

Math 218D Problem Session

Week 7

1. Projection onto a line

For each of the following,

(1) project the vector b onto the line $V = \text{Span}\{v\}$;

(2) draw the three vectors b, b_V, b_{V^\perp} .

a) $b = (1, 1), v = (1, 0)$

b) $b = (0, 2), v = (1, 1)$

c) $b = (1, 2, 3), v = (1, 1, -1)$.

2. Planes and normal vectors

The subspace $V = \text{Span}\{(1, 1, 2), (1, 3, 1)\}$ of \mathbf{R}^3 is a plane.

a) Make the vectors $(1, 1, 2), (1, 3, 1)$ into the rows of a 2×3 matrix A - this means that $\text{Row}(A) = V$. Find a basis for $\text{Nul}(A)$. Since

$$V^\perp = \text{Row}(A)^\perp = \text{Nul}(A),$$

you have found a basis $v = (a, b, c)$ for the line V^\perp .

In other words, you have found a basis for V^\perp by solving the two orthogonality equations

$$(a, b, c) \cdot (1, 1, 2) = a + b + 2c = 0,$$

$$(a, b, c) \cdot (1, 3, 1) = a + 3b + c = 0.$$

b) Confirm that V is the plane $\{(x, y, z) \in \mathbf{R}^3 : ax + by + cz = 0\}$, by showing that both $(1, 1, 2)$ and $(1, 3, 1)$ solve this equation. *The coefficients of a plane's equation make a normal vector for the plane.*

c) Find the orthogonal decomposition $b = b_V + b_{V^\perp}$ of the vector $b = (1, 1, 1)$ with respect to the plane V and the orthogonal line V^\perp .

Hint: It is easier to compute b_{V^\perp} , as it is the projection of b onto the line V^\perp spanned by the vector $v = (a, b, c)$.

3. Projection onto a plane

Consider the plane

$$V = \text{Span}\{(1, 1, 1, 1), (1, 2, 3, 4)\}$$

in \mathbf{R}^4 . We will find the orthogonal projection of $b = (1, -1, -3, -5)$ onto V . This is a vector $b_V \in \mathbf{R}^4$ so that $b_V \in V$ and $b_{V^\perp} = b - b_V \in V^\perp$.

Since b_V is in V , it must equal

$$b_V = \hat{x}_1(1, 1, 1, 1) + \hat{x}_2(1, 2, 3, 4)$$

for some scalars \hat{x}_1 and \hat{x}_2 . **We will compute the orthogonal projection by solving for these scalars.**

The vector b_{V^\perp} is orthogonal to every vector in V , in particular it is orthogonal to both $(1, 1, 1, 1)$ and $(1, 2, 3, 4)$. We get two equations:

$$(1, 1, 1, 1) \cdot b_{V^\perp} = 0,$$

$$(1, 2, 3, 4) \cdot b_{V^\perp} = 0.$$

Expanding $b_{V^\perp} = b - b_V = (1, -1, -3, -5) - (\hat{x}_1(1, 1, 1, 1) + \hat{x}_2(1, 2, 3, 4))$, we can rewrite these two equations as

$$(1, 1, 1, 1) \cdot (\hat{x}_1(1, 1, 1, 1) + \hat{x}_2(1, 2, 3, 4)) = (1, 1, 1, 1) \cdot (1, -1, -3, -5),$$

$$(1, 2, 3, 4) \cdot (\hat{x}_1(1, 1, 1, 1) + \hat{x}_2(1, 2, 3, 4)) = (1, 2, 3, 4) \cdot (1, -1, -3, -5).$$

- By computing the dot-products, convert this into two linear equations in the two unknowns \hat{x}_1 and \hat{x}_2 .
- Solve for \hat{x}_1 and \hat{x}_2 , and compute the orthogonal projection

$$b_V = \hat{x}_1(1, 1, 1, 1) + \hat{x}_2(1, 2, 3, 4).$$

- Confirm that the vector $b_{V^\perp} = b - b_V$ is orthogonal to V by checking that

$$b_{V^\perp} \cdot (1, 1, 1, 1) = 0 \text{ and } b_{V^\perp} \cdot (1, 2, 3, 4) = 0.$$

- Write down a matrix A whose column are the two vectors which span V , and compute $A^T A$, the “matrix of dot products”. Compute the vector $A^T b$. Explain where the matrix equation $A^T A \hat{x} = A^T b$ (the **normal equation**) appears in **a)**-**b)**, and also where the product $b_V = A \hat{x}$ appears.
- Compute the projection matrix $P = A(A^T A)^{-1} A^T$ for the subspace V – this is the matrix which, when multiplied with b , produces the projection b_V :

$$Pb = b_V.$$

We’ll discuss projection matrices in next week’s lectures.

- Compute the vectors $(I_4 - P) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and $(I_4 - P) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$. Explain why these two vectors give a basis for the plane V^\perp .

g) Use your answer to f) to describe the plane V via two implicit equations:

$$V = \{(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) \in \mathbf{R}^4 : c_1x_1 + c_2x_2 + c_3x_3 + c_4x_4 = 0 \text{ and } c'_1x_1 + c'_2x_2 + c'_3x_3 + c'_4x_4 = 0\}.$$

In other words, what coefficient vectors (c_1, c_2, c_3, c_4) and (c'_1, c'_2, c'_3, c'_4) can we use to describe V , and why? Confirm that every vector in V satisfies these equations by checking that both $(1, 1, 1, 1)$ and $(1, 2, 3, 4)$ do.

4. Projection matrices for lines

For each of the following lines L , compute the projection matrix P_L .

a) $L = \text{Span}\{(1, 1)\}$,

b) $L = \text{Span}\{(1, 2, 3)\}$,

c) $L = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbf{R}^3 : 2x + y + z = 0\}^\perp$.

5. Projection matrices for planes

Consider the plane

$$V = \text{Span}\{(1, 1, 1, 1), (1, 2, 3, 4)\}$$

in \mathbf{R}^4 .

a) Compute the projection matrix P_V for the subspace V – this is the matrix which, when multiplied with a vector b , produces the projection b_V :

$$P_V b = b_V.$$

(Feel free to use a computer to help with the matrix multiplications in the formula $P_V = A(A^T A)^{-1} A^T$ if you are finding it tedious.)

b) Compute the vectors $(I_4 - P_V) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and $(I_4 - P_V) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$. Explain why these two vectors give a basis for the plane V^\perp .

c) Use your answer to b) to describe the plane V via two implicit equations:

$$V = \{(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) \in \mathbf{R}^4 : c_1x_1 + c_2x_2 + c_3x_3 + c_4x_4 = 0 \text{ and } c'_1x_1 + c'_2x_2 + c'_3x_3 + c'_4x_4 = 0\}.$$

In other words, what coefficient vectors (c_1, c_2, c_3, c_4) and (c'_1, c'_2, c'_3, c'_4) can we use to describe V , and why? Confirm that every vector in V satisfies these equations by checking that both $(1, 1, 1, 1)$ and $(1, 2, 3, 4)$ do.

6. Some mistakes to avoid

A false “fact”: every projection matrix $P = A(A^T A)^{-1} A^T$ equals the identity matrix I .

A false “proof”:

$$P = A(A^T A)^{-1} A^T = A A^{-1} (A^T)^{-1} A^T = (A A^{-1}) ((A^T)^{-1} A^T) = I \cdot I = I.$$

- a) What is wrong would this proof?
- b) In what case would this proof be correct?

Consider the subspace $V = \text{Span}\{(1, 1, 1, -1), (2, 1, 1, 2), (3, 2, 2, 1)\}$ in \mathbb{R}^4 . V is the column space of the matrix

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \\ -1 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- c) It would be *incorrect* to say that $P = A(A^T A)^{-1} A^T$ is the projection matrix for V . Why?
Hint: Try computing P - what goes wrong?
- d) Find a matrix B so that $P = B(B^T B)^{-1} B^T$ is the projection matrix for V – you do not need to compute B .