

MATH 2022 Linear and Abstract Algebra

LECTURE 34 Tuesday 21/05/2019

Subspaces, orthonormal bases & projections

- ambient vector space may be "wild"
- a certain subspace may be "tame" or "controlled"

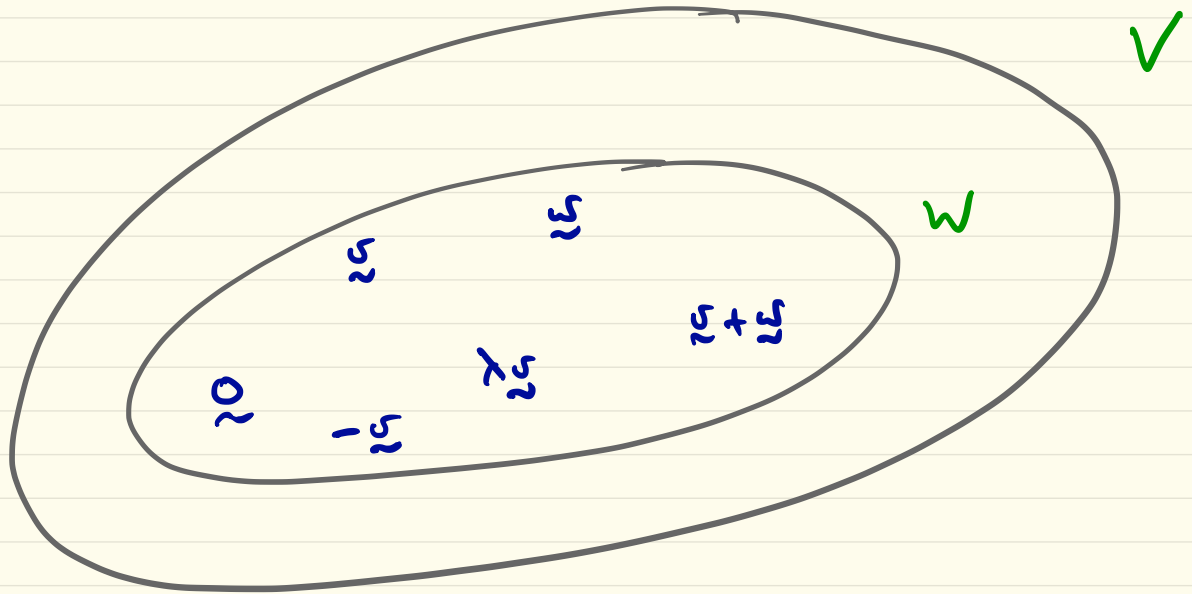
nonempty subset which is a vector space,
inheriting addition & scalar multiplication
from the ambient vector space

- find or compute an orthonormal basis for the subspace

use this to project arbitrary vectors
to "approximate" vectors in the subspace

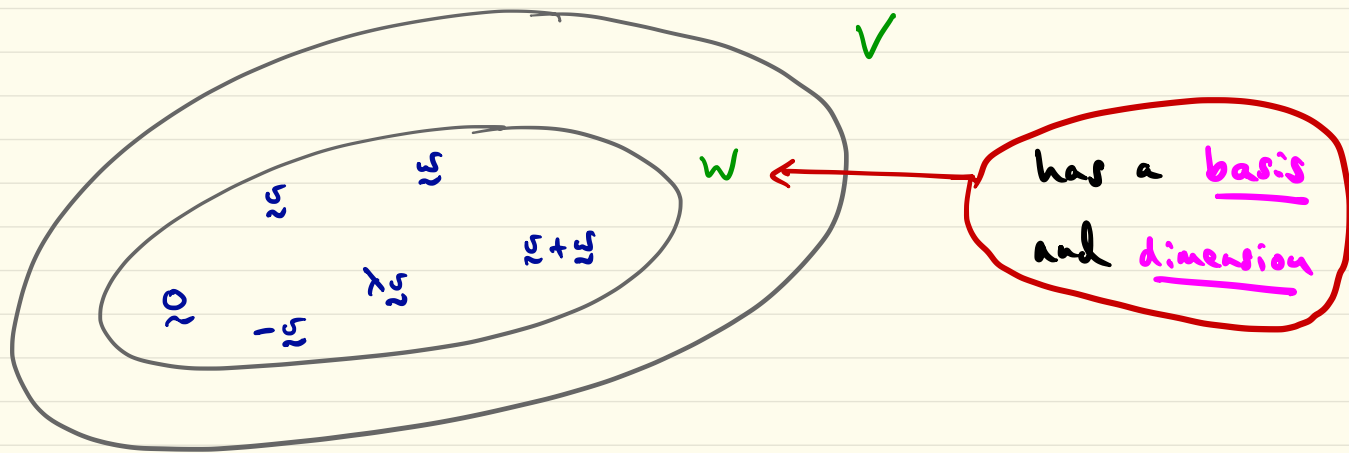
Subspaces :

Recall that a subspace W of a vector space V is a nonempty subset closed under vector space operations.



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Recall that a subspace W of a vector space V is a nonempty subset closed under vector space operations,



It follows quickly that W contains 0 , negatives of vectors and satisfies all of the vector space axioms, so is a vector space in its own right.

Theorem : Let W be a subspace of a vector space V .

Then

$$(i) \quad \dim W \leq \dim V,$$

$$(ii) \quad \dim W = \dim V \quad \text{iff} \quad W = V.$$

Proof : difficult, following from general abstract theory,
and beyond the scope of this course. □

Examples :

(a) $\mathbb{R}^2$ has dimension 2, with subspaces

– $\mathbb{R}^2$ of dimension 2,

– $\{(0,0)\} = \langle \phi \rangle$ of dimension 0

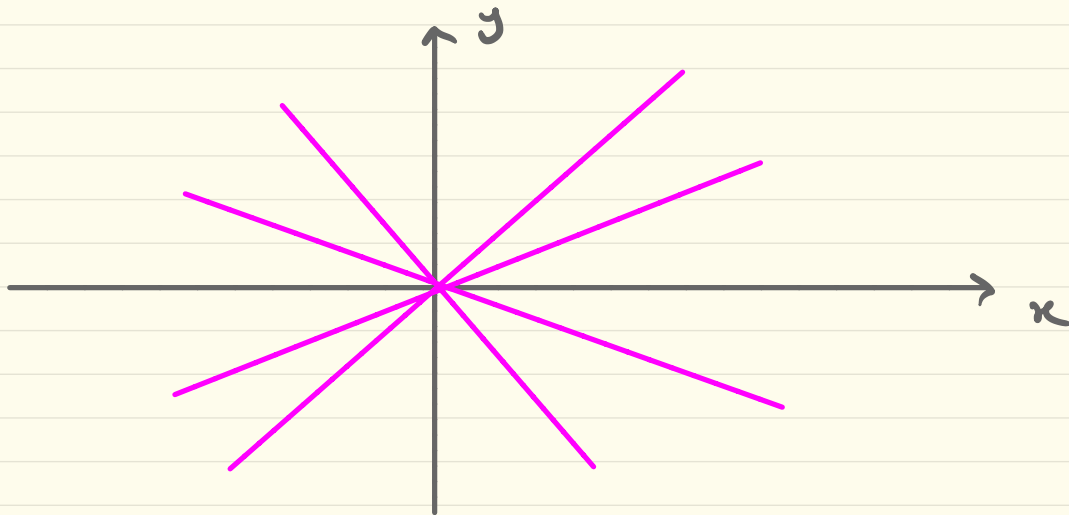
Examples :

(a) $\mathbb{R}^2$ has dimension 2, with subspaces

- $\mathbb{R}^2$ of dimension 2,

- $\{(0,0)\} = \langle \phi \rangle$ of dimension 0

- lines passing through the origin, of dimension 1.



Examples :

(b) $\mathbb{R}^3$ has dimension 3 and its subspaces are $\{(0,0,0)\}$, lines and planes passing through the origin, and $\mathbb{R}^3$, of dimensions 0, 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

(c) $\{\text{polynomial functions}\}$ is an infinite dimensional subspace of $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{R}} = \{\text{functions} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\}$, and $\{1, x, x^2, \dots, x^n, \dots\}$ forms a basis.

(d) A trigonometric polynomial has the form

$$a_0 + a_1 \cos x + a_2 \cos 2x + \dots + a_n \cos nx \\ + b_1 \sin x + b_2 \sin 2x + \dots + b_n \sin nx$$

for some $a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_n \in \mathbb{R}$.

Examples :

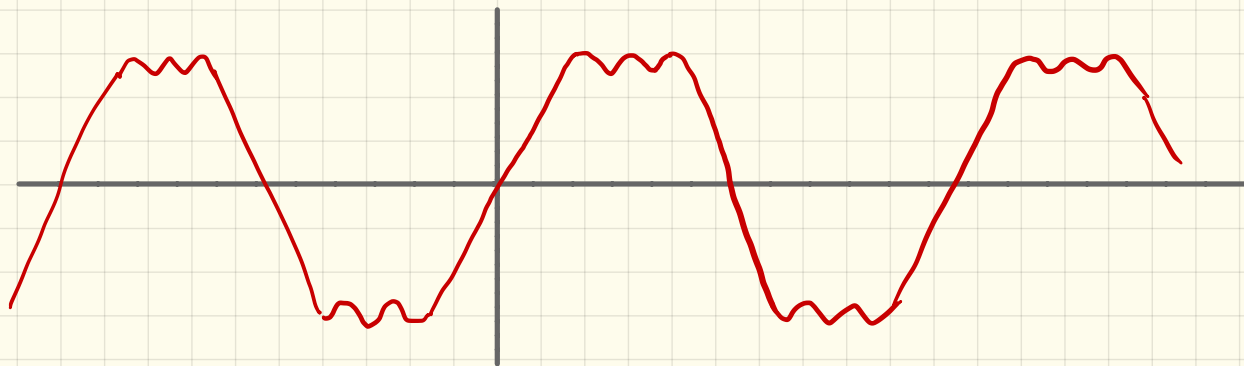
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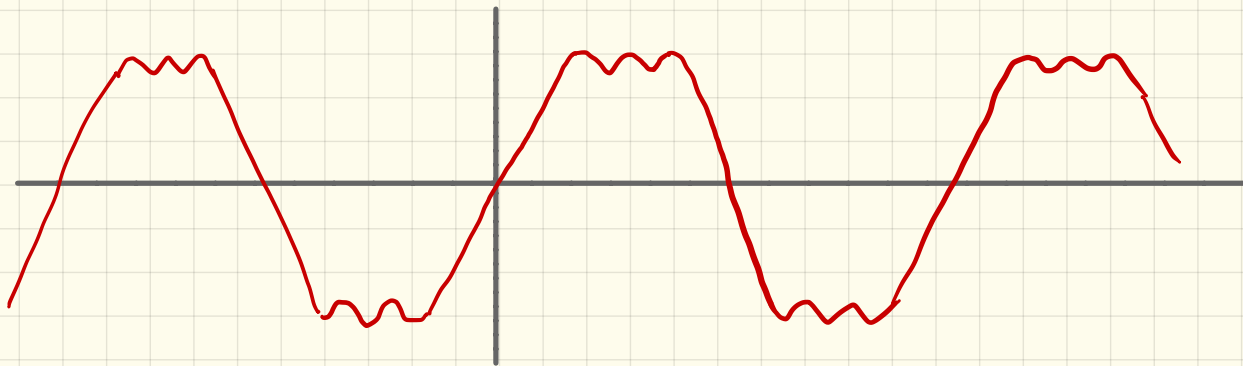
e.g. $f(x) = \sin x + \frac{1}{3} \sin 3x + \frac{1}{5} \sin 5x$

is a trig poly with curve something like

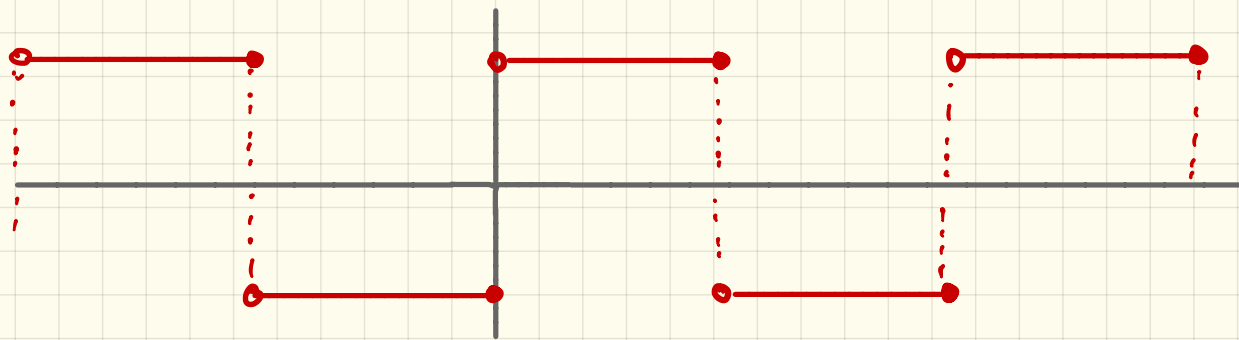


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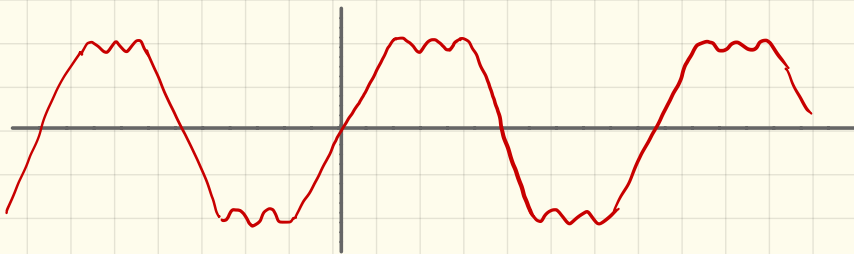


approximating a step function :

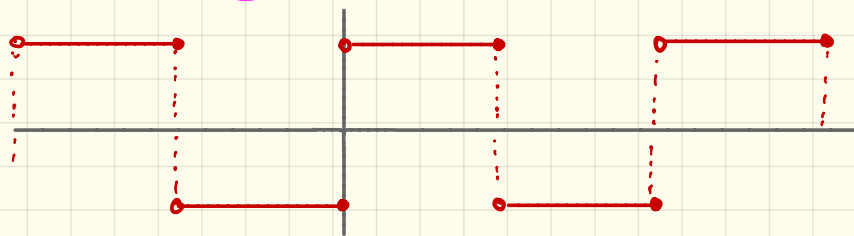


e.g. $f(x) = \sin x + \frac{1}{3} \sin 3x + \frac{1}{5} \sin 5x$

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approximating a step function:



We can get "arbitrarily close" to the step function using the

Fourier series

$$f(x) = \sin x + \frac{1}{3} \sin 3x + \frac{1}{5} \sin 5x + \frac{1}{7} \sin 7x + \dots$$

(analogous to a power series)

The set

$$W = \{ \text{trigonometric polynomials} \}$$

forms an infinite dimensional subspace of the vector space

$$V = \{ \text{periodic functions} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ with period } 2\pi \},$$

and

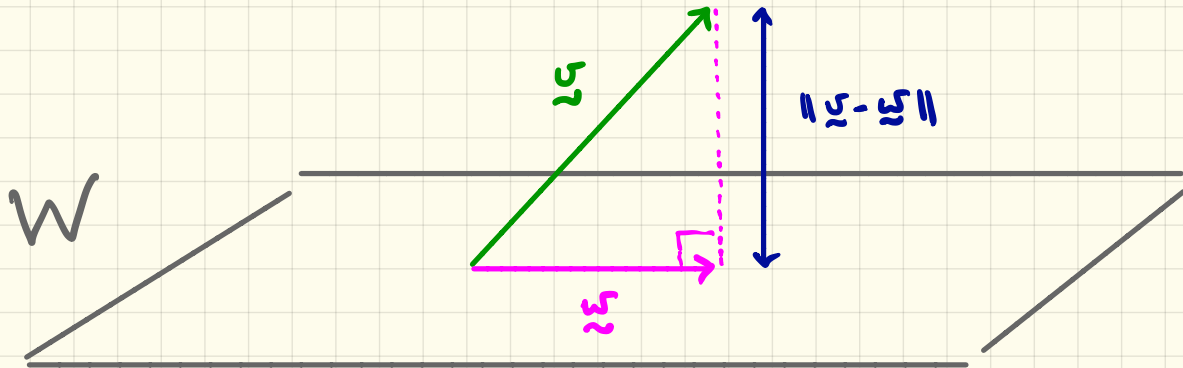
$$\{ 1, \cos x, \cos 2x, \dots, \cos nx, \dots, \\ \sin x, \sin 2x, \dots, \sin nx, \dots \}$$

forms a basis of W (which turns out to be orthogonal).

General problem: Let W be a subspace of an inner product space V . Let $\underline{v} \in V$.

Find the vector $\underline{w} \in W$ that is closest to $\underline{v}$, that is, which minimises

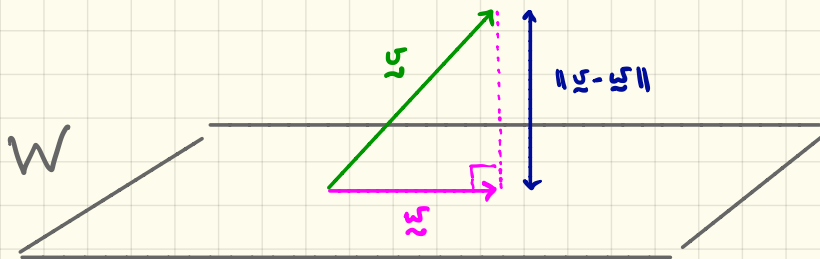
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Solution: "project" $\vec{v}$ onto W .

Solution: "project" $\underline{w}$ onto W .

Step 1: Find an orthonormal basis B for W :

$$B = \{ \underline{b}_1, \dots, \underline{b}_k \}$$

such that

$$(1) \quad \|\underline{b}_i\| = 1 \quad \text{for } i=1, \dots, k,$$

$$(2) \quad \langle \underline{b}_i, \underline{b}_j \rangle = 0 \quad \text{for all } i \neq j,$$

$$(3) \quad (\forall \underline{w} \in W) (\exists \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k \in \mathbb{R}) \quad \underline{w} = \lambda_1 \underline{b}_1 + \dots + \lambda_k \underline{b}_k.$$

Solution: "project" $\underline{w}$ onto W .

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such that

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Exercise: (2) implies LI

i.e. elements of B have length 1,
are pairwise orthogonal and span W

Step 2 :

Form the projection of $\underline{u}$ onto W

$$\text{proj}_W \underline{u} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \langle \underline{u}, \underline{b}_1 \rangle \underline{b}_1 + \langle \underline{u}, \underline{b}_2 \rangle \underline{b}_2 + \dots + \langle \underline{u}, \underline{b}_k \rangle \underline{b}_k$$

Theorem : $\text{proj}_W \underline{u}$ is the closest vector in W to $\underline{u}$ and

$$\underline{u} - \text{proj}_W \underline{u}$$

is orthogonal to everything in W .

(proof later)

Example: Let W be the subspace of $\mathbb{R}^3$ that is the plane given by the equation

$$x - y + z = 0.$$

Let $\underline{u} = (1, 2, 3)$. Find the distance from $\underline{u}$ to W and the closest point on W to $\underline{u}$.

Solution: W is 2-dimensional and spanned by

$$B = \left\{ \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, 0, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right), \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \right) \right\},$$

which forms an orthonormal basis

(and later we explain how to find B).

Put $\underline{b}_1 = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, 0, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right)$, $\underline{b}_2 = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \right)$.

Then

$$\text{proj}_W u = (u \cdot \underline{b}_1) \underline{b}_1 + (u \cdot \underline{b}_2) \underline{b}_2$$

$$= \left((1, 2, 3) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, 0, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \right) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, 0, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right) + \left((1, 2, 3) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \right) \right) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \right)$$

$$= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} - \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, 0, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right) + \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} + \frac{4}{\sqrt{6}} + \frac{3}{\sqrt{6}} \right) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \right)$$

$$= -\sqrt{2} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, 0, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right) + \frac{8}{\sqrt{6}} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \right)$$

$$= (-1, 0, 1) + \left(\frac{8}{6}, \frac{16}{6}, \frac{8}{6} \right) = (-1, 0, 1) + \left(\frac{4}{3}, \frac{8}{3}, \frac{4}{3} \right)$$

$$= \left(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{8}{3}, \frac{7}{3} \right),$$

the closest point on W to u .

Then

$$\begin{aligned}\text{proj}_W \underline{u} &= (\underline{u} \cdot \underline{b}_1) \underline{b}_1 + (\underline{u} \cdot \underline{b}_2) \underline{b}_2 \\&= \left((1, 2, 3) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, 0, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \right) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, 0, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right) + \left((1, 2, 3) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \right) \right) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \right) \\&= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} - \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, 0, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right) + \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} + \frac{4}{\sqrt{6}} + \frac{3}{\sqrt{6}} \right) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \right) \\&= -\sqrt{2} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, 0, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right) + \frac{8}{\sqrt{6}} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \right) \\&= \left(-1, 0, 1 \right) + \left(\frac{8}{6}, \frac{16}{6}, \frac{8}{6} \right) = \left(-1, 0, 1 \right) + \left(\frac{4}{3}, \frac{8}{3}, \frac{4}{3} \right) \\&= \left(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{8}{3}, \frac{7}{3} \right),\end{aligned}$$

the closest point on W to $\underline{u}$.

The distance from $\underline{u}$ to W is

$$\begin{aligned}\|\underline{u} - \text{proj}_W \underline{u}\| &= \|(1, 2, 3) - \left(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{8}{3}, \frac{7}{3} \right)\| \\&= \left\| \left(\frac{2}{3}, -\frac{2}{3}, \frac{2}{3} \right) \right\| = \frac{2}{3} \|(1, -1, 1)\| = \frac{2}{3} \sqrt{3} = \underline{\underline{\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}}}.\end{aligned}$$

The distance from $\underline{u}$ to W is

$$\begin{aligned}\|\underline{u} - \text{proj}_W \underline{u}\| &= \|(1, 2, 3) - (1/3, 8/3, 7/3)\| \\ &= \|(2/3, -2/3, 2/3)\| = 2/3 \|(1, -1, 1)\| = \frac{2}{3}\sqrt{3} = \underline{\underline{\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}}}.\end{aligned}$$

Check orthogonality to W :

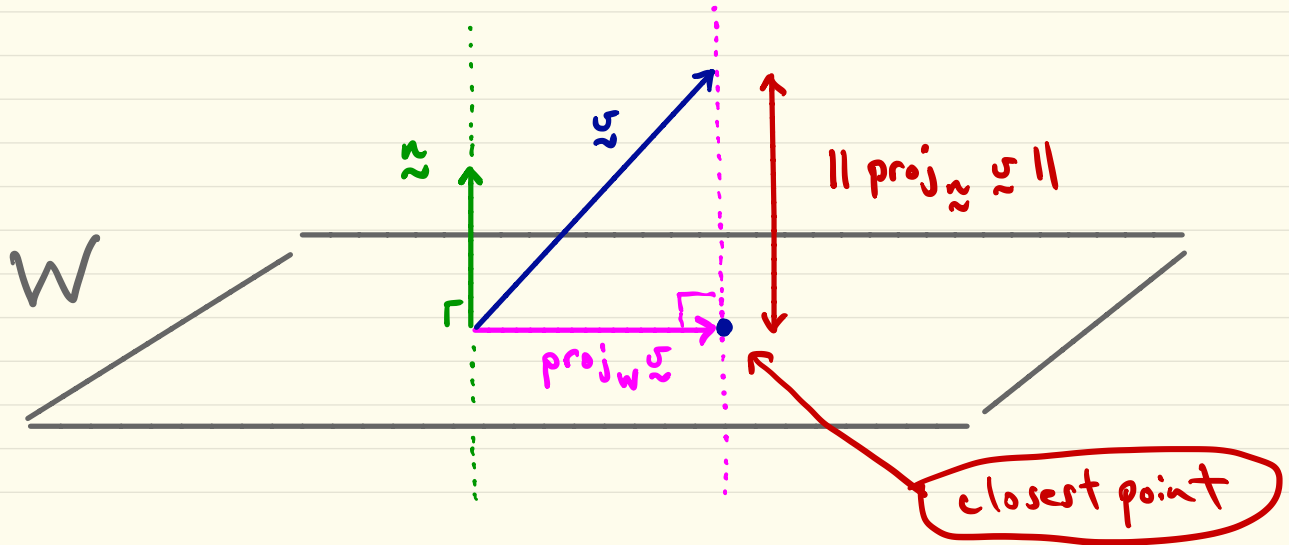
$$\begin{aligned}(\underline{u} - \text{proj}_W \underline{u}) \cdot \underline{b}_1 &= (2/3, -2/3, 2/3) \cdot (1/\sqrt{2}, 0, -1/\sqrt{2}) \\ &= \frac{2}{3\sqrt{2}} - \frac{2}{3\sqrt{2}} = 0 \quad \checkmark\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}(\underline{u} - \text{proj}_W \underline{u}) \cdot \underline{b}_2 &= (2/3, -2/3, 2/3) \cdot (1/\sqrt{6}, 2/\sqrt{6}, 1/\sqrt{6}) \\ &= \frac{2-4+2}{3\sqrt{6}} = 0 \quad \checkmark\end{aligned}$$

Alternative solution (only works for hyperplanes):

W is given by the equation $x - y + z = 0$,
which has normal (perpendicular) vector

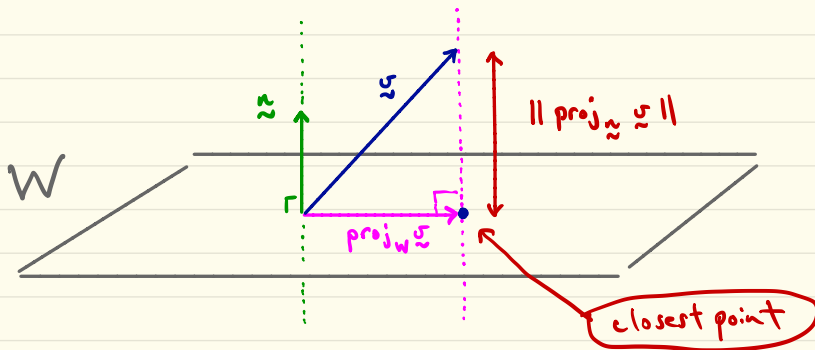
$$\vec{n} = \vec{i} - \vec{j} + \vec{k} = (1, -1, 1).$$



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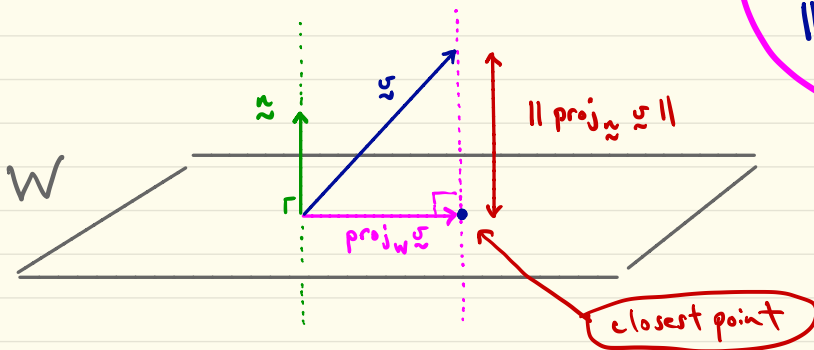
The shortest distance is

$$\begin{aligned} \|\text{proj}_{\vec{n}} \vec{u}\| &= \left\| \frac{\vec{u} \cdot \vec{n}}{\|\vec{n}\|^2} \vec{n} \right\| = \frac{|\vec{u} \cdot \vec{n}|}{\|\vec{n}\|^2} \|\vec{n}\| = \frac{|\vec{u} \cdot \vec{n}|}{\|\vec{n}\|} \\ &= \frac{|(1, 2, 3) \cdot (1, -1, 1)|}{\|(1, -1, 1)\|} = \frac{|1 - 2 + 3|}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}. \end{aligned}$$

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The shortest distance is

$$\|\text{proj}_{\vec{n}} \vec{u}\| = \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}. \quad \checkmark$$

The closest point on W to $\vec{u}$ is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{u} - \text{proj}_{\vec{n}} \vec{u} &= (1, 2, 3) - \frac{\vec{u} \cdot \vec{n}}{\|\vec{n}\|^2} \vec{n} = (1, 2, 3) - \frac{2}{3} (1, -1, 1) \\ &= (1, 2, 3) - \left(\frac{2}{3}, -\frac{2}{3}, \frac{2}{3}\right) = \left(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{8}{3}, \frac{7}{3}\right) \quad \checkmark \text{ as before.} \end{aligned}$$

Third Quiz practice :

Q7/ Which one of the following subsets is not a subspace of the vector space $\mathbb{R}^3$?

(a) $\{ (x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid x = y = z \}$

(b) $\{ (x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid x - y + 3z = 0 \}$

(c) $\{ (x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid x + y + 3z = 2 \}$

(d) $\{ (x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid x - 2y = 7z \}$

(e) $\{ (x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid x = 2y, y = z \}$

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solution space of homogeneous system

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$$\begin{aligned} x - y &= 0 \\ x - z &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

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$x - 2y - 7z = 0$

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does not
contain the
zero vector
(0, 0, 0)

Q8/ Which one of the following subsets does not form a basis for the vector space $\mathbb{Z}_3^3$?

(a) $\{(1, 1, 0), (1, 0, 1), (0, 2, 2)\}$

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dimension 3

Any 3 LI
vectors form
a basis.

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$$\sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

LI



(b) $\{(1, 2, 0), (1, 0, 1), (0, 2, 1)\}$

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$\sim I$



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(b) $\{(1, 2, 0), (1, 0, 1), (0, 2, 1)\}$

(c) $\{(1, 1, 1), (1, 0, 1), (0, 2, 2)\}$

(d) $\{(1, 0, 2), (1, 0, 1), (0, 2, 1)\}$

(e) $\{(1, 0, 0), (1, 1, 2), (0, 2, 1)\}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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