

MATH 2022 Linear and Abstract Algebra

LECTURE 36 Thursday 23/05/2019

The Gram-Schmidt process

- take any (finite) basis for a subspace W of an inner product space V
- carefully & methodically replace vectors in the basis, building up a sequence of vectors, such that
- vectors in the sequence are pairwise orthogonal
- " " " " have length 1
- extend the sequence one vector at a time, using a recursive formula and properties of projections

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 - extend the sequence one vector at a time, using a recursive formula and properties of projections

producing finally an orthonormal basis for W .

The Gram-Schmidt process :

Let $B = \{u_1, \dots, u_n\}$ be a basis for an inner product space V .

We construct an orthonormal basis for V as follows:

Step (1): Normalise u_1 by putting

$$b_1 = \hat{u}_1 = \frac{u_1}{\|u_1\|}$$

So that $\|b_1\| = 1$ and $\{b_1\}$ is an orthonormal basis for

$$W_1 = \text{span of } \{b_1\} = \text{span of } \{u_1\}.$$

one-dimensional

Step (2): Form

$$\tilde{w}_2 = \tilde{u}_2 - \text{proj}_{W_1} \tilde{u}_2 = \tilde{u}_2 - \langle \tilde{u}_2, \underline{b}_1 \rangle \underline{b}_1,$$

which the general theory guarantees is orthogonal to W_1 .

Then normalise $\tilde{w}_2$ by putting

$$\underline{b}_2 = \hat{\tilde{w}_2} = \frac{\tilde{w}_2}{\|\tilde{w}_2\|} = \frac{\tilde{u}_2 - \langle \tilde{u}_2, \underline{b}_1 \rangle \underline{b}_1}{\|\tilde{u}_2 - \langle \tilde{u}_2, \underline{b}_1 \rangle \underline{b}_1\|},$$

so that $\|\underline{b}_2\| = 1$ and $\{\underline{b}_1, \underline{b}_2\}$ is an orthonormal basis for

$$W_2 = \text{span of } \{\underline{b}_1, \underline{b}_2\} = \text{span of } \{\underline{u}_1, \underline{u}_2\}.$$

two-dimensional

Step (3): Form

$$\underline{w}_3 = \underline{v}_3 - \text{proj}_{W_2} \underline{v}_3 = \underline{v}_3 - \langle \underline{v}_3, \underline{b}_1 \rangle \underline{b}_1 - \langle \underline{v}_3, \underline{b}_2 \rangle \underline{b}_2,$$

which the general theory guarantees is orthogonal to W_2 .

Then normalise $\underline{w}_3$ by putting

$$\underline{b}_3 = \hat{\underline{w}_3} = \frac{\underline{w}_3}{\|\underline{w}_3\|} = \frac{\underline{v}_3 - \langle \underline{v}_3, \underline{b}_1 \rangle \underline{b}_1 - \langle \underline{v}_3, \underline{b}_2 \rangle \underline{b}_2}{\|\underline{v}_3 - \langle \underline{v}_3, \underline{b}_1 \rangle \underline{b}_1 - \langle \underline{v}_3, \underline{b}_2 \rangle \underline{b}_2\|} \quad)$$

so that $\|\underline{b}_3\| = 1$ and $\{\underline{b}_1, \underline{b}_2, \underline{b}_3\}$ is an orthonormal basis for

$$W_3 = \text{span of } \{\underline{b}_1, \underline{b}_2, \underline{b}_3\} = \text{span of } \{\underline{v}_1, \underline{v}_2, \underline{v}_3\}.$$

three-dimensional

The process continues. The recursive step is

Step (k+1): Given an orthonormal basis $\{b_1, \dots, b_k\}$ for the subspace W_k spanned by $\{u_1, \dots, u_k\}$, we create an orthonormal basis for the subspace W_{k+1} spanned by $\{u_1, \dots, u_k, u_{k+1}\}$.

Put

$$w_{k+1} = u_{k+1} - \text{proj}_{W_k} u_{k+1}$$

$$= u_{k+1} - \langle u_{k+1}, b_1 \rangle b_1 - \dots - \langle u_{k+1}, b_k \rangle b_k,$$

which the theory guarantees is orthogonal to W_k .

Note that $w_{k+1} \neq 0$, since $\{u_1, \dots, u_k, u_{k+1}\}$ is LI.

The process continues. The recursive step is

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which the theory guarantees is orthogonal to W_k .

Note that $w_{k+1} \neq 0$, since $\{u_1, \dots, u_k, u_{k+1}\}$ is LI.

Then normalise: $b_{k+1} = \hat{w}_{k+1} = \frac{w_{k+1}}{\|w_{k+1}\|}$.

Then $\{b_1, \dots, b_k, b_{k+1}\}$ is an orthonormal basis for W_{k+1} .

The process continues. The recursive step is

Step (k+1): Given an orthonormal basis $\{b_1, \dots, b_k\}$ for the subspace W_k spanned by $\{u_1, \dots, u_k\}$, we create an orthonormal basis for the subspace W_{k+1} spanned by $\{u_1, \dots, u_k, u_{k+1}\}$.

Put

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{u}_{k+1} &= u_{k+1} - \text{proj}_{W_k} u_{k+1} \\ &= u_{k+1} - \langle u_{k+1}, b_1 \rangle b_1 - \dots - \langle u_{k+1}, b_k \rangle b_k,\end{aligned}$$

which the theory guarantees is orthogonal to W_k .

Note that $\tilde{u}_{k+1} \neq 0$, since $\{u_1, \dots, u_k, u_{k+1}\}$ is LI.

Then normalise: $b_{k+1} = \frac{\tilde{u}_{k+1}}{\|\tilde{u}_{k+1}\|}$.

Then $\{b_1, \dots, b_k, b_{k+1}\}$ is an orthonormal basis for W_{k+1} .

Continue this process until $k+1 = n$, and then $\{b_1, \dots, b_n\}$ becomes an orthonormal basis for V .

Example : Find an orthonormal basis for the hyperplane W in $\mathbb{R}^4$ satisfying the equation

$$x + y + z + w = 0,$$

and use it to find the closest point on W to

$$\underline{v} = (1, 2, 3, 4),$$

and the shortest distance from $\underline{v}$ to W .

Solution : Observe that

$$W = \{ (x, y, z, w) \mid x + y + z + w = 0 \}$$

$$= \{ (-y - z - w, y, z, w) \mid y, z, w \in \mathbb{R} \}$$

$$= \{ y(-1, 1, 0, 0) + z(-1, 0, 1, 0) + w(-1, 0, 0, 1) \mid y, z, w \in \mathbb{R} \}$$

Example : Find an orthonormal basis for the hyperplane W in $\mathbb{R}^4$ satisfying the equation

$$x + y + z + w = 0,$$

and use it to find the closest point on W to

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Solution : Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} W &= \{ (x, y, z, w) \mid x + y + z + w = 0 \} \\ &= \{ (-y - z - w, y, z, w) \mid y, z, w \in \mathbb{R} \} \\ &= \{ y(-1, 1, 0, 0) + z(-1, 0, 1, 0) + w(-1, 0, 0, 1) \mid y, z, w \in \mathbb{R} \} \end{aligned}$$

so that W is spanned by

$$\underline{u}_1 = (-1, 1, 0, 0), \quad \underline{u}_2 = (-1, 0, 1, 0), \quad \underline{u}_3 = (-1, 0, 0, 1).$$

It is easy to check that $B = \{\underline{u}_1, \underline{u}_2, \underline{u}_3\}$ is LI,
so B forms a basis for W .

We apply the Gram-Schmidt process:

Step (1): Put

$$\underline{b}_1 = \hat{\underline{u}}_1 = \frac{\underline{u}_1}{\|\underline{u}_1\|} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (-1, 1, 0, 0)$$

and let

$W_1 =$ subspace spanned by $\underline{b}_1 =$ subspace spanned by $\underline{u}_1$.

Step (2): Put

$$\begin{aligned}\underline{u}_2 &= \underline{u}_2 - \text{proj}_{W_1} \underline{u}_2 = \underline{u}_2 - (\underline{u}_2 \cdot \underline{b}_1) \underline{b}_1 \\ &= (-1, 0, 1, 0) - ((-1, 0, 1, 0) \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (-1, 1, 0, 0)) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (-1, 1, 0, 0) \\ &= (-1, 0, 1, 0) - \frac{1}{2} (-1, 1, 0, 0) = (-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, 1, 0).\end{aligned}$$

Step (2): Put

$$\begin{aligned}\underline{w}_2 &= \underline{v}_2 - \text{proj}_{W_1} \underline{v}_2 = \underline{v}_2 - (\underline{v}_2 \cdot \underline{b}_1) \underline{b}_1 \\ &= (-1, 0, 1, 0) - ((-1, 0, 1, 0) \cdot \tfrac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-1, 1, 0, 0)) \tfrac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-1, 1, 0, 0) \\ &= (-1, 0, 1, 0) - \tfrac{1}{2}(-1, 1, 0, 0) = (-\tfrac{1}{2}, -\tfrac{1}{2}, 1, 0),\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\underline{b}_2 = \hat{\underline{w}_2} = \frac{\underline{w}_2}{\|\underline{w}_2\|} = \frac{(-1, -1, 2, 0)}{\|(-1, -1, 2, 0)\|} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}(-1, -1, 2, 0).$$

Then $\{\underline{b}_1, \underline{b}_2\}$ is an orthonormal basis for $W_2 =$ subspace spanned by $\{\underline{b}_1, \underline{b}_2\} =$ subspace spanned by $\{\underline{v}_1, \underline{v}_2\}$.

Step (3): Put

$$\underline{w}_3 = \underline{v}_3 - \text{proj}_{W_2} \underline{v}_3 = \underline{v}_3 - (\underline{v}_3 \cdot \underline{b}_1) \underline{b}_1 - (\underline{v}_3 \cdot \underline{b}_2) \underline{b}_2$$

Step (3) : Put

$$\begin{aligned}\underline{w}_3 &= \underline{u}_3 - \text{proj}_{W_2} \underline{u}_3 = \underline{u}_3 - (\underline{u}_3 \cdot \underline{b}_1) \underline{b}_1 - (\underline{u}_3 \cdot \underline{b}_2) \underline{b}_2 \\&= (-1, 0, 0, 1) - \left((-1, 0, 0, 1) \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (-1, 1, 0, 0) \right) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (-1, 1, 0, 0) \\&\quad - \left((-1, 0, 0, 1) \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} (-1, -1, 2, 0) \right) \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} (-1, -1, 2, 0) \\&= (-1, 0, 0, 1) - \frac{1}{2} (-1, 1, 0, 0) - \frac{1}{6} (-1, -1, 2, 0) = \left(-\frac{1}{3}, -\frac{1}{3}, -\frac{1}{3}, 1 \right),\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\underline{b}_3 = \hat{\underline{w}}_3 = \frac{\underline{w}_3}{\|\underline{w}_3\|} = \frac{(-1, -1, -1, 3)}{\|(-1, -1, -1, 3)\|} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}} (-1, -1, -1, 3).$$

Then

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

is an orthonormal basis for W .

Then

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

is an orthonormal basis for W .

Thus the closest point on W to $\underline{v} = (1, 2, 3, 4)$ is

$$\text{proj}_W \underline{v} = (\underline{v} \cdot \underline{b}_1) \underline{b}_1 + (\underline{v} \cdot \underline{b}_2) \underline{b}_2 + (\underline{v} \cdot \underline{b}_3) \underline{b}_3$$

$$= ((1, 2, 3, 4) \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-1, 1, 0, 0)) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-1, 1, 0, 0)$$

$$+ ((1, 2, 3, 4) \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}(-1, -1, 2, 0)) \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}(-1, -1, 2, 0)$$

$$+ ((1, 2, 3, 4) \cdot \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}}(-1, -1, -1, 3)) \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}}(-1, -1, -1, 3)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}(-1, 1, 0, 0) + \frac{3}{6}(-1, -1, 2, 0) + \frac{6}{12}(-1, -1, -1, 3)$$

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

Then

$$\{b_1, b_2, b_3\} = \left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-1, 1, 0, 0), \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}(-1, -1, 2, 0), \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}}(-1, -1, -1, 3) \right\}$$

is an orthonormal basis for W .

Thus the closest point on W to $u = (1, 2, 3, 4)$ is

$$\begin{aligned} \text{proj}_W u &= (u \cdot b_1)b_1 + (u \cdot b_2)b_2 + (u \cdot b_3)b_3 \\ &= \left(-\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}\right). \end{aligned}$$

The distance from u to W is

$$\begin{aligned} \|u - \left(-\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}\right)\| &= \|(1, 2, 3, 4) - \left(-\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}\right)\| \\ &= \left\| \left(\frac{5}{2}, \frac{5}{2}, \frac{5}{2}, \frac{5}{2}\right) \right\| = \frac{5}{2} \|(1, 1, 1, 1)\| \\ &= \frac{5}{2} \sqrt{1^2 + 1^2 + 1^2 + 1^2} = \frac{5}{2} \sqrt{4} = \underline{\underline{5}}. \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\{b_1, b_2, b_3\} = \left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-1, 1, 0, 0), \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}(-1, -1, 2, 0), \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(-1, -1, -1, 3) \right\}$$

is an orthonormal basis for W .

Thus the closest point on W to $u = (1, 2, 3, 4)$ is

$$\begin{aligned} \text{proj}_W u &= (u \cdot b_1)b_1 + (u \cdot b_2)b_2 + (u \cdot b_3)b_3 \\ &= \left(-\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}\right). \end{aligned}$$

The distance from u to W is

$$\|u - \left(-\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}\right)\| = \underline{\underline{5}}.$$

Check: $u - \left(-\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}\right) = \left(\frac{5}{2}, \frac{5}{2}, \frac{5}{2}, \frac{5}{2}\right)$

should be orthogonal to b_1, b_2, b_3 .

Then

$$\{b_1, b_2, b_3\} = \left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-1, 1, 0, 0), \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}(-1, -1, 2, 0), \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}}(-1, -1, -1, 3) \right\}$$

is an orthonormal basis for W .

Check: $u = (-\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}) = (\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2})$ ✓
should be orthogonal to b_1, b_2, b_3 .

$$(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}) \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-1, 1, 0, 0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}) = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

$$(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}) \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}(-1, -1, 2, 0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}(-\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} + \sqrt{2}) = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

$$(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}) \cdot \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}}(-1, -1, -1, 3) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}}(-\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} + \frac{3\sqrt{2}}{2}) = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

Quiz Practice

Q11/ Let $L: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ where $L(x,y) = (-x-2y, 2y-2x)$

Find an ordered basis B for $\mathbb{R}^2$ such that

$$[L]_B^B = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

(a) $B = \{(2,-1), (1,2)\}$ (b) $B = \{(3,1), (1,-1)\}$

(c) $B = \{(2,1), (-1,2)\}$ (d) $B = \{(-1,-2), (1,-2)\}$

(e) $B = \{(-2,0), (0,3)\}$

Solution : (a) $L(2,-1) = (-2+2, -2-4) = (0,-6)$



$$\neq -2(2,-1)$$



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(e) $B = \{(-2,0), (0,3)\}$

Solution : (b) $L(3,1) = (-3-2, 2-6) = (-5,-4)$

×

$$\neq -2(3,1)$$

×

Quiz Practice

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✓ (c) $B = \{(2,1), (-1,2)\}$ (d) $B = \{(-1,-2), (1,-2)\}$

(e) $B = \{(-2,0), (0,3)\}$

Solution: (c) $L(2,1) = (-2-2, 2-4) = (-4,-2)$
 $\quad \quad \quad = -2(2,1)$

$L(-1,2) = (1-4, 4+2) = (-3,6) = 3(-1,2)$

Q12/ Let $V = \langle B \rangle$ where $B = \{e^{-x}, xe^{-x}, x^2e^{-x}\}$.

Find $[D]_B^B$ where $D: V \rightarrow V, f \mapsto f'$

Solution: (the differential operator)

$$D(e^{-x}) = -e^{-x} = (-1)e^{-x} + (0)xe^{-x} + (0)x^2e^{-x}$$

$$D(xe^{-x}) = e^{-x} - xe^{-x} = (1)e^{-x} + (-1)xe^{-x} + (0)x^2e^{-x}$$

$$D(x^2e^{-x}) = 2xe^{-x} - x^2e^{-x} = (0)e^{-x} + (2)xe^{-x} + (-1)x^2e^{-x}$$

So

$$[D]_B^B = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Q13/ Let $V = \langle B \rangle$ where $B = \{ \sinh x, \cosh x \}$.

Find $[D]_B^B$ where $D: V \rightarrow V, f \mapsto f'$
(the differential operator).

Solution:

$$D(\sinh x) = \cosh x = (0) \sinh x + (1) \cosh x$$

$$D(\cosh x) = \sinh x = (1) \sinh x + (0) \cosh x$$

so

$$[D]_B^B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Q19/ Consider the permutations

$$\alpha = (132)(46)(58)(79), \quad \beta = (142)(86)(37)(59).$$

How many permutations γ of $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9\}$ exist with the property

$$\beta = \gamma^{-1} \alpha \gamma.$$

Solution

$$\alpha = (132)(46)(58)(79)$$

position

$$\beta = (abc)(de)(fg)(hi)$$

where

$(abc) = (142)$ in $\textcircled{3}$ possible ways,

$(de)(fg)(hi) = (86)(37)(59)$ in $3! \times 2 \times 2 \times 2$

$= \textcircled{48}$ possible ways.

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$$\alpha = (132)(46)(58)(79), \quad \beta = (142)(86)(37)(59).$$

How many permutations γ of $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9\}$ exist with the property

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Solution

$$\alpha = (132)(46)(58)(79)$$

position $\beta = (abc)(de)(fg)(hi)$

where $(abc) = (142)$ in $\textcircled{3}$ possible ways,

$$(de)(fg)(hi) = (86)(37)(59) \text{ in } 3! \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \\ = \textcircled{48} \text{ possible ways.}$$

Thus there are

$$3 \times 48 = \textcircled{144} \text{ possibilities for } \gamma.$$

Q20/ $\{a, b, c\} = \{1, 2, 3\}$ and, from the 8-puzzle,

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	

the following configuration has been reached:

a	b	c
6		8
7	5	4

Q20/

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1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	

the following configuration has been reached:

a	b	c
6		8
7	5	4

Which is true?

(a) $a=1 \Rightarrow b=3$

(b) $b=1 \Rightarrow c=2$

(c) $a=2 \Rightarrow c=3$

(d) $c=3 \Rightarrow b=1$

(e) $c=1 \Rightarrow b=2$

Q20/

a	b	c
6		8
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Which is true?

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(c) $a=2 \Rightarrow c=3$

(d) $c=3 \Rightarrow b=1$

(e) $c=1 \Rightarrow b=2$

Solution :

(a)

1	3	2
6		8
7	5	4

(b)

3	1	2
6		8
7	5	4

(c)

2	1	3
6		8
7	5	4

(d)

2	1	3
6		8
7	5	4

(e)

3	2	1
6		8
7	5	4

Q20/

a	b	c
6		8
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Which is true?

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Solution:

(a)

1	3	2
6		8
7	5	4

(b)

3	1	2
6		8
7	5	4

(c)

2	1	3
6		8
7	5	4

(d)

2	1	3
6		8
7	5	4

(e)

3	2	1
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✓
since (a),
(c), (d), (e)
are all
an even
permutation
from each other

Q20/

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(c) $a=2 \Rightarrow c=3$

(d) $c=3 \Rightarrow b=1$

(e) $c=1 \Rightarrow b=2$

Solution :

(b)

3	1	2
6		8
7	5	4

since (a),
(c), (d), (e)
are all
an even
permutation
from each other

Check :

3	1	2
6	9	8
7	5	4

corresponds to

$(1\ 2\ 3)(4\ 9\ 5\ 8\ 6)$

which is even ✓✓