

Section 6.3

Orthogonal projection

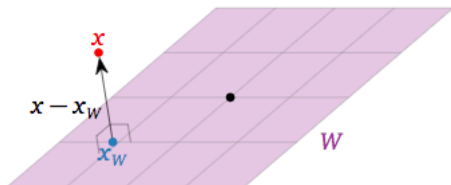
Outline of Section 6.3

- Orthogonal projections and distance
- A formula for projecting onto any subspace
- A special formula for projecting onto a line
- Matrices for projections
- Properties of projections

Orthogonal Projections

Let b be a vector in \mathbb{R}^n and W a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n .

The **orthogonal projection** of b onto W the vector obtained by drawing a line segment from b to W that is perpendicular to W .



Fact. The following three things are all the same:

- The orthogonal projection of b onto W
- The vector b_W (the W -part of b) **algebra!**
- The closest vector in W to b **geometry!**

Orthogonal Projections

Theorem. Let $W = \text{Col}(A)$. For any vector b in \mathbb{R}^n , the equation

$$A^T Ax = A^T b$$

is consistent and the orthogonal projection b_W is equal to Ax where x is any solution.

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Why? Choose \hat{x} so that $A\hat{x} = b_W$. We know $b - b_W = b - A\hat{x}$ is in $W^\perp = \text{Nul}(A^T)$ and so

$$0 = A^T(b - A\hat{x}) = A^T b - A^T A\hat{x}$$

$$\rightsquigarrow A^T A\hat{x} = A^T b$$

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What does the theorem give when $W = \text{Span}\{u\}$ is a line?

Orthogonal Projection onto a line

Special case. Let $L = \text{Span}\{u\}$. For any vector b in \mathbb{R}^n we have:

$$b_L = \frac{u \cdot b}{u \cdot u} u$$

Find b_L and b_{L^\perp} if $b = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -3 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $u = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

Orthogonal Projections

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$$A^T Ax = A^T b$$

is consistent and the orthogonal projection b_W is equal to Ax where x is any solution.

Example. Find b_W if $b = \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 5 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$, $W = \text{Span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$

Steps. Find $A^T A$ and $A^T b$, then solve for x , then compute Ax .

Question. How far is b from W ?

Orthogonal Projections

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Orthogonal Projections

Theorem. Let $W = \text{Col}(A)$. For any vector b in \mathbb{R}^n , the equation

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is consistent and the orthogonal projection b_W is equal to Ax where x is any solution.

Special case. If the columns of A are independent then $A^T A$ is invertible, and so

$$b_W = A(A^T A)^{-1} A^T b.$$

Why? The x we find tells us which linear combination of the columns of A gives us b_W . If the columns of A are independent, there's only one linear combination.

Matrices for projections

Fact. If the columns of A are independent and $W = \text{Col}(A)$ and $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is orthogonal projection onto W then the standard matrix for T is:

$$A(A^T A)^{-1} A^T.$$

Why?

Example. Find the standard matrix for orthogonal projection of \mathbb{R}^3 onto $W = \text{Span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$

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Projections as linear transformations

Let W be a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n and let $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be the function given by $T(b) = b_W$ (orthogonal projection). Then

- T is a linear transformation
- $T(b) = b$ if and only if b is in W
- $T(b) = 0$ if and only if b is in W^\perp
- $T \circ T = T$
- The range of T is W

Properties of projection matrices

Let W be a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n and let $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be the function given by $T(b) = b_W$ (orthogonal projection). Let A be the standard matrix for T . Then

- The 1-eigenspace of A is W (unless $W = 0$)
- The 0-eigenspace of A is W^\perp (unless $W = \mathbb{R}^n$)
- $A^2 = A$
- $\text{Col}(A) = W$
- $\text{Nul}(A) = W^\perp$
- A is diagonalizable; its diagonal matrix has m 1's & $n - m$ 0's where $m = \dim W$ (this gives another way to find A)

You can check these properties for the matrix in the last example. It would be very hard to prove these facts without any theory. But they are all easy once you know about linear transformations!

Summary of Section 6.3

- The **orthogonal projection** of b onto W is b_W
- b_W is the closest point in W to b .
- The distance from b to W is $\|b_{W^\perp}\|$.
- **Theorem.** Let $W = \text{Col}(A)$. For any b , the equation $A^T Ax = A^T b$ is consistent and b_W is equal to Ax where x is any solution.
- **Special case.** If $L = \text{Span}\{u\}$ then $b_L = \frac{u \cdot b}{u \cdot u} u$
- **Special case.** If the columns of A are independent then $A^T A$ is invertible, and so $b_W = A(A^T A)^{-1} A^T b$
- When the columns of A are independent, the standard matrix for orthogonal projection to $\text{Col}(A)$ is $A(A^T A)^{-1} A^T$
- Let W be a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n and let $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be the function given by $T(b) = b_W$. Then
 - ▶ T is a linear transformation
 - ▶ etc.
- If A is the standard matrix then
 - ▶ The 1-eigenspace of A is W (unless $W = 0$)
 - ▶ etc.

Typical Exam Questions 6.3

- True/false. The solution to $A^T Ax = A^T b$ is the point in $\text{Col}(A)$ that is closest to b .
- True/false. If v and w are both solutions to $A^T Ax = A^T b$ then $v - w$ is in the null space of A .
- True/false. If A has two equal columns then $A^T Ax = A^T b$ has infinitely many solutions for every b .
- Find b_L and b_{L^\perp} if $b = (1, 2, 3)$ and L is the span of $(1, 2, 1)$.
- Find b_W if $b = (1, 2, 3)$ and W is the span of $(1, 2, 1)$ and $(1, 0, 1)$. Find the distance from b to W .
- Find the matrix A for orthogonal projection to the span of $(1, 2, 1)$ and $(1, 0, 1)$. What are the eigenvalues of A ? What is A^{100} ?