

Projections and rejections of multivectors by vectors

Let $u \in G$ be a 1-vector. We can decompose any multivector $A \in G$ into orthogonal components $A = A^{\parallel u} + A^{\perp u}$ given by

$$A^{\parallel u} := u \wedge (u^{-1} \rfloor A)$$

$$A^{\perp u} := u \rfloor (u^{-1} \wedge A)$$

so that $A^{\parallel u}$ “contains” u and $A^{\perp u}$ is “orthogonal” to u .

Lemma.

- 1) $A = A^{\parallel u} + A^{\perp u}$
- 2) $u \wedge A^{\parallel u} = u \rfloor A^{\perp u} = 0$
- 3) $(A^{\parallel u})^{\parallel u} = A^{\parallel u}$, $(A^{\perp u})^{\perp u} = A^{\perp u}$, $(A^{\perp u})^{\parallel u} = (A^{\parallel u})^{\perp u} = 0$

Proof. To show $A = A^{\parallel u} + A^{\perp u}$ note that

$$A^{\perp u} = u \rfloor (u^{-1} \wedge A) = (u \rfloor u^{-1}) \wedge A - u^{-1} \wedge (u \rfloor A) = A - u \wedge (u^{-1} \rfloor A) = A - A^{\parallel u}$$

using the anti-derivation property of $u \rfloor$.

We have $u \wedge A^{\parallel u} = \cancel{u \wedge u} \wedge (u^{-1} \rfloor A) = 0$ immediately and $u \rfloor A^{\perp u} = u \rfloor (u \rfloor (u^{-1} \wedge A)) = \cancel{(u \wedge u)} \rfloor (u^{-1} \wedge A)$ by the double contraction identity.

To show that these are projections, note that

$$\begin{aligned} (A^{\parallel u})^{\parallel u} &= u \wedge (u^{-1} \rfloor (u \wedge (u^{-1} \rfloor A))) \\ &= u \wedge (u^{-1} \rfloor u) \wedge (u^{-1} \rfloor A) - \cancel{u \wedge u} \wedge (u^{-1} \rfloor (u^{-1} \rfloor A)) = A^{\parallel u} \end{aligned}$$

again using the anti-derivation identity. Since $(A^{\perp u})^{\perp u} = u \rfloor (\cancel{u^{-1} \wedge u} \wedge (u^{-1} \rfloor A)) = 0$, we have also $(A^{\perp u})^{\perp u} = (A + A^{\parallel u})^{\perp u} = A^{\perp u}$. ■