

This document is an **exact transcript** of the lecture, with extra summary and vocabulary sections. Due to time constraints, the lectures sometimes only contain limited illustrations, proofs, and examples. For a more thorough discussion of the course content, **consult the textbook**.

Summary

Quick summary of today's notes. Lecture starts on next page.

- A set of nonzero vectors $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is *orthogonal* if $v_i \bullet v_j = 0$ for all $i \neq j$.
Any such set is automatically linearly independent and therefore a basis for a subspace.

- An orthogonal basis is *orthonormal* if it consists entirely of unit vectors.

If $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n \in \mathbb{R}^m$ are orthonormal and $U = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 & u_2 & \dots & u_n \end{bmatrix}$ then $U^\top U = I_n$.

A square matrix U is *orthogonal* if $U^{-1} = U^\top$.

This occurs if and only if the columns of U are orthonormal.

- Any subspace $V \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ has an orthogonal basis.

Any subspace $V \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ therefore also has an orthonormal basis.

If $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_p$ is an orthogonal basis for V then the *projection* of $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ onto V is the vector

$$\text{proj}_V(y) = \frac{y \bullet u_1}{u_1 \bullet u_1} u_1 + \frac{y \bullet u_2}{u_2 \bullet u_2} u_2 + \dots + \frac{y \bullet u_p}{u_p \bullet u_p} u_p \in V.$$

This formula does not depend on the choice of orthogonal basis for V .

The projection of y onto V is the unique vector in V such that $y - \text{proj}_V(y) \in V^\perp$.

The projection of y onto V is also characterized as the vector in V that is the shortest distance away from y . If $v \in V$ and $v \neq \text{proj}_V(y)$ then $\|y - \text{proj}_V(y)\| < \|y - v\|$.

- The *Gram-Schmidt process* is an algorithm that takes a basis $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p$ for a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^n$ as input, and produces an orthogonal basis $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p$ of the same subspace as output.

The orthogonal basis $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p$ is defined from the input basis $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p$ by these formulas:

$$\begin{aligned} v_1 &= x_1. \\ v_2 &= x_2 - \frac{x_2 \bullet v_1}{v_1 \bullet v_1} v_1. \\ v_3 &= x_3 - \frac{x_3 \bullet v_1}{v_1 \bullet v_1} v_1 - \frac{x_3 \bullet v_2}{v_2 \bullet v_2} v_2. \\ v_4 &= x_4 - \frac{x_4 \bullet v_1}{v_1 \bullet v_1} v_1 - \frac{x_4 \bullet v_2}{v_2 \bullet v_2} v_2 - \frac{x_4 \bullet v_3}{v_3 \bullet v_3} v_3. \\ &\vdots \\ v_p &= x_p - \frac{x_p \bullet v_1}{v_1 \bullet v_1} v_1 - \frac{x_p \bullet v_2}{v_2 \bullet v_2} v_2 - \dots - \frac{x_p \bullet v_{p-1}}{v_{p-1} \bullet v_{p-1}} v_{p-1}. \end{aligned}$$

1 Last time: inner products and orthogonality

The *inner product* or *dot product* of two vectors

$$u = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ \vdots \\ u_n \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad v = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{bmatrix}$$

in $\mathbb{R}^n$ is the scalar $u \bullet v = u_1v_1 + u_2v_2 + \cdots + u_nv_n = u^\top v = v^\top u = v \bullet u$.

The *length* of a vector $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is $\|v\| = \sqrt{v \bullet v} = \sqrt{v_1^2 + v_2^2 + \cdots + v_n^2}$.

A vector with length 1 is a *unit vector*. Note that $\|v\|^2 = v \bullet v$.

Two vectors $u, v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ are *orthogonal* if $u \bullet v = 0$.

In $\mathbb{R}^2$, two vectors are orthogonal if and only if they belong to perpendicular lines through the origin.

Pythagorean Theorem. Two vectors $u, v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ are orthogonal if and only if $\|u + v\|^2 = \|u\|^2 + \|v\|^2$.

The *orthogonal complement* of a subspace $V \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is the subspace $V^\perp$ whose elements are the vectors $w \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $w \bullet v = 0$ for all $v \in V$.

The only vector that is in both V and $V^\perp$ is the zero vector.

We have $\{0\}^\perp = \mathbb{R}^n$ and $(\mathbb{R}^n)^\perp = \{0\}$. If A is an $m \times n$ matrix then $(\text{Col } A)^\perp = \text{Nul}(A^\top)$.

We also showed last time that $\dim V + \dim V^\perp \leq n$.

A list of vectors $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_p \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is *orthogonal* if $u_i \bullet u_j = 0$ whenever $1 \leq i < j \leq p$.

Theorem. Any list of orthogonal nonzero vectors is linearly independent and so is an orthogonal basis of the subspace it spans.

Second proof. Suppose $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_p \in \mathbb{R}^n$ are orthogonal and nonzero.

Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 & u_2 & \cdots & u_p \end{bmatrix}$ and $d_i = u_i \bullet u_i > 0$ and $D = \begin{bmatrix} d_1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & d_p \end{bmatrix}$.

Check that $A^\top A = D$. Our vectors are linearly dependent if and only if $Ax = 0$ has a nonzero solution. This is impossible since if $Ax = 0$ then $A^\top Ax = 0$ which implies $x = 0$ since $A^\top A = D$ is invertible. $\square$

If $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_p$ is an orthogonal basis for a subspace $V \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ and $y \in V$, then

$$y = c_1 u_1 + c_2 u_2 + \cdots + c_p u_p \quad \text{where } c_i = \frac{y \bullet u_i}{u_i \bullet u_i} \in \mathbb{R}.$$

This is a very useful property of orthogonal bases.

In general, to determine the coefficients that express a vector in a given basis, we have to solve an entire linear system. For orthogonal bases, we can just compute inner products.

Example. Let's work through this statement for the standard orthogonal basis $e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n$ for $\mathbb{R}^n$. If

$$y = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix} = y_1 e_1 + y_2 e_2 + \cdots + y_n e_n$$

then $y = c_1 e_1 + c_2 e_2 + \cdots + c_n e_n$ where $c_i = \frac{y \bullet e_i}{e_i \bullet e_i}$. But $e_i \bullet e_i = 1$ and $y \bullet e_i = y_i$, so we just have $c_i = y_i$.

2 Orthogonal projection onto a line

Let $L \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be a one-dimensional subspace.

Then $L = \mathbb{R}\text{-span}\{u\}$ for any nonzero vector $u \in L$.

Let $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$. The *orthogonal projection* of y onto L is the vector

$$\text{proj}_L(y) = \frac{y \bullet u}{u \bullet u} u \quad \text{for any } 0 \neq u \in L.$$

The value of $\text{proj}_L(y)$ does not depend on the choice of the nonzero vector u .

The *component of y orthogonal to L* is the vector $z = y - \text{proj}_L(y)$.

Proposition. The only vector $\hat{y} \in L$ with $y - \hat{y} \in L^\perp$ is the orthogonal projection $\hat{y} = \text{proj}_L(y)$.

Proof. Let $u \in L$ be nonzero. Then $y - \text{proj}_L(y) = y - \frac{y \bullet u}{u \bullet u} u$ and it holds that

$$\left(y - \frac{y \bullet u}{u \bullet u} u\right) \bullet u = y \bullet u - \frac{y \bullet u}{u \bullet u} u \bullet u = y \bullet u - y \bullet u = 0.$$

This shows that $y - \text{proj}_L(y) \in L^\perp$, and clearly $\text{proj}_L(y) \in L$.

To see that $\text{proj}_L(y)$ is the only vector in L with this property, suppose $\hat{y} \in L$ is such that $y - \hat{y} \in L^\perp$.

Then $(y - \hat{y}) \bullet \hat{y} = y \bullet \hat{y} - \hat{y} \bullet \hat{y} = 0$ so $y \bullet \hat{y} = \hat{y} \bullet \hat{y}$.

But $\hat{y} = cu$ for some nonzero $c \in \mathbb{R}$.

So we have $c(y \bullet u) = y \bullet cu = (cu) \bullet (cu) = c^2(u \bullet u)$.

Thus $c = \frac{y \bullet u}{u \bullet u}$ so $\hat{y} = \text{proj}_L(y)$. □

Example. If $y = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$ and $L = \mathbb{R}\text{-span}\left\{\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}\right\}$ then

$$\text{proj}_L(y) = \frac{\begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} \bullet \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}}{\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \bullet \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}} \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{28 + 12}{16 + 4} \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}.$$

In $\mathbb{R}^2$, the *distance* from a point (x, y) to a line $L = \mathbb{R}\text{-span}\{u\}$ is the number $\left\| \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} - \text{proj}_L \left(\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} \right) \right\|$.

Example. To find the distance from the point $(x, y) = (7, 6)$ to the line L defined by $y = \frac{1}{2}x$, note that L contains the vector $u = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$. Let $w = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$. Then

$$\text{proj}_L \left(\begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \frac{w \bullet u}{u \bullet u} u = \frac{28 + 12}{16 + 4} u = \frac{40}{20} u = \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

so the distance is

$$\left\| \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} \right\| = \left\| \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \right\| = \sqrt{1 + 4} = \sqrt{5}.$$

3 Orthonormal vectors

A set of vectors $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_p$ is *orthonormal* if the vectors are orthogonal and each vector is a unit vector. In other words, if $u_i \bullet u_j = 0$ when $i \neq j$ and $u_i \bullet u_i = 1$ for all i .

An *orthonormal basis* of a subspace is a basis that is orthonormal.

Confusing convention: a square matrix with orthonormal columns is called an *orthogonal matrix*.

It would make more sense to call such a matrix an “orthonormal matrix” but the term “orthogonal matrix” is standard and widely used.

Example. The standard basis $e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n$ is an orthonormal basis for $\mathbb{R}^n$.

Example. The vectors $\frac{1}{\sqrt{11}} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$, $\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$, and $\frac{1}{\sqrt{66}} \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -4 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}$ are an orthonormal basis for $\mathbb{R}^3$.

Theorem. Let U be an $m \times n$ matrix.

The columns of U are orthonormal vectors if and only if $U^\top U = I_n$.

If U is square then its columns are orthonormal if and only if $U^\top = U^{-1}$.

(In other words, a matrix U is *orthogonal* if and only if U is square and $U^\top = U^{-1}$.)

Proof. Suppose $U = [u_1 \ u_2 \ \dots \ u_n]$ where each $u_i \in \mathbb{R}^m$.

The entry in position (i, j) of $U^\top U$ is then $u_i^\top u_j = u_i \bullet u_j$.

Therefore $u_i \bullet u_i = 1$ and $u_i \bullet u_j = 0$ for all $i \neq j$ if and only if $U^\top U$ is the $n \times n$ identity matrix. □

Corollary. If U is an orthogonal matrix then $\det(U) \in \{-1, 1\}$.

Proof. We have $\det(U)^2 = \det(U^\top) \det(U) = \det(U^\top U) = \det(I) = 1$. □

Theorem. Let U be an $m \times n$ matrix with orthonormal columns. Suppose $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Then:

1. $\|Ux\| = \|x\|$.
2. $(Ux) \bullet (Uy) = x \bullet y$.
3. $(Ux) \bullet (Uy) = 0$ if and only if $x \bullet y = 0$.

Proof. The first and third statements are special cases of the second since $\|Ux\| = \|x\|$ if and only if $(Ux) \bullet (Ux) = x \bullet x$. The second statement holds since $(Ux) \bullet (Uy) = x^\top U^\top U y = x^\top I y = x^\top y = x \bullet y$. $\square$

4 Orthogonal projections onto subspaces

We have already seen that if $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $L \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is a 1-dimensional subspace then y can be written uniquely as $y = \hat{y} + z$ where $\hat{y} \in L$ and $z \in L^\perp$. This generalizes to arbitrary subspaces as follows:

Theorem. Let $W \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be any subspace. Let $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

Then there are unique vectors $\hat{y} \in W$ and $z \in W^\perp$ such that $y = \hat{y} + z$.

If $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_p$ is an orthogonal basis for W then

$$\hat{y} = \frac{y \bullet u_1}{u_1 \bullet u_1} u_1 + \frac{y \bullet u_2}{u_2 \bullet u_2} u_2 + \dots + \frac{y \bullet u_p}{u_p \bullet u_p} u_p \quad \text{and} \quad z = y - \hat{y}. \quad (*)$$

It doesn't matter which orthogonal basis is chosen for W ; this formula gives the same value for $\hat{y}$ and z .

Proof. To prove the theorem, we need to assume that W has an orthogonal basis. This nontrivial fact will be proved later in this lecture. Choose one such basis $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_p \in W$.

Define $\hat{y}$ by the given formula. Then $\hat{y} \in W$ and $y - \hat{y} \in W^\perp$ since for each $i = 1, 2, \dots, p$ we have

$$(y - \hat{y}) \bullet u_i = y \bullet u_i - \frac{y \bullet u_i}{u_i \bullet u_i} u_i \bullet u_i = 0.$$

To show uniqueness, suppose $y = \hat{u} + v$ where $\hat{u} \in W$ and $v \in W^\perp$.

Since we already have $y = \hat{y} + z$, we must have $\hat{u} - \hat{y} = z - v$. But $\hat{u} - \hat{y}$ is in W while $z - v$ is in $W^\perp$, so both expressions must be zero as $W \cap W^\perp = \{0\}$. This means we must have $\hat{u} = \hat{y}$ and $v = z$. $\square$

Definition. The vector $\hat{y}$, defined relative to y and W by the formula (*) in the preceding theorem, is the *orthogonal projection* of y onto W . From now on we will write $\boxed{\text{proj}_W(y) = \hat{y}}$ to refer to this vector.

Corollary. If $W \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is any subspace then $\dim W^\perp = n - \dim W$.

Proof. The preceding theorem shows that W and $W^\perp$ together span $\mathbb{R}^n$. Therefore the union of any basis for W with a basis for $W^\perp$ also spans $\mathbb{R}^n$.

The size of such a union is at most $\dim W + \dim W^\perp$ and at least n , so $n \leq \dim W + \dim W^\perp$. This means that $\dim W^\perp \geq n - \dim W$. We showed last time that $\dim W^\perp \leq n - \dim W$, so $\dim W^\perp = n - \dim W$. $\square$

Properties of orthogonal projections onto a subspace $W \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$.

Fact. If $y \in W$ then $\text{proj}_W(y) = y$. If $y \in W^\perp$ then $\text{proj}_W(y) = 0$.

Proposition. If $v \in W$ and $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $v \neq \text{proj}_W(y)$ then $\|y - \text{proj}_W(y)\| < \|y - v\|$.

In words: $\boxed{\text{the projection } \text{proj}_W(y) \text{ is the vector in } W \text{ that is closest to } y.}$

Proof. Let $\hat{y} = \text{proj}_W(y)$. Then $y - v = (y - \hat{y}) + (\hat{y} - v)$.

The first term in parentheses is in $W^\perp$ while the second term is in W .

Therefore by the Pythagorean theorem $\|y - v\|^2 = \|y - \hat{y}\|^2 + \|\hat{y} - v\|^2 > \|y - \hat{y}\|^2$ since $\|\hat{y} - v\| > 0$. $\square$

Fact. Suppose $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_p$ is an orthonormal basis of W . Then

$$\text{proj}_W(y) = (y \bullet u_1)u_1 + (y \bullet u_2)u_2 + \dots + (y \bullet u_p)u_p.$$

Define the matrix $U = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 & u_2 & \dots & u_p \end{bmatrix}$. Then $\text{proj}_W(y) = UU^\top y$.

5 The Gram-Schmidt process

The *Gram-Schmidt process* is an algorithm that takes an arbitrary basis for some subspace of $\mathbb{R}^n$ as input, and produces an orthogonal basis of the same subspace as output.

Theorem. Let $W \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be a nonzero subspace. Then W has an orthogonal basis.

(The zero subspace $\{0\}$ has an orthogonal basis given by the empty set, but we exclude this trivial case.)

Gram-Schmidt process. Suppose $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p$ is any basis for W .

Then an orthogonal basis is given by the vectors $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p$ defined by the following formulas:

$$v_1 = x_1.$$

$$v_2 = x_2 - \frac{x_2 \bullet v_1}{v_1 \bullet v_1} v_1.$$

$$v_3 = x_3 - \frac{x_3 \bullet v_1}{v_1 \bullet v_1} v_1 - \frac{x_3 \bullet v_2}{v_2 \bullet v_2} v_2.$$

$$v_4 = x_4 - \frac{x_4 \bullet v_1}{v_1 \bullet v_1} v_1 - \frac{x_4 \bullet v_2}{v_2 \bullet v_2} v_2 - \frac{x_4 \bullet v_3}{v_3 \bullet v_3} v_3.$$

$$\vdots$$

$$v_p = x_p - \frac{x_p \bullet v_1}{v_1 \bullet v_1} v_1 - \frac{x_p \bullet v_2}{v_2 \bullet v_2} v_2 - \dots - \frac{x_p \bullet v_{p-1}}{v_{p-1} \bullet v_{p-1}} v_{p-1}.$$

These formulas are inductive: to compute any v_i you need to have already computed $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{i-1}$.

More strongly, we can say the following. Let $W_i = \mathbb{R}\text{-span}\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_i\}$ for each $i = 1, 2, \dots, p$.

Then $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_i$ is an orthogonal basis for W_i and $v_{i+1} = x_{i+1} - \text{proj}_{W_i}(x_{i+1})$.

(Our proof of the existence of orthogonal projections relies on this theorem.)

Proof. For $i = 1, 2, \dots, p$ and $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ define $\text{proj}_{W_i}(y) = \frac{y \bullet v_1}{v_1 \bullet v_1} v_1 + \frac{y \bullet v_2}{v_2 \bullet v_2} v_2 + \dots + \frac{y \bullet v_i}{v_i \bullet v_i} v_i$.

We want to show that $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_i$ is an orthogonal basis for W_i for each i .

If we assume that this is true for any particular value of i , then the formula $v_{i+1} = x_{i+1} - \text{proj}_{W_i}(x_{i+1})$ automatically holds, which means that $v_{i+1} \in W_i^\perp$ so $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_i, v_{i+1}$ is also an orthogonal set, and therefore an orthogonal basis for W_{i+1} .

The single vector $v_1 = x_1$ is necessarily an orthogonal basis for $W_1 = \mathbb{R}\text{-span}\{v_1\}$.

Therefore v_1, v_2 is an orthogonal basis for W_2 , which means that v_1, v_2, v_3 is an orthogonal basis for W_3 ; continuing in this way, we deduce that $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_i$ is an orthogonal basis for W_i for each $i = 1, 2, \dots, p$. In particular $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p$ is an orthogonal basis for $W_p = W$. $\square$

Remark. To find an orthonormal basis for a subspace W , first find an orthogonal basis $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p$. Then replace each vector v_i by $u_i = \frac{1}{\|v_i\|}v_i$. The vectors $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_p$ will then be an orthonormal basis.

Example. Suppose $x_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ and $x_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ and $x_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

These vectors are linearly independent and so are a basis for the subspace $W = \mathbb{R}\text{-span}\{x_1, x_2, x_3\}$.

To compute an orthogonal basis for W , we carry out the Gram-Schmit process as follows:

- We set $v_1 = x_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$. Then $v_2 = x_2 - \frac{x_2 \bullet v_1}{v_1 \bullet v_1} v_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - \frac{3}{4} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -3/4 \\ 1/4 \\ 1/4 \\ 1/4 \end{bmatrix}$.

- Finally let $v_3 = x_3 - \frac{x_3 \bullet v_1}{v_1 \bullet v_1} v_1 - \frac{x_3 \bullet v_2}{v_2 \bullet v_2} v_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - \frac{2}{3} \begin{bmatrix} -3/4 \\ 1/4 \\ 1/4 \\ 1/4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -2/3 \\ 1/3 \\ 1/3 \end{bmatrix}$.

The vectors $v_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$, $v_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -3/4 \\ 1/4 \\ 1/4 \\ 1/4 \end{bmatrix}$, $v_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -2/3 \\ 1/3 \\ 1/3 \end{bmatrix}$ are then an orthogonal basis for W .

6 Vocabulary

Keywords from today's lecture:

1. Orthonormal vectors.

Two vectors $u, v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ are *orthogonal* if $u \bullet v = 0$.

A set of vectors in $\mathbb{R}^n$ is orthogonal if any two of the vectors are orthogonal.

A set of vectors in $\mathbb{R}^n$ is *orthonormal* if the vectors are orthogonal and each vector is a unit vector.

Example: the standard basis $e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n$ of $\mathbb{R}^n$ is orthonormal.

2. Orthogonal projection of a vector $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ onto a subspace $W \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$.

The unique vector $\text{proj}_W(y) \in W$ such that $y - \text{proj}_W(y)$ is orthogonal to every element of W .

If $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_p$ is an orthonormal basis for W then

$$\text{proj}_W(y) = (y \bullet u_1)u_1 + (y \bullet u_2)u_2 + \cdots + (y \bullet u_p)u_p.$$

3. Orthogonal matrix.

A square matrix U whose columns are orthonormal. A better name for an orthogonal matrix would be “orthonormal matrix,” but this term is not commonly used.

Equivalently, a matrix U is orthogonal if and only if U is invertible and $U^{-1} = U^\top$.

Example: every rotation matrix $\begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$ is orthogonal.

4. Gram-Schmidt process.

A specific algorithm whose input is an arbitrary basis $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p$ for a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^n$ and whose output is an orthogonal basis $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p$ for the same subspace. Explicitly:

$$\begin{aligned} v_1 &= x_1. \\ v_2 &= x_2 - \frac{x_2 \bullet v_1}{v_1 \bullet v_1} v_1. \\ v_3 &= x_3 - \frac{x_3 \bullet v_1}{v_1 \bullet v_1} v_1 - \frac{x_3 \bullet v_2}{v_2 \bullet v_2} v_2. \\ v_4 &= x_4 - \frac{x_4 \bullet v_1}{v_1 \bullet v_1} v_1 - \frac{x_4 \bullet v_2}{v_2 \bullet v_2} v_2 - \frac{x_4 \bullet v_3}{v_3 \bullet v_3} v_3. \\ &\vdots \\ v_p &= x_p - \frac{x_p \bullet v_1}{v_1 \bullet v_1} v_1 - \frac{x_p \bullet v_2}{v_2 \bullet v_2} v_2 - \cdots - \frac{x_p \bullet v_{p-1}}{v_{p-1} \bullet v_{p-1}} v_{p-1}. \end{aligned}$$