

## Section 3.3 – Gram-Schmidt Process

### Definition

A set of two or more vectors in a real inner product space is said to be **orthogonal** if all pairs of distinct vectors in the set are orthogonal. An orthogonal set in which each vector has norm 1 is said to be **orthonormal**.

### Theorem

1. If  $S = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  is an orthogonal basis for an inner product space  $V$ , and if  $u$  is any vector in  $V$ , then

$$u = \frac{\langle u, v_1 \rangle}{\|v_1\|^2} v_1 + \frac{\langle u, v_2 \rangle}{\|v_2\|^2} v_2 + \dots + \frac{\langle u, v_n \rangle}{\|v_n\|^2} v_n$$

2. If  $S = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  is an orthonormal basis for an inner product space  $V$ , and if  $u$  is any vector in  $V$ , then

$$u = \langle u, v_1 \rangle v_1 + \langle u, v_2 \rangle v_2 + \dots + \langle u, v_n \rangle v_n$$

### Proof

1. Since  $S = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  is a basis for  $V$ , every vector  $u$  in  $V$  can be expressed in the form

$$u = c_1 v_1 + c_2 v_2 + \dots + c_n v_n$$

Let show that  $c_i = \frac{\langle u, v_i \rangle}{\|v_i\|^2}$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle u, v_i \rangle &= \langle c_1 v_1 + c_2 v_2 + \dots + c_n v_n, v_i \rangle \\ &= c_1 \langle v_1, v_i \rangle + c_2 \langle v_2, v_i \rangle + \dots + c_n \langle v_n, v_i \rangle \end{aligned}$$

Since  $S$  is an orthogonal set, all of the inner products in the last equality are zero except the  $i^{th}$ , so we have

$$\langle u, v_i \rangle = c_i \langle v_i, v_i \rangle = c_i \|v_i\|^2$$

### ***The Gram-Schmidt Process***

To convert a basis  $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_r\}$  into an orthogonal basis  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_r\}$ , perform the following computations:

$$\text{Step 1: } v_1 = u_1$$

$$\text{Step 2: } v_2 = u_2 - \frac{\langle u_2, v_1 \rangle}{\|v_1\|^2} v_1$$

$$\text{Step 3: } v_3 = u_3 - \frac{\langle u_3, v_1 \rangle}{\|v_1\|^2} v_1 - \frac{\langle u_3, v_2 \rangle}{\|v_2\|^2} v_2$$

$$\text{Step 4: } v_4 = u_4 - \frac{\langle u_4, v_1 \rangle}{\|v_1\|^2} v_1 - \frac{\langle u_4, v_2 \rangle}{\|v_2\|^2} v_2 - \frac{\langle u_4, v_3 \rangle}{\|v_3\|^2} v_3$$

To convert the orthogonal basis into an orthonormal basis  $\{q_1, q_2, q_3\}$ , normalize the orthogonal basis

vectors. 
$$q_i = \frac{v_i}{\|v_i\|}$$

### ***Example***

Assume that the vector space  $R^3$  has the Euclidean inner product. Apply the Gram-Schmidt process to transform the basis vectors

$$u_1 = (1, 1, 1) \quad u_2 = (0, 1, 1) \quad u_3 = (0, 0, 1)$$

Into the orthogonal basis  $\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$ , and then normalize the orthogonal basis vectors to obtain an orthonormal basis  $\{q_1, q_2, q_3\}$

### **Solution**

$$v_1 = u_1 = (1, 1, 1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} v_2 &= u_2 - \frac{\langle u_2, v_1 \rangle}{\|v_1\|^2} v_1 \\ &= (0, 1, 1) - \frac{0+1+1}{1^2+1^2+1^2} (1, 1, 1) \\ &= (0, 1, 1) - \frac{2}{3} (1, 1, 1) \end{aligned}$$

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

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{v}_3 &= \mathbf{u}_3 - \text{proj}_{\mathbf{v}_2} \mathbf{u}_3 \\
&= \mathbf{u}_3 - \frac{\langle \mathbf{u}_3, \mathbf{v}_1 \rangle}{\|\mathbf{v}_1\|^2} \mathbf{v}_1 - \frac{\langle \mathbf{u}_3, \mathbf{v}_2 \rangle}{\|\mathbf{v}_2\|^2} \mathbf{v}_2 \\
&= (0, 0, 1) - \frac{0+0+1}{1^2+1^2+1^2} (1, 1, 1) - \frac{0+0+\frac{1}{3}}{\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2} \left( -\frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3} \right) \\
&= (0, 0, 1) - \frac{1}{3} (1, 1, 1) - \frac{\frac{1}{3}}{\frac{2}{3}} \left( -\frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3} \right) \\
&= (0, 0, 1) - \frac{1}{3} (1, 1, 1) - \frac{1}{2} \left( -\frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3} \right) \\
&= \left( 0, -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \right)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{q}_1 = \frac{\mathbf{v}_1}{\|\mathbf{v}_1\|} = \frac{(1, 1, 1)}{\sqrt{3}} = \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{q}_2 &= \frac{\mathbf{v}_2}{\|\mathbf{v}_2\|} = \frac{\left( -\frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3} \right)}{\sqrt{\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2}} \\
&= \frac{\left( -\frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3} \right)}{\frac{\sqrt{6}}{3}} \\
&= \left( -\frac{2}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \right)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{q}_3 &= \frac{\mathbf{v}_3}{\|\mathbf{v}_3\|} = \frac{\left( 0, -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \right)}{\sqrt{0^2 + \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2}} \\
&= \frac{\left( 0, -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \right)}{\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}} \\
&= \left( 0, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right)
\end{aligned}$$

## Gram-Schmidt Process (Orthonormal)

Suppose  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  linearly independent in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , construct  $n$  **orthonormal**  $u_1, \dots, u_n$  that span the same space:  $\text{span} \{u_1, \dots, u_k\} = \text{span} \{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$

**Step 1:** Since  $v_i$  are linearly independent ( $\neq 0$ ), so  $\|v_1\| \neq 0$  (to create a normal vector)

Let  $u_1 = \frac{v_1}{\|v_1\|} = q_1$ , then  $\|u_1\| = 1$  since  $u_1$  is orthonormal and  $\text{span} \{u_1\} = \text{span} \{v_1\}$

$$w_1 = v_1 \Rightarrow v_1 = \|w_1\| u_1$$

**Step 2:**  $w_2 = v_2 - (v_2 \cdot u_1) u_1$

$$\Rightarrow w_2 = v_2 - \frac{v_2 \cdot u_1}{\|v_1\|} v_1 \quad (w_2 \perp u_1)$$

$$v_2 = \|w_2\| u_2 + (v_2 \cdot u_1) u_1 \quad w_2 = \|w_2\| u_2$$

$$q_2 = \frac{w_2}{\|w_2\|}$$

**Step 3:**  $w_3 = v_3 - (v_3 \cdot u_1) u_1 - (v_3 \cdot u_2) u_2$

$$q_3 = \frac{w_3}{\|w_3\|}$$

	$u_1 = \frac{v_1}{\ v_1\ }$
$w_2 = v_2 - (v_2 \cdot u_1) u_1$	$u_2 = \frac{w_2}{\ w_2\ }$
$w_3 = v_3 - (v_3 \cdot u_1) u_1 - (v_3 \cdot u_2) u_2$	$u_3 = \frac{w_3}{\ w_3\ }$
$w_n = v_n - (v_n \cdot u_1) u_1 - (v_n \cdot u_2) u_2 - \dots - (v_n \cdot u_{n-1}) u_{n-1}$	$u_n = \frac{w_n}{\ w_n\ }$

### Example

Use the Gram-Schmidt process to find an orthonormal basis for the subspaces of

$$v_1 = (1, 1, 0, 0) \quad v_2 = (0, 1, 1, 0) \quad v_3 = (1, 0, 1, 1)$$

### Solution

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Step 1: } u_1 &= \frac{v_1}{\|v_1\|} = \frac{(1, 1, 0, 0)}{\sqrt{1^2+1^2+0+0}} \\ &= \frac{(1, 1, 0, 0)}{\sqrt{2}} \\ &= \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, 0, 0 \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Step 2: } w_2 &= v_2 - (v_2 \cdot u_1)u_1 \\ &= (0, 1, 1, 0) - \left[ (0, 1, 1, 0) \cdot \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, 0, 0 \right) \right] \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, 0, 0 \right) \\ &= (0, 1, 1, 0) - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, 0, 0 \right) \\ &= (0, 1, 1, 0) - \left( \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, 0, 0 \right) \\ &= \left( -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, 1, 0 \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\|w_2\| = \sqrt{\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 + 1} = \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{\sqrt{6}}{2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} u_2 &= \frac{w_2}{\|w_2\|} = \frac{\left(-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, 1, 0\right)}{\frac{\sqrt{6}}{2}} \\ &= \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}} \left(-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, 1, 0\right) \\ &= \left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}}, 0\right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Step 3: } v_3 \cdot u_1 = (1, 0, 1, 1) \cdot \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, 0, 0 \right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$v_3 \cdot u_2 = (1, 0, 1, 1) \cdot \left( -\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}}, 0 \right) = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} + \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} w_3 &= v_3 - (v_3 \cdot u_1)u_1 - (v_3 \cdot u_2)u_2 \\ &= (1, 0, 1, 1) - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, 0, 0 \right) - \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \left( -\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}}, 0 \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= (1, 0, 1, 1) - \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, 0, 0\right) - \left(-\frac{1}{6}, \frac{1}{6}, \frac{2}{6}, 0\right) \\
&= \left(\frac{2}{3}, -\frac{2}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, 1\right)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
u_3 &= \frac{w_3}{\|w_3\|} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^2 + \left(-\frac{2}{3}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^2 + 1^2}} \left(\frac{2}{3}, -\frac{2}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, 1\right) \\
&= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\frac{21}{9}}} \left(\frac{2}{3}, -\frac{2}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, 1\right) \\
&= \frac{3}{\sqrt{21}} \left(\frac{2}{3}, -\frac{2}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, 1\right) \\
&= \left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{21}}, -\frac{2}{\sqrt{21}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{21}}, \frac{3}{\sqrt{21}}\right)
\end{aligned}$$

## QR-Decomposition

### Problem

If  $A$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix with linearly independent column vectors, and if  $Q$  is the matrix that results by applying the Gram-Schmidt process to the column vectors of  $A$ , what relationship, if any, exists between  $A$  and  $Q$ ?

To solve this problem, suppose that the column vectors of  $A$  are  $\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_n$  and the orthonormal column vectors of  $Q$  are  $\mathbf{q}_1, \mathbf{q}_2, \dots, \mathbf{q}_n$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{u}_1 &= \langle \mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{q}_1 \rangle \mathbf{q}_1 + \langle \mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{q}_2 \rangle \mathbf{q}_2 + \dots + \langle \mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{q}_n \rangle \mathbf{q}_n \\ \mathbf{u}_2 &= \langle \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{q}_1 \rangle \mathbf{q}_1 + \langle \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{q}_2 \rangle \mathbf{q}_2 + \dots + \langle \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{q}_n \rangle \mathbf{q}_n \\ &\vdots \quad \quad \quad \vdots \quad \quad \quad \vdots \quad \quad \quad \vdots \\ \mathbf{u}_n &= \langle \mathbf{u}_n, \mathbf{q}_1 \rangle \mathbf{q}_1 + \langle \mathbf{u}_n, \mathbf{q}_2 \rangle \mathbf{q}_2 + \dots + \langle \mathbf{u}_n, \mathbf{q}_n \rangle \mathbf{q}_n\end{aligned}$$

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} \langle \mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{q}_1 \rangle & \langle \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{q}_1 \rangle & \dots & \langle \mathbf{u}_n, \mathbf{q}_1 \rangle \\ 0 & \langle \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{q}_2 \rangle & \dots & \langle \mathbf{u}_n, \mathbf{q}_2 \rangle \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \langle \mathbf{u}_n, \mathbf{q}_n \rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

The equation  $A = QR$  is a factorization of  $A$  into the product of a matrix  $Q$  with orthonormal column vectors and an invertible upper triangular matrix  $R$ . We call it the **QR-decomposition of  $A$** .

### Theorem

If  $A$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix with linearly independent column vectors, then  $A$  can be factored as

$$A = QR$$

Where  $Q$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix with orthonormal column vectors, and  $R$  is an  $n \times n$  invertible upper triangular matrix.

### Example

Find the  $QR$ -decomposition of

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

### Solution

The column vectors of are

$$\mathbf{u}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{u}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{u}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

From the previous example

$$\mathbf{q}_1 = \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \right) \quad \mathbf{q}_2 = \left( -\frac{2}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \right) \quad \mathbf{q}_3 = \left( 0, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} R &= \begin{bmatrix} \langle \mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{q}_1 \rangle & \langle \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{q}_1 \rangle & \langle \mathbf{u}_3, \mathbf{q}_1 \rangle \\ 0 & \langle \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{q}_2 \rangle & \langle \mathbf{u}_3, \mathbf{q}_2 \rangle \\ 0 & 0 & \langle \mathbf{u}_3, \mathbf{q}_3 \rangle \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} (1)\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} + (1)\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} + (1)\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & 0 + (1)\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} + (1)\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & 0 + 0 + (1)\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \\ 0 & 0\left(\frac{-2}{\sqrt{6}}\right) + (1)\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} + (1)\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & 0\left(\frac{-2}{\sqrt{6}}\right) + 0\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} + (1)\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 + (0)\frac{-1}{\sqrt{2}} + (1)\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{3}{\sqrt{3}} & \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \\ 0 & \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & -\frac{2}{\sqrt{6}} & 0 \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \frac{3}{\sqrt{3}} & \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \\ 0 & \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}$$

$\mathbf{A} \quad = \quad \mathbf{Q} \quad \mathbf{R}$



## Exercises      Section 3.3 – Gram-Schmidt Process

1. Use the Gram-Schmidt process to find an orthonormal basis for the subspaces of  $\mathbf{R}^m$ .

a)  $\mathbf{u}_1 = (1, -3), \mathbf{u}_2 = (2, 2)$

b)  $\mathbf{u}_1 = (1, 0), \mathbf{u}_2 = (3, -5)$

c)  $\{(1, 1, 1), (-1, 1, 0), (1, 2, 1)\}$

d)  $\{(1, 1, 1), (0, 1, 1), (0, 0, 1)\}$

e)  $\{(1, 1, 1, 1), (1, 2, 1, 0), (1, 3, 0, 0)\}$

f)  $\{(0, 2, -1, 1), (0, 0, 1, 1), (-2, 1, 1, -1)\}$

g)  $\mathbf{u}_1 = (1, 0, 0), \mathbf{u}_2 = (3, 7, -2), \mathbf{u}_3 = (0, 4, 1)$

h)  $\mathbf{u}_1 = (0, 2, 1, 0), \mathbf{u}_2 = (1, -1, 0, 0), \mathbf{u}_3 = (1, 2, 0, -1), \mathbf{u}_4 = (1, 0, 0, 1)$

2. Find the  $QR$ -decomposition of

a)  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$

b)  $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 5 \\ -4 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

c)  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$

d)  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

e)  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

3. Verify that the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality holds for the given vectors using the Euclidean inner product

$$\mathbf{u} = (0, -2, 2, 1), \mathbf{v} = (-1, -1, 1, 1)$$