

**A FIRST COURSE
IN
LINEAR ALGEBRA**

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IN
LINEAR ALGEBRA
MAT2040 Notebook

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Contents

Contributors	v
Foreword	vii
Preface	ix
Acknowledgments	xi
Acronyms	xiii
1 Week1	1
1.1 Tuesday	1
1.1.1 Introduction	1
1.1.2 Gaussian Elimination	3
1.1.3 Complexity Analysis	11
1.1.4 Brief Summary	12
1.2 Thursday	14
1.2.1 Row-Echelon Form	14
1.2.2 Matrix Multiplication	16
1.2.3 Special Matrices	19
1.3 Friday	21
1.3.1 Matrix Multiplication	21
1.3.2 Elementary Matrix	22
1.3.3 Properties of Matrix	24
1.3.4 Permutation Matrix	26
1.3.5 LU decomposition	29
1.3.6 LDU decomposition	33
1.3.7 LU Decomposition with row exchanges	35
1.4 Assignment One	36

2	Week2	39
2.1	Tuesday	39
2.1.1	Review	39
2.1.2	Special matrix multiplication case	41
2.1.3	Inverse	44
2.2	Wednesday	49
2.2.1	Remarks on Gaussian Elimination	49
2.2.2	Properties of matrix	50
2.2.3	matrix transpose	53
2.3	Assignment Two	55
2.4	Friday	56
2.4.1	symmetric matrix	56
2.4.2	Interaction of inverse and transpose	57
2.4.3	Vector Space	58
2.5	Assignment Three	68
3	Week3	71
3.1	Tuesday	71
3.1.1	Introduction	71
3.1.2	Review of 2 weeks	72
3.1.3	Examples of solving equations	73
3.1.4	How to solve a general rectangular	78
3.2	Thursday	83
3.2.1	Review	83
3.2.2	Remarks on solving linear system equations	86
3.2.3	Linear dependence	88
3.2.4	Basis and dimension	90
3.3	Friday	96
3.3.1	Review	96

3.3.2	More on basis and dimension	97
3.3.3	What is rank?	99
3.4	Assignment Four	110
4	Midterm	113
4.1	Sample Exam	113
4.2	Midterm Exam	120
5	Week4	127
5.1	Friday	127
5.1.1	Linear Transformation	127
5.1.2	Example: differentiation	129
5.1.3	Basis Change	134
5.1.4	Determinant	136
5.2	Assignment Five	144
6	Week5	147
6.1	Tuesday	147
6.1.1	Formulas for Determinant	147
6.1.2	Determinant by Cofactors	152
6.1.3	Determinant Applications	153
6.1.4	Orthogonality	156
6.2	Thursday	160
6.2.1	Orthogonality and Projection	160
6.2.2	Least Squares Approximations	165
6.2.3	Projections	168
6.3	Friday	171
6.3.1	Orthonormal basis	171
6.3.2	Gram-Schmidt Process	174

6.3.3	The Factorization $A = QR$.	180
6.3.4	Function Space	183
6.3.5	Fourier Series	184
6.4	Assignment Six	186
7	Week6	187
7.1	Tuesday	187
7.1.1	Summary of last two weeks	187
7.1.2	Eigenvalues and eigenvectors	191
7.1.3	Products and Sums of Eigenvalue	196
7.1.4	Application: Page Rank and Web Search	197
7.2	Thursday	200
7.2.1	Review	200
7.2.2	Similarity and eigenvalues	200
7.2.3	Diagonalization	203
7.2.4	Powers of A	208
7.2.5	Nondiagonalizable Matrices	209
7.3	Friday	210
7.3.1	Review	210
7.3.2	Fibonacci Numbers	210
7.3.3	Imaginary Eigenvalues	212
7.3.4	Complex Numbers	214
7.3.5	Complex Vectors	214
7.3.6	Spectral Theorem	220
7.3.7	Hermitian matrix	221
7.4	Assignment Seven	223
8	Week7	227
8.1	Tuesday	227
8.1.1	Quadratic form	227

8.1.2	Positive Definite Matrices	232
8.2	Thursday	241
8.2.1	SVD: Singular Value Decomposition	241
8.2.2	Remark on SVD decomposition	245
8.2.3	Best Low-Rank Approximation	253
8.3	Assignment Eight	255
9	Final Exam	257
9.1	Sample Exam	257
9.2	Final Exam	264
10	Solution	271
10.1	Assignment Solutions	271
10.1.1	Solution to Assignment One	271
10.1.2	Solution to Assignment Two	277
10.1.3	Solution to Assignment Three	280
10.1.4	Solution to Assignment Four	286
10.1.5	Solution to Assignment Five	297
10.1.6	Solution to Assignment Six	303
10.1.7	Solution to Assignment Seven	311
10.1.8	Solution to Assignment Eight	321
10.2	Midterm Exam Solutions	328
10.2.1	Sample Exam Solution	328
10.2.2	Midterm Exam Solution	338
10.3	Final Exam Solutions	346
10.3.1	Sample Exam Solution	346
10.3.2	Final Exam Solution	357

A	This is Appendix Title	371
A.1	This is First Level Heading	371
A.1.1	This is Second Level Heading	372

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Foreword

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Preface

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Acronyms

ASTA	Arrivals See Time Averages
BHCA	Busy Hour Call Attempts
BR	Bandwidth Reservation
b.u.	bandwidth unit(s)
CAC	Call / Connection Admission Control
CBP	Call Blocking Probability(-ies)
CCS	Centum Call Seconds
CDTM	Connection Dependent Threshold Model
CS	Complete Sharing
DiffServ	Differentiated Services
EMLM	Erlang Multirate Loss Model
erl	The Erlang unit of traffic-load
FIFO	First in - First out
GB	Global balance
GoS	Grade of Service
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IntServ	Integrated Services
IP	Internet Protocol
ITU-T	International Telecommunication Unit – Standardization sector
LB	Local balance
LHS	Left hand side

LIFO	Last in - First out
MMPP	Markov Modulated Poisson Process
MPLS	Multiple Protocol Labeling Switching
MRM	Multi-Retry Model
MTM	Multi-Threshold Model
PASTA	Poisson Arrivals See Time Averages
PDF	Probability Distribution Function
pdf	probability density function
PFS	Product Form Solution
QoS	Quality of Service
r.v.	random variable(s)
RED	random early detection
RHS	Right hand side
RLA	Reduced Load Approximation
SIRO	service in random order
SRM	Single-Retry Model
STM	Single-Threshold Model
TCP	Transport Control Protocol
TH	Threshold(s)
UDP	User Datagram Protocol

6.2. Thursday

6.2.1. Orthogonality and Projection

Two vectors are orthogonal if their inner product is zero:

$$\mathbf{u} \perp \mathbf{v} \iff \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = 0 \quad (\text{if } \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n, \text{ then } \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{v} = 0.)$$

And orthogonality among vectors has an important property:

Proposition 6.1

If **nonzero** vectors v_1, \dots, v_k are mutually orthogonal (mutually means $v_i \perp v_j$ for any $i \neq j$), then $\{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$ must be ind.

Proof. We only need to show that

$$\text{if } \alpha_1 v_1 + \dots + \alpha_k v_k = \mathbf{0}, \quad \text{then } \alpha_i = 0 \text{ for any } i \in \{1, 2, \dots, k\}.$$

- We do inner product to show α_1 must be zero:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle v_1, \alpha_1 v_1 + \dots + \alpha_k v_k \rangle &= \langle v_1, \mathbf{0} \rangle = 0 \\ &= \alpha_1 \langle v_1, v_1 \rangle + \alpha_2 \langle v_1, v_2 \rangle + \dots + \alpha_k \langle v_1, v_k \rangle \\ &= \alpha_1 \langle v_1, v_1 \rangle = \alpha_1 \|v_1\|_2^2 \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Since $v_1 \neq \mathbf{0}$, we have $\alpha_1 = 0$.

- Similarly, we have $\alpha_i = 0$ for $i = 1, \dots, k$.

■

Now we can also talk about orthogonality among spaces:

Definition 6.10 [subspace orthogonality] Two subspaces \mathbf{U} and \mathbf{V} of a vector space are **orthogonal** if every vector \mathbf{u} in \mathbf{U} is *perpendicular* to every vector \mathbf{v} in \mathbf{V} :

$$\text{Orthogonal subspaces} \quad \mathbf{u} \perp \mathbf{v} \quad \forall \mathbf{u} \in \mathbf{U}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{V}.$$

■ **Example 6.3** Two walls look *perpendicular* but they are not orthogonal subspaces! The meeting line is in both \mathbf{U} and \mathbf{V} -and this line is not perpendicular to itself. Two planes (dimensions 2 and 2 in \mathbb{R}^3) cannot be orthogonal subspaces.

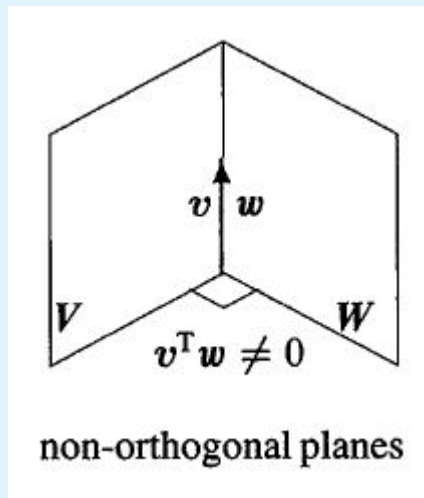


Figure 6.1: Orthogonality is impossible when $\dim \mathbf{U} + \dim \mathbf{V} > \dim(\mathbf{U} \cup \mathbf{V})$

R When a vector is in two orthogonal subspaces, it *must* be zero. It is **perpendicular** to itself.

The reason is clear: this vector $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbf{U}$ and $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbf{V}$, so $\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u} \rangle = 0$. It has to be zero vector.

If two subspaces are perpendicular, their basis must be ind.

Theorem 6.2 Assume $\{u_1, \dots, u_k\}$ is the basis for \mathbf{U} , $\{v_1, \dots, v_l\}$ is the basis for \mathbf{V} . If $\mathbf{U} \perp \mathbf{V}$ ($u_i \perp v_j$ for $\forall i, j$), then $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_k, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_l$ must be ind.

Proof. Suppose there exists $\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k\}$ and $\{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_l\}$ such that

$$\alpha_1 u_1 + \dots + \alpha_k u_k + \beta_1 v_1 + \dots + \beta_l v_l = \mathbf{0}$$

then equivalently,

$$\alpha_1 u_1 + \cdots + \alpha_k u_k = -(\beta_1 v_1 + \cdots + \beta_l v_l)$$

Then we set $\mathbf{w} = \alpha_1 u_1 + \cdots + \alpha_k u_k$, obviously, $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbf{U}$ and $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbf{V}$.

Hence it must be zero (This is due to remark above). Thus we have

$$\alpha_1 u_1 + \cdots + \alpha_k u_k = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\beta_1 v_1 + \cdots + \beta_l v_l = \mathbf{0}.$$

Due to the independence, we have $\alpha_i = 0$ and $\beta_j = 0$ for $\forall i, j$. ■

Corollary 6.1 If $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_k, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_l\} \in \mathbf{W}$, then $\dim(\mathbf{W}) \geq \dim(\mathbf{U}) + \dim(\mathbf{V})$.
Note that $\mathbf{U} \cup \mathbf{V} \subset \mathbf{W}$.

For subspaces \mathbf{U} and $\mathbf{V} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, if $\mathbb{R}^n = \mathbf{U} \cup \mathbf{V}$, and moreover, $n = \dim(\mathbf{U}) + \dim(\mathbf{V})$, then we say \mathbf{V} is the **orthogonal complement** of \mathbf{U} .

Definition 6.11 [orthogonal complement] For subspaces \mathbf{U} and $\mathbf{V} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, if $\dim(\mathbf{U}) + \dim(\mathbf{V}) = n$ and $\mathbf{U} \perp \mathbf{V}$, then we say \mathbf{V} is the **orthogonal complement** of \mathbf{U} . And we denote \mathbf{V} as \mathbf{U}^\perp .

Moreover, $\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{U}^\perp \iff \mathbf{V}^\perp = \mathbf{U}$. ■

■ **Example 6.4** Suppose $\mathbf{U} \cup \mathbf{V} = \mathbb{R}^3$, $\mathbf{U} = \text{span}\{\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2\}$. If \mathbf{V} is the orthogonal complement of \mathbf{U} , then $\mathbf{V} = \text{span}\{\mathbf{e}_3\}$.

Moreover, \mathbf{U} could also be expressed as $\text{span}\left\{\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}\right\}$. ■

Example:

Next let's show the nullspace is the orthogonal complement of the row space. (In \mathbb{R}^n).

Suppose \mathbf{A} is a $m \times n$ matrix.

- Firstly, we show $\dim(N(\mathbf{A})) + \dim(C(\mathbf{A}^T)) = \dim(N(\mathbf{A}) \cup C(\mathbf{A}^T)) = \dim(\mathbb{R}^n) = n$:

We know $\dim(N(\mathbf{A})) = n - r$, where $r = \text{rank}(\mathbf{A})$. And $r = C(\mathbf{A}^T)$.

Hence $\dim(N(\mathbf{A})) + \dim(C(\mathbf{A}^T)) = n$.

- Then we show $N(\mathbf{A}) \perp C(\mathbf{A}^T)$:

For any $x \in N(\mathbf{A})$, if we set $\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ \vdots \\ a_m \end{bmatrix}$, then we obtain:

$$\mathbf{A}x = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ \vdots \\ a_m \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Hence *every row has a zero product with x* . In other words, $\langle a_i, x \rangle = 0$ for $\forall i \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$.

Hence for any $y = \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i a_i \in C(\mathbf{A}^T)$, we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle x, y \rangle &= \langle y, x \rangle = \left\langle \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i a_i, x \right\rangle \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i \langle a_i, x \rangle = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Hence $x \perp y$ for $\forall x \in N(\mathbf{A})$ and $y \in C(\mathbf{A}^T)$.

Hence $N(\mathbf{A})^\perp = C(\mathbf{A}^T)$.

If we applying this equation to \mathbf{A}^T , then we have $N(\mathbf{A}^T)^\perp = C(\mathbf{A})$.

Theorem 6.3 — Fundamental theorem for linear algebra, part 2.

$N(\mathbf{A})$ is the orthogonal complement of the row space $C(\mathbf{A}^T)$ (in \mathbb{R}^n).

$N(\mathbf{A}^T)$ is the orthogonal complement of the row space $C(\mathbf{A})$ (in \mathbb{R}^m).

Corollary 6.2 $Ax = b$ is solvable if and only if $y^T A = 0$ implies $y^T b = 0$.

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} Ax = b \text{ is solvable.} &\iff b \in C(A). \iff b \in N(A^T)^\perp \\ &\iff y^T b = 0 \text{ for } \forall y \in N(A^T) \iff y^T A = 0 \text{ implies } y^T b = 0. \end{aligned}$$

■

The Inverse Negative Proposition is more important:

Corollary 6.3 $Ax = b$ has no solution if and only if $\exists y$ s.t. $y^T A = 0$ and $y^T b \neq 0$.

R

Theorem 6.4 $Ax \geq b$ has no solution if and only if $\exists y \geq 0$ such that $y^T A = 0$ and $y^T b > 0$.

$y^T A = 0$ requires exists one linear combination of the row space to be zero.

Necessity case. Suppose $\exists y \geq 0$ such that $y^T A = 0$ and $y^T b > 0$. And we assume there exists x^* such that $Ax^* \geq b$. By postmultiplying y^T we have

$$y^T Ax^* \geq y^T b > 0 \implies 0 > 0.$$

which is a contradiction!

■

The complete proof for this theorem is not required in this course.

■ **Example 6.5** Given the system

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 + x_2 &\geq 1 \\ -x_1 &\geq -1 \\ -x_2 &\geq 2 \end{aligned} \tag{6.3}$$

Eq(1) \times 1 + Eq(2) \times 1 + Eq(3) \times 1 gives

$$0 \geq 2$$

which is a contradiction!

So the key idea of theorem (6.4) is to construct a linear combination of row space to let it become zero. Then if the right hand is larger than zero, then this system has no solution. ■

R

Corollary 6.4 If $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}^T$, then $N(\mathbf{A}^T)^\perp = C(\mathbf{A}) = C(\mathbf{A}^T) = N(\mathbf{A})$.

Corollary 6.5 The system $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ may not have a solution, but $\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{b}$ always have at least one solution for $\forall \mathbf{b}$.

Proof. Since $\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A}$ is symmetric, we have $C(\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A}) = C(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^T)$. You can check by yourself that $C(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^T) = C(\mathbf{A}^T)$. Hence $C(\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A}) = C(\mathbf{A}^T)$.

For any vector \mathbf{b} we have $\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{b} \in C(\mathbf{A}^T) \implies \mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{b} \in C(\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A})$, which means there exists a linear combination of the columns of $\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A}$ that equals to \mathbf{b} .

Equivalently, there exists a solution to $\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{b}$. ■

Corollary 6.6 $\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A}$ is invertible if and only if columns of \mathbf{A} are ind.

Proof. We have shown that $C(\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A}) = C(\mathbf{A}^T)$.

Hence $C(\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A})^\perp = C(\mathbf{A}^T)^\perp \implies N(\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A}) = N(\mathbf{A})$.

\mathbf{A} has ind. columns $\iff N(\mathbf{A}) = \{\mathbf{0}\} \iff N(\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A}) = \{\mathbf{0}\} \iff \mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A}$ is invertible. ■

6.2.2. Least Squares Approximations

$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ often has no solution, if so, what should we do?

We cannot always get the error $\mathbf{e} = \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$ down to zero, so we want to use least square method to minimize the error. In other words, our goal is to

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}} \mathbf{e}^2 = \min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^m (a_i^T \mathbf{x} - b_i)^2$$

where $\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ \vdots \\ a_m \end{bmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_m \end{bmatrix}$.

The minimizer \mathbf{x} is called **linear least squares solution**.

6.2.2.1. Matrix Calculus

Firstly, you should know some basic calculus knowledge for matrix:

- $\frac{\partial(fg)}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x} g(x) + \frac{\partial g(x)}{\partial x} f(x)$

Example:

- $\frac{\partial(a^T \mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = a$
- $\frac{\partial(a^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \frac{\partial((\mathbf{A}^T a)^T \mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}^T a$
- $\frac{\partial(\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}^T$
- $\frac{\partial(\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{x}$

Thus, in order to minimize $\|\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\|^2 = (\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b})^T (\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b})$, we only need to let its **partial derivative** with respect to \mathbf{x} to be **zero**. (Since its second derivative is non-negative, we will talk about it in detail in other courses.) Hence we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial(\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b})^T (\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} &= \frac{\partial(\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} (\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}) + \frac{\partial(\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} (\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}) = 2 \frac{\partial(\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} (\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}) \\ &= 2 \left(\frac{\partial(\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} - \frac{\partial(\mathbf{b})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right) (\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}) \\ &= 2 \mathbf{A}^T (\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}) = \mathbf{0}. \end{aligned}$$

Or equivalently,

$$\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{b}.$$

According to corollary (6.5), this equation always exists a solution. And this equation is called **normal equation**.

Theorem 6.5 The partial derivatives of $\|\mathbf{Ax} - \mathbf{b}\|^2$ are **zero** when $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{b}$.

6.2.2.2. Fit a stright line

Given a collection of data (\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) for $i = 1, \dots, m$, we can fit the model parameters:

$$\begin{cases} y_1 = a_0 + a_1 x_{1,1} + a_2 x_{1,2} + \dots + a_n x_{1,n} + \varepsilon_1 \\ y_2 = a_0 + a_1 x_{2,1} + a_2 x_{2,2} + \dots + a_n x_{2,n} + \varepsilon_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_m = a_0 + a_1 x_{m,1} + a_2 x_{m,2} + \dots + a_n x_{m,n} + \varepsilon_m \end{cases}$$

Our fit line is

$$\hat{y} = a_0 + a_1 x_1 + a_2 x_2 + \dots + a_n x_n$$

In *compact matrix form*, we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_{1,1} & x_{1,2} & \dots & x_{1,n} \\ 1 & x_{2,1} & x_{2,2} & \dots & x_{2,n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_{m,1} & x_{m,2} & \dots & x_{m,n} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_0 \\ a_1 \\ a_2 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon_1 \\ \varepsilon_2 \\ \vdots \\ \varepsilon_m \end{bmatrix}$$

Or equivalently, we have

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{Ax} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$$

$$\text{where } \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_{1,1} & x_{1,2} & \dots & x_{1,n} \\ 1 & x_{2,1} & x_{2,2} & \dots & x_{2,n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_{m,1} & x_{m,2} & \dots & x_{m,n} \end{bmatrix}_{m \times (n+1)}, \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} a_0 \\ a_1 \\ a_2 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{bmatrix}_{(n+1) \times 1}, \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} = \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon_1 \\ \varepsilon_2 \\ \vdots \\ \varepsilon_m \end{bmatrix}_{m \times 1}.$$

Our goal is to minimize $\|\hat{\mathbf{y}} - \mathbf{y}\|^2 = \|\mathbf{Ax} - \mathbf{y}\|^2$. Then by theorem (6.5), we only need to solve $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{y}$.

6.2.3. Projections

In corollary (6.6), we know that if \mathbf{A} has ind. columns, then $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$ is invertible. On this condition, the normal equation $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{b}$ has unique solution $\mathbf{x}^* = (\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A})^{-1} \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{b}$. Thus the error $\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}^*$ is minimum. And $\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}^* = \mathbf{A} (\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A})^{-1} \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{b}$ approximately equals to \mathbf{b} .

- If \mathbf{b} and $\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}^*$ are exactly in the same space, then $\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}^* = \mathbf{b}$.
- Otherwise, just as the Figure (6.2) shown, $\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}^*$ is the projection of \mathbf{b} to subspace $C(\mathbf{A})$.

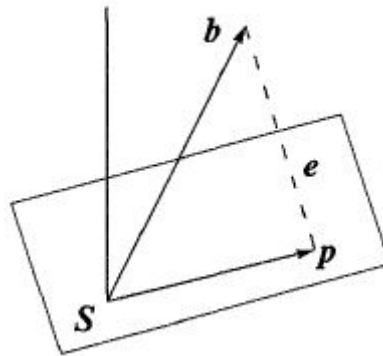


Figure 6.2: The projection of \mathbf{b} onto a subspace $C(\mathbf{A})$.

Definition 6.12 [Projection] The projection of \mathbf{b} onto the subspace $C(\mathbf{A})$ is denoted as $\text{Proj}_{C(\mathbf{A})}(\mathbf{b})$. ■

Definition 6.13 [Projection matrix] Given $\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}^* = \mathbf{A} (\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A})^{-1} \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{b} = \text{Proj}_{C(\mathbf{A})}(\mathbf{b})$. Since $[\mathbf{A} (\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A})^{-1} \mathbf{A}^T] \mathbf{b}$ is the projection of \mathbf{b} , we call $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{A} (\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A})^{-1} \mathbf{A}^T$ as **projection matrix**. ■

Definition 6.14 [Idempotent] Let \mathbf{A} be a **square** matrix that satisfies $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A} \mathbf{A}$, then \mathbf{A} is called a **idempotent** matrix. ■

Let's show the projection matrix is *idempotent*:

$$\begin{aligned}
 P^2 &= A(A^T A)^{-1} A^T A(A^T A)^{-1} A^T \\
 &= A(A^T A)^{-1} (A^T A) (A^T A)^{-1} A^T \\
 &= A(A^T A)^{-1} A^T = P.
 \end{aligned}$$

6.2.3.1. Observations

- If $\mathbf{b} \in C(A)$, then $\exists \mathbf{x}$ s.t. $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$. Moreover, the projection of \mathbf{b} is exactly \mathbf{b} :

$$\begin{aligned}
 P\mathbf{b} &= A(A^T A)^{-1} A^T(\mathbf{b}) \\
 &= A(A^T A)^{-1} A^T(A\mathbf{x}) \\
 &= A(A^T A)^{-1} (A^T A)\mathbf{x} \\
 &= A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}.
 \end{aligned}$$

- Assume A has only one column, say, \mathbf{a} . Then we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{x}^* &= (A^T A)^{-1} A^T \mathbf{b} = \frac{\mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{b}}{\mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{a}} \\
 A\mathbf{x}^* &= P\mathbf{b} = A(A^T A)^{-1} A^T(\mathbf{b}) = \frac{\mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{b}}{\mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{a}} \times \mathbf{a} = \frac{\mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{b}}{\|\mathbf{a}\|^2} \times \mathbf{a}
 \end{aligned}$$

More interestingly,

$$\frac{\mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{b}}{\|\mathbf{a}\|^2} \times \mathbf{a} = \frac{\|\mathbf{a}\| \|\mathbf{b}\| \cos \theta}{\|\mathbf{a}\|^2} \times \mathbf{a} = \|\mathbf{b}\| \cos \theta \times \frac{\mathbf{a}}{\|\mathbf{a}\|}$$

which is the projection of \mathbf{b} onto a line \mathbf{a} . (Shown in figure below.)

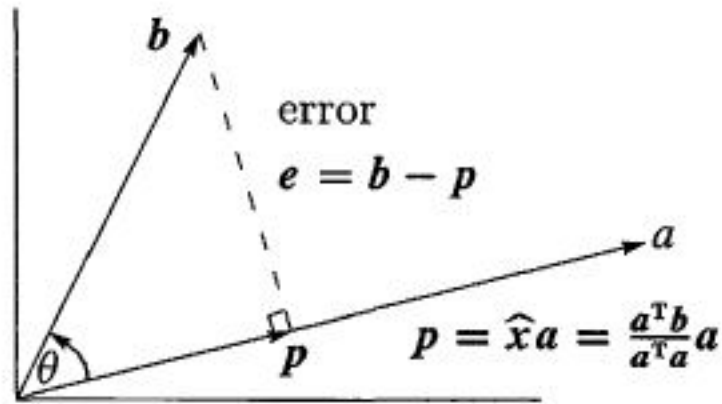


Figure 6.3: The projection of \mathbf{b} onto a line \mathbf{a} .

More generally, we can write the projection of \mathbf{b} as:

$$\text{Proj}_{\mathbf{a}}(\mathbf{b}) = \frac{\langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \rangle}{\langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{a} \rangle} \mathbf{a}$$

Look at the figure above! The error is $\mathbf{b} - \text{Proj}_{\mathbf{a}}(\mathbf{b})$, which is obviously perpendicular to \mathbf{a} . And $\mathbf{b} - \text{Proj}_{\mathbf{a}}(\mathbf{b}) \in \text{span}\{\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}\}$.

If we define $\mathbf{b}' = \mathbf{b} - \text{Proj}_{\mathbf{a}}(\mathbf{b})$, then it's easy to check $\text{span}\{\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}'\} = \text{span}\{\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}\}$ and $\mathbf{a} \perp \mathbf{b}'$. Hence we convert a basis to another basis such that the elements are orthogonal to each other. We will discuss it in detail in next lecture.

