$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & a_{m3} & \dots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix}_{m \times n}}_{A} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}_{n \times 1}}_{x} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_m \end{bmatrix}_{m \times 1}}_{b}$$

CX1104: **Linear Algebra for Computing**

Chap. No : **6.2.3**

Lecture : **Orthogonality**

Topic : **Orthogonality**

Concept : **Orthogonal Sets & Orthogonal Basis**

Instructor: **A/P Chng Eng Siong**

TAs: **Zhang Su**, **Vishal Choudhari**

Orthogonal Sets

A set of vectors $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{u}_p\}$ in $\mathbb{R}^n$ is said to be an **orthogonal set** if each pair of distinct vectors from the set is orthogonal, that is, if $\mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_j = 0$ whenever $i \neq j$.

EXAMPLE 1 Show that $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{u}_3\}$ is an orthogonal set, where

$$\mathbf{u}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{u}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{u}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} -1/2 \\ -2 \\ 7/2 \end{bmatrix}$$

SOLUTION Consider the three possible pairs of distinct vectors, namely, $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2\}$, $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_3\}$, and $\{\mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{u}_3\}$.

$$\mathbf{u}_1 \cdot \mathbf{u}_2 = 3(-1) + 1(2) + 1(1) = 0$$
$$\mathbf{u}_1 \cdot \mathbf{u}_3 = 3\left(-\tfrac{1}{2}\right) + 1(-2) + 1\left(\tfrac{7}{2}\right) = 0$$
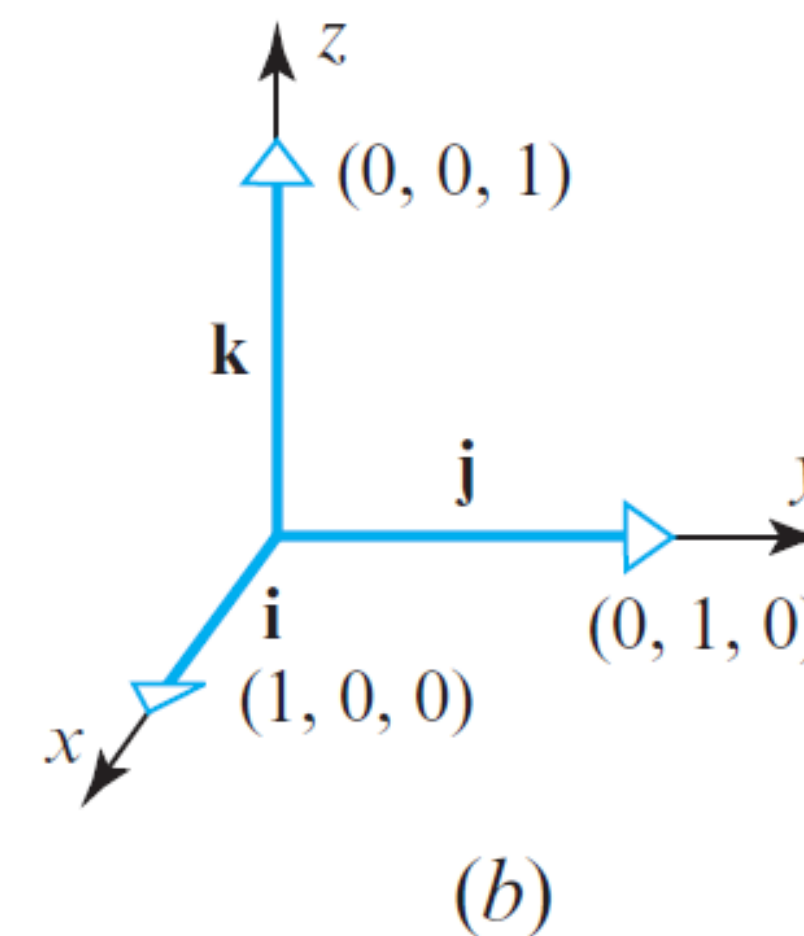$$\mathbf{u}_2 \cdot \mathbf{u}_3 = -1\left(-\tfrac{1}{2}\right) + 2(-2) + 1\left(\tfrac{7}{2}\right) = 0$$

Each pair of distinct vectors is orthogonal, and so $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{u}_3\}$ is an orthogonal set. See Fig. 1; the three line segments there are mutually perpendicular. ■

Standard basis for $\mathbb{R}^n$ is an orthogonal set

Standard Basis

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

(b)

▲ Figure 3.2.2

Orthogonal Sets and Orthogonal Basis

THEOREM 4 $Note: p \leq n$

If $S = \{\mathbf{u}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{u}_p\}$ is an orthogonal set of nonzero vectors in $\mathbb{R}^n$, then S is linearly independent and hence is a basis for the subspace spanned by S.

PROOF If $\mathbf{0} = c_1\mathbf{u}_1 + \cdots + c_p\mathbf{u}_p$ for some scalars $c_1, \ldots, c_p$, then

$$0 = \mathbf{0} \cdot \mathbf{u}_1 = (c_1\mathbf{u}_1 + c_2\mathbf{u}_2 + \cdots + c_p\mathbf{u}_p) \cdot \mathbf{u}_1$$
$$= (c_1\mathbf{u}_1) \cdot \mathbf{u}_1 + (c_2\mathbf{u}_2) \cdot \mathbf{u}_1 + \cdots + (c_p\mathbf{u}_p) \cdot \mathbf{u}_1$$
$$= c_1(\mathbf{u}_1 \cdot \mathbf{u}_1) + c_2(\mathbf{u}_2 \cdot \mathbf{u}_1) + \cdots + c_p(\mathbf{u}_p \cdot \mathbf{u}_1)$$
$$= c_1(\mathbf{u}_1 \cdot \mathbf{u}_1)$$

because $\mathbf{u}_1$ is orthogonal to $\mathbf{u}_2, \ldots, \mathbf{u}_p$. Since $\mathbf{u}_1$ is nonzero, $\mathbf{u}_1 \cdot \mathbf{u}_1$ is not zero and so $c_1 = 0$. Similarly, $c_2, \ldots, c_p$ must be zero. Thus S is linearly independent. ∎

DEFINITION   An **orthogonal basis** for a subspace W of $\mathbb{R}^n$ is a basis for W that is also an orthogonal set.

Examples of orthogonal set of vectors in R^3

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 & -1/2 \\ 1 & 2 & -2 \\ 1 & 1 & 7/2 \end{bmatrix}$$

```
y = -8/6;
S = [ 1  0 ;
      2  4 ;
      6  y ];
S
checkOrthognality = S'*S
```

$$\mathbf{u}_1 \mathbf{u}_2$$

```
S =

   1.0000        0
   2.0000   4.0000
   6.0000  -1.3333
```

```
checkOrthognality =

  41.0000   0.0000
   0.0000  17.7778
```

$$S = \begin{bmatrix} \uparrow & \uparrow \\ u_1 & u_2 \\ \downarrow & \downarrow \end{bmatrix}_{3\times 2} \quad S^T = \begin{bmatrix} \leftarrow & u_1^T & \rightarrow \\ \leftarrow & u_2^T & \rightarrow \end{bmatrix}_{2\times 3} \quad S^T \times S = \begin{bmatrix} ||u_1||^2 & u_1^T u_2 \\ u_2^T u_1 & ||u_2||^2 \end{bmatrix}_{2\times 2}$$

Dot product between vectors u_1 and u_2

3

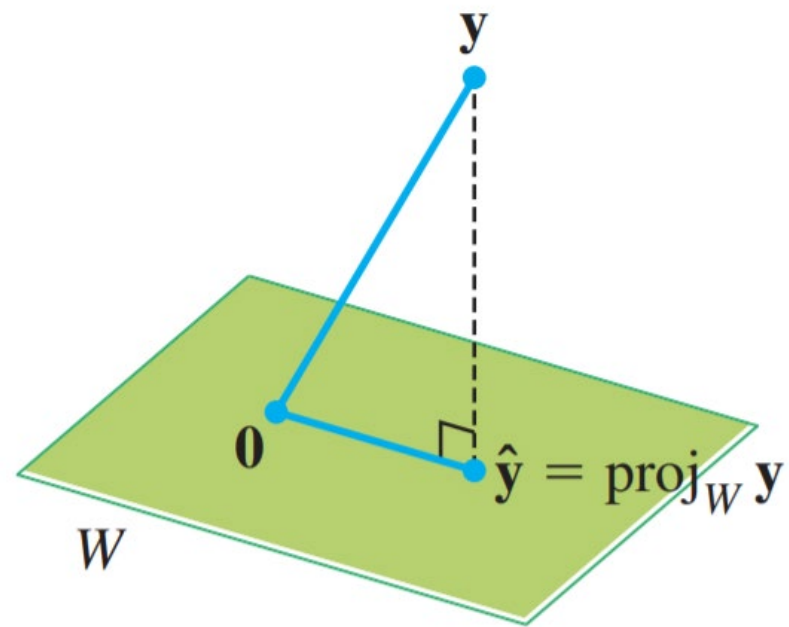# Projecting a vector onto a subspace (span by an orthogonal basis)

FIGURE 1

Given a vector $\mathbf{y}$ and a subspace W in $\mathbb{R}^n$, there is a vector $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ in W such that (1) $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ is the unique vector in W for which $\mathbf{y} - \hat{\mathbf{y}}$ is orthogonal to W, and (2) $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ is the unique vector in W closest to $\mathbf{y}$. See Figure 1. These two properties of $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ provide the key to finding least-squares solutions of linear systems, mentioned in the introductory example for this chapter.

To prepare for the first theorem, observe that whenever a vector $\mathbf{y}$ is written as a linear combination of vectors $\mathbf{u}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{u}_n$ in $\mathbb{R}^n$, the terms in the sum for $\mathbf{y}$ can be grouped into two parts so that $\mathbf{y}$ can be written as

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{z}_1 + \mathbf{z}_2$$

where $\mathbf{z}_1$ is a linear combination of some of the $\mathbf{u}_i$ and $\mathbf{z}_2$ is a linear combination of the rest of the $\mathbf{u}_i$. This idea is particularly useful when $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{u}_n\}$ is an orthogonal basis.

EXAMPLE 1 Let $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{u}_5\}$ be an orthogonal basis for $\mathbb{R}^5$ and let

$$\mathbf{y} = c_1 \mathbf{u}_1 + \cdots + c_5 \mathbf{u}_5$$

Consider the subspace $W = \text{Span}\{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2\}$, and write $\mathbf{y}$ as the sum of a vector $\mathbf{z}_1$ in W and a vector $\mathbf{z}_2$ in $W^\perp$.

SOLUTION Write

$$\mathbf{y} = \underbrace{c_1 \mathbf{u}_1 + c_2 \mathbf{u}_2}_{\mathbf{z}_1} + \underbrace{c_3 \mathbf{u}_3 + c_4 \mathbf{u}_4 + c_5 \mathbf{u}_5}_{\mathbf{z}_2}$$

where

$$\mathbf{z}_1 = c_1 \mathbf{u}_1 + c_2 \mathbf{u}_2 \quad \text{is in Span}\{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2\}$$

and

$$\mathbf{z}_2 = c_3 \mathbf{u}_3 + c_4 \mathbf{u}_4 + c_5 \mathbf{u}_5 \quad \text{is in Span}\{\mathbf{u}_3, \mathbf{u}_4, \mathbf{u}_5\}.$$

To show that $\mathbf{z}_2$ is in $W^\perp$, it suffices to show that $\mathbf{z}_2$ is orthogonal to the vectors in the basis $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2\}$ for W. (See Section 6.1.) Using properties of the inner product, compute

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{z}_2 \cdot \mathbf{u}_1 &= (c_3 \mathbf{u}_3 + c_4 \mathbf{u}_4 + c_5 \mathbf{u}_5) \cdot \mathbf{u}_1 \\
&= c_3 \mathbf{u}_3 \cdot \mathbf{u}_1 + c_4 \mathbf{u}_4 \cdot \mathbf{u}_1 + c_5 \mathbf{u}_5 \cdot \mathbf{u}_1 \\
&= 0
\end{aligned}
$$

because $\mathbf{u}_1$ is orthogonal to $\mathbf{u}_3, \mathbf{u}_4$, and $\mathbf{u}_5$. A similar calculation shows that $\mathbf{z}_2 \cdot \mathbf{u}_2 = 0$. Thus $\mathbf{z}_2$ is in $W^\perp$. ∎

Orthogonal Sets and Orthogonal Basis

The next theorem suggests why an orthogonal basis is much nicer than other bases. The weights in a linear combination can be computed easily.

THEOREM 5

Let $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{u}_p\}$ be an orthogonal basis for a subspace W of $\mathbb{R}^n$. For each $\mathbf{y}$ in W, the weights in the linear combination

$$\mathbf{y} = c_1\mathbf{u}_1 + \cdots + c_p\mathbf{u}_p$$

are given by

$$c_j = \frac{\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}_j}{\mathbf{u}_j \cdot \mathbf{u}_j} \qquad (j = 1, \ldots, p)$$

PROOF As in the preceding proof, the orthogonality of $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{u}_p\}$ shows that

$$\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}_1 = (c_1\mathbf{u}_1 + c_2\mathbf{u}_2 + \cdots + c_p\mathbf{u}_p) \cdot \mathbf{u}_1 = c_1(\mathbf{u}_1 \cdot \mathbf{u}_1)$$

Since $\mathbf{u}_1 \cdot \mathbf{u}_1$ is not zero, the equation above can be solved for c_1. To find c_j for $j = 2, \ldots, p$, compute $\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}_j$ and solve for c_j. ∎

THEOREM 8

The Orthogonal Decomposition Theorem

Let W be a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^n$. Then each $\mathbf{y}$ in $\mathbb{R}^n$ can be written uniquely in the form

$$\mathbf{y} = \hat{\mathbf{y}} + \mathbf{z} \tag{1}$$

where $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ is in W and $\mathbf{z}$ is in $W^{\perp}$. In fact, if $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{u}_p\}$ is any orthogonal basis of W, then

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \frac{\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}_1}{\mathbf{u}_1 \cdot \mathbf{u}_1}\mathbf{u}_1 + \cdots + \frac{\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}_p}{\mathbf{u}_p \cdot \mathbf{u}_p}\mathbf{u}_p \tag{2}$$

and $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{y} - \hat{\mathbf{y}}$.

The vector $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ in (1) is called the **orthogonal projection of y onto** W and often is written as $\text{proj}_W \mathbf{y}$. See Figure 2. When W is a one-dimensional subspace, the formula for $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ matches the formula given in Section 6.2.
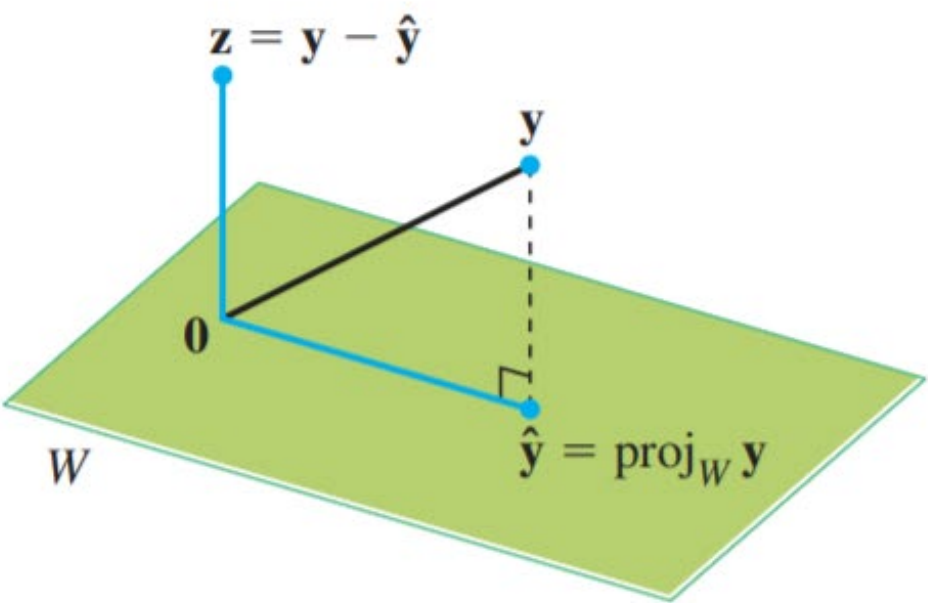

FIGURE 2 The orthogonal projection of $\mathbf{y}$ onto W.

Proof later: ch 6.2.5

Example

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

Decompose $y = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 1 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix}$ using the standard basis.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 1 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix} = 6 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + 1 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + (8) \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

EXAMPLE 1 Show that $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{u}_3\}$ is an orthogonal set, where

$$\mathbf{u}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{u}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{u}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} -1/2 \\ -2 \\ 7/2 \end{bmatrix}$$
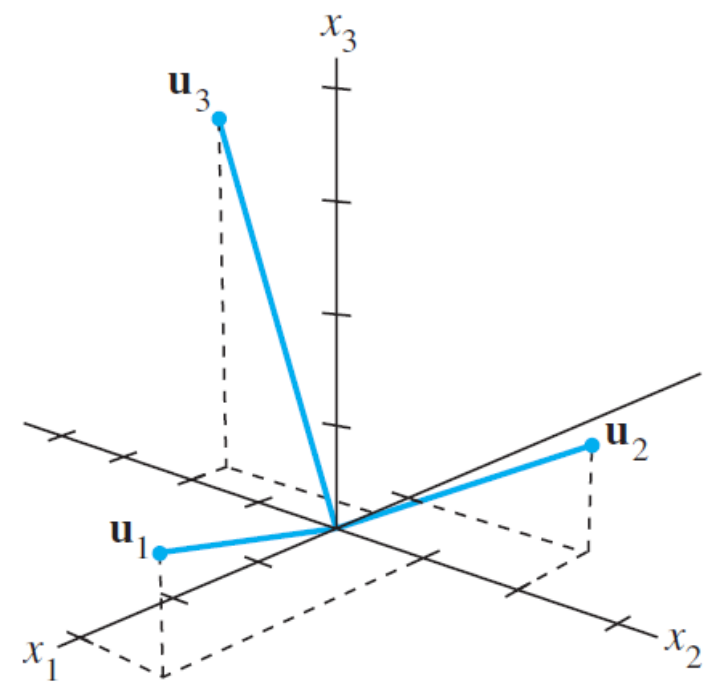
SOLUTION Consider the three possible pairs of distinct vectors, namely, $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2\}$, $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_3\}$, and $\{\mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{u}_3\}$.

$$\mathbf{u}_1 \cdot \mathbf{u}_2 = 3(-1) + 1(2) + 1(1) = 0$$
$$\mathbf{u}_1 \cdot \mathbf{u}_3 = 3\left(-\tfrac{1}{2}\right) + 1(-2) + 1\left(\tfrac{7}{2}\right) = 0$$
$$\mathbf{u}_2 \cdot \mathbf{u}_3 = -1\left(-\tfrac{1}{2}\right) + 2(-2) + 1\left(\tfrac{7}{2}\right) = 0$$

FIGURE 1

Each pair of distinct vectors is orthogonal, and so $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{u}_3\}$ is an orthogonal set. See Figure 1; the three line segments there are mutually perpendicular. ∎

EXAMPLE 2 The set $S = \{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{u}_3\}$ in Example 1 is an orthogonal basis for $\mathbb{R}^3$.

Express the vector $\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 1 \\ -8 \end{bmatrix}$ as a linear combination of the vectors in S.

SOLUTION Compute

$$\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}_1 = 11, \qquad \mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}_2 = -12, \qquad \mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}_3 = -33$$
$$\mathbf{u}_1 \cdot \mathbf{u}_1 = 11, \qquad \mathbf{u}_2 \cdot \mathbf{u}_2 = 6, \qquad \mathbf{u}_3 \cdot \mathbf{u}_3 = 33/2$$

By Theorem 5,

$$\mathbf{y} = \frac{\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}_1}{\mathbf{u}_1 \cdot \mathbf{u}_1} \mathbf{u}_1 + \frac{\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}_2}{\mathbf{u}_2 \cdot \mathbf{u}_2} \mathbf{u}_2 + \frac{\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}_3}{\mathbf{u}_3 \cdot \mathbf{u}_3} \mathbf{u}_3$$

$$= \frac{11}{11} \mathbf{u}_1 + \frac{-12}{6} \mathbf{u}_2 + \frac{-33}{33/2} \mathbf{u}_3$$

$$= \mathbf{u}_1 - 2\mathbf{u}_2 - 2\mathbf{u}_3$$ ∎

Notice how easy it is to compute the weights needed to build $\mathbf{y}$ from an orthogonal basis. If the basis were not orthogonal, it would be necessary to solve a system of linear equations in order to find the weights, as in Chapter 1.