

# Lecture XX: Orthogonal bases for Subspaces

Recall: Given an (abstract) vector space  $V$ , a set of vectors  $B = \{v_1, \dots, v_p\}$  is a basis for  $V$  if

- (1)  $B$  spans  $V$  (every vector is a linear comb of  $v_1, \dots, v_p$ )
- (2)  $B$  is linearly independent (only solution to  $\alpha_1 v_1 + \dots + \alpha_p v_p = \mathbf{0}$  is the trivial one:  $\alpha_1 = \dots = \alpha_p = 0$ )

Using basis, identify  $V$  with  $\mathbb{R}^p$  via  $v \leftrightarrow [v]_B = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_p \end{bmatrix}$  where  $v = \alpha_1 v_1 + \dots + \alpha_p v_p$

Fact: Coordinates with respect to a basis respect  $+$ ,  $\cdot$ .  
 $v = \alpha_1 v_1 + \dots + \alpha_p v_p$   
 $[0]_B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

• l.i & spanning can be detected by  $[ ]_B$ .

Corollary: All bases of  $V$  have the same number of vectors, which we define as the dimension of  $V$ .

• If  $\dim V = n$  &  $W$  is a subspace of  $V$  of dimension  $n$ , then  $W = V$ .

Thm: Assume  $V$  is a vector space of dimension  $n$ , and take  $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  vectors in  $V$ .

- (1) If  $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  is l.i, then it is a basis.
- (2) If  $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  spans  $V$ , then it is a basis.
- (3) Any set of  $n+1$  vectors in  $V$  is l.d.; any set of less than  $n$  vectors can't span  $V$ .

TODAY: Define inner products (generalizing dot product in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ) & find bases behaving well with respect to this inner product.

## §1 Inner products

Definition: An inner product for a vector space  $V$  is a function  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  assigning a real number to a pair of vectors  $u, v$  in  $V$ , satisfying:

(call it  $\langle u, v \rangle$ )

- (1)  $\langle u, v \rangle \geq 0$ ,  $\langle u, u \rangle = 0$  if and only if  $u = \mathbf{0}$  (zero vector in  $V$ )
- (2)  $\langle u, v \rangle = \langle v, u \rangle$  (symmetric)
- (3)  $\langle \alpha u, v \rangle = \alpha \langle u, v \rangle$  for any scalar  $\alpha$  in  $\mathbb{R}$
- (4)  $\langle u+v, w \rangle = \langle u, w \rangle + \langle v, w \rangle$  for any  $u, v, w$  in  $V$

Note: Using (2), (3) & (4) also hold for the second leg.

- (3')  $\langle u, \alpha v \rangle = \alpha \langle u, v \rangle$
- (4')  $\langle u, v+w \rangle = \langle u, v \rangle + \langle u, w \rangle$

Examples: ①  $\langle u, v \rangle = u^T v$  for  $u, v$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  defines an inner product for  $\mathbb{R}^n$   
 (=  $u \cdot v$  usual dot product for  $\mathbb{R}^2$  &  $\mathbb{R}^3$ )

② A symmetric  $2 \times 2$  matrix  $\begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix}$  with  $a > 0$ ,  $ad - bc > 0$  (Example  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$ ) Then  $\langle u, v \rangle = u^T A v$  is an inner product for  $\mathbb{R}^2$

③ In  $\mathcal{P}_2$ :  $\langle p, q \rangle = p(0)q(0) + p(1)q(1) + p(2)q(2)$  defines an inner product for  $\mathcal{P}_2$

④ In  $C[0,1]$ :  $\langle f(x), g(x) \rangle = \int_0^1 f(x)g(x)dx$  is an inner product.

Using  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  we can define the norm (or magnitude) of vectors in  $V$ .

Def:  $\|v\| = \sqrt{\langle v, v \rangle}$ . (Note:  $\langle v, v \rangle \geq 0$  for all  $v$  in  $V$ )

## §2 Orthogonal bases for $\mathbb{R}^n$

From now on, we work with the classical inner product in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ :

Def: If  $u, v$  are vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , we say  $u$  &  $v$  are orthogonal (or perpendicular) if  $u^T \cdot v = 0$ .

Def: A set of vectors  $S = \{v_1, \dots, v_p\}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is orthogonal if each pair of vectors in  $S$  is orthogonal, that is  $v_i^T v_j = 0$  for all  $i \neq j$ .

Example:  $\left\{ \begin{matrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ v_3 \end{matrix} \right\} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  is an orthogonal set in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  because  $v_1^T v_2 = v_1^T v_3 = v_2^T v_3 = 0$ .

Why? These sets are ALWAYS l.i. unless they have the zero vector in them.

Thm: If  $S$  is an orth set of nonzero vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , then  $S$  is l.i.

Proof: Write  $S = \{v_1, \dots, v_p\}$  &  $a_1 v_1 + \dots + a_p v_p = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

Then  $0 = v_1^T \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = a_1 v_1^T v_1 + a_2 \underbrace{v_1^T v_2}_{=0} + \dots + a_p \underbrace{v_1^T v_p}_{=0} = a_1 \|v_1\|^2$

Since  $v_1 \neq 0$ , then  $\|v_1\| \neq 0$ , so from  $0 = a_1 \|v_1\|^2$ , we conclude  $a_1 = 0$

Similarly  $0 = v_2^T \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = a_2 \|v_2\|^2$  implies  $a_2 = 0$  (because  $v_2 \neq 0$ )

$\vdots$   
 $0 = v_p^T \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = a_p \|v_p\|^2$   $\implies a_p = 0$  ( $\implies v_p \neq 0$ )

We conclude  $a_1 = a_2 = \dots = a_p = 0$  so  $S$  is l.i.  $\square$

Definition Let  $W$  be a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with basis  $B = \{w_1, \dots, w_p\}$  3

• We say  $B$  is an orthogonal basis if  $B$  is an orthogonal set (& a basis)

• orthonormal basis if  $B$  is an orthogonal basis &

$\|w_1\| = \dots = \|w_p\| = 1$  (all vectors have norm = 1)

Example: The plane  $W$  spanned by  $B = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$

•  $B$  is orthogonal basis  $(1 \ -1 \ 1) \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 1 - 2 + 1 = 0$ .

• Not orthonormal basis  $\left\| \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\|^2 = \sqrt{1+1+1} = \sqrt{3}$ ,  $\left\| \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\| = \sqrt{1+4+1} = \sqrt{6}$ .

• How to make it orthonormal?

$B' = \left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$

In general: replace each vector

$v$  in  $B$  by  $\frac{v}{\|v\|}$  if

$B$  is orthogonal

Why? Determining coordinates with respect to an orthonormal basis is EASY!

Thm  $B = \{v_1, \dots, v_p\}$  be an orthonormal basis for  $W$  (subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ) & given  $v \in W$

$[v]_B = \begin{bmatrix} v^T \cdot v_1 \\ \vdots \\ v^T \cdot v_p \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} v_1 \\ \vdots \\ v_p \end{matrix}$

Proof  $v = a_1 v_1 + \dots + a_p v_p$ , then  $v^T \cdot v_1 = a_1 \underbrace{v_1^T v_1}_{=1} + a_2 \underbrace{v_2^T v_1}_{=0} + \dots + a_p \underbrace{v_p^T v_1}_{=0}$

so  $a_1 = v^T \cdot v_1$

similarly for the others:  $a_i = v^T \cdot v_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, p$ .

Note: If  $B$  is an orthogonal basis, then  $[v]_B = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{v^T v_1}{\|v_1\|^2} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{v^T v_p}{\|v_p\|^2} \end{bmatrix}$

§3 Gram-Schmidt Algorithm

• Input: A basis  $\{w_1, \dots, w_p\}$  for a subspace  $W$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

• Output: An orthogonal basis for  $W = \{u_1, \dots, u_p\}$

• Routine:

$u_1 = w_1$

$u_2 = w_2 - \frac{u_1^T w_2}{\|u_1\|^2} u_1$

$u_3 = w_3 - \frac{u_1^T w_3}{\|u_1\|^2} u_1 - \frac{u_2^T w_3}{\|u_2\|^2} u_2$

$\vdots$

← scalars →

In general:  $u_{j+1} = w_{j+1} - \frac{u_1^T w_{j+1}}{\|u_1\|^2} u_1 - \dots - \frac{u_j^T w_{j+1}}{\|u_j\|^2} u_j$

↑ scalars ↑

Q: Why these scalars?

$u_{j+1} = w_{j+1} - a_1 u_1 - \dots - a_j u_j$  &  $\{u_1, \dots, u_j\}$  orthogonal set.

$0 = u_1^T u_{j+1} = u_1^T w_{j+1} - a_1 \|u_1\|^2 - a_2 \underbrace{u_1^T u_2}_{=0} - \dots - a_j \underbrace{u_1^T u_j}_{=0}$

↑ want  $= u_1^T w_{j+1} - a_1 \|u_1\|^2$  so  $a_1 = \frac{u_1^T w_{j+1}}{\|u_1\|^2}$

Similarly:  $0 = u_i^T u_{j+1} = u_i^T w_{j+1} - 0 - \dots - a_i \|u_i\|^2 - 0 \dots$

so  $a_i = \frac{u_i^T w_{j+1}}{\|u_i\|^2}$  for all  $i=1, \dots, j$ .

Proof: Our choice of scalars ensures the vectors are pairwise orthogonal.

Claim:  $u_j \neq \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ i \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  for all  $j$

(1)  $u_1 \neq 0$  because  $w_1 \neq 0$  ✓

(2)  $\text{Sp}(u_1, \dots, u_j) = \text{Sp}(w_1, \dots, w_j)$  for all  $j$ , so  $\{u_1, \dots, u_j\}$  spans a subspace of  $\dim=j$  so they are all non-zero vectors.

Why? Clear for  $j=1$

For  $j>1$ :  $\text{Sp}(u_1, \dots, u_j, u_{j+1}) = \text{Sp}(u_1, \dots, u_j, w_{j+1}) =$   
 (same span as  $w_1, \dots, w_j$ ) because  $u_{j+1} = w_{j+1} - a_1 u_1 - \dots - a_j u_j$   
 $= \text{Sp}(w_1, \dots, w_j, w_{j+1})$ .

Example:  $W = \mathbb{R}^3$  with basis  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  GS  $\rightarrow \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$

$u_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow u_1^T w_2 = 1, u_1^T w_3 = -1, \|u_1\| = 1$

$u_2 = w_2 - \frac{u_1^T w_2}{\|u_1\|^2} u_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} - \frac{1}{1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

$\Rightarrow u_2^T w_2 = 4, u_2^T w_3 = -6, \|u_2\| = 4$

$u_3 = w_3 - \frac{u_1^T w_3}{\|u_1\|^2} u_1 - \frac{u_2^T w_3}{\|u_2\|^2} u_2 = w_3 - u_1 - \left(\frac{-6}{4}\right) u_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{3}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$