

Orthogonals and projections

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MHS Lect 8 A. Ram ①

Let $(H, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ be a Hilbert space.

Let \bar{W} be a closed subspace of H

the orthogonal to \bar{W} in H is

$$\bar{W}^\perp = \{x \in H \mid \text{if } w \in \bar{W} \text{ then } \langle x, w \rangle = 0\}$$

HW: Show that $\bar{W} \cap \bar{W}^\perp = \{0\}$.

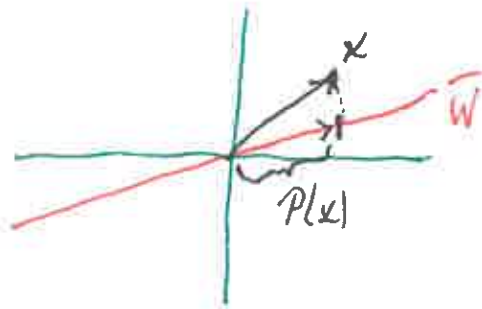
Projection onto \bar{W}

A projection onto \bar{W} is a function $P: H \rightarrow H$

such that

(P1) If $x \in H$ then $P(x) \in \bar{W}$

(P2) If $x \in H$ and $w \in \bar{W}$ then $\langle x, w \rangle = \langle P(x), w \rangle$.



Proposition Let P and Q be projections onto W . Then

(a) $P = Q$

(b) P is a linear transformation

(c) $P^2 = P$.

(d) $(\text{id} - P)^2 = \text{id} - P$

Proof (a) To show: If $x \in H$ then $P(x) = Q(x)$.

Assume $x \in H$.

By (P2), if $w \in \bar{W}$ then

$$\langle Q(x), w \rangle = \langle x, w \rangle = \langle P(x), w \rangle.$$

So, if $w \in \bar{W}$ then $0 = \langle P(x), w \rangle - \langle Q(x), w \rangle$
 $= \langle P(x) - Q(x), w \rangle.$

So $P(x) - Q(x) \in \bar{W}^\perp$.

By (P1), $P(x) \in \bar{W}$ and $Q(x) \in \bar{W}$ and

since \bar{W} is a subspace $P(x) - Q(x) \in \bar{W}$.

So $P(x) - Q(x) \in \bar{W} \cap \bar{W}^\perp = \{0\}$.

So $P(x) - Q(x) = 0$ and $P(x) = Q(x)$.

So $P = Q$.

(b) To show: (ba) If $x_1, x_2 \in H$ then $P(x_1 + x_2)$

$$= P(x_1) + P(x_2)$$

(bb) If $c \in K$ and $x \in H$ then

$$P(cx) = cP(x).$$

(ba) Assume $x_1, x_2 \in H$.

To show: $P(x_1 + x_2) = P(x_1) + P(x_2)$.

By (P2), if $w \in \bar{W}$ then

$$\langle P(x_1 + x_2), w \rangle = \langle x_1 + x_2, w \rangle = \langle x_1, w \rangle + \langle x_2, w \rangle$$

10.08.2022 MMS Lecture 3

$$= \langle P(x_1), w \rangle + \langle P(x_2), w \rangle = \langle P(x_1) + P(x_2), w \rangle$$

So $\langle P(x_1 + x_2) - (P(x_1) + P(x_2)), w \rangle = 0$ if $w \in \bar{W}$.

So $P(x_1 + x_2) - (P(x_1) + P(x_2)) \in \bar{W}^\perp$.

By (P1) and the fact that \bar{W} is a subspace,

$$P(x_1 + x_2) - (P(x_1) + P(x_2)) \in \bar{W}.$$

So $P(x_1 + x_2) - (P(x_1) + P(x_2)) \in \bar{W} \cap \bar{W}^\perp = \{0\}$.

So $P(x_1 + x_2) - (P(x_1) + P(x_2)) = 0$.

HW Do a similar proof for (b) using

$$\begin{aligned} \langle P(ax), w \rangle &= \langle ax, w \rangle = a \langle x, w \rangle = a \langle P(x), w \rangle \\ &= \langle aP(x), w \rangle \text{ and } \bar{W} \cap \bar{W}^\perp = \{0\} \end{aligned}$$

HW Do a similar proof for (c) using

$$\begin{aligned} \langle P(x), w \rangle &= \langle P(P(x)), w \rangle = \langle P^2(x), w \rangle \\ \text{and } \bar{W} \cap \bar{W}^\perp &= \{0\}. \end{aligned}$$

Then $(id - P)^2 = id - 2P + P^2 = id - 2P + P = id - P$. //

Corollary. $H = \bar{W} \oplus \bar{W}^\perp$.

Proof To show: (a) $\bar{W} \cap \bar{W}^\perp = \{0\}$

(b) $H = \bar{W} + \bar{W}^\perp$

(b) To show: If $x \in H$ then $x \in \bar{W} + \bar{W}^\perp$

Assume $x \in H$.

Then $x = P(x) + (id - P)(x)$ and $P(x) \in \bar{W}$ and $(id - P)(x) \in \bar{W}^\perp$.

Do projections exist?

10.08.2021 (4)
MHS Lect. 8
A. Pann

Defines for $x \in H$,

$$d(x, \bar{W}) = \inf \{ d(x, w) \mid w \in \bar{W} \}$$

Then define $P_{\bar{W}}: H \rightarrow H$ by $P_{\bar{W}}(x) = y$,

where

$$y \in \bar{W} \text{ such that } d(x, y) = d(x, \bar{W}).$$

Does y exist?

Theorem Yes and $P_{\bar{W}}$ is a projection onto \bar{W}

Another construction of a projection

Assume (e_1, e_2, \dots) is an orthonormal sequence in H and let

$$\bar{W} = \overline{\text{span} \{ e_1, e_2, \dots \}}$$

Define $P: H \rightarrow H$ by

$$P(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle x, e_n \rangle e_n, \quad \text{for } x \in H.$$

Proposition $P: H \rightarrow H$ is a projection onto \bar{W} and

$$H = \bar{W} \oplus \bar{W}^{\perp}.$$