

The Gram-Schmidt Process is a way to turn a basis of a subspace into an orthonormal basis of the subspace.

This process makes it possible for us to use the handy projection formula we learned before.

Given a subspace V of \mathbb{R}^n and a basis $(\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_m)$ of V , Find an orthonormal basis of V .

1) Find \vec{u}_1 so that (\vec{u}_1) is an orthonormal basis of $\text{Span}(\vec{v}_1)$

$$\vec{u}_1 = \frac{1}{\|\vec{v}_1\|} \vec{v}_1$$

2) Find \vec{u}_2 so that (\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2) is an orthonormal basis of $\text{Span}(\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2)$

$$\vec{v}_2^* = \vec{v}_2 - \text{proj}_{\text{Span}(\vec{v}_1)}(\vec{v}_2) \quad \text{Since } (\vec{u}_1) \text{ is an orthonormal basis of } \text{Span}(\vec{v}_1)$$

$$\vec{v}_2^* = \vec{v}_2 - (\vec{v}_2 \cdot \vec{u}_1) \vec{u}_1$$

$$\vec{u}_2 = \frac{1}{\|\vec{v}_2^*\|} \vec{v}_2^*$$

3) Repeat the process to Find \vec{u}_3 up to \vec{u}_m .

$$\vec{v}_3^* = \vec{v}_3 - (\vec{v}_3 \cdot \vec{u}_1) \vec{u}_1 - (\vec{v}_3 \cdot \vec{u}_2) \vec{u}_2$$

$$\vec{u}_3 = \frac{1}{\|\vec{v}_3^*\|} \vec{v}_3^*$$

$$\vec{v}_m^* = \vec{v}_m - (\vec{v}_m \cdot \vec{u}_1) \vec{u}_1 - \dots - (\vec{v}_m \cdot \vec{u}_{m-1}) \vec{u}_{m-1}$$

$$\vec{u}_m = \frac{1}{\|\vec{v}_m^*\|} \vec{v}_m^*$$

Now you have your orthonormal basis $(\vec{u}_1, \dots, \vec{u}_m)$

Switching gears a bit, if we have V , a subspace of \mathbb{R}^n , then V^\perp is all vectors in \mathbb{R}^n orthogonal to V .

We call this the orthogonal complement. If we have a projection onto V , then we get some insights into V and V^\perp .

$\dim(\text{Im } \text{proj}_V) + \dim(\text{Ker } \text{proj}_V) = \dim(V) + \dim(V^\perp) = n$. So the dimensions of V and V^\perp must sum to n .

Finally, if we have matrix A , the transpose of A , called A^T , is the matrix where the i -th column of A is the i -th row of A^T .

Similar to inverses, $(AB)^T = B^T A^T$.

Example: $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 \\ 2 & 5 \\ 3 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$ $A^T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$ the columns and rows "switched".

We can see a really interesting relation between the orthogonal complement and the transpose.

$$(\text{Im } A)^\perp = \text{Ker}(A^T)$$