

Projections

Theorem Let $(H, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ be a Hilbert space and let W be a closed subspace of H .

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

(a) If $x \in H$ then there exists a unique $y \in W$ such that $d(x, y) = d(x, W)$.

(b) Define $P_W: H \rightarrow H$ by $P_W(x) = y$, where $y \in W$ such that $d(x, y) = d(x, W)$.

Then

$$P_W(x) \in W, \quad (\text{id} - P_W)(x) \in W^\perp, \quad \|P_W\| = 1,$$

$$P_W^2 = P_W, \quad (\text{id} - P_W)^2 = \text{id} - P_W, \quad \text{id} = P_W + (\text{id} - P_W).$$

Proof (a) Assume $x \in H$.

To show: (aa) There exists $y \in W$ such that $d(x, y) = d(x, W)$

(ab) If $y, y' \in W$ and $d(x, y) = d(x, y') = d(x, W)$ then $y = y'$

(aa) Let (y_1, y_2, \dots) be a sequence in W such that

$$d(x, y_n)^2 \leq D^2 + \frac{1}{10^n} \text{ where } D = d(x, W).$$

To show: There exists $y \in W$ such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_n = y$.

Using that W is closed,

To show: There exists $y \in H$ such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_n = y$.

Using that H is complete,

To show: (y_1, y_2, \dots) is Cauchy.

To show: If $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ then there exists $N \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ such that if $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ then $\|y_m - y_n\| < \varepsilon$

Assume $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$.

To show: There exists $N \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ such that if $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ then $\|y_m - y_n\| < \varepsilon$.

Let $N \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ such that $\frac{1}{10^{N-1}} < \varepsilon^2$.

To show: If $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq N}$ then $\|y_m - y_n\| < \varepsilon$

Assume $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq N}$.

To show: $\|y_m - y_n\| < \varepsilon$

To show: $\|y_m - y_n\|^2 < \varepsilon^2$.

Since, by the parallelogram identity,

$$4D^2 + \|y_m - y_n\|^2 \leq 4\|x - \frac{1}{2}(y_n + y_m)\|^2 + \|y_n - y_m\|^2$$

$$= \|(x - y_m) + (x - y_n)\|^2 + \|(x - y_m) - (x - y_n)\|^2$$

$$= 2\|x - y_m\|^2 + 2\|x - y_n\|^2$$

$$\leq 2(D^2 + \frac{1}{10^m}) + 2(D^2 + \frac{1}{10^n})$$

$$\leq 2D^2 + \frac{2}{10^N} + 2D^2 + \frac{2}{10^N} \leq 4D^2 + \frac{4D}{10^N}$$

$$= 4D^2 + \frac{1}{10^{N-1}} < 4D^2 + \varepsilon^2$$

then $\|y_m - y_n\|^2 < \varepsilon^2$.

So $\|y_m - y_n\| < \varepsilon$

So (y_1, y_2, \dots) is a Cauchy sequence.

So (y_1, y_2, \dots) converges and the limit $y = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_n$ is in W .

(ab) Assume $y, y' \in W$ and $d(x, y) = d(x, y') = d(x, W)$.

Since $\frac{1}{2}(y + y') \in W$ gives that

$$d(x, \frac{1}{2}(y + y')) \geq d(x, W)$$

the parallelogram identity gives

$$\|y - y'\|^2 = 2\|x - y\|^2 + 2\|x - y'\|^2 - 4\|x - \frac{1}{2}(y + y')\|^2$$

$$= 2d(x, y)^2 + 2d(x, y')^2 - 4d(x, \frac{1}{2}(y + y'))^2$$

$$\leq 2d(x, W)^2 + 2d(x, W)^2 - 4d(x, W)^2 = 0$$

$$\text{So } y = y'$$

(b) Part 1: To show: $x - P_W(x) \in W^\perp$.

Let $y = P_W(x)$. Let $w \in W$.

By (a), the function $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ given by

$$f(\lambda) = \|x - (y + \lambda w)\|^2 = \|x - y\|^2 + |\lambda|^2 \|w\|^2 + 2\operatorname{Re}(\langle x - y, \lambda w \rangle)$$

has a unique global minimum at $\lambda = 0$.

$$\Leftrightarrow f'(0) = 0.$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \operatorname{Re}(\langle x - y, \lambda w \rangle) = 0.$$

$$\text{Similarly } \operatorname{Re}(\langle x - y, i w \rangle) = 0.$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \langle x - y, w \rangle = 0 + 0i.$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x - y \in W^\perp.$$

Part 2: To show: P_W and $\operatorname{id} - P_W$ are linear operators.

Assume $v_1, v_2 \in H$ and $c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{K}$.

Then

$$c_1 P_W(v_1) + c_2 P_W(v_2) \in W \text{ and}$$

$$x = c_1 v_1 + c_2 v_2 - (c_1 P_W(v_1) + c_2 P_W(v_2)) \in W^\perp.$$

$$\text{So } P_W(x) = 0.$$

$$\Leftrightarrow P_W(c_1 v_1 + c_2 v_2) = c_1 P_W(v_1) + c_2 P_W(v_2).$$

$$\Leftrightarrow P_W \text{ is linear.}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow P_W \text{ and } \operatorname{id} - P_W \text{ are linear operators.}$$

Part 3: To show: $\|P_W\| = 1$.

Assume $v \in H$ and $v \neq 0$.

Since $\langle P_W(v), (id - P_W)(v) \rangle = 0$ then the Pythagorean theorem gives

$$\frac{\|P_W(v)\|^2}{\|v\|^2} \leq \frac{\|P_W(v)\|^2 + \|(id - P_W)(v)\|^2}{\|v\|^2} = \frac{\|v\|^2}{\|v\|^2} = 1.$$

$\therefore \|P_W\| \leq 1$.

If $w \in W$ then $P_W(w) = w$ so that

$$\|P_W(w)\| = \|w\| \text{ and } \|P_W\| \geq 1.$$

$\therefore \|P_W\| = 1$. \square