

M20580 L.A. and D.E.
Quiz 8

1. Find an orthonormal basis for

$$\text{span} \left\{ x_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, x_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

Solution: Apply Gram-Schmidt. Our first basis element is

$$e_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+4}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Next note that $e_1 \cdot x_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}(3+2) = 5/\sqrt{5} = \sqrt{5}$ and thus the second basis element is

$$v_2 = x_2 - (e_1 \cdot x_2)e_1 = x_2 - \sqrt{5}e_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Normalizing gives

$$e_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

So $\{e_1, e_2\}$ give an orthonormal basis for $\text{span}\{x_1, x_2\}$.

2. Find a basis for the orthogonal complement of a subspace V of \mathbb{R}^3 given by

$$V = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

Solution: If A is a matrix obtained by concatenating basis columns of V , then $V^\perp = \text{null}(A^T)$. So,

$$A^T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & -6 \end{bmatrix}.$$

From the last RREF, we see that

$$V^\perp = \text{null}(A^T) = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 6 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$