

**DS-GA 1014 Optimization and Computational Linear Algebra**  
**Lab 5: Orthogonal Matrices & Eigenvalues**

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## Gram-Schmidt

Let  $v_1, \dots, v_m \in \mathbb{R}^n$  be linearly independent. Show there is an orthonormal basis for  $\text{Span}(v_1, \dots, v_m)$ .

*Solution.* We will outline an algorithm known as Gram-Schmidt.

(a) Set  $w_1 = v_1$  and  $u_1 = w_1/\|w_1\|$ .

(b) For  $i = 2, \dots, m$  :

i. Define  $w_i$  by

$$w_i = v_i - \langle v_i, u_1 \rangle u_1 - \dots - \langle v_i, u_{i-1} \rangle u_{i-1}$$

ii. Let  $u_i = w_i/\|w_i\|$ .

We claim that  $u_1, \dots, u_m$  are orthonormal and that  $u_i \in \text{Span}(v_1, \dots, v_i)$  for all  $i$ . The claim implies  $\text{Span}(u_1, \dots, u_i) \subseteq \text{Span}(v_1, \dots, v_i)$  with both spans having dimension  $i$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, m$ . This shows the spans are equal and completes the proof.

Previous lab question from Brett Bernstein

## Gram-Schmidt

*Proof of claim.* Proof by induction. More precisely, we show that for all  $i \geq 1$  we have  $\langle u_i, u_j \rangle = 0$  for any  $j < i$ ,  $\langle u_i, u_i \rangle = 1$ , and  $u_i \in \text{Span}(v_1, \dots, v_i)$ . For the base case  $i = 1$  we only need that  $v_1 \neq 0$  (so that  $u_1$  is well-defined), but this is immediate from linear independence. For the induction case, assume the statement holds up to  $i \geq 1$ . By the definition of  $w_{i+1}$  and the induction hypothesis we have

$$w_{i+1} \in \text{Span}(v_{i+1}, u_1, \dots, u_i) \subseteq \text{Span}(v_{i+1}, v_1, \dots, v_i).$$

If  $w_{i+1} = 0$  then  $v_{i+1} \in \text{Span}(v_1, \dots, v_i)$  contradicting linear independence. Thus  $w_{i+1} \neq 0$ ,  $u_{i+1}$  is well-defined, and  $\|u_{i+1}\| = 1$ . Since  $u_{i+1} = w_{i+1}/\|w_{i+1}\|$  we also have

$$u_{i+1} \in \text{Span}(v_{i+1}, v_1, \dots, v_i).$$

Furthermore, for any  $j < i + 1$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|w_{i+1}\| \langle u_{i+1}, u_j \rangle &= \langle w_{i+1}, u_j \rangle \\ &= \langle v_{i+1} - \sum_{k=1}^i \langle v_{i+1}, u_k \rangle u_k, u_j \rangle \\ &= \langle v_{i+1}, u_j \rangle - \sum_{k=1}^i \langle v_{i+1}, u_k \rangle \langle u_k, u_j \rangle \\ &= \langle v_{i+1}, u_j \rangle - \langle v_{i+1}, u_j \rangle && \text{(Induction Hypothesis)} \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

## Gram-Schmidt

What is the output of Gram-Schmidt if the input vectors  $v_1, \dots, v_m$  are already orthonormal?

It simply sets  $u_i = v_i$ .

## Gram-Schmidt

Let  $V = \mathbb{R}^3$  with the Euclidean inner product. We will apply the Gram-Schmidt algorithm to orthogonalize the basis  $\{(1, -1, 1), (1, 0, 1), (1, 1, 2)\}$ .

$$\|v_1\| = \sqrt{1+1+1} = \sqrt{3}$$

$$\|v_2\| = \sqrt{\frac{1}{9} + \frac{4}{9} + \frac{1}{9}} = \sqrt{\frac{6}{9}} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}$$

$$\|v_3\| = \sqrt{\frac{1}{4} + 0 + \frac{1}{4}} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{4}} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}}$$

Step 1  $v_1 = (1, -1, 1)$ .

$$u_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} (1, -1, 1)$$

$$v_2 = (1, 0, 1) - \frac{(1, 0, 1) \cdot (1, -1, 1)}{\|(1, -1, 1)\|^2} (1, -1, 1)$$

Step 2

$$= (1, 0, 1) - \frac{2}{3} (1, -1, 1)$$

$$= (\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{3})$$

$$u_2 = \frac{(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{3})}{\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}} = \frac{\sqrt{6}}{2} (\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{3})$$

$$v_3 = (1, 1, 2) - \frac{(1, 1, 2) \cdot (1, -1, 1)}{\|(1, -1, 1)\|^2} (1, -1, 1) - \frac{(1, 1, 2) \cdot (\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{3})}{\|(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{3})\|^2} (\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{3})$$

Step 3

$$= (1, 1, 2) - \frac{2}{3} (1, -1, 1) - \frac{5}{2} (\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{3})$$

$$= (-\frac{1}{2}, 0, \frac{1}{2})$$

$$u_3 = \frac{(-\frac{1}{2}, 0, \frac{1}{2})}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{2}}} = \sqrt{2} (-\frac{1}{2}, 0, \frac{1}{2})$$

You can verify that  $\{(1, -1, 1), (\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{3}), (-\frac{1}{2}, 0, \frac{1}{2})\}$  forms an orthogonal basis for  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

Normalizing the vectors in the orthogonal basis, we obtain the orthonormal basis

$$\left\{ \left( \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}, \frac{-\sqrt{3}}{3}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3} \right), \left( \frac{\sqrt{6}}{6}, \frac{\sqrt{6}}{3}, \frac{\sqrt{6}}{6} \right), \left( \frac{-\sqrt{2}}{2}, 0, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \right) \right\}.$$

## Orthonormal bases

We can also use coordinatization for  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . If we have a basis  $B = v_1, \dots, v_n$  for  $\mathbb{R}^n$  then we can define the coordinatization (or change-of-basis) map  $\Phi_B : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  by

$$\Phi_B(\alpha_1 v_1 + \dots + \alpha_n v_n) = \alpha.$$

- (a) Let  $B$  denote the basis  $(1, 0), (-1, 1)$  for  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . Compute

$$\Phi_B \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right), \quad \Phi_B \left( \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right), \quad \text{and} \quad \Phi_B \left( \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right).$$

- (b) Suppose  $B = v_1, \dots, v_n$  is a basis for  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Give the matrices corresponding to  $\Phi_B$  and  $\Phi_B^{-1}$  (possible since  $\Phi_B : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is linear and invertible).
- (c) For which bases  $B$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  does  $\Phi_B$  preserve inner products? That is, for which bases  $B$  does

$$\langle \Phi_B(x), \Phi_B(y) \rangle = \langle x, y \rangle$$

for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ?

## Orthonormal bases

(a)

$$\Phi_B \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\Phi_B \left( \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\Phi_B \left( \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \alpha_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \alpha_2 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha_1 = 1 \quad \alpha_2 = 0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \alpha_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \alpha_2 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha_1 = 0 \quad \alpha_2 = 1$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \alpha_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \alpha_2 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha_1 = 1 \quad \alpha_2 = 1$$

(b) Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  denote the matrix with  $v_i$  as its  $i$ th column. Then  $\Phi_B = A^{-1}$  and  $\Phi_B^{-1} = A$ .

(c) Orthonormal bases

$$\langle Qx, Qy \rangle = (Qx)^T(Qy) = x^T Q^T Q y = x^T y = \langle x, y \rangle.$$

♥ intuition (Q) ♥

$$\Phi_B v_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Phi_B v_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \Phi_B [v_1 \ v_2] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = I$$

Previous lab question from Brett Bernstein

Recall:

[special case]

$A$  orthogonal ( $AA^T = I$ )

$$\Phi = A^T$$

# Eigenvalues & Eigenvectors

Consider the matrix

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ -4 & 8 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and vectors} \quad v = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad w = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Which are eigenvectors? What are their eigenvalues?

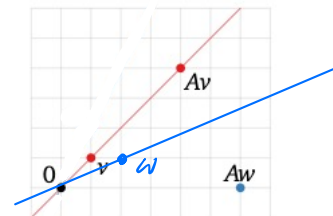
We have

$$Av = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ -4 & 8 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = 4v.$$

Hence,  $v$  is an eigenvector of  $A$ , with eigenvalue  $\lambda = 4$ . On the other hand,

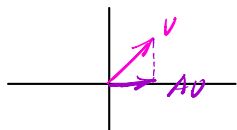
$$Aw = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ -4 & 8 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

which is not a scalar multiple of  $w$ . Hence,  $w$  is not an eigenvector of  $A$ .

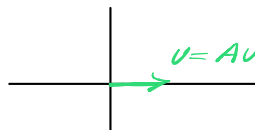


- How about  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ ?

Note it's actually the x-axis projection



$x$  ( $Av, v$  not in the same line)



$v$  ( $Av, v$  in the same line)

eigenvalue: 1

[eigenvector]

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ for } \forall \alpha \in \mathbb{R}.$$



## Eigenvalues & Eigenvectors

Let

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 6 \end{pmatrix} \quad v = \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Is  $v$  an eigenvector of  $A$ ? If so, what is its eigenvalue?

The product is

$$Av = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 6 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = 0v.$$

Hence,  $v$  is an eigenvector with eigenvalue zero.

As noted above, an *eigenvalue* is allowed to be zero, but an *eigenvector* is not.

*Note that if  $\text{Ker}(A) \neq \{0\}$*

*for a nonzero  $u \in \text{Ker}(A)$*

$$Au = 0 = 0u$$

*$\Rightarrow u$  is an eigenvector of  $A$*