

Linear Algebra

Basis Take Home Exam

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1. Suppose the set of vectors $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3\}$ is linearly independent. Is the set $\{\mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_2 + \mathbf{v}_3, \mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_3\}$ independent or dependent? Justify your response.

To check whether $\{\mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_2 + \mathbf{v}_3, \mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_3\}$ is linearly independent, we can check to see if there exists a non-trivial solution to

$$b_1(\mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_2) + b_2(\mathbf{v}_2 + \mathbf{v}_3) + b_3(\mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_3) = \mathbf{0}.$$

Distributing the constants and rearranging the equation, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} b_1\mathbf{v}_1 + b_1\mathbf{v}_2 + b_2\mathbf{v}_2 + b_2\mathbf{v}_3 + b_3\mathbf{v}_1 + b_3\mathbf{v}_3 &= \mathbf{0} \\ (b_1 + b_3)\mathbf{v}_1 + (b_1 + b_2)\mathbf{v}_2 + (b_2 + b_3)\mathbf{v}_3 &= \mathbf{0}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that this is a linear combination of $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3\}$

$$a_1\mathbf{v}_1 + a_2\mathbf{v}_2 + a_3\mathbf{v}_3 = \mathbf{0}.$$

However, because $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3\}$ is linearly independent, that means that only the trivial solution exists. Thus, $a_1 = a_2 = a_3 = 0$. Therefore, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} b_1 + b_3 &= a_1 = 0 \\ b_1 + b_2 &= a_2 = 0 \\ b_2 + b_3 &= a_3 = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Solving this system of equation, we first linearly combine the first two equations to eliminate b_1 :

$$\begin{aligned} b_2 - b_3 &= 0 \\ b_2 + b_3 &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Summing these two equations, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} 2b_2 &= 0 \\ b_2 &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

From this, it follows that b_1 and b_3 must also be 0. Therefore, the only solution that exists is the trivial solution, $b_1 = b_2 = b_3 = 0$, and thus $\{\mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_2 + \mathbf{v}_3, \mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_3\}$ is linearly independent.

2. Let V be a vector space and let $W_1 \subseteq V$ and $W_2 \subseteq V$ be vector subspaces of V . The intersection of W_1 and W_2 , written as $W_1 \cap W_2$, is defined to be the set of all vectors in W_1 and in W_2 . Prove that $W_1 \cap W_2$ is a vector subspace of V by proving that the set of vectors $W_1 \cap W_2$ is (1) closed under vector addition, and (2) closed under scalar multiplication.

- (a) Show that $W_1 \cap W_2$ is closed under vector addition.

Let $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in W_1 \cap W_2$. Therefore, $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in W_1$ and $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in W_2$. Since W_1 is a vector subspace, it is closed under vector addition. Therefore, $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} \in W_1$. Additionally, since W_2 is a vector subspace, it too is closed under vector addition. Therefore, $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} \in W_2$. Since $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} \in W_1$ and $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} \in W_2$, we can conclude that $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} \in W_1 \cap W_2$ and thus $W_1 \cap W_2$ is closed under vector addition.

- (b) Show that $W_1 \cap W_2$ is closed under scalar multiplication.

Let $\mathbf{u} \in W_1 \cap W_2$. As W_1 is a vector subspace, it is closed under scalar multiplication. Therefore, for any $k \in \mathbb{R}$, $k\mathbf{u} \in W_1$. A similar argument applies to W_2 , as it is also a vector subspace and closed under scalar multiplication. Thus, $k\mathbf{u} \in W_2$. Since $k\mathbf{u} \in W_1$ and $k\mathbf{u} \in W_2$, $k\mathbf{u} \in W_1 \cap W_2$, and $W_1 \cap W_2$ is closed under scalar multiplication.

3. Let $S = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$.

- (a) Explain why $\text{span } S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3$.

Span S can be written as $\left\{ a \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + b \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \mid \forall a, b \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$. Simplifying this, we get

$$\begin{bmatrix} a \\ a \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} -b \\ b \\ b \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a - b \\ a + b \\ b \end{bmatrix}.$$

A vector of the form $\begin{bmatrix} a - b \\ a + b \\ b \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^3$.

Another interpretation of this is that span S is the linear combination of two 3-vectors, and that creates a plane. A plane is a subset of \mathbb{R}^3 .

- (b) Show that $\exists \mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ such that $\mathbf{u} \notin \text{span } S$.

The vector $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ would not be in $\text{span } S$. In this case, $b = 1$, which would result in two different values for a . For the first entry, we have

$$\begin{aligned} a - b &= 1 \\ a &= 2. \end{aligned}$$

For the second entry, we have

$$\begin{aligned} a + b &= 1 \\ a &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ but $\notin \text{span } S$, as it cannot be written in the form of $\begin{bmatrix} a - b \\ a + b \\ b \end{bmatrix}$.

- (c) Give an example of a vector $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ where $S \cup \{\mathbf{v}\}$ does not span \mathbb{R}^3 . Justify your response.

Taking $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $S \cup \{\mathbf{v}\}$ does not span \mathbb{R}^3 . $S \cup \{\mathbf{v}\} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$.

Since \mathbf{v} is a scalar multiple of a vector that already exists in S , $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$, no new information is being added and thus $S \cup \{\mathbf{v}\}$ does not span \mathbb{R}^3 .

In another view, the minimum number of vectors required to span \mathbb{R}^3 is the dimension of the basis, which is 3 in this case. For a set of 3 vectors to span \mathbb{R}^3 , they need to be independent. However, since $S \cup \{\mathbf{v}\}$ has only 3 vectors and they are linearly dependent, we can deduce that $S \cup \{\mathbf{v}\}$ does not span \mathbb{R}^3 .

- (d) Find a vector \mathbf{w} so that the set of vectors $T = S \cup \{\mathbf{w}\}$ is pairwise orthogonal. Explain why T must be a basis for \mathbb{R}^3 .

To find \mathbf{w} such that $S \cup \{\mathbf{w}\}$ is pairwise orthogonal, we can set up the following equations:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{w} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} &= 0 \\ \mathbf{w} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Let $\mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$. Thus, we have

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

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 0.$$

This gives us the following system:

$$\begin{aligned} x + y &= 0 \\ -x + y + z &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Summing the two equations together, we get

$$2y + z = 0$$

Let $z = -2$, which gives us $y = 1$. Using that to find x , we find that $x = -1$.

Thus, $w = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$ results in $T = S \cup \{\mathbf{w}\} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ being pairwise orthogonal.

T must be a basis for \mathbb{R}^3 because it has 3 elements, which is suitable for a 3-dimensional space. It also spans \mathbb{R}^3 and is linearly independent, as all vectors are pairwise orthogonal and thus implies independence. Using a geometric approach, since span S spans a plane, adding the normal of that plane to the set would allow the set to span \mathbb{R}^3 .

- (e) Let M be the matrix whose columns are the vectors of S . Compute MM^T . Given a vector $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^3$, every vector $(MM^T)\mathbf{v}$ lies in a plane. Find the equation of that plane.

$M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$. To find MM^T :

$$MM^T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

To find the plane of $(MM^T)\mathbf{v}$, first let $v = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$. We see that

$$(MM^T)\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}.$$

Seeing this as a linear combination of the column vectors of MM^T , we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = x \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} + y \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + z \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

However, note that this is also equal to $\text{span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$. In other

words, $(MM^T)\mathbf{v} = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$.

To find the plane represented by $\text{span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$, we can find the

normal to those vectors. Let the normal $\mathbf{n} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}$. Thus,

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \mathbf{n} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \mathbf{n} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \mathbf{n} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

Simplifying this, we have

$$\begin{aligned} 2a - c &= 0 \\ 2b + c &= 0 \\ -a + b + c &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Summing the first two systems of equations and simplifying, we get $a + b = 0$. Thus, we now have

$$\begin{aligned} a + b &= 0 \\ -a + b + c &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Note that this is the same system as the system we solved in 3d (which is kinda interesting...), with the exception that the variables $(x, y, z) = (a, b, c)$.

Therefore, our solution for 3d stands, and $\mathbf{n} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$.

In conclusion, since our normal to the plane is $\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$, the equation of our plane

is $-x + y - 2z = 0$.

4. Let W be the set of vectors $v = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$ in \mathbb{R}^3 that satisfy the equation $x + y + z = 0$.

(a) Show that W is a subspace of \mathbb{R}^3 by showing W is closed under vector addition and scalar multiplication.

Any vector in \mathbb{R}^3 that satisfy the equation $x + y + z = 0$ can be written in the form $v = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ -x - y \end{bmatrix}$. For $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in W$, let $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} x_u \\ y_u \\ -x_u - y_u \end{bmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} x_v \\ y_v \\ -x_v - y_v \end{bmatrix}$.

Summing $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$, we have:

$$\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} x_u \\ y_u \\ -x_u - y_u \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} x_v \\ y_v \\ -x_v - y_v \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_u + x_v \\ y_u + y_v \\ -x_u - y_u - x_v - y_v \end{bmatrix}.$$

Note that this is still in the form $v = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ -x - y \end{bmatrix}$, and thus $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} \in W$. Therefore, W is closed under vector addition.

For scalar multiplication, let $\mathbf{u} \in W$ and let $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} x_u \\ y_u \\ -x_u - y_u \end{bmatrix}$. Multiplying by a constant k gives us

$$k\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} kx_u \\ ky_u \\ k(-x_u - y_u) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} kx_u \\ ky_u \\ -kx_u - ky_u \end{bmatrix}.$$

This is again still in the form $v = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ -x - y \end{bmatrix}$, and thus, $k\mathbf{u} \in W$ and W is closed under scalar multiplication.

Alternatively, let $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in W$. Let $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \\ z_1 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ y_2 \\ z_2 \end{bmatrix}$, and since they are both in W , the following is true:

$$x_1 + y_1 + z_1 = 0 \text{ and } x_2 + y_2 + z_2 = 0.$$

Summing $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$, we get:

$$\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 + x_2 \\ y_1 + y_2 \\ z_1 + z_2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Note that $x_1 + x_2 + y_1 + y_2 + z_1 + z_2 = (x_1 + y_1 + z_1) + (x_2 + y_2 + z_2) = 0$. Therefore, $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} \in W$ and thus W is closed under vector addition.

As for scalar multiplication, we can show that $k\mathbf{u} \in W$.

$$k\mathbf{u} = k \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \\ z_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} kx_1 \\ ky_1 \\ kz_1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Looking at the components of this vector, we see that it fulfills the requirement $x + y + z = 0$ for it to be in W .

$$kx_1 + ky_1 + kz_1 = k(x_1 + y_1 + z_1) = k(0) = 0.$$

Therefore, $k\mathbf{u} \in W$ and W is closed under scalar multiplication.

(b) Find a basis for W . Call this S .

$S = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$. Both vectors in the set span $x + y + z = 0$ and are linearly independent, and thus the set is a basis.

(c) Give an example of a vector \mathbf{u} such that $S \cup \{\mathbf{u}\}$ is a basis for \mathbb{R}^3 . Justify your response in 1-2 sentences.

The vector $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ results in $S \cup \{\mathbf{u}\}$ being a basis for \mathbb{R}^3 . Since \mathbb{R}^3 has a dimension of 3, and there must be three independent vectors that span \mathbb{R}^3 in its basis, and $S \cup \{\mathbf{u}\}$ satisfies that.

(d) The subspace U of vectors of \mathbb{R}^3 that satisfy the equation $x + y - z = 0$ has a basis $T = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$. Could $T \cup S$ be a basis for \mathbb{R}^3 ? Explain.

No. $T \cup S$ would have 4 vectors. There is no overlap between the vectors in T and any potential vectors in S , as none of the vectors in T satisfy $x + y + z = 0$. Furthermore, since there are 4 vectors in the set and we are working with a 3-dimensional vector space, $T \cup S$ must be linearly dependent. As it is linearly dependent, it cannot be a basis.

5. Find an orthonormal basis $B = \{\mathbf{b}_1, \mathbf{b}_2, \mathbf{b}_3\}$ for \mathbb{R}^3 such that $\{\mathbf{b}_1, \mathbf{b}_2\}$ is a basis for W .

Using the Gram-Schmidt process, we can turn our basis from part (b), $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$,

into an orthogonal basis. For ease of reference, let $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$. First,

we project \mathbf{u} onto \mathbf{v} :

$$\text{proj}_{\mathbf{v}} \mathbf{u} = \frac{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}}{\|\mathbf{v}\|^2} \mathbf{v} = \frac{-1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 \\ -\frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}.$$

To find the orthogonal component, we can subtract $\text{proj}_{\mathbf{v}}\mathbf{u}$ from \mathbf{u} :

$$\mathbf{u} - \text{proj}_{\mathbf{v}}\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 \\ -\frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ -1 \\ \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Thus, $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ -1 \\ \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ is an orthogonal basis for W .

To find \mathbf{b}_3 such that $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ -1 \\ \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{b}_3 \right\}$ is a basis for \mathbb{R}^3 , we can let $\mathbf{b}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$.

We know that \mathbf{b}_3 needs to be orthogonal to \mathbf{b}_1 and \mathbf{b}_2 , and thus we can set up the following equations:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{b}_3 \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ -1 \\ \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ -1 \\ \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} = 0 \\ \mathbf{b}_3 \cdot \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

From this, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{x}{2} - y + \frac{z}{2} &= 0 \\ -x + z &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

As there are 3 variables and 2 equations, we have an extra degree of freedom. Thus, we can let $x = 1$, and based on the second equation, $z = 1$. Substituting those values

into the first equation, we get that $y = 1$ as well. Therefore, the vector $\mathbf{b}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ is

orthogonal to the subspace W .

Currently, we have an orthogonal basis for \mathbb{R}^3 wherein the first two vectors also form

the basis for W , $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ -1 \\ \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$. To make it an orthonormal basis, we can

scale each vector such that the magnitude is 1.

$$\left\| a \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ -1 \\ \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} \right\| = 1.$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\left\| \begin{bmatrix} \frac{a}{2} \\ -a \\ \frac{a}{2} \end{bmatrix} \right\| &= 1. \\
\sqrt{\left(\frac{a}{2}\right)^2 + (-a)^2 + \left(\frac{a}{2}\right)^2} &= 1. \\
\sqrt{\frac{3a^2}{2}} &= 1. \\
a &= \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}.
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the vector $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ -1 \\ \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}$ is scaled by $\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}$, resulting in $\begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{\frac{1}{6}} \\ -\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \\ \sqrt{\frac{1}{6}} \end{bmatrix}$.

Performing the same thing for $\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$, we get that it must be scaled by $\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$, resulting

in $\begin{bmatrix} -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \\ 0 \\ \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \end{bmatrix}$. Lastly, $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ needs to be scaled by a factor of $\frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$, resulting in $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3} \\ \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3} \\ \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3} \end{bmatrix}$.

In conclusion, the orthonormal basis $B = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{\frac{1}{6}} \\ -\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \\ \sqrt{\frac{1}{6}} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \\ 0 \\ \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3} \\ \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3} \\ \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3} \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ exists for \mathbb{R}^3

such that $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{\frac{1}{6}} \\ -\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \\ \sqrt{\frac{1}{6}} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \\ 0 \\ \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ is a basis for W .