

E.g. 7.3.13. Let \mathbb{R}^2 have the Euclidean inner product. Use the Gram-Schmidt algorithm to construct an orthonormal basis from $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2\}$ where $\mathbf{u}_1 = (1, -3)$ and $\mathbf{u}_2 = (2, 2)$.

- $\underline{v}_1 = \underline{u}_1$

- $\underline{u}_2 - \text{proj}_{W_1} \underline{u}_2$ where $W_1 = \text{span}\{\underline{v}_1\}$

$$= \underline{u}_2 - \frac{\langle \underline{u}_2, \underline{v}_1 \rangle}{\langle \underline{v}_1, \underline{v}_1 \rangle} \underline{v}_1$$

$$= (2, 2) - \frac{(2, 2) \cdot (1, -3)}{(1, -3) \cdot (1, -3)} (1, -3) = \frac{4}{5} (3, 1)$$

so choose:

$$\underline{v}_2 = (3, 1)$$

• Now normalise :

$$\underline{w}_1 = \frac{\underline{v}_1}{\|\underline{v}_1\|} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{10}} (1, -3)$$

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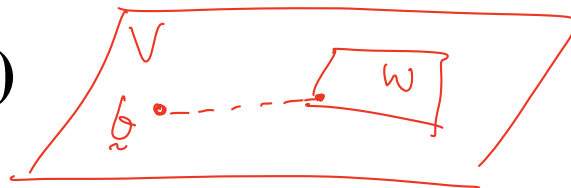
Theorem 7.3.14. *If V is a finite-dimensional inner product space, and W is a nonzero subspace of V , then $V = W \oplus W^\perp$.*

Proof. Since V is finite dimensional, so is W .
Since W is also nonzero, Th^m 7.3.12 \Rightarrow
 W has an orthonormal basis. Th^m 7.3.8 \Rightarrow every
 $u \in V$ can be written as $u = w + w_\perp$ where
 $w \in W$ & $w_\perp \in W^\perp$ & so $V = W + W^\perp$
Since $W^\perp \perp W$ by defⁿ, Th^m 7.2.9 $\Rightarrow W^\perp \cap W = \{0\}$
and so the sum $W + W^\perp$ is direct.

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7.4 Least Squares (A&R §6.4)



We start with a geometric problem: Suppose W is a subspace of an inner product space V , and $\mathbf{b} \in V$. How do we find the vector in W which is closest to \mathbf{b} ?

Theorem 7.4.1 (Closest Point). *If W is a finite dimensional subspace of an inner product space V and $\mathbf{b} \in V$, then the point in W closest to \mathbf{b} is $\text{proj}_W \mathbf{b}$, in the sense that*

$$d(\mathbf{b}, \text{proj}_W \mathbf{b}) < d(\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{w})$$

for every vector $\mathbf{w} \in W$ different from $\text{proj}_W \mathbf{b}$.

Proof. For any $\underline{w} \in W$

$$\underline{b} - \underline{w} = (\underline{b} - \text{proj}_W \underline{b}) + (\text{proj}_W \underline{b} - \underline{w})$$

with $\text{proj}_W \underline{b} - \underline{w} \in W$ & $\underline{b} - \text{proj}_W \underline{b} \in W^\perp$

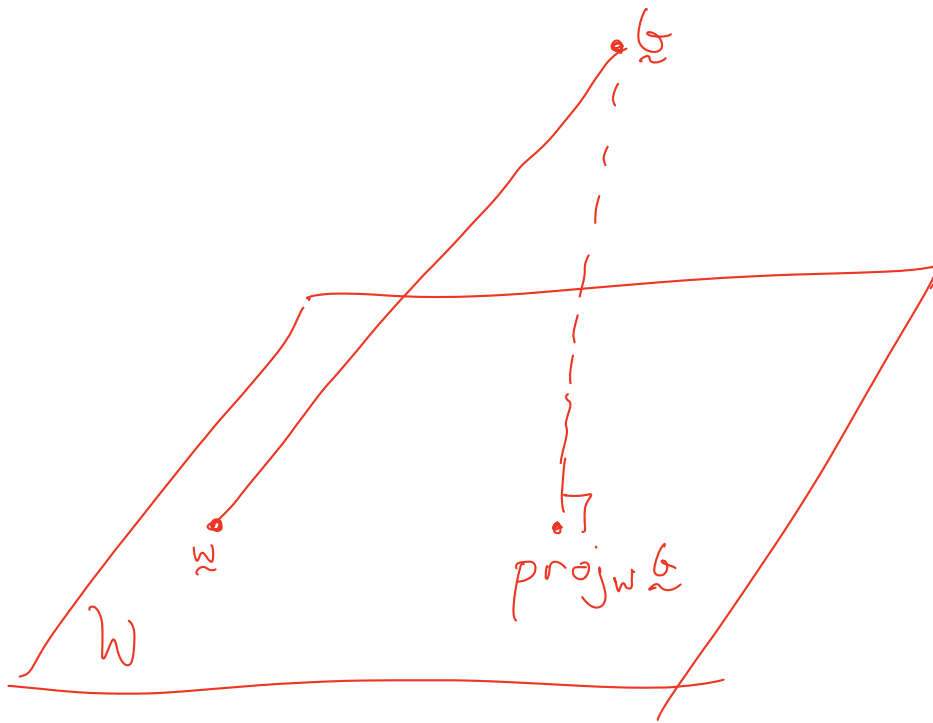
So Pythagoras $\Rightarrow \|\underline{b} - \underline{w}\|^2 = \|\underline{b} - \text{proj}_W \underline{b}\|^2 + \|\text{proj}_W \underline{b} - \underline{w}\|^2$

If $\underline{w} \neq \text{proj}_W \underline{b}$ then $\|\text{proj}_W \underline{b} - \underline{w}\|^2 > 0$ by positive definiteness \Rightarrow

$$\|\underline{b} - \underline{w}\|^2 > \|\underline{b} - \text{proj}_W \underline{b}\|^2 \Rightarrow$$

$$\|\underline{b} - \underline{w}\| > \|\underline{b} - \text{proj}_W \underline{b}\|$$

$$d(\underline{b}, \underline{w}) > d(\underline{b}, \text{proj}_W \underline{b}) \quad \square$$



In addition to being of geometric interest, Theorem 7.4.1 has a practical application to the least-squares problem.

Problem 7.4.2. Given a linear system $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ of m equations in n unknowns, find a vector \mathbf{x} that minimizes $\|\mathbf{b} - A\mathbf{x}\|$ with respect to the Euclidean inner product on \mathbb{R}^m . We call such an \mathbf{x} a **least squares solution** of the system, we call $\mathbf{b} - A\mathbf{x}$ the **least squares error vector** and $\|\mathbf{b} - A\mathbf{x}\|$ the **least squares error**.

Remark 7.4.3. The term “least squares solution” arises because the error vector $\mathbf{b} - A\mathbf{x} = (e_1, e_2, \dots, e_m)$, has squared length $\|\mathbf{b} - A\mathbf{x}\|^2 = e_1^2 + e_2^2 + \dots + e_m^2$. Since minimizing $\|\mathbf{b} - A\mathbf{x}\|$ is equivalent to minimizing $\|\mathbf{b} - A\mathbf{x}\|^2$, the least squares solution, as defined above, minimizes the “sum of the squares of the errors”.

Theorem 7.4.4. Let $W = \text{col}(A)$. Then \mathbf{x} is a least squares solution of $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ iff $A\mathbf{x} = \text{proj}_W \mathbf{b}$.

Proof. By defⁿ, $\underline{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is a least squares solⁿ of $A\underline{x} = \underline{b}$ iff \underline{x} minimizes $d(\underline{b}, A\underline{x})$. For any $\underline{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $A\underline{x} \in \text{col}(A)$. Th^m 7.4.1 \Rightarrow $\text{proj}_W \underline{b}$ is the closest pt in W to \underline{b} . So $d(\underline{b}, A\underline{x})$ is minimized iff \underline{x} satisfies $A\underline{x} = \text{proj}_W \underline{b}$.

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Theorem 7.4.5. A vector \mathbf{x} is a least squares solution to $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ iff it is a solution of the associated **normal system**

$$A^T A\mathbf{x} = A^T \mathbf{b}. \quad (7.5)$$

Moreover, the normal system is always consistent.

Proof. Th^m 7.4.4 $\Rightarrow \underline{x}$ is a least squares solⁿ of $A\underline{x} = \underline{b}$ iff $A\underline{x} = \text{proj}_{\text{col}(A)} \underline{b}$.

• If $A\underline{x} = \text{proj}_{\text{col}(A)} \underline{b}$ then

$$\underline{b} - A\underline{x} = \underline{b} - \text{proj}_{\text{col}(A)} \underline{b} \in \text{col}(A)^\perp = \text{null}(A^T)$$

$$\Rightarrow A^T(\underline{b} - A\underline{x}) = \underline{0} \Rightarrow A^T A\underline{x} = A^T \underline{b}$$

In particular, since $\text{proj}_{\text{col}(A)} \underline{b} \in \text{col}(A)$

the eqⁿ $A\underline{x} = \text{proj}_{\text{col}(A)} \underline{b}$ is consistent \Rightarrow

$$A^T A\underline{x} = A^T \underline{b} \text{ is consistent.}$$

• Conversely if $A^T A\underline{x} = A^T \underline{b}$ then

$$A^T(A\underline{x} - \underline{b}) = \underline{0} \Leftrightarrow A\underline{x} - \underline{b} \in \text{null}(A^T) = \text{col}(A)^\perp$$

$$\text{But } A\underline{x} \in \text{col}(A) \quad \forall \underline{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ \& } \underline{b} = A\underline{x} + (\underline{b} - A\underline{x})$$

$$\Rightarrow A\underline{x} = \text{proj}_{\text{col}(A)} \underline{b} \text{ by Th}^m \text{ 7.3.7}$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{x} \text{ is a least squares sol}^n$$



E.g. 7.4.6. Find all least squares solutions of $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ -2 & -6 \\ 3 & 9 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Solve $A^T A \underline{x} = A^T \underline{b}$

$$A^T A = \begin{pmatrix} 14 & 42 \\ 42 & 126 \end{pmatrix} \quad \& \quad A^T \underline{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 12 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\left(\begin{array}{cc|c} 14 & 42 & 4 \\ 42 & 126 & 12 \end{array} \right) \sim \left(\begin{array}{cc|c} 14 & 42 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{x} = \begin{pmatrix} 2/7 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \alpha \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \forall \alpha \in \mathbb{R}$$

Error: $A \underline{x} - \underline{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 2/7 \\ -4/7 \\ 6/7 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

$$\Rightarrow \|A \underline{x} - \underline{b}\| = \sqrt{6/7}$$

So all least squares solⁿs have same error