

Math 672 Lecture 22

Definition: Let V be an inner product space over F (\mathbb{R} or \mathbb{C}) and let S be a finite-dimensional subspace of V . Define $P_S: V \rightarrow V$ by the condition that $P_S(x)$ is the best approximation to x from S . We called P_S the orthogonal projection (operator) onto S .

Note: P_S is well defined by the projection theorem.

Lemma Let V be an inner product space over F (\mathbb{R} or \mathbb{C}) and let S be a finite-dimensional subspace of V . Then $P_S \in \mathcal{L}(V)$.

Proof: Let $x, y \in V$ and $\alpha, \beta \in F$. Note that $P_S(x)$ is the unique element of S satisfying

$$\langle x - P_S(x), w \rangle = 0 \quad \forall w \in S,$$

and similarly for $P_S(y)$, $P_S(\alpha x + \beta y)$. But then

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \alpha x + \beta y - (\alpha P_S(x) + \beta P_S(y)), w \rangle \\ &= \langle \alpha(x - P_S(x)) + \beta(y - P_S(y)), w \rangle \\ &= \alpha \langle x - P_S(x), w \rangle + \beta \langle y - P_S(y), w \rangle = 0 + 0 \quad \forall w \in S, \end{aligned}$$

which shows that $P_S(\alpha x + \beta y) = \alpha P_S(x) + \beta P_S(y)$. //

Theorem (the Gram-Schmidt orthogonalization procedure): Let V be an inner product space over F (\mathbb{R} or \mathbb{C}), let $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\} \subseteq V$ be linearly independent, and define

$$S_k = \text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_k), \quad k=1, 2, \dots, n.$$

Define $u_1, \dots, u_n \in V$ as follows:

$$u_1 = v_1,$$

$$u_{k+1} = v_{k+1} - P_{S_k} v_{k+1}, \quad k=1, \dots, n-1.$$

Then, for each $k=1, 2, \dots, n$, $\{u_1, \dots, u_k\}$ is an orthogonal basis for S_k .

Proof: We argue by induction on k . For $k=1$, we see that $\{u_1\} = \{v_1\}$ is a basis for $S_1 = \text{span}(v_1)$, and it is (vacuously) orthogonal.

Suppose $\{u_1, \dots, u_k\}$ is an orthogonal basis for $S_k = \text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_k)$. Note that

$$P_{S_k} v_{k+1} = \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j v_j$$

for a certain choice of $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k$. It follows that

$$u_{k+1} = v_{k+1} - P_{S_k} v_{k+1} \in \text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_{k+1}).$$

Moreover,

$$\langle u_{k+1}, u_j \rangle = \langle v_{k+1} - P_{S_k} v_{k+1}, u_j \rangle = 0 \quad \forall j=1, 2, \dots, k \quad (\text{since } u_j \in S_k \text{ for } j=1, \dots, k)$$

and hence $\{u_1, \dots, u_{k+1}\}$ is an orthogonal subset of S_{k+1} . It follows that

$\{u_1, \dots, u_{k+1}\}$ is an orthogonal basis for S_{k+1} . This completes the proof by induction. //

Corollary: Let V be a finite-dimensional inner product space over F (\mathbb{R} or \mathbb{C}). Then V has an orthogonal (or orthonormal) basis.

Recall: If $\{u_1, \dots, u_k\}$ is an orthogonal basis for S_k , then

$$P_{S_k} v_{k+1} = \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{\langle v_{k+1}, u_j \rangle}{\langle u_j, u_j \rangle} u_j.$$

Example: Let us compute an orthogonal basis for \mathcal{P}_3 , regarded as a subspace of $C[0,1]$ (under the $L^2(0,1)$ inner product).

The standard basis for \mathcal{P}_3 is $\{p_0, p_1, p_2, p_3\}$, where $p_j(x) = x^j$. Let us write $\{g_0, g_1, g_2, g_3\}$ for the orthogonal basis.

Step 1: $g_0 = p_0 \Rightarrow g_0(x) = 1$. Write $S_0 = \text{span}(p_0) = \text{span}(g_0)$.

Step 2: $g_1 = p_1 - P_{S_0} p_1$

$$\begin{aligned} P_{S_0} p_1 &= \frac{\langle p_1, g_0 \rangle}{\langle g_0, g_0 \rangle} g_0 & \langle p_1, g_0 \rangle &= \int_0^1 x \cdot 1 dx = \frac{1}{2} \\ & & \langle g_0, g_0 \rangle &= \int_0^1 1^2 dx = 1 \\ & & &= \frac{1}{2} g_0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow g_1(x) = p_1(x) - \frac{1}{2}g_0(x) = x - \frac{1}{2} \quad \text{Write } S_1 = \text{span}(p_0, p_1)$$

Step 3: $g_2 = p_2 - p_{S_1} p_2$

$$p_{S_1} p_2 = \frac{\langle p_2, g_0 \rangle}{\langle g_0, g_0 \rangle} g_0 + \frac{\langle p_2, g_1 \rangle}{\langle g_1, g_1 \rangle} g_1$$

$$= \frac{1/3}{1} g_0 + \frac{1/12}{1/12} g_1$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} g_0 + g_1$$

$$\Rightarrow g_2(x) = p_2(x) - \frac{1}{3}g_0(x) - g_1(x)$$

$$= x^2 - \frac{1}{3} - (x - \frac{1}{2})$$

$$= x^2 - x + \frac{1}{6}$$

$$\langle p_2, g_0 \rangle = \int_0^1 x^2 \cdot 1 dx = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\langle g_0, g_0 \rangle = 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle p_2, g_1 \rangle &= \int_0^1 x^2 (x - \frac{1}{2}) dx \\ &= \int_0^1 (x^3 - \frac{1}{2}x^2) dx \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{12}$$

$$\langle g_1, g_1 \rangle = \int_0^1 (x - \frac{1}{2})^2 dx$$

$$= \int_0^1 (x^2 - x + \frac{1}{4}) dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{12}$$

Step 4: $g_3 = p_3 - p_{S_2} p_3$

$$p_{S_2} p_3 = \frac{\langle p_3, g_0 \rangle}{\langle g_0, g_0 \rangle} g_0 + \frac{\langle p_3, g_1 \rangle}{\langle g_1, g_1 \rangle} g_1 + \frac{\langle p_3, g_2 \rangle}{\langle g_2, g_2 \rangle} g_2$$

$$\langle p_3, g_0 \rangle = \int_0^1 x^3 \cdot 1 dx = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$\langle g_0, g_0 \rangle = 1$$

$$\boxed{\frac{\langle p_3, g_0 \rangle}{\langle g_0, g_0 \rangle} = \frac{1}{4}}$$

$$\langle p_3, g_1 \rangle = \int_0^1 x^3 (x - \frac{1}{2}) dx = \int_0^1 (x^4 - \frac{1}{2}x^3) dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{8} = \frac{3}{40}$$

$$\langle g_1, g_1 \rangle = \frac{1}{12}$$

$$\langle p_3, g_2 \rangle = \int_0^1 x^2 (x^2 - x + \frac{1}{6}) dx$$

$$= \int_0^1 (x^5 - x^4 + \frac{1}{6} x^3) dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{6} - \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{24}$$

$$= \frac{20 - 24 + 5}{120} = \frac{1}{120}$$

$$\langle g_2, g_2 \rangle = \int_0^1 (x^2 - x + \frac{1}{6})^2 dx$$

$$= \int_0^1 (x^4 - 2x^3 + \frac{4}{3}x^2 - \frac{1}{3}x + \frac{1}{36}) dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{4}{9} - \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{36}$$

$$= \frac{36 - 90 + 80 - 30 + 5}{180} = \frac{1}{180}$$

$$\frac{\langle p_3, g_2 \rangle}{\langle g_2, g_2 \rangle} = \frac{3}{2}$$

Thus

$$g_3(x) = p_3(x) - \frac{1}{4} g_0(x) - \frac{9}{10} g_1(x) - \frac{3}{2} g_2(x)$$

$$= x^3 - \frac{1}{4} - \frac{9}{10} (x - \frac{1}{2}) - \frac{3}{2} (x^2 - x + \frac{1}{6})$$

$$= x^3 - \frac{1}{4} - \frac{9}{10}x + \frac{9}{20} - \frac{3}{2}x^2 + \frac{3}{2}x - \frac{1}{4}$$

$$= x^3 - \frac{3}{2}x^2 + \frac{3}{5}x - \frac{1}{20}$$

An orthogonal basis is

$$\left\{ 1, x - \frac{1}{2}, x^2 - x + \frac{1}{6}, x^3 - \frac{3}{2}x^2 + \frac{3}{5}x - \frac{1}{20} \right\}.$$

Why not compute an orthonormal basis as we go along?

Answer: It's probably a bit harder. For example, we would have

$$g_0(x) = 1$$

$$g_1(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1/2}} \left(x - \frac{1}{2} \right) = \sqrt{2} \left(x - \frac{1}{2} \right)$$

$$g_2(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3/2}} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} \left(x^2 - x + \frac{1}{6} \right),$$

etc.

I think that carrying around the square roots is inconvenient.

Definition: Let V be an inner product space over F (\mathbb{R} or \mathbb{C})

and let S be a subset of V . The orthogonal complement S^\perp of

S is the set

$$S^\perp = \{ u \in V \mid \langle u, w \rangle = 0 \ \forall w \in S \}.$$

Theorem: Let V be an inner product space over F (\mathbb{R} or \mathbb{C}) and let

S be a subset of V . Then:

- S^\perp is a subspace of V .
- If S is a subspace of V , then $S \cap S^\perp = \{0\}$.
- If S is a subspace of V , then $(S^\perp)^\perp = S$.

Proof: To prove that S^\perp is a subspace, we just verify the three necessary properties:

– $0 \in S^\perp$ because 0 is orthogonal to every vector, and hence to every vector in S .

– Suppose $u, v \in S^\perp$. Then

$$\langle u, w \rangle = 0 \text{ and } \langle v, w \rangle = 0 \quad \forall w \in S$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle u+v, w \rangle = \langle u, w \rangle + \langle v, w \rangle = 0 + 0 = 0 \quad \forall w \in S$$

$$\Rightarrow u+v \in S^\perp.$$

Thus S^\perp is closed under addition.

– Suppose $u \in S^\perp$ and $\alpha \in F$. Then

$$\langle u, w \rangle = 0 \quad \forall w \in S$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle \alpha u, w \rangle = \alpha \langle u, w \rangle = \alpha \cdot 0 = 0 \quad \forall w \in S$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha u \in S^\perp.$$

Thus S^\perp is closed under scalar multiplication, and we have verified that S^\perp is a subspace of V .

Next, suppose S is a subspace of V . If $w \in S \cap S^\perp$, then

$\langle w, w \rangle = 0$ (since $w \in S^\perp$ and $w \in S$), which implies that $w = 0$.

Since obviously $0 \in S \cap S^\perp$, we see that $S \cap S^\perp = \{0\}$.

Now consider $S^{\perp\perp} = (S^\perp)^\perp$. By the first result, $S^{\perp\perp}$ is a subspace of V . Note that $S \subseteq S^{\perp\perp}$:

$$\langle u, w \rangle = 0 \quad \forall w \in S \quad \forall u \in S^\perp \text{ (by definition of } S^\perp)$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle w, u \rangle = 0 \quad \forall u \in S^\perp \quad \forall w \in S$$

$$\Rightarrow w \in S^{\perp\perp} \quad \forall w \in S.$$

Now suppose $w \in S^{\perp\perp}$ and consider $v = P_S w$. Note that

$$v \in S \subseteq S^{\perp\perp}, \quad w \in S^{\perp\perp}$$

$$\Rightarrow w - v \in S^{\perp\perp}.$$

But $w - v \in S^\perp$ by definition of P_S . Thus

$$w - v \in S^\perp \cap S^{\perp\perp} = \{0\}$$

$$\Rightarrow w - v = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow w = v$$

$$\Rightarrow w \in S.$$

Thus $S^{\perp\perp} = S$. //