

## Section 6.2 Orthogonal Sets

**Definition:** A set of vectors  $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_p\}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is an orthogonal set if each pair of distinct vectors from the set is orthogonal, that is, if  $\mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_j = 0$  whenever  $i \neq j$ .

**Example 1:** Determine whether the following set of vectors are orthogonal

check if  $u_1 \cdot u_2$   $u_2 \cdot u_3$   $u_1 \cdot u_3$   
are all = 0

$$\begin{matrix} u_1 & u_2 & u_3 \\ \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 4 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, & \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, & \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -4 \\ -7 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

$u_1 \cdot u_2 = u_1^T u_2 = u_2^T u_1 = (-1) \cdot 5 + 4 \cdot 2 + (-3) \cdot 1 = 0$

$u_2 \cdot u_3 = 5 \cdot 3 + 2 \cdot (-4) + 1 \cdot (-7) = 0$

$u_1 \cdot u_3 = (-1) \cdot 3 + 4 \cdot (-4) + (-3) \cdot (-7) \neq 0$

$\Rightarrow$  not orthogonal

*Remark:*  
orthogonality  $\Rightarrow$  linear indep.  
linear indep  $\Rightarrow$  orthogonal

**Theorem:** If  $S = \{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_p\}$  is an orthogonal set of nonzero vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , then  $S$  is linearly independent and hence is a basis for the subspace spanned by  $S$ .

**Definition:** An orthogonal basis for a subspace  $W$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is a basis for  $W$  that is also an orthogonal set.

$\hookrightarrow$  if a basis is also orthogonal

*why orthogonal basis is very useful?*

**Theorem:** Let  $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_p\}$  be an orthogonal basis for a subspace  $W$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . For each  $\mathbf{y}$  in  $W$ , the weights in the linear combination

$$\mathbf{y} = c_1 \mathbf{u}_1 + \dots + c_p \mathbf{u}_p = \underbrace{[\mathbf{u}_1 \dots \mathbf{u}_p]}_A \begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ \vdots \\ c_p \end{pmatrix}$$

are given by

$$c_j = \frac{\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}_j}{\mathbf{u}_j \cdot \mathbf{u}_j} \quad (j = 1, \dots, p)$$

**An Orthogonal Projection:** Given a nonzero vector  $\mathbf{u}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Decompose a vector  $\mathbf{y}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  into the sum of two vectors

$$\mathbf{y} = \hat{\mathbf{y}} + \mathbf{z} \tag{1}$$

where  $\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \alpha \mathbf{u}$  for some scalar  $\alpha$  and  $\mathbf{z}$  is some vector orthogonal to  $\mathbf{u}$ .

*Target: need to find  $\alpha$  such that the decomposition satisfies,  $\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \alpha \mathbf{u}$ ,  $\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$ .*

$$\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{y} - \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{y} - \alpha \mathbf{u} \Rightarrow \alpha \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}$$

$$(\mathbf{y} - \alpha \mathbf{u}) \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 \Rightarrow \alpha = \frac{\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}}{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{u}}$$

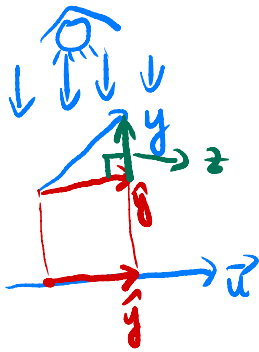
*If  $\alpha = \frac{\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}}{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{u}}$ , & then  $\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \frac{\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}}{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{u}} \mathbf{u}$ ,  $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{y} - \hat{\mathbf{y}}$*

Thus (1) is satisfied with  $\mathbf{z}$  orthogonal to  $\mathbf{u}$  if and only if  $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$  is the orthogonal projection of  $\mathbf{y}$  onto  $\mathbf{u}$ , and the vector  $\mathbf{z}$  is the component of  $\mathbf{y}$  orthogonal to  $\mathbf{u}$ . The projection is determined by the subspace  $L$  spanned by  $\mathbf{u}$  (the line through  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{0}$ ). Sometimes  $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$  is denoted by  $\text{proj}_L \mathbf{y}$  and is called the orthogonal projection of  $\mathbf{y}$  onto  $L$ . That is,

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \text{proj}_L \mathbf{y} = \frac{\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}}{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{u}} \mathbf{u} \tag{2}$$

*$L$  is the subspace spanned by vector  $\mathbf{u}$ .*

**Example 2:** Compute the orthogonal projection of  $\begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$  onto the line through  $\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$  and the origin. Then write  $\mathbf{y}$  as the sum of a vector in  $\text{Span}\{\mathbf{u}\}$  and a vector orthogonal to  $\{\mathbf{u}\}$ .



*compute  $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$  given  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$*

$$\text{Proj}_L \mathbf{y} = \frac{\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}}{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{u}} \mathbf{u}$$

$$= \frac{7 \cdot 4 + 6 \cdot 2}{4 \cdot 4 + 2 \cdot 2} \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{40}{20} \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 8 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

*Decomposition:  $\mathbf{y} = \hat{\mathbf{y}} + \mathbf{z}$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \begin{pmatrix} 8 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$  satisfy  $\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \alpha \cdot \mathbf{u}$*

$$\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{y} - \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 8 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (\mathbf{z} \text{ will satisfy } \mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0)$$

**Orthonormal Sets:** A set  $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_p\}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is an orthonormal set if it is an orthogonal set of unit vectors. If  $W$  is the subspace spanned by such a set, then  $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_p\}$  in

$\mathbb{R}^n$  is an orthonormal basis for  $W$ , since the set is automatically linearly independent.

**Example 3:** Determine whether the following set of vectors are orthonormal. If a set is only orthogonal, normalize the vectors to produce an orthonormal set.

$$\begin{matrix} u_1 & u_2 \\ \begin{bmatrix} 1/3 \\ 1/3 \\ 1/3 \end{bmatrix}, & \begin{bmatrix} -1/2 \\ 0 \\ 1/2 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

orthogonal:  $u_1 \cdot u_2 = 0 \Rightarrow$  orthogonal

$$\|u_1\| = \sqrt{(1/3)^2 + (1/3)^2 + (1/3)^2} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3} \neq 1 \Rightarrow \text{this is NOT orthonormal.}$$

find the unit vector in the direction of  $u_1$ ,  $\rightarrow \hat{u}_1 = \frac{u_1}{\|u_1\|} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}/3} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1/3 \\ 1/3 \\ 1/3 \end{pmatrix}$   
 $u_2$ ,  $\rightarrow \hat{u}_2 = \frac{u_2}{\|u_2\|}$

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{u}_1 \cdot \hat{u}_2 &= \frac{u_1}{\|u_1\|} \cdot \frac{u_2}{\|u_2\|} \\ &= \frac{1}{\|u_1\|} \cdot \frac{1}{\|u_2\|} \cdot \underbrace{u_1 \cdot u_2}_{=0} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem:** An  $m \times n$  matrix  $U$  has orthonormal columns if and only if  $U^T U = I$ .

$$U^{-1} \cdot U = I \Rightarrow U^{-1} = U^T$$

orthonormal set  
 $\left\{ \frac{u_1}{\|u_1\|}, \frac{u_2}{\|u_2\|} \right\}$

- Review.
- ①  $u$  &  $v$  are orthogonal,  $u \cdot v = 0$
  - ② orthogonality  $\Rightarrow$  linearly indep.
  - ③ orthonormal =  $u \cdot v = 0$   $\oplus$   $\|u\| = \|v\| = 1$ .

**Theorem:** Let  $U$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix with orthonormal columns, and let  $x$  and  $y$  be in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Then

linear map  $x \rightarrow Ux$  preserves the length of the vector.

a.  $\|Ux\| = \|x\|$

b.  $(Ux) \cdot (Uy) = x \cdot y$

c.  $(Ux) \cdot (Uy) = 0$  if and only if  $x \cdot y = 0$ .

$\rightarrow$  the linear map also preserves the orthogonality.