

# 12.765

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## Question:

Let  $\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$  be two vectors. The value of the coefficient  $\alpha$  in the expression  $\mathbf{v}_1 = \alpha \mathbf{v}_2 + \mathbf{e}$ , which minimizes the length of the error vector  $\mathbf{e}$ , is

## Solution:

Given expression

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \alpha \mathbf{v}_2 + \mathbf{e} \quad (1)$$

where  $\mathbf{e}$  is the error vector

For any linear system  $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{B}$ , the least squares solution formula is given by

$$(\mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{A}) \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{B} \quad (2)$$

$$\mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{A})^{-1} \mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{B} \quad (3)$$

On writing the given expression as a linear system

$$\mathbf{v}_2 \alpha = \mathbf{v}_1 \quad (4)$$

where  $\alpha$  being an  $1 \times 1$  vector

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{v}_1 \quad (5)$$

$$\alpha = (\mathbf{v}_2^\top \mathbf{v}_2)^{-1} \mathbf{v}_2^\top \mathbf{v}_1 \quad (6)$$

$$= \left( \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}^\top \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \right)^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}^\top \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (7)$$

$$= \left( \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \right)^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (8)$$

$$= (4 + 1 + 9)^{-1} (2 + 2 + 0) \quad (9)$$

$$= \frac{1}{14} (4) \quad (10)$$

$$= \frac{2}{7} \quad (11)$$

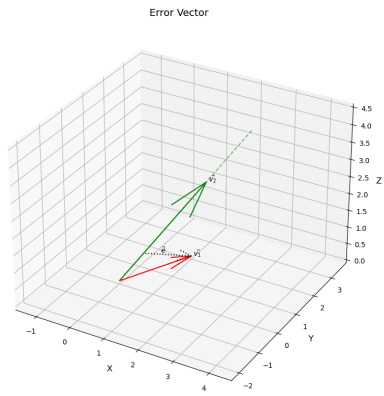


Fig. 0.1