

# MA-110 Linear Algebra and Differential Equations

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February 20, 2024  
Lecture 21 D3

# Gram-Schmidt Process

By induction,

$$\begin{aligned}w_r &:= v_r - \text{proj}_{\text{Span}\{w_1, \dots, w_{r-1}\}}(v_r) = \\&v_r - \text{proj}_{w_1}(v_r) - \text{proj}_{w_2}(v_r) - \dots - \text{proj}_{w_{r-1}}(v_r) \\&= v_r - \frac{w_1^T v_r}{\|w_1\|^2} w_1 - \frac{w_2^T v_r}{\|w_2\|^2} w_2 - \dots - \frac{w_{r-1}^T v_r}{\|w_{r-1}\|^2} w_{r-1}\end{aligned}$$

Now take  $q_1 = \frac{w_1}{\|w_1\|}$ ,  $q_2 = \frac{w_2}{\|w_2\|}$ , ...,  $q_r = \frac{w_r}{\|w_r\|}$ . Then

$\{q_1, \dots, q_r\}$  is an orthonormal set and

$$W = \text{Span}\{v_1, \dots, v_r\} = \text{Span}\{w_1, \dots, w_r\} = \text{Span}\{q_1, \dots, q_r\}.$$

In particular,  $\{q_1, q_2, \dots, q_r\}$  is an *orthonormal basis* for  $W$ .

**Exercise:** Show that if  $\{w_1, \dots, w_r\}$  is an orthogonal set, then

$$\text{proj}_{\text{Span}\{w_1, \dots, w_{i-1}\}}(v_i) = \text{proj}_{w_1}(v_i) + \text{proj}_{w_2}(v_i) + \dots + \text{proj}_{w_{i-1}}(v_i).$$

## Gram-Schmidt Method: Example

**Q:** Let  $S = \left\{ v_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, v_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -5 \\ 1 \\ 5 \\ -7 \end{pmatrix}, v_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -2 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$  and  $W =$

$\text{Span}(S)$ . Find an orthonormal basis for  $W$ .

**Exercise:** First verify that  $\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$  are linearly independent. (Check that rank of  $(v_1 \ v_2 \ v_3)$  is 3). Hence  $S$  is a basis of  $W$ .

Use Gram-Schmidt method:  $w_1 = v_1$ ,  $w_2 = v_2 - \left( \frac{w_1^T v_2}{\|w_1\|^2} \right) w_1$

$\Rightarrow$

$$w_2 = v_2 - \left( \frac{-15 + 1 - 5 - 21}{9 + 1 + 1 + 9} \right) w_1 = v_2 - \left( \frac{-40}{20} \right) w_1 = v_2 + 2w_1 \\ = (1 \ 3 \ 3 \ -1)^T.$$

**Observe:**  $v_1, v_2 \in \text{Span}\{w_1, w_2\}$ ,  $w_1, w_2 \in \text{Span}\{v_1, v_2\} \Rightarrow$   
 $\text{Span}\{v_1, v_2\} = \text{Span}\{w_1, w_2\}$ .

## Gram-Schmidt Method: Example (Contd.)

Recall  $w_1 = (3 \ 1 \ -1 \ 3)^T$ ,  $w_2 = (1 \ 3 \ 3 \ -1)^T$ , and  $v_3 = (1 \ 1 \ -2 \ 8)^T$ . (Check  $w_1^T w_2 = 0$ ).

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Now } w_3 &= v_3 - \left( \frac{w_1^T v_3}{\|w_1\|^2} \right) w_1 - \left( \frac{w_2^T v_3}{\|w_2\|^2} \right) w_2 = \\ &v_3 - \left( \frac{3 + 1 + 2 + 24}{20} \right) w_1 - \left( \frac{1 + 3 - 6 - 8}{20} \right) w_2 \\ \Rightarrow w_3 &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -2 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix} - \frac{3}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}.\end{aligned}$$

Check  $w_1^T w_3 = 0 = w_2^T w_3$  and

$\text{Span}\{v_1, v_2, v_3\} = \text{Span}\{w_1, w_2, w_3\}$ . Hence  $\{w_1, w_2, w_3\}$  is an orthogonal basis of  $W$ . An orthonormal basis for  $W$  is

$$\left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{20}} w_1, \frac{1}{\sqrt{20}} w_2, \frac{1}{\sqrt{20}} w_3 \right\}.$$

# Diagonalizing Symmetric Matrices: Example

**Example:** Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ . Then

$$A - \lambda I = \begin{bmatrix} 1-\lambda & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1-\lambda & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1-\lambda \end{bmatrix} \text{ and}$$

$$\det(A - \lambda I) =$$

$$(1-\lambda)[(1-\lambda)^2 - 1] - 1[1-\lambda-1] + 1[1-(1-\lambda)]$$

$$= (3-\lambda)\lambda^2$$

$$\text{Eigenvalues: } \lambda_1 = 3, \lambda_2 = 0, \lambda_3 = 0.$$

$$\text{To find } N(A - 3I), \text{ solve } A - 3I = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$N(A)$  is the plane  $x + y + z = 0$ . Hence, the associated eigenvectors are  $v_1 = (1, 1, 1)^T$ ,  $v_2 = (-1, 0, 1)^T$  and  $v_3 = (0, -1, 1)^T$ .

## Example: $A = Q\Lambda Q^T$

$A$  has eigenvalues  $\lambda_1 = 3, \lambda_2 = 0, \lambda_3 = 0$  with associated eigenvectors  $v_1 = (1, 1, 1)^T$ ,  $v_2 = (-1, 0, 1)^T$  and  $v_3 = (0, -1, 1)^T$ . Note that  $v_2$  and  $v_3$  are linearly independent in  $N(A)$ . Observe  $v_1^T v_2 = 0 = v_1^T v_3$ .

How do we get an orthogonal  $Q$  such that  $A = Q\Lambda Q^T$ , where  $\Lambda$  is diagonal with entries 3, 0, 0 on the diagonal?

**Steps:** 1. Let  $u_1 = v_1 / \|v_1\|$ .

2. Start with the basis  $\{v_2, v_3\}$  of  $N(A)$ , and apply the Gram-Schmidt process to get an orthonormal basis  $\{u_2, u_3\}$  for  $N(A)$ . Note that  $u_2$  and  $u_3$  are eigenvectors of  $A$  associated to  $\lambda = 0$ , and are linearly independent since they are non-zero orthogonal vectors.

3. Then  $Q = [u_1 \ u_2 \ u_3]$  is orthogonal, and  $Q^{-1}AQ = \Lambda$ .

4. Since  $Q^{-1} = Q^T$ ,  $A = Q\Lambda Q^T$ .

# Diagonalizing Symmetric Matrices

Let  $A$  be a symmetric matrix, which is diagonalizable. Then there is an orthogonal matrix  $Q$ , and a diagonal matrix  $\Lambda$  such that  $A = Q\Lambda Q^T$ .

**Observe:** Eigenvectors corresponding to distinct eigenvalues are orthogonal.

*Proof.* Let  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  be distinct eigenvalues of  $A$  with associated eigenvectors  $v$  and  $w$  respectively. Now,  
 $\lambda(v^T w) = (\lambda v)^T w = (Av)^T w = v^T (A^T w) = v^T (Aw) = \mu(v^T w)$ .  
Since  $\lambda \neq \mu$ , this implies  $v^T w = 0$ , proving the result.

**Step 1:** Find the eigenvalues and the respective eigenvectors.

**Step 2:** Use Gram-Schmidt process to get an orthogonal basis for each eigenspace.

**Theorem:** (Real Spectral Theorem)

Every symmetric matrix (with real entries) is diagonalizable, and hence decomposes as above.

# QR Factorization

Let  $A = (v_1 \ \cdots \ v_r)$  be an  $n \times r$  matrix of rank  $r$ . Then  $v_1, \dots, v_r$  are linearly independent vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . By the Gram-Schmidt method, we get an orthonormal basis  $\{q_1, \dots, q_r\}$  of  $C(A)$ , where  $q_i = \frac{w_i}{\|w_i\|}$  and  $w_1 = v_1$ , and for  $k > 1$ ,

$$w_k = v_k - \left( \frac{w_1^T v_k}{\|w_1\|^2} \right) w_1 - \cdots - \left( \frac{w_{k-1}^T v_k}{\|w_{k-1}\|^2} \right) w_{k-1}.$$

Let  $Q = (q_1 \ \cdots \ q_r)$ . How are  $A$  and  $Q$  related?

Note that  $\text{Span}\{v_1, \dots, v_k\} = \text{Span}\{w_1, \dots, w_k\} = \text{Span}\{q_1, \dots, q_k\}$  for all  $k$ . If  $v_k = c_1 q_1 + \dots + c_k q_k$ , then  $c_1 = q_1^T v_k$ ,  $c_2 = q_2^T v_k$ , ...,  $c_k = q_k^T v_k$ . Thus  
Hence  $v_k = (q_1^T v_k) q_1 + \dots + (q_k^T v_k) q_k$ .



## QR factorization (Contd.)

$$v_k = (q_1^T v_k)q_1 + \dots + (q_k^T v_k)q_k \quad \text{for each } k.$$

Therefore

$$(v_1 \quad v_2 \quad \dots \quad v_r) = (q_1 \quad q_2 \quad \dots \quad q_r) \begin{pmatrix} q_1^T v_1 & q_1^T v_2 & & q_1^T v_r \\ 0 & q_2^T v_2 & & q_2^T v_r \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & & q_r^T v_r \end{pmatrix}$$

i.e.  $A = QR$ , where the columns of  $Q$  form an orthonormal set and  $R$  is an invertible  $r \times r$  matrix. **Q:** Why is  $R$  invertible?

This is called  $QR$ -factorization of  $A$ .

- If  $A$  is invertible  $n \times n$ , then  $A = QR$ , where  $Q$  is an orthogonal matrix and  $R$  is an invertible upper triangular matrix, both are  $n \times n$  matrices.