

$U = \text{span}((1, 1, 0, 0), (1, 1, 1, 2))$. We want to find a vector in U such that the distance to $(1, 2, 3, 4)$ is minimal. We can find this just by calculating $P_U(1, 2, 3, 4)$. To do that, we need to find an orthonormal basis for U . Since $(1, 1, 0, 0), (1, 1, 1, 2)$ are lin. indep. they form a basis for U . So, just apply Gram-Schmidt to those vectors to get an orthonormal basis for U .

$$\begin{aligned} e_1 &= \frac{(1, 1, 0, 0)}{\|(1, 1, 0, 0)\|} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1, 1, 0, 0) \\ e_2 &= \frac{(1, 1, 1, 2) - \langle (1, 1, 1, 2), e_1 \rangle e_1}{\|(1, 1, 1, 2) - \langle (1, 1, 1, 2), e_1 \rangle e_1\|} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}(0, 0, 1, 2) \end{aligned}$$

Then, to find $P_U(1, 2, 3, 4)$, just compute:

$$\langle (1, 2, 3, 4), e_1 \rangle e_1 + \langle (1, 2, 3, 4), e_2 \rangle e_2 = \frac{3}{2}(1, 1, 0, 0) + \frac{11}{5}(0, 0, 1, 2)$$

So, the vector $u \in U$ that minimizes the distance to $(1, 2, 3, 4)$ is $u = \frac{3}{2}(1, 1, 0, 0) + \frac{11}{5}(0, 0, 1, 2)$.