

## 6.5 Method of least Squares

Inconsistent system. But we want to find  $(x_1, x_2)$  that comes as close as possible to being a solution

$$x_1 + x_2 = 0$$

$$x_1 + 2x_2 = 1$$

$$x_1 + 3x_2 = 3$$

$$\begin{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} & = & \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \\ A & \vec{X} & & \vec{b} \end{matrix}$$

If we pick a  $\vec{X} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$  and compute

$$A\vec{X} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix},$$

We measure how close this is to solving the system by

$$A\vec{X} - \vec{b} \quad (\text{Residual Vector})$$

$$\|A\vec{X} - \vec{b}\| \quad (\text{Residual error})$$

God is to find an  $\vec{X}$  so that  $\|A\vec{X} - \vec{b}\|$

is as small as possible.

Finding  $(x_1, x_2)$  to minimize  $\|A\vec{X} - \vec{b}\|$

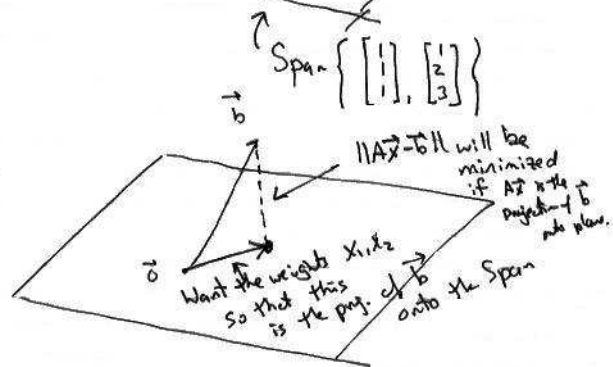
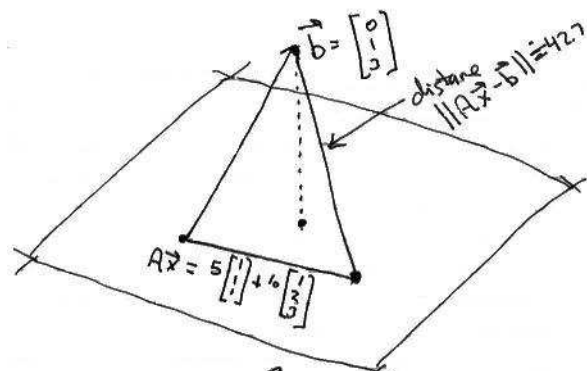
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

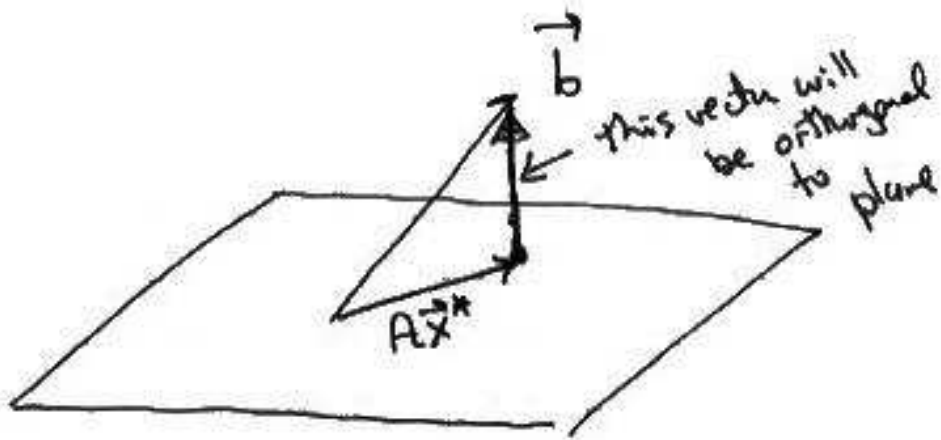
$$x_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

No solution for  $x_1, x_2 \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$  is not a linear

combination of  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$

So  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$  is not in span  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$





$\vec{b} - A\vec{X}^*$  orthogonal to plane

$\Rightarrow \vec{b} - A\vec{X}^*$  orthogonal to every vector in plane

$\Rightarrow \vec{b} - A\vec{X}^*$  is orthogonal to  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\begin{aligned}
\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot (\vec{b} - A\vec{X}^*) &= 0 \\
\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \cdot (\vec{b} - A\vec{X}^*) &= 0 \quad \vec{U} \cdot \vec{V} = 0 \\
& \vec{U}^T \vec{V} = 0 \\
\Rightarrow [1 \ 1 \ 1](\vec{b} - A\vec{X}^*) &= 0 \\
[1 \ 2 \ 3](\vec{b} - A\vec{X}^*) &= 0 \\
\Rightarrow \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}}_{A^T} (\vec{b} - A\vec{X}^*) &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\
\Rightarrow A^T(\vec{b} - A\vec{X}^*) &= \vec{0} \\
\Rightarrow A^T\vec{b} - A^T A\vec{X}^* &= \vec{0} \\
\Rightarrow A^T A\vec{X}^* &= A^T\vec{b}
\end{aligned}$$

The normal equation of a system

$$A\vec{X} = \vec{b}$$

is

$$A^T A\vec{X} = A^T \vec{b}.$$

A solution  $\vec{X}^*$  of the normal eq is called a least squares

solution of  $A\vec{X} = \vec{b}$ .  $\|A\vec{X}^* - \vec{b}\|$  is

minimized. Also  $A\vec{X}^*$  is the projection

of  $\vec{b}$  onto the span of the columns of  $A$ . (colA)

## Least Squares + Projections

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Find the least squares solution by solving the normal equation.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}_{2 \times 3} \quad \vec{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}_{3 \times 2}$$

$$A^T A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 2 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 0 \\ 0 & 21 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A^T \vec{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 2 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 12 \\ 21 \end{bmatrix}$$

Normal equation  $A^T A \vec{X} = A^T \vec{b}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 6 & 0 \\ 0 & 21 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 12 \\ 21 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 6 & 0 & 12 \\ 0 & 21 & 21 \end{bmatrix} \rightsquigarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

The least square solution is  $x_1 = 2, x_2 = 1$ .

How close is  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  to being a solution of

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} ?$$

with  $\begin{bmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

$$A\vec{X} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \|A\vec{X} - \vec{b}\| &= \left\| \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\| \\ &= \left\| \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\| = \sqrt{9 + 4 + 1} \\ &= \sqrt{14} = 3.74 \end{aligned}$$

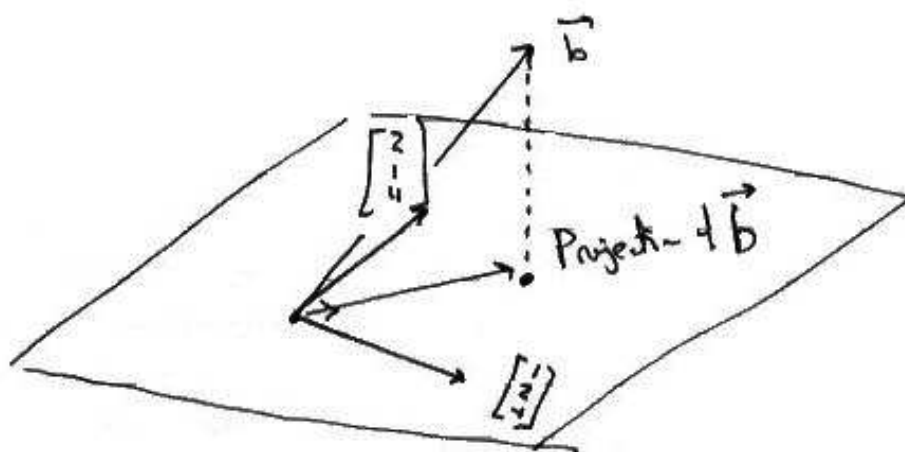
Finally,  $\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$  is the projection of  $\begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  onto the span

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}.$$



- A second approach based on the fact that the columns of  $A$  are orthogonal:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \quad \vec{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



Since  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$  are orthogonal, the proj.

of  $\vec{b}$  onto the plane

$$\begin{aligned}
\vec{b}_{\text{proj}} &= \frac{\vec{b} \cdot \vec{U}}{\vec{U} \cdot \vec{U}} \vec{U} + \frac{\vec{b} \cdot \vec{V}}{\vec{V} \cdot \vec{V}} \vec{V} \\
&= \frac{\begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}}{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{\begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}}{\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\vec{b}_{\text{proj}} &= \frac{12}{6} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{21}{21} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} \\
&= 2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} + 1 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} \\
&\quad \swarrow \quad \searrow
\end{aligned}$$

The least squares solution of  $A\vec{X} = \vec{b}$  is  $\vec{X} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

The projection  $\vec{b}_{\text{proj}} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$