

6.4 The Gram-Schmidt Process

Nooshin Maghsoodi

Noshirvani University

These slides are adapted from Linear Algebra course in UESTC

Outline

1

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

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Then $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$ is an orthogonal basis for W .

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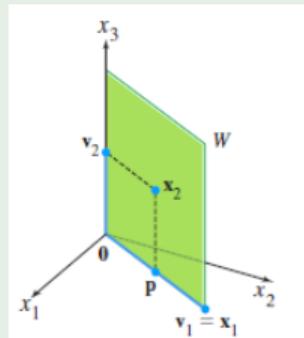
$$\mathbf{v}_p = \mathbf{x}_p - \frac{\mathbf{x}_p \cdot \mathbf{v}_1}{\mathbf{v}_1 \cdot \mathbf{v}_1} \mathbf{v}_1 - \frac{\mathbf{x}_p \cdot \mathbf{v}_2}{\mathbf{v}_2 \cdot \mathbf{v}_2} \mathbf{v}_2 - \cdots - \frac{\mathbf{x}_p \cdot \mathbf{v}_{p-1}}{\mathbf{v}_{p-1} \cdot \mathbf{v}_{p-1}} \mathbf{v}_{p-1}$$

Then $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$ is an orthogonal basis for W . And

$$\text{Span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k\} = \text{Span}\{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_k\} \quad \text{for } 1 \leq k \leq p$$

Example

- ① Let $W = \text{Span}\{x_1, x_2\}$, where $x_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and $x_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$.
Construct an orthogonal basis for W .



$$v_2 = x_2 - p = x_2 - \frac{x_2 \cdot x_1}{x_1 \cdot x_1} x_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} - \frac{15}{45} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

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Exercises

- ① Find an orthogonal basis for the column space of the matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 6 & 5 \\ 3 & -8 & -5 \\ 1 & -2 & -1 \\ 1 & -4 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$$

