

Projection onto k -dimensional subspaces

Consider an n -dimensional vector space V with the dot product at the inner product and a subspace U of V . With basis vectors $\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_k$ of U , we obtain the **orthogonal projection** of any vector $\mathbf{x} \in V$ onto U via

$$\pi_U(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{B}\boldsymbol{\lambda}, \quad \boldsymbol{\lambda} = (\mathbf{B}^\top \mathbf{B})^{-1} \mathbf{B}^\top \mathbf{x}$$

$$\mathbf{B} = (\mathbf{b}_1 | \dots | \mathbf{b}_k) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times k}$$

where $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$ is the **coordinate vector** of $\pi_U(\mathbf{x})$ with respect to the basis $\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_k$ of U .

The **projection matrix** \mathbf{P} is

$$\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{B}^\top \mathbf{B})^{-1} \mathbf{B}^\top$$

such that

$$\pi_U(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{P}\mathbf{x}$$

for all $\mathbf{x} \in V$.