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# Linear Systems

Math 214 Spring 2008  
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Fowler 309 MWF 9:30 am - 10:25 am  
<http://faculty.oxy.edu/ron/math/214/08/>

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## Class 25

**TITLE** Orthogonal Complements and Orthogonal Projections

**CURRENT READING** Poole 5.1

### Summary

We will learn about an incredibly important feature of vectors and orthogonal vector spaces.

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### Homework Assignment

HW#24 Poole, Section 5.2: 2,3,4,5,6,7,12,15,16,17,19,20,21. EXTRA CREDIT 29.

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### DEFINITION

Two subspaces  $\mathcal{V}$  and  $\mathcal{W}$  are said to be **orthogonal** if every vector  $\vec{v} \in \mathcal{V}$  is perpendicular to every vector  $\vec{w} \in \mathcal{W}$ . The **orthogonal complement** of a subspace  $\mathcal{V}$  contains EVERY vector that is perpendicular to (vectors in)  $\mathcal{V}$ . This space is denoted  $\mathcal{V}^\perp$ . In other words,  $\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w} = 0$  or  $\vec{v}^T \vec{w} = 0$  for every  $\vec{v}$  in  $\mathcal{V}$  and  $\vec{w}$  in  $\mathcal{W}$ .

$$\mathcal{W}^\perp = \{\vec{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \vec{v} \cdot \vec{w} = 0 \text{ for all } \vec{w} \text{ in } \mathcal{W}\}$$

*Example 1.* **Q:** In  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , let  $V$  = the  $z$ -axis. What is  $V^\perp$ ? **A:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Q:** In  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , what is the orthogonal complement of the  $xy$ -plane?

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Q:** In  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , are the  $xy$ -plane and the  $yz$ -plane orthogonal complements of each other?

**A:** No, there are vectors in one plane that are not perpendicular to vectors in the other plane. (Can you find one of each?)

**Q:** In  $\mathbb{R}^4$  (with axes  $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4$ ), what is the orthogonal complement of the  $x_1x_2$ -plane?

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_

We can summarize some of the properties of orthogonal complements.

### Theorem 5.9

Let  $\mathcal{W}$  be a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

[a.]  $\mathcal{W}^\perp$  is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$

[b.]  $(\mathcal{W}^\perp)^\perp = \mathcal{W}$

[c.]  $(\mathcal{W}^\perp) \cap \mathcal{W} = \vec{0}$

[d.] If  $\mathcal{W} = \text{span}(\vec{w}_1, \vec{w}_2, \vec{w}_3, \dots, \vec{w}_n)$  then  $\vec{v}$  is in  $\mathcal{W}^\perp$  only if  $\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w}_i = 0$  for every  $\vec{w}_i$  in  $\mathcal{W}$  for  $i = 1 \dots n$

These features can be described using the associated subspaces of an  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$ .

### Theorem 5.10

Let  $A$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix. Then the orthogonal complement of the row space of  $A$  is the null space of  $A$ . The orthogonal complement of the column space of  $A$  is the null space of  $A^T$  (sometimes called the left null space). Mathematically, this can be written:

$$(\text{row}(A))^\perp = \text{null}(A) \text{ and } (\text{col}(A))^\perp = \text{null}(A^T)$$

These four subspaces are called the **fundamental subspaces of the matrix  $A$** .

This page will have a reproduction of a diagram of the relationship of the four fundamental subspaces from Gilbert Strang's *Linear Algebra* textbook.

**EXAMPLE**

Let's find bases for the four fundamental subspaces of the matrix  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 3 & 1 & 6 \\ 2 & -1 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ -3 & 2 & 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 4 & 1 & 6 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$ .

Suppose we know that  $\text{rref}(A) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\text{rref}(A^T) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ . Write down

the dimensions of each fundamental subspace and describe the subspace-orthogonal complement pairs.

**DEFINITION**

Let  $\mathcal{W}$  be a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and let  $\{\vec{w}_1, \vec{w}_2, \vec{w}_3, \dots, \vec{w}_n\}$  be an orthogonal basis for  $\mathcal{W}$ . For any vector  $\vec{v}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , the orthogonal project of  $\vec{v}$  onto  $\mathcal{W}$  is defined as

$$\text{proj}_{\mathcal{W}}(\vec{v}) = \sum_{j=1}^n \text{proj}_{\vec{w}_j}(\vec{v}) = \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w}_j}{\vec{w}_j \cdot \vec{w}_j} \vec{w}_j$$

The **component of  $\vec{v}$  orthogonal to  $\mathcal{W}$**  is the vector  $\text{perp}_{\mathcal{W}}(\vec{v}) = \vec{v} - \text{proj}_{\mathcal{W}}(\vec{v})$

NOTE: this implies that  $\vec{v} = \text{perp}_{\mathcal{W}}(\vec{v}) + \text{proj}_{\mathcal{W}}(\vec{v})$  (Draw a picture in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ !)

**Theorem 5.11**

Let  $\mathcal{W}$  be a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and let  $\vec{v}$  be ANY vector in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . THEN there exist unique vectors  $\vec{w}$  in  $\mathcal{W}$  and  $\vec{w}^\perp$  in  $\mathcal{W}^\perp$  such that  $\vec{v} = \vec{w} + \vec{w}^\perp$ . This theorem is known as the **Orthogonal Decomposition Theorem**. Note: a corollary of this theorem is that  $(\mathcal{W}^\perp)^\perp = \mathcal{W}$ .

**EXAMPLE**

Consider the subspace  $\mathcal{W}$ ,  $x - y + 2z = 0$  with the vector  $\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ . Show that the orthogonal

decomposition of  $\vec{v}$  is  $\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5/3 \\ 1/3 \\ -2/3 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 4/3 \\ -4/3 \\ 8/3 \end{bmatrix}$

**Theorem 5.13**

Let  $\mathcal{W}$  be a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  then  $\dim(\mathcal{W}) + \dim(\mathcal{W}^\perp) = n$ .

A corollary of Theorem 5.13 becomes clear when one applies it to the associated subspaces of a  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$ . This is known as **The Rank Theorem**.

$$\dim(\text{row}(A)) + \dim(\text{null}(A)) = n \text{ and } \dim(\text{col}(A)) + \dim(\text{null}(A^T)) = m$$

**The Rank Theorem**

If  $A$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix, then  $\text{rank}(A) + \text{nullity}(A) = n$  and  $\text{rank}(A) + \text{nullity}(A^T) = m$ .

(Recall,  $\text{rank}(A) = \text{rank}(A^T)$ )

**CLICKER QUESTION 25.1**

Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ . Which of the following vectors is orthogonal to the row space of  $A$ ?

1.  $(1, 1, -1)$
2.  $(1, 4, 2)$
3.  $(0, 0, 5)$
4.  $(-1, 0, 1)$

**CLICKER QUESTION 25.2**

Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ . Which of the following vectors is orthogonal to the column space of  $A$ ?

1.  $(1, 1, -1)$
2.  $(1, 4, 2)$
3.  $(0, 1, -2)$
4.  $(2, 0, 2)$

**CLICKER QUESTION 25.3**

Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ . Which of the following vectors is orthogonal to the nullspace of  $A$ ?

1.  $(1, 1, -1)$
2.  $(1, 4, 2)$
3.  $(0, 1, -2)$
4.  $(2, 0, 2)$

**CLICKER QUESTION 25.4**

**True or False** Any set of nonzero orthogonal vectors must also be linearly independent.

**CLICKER QUESTION 25.5**

**True or False** The only orthonormal basis for  $\mathbb{R}^2$  is  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ .

**CLICKER QUESTION 25.6**

Let  $Q$  be a square matrix with orthonormal columns. **True or False**  $Q^{-1} = Q^T$ .

**CLICKER QUESTION 25.7**

If  $\vec{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\vec{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , then the orthogonal projection of  $\vec{b}$  onto  $\vec{y}$  is

1.  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$
2.  $\begin{bmatrix} 3/2 \\ -1/2 \end{bmatrix}$
3.  $\begin{bmatrix} 10 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$
4.  $\begin{bmatrix} 1/10 \\ 3/10 \end{bmatrix}$

**CLICKER QUESTION 25.8**

If  $\vec{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $l$  is the line  $y = \frac{1}{2}x$ , then the orthogonal projection of  $\vec{b}$  onto  $l$  is

1.  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$
2.  $\begin{bmatrix} 3/2 \\ -1/2 \end{bmatrix}$
3.  $\begin{bmatrix} 10 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$
4.  $\begin{bmatrix} 1/10 \\ 3/10 \end{bmatrix}$

**CLICKER QUESTION 25.9**

If  $l$  is the line  $y = 3x$ ,  $\vec{b} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , and  $z$  is the orthogonal projection of  $\vec{b}$  on  $l$ , then which of the following are true?

1.  $b - z$  is perpendicular to  $l$ .
2.  $b - z$  is a point on  $l$ .
3.  $z$  is of the form  $(c, 3c)$
4. Exactly two of the statements are true.
5. None of the above are true.