

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE  
Department of Mathematics

**Module:** MA1508E Linear Algebra for Engineering  
**Year/Semester:** 2018-2019 (Semester 2)  
**Practice Problem Set:** 5

**Name:**

**Matriculation Number:**

**Tutorial Group:**

Write down the solutions to the problems below, showing all working involved (imagine it is an examination question). Hand in your answers **together with this question paper** before you leave the classroom. You may refer to any materials while answering the questions. You may also discuss with your friends but do not **copy blindly**.

**(More on  $QR$  Factorisation:)**  $QR$  factorisation can be useful when we are finding least squares solution to a linear system  $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ .

Recall that if  $\mathbf{x}'$  is a least squares solution to  $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ , then  $\mathbf{x}'$  is a solution to the equation

$$\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{b}.$$

Suppose  $\mathbf{A}$  is factored into  $\mathbf{QR}$ , where  $\mathbf{Q}$  is a matrix with orthonormal columns and  $\mathbf{R}$  is an upper triangular square matrix with positive diagonal entries. Then the above equation becomes

$$(\mathbf{QR})^T (\mathbf{QR})\mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{QR})^T \mathbf{b} \Rightarrow \mathbf{R}^T (\mathbf{Q}^T \mathbf{Q}) \mathbf{Rx} = \mathbf{R}^T \mathbf{Q}^T \mathbf{b}.$$

Note that since  $\mathbf{Q}$  has orthonormal columns,  $\mathbf{Q}^T \mathbf{Q}$  will be an identity matrix (convince yourself of this fact). Thus we now have

$$\mathbf{R}^T \mathbf{Rx} = \mathbf{R}^T \mathbf{Q}^T \mathbf{b}.$$

As  $\mathbf{R}$  is invertible (why?), so is  $\mathbf{R}^T$  and thus

$$\mathbf{R}^T \mathbf{Rx} = \mathbf{R}^T \mathbf{Q}^T \mathbf{b} \Rightarrow \mathbf{Rx} = \mathbf{Q}^T \mathbf{b} \Rightarrow \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{R}^{-1} \mathbf{Q}^T \mathbf{b}.$$

This implies that in order to find a least squares solution of  $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ , if we have  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{QR}$ , then a least squares solution  $\mathbf{x}'$  can be found by computing  $\mathbf{R}^{-1} \mathbf{Q}^T \mathbf{b}$ .

*Please turn over for the Questions 1 and 2 ...*

1. Let  $\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ . Use the Gram-Schmidt Process to find an orthonormal basis for the column space of  $\mathbf{A}$ .

**Solution:**

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{v}_1 &= (1, 1, 1, 0)^T \\ \mathbf{v}_2 &= (1, 1, 1, 1)^T - \frac{3}{3}(1, 1, 1, 0)^T \\ &= (0, 0, 0, 1)^T \\ \mathbf{v}_3 &= (0, 0, 1, 1)^T - \frac{1}{3}(1, 1, 1, 0)^T - \frac{1}{1}(0, 0, 0, 1)^T \\ &= \left(-\frac{1}{3}, -\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, 0\right)^T \end{aligned}$$

So an orthonormal basis for the column space of  $\mathbf{A}$  is  $\{\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2, \mathbf{w}_3\}$  where

$$\mathbf{w}_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\mathbf{v}_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{w}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{w}_3 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\mathbf{v}_3 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

2. Let  $\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 10 \\ 4 \\ -6 \end{pmatrix}$ .

- Use the Gram-Schmidt Process to find an orthonormal basis for the column space of  $\mathbf{A}$ .
- Factorise  $\mathbf{A}$  into  $\mathbf{QR}$  where  $\mathbf{Q}$  has orthonormal columns and  $\mathbf{R}$  is upper triangular.
- Find a least squares solution to  $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ .

**Solution:**

- Let  $\mathbf{v}_1 = (2, 1, 2)^T$ .

$$\mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} - \frac{5}{9} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{9} \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 4 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Normalizing, we have  $\{\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2\}$  as a basis for the column space of  $\mathbf{A}$ , where

$$\mathbf{w}_1 = \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{w}_2 = \frac{1}{3\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 4 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- (b) Let the two columns of  $\mathbf{A}$  be  $\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2$ . We now write  $\mathbf{u}_1$  and  $\mathbf{u}_2$  as a linear combination of  $\mathbf{w}_1$  and  $\mathbf{w}_2$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{u}_1 &= (\mathbf{u}_1 \cdot \mathbf{w}_1)\mathbf{w}_1 + (\mathbf{u}_1 \cdot \mathbf{w}_2)\mathbf{w}_2 \\ &= 3\mathbf{w}_1 + 0\mathbf{w}_2 \\ \mathbf{u}_2 &= (\mathbf{u}_2 \cdot \mathbf{w}_1)\mathbf{w}_1 + (\mathbf{u}_2 \cdot \mathbf{w}_2)\mathbf{w}_2 \\ &= \frac{5}{3}\mathbf{w}_1 + \frac{2}{3\sqrt{2}}\mathbf{w}_2\end{aligned}$$

So

$$(\mathbf{w}_1 \ \mathbf{w}_2) \begin{pmatrix} 3 & \frac{5}{3} \\ 0 & \frac{2}{3\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix} = (\mathbf{u}_1 \ \mathbf{u}_2) \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{A}.$$

- (c) By the discussion above, a least square solution is

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{R}^{-1}\mathbf{Q}^T\mathbf{b} &= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3} & -\frac{5}{3\sqrt{2}} \\ 0 & \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{2}{3} & \frac{1}{3} & \frac{2}{3} \\ -\frac{1}{3\sqrt{2}} & \frac{4}{3\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{3\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 10 \\ 4 \\ -6 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & -1 & \frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} & 2 & -\frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 10 \\ 4 \\ -6 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}.\end{aligned}$$