

Recall: To project vectors from a high dimensional space to a lower dimensional subspace, use projection matrix P

Projection matrix formula:

Create a matrix A whose columns give a basis for the subspace

Then

$$P = A(A^T A)^{-1} A^T$$

An equivalent way to understand a projection $P\vec{b}$ of a vector \vec{b} in the big space to the smaller space:

We know $P\vec{b}$ is in the column space of A : $C(A)$

So

$A\vec{y} = P\vec{b}$ has a solution \vec{y} .

$$A\vec{y} = \underbrace{A(A^T A)^{-1} A^T}_{P} \vec{b}$$

So try to solve $\vec{y} = (A^T A)^{-1} A^T \vec{b}$

equivalently $A^T A \vec{y} = A^T \vec{b}$

General idea: Sometimes $A\vec{y} = \vec{b}$ has no solution (if \vec{b} is not in column space of A)

Next best thing: Solve $A^T A \vec{y} = A^T \vec{b}$

This is always possible by solving $A\vec{y} = P\vec{b}$
(which is possible b/c $P\vec{b}$ is in $C(A)$)

Easy example:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Trying to solve $Ax = b$: $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{cases} x=0 \\ y=0 \\ 0=1 \end{cases}$$

no solution!

Next best thing: solve $A^T A x = A^T b$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

This solution is ok but has an error term

$$Ax = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \neq \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

The difference between $A\vec{x}$ and \vec{b} is the error

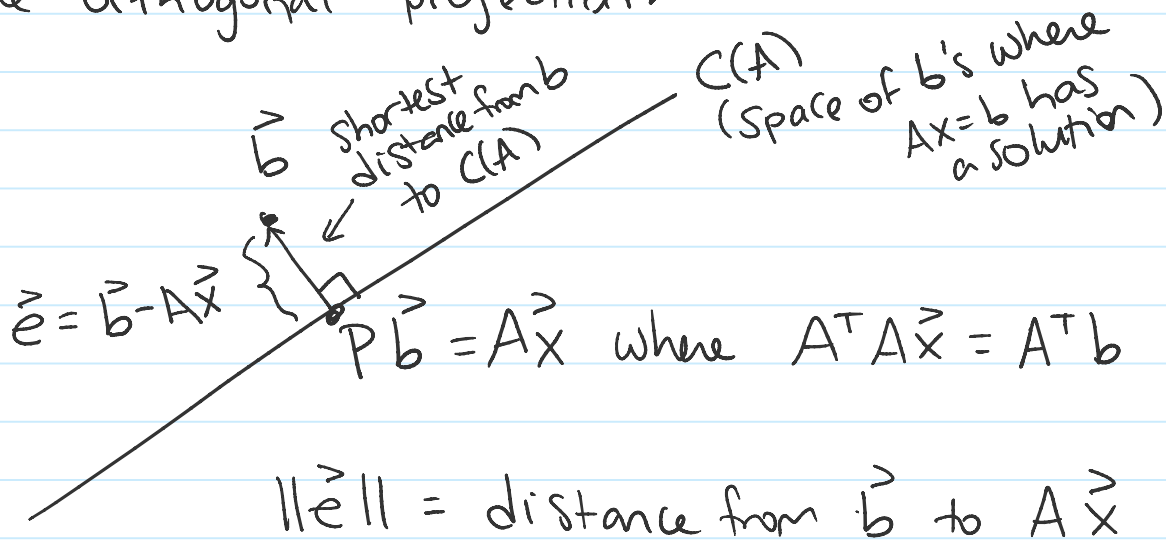
$$\underline{\underline{\vec{e} = \vec{b} - A\vec{x}}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

To measure error as a number (not a vector)
take length squared

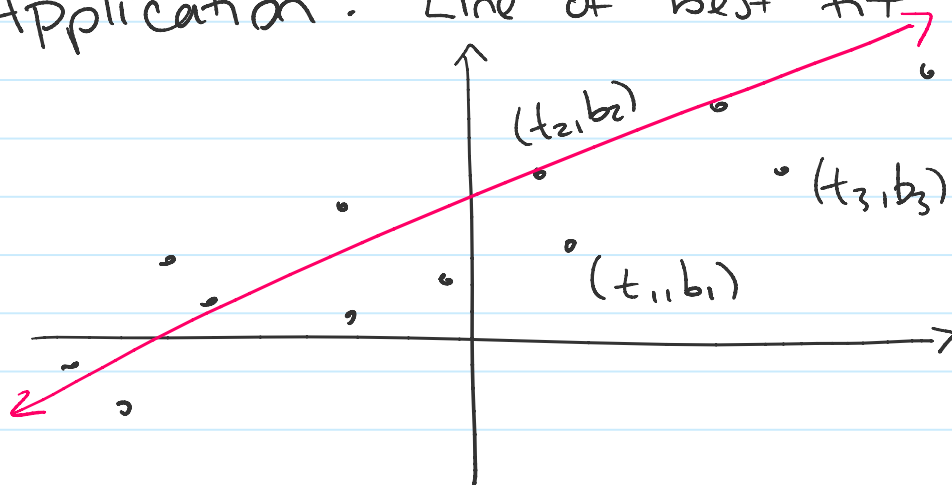
$$\|\vec{e}\|^2 = \vec{e} \cdot \vec{e} = \left\| \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\|^2 = 1$$

General goal: minimize error $\|\vec{e}\|^2$

Solving $A^T A \vec{x} = A^T b$ gives a solution
minimizing error because it uses
the orthogonal projection:



Application: Line of best fit



Have a bunch of points (t_i, b_i) in \mathbb{R}^2

Want to find a line $y = cx + d$ closest fit

If all the points were on the line $y = cx + d$

$$\begin{cases} b_1 = ct_1 + d \\ b_2 = ct_2 + d \\ \vdots \\ b_m = ct_m + d \end{cases}$$

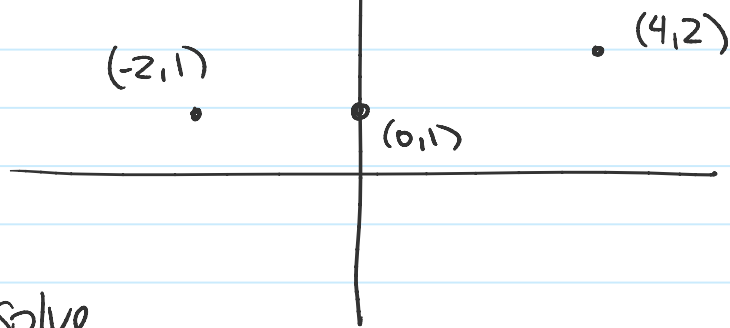
$$\rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_m \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} t_1 & 1 \\ t_2 & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ t_m & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c \\ d \end{bmatrix}$$

$\underbrace{\qquad}_{\vec{b}} \qquad \qquad \underbrace{\qquad}_{A} \qquad \qquad \underbrace{\qquad}_{\vec{x}}$

We know they probably don't really all lie exactly on a line $\vec{A}\vec{x} = \vec{b}$ so probably there is no solution

So do the next best thing: solve $A^T A \vec{x} = A^T \vec{b}$.

Example we can do by hand:



Try to solve

$$-2c + d = 1$$

$$0c + d = 1$$

$$4c + d = 2$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c \\ d \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

(you can check there is no solution) so instead:

$$\begin{bmatrix} -2 & 0 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c \\ d \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 0 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 20 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c \\ d \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} c \\ d \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 20 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} = \dots = \begin{bmatrix} 5/28 \\ 17/14 \end{bmatrix}$$

So the line of best fit is: $y = \frac{5}{28}x + \frac{17}{14}$