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What is on today

1 Orthogonal sets

Lay–Lay–McDonald §6.2 pp. 344 – 346

A set $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{u}_p\}$ is an *orthonormal set* if it is an orthogonal set of unit vectors. If W is the subspace spanned by such a set, then $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{u}_p\}$ is an *orthonormal basis* for W, since the set is automatically linearly independent, by a theorem we saw in the previous class.

The simplest example of an orthonormal set is the standard basis $\{\mathbf{e}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{e}_n\}$ for $\mathbb{R}^n$. Here is another example:

Example 1. *Show that* $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3\}$ *is an orthonormal basis of* $\mathbb{R}^3$, *where* $\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 3/\sqrt{11} \\ 1/\sqrt{11} \\ 1/\sqrt{11} \end{bmatrix}$, $\mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1/\sqrt{6} \\ 2/\sqrt{6} \\ 1/\sqrt{6} \end{bmatrix}$, $\mathbf{v}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} -1/\sqrt{66} \\ -4/\sqrt{66} \\ 7/\sqrt{66} \end{bmatrix}$.

Matrices whose columns form an orthonormal set are important in applications and in algorithms for matrix computations. Here are some properties of these matrices.

Theorem 2. *An* $m \times n$ *matrix* U *has orthonormal columns if and only if* $U^T U = I$.

Proof. To simplify notation, we suppose that U has 3 columns, each a vector in $\mathbb{R}^m$. The proof of the general case is essentially the same. Let $U = [\mathbf{u}_1 \quad \mathbf{u}_2 \quad \mathbf{u}_3]$ and compute

$$U^TU = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}_1^T \\ \mathbf{u}_2^T \\ \mathbf{u}_3^T \end{bmatrix} [\mathbf{u}_1 \quad \mathbf{u}_2 \quad \mathbf{u}_3]$$
$$= \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}_1^T\mathbf{u}_1 & \mathbf{u}_1^T\mathbf{u}_2 & \mathbf{u}_1^T\mathbf{u}_3 \\ \mathbf{u}_2^T\mathbf{u}_1 & \mathbf{u}_2^T\mathbf{u}_2 & \mathbf{u}_2^T\mathbf{u}_3 \\ \mathbf{u}_3^T\mathbf{u}_1 & \mathbf{u}_3^T\mathbf{u}_2 & \mathbf{u}_3^T\mathbf{u}_3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The entries in the matrix are inner products. The columns of U are orthogonal iff

$$\mathbf{u}_1^T\mathbf{u}_2 = \mathbf{u}_2^T\mathbf{u}_1 = 0, \quad \mathbf{u}_1^T\mathbf{u}_3 = \mathbf{u}_3^T\mathbf{u}_1 = 0, \quad \mathbf{u}_2^T\mathbf{u}_3 = \mathbf{u}_3^T\mathbf{u}_2 = 0.$$

The columns of U all have unit length iff

$$\mathbf{u}_1^T\mathbf{u}_1 = 1, \quad \mathbf{u}_2^T\mathbf{u}_2 = 1, \quad \mathbf{u}_3^T\mathbf{u}_3 = 1.$$

□

Theorem 3. *Let U be an $m \times n$ matrix with orthonormal columns, and let $\mathbf{x}$ and $\mathbf{y}$ be in $\mathbb{R}^n$. Then*

1. $||U\mathbf{x}|| = ||\mathbf{x}||$
2. $(U\mathbf{x}) \cdot (U\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{y}$
3. $(U\mathbf{x}) \cdot (U\mathbf{y}) = 0$ *iff* $\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{y} = 0$.

The first and third properties say that the linear mapping $\mathbf{x} \mapsto U\mathbf{x}$ preserves lengths and orthogonality.

Example 4. *Let* $U = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & 2/3 \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & -2/3 \\ 0 & 1/3 \end{bmatrix}$ *and* $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{2} \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$. *Verify that U has orthonormal columns and that $||U\mathbf{x}|| = ||\mathbf{x}||$.*

The previous two theorems are particularly useful when applied to square matrices. An *orthogonal matrix* is a square invertible matrix U such that $U^{-1} = U^T$. (Such a matrix has orthonormal columns.) It is easy to see that any square matrix with orthonormal columns is an orthogonal matrix. Such a matrix must have orthonormal *rows* as well!

Example 5. *Is the matrix* $U = \begin{bmatrix} 3/\sqrt{11} & -1\sqrt{6} & -1/\sqrt{66} \\ 1/\sqrt{11} & 2/\sqrt{6} & -4/\sqrt{66} \\ 1/\sqrt{11} & 1/\sqrt{6} & 7/\sqrt{66} \end{bmatrix}$ *orthogonal?*

Example 6. *Let* U *be an* $n \times n$ *matrix with orthonormal columns. Show that* $\det U = \pm 1$.

2 Orthogonal projections

Lay–Lay–McDonald §6.3 pp. 349 – 353

Example 7. *Let* $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_5\}$ *be an orthogonal basis for* $\mathbb{R}^5$ *and let* $\mathbf{y} = c_1\mathbf{u}_1 + \cdots + c_5\mathbf{u}_5$. *Consider the subspace* $W = \operatorname{Span}\{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2\}$ *and write* $\mathbf{y}$ *as the sum of a vector* $\mathbf{z}_1 \in W$ *and a vector* $\mathbf{z}_2 \in W^\perp$.

The next theorem shows that the decomposition $y = \mathbf{z}_1 + \mathbf{z}_2$ in the previous example can be computed without having an orthogonal basis for $\mathbb{R}^n$: it's enough to have an orthogonal basis for W.

Theorem 8 (Orthogonal Decomposition Theorem)**.** *Let* W *be a subspace of* $\mathbb{R}^n$. *Then each* $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ *can be written uniquely in the form* $\mathbf{y} = \hat{\mathbf{y}} + \mathbf{z}$, *where* $\hat{\mathbf{y}} \in W$ *and* $\mathbf{z} \in W^\perp$. *In fact, if* $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_p\}$ *is any orthogonal basis of* W, *then*

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \frac{\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}_1}{\mathbf{u}_1 \cdot \mathbf{u}_1}\mathbf{u}_1 + \cdots + \frac{\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}_p}{\mathbf{u}_p \cdot \mathbf{u}_p}\mathbf{u}_p$$

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

The vector $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ in the theorem is called the *orthogonal projection of* $\mathbf{y}$ *onto* W and often is written as

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \operatorname{proj}_W \mathbf{y}.$$

Example 9. *Let* $\mathbf{u}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{u}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$, *and* $\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$. *Show that* $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2\}$ *is an orthogonal basis for* W =*Span*$\{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2\}$. *Write* $\mathbf{y}$ *as the sum of a vector in* W *and a vector orthogonal to* W.

Now we study some properties of orthogonal projections. First, note that if $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_p\}$ is an orthogonal basis of a subspace W and $\mathbf{y} \in W$, then $\operatorname{proj}_W \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{y}$. This also follows from the next theorem:

Theorem 10 (Best Approximation Theorem)**.** *Let* W *be a subspace of* $\mathbb{R}^n$, *let* $\mathbf{y}$ *be any vector in* $\mathbb{R}^n$ *and let* $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ *be the orthogonal projection of* $\mathbf{y}$ *onto* W. *Then* $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ *is the closest point in* W *to* $\mathbf{y}$, *in the sense that* $||\mathbf{y} - \hat{\mathbf{y}}|| < ||\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{v}||$ *for all* $\mathbf{v} \in W$ *distinct from* $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$.

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

Example 11. *Let* $\mathbf{u}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{u}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$, *and let* $W = \operatorname{Span}\{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2\}$. *Find the closest point in* W *to* $\mathbf{y}$. *(This closest point gives us the distance from* $\mathbf{y}$ *to* W*.)*

The last theorem today shows how the formula for $\operatorname{proj}_W \mathbf{y}$ is simplified when the basis for W is an orthonormal set.

Theorem 12. *If* $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_p\}$ *is an orthonormal basis for a subspace* W *of* $\mathbb{R}^n$, *then*

$$\operatorname{proj}_W \mathbf{y} = (\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}_1)\mathbf{u}_1 + (\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}_2)\mathbf{u}_2 + \cdots + (\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u}_p)\mathbf{u}_p.$$

If $U = [\mathbf{u}_1 \quad \mathbf{u}_2 \quad \cdots \quad \mathbf{u}_p]$ *then*

$$\operatorname{proj}_W \mathbf{y} = UU^T\mathbf{y}$$

for all $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$.