

# 6.2 Orthogonal Sets

Defn  $S = \{u_1, \dots, u_p\}$  a set of vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  are said to be an orthogonal set if every pair of distinct vectors is orthogonal, i.e.  $u_i \cdot u_j = 0 \forall i \neq j$

Ex 1  $u_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$   $u_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$   $u_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$  is an orthogonal set see fig. 1 on pg 384

$u_1 \cdot u_2 = -1 + 1 = 0$   
 $u_1 \cdot u_3 = 2 - 2 = 0$   
 $u_2 \cdot u_3 = -2 + 4 - 2 = 0$

## Thm 4

If  $S = \{u_1, \dots, u_p\}$  is an orthogonal set of nonzero vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , then  $S$  is lin. indep., and thus a basis for the set spanned by  $S$ .

pf suppose dependent, then  $0 = c_1 u_1 + \dots + c_p u_p$  some  $c_1, \dots, c_p$  not all zero, taking a dot prod. w/  $u_1$

$$0 = 0 \cdot u_1 = c_1 u_1 \cdot u_1 + \dots + c_p u_p \cdot u_1 = c_1 u_1 \cdot u_1 \text{ b/c } u_i \cdot u_j = 0 \forall i \neq j$$

but if  $0 = c_1 u_1 \cdot u_1$ , then  $c_1 = 0$  (b/c  $u_1$  is not zero)

taking dot prod. w/  $u_2$  shows  $c_2 = 0$  and so on for all  $c_i$   $\hookrightarrow$  not all were zero. so  $S$  is lin. indep.

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

compute wts in linear combinations easily for orthogonal bases.

Thm 5 let  $\{u_1, \dots, u_p\}$  be an orthogonal basis for  $W$  subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$

then  $\forall y \in W$ ,  $y = c_1 u_1 + \dots + c_p u_p$  w/ wts.  $c_1, \dots, c_p$  given by  $c_j = \frac{y \cdot u_j}{u_j \cdot u_j}$   $j=1, \dots, p$

pf by orthogonality (as in last pt)  $y \cdot u_j = c_j u_j \cdot u_j \Rightarrow c_j = \frac{y \cdot u_j}{u_j \cdot u_j}$  b/c  $u_i \cdot u_j = 0$  (b/c basis can't have zero vector)

Ex 2 set  $S = \{u_1, u_2, u_3\}$  from ex 1 is an orthogonal basis for  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , express  $y = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 9 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$  as a lin. comb. of vectors in  $S$ .

$y \cdot u_1 = 4$   $y \cdot u_2 = 36$   $y \cdot u_3 = 9$  so  $y = \frac{4}{2} u_1 + \frac{36}{18} u_2 + \frac{9}{9} u_3$   
 $u_1 \cdot u_1 = 2$   $u_2 \cdot u_2 = 18$   $u_3 \cdot u_3 = 9$   $y = 2u_1 + 2u_2 + u_3$

If basis is not orthogonal, then need to solve system. check work  $2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + 2 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 9 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$

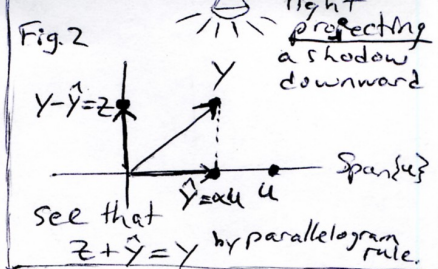
Bonus let  $B = \{u_1, \dots, u_n\}$  be an orthogonal basis for  $\mathbb{R}^n$  for any  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  what is  $[x]_B$  the  $B$ -coords of  $x$ ?

$[x]_B = \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ \vdots \\ c_n \end{bmatrix}$  where  $x = c_1 u_1 + \dots + c_n u_n$  and by thm 5 we know  $c_j = \frac{x \cdot u_j}{u_j \cdot u_j}$  b/c  $B$  is an orthogonal basis.

so  $[x]_B = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{x \cdot u_1}{u_1 \cdot u_1} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{x \cdot u_n}{u_n \cdot u_n} \end{bmatrix}$

# Orthogonal Projections

given nonzero  $u \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\text{Span}\{u\}$  is a line  
 the orthogonal complement is an  $(n-1)$  dim'l subspace  
 consisting of all vectors orthogonal to  $u$ .



For any vector  $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , we want to decompose  $y$  into the sum of 2 vectors, one on the line spanned by  $u$ , and the other in the orthogonal complement.

$y = \hat{y} + z$  where  $\hat{y} = \alpha u$ . thus  $z = y - \hat{y} = y - \alpha u$   
 and  $z$  should be orthogonal to  $u$ , so  $(y - \alpha u) \cdot u = 0$   
 to find  $\hat{y}$  and  $z$  (the decomposition of  $y$ , we seek) we need to solve for  $\alpha$ .

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

and thus  $\hat{y} = \frac{y \cdot u}{u \cdot u} u$  and  $z = y - \frac{y \cdot u}{u \cdot u} u$

defn  $\hat{y}$  is called the orthogonal projection of  $y$  onto  $u$ .  
 $z$  is called the component of  $y$  orthogonal to  $u$ .

Note that if we used  $cu$  instead of  $u$  (for any nonzero scalar  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ ), we'd get the same  $\hat{y}$  and  $z$ .  
 So really we are projecting  $y$  onto the line  $L = \text{Span}\{u\}$

$\therefore$  sometimes we write  $\text{proj}_L y$  instead of  $\hat{y}$  and call the orthogonal projection of  $y$  onto  $u$  the orthogonal projection of  $y$  onto  $L$ .

Formula to remember

$$\hat{y} = \text{proj}_L y = \frac{y \cdot u}{u \cdot u} u \quad \text{where } L = \text{Span}\{u\} \text{ is the orthogonal projection of } y \text{ onto } L \text{ or } u.$$

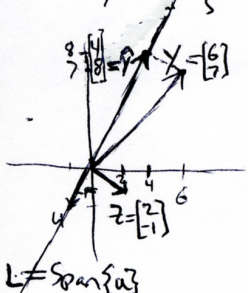
EX 3 consider  $\mathbb{R}^2$

$y = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}$   $u = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$  Find the orthogonal projection of  $y$  onto  $u$

$y \cdot u = -20$

$u \cdot u = 5$

so  $\hat{y} = \frac{-20}{5} u = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $z = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$ , thus  $\begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$   
 $y = \hat{y} + z$



as a check see that  $\{\hat{y}, y - \hat{y}\} = \{\hat{y}, z\}$  is an orthogonal set  
 i.e.  $\hat{y} \cdot z = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = 4(2) + 8(-1) = 0 \checkmark$

Note that b/c of geometry the point  $\hat{y}$  is the closest point on  $L$  to  $y$ .  
 This is the important concept we will use to find least-squares solns.

EX4 What is the distance from  $y$  to  $L = \text{Span}\{u\}$ .

From geometry, this is the length of the perpendicular line segment from  $y$  to  $\hat{y}$ , the orthogonal projection of  $y$  onto  $L$ .

This is the length of  $z = y - \hat{y}$ , thus  $\text{dist}(y, \hat{y}) = \|y - \hat{y}\| = \sqrt{z^2 + 0^2} = \sqrt{5}$ .

Recall thm 5 says w/ an orthogonal basis  $\{u_1, \dots, u_p\}$  for a subspace  $W$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$

every  $y \in W$  is a linear combination  $y = c_1 u_1 + \dots + c_p u_p$

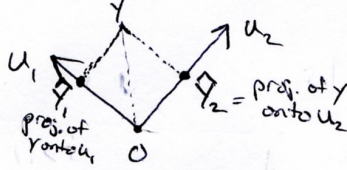
where the weights are  $c_j = \frac{y \cdot u_j}{u_j \cdot u_j}$  for  $j=1, \dots, p$

but then  $c_j u_j = \frac{y \cdot u_j}{u_j \cdot u_j} u_j$  is the orthogonal projection of  $y$  onto  $u_j$ .

So the linear combination in thm 5 decomposes  $y$  into a sum of orthogonal projections onto 1-dimensional subspaces, the basis elements (or lines they span).

EX Consider an orthogonal basis  $\{u_1, u_2\}$  for  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . Every  $y \in \mathbb{R}^2$  can be written

$$y = \underbrace{\frac{y \cdot u_1}{u_1 \cdot u_1}}_{\text{projection of } y \text{ onto } u_1} u_1 + \underbrace{\frac{y \cdot u_2}{u_2 \cdot u_2}}_{\text{projection of } y \text{ onto } u_2} u_2$$



This easily generalizes to  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and even subspaces  $W$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  w/ orthogonal bases  $\{u_1, \dots, u_p\}$  where  $\forall y \in W$   $\hat{y}_j = \frac{y \cdot u_j}{u_j \cdot u_j} u_j$  and  $y = \hat{y}_1 + \dots + \hat{y}_p$  by thm 5.

other common examples are with forces in physics.

## Orthonormal Sets

$\{u_1, \dots, u_p\}$  is an orthonormal set if it is an orthogonal set of unit vectors.

that is  $u_i \cdot u_i = 1$   
 $\forall i, j \in \{1, \dots, p\}$   
 and  $\|u_i\| = 1$

if  $W = \text{Span}\{u_1, \dots, u_p\}$ , we say the orthonormal set is an orthonormal basis for  $W$ .

Independent  
 orthonormal set  
 + theorem 4.

The standard basis  $E_n = \{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$  is an orthonormal basis for  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

any non-empty subset of  $E_n$  is an orthonormal set as well.

EX5 a non-standard example of an orthonormal basis, show  $\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$  is an orthonormal basis for  $\mathbb{R}^3$

if  $v_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{3} \\ 1/\sqrt{3} \\ 1/\sqrt{3} \end{bmatrix}$   $v_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2/\sqrt{6} \\ 1/\sqrt{6} \\ 1/\sqrt{6} \end{bmatrix}$   $v_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1/\sqrt{2} \\ -1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}$  solve  $v_1 \cdot v_2 = -2/\sqrt{18} + 1/\sqrt{18} + 1/\sqrt{18} = 0$  so orthogonal set

$v_1 \cdot v_3 = 0 + 1/\sqrt{6} - 1/\sqrt{6} = 0$  and  $\|v_1\|^2 = v_1 \cdot v_1 = 1/3 + 1/3 + 1/3 = 1$

$v_2 \cdot v_3 = 0 + 1/\sqrt{12} - 1/\sqrt{12} = 0$   $\|v_2\|^2 = v_2 \cdot v_2 = 4/6 + 1/6 + 1/6 = 1$

$\|v_3\|^2 = v_3 \cdot v_3 = 0 + 1/2 + 1/2 = 1$

thus  $\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$  is an orthonormal basis!

EX6 Given an orthogonal set, we can get an orthonormal set by normalizing. (normalization will not effect orthogonality)

given the orthogonal set in example 1, construct an orthonormal set (basis) by normalizing each vector.

recall from ex1  $u_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$   $u_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$   $u_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$  so  $v_1 = \frac{u_1}{\|u_1\|} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 0 \\ 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}$   $v_2 = \frac{u_2}{\|u_2\|} = \begin{bmatrix} -1/\sqrt{18} \\ 4/\sqrt{18} \\ 1/\sqrt{18} \end{bmatrix}$   $v_3 = \frac{u_3}{\|u_3\|} = \begin{bmatrix} 2/3 \\ 1/3 \\ -2/3 \end{bmatrix}$  check your result as in ex 5.

check  $v_1 \cdot v_2 = -1/\sqrt{36} + 1/\sqrt{36} = 0$   $\|v_1\|^2 = v_1 \cdot v_1 = 1/2 + 1/2 = 1$   
 $v_1 \cdot v_3 = 2/3\sqrt{2} - 2/3\sqrt{2} = 0$   $\|v_2\|^2 = v_2 \cdot v_2 = 1/18 + 16/18 + 1/18 = 1$   
 $v_2 \cdot v_3 = -2/\sqrt{54} + 4/\sqrt{54} - 2/\sqrt{54} = 0$   $\|v_3\|^2 = v_3 \cdot v_3 = 4/9 + 1/9 + 4/9 = 1$

we could rationalize denominators (but not necessary)

$v_1 = \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{2}/2 \\ 0 \\ \sqrt{2}/2 \end{bmatrix}$   $v_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -\sqrt{2}/6 \\ 2\sqrt{2}/3 \\ \sqrt{2}/6 \end{bmatrix}$   $v_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 2/3 \\ 1/3 \\ -2/3 \end{bmatrix}$

before we move on, can we prove (for practice) that normalizing doesn't effect orthogonality?  
 If we prove any scaling doesn't effect orthogonality, then we are done since normalization is a (special) type of scaling.  
 So show if  $u$  and  $v$  are orthogonal then  $\alpha u$  and  $\beta v$  are as well.

so  $u \cdot v = 0$  and  $(\alpha u) \cdot (\beta v) = (\alpha \beta) (u \cdot v) = (\alpha \beta) \cdot (0) = 0$   
 Thus, if  $\alpha = \frac{1}{\|u\|}$  and  $\beta = \frac{1}{\|v\|}$  so  $\alpha u$  and  $\beta v$  are orthogonal  
 by thm. 1

We have shown that if 2 vectors are orthogonal, then their normalizations are as well

Given an orthonormal set  $\{u_1, \dots, u_n\}$  of vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^m$   
 let  $U = [u_1 \dots u_n]$ , an  $m \times n$  matrix w/ orthonormal columns

**Thm 6**  $U^T U = I_n$ ? pf  $U^T U = \begin{bmatrix} u_1^T \\ \vdots \\ u_n^T \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_1 & \dots & u_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1^T u_1 & \dots & u_1^T u_n \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ u_n^T u_1 & \dots & u_n^T u_n \end{bmatrix}$   
 since  $\{u_1, \dots, u_n\}$  is an orthonormal set  $u_i \cdot u_j = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i=j \\ 0 & \text{if } i \neq j \end{cases}$  so  $U^T U = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix} = I_n$   
 Note:  $U^T$  is  $n \times m$ ,  $U$  is  $m \times n$  so  $U^T U$  is  $n \times n$   
 Warning:  $U U^T$  is  $m \times m$ , but NOT  $I_m$   
 by the row-column rule for matrix mult. the  $(i,j)$  entry of  $U^T U$  is the  $i$ th row of  $U^T$  times the  $j$ th col of  $U$ .  
 $U_i^T U_j = u_i \cdot u_j$  by def. of dot prod.  
 the  $n \times n$  identity matrix  
 $U^T$  does not (necessarily) have orthonormal columns (only if  $m=n$  is this true for sure).

**Thm 7** let  $U$  be  $m \times n$  w/ orthonormal columns, let  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$   
 then a)  $\|Ux\| = \|x\|$   
 b)  $(Ux) \cdot (Uy) = x \cdot y$   
 c)  $(Ux) \cdot (Uy) = 0$  iff  $x \cdot y = 0$   
 pf given by exercise 25 (HW)

Consider the linear transformation  $x \mapsto Ux$   
 property a) says this map is length preserving,  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n$   
 property b) says the mapping also preserves orthogonality, meaning if 2 vectors are orthogonal in the domain, their images are also orthogonal.

**EX 6** pick 2 vectors from ex 5  
 say  $v_2$  and  $v_3$ , then  $U = [v_2 \ v_3] = \begin{bmatrix} -2/\sqrt{6} & 0 \\ 1/\sqrt{6} & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{6} & -1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}$   
 let  $x = \begin{bmatrix} -\sqrt{6} \\ 2\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}$

$U^T U = \begin{bmatrix} -2/\sqrt{6} & 1/\sqrt{6} & 1/\sqrt{6} \\ 0 & 1/\sqrt{2} & -1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -2/\sqrt{6} & 0 \\ 1/\sqrt{6} & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{6} & -1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$   
 and  $U U^T = \begin{bmatrix} 2/3 & 0 \\ 1/\sqrt{6} & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{6} & -1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -2/\sqrt{6} & 1/\sqrt{6} & 1/\sqrt{6} \\ 0 & 1/\sqrt{2} & -1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2/3 & 1/3 & -1/3 \\ -1/3 & 2/3 & -1/3 \\ -1/3 & -1/3 & 2/3 \end{bmatrix}$   
 not  $I_3$   
 $Ux = \begin{bmatrix} -2/\sqrt{6} & 0 \\ 1/\sqrt{6} & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{6} & -1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -\sqrt{6} \\ 2\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}$   
 $\|x\| = \sqrt{6+4\sqrt{2}} = \sqrt{14}$   
 $\|Ux\| = \sqrt{2^2+1^2+(-3)^2} = \sqrt{14}$

If  $m=n$ , i.e.  $n$  orthonormal vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  (an orthonormal basis) make up the columns of  $U$ ,  $n \times n$   
 then  $U^T U = I_n \Rightarrow U^T = U^{-1}$   
 and so  $U U^T = I_n$  as well.  
 Any square invertible matrix,  $U$  w/ the property  $U^T = U^{-1}$  is called an orthogonal matrix.

And so the rows are orthonormal as well (why?)  
 Thm 6 says that every orthogonal matrix has orthonormal columns. In fact it is not hard to see that invertibility here means that the columns actually form an orthonormal basis for  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

let  $U = [v_1 \ v_2 \ v_3] = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{3} & 0 & -2/\sqrt{6} \\ 1/\sqrt{3} & 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{6} \\ 1/\sqrt{3} & 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{6} \end{bmatrix}$   
 verify that the rows are orthonormal.  
 also check that  $U U^T = I$   
 order is important

Orthogonal matrices play a central role in a relatively new field of mathematics called **Random Matrix Theory (RMT)**  
 As well as in chapter 7 of our book (which we don't cover)