let's set  $b_2 = 1$ .

So far,  $\vec{v}_1 = \vec{x}_1$  and  $\vec{v}_2 = b_1 \vec{x}_1 + \vec{x}_2$

Now, we need  $\vec{v}_1 \cdot \vec{v}_2 = 0$

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{v}_1 \cdot \vec{v}_2 &= \vec{x}_1 \cdot (b_1 \vec{x}_1 + \vec{x}_2) = 0 \\ &= b_1 \vec{x}_1 \cdot \vec{x}_1 + \vec{x}_1 \cdot \vec{x}_2 = 0\end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow b_1 \vec{x}_1 \cdot \vec{x}_1 = -\vec{x}_1 \cdot \vec{x}_2$$

$$\Rightarrow b_1 = \frac{-\vec{x}_1 \cdot \vec{x}_2}{\vec{x}_1 \cdot \vec{x}_1} = \frac{-\vec{v}_1 \cdot \vec{x}_2}{\vec{v}_1 \cdot \vec{v}_1}$$

$$\vec{v}_1 = \vec{x}_1$$

$$\vec{v}_2 = \vec{x}_2 - \frac{\vec{v}_1 \cdot \vec{x}_2}{\vec{v}_1 \cdot \vec{v}_1} \vec{v}_1$$

←  $\text{proj}_{\vec{v}_1} \vec{x}_2$

$$\vec{x}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \vec{x}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\vec{v}_1 \cdot \vec{x}_2 = -2$$

$$\vec{v}_1 \cdot \vec{v}_1 = 3$$

$$\vec{v}_1 = \vec{x}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \vec{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} - \frac{-2}{3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2/3 \\ -1/3 \\ -1/3 \end{bmatrix}$$

The new, orthogonal basis is

$$\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2/3 \\ -1/3 \\ -1/3 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

## Theorem: Gram Schmidt Process

Let  $\{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_p\}$  be any basis for the nonzero subspace  $W$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Define the set of vectors  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$  via

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \mathbf{x}_1$$

$$\mathbf{v}_2 = \mathbf{x}_2 - \left( \frac{\mathbf{x}_2 \cdot \mathbf{v}_1}{\mathbf{v}_1 \cdot \mathbf{v}_1} \right) \mathbf{v}_1$$

$$\mathbf{v}_3 = \mathbf{x}_3 - \left( \frac{\mathbf{x}_3 \cdot \mathbf{v}_1}{\mathbf{v}_1 \cdot \mathbf{v}_1} \right) \mathbf{v}_1 - \left( \frac{\mathbf{x}_3 \cdot \mathbf{v}_2}{\mathbf{v}_2 \cdot \mathbf{v}_2} \right) \mathbf{v}_2$$

$\vdots$

$$\mathbf{v}_p = \mathbf{x}_p - \sum_{j=1}^{p-1} \left( \frac{\mathbf{x}_p \cdot \mathbf{v}_j}{\mathbf{v}_j \cdot \mathbf{v}_j} \right) \mathbf{v}_j.$$

$\text{Span}\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2\} =$   
 $\text{Span}\{\vec{x}_1, \vec{x}_2\}$   
 $\text{Span}\{\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \vec{v}_3\}$   
 $= \text{Span}\{\vec{x}_1, \vec{x}_2, \vec{x}_3\}$

Then  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$  is an orthogonal basis for  $W$ . Moreover, for each  $k = 1, \dots, p$

$$\text{Span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k\} = \text{Span}\{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_k\}.$$