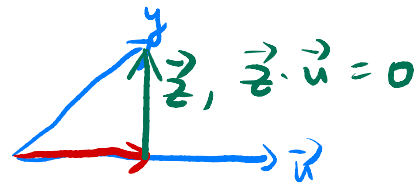


$$y = \hat{y} + z$$



## Section 6.3 Orthogonal Projections

**Theorem:**

$$\hat{y} = \frac{y \cdot u}{u \cdot u} u \quad \text{orthogonal projection of } y \text{ onto } u$$

### The Orthogonal Decomposition Theorem

Let  $W$  be a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Then each  $y$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  can be written uniquely in the form

$$y = \hat{y} + z \quad (1)$$

↪  $z \cdot u = 0$  for all  $u \in W$ .

where  $\hat{y}$  is in  $W$  and  $z$  is in  $W^\perp$ . In fact, if  $\{u_1, \dots, u_p\}$  is any orthogonal basis of  $W$ , then

$$\hat{y} = \frac{y \cdot u_1}{u_1 \cdot u_1} u_1 + \dots + \frac{y \cdot u_p}{u_p \cdot u_p} u_p \quad (2)$$

and  $z = y - \hat{y}$ .

↪ orthogonal project of  $y$  onto  $W$      $\text{Proj}_W y = \hat{y}$

**Example 1:** Let

$$u_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, u_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, y = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Remark: If  $y \in W$   
 $\hat{y} = y, z = 0$

Observe that  $\{u_1, u_2\}$  is an orthogonal basis for  $W = \text{Span}\{u_1, u_2\}$ . Write  $y$  as the sum of a vector in  $W$  and a vector orthogonal to  $W$ .

$$\hat{y} = \frac{y \cdot u_1}{u_1 \cdot u_1} u_1 + \frac{y \cdot u_2}{u_2 \cdot u_2} u_2$$

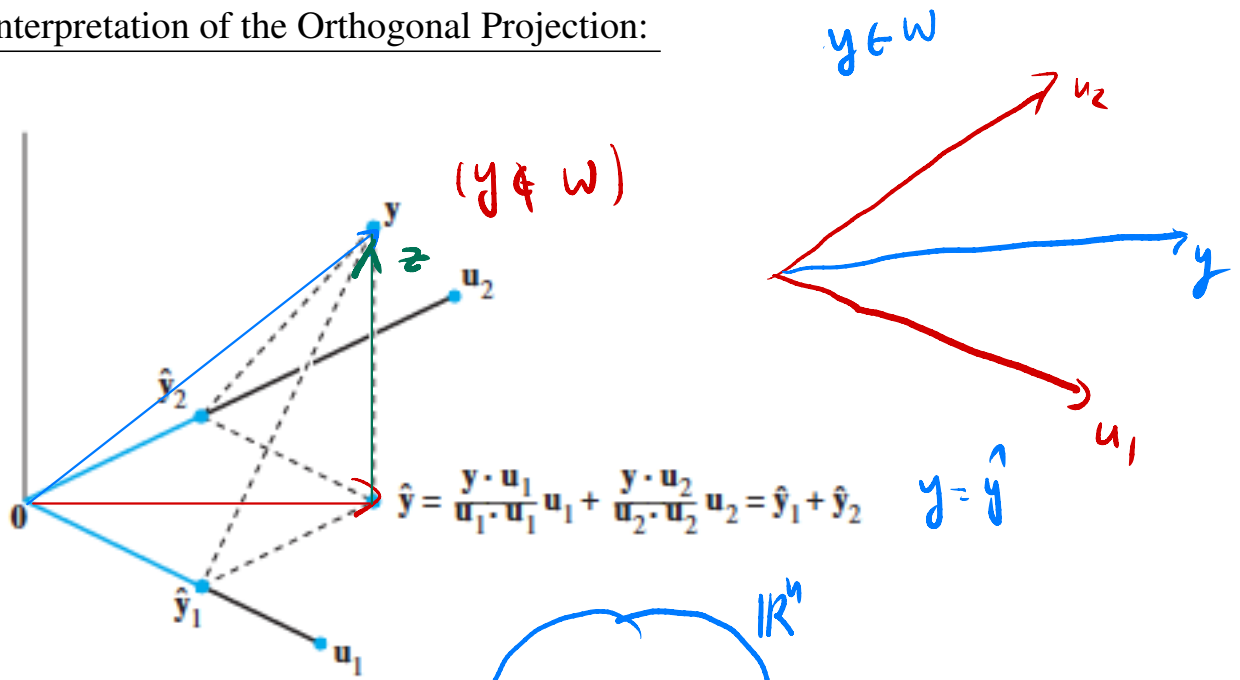
$$= \frac{2 + 10 - 3}{4 + 25 + 1} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{-2 + 2 + 3}{4 + 1 + 1} \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{9}{30} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} -2/5 \\ 2 \\ 1/5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$z = y - \hat{y} = \begin{pmatrix} 7/5 \\ 0 \\ 14/5 \end{pmatrix}$$

A Geometric Interpretation of the Orthogonal Projection:



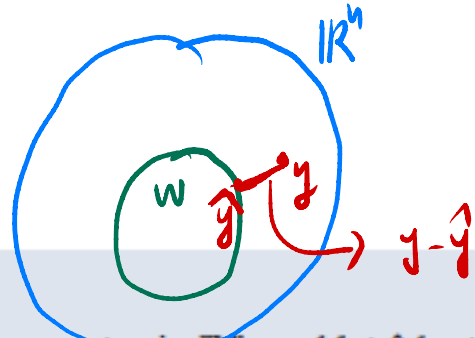
**Theorem:**

**The Best Approximation Theorem**

Let  $W$  be a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , let  $y$  be any vector in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , and let  $\hat{y}$  be the orthogonal projection of  $y$  onto  $W$ . Then  $\hat{y}$  is the closest point in  $W$  to  $y$ , in the sense that

$$\|y - \hat{y}\| < \|y - v\| \tag{3}$$

for all  $v$  in  $W$  distinct from  $\hat{y}$ .



The vector  $\hat{y}$  is called the best approximation to  $y$  by elements of  $W$ .

**Example 2:** Find the closest point to  $y$  in the subspace  $W$  spanned by  $u_1$  and  $u_2$  in Example 1. Determine the distance from  $y$  to the subspace  $W$

To find  $\hat{y}$ .

$\hat{y} = \begin{pmatrix} -2/5 \\ 2 \\ 1/5 \end{pmatrix}$  is the closest point to  $y$  in  $W$ .

distance  $\|y - \hat{y}\| = \|z\| = \left\| \begin{pmatrix} 7/5 \\ 0 \\ 14/5 \end{pmatrix} \right\| = \frac{1}{5} \sqrt{49 + 14^2}$

**Example 3:** Find the best approximation to  $\mathbf{z}$  by vectors of the form  $c_1\mathbf{v}_1 + c_2\mathbf{v}_2$ .

$$\mathbf{z} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -2 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\hookrightarrow \text{span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2\} = W$

*Always check:  $\mathbf{v}_1$  &  $\mathbf{v}_2$  are orthogonal to each other.*

by the "Best approximation theorem", we just need to find  $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \frac{\mathbf{v}_1 \cdot \mathbf{z}}{\mathbf{v}_1 \cdot \mathbf{v}_1} \mathbf{v}_1 + \frac{\mathbf{v}_2 \cdot \mathbf{z}}{\mathbf{v}_2 \cdot \mathbf{v}_2} \mathbf{v}_2 = \frac{4+0+0+3}{4+1+9} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{10-8+0-2}{25+4+16+4} \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -2 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

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

**Theorem:** If  $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_p\}$  is an orthonormal basis for a subspace  $W$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , then

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \text{proj}_W \mathbf{y} = (\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}_1)\mathbf{u}_1 + (\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}_2)\mathbf{u}_2 + \dots + (\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}_p)\mathbf{u}_p$$

If  $U = [\mathbf{u}_1 \ \mathbf{u}_2 \ \dots \ \mathbf{u}_p]$ , then

*thm in 6.2*  
 $\downarrow$   
 $U^T U \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{I} \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{y}$

$$\text{proj}_W \mathbf{y} = U U^T \mathbf{y} \text{ for all } \mathbf{y} \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^n$$

**Example 4:** Let  $\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\mathbf{u}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{10} \\ -3/\sqrt{10} \end{bmatrix}$ , and  $W = \text{Span}\{\mathbf{u}_1\}$ .

$\vec{\mathbf{u}}_1 = \sqrt{\frac{1}{10} + \frac{9}{10}} = 1$

(1) . Let  $U$  be the  $2 \times 1$  matrix whose only column is  $\mathbf{u}_1$ . Compute  $U^T U$  and  $U U^T$  .

(2) . Compute  $\text{proj}_W \mathbf{y}$  and  $(U U^T) \mathbf{y}$ .

c1)  $(U^T)_{1,2} U_{2,1} = \mathbf{I} = 1$   $\rightarrow U U^T$  is always a symmetric matrix. ( $A = A^T$ )

$$U U^T = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{10} & \frac{-3}{10} \\ \frac{-3}{10} & \frac{9}{10} \end{pmatrix}$$

(2)  $\text{Proj}_W \mathbf{y} = U U^T \vec{\mathbf{y}} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{10} & \frac{-3}{10} \\ \frac{-3}{10} & \frac{9}{10} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 9 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{-7}{5} \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}$