

# Orthogonality

## Matrix Computations — CPSC 5006 E

Julien Dompierre

Department of Mathematics and Computer Science  
Laurentian University

Sudbury, November 7, 2009

## Orthogonality

---

- Orthogonality.
- Gram-Schmidt.
- QR decomposition.
- Section 5.2 of the textbook.

# Orthogonal Vectors

## Definition

We say that two non zero vectors are **orthogonal** if the angle between them is a right angle.

## Theorem

*Two non zero vectors  $u$  and  $v$  are orthogonal if and only if their scalar product  $u^T v = (u, v) = u \cdot v = 0$ .*

## Corollary

*The zero vector is orthogonal to any vector.*

# Orthogonal Set

## Definition

A set of vectors  $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_p\}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is said to be an **orthogonal set** if each pair of distinct vectors from the set is orthogonal, that is, if  $u_i \cdot u_j = 0$  for all  $i \neq j$ .

Note. There are  ${}_pC_2 = p!/((p-2)!2!)$  combinations to verify if you want to prove that a set of  $p$  vectors is an orthogonal set.

# Example of an Orthogonal Set

Show that  $\{u_1, u_2, u_3\}$  is an orthogonal set, where

$$u_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad u_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad u_3 = \begin{bmatrix} -1/2 \\ -2 \\ 7/2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

There are  ${}_3C_2 = 3!/((3-2)!2!) = 3$  combinations to verify, namely  $\{u_1, u_2\}$ ,  $\{u_1, u_3\}$  and  $\{u_2, u_3\}$ .

$$u_1 \cdot u_2 = u_1^T u_2 = 3(-1) + 1(2) + 1(1) = 0$$

$$u_1 \cdot u_3 = u_1^T u_3 = 3(-1/2) + 1(-2) + 1(7/2) = 0$$

$$u_2 \cdot u_3 = u_2^T u_3 = -1(-1/2) + 2(-2) + 1(7/2) = 0$$

# Review: Linear Combination

## Definition

Let  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p$  be vectors in a vector space  $V$ . We say that  $y$ , a vector in  $V$ , is a **linear combination** of  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p$  if there exist scalars  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_p$  such that  $y$  can be written as

$$y = c_1 v_1 + c_2 v_2 + \cdots + c_p v_p.$$

The scalars  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_p$  are called the **weights**.

# Review: Linear Dependence and Independence

## Definition

- (a) The set of vectors  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p\}$  in a vector space  $V$  is said to be **linearly dependent** if there exist scalars  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_p$  not all zero such that

$$c_1 v_1 + c_2 v_2 + \dots + c_p v_p = 0.$$

- (b) The set of vectors  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p\}$  in a vector space  $V$  is said to be **linearly independent** if

$$c_1 v_1 + c_2 v_2 + \dots + c_p v_p = 0$$

can only be satisfied when

$$c_1 = 0, c_2 = 0, \dots, c_p = 0.$$

# Orthogonal Set and Linear Independence

## Theorem

*If  $S = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_p\}$  is an orthogonal set of non zero vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , then  $S$  is linearly independent and hence is a basis for the subspace spanned by  $S$ .*

## Proof.

If  $0 = c_1 u_1 + \dots + c_p u_p$  for the scalars  $c_1, \dots, c_p$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= 0 \cdot u_1 = (c_1 u_1 + c_2 u_2 + \dots + c_p u_p) \cdot u_1 \\ &= c_1(u_1 \cdot u_1) + c_2(u_2 \cdot u_1) + \dots + c_p(u_p \cdot u_1) \\ &= c_1(u_1 \cdot u_1) \end{aligned}$$

because  $u_1$  is orthogonal to  $u_2, \dots, u_p$ . Since  $u_1$  is non zero,  $u_1 \cdot u_1$  is not zero and so  $c_1 = 0$ . Similarly,  $c_2, \dots, c_p$  must be zero. Thus  $S$  is linearly independent. □



# Orthogonal Basis

## Definition

An **orthogonal basis** for a subspace  $W$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is a basis for  $W$  that is also an orthogonal set.

# Orthogonal Basis and Linear Combination

## Theorem

*Let  $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_p\}$  be an orthogonal basis for a subspace  $W$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . For each  $y$  in  $W$ , the weights in linear combination*

$$y = c_1 u_1 + c_2 u_2 + \cdots + c_p u_p$$

*are given by*

$$c_j = \frac{y \cdot u_j}{u_j \cdot u_j}, \quad \text{for } j = 1, \dots, p.$$

## Proof.

The orthogonality of  $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_p\}$  shows that

$$y \cdot u_j = (c_1 u_1 + c_2 u_2 + \cdots + c_p u_p) \cdot u_j = c_j (u_j \cdot u_j).$$

Since  $u_j \cdot u_j$  is not zero, the equation above can be solved for  $c_j$ . □

# Example: Linear Combination for Non Orthogonal Basis

Let  $S = \{u_1, u_2, u_3\}$  be an orthogonal basis for  $\mathbb{R}^3$  as in the previous example. The vector  $y = [6, 1, -8]^T$  can be expressed as a linear combination of the vectors in  $S$ .

$$c_1 \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + c_2 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + c_3 \begin{bmatrix} -1/2 \\ -2 \\ 7/2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 1 \\ -8 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 & -1/2 \\ 1 & 2 & -2 \\ 1 & 1 & 7/2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ c_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 1 \\ -8 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -1 & -1/2 & 6 \\ 1 & 2 & -2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 7/2 & -8 \end{array} \right] \approx \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 \end{array} \right]$$

What is the cost?

## Example: Linear Combination for Orthogonal Basis

Let  $S = \{u_1, u_2, u_3\}$  be an orthogonal basis for  $\mathbb{R}^3$  as in the previous example. The vector  $y = [6, 1, -8]^T$  can be expressed as a linear combination of the vectors in  $S$ .

$$\begin{aligned}y \cdot u_1 &= 11, & y \cdot u_2 &= -12, & y \cdot u_3 &= -33, \\u_1 \cdot u_1 &= 11, & u_2 \cdot u_2 &= 6, & u_3 \cdot u_3 &= 33/2.\end{aligned}$$

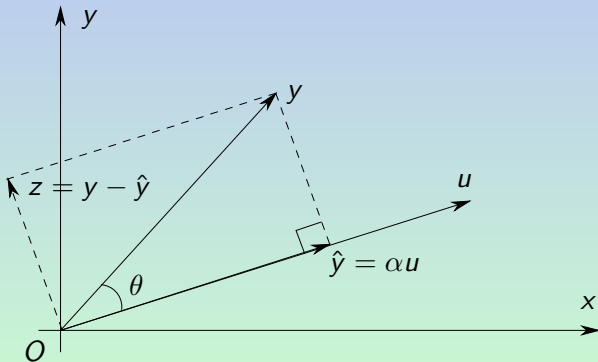
Using orthogonality of the basis, we get

$$\begin{aligned}y &= \frac{y \cdot u_1}{u_1 \cdot u_1} u_1 + \frac{y \cdot u_2}{u_2 \cdot u_2} u_2 + \frac{y \cdot u_3}{u_3 \cdot u_3} u_3 \\&= \frac{11}{11} u_1 + \frac{-12}{6} u_2 + \frac{-33}{33/2} u_3 \\&= u_1 - 2u_2 - 2u_3\end{aligned}$$

What is the cost?

# Projection of One Vector onto Another Vector

Let  $u$  and  $y$  be vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with angle  $\theta$  between them. The vector  $\hat{y}$  tells us “how much” of  $y$  is pointing in the direction of  $u$ . We call  $\hat{y} = \alpha u$  the **orthogonal projection of  $y$  onto  $u$** . The vector  $z = y - \hat{y}$  is the **component of  $y$  orthogonal to  $u$** .

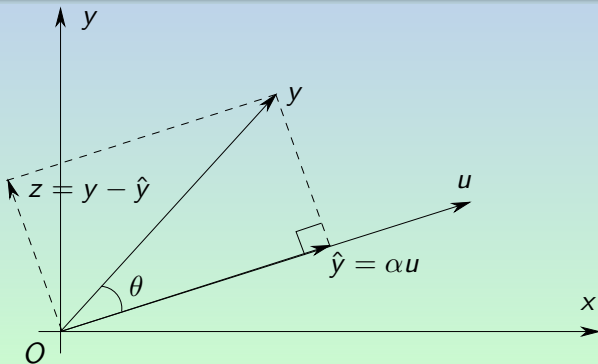


# Projection of One Vector onto Another Vector

## Definition

The projection of a vector  $y$  onto a non zero vector  $u$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is denoted  $\text{proj}_u y$  and is defined by

$$\hat{y} = \text{proj}_u y = \left( \frac{y \cdot u}{u \cdot u} \right) u$$



## Definition

A set  $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_p\}$  is an **orthonormal set** if it is an orthogonal set of unit vectors. if  $W$  is the subspace spanned by such a set, then  $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_p\}$  is an orthonormal basis for  $W$ .

The simplest example of an orthonormal set is the standard basis  $\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n\}$  for  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

# Orthonormal Columns of a Matrix

## Theorem

An  $m \times n$  matrix  $U$  has orthonormal columns if and only if  $U^T U = I$ .

## Proof.

See next slide. □

## Definition

An **orthogonal matrix** (or **unitary matrix**) is a square invertible matrix  $U$  such that  $U^{-1} = U^T$ . Such a matrix has orthonormal columns (and so a better name might be *orthonormal matrix*). Such a matrix must have orthonormal rows, too.



# Proof of Theorem of the Previous Slide

## Proof.

To simplify the proof, suppose that  $U$  has only three columns, each a vector in  $\mathbb{R}^m$ . The proof in the general case is essentially the same. Let  $U = [u_1 \ u_2 \ u_3]$  and compute

$$U^T U = \begin{bmatrix} u_1^T \\ u_2^T \\ u_3^T \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_1 & u_2 & u_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1^T u_1 & u_1^T u_2 & u_1^T u_3 \\ u_2^T u_1 & u_2^T u_2 & u_2^T u_3 \\ u_3^T u_1 & u_3^T u_2 & u_3^T u_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

The entries in the matrix are inner products, using the transpose notation. The columns of  $U$  are orthogonal if and only if

$$u_1^T u_2 = u_2^T u_1 = 0, \quad u_1^T u_3 = u_3^T u_1 = 0, \quad u_2^T u_3 = u_3^T u_2 = 0.$$

The columns of  $U$  all have unit length if and only if

$$u_1^T u_1 = 1, \quad u_2^T u_2 = 1, \quad u_3^T u_3 = 1.$$



# The Problem

Notation:  $V = [v_1, \dots, v_n]$  is the matrix with column-vectors  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ .

**Problem:** Given a system  $X = [x_1, \dots, x_n]$ , compute an orthonormal system  $Q = [q_1, \dots, q_n]$  which spans the same space as the columns of  $X$ .

# The Gram-Schmidt Process

## Theorem

Given a basis  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p\}$  for a subspace  $W$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , define

$$q_1 = x_1,$$

$$q_2 = x_2 - \frac{x_2 \cdot q_1}{q_1 \cdot q_1} q_1,$$

$$q_3 = x_3 - \frac{x_3 \cdot q_1}{q_1 \cdot q_1} q_1 - \frac{x_3 \cdot q_2}{q_2 \cdot q_2} q_2,$$

$$\vdots = \vdots$$

$$q_p = x_p - \frac{x_p \cdot q_1}{q_1 \cdot q_1} q_1 - \frac{x_p \cdot q_2}{q_2 \cdot q_2} q_2 - \dots - \frac{x_p \cdot q_{p-1}}{q_{p-1} \cdot q_{p-1}} q_{p-1}.$$

Then  $\{q_1, q_2, \dots, q_p\}$  is an **orthogonal** basis for  $W$ . In addition

$$\text{span}\{q_1, q_2, \dots, q_p\} = \text{span}\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p\} \quad \text{for } 1 \leq k \leq p.$$

# The Gram-Schmidt Process

## Theorem

Given a basis  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p\}$  for a subspace  $W$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , define

$$q_1 = x_1, \quad q_1 = q_1 / \|q_1\|$$

$$q_2 = x_2 - (x_2 \cdot q_1)q_1, \quad q_2 = q_2 / \|q_2\|$$

$$q_3 = x_3 - (x_3 \cdot q_1)q_1 - (x_3 \cdot q_2)q_2, \quad q_3 = q_3 / \|q_3\|$$

$$\vdots = \vdots$$

$$q_p = x_p - (x_p \cdot q_1)q_1 - (x_p \cdot q_2)q_2 - \cdots - (x_p \cdot q_{p-1})q_{p-1}, \\ q_p = q_p / \|q_p\|$$

Then  $\{q_1, q_2, \dots, q_p\}$  is an **orthonormal** basis for  $W$ . In addition

$$\text{span}\{q_1, q_2, \dots, q_p\} = \text{span}\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p\} \quad \text{for } 1 \leq k \leq p.$$

# The Gram-Schmidt Process

## Theorem

Given a basis  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p\}$  for a subspace  $W$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , define

$$q_1 = x_1,$$

$$q_2 = x_2 - \text{proj}_{q_1}(x_2)$$

$$q_3 = x_3 - \text{proj}_{q_1}(x_3) - \text{proj}_{q_2}(x_3),$$

$$\vdots = \vdots$$

$$q_p = x_p - \text{proj}_{q_1}(x_p) - \text{proj}_{q_2}(x_p) - \dots - \text{proj}_{q_{p-1}}(x_p).$$

Then  $\{q_1, q_2, \dots, q_p\}$  is an orthogonal basis for  $W$ . In addition

$$\text{span}\{q_1, q_2, \dots, q_p\} = \text{span}\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p\} \quad \text{for } 1 \leq k \leq p.$$

# The Gram-Schmidt Process

## Theorem

Given a basis  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p\}$  for a subspace  $W$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , define

$$q_1 = x_1,$$

$$q_2 = x_2 - \text{proj}_{W_1}(x_2), \quad W_1 = \text{span}\{q_1\}$$

$$q_3 = x_3 - \text{proj}_{W_2}(x_3), \quad W_2 = \text{span}\{q_1, q_2\}$$

$$\vdots = \vdots$$

$$q_p = x_p - \text{proj}_{W_{p-1}}(x_p), \quad W_{p-1} = \text{span}\{q_1, q_2, \dots, q_{p-1}\}.$$

Then  $\{q_1, q_2, \dots, q_p\}$  is an orthogonal basis for  $W$ . In addition

$$\text{span}\{q_1, q_2, \dots, q_p\} = \text{span}\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p\} \quad \text{for } 1 \leq k \leq p.$$

---

**Algorithm 1 Classical Gram-Schmidt.** Given  $A = [a_1 \cdots a_n] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  with  $\text{rank}(A) = n$ , the following algorithm computes the factorization  $A = QR$  where  $Q = [q_1 \cdots q_n] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  has orthonormal columns and  $R \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  is upper triangular.

---

```
1: for  $j = 1 : n$ 
2:   Set  $q = a_j$ 
3:   for  $i = 1 : j - 1$ 
4:     Compute  $r_{ij} = q \cdot q_i$ 
5:   end
6:   for  $i = 1 : j - 1$ 
7:     Compute  $q = q - r_{ij}q_i$ 
8:   end
9:   Compute  $r_{jj} = \|q\|_2$ 
10:   $q_j = q/r_{jj}$ 
11: end
```

---

# Example

**Example: Orthonormalize the system of vectors**

$$X = [x_1, x_2, x_3] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Answer:**

$$q_1 = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}; \quad \hat{q}_2 = x_2 - (x_2, q_1)q_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} - 1 \times \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\hat{q}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}; \quad q_2 = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$



# Example

$$\hat{q}_3 = x_3 - (x_3, q_1)q_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} - 2 \times \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\hat{\hat{q}}_3 = \hat{q}_3 - (\hat{q}_3, q_2)q_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} - (-1) \times \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} \\ -2.5 \\ 2.5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\|\hat{\hat{q}}_3\|_2 = \sqrt{13} \rightarrow q_3 = \frac{\hat{\hat{q}}_3}{\|\hat{\hat{q}}_3\|_2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{13}} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} \\ -2.5 \\ 2.5 \end{bmatrix} \approx \begin{bmatrix} 0.1387 \\ -0.1387 \\ -0.6934 \\ 0.6934 \end{bmatrix}$$

# QR Decomposition

Lines 4, 7 and 9 show that

$$x_j = r_{1j}q_1 + r_{2j}q_2 + \dots + r_{jj}q_j$$

If  $X = [x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]$ ,  $Q = [q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n]$ , and if  $R$  is the  $n \times n$  upper triangular matrix

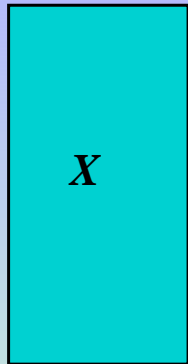
$$R = \{r_{ij}\}_{i,j=1,\dots,n}$$

then the above relation can be written as

$$X = QR$$

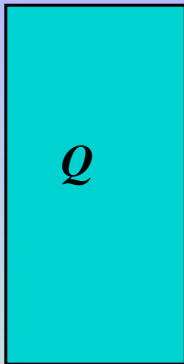
$R$  is upper triangular,  $Q$  is unitary. This is called the **QR factorization** of  $X$ .

# QR Decomposition



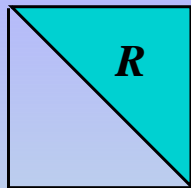
$X$

=



$Q$

\*



$R$

*$R$  is upper  
triangular*

*Original  
matrix*

*$Q$  is unitary*

Another Decomposition:

A matrix  $X$ , with linearly independent columns, is the product of a unitary matrix  $Q$  and an upper triangular matrix  $R$ .

---

**Algorithm 2 Classical Gram-Schmidt.** Given  $A = [a_1 \cdots a_n] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  with  $\text{rank}(A) = n$ , the following algorithm computes the factorization  $A = QR$  where  $Q = [q_1 \cdots q_n] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  has orthonormal columns and  $R \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  is upper triangular.

---

- 1:  $R(1, 1) = \|A(:, 1)\|_2$
  - 2:  $Q(:, 1) = A(:, 1)/R(1, 1)$
  - 3: **for**  $j = 2 : n$
  - 4:    $R(1 : j - 1, j) = Q(:, 1 : j - 1)^T A(:, j)$
  - 5:    $z = A(:, j) - Q(:, 1 : j - 1) R(1 : j - 1, j)$
  - 6:    $R(j, j) = \|z\|_2$
  - 7:    $Q(:, j) = z/R(j, j)$
  - 8: **end**
-

# Better algorithm: Modified Gram-Schmidt

---

**Algorithm 3 Modified Gram-Schmidt.** Given  $A = [a_1 \cdots a_n] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  with  $\text{rank}(A) = n$ , the following algorithm computes the factorization  $A = QR$  where  $Q = [q_1 \cdots q_n] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  has orthonormal columns and  $R \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  is upper triangular.

---

```
1: for  $j = 1, \dots, n$ 
2:   Define  $\hat{q} := a_j$ 
3:   for  $i = 1, \dots, j - 1$ 
4:      $r_{ij} := (\hat{q}, q_i)$ 
5:      $\hat{q} := \hat{q} - r_{ij}q_i$ 
6:   end
7:   Compute  $r_{jj} := \|\hat{q}\|_2$ 
8:    $q_j := \hat{q}/r_{jj}$ 
9: end
```

---

Only difference: inner product uses the accumulated subsum instead of original  $\hat{q}$ .

# Error Analysis of Modified Gram-Schmidt

Modified Gram-Schmidt algorithm is much more stable than classical Gram-Schmidt in general. (A few examples easily show this)

Suppose MGS is applied to  $A$  yielding computed matrices  $\hat{Q}$  and  $\hat{R}$ . Then there are constants  $c_i$  (depending on  $(m, n)$ ) such that

$$A + E_1 = \hat{Q}\hat{R} \quad \|E_1\|_2 \leq c_1 u \|A\|_2$$

$$\|\hat{Q}^T \hat{Q} - I\|_2 \leq c_2 u \kappa_2(A) + O((u\kappa_2(A))^2)$$

for a certain perturbation matrix  $E_1$ , and there exists an orthonormal matrix  $Q$  such that

$$A + E_2 = Q\hat{R} \quad \|E_2(:, j)\|_2 \leq c_3 u \|A(:, j)\|_2$$

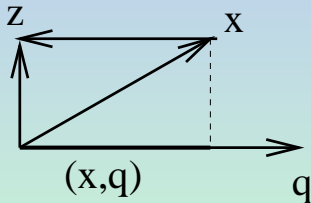
for a certain perturbation matrix  $E_2$ . ( $u$  is the machine epsilon).

# Orthogonalization

The operations in lines 4 and 5 can be written as

$$\hat{q} := ORTH(\hat{q}, q_i)$$

Where  $ORTH(x, q)$  denotes the operation of orthogonalizing a vector  $x$  against a unit vector  $q$ .



Result of  $z = ORTH(x, q)$

# Unitary Matrix

For this example: compute  $Q^T Q$ .

Result is the identity matrix.

Recall: For any unitary matrix  $Q$ , we have

$$Q^T Q = I$$

(In complex case:  $Q^H Q = I$ ).

Consequence: For an  $n \times n$  unitary matrix  $\boxed{Q^{-1} = Q^T}$



Application: another method for solving linear systems.

$$Ax = b$$

$A$  is an  $n \times n$  non singular matrix. Compute its QR factorization.

Multiply both sides by  $Q^T \rightarrow Q^T QRx = Q^T b \rightarrow$

$$Rx = Q^T b$$

Method:

Compute the QR factorization of  $A$ ,  $A = QR$ .

Solve the upper triangular system  $Rx = Q^T b$ .  
( Cost?? )