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LARSON—MATH 310—CLASSROOM WORKSHEET 20
Orthogonal Bases & Gram-Schmidt.

Review

We found that, for any matrix A (with linearly independent columns), that the projection \vec{p} of a vector \vec{b} onto the column space of A is:

$$\vec{p} = A\vec{x} \text{ where } \vec{x} = (A^T A)^{-1} A^T \vec{b}.$$

$$\text{so } \vec{p} = A(A^T A)^{-1} A^T \vec{b}.$$

We can use this idea repeatedly to convert a collection of linearly independent vectors $\vec{a}_1, \vec{a}_2, \dots, \vec{a}_k$ (which are a basis for the space those vectors span to a *nice* basis for the same space: orthonormal vectors $\vec{a}_1', \vec{a}_2', \dots, \vec{a}_k'$).

Here's the idea informally:

1. Unit-ize \vec{a}_1 to get \vec{a}_1' .
2. Project vector \vec{a}_2 onto the matrix A with \vec{a}_1' as its only column.
3. Let \vec{a}_2' be the error vector $\vec{e} = \vec{a}_2 - \text{projection on } A \text{ of } \vec{a}_2$, and unit-ize.
4. Repeat as necessary. Project vector \vec{a}_j onto the matrix A with $\vec{a}_1', \vec{a}_2', \dots, \vec{a}_{j-1}'$ as its columns.
5. Let \vec{a}_j' be the error vector $\vec{e} = \vec{a}_j - \text{projection on } A \text{ of } \vec{a}_j$, and unit-ize.

Here's a formal algorithm:

1. Let $\vec{a}_1' = \frac{\vec{a}_1}{\|\vec{a}_1\|}$. Let A have \vec{a}_1' as its only column.
2. Let $\vec{p} = A(A^T A)^{-1} A^T \vec{a}_2$. Let $\vec{e} = \vec{a}_2 - \vec{p}$. Let $\vec{a}_2' = \frac{\vec{e}}{\|\vec{e}\|}$.
3. Repeat as necessary. Let A be the matrix with columns $\vec{a}_1', \dots, \vec{a}_{j-1}'$.
4. Let $\vec{p} = A(A^T A)^{-1} A^T \vec{a}_j$. Let $\vec{e} = \vec{a}_j - \vec{p}$. Let $\vec{a}_j' = \frac{\vec{e}}{\|\vec{e}\|}$.

Now we'll find an orthogonal basis for the vector space spanned by vectors $\vec{a}_1 = (1, 0, 0)$ and $\vec{a}_2 = (1, 0, 1)$ and $\vec{a}_3 = (0, 1, 1)$.

We will find an orthogonal basis for the vector space spanned by vectors $\vec{a}_1 = (1, 0, 0)$ and $\vec{a}_2 = (1, 0, 1)$ and $\vec{a}_3 = (0, 1, 1)$.

1. Find \vec{a}_1' and find A .
2. Find the projection \vec{p} of \vec{a}_2 on the column space of A , then \vec{e} , then \vec{a}_2' .
3. Let A be the matrix with columns \vec{a}_1', \vec{a}_2' .
4. Find the projection \vec{p} of \vec{a}_3 on the column space of A , then \vec{e} , then \vec{a}_3' .
5. Let Q be the matrix whose columns are $\vec{a}_1', \vec{a}_2', \vec{a}_3'$. This is an *orthogonal matrix*. Check that $Q^T Q = I$.