

Householder Reflectors  
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Linear Least Squares Problems  
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Outline

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| Householder Reflectors<br>○○○○○○○○○  | Linear Least Squares Problems<br>○○○○○  |
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| Zahra Lakdawala  | Numerical Linear Algebra Lecture 8: Household Reflectors; Least Square Problems |

## Householder Reflectors

## Gram-Schmidt as Triangular Orthogonalization

- Every step of Gram-Schmidt can be viewed as multiplication with triangular matrix. For example, at first step:

$$\underbrace{[\mathbf{v}_1 | \mathbf{v}_2 | \dots | \mathbf{v}_n]}_{\mathbf{R}_1} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{r_{11}} & \frac{-r_{12}}{r_{11}} & \frac{-r_{13}}{r_{11}} & \dots \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & \ddots \end{bmatrix} = [q_1 | \mathbf{v}_2^{(2)} | \dots | \mathbf{v}_n^{(2)}],$$

- Gram-Schmidt therefore multiplies triangular matrices to orthogonalize column vectors, and in turns can be viewed as triangular orthogonalization

$$\mathbf{A} \underbrace{\mathbf{R}_1 \mathbf{R}_2 \dots \mathbf{R}_n}_{\hat{\mathbf{R}}^{-1}} = \hat{\mathbf{Q}}$$

where  $\mathbf{R}_i$  is a triangular matrix.

- A 'dual' approach would be orthogonal triangularization, i.e., multiply  $\mathbf{A}$  by unitary matrices to make it triangular matrix



## Householder Triangularization

- Method introduced by Alston Scott Householder in 1958
- It multiplies unitary matrices to make column triangular, e.g.

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \times & \times & \times \\ \times & \times & \times \\ \times & \times & \times \\ \times & \times & \times \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{A}} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{Q}_1} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \times & \times & \times \\ 0 & \times & \times \\ 0 & \times & \times \\ 0 & \times & \times \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{Q}_1 \mathbf{A}} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{Q}_2} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \times & \times & \times \\ \times & \times & \times \\ 0 & \times & \times \\ 0 & \times & \times \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{Q}_2 \mathbf{Q}_1 \mathbf{A}} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{Q}_3} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \times & \times & \times \\ & \times & \times \\ & & \times \\ & & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{Q}_3 \mathbf{Q}_2 \mathbf{Q}_1 \mathbf{A}}$$

- After  $n$  steps, we get a product of unitary matrices

$$\underbrace{\mathbf{Q}_n \dots \mathbf{Q}_2 \mathbf{Q}_1}_{\mathbf{Q}^*} \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{R}$$

and in turn we get full QR factorization  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{R}$

- $\mathbf{Q}_k$  introduces zeros below diagonal of  $k$ th column while preserving zeros below diagonal in preceding columns
- The key question is how to find  $\mathbf{Q}_k$



## Householder Reflectors

- First, consider  $\mathbf{Q}_1 : \mathbf{Q}_1 \mathbf{a}_1 = \|\mathbf{a}_1\| \mathbf{e}_1$ , where  $\mathbf{e}_1 = (1, 0, \dots, 0)^T$ . Why the length is  $\|\mathbf{a}_1\|$ ?
- $\mathbf{Q}_1$  reflects  $\mathbf{a}_1$  across hyperplane  $H$  orthogonal to  $\mathbf{v} = \|\mathbf{a}_1\| \mathbf{e}_1 - \mathbf{a}_1$ , and therefore

$$\mathbf{Q}_1 = \mathbf{I} - 2 \frac{\mathbf{v} \mathbf{v}^*}{\mathbf{v}^* \mathbf{v}}$$

- More generally,

$$\mathbf{Q}_k = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{F} \end{bmatrix}$$

where  $\mathbf{I}$  is  $(k-1) \times (k-1)$  and  $\mathbf{F}$  is  $(m-k+1) \times (m-k+1)$  such that  $\mathbf{F} \mathbf{x} = \|\mathbf{x}\|_2 \mathbf{e}_1$ , where  $\mathbf{x}$  is  $(a_{k,k}, a_{k,k+1}, \dots, a_{k,m})^T$

- What is  $\mathbf{F}$ ? It has similar form as  $\mathbf{Q}_1$  with  $\mathbf{v} = \|\mathbf{x}\| \mathbf{e}_1 - \mathbf{x}$ .

## Choice of Reflectors

- We could choose  $\mathbf{F}$  such that  $\mathbf{F}\mathbf{x} = -\|\mathbf{x}\| \mathbf{e}_1$  instead of  $\mathbf{F}\mathbf{x} = \|\mathbf{x}\| \mathbf{e}_1$ , or more generally,  $\mathbf{F}\mathbf{x} = z\|\mathbf{x}\| \mathbf{e}_1$  with  $|z| = 1$  for  $z \in \mathbb{C}$
- This leads to an infinite number of possible QR factorizations of  $\mathbf{A}$
- If we require  $z \in \mathbb{R}$ , we still have two choices
- Numerically, it is undesirable for  $\mathbf{v}^*\mathbf{v}$  to be close to zero for  $\mathbf{v} = z\|\mathbf{x}\| \mathbf{e}_1 - \mathbf{x}$ , and  $\|\mathbf{v}\|$  is larger if  $z = -\text{sign}(x_1)$
- Therefore,  $\mathbf{v} = -\text{sign}(x_1)\|\mathbf{x}\| \mathbf{e}_1 - \mathbf{x}$ . Since  $1 - 2\frac{\mathbf{v}\mathbf{v}^*}{\mathbf{v}^*\mathbf{v}}$  is independent of sign, clear out the factor  $-1$  and obtain  $\mathbf{v} = \text{sign}(x_1)\|\mathbf{x}\| \mathbf{e}_1 + \mathbf{x}$
- For completeness, if  $x_1 = 0$ , set  $z$  to 1 (instead of 0)

## Householder Algorithm

### Householder QR Factorization

```
for  $k = 1$  to  $n$   
   $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A}_{k:m,k}$   
   $\mathbf{v}_k = \text{sign}(x_1) \|\mathbf{x}\| \mathbf{e}_1 + \mathbf{x}$   
   $\mathbf{v}_k = \mathbf{v}_k / \|\mathbf{v}_k\|$   
   $\mathbf{A}_{k:m,k:n} = \mathbf{A}_{k:m,k:n} - 2\mathbf{v}_k(\mathbf{v}_k^* \mathbf{A}_{k:m,k:n})$ 
```

- Note that  $\text{sign}(x) = 1$  if  $x \geq 0$  and  $= -1$  if  $x < 0$
- Leave  $\mathbf{R}$  in place of  $\mathbf{A}$
- Matrix  $\mathbf{Q}$  is not formed explicitly but reflection vector  $\mathbf{v}_k$  is stored

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- Question: Can  $\mathbf{A}$  be reused to store both  $\mathbf{R}$  and  $\mathbf{v}_k$  completely?



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- Answer: We can use lower diagonal portion of  $\mathbf{A}$  to store all but one entry in each  $\mathbf{v}_k$ . So an additional array of size  $n$  is needed.

## Householder Algorithm

### Householder QR Factorization

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- Note that  $\text{sign}(x) = 1$  if  $x \geq 0$  and  $= -1$  if  $x < 0$
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- Question: Can  $\mathbf{A}$  be reused to store both  $\mathbf{R}$  and  $\mathbf{v}_k$  completely?
- Answer: We can use lower diagonal portion of  $\mathbf{A}$  to store all but one entry in each  $\mathbf{v}_k$ . So an additional array of size  $n$  is needed.
- Question: What happens if  $\mathbf{v}_k$  is 0 in line 3 of the loop?

## Applying or Forming $Q$

- Compute  $Q^*b = Q_n \dots Q_1 b$

Implicit calculation of  $Q^*b$   
for  $k = 1$  to  $n$   
$$b_{k:m} = b_{k:m} - 2v_k(v_k^* b_{k:m})$$

- Compute  $Qx = Q_1 Q_2 \dots Q_n x$

Implicit calculation of  $Qx$   
for  $k = n$  down to 1  
$$x_{k:m} = x_{k:m} - 2v_k(v_k^* x_{k:m})$$

- Question: How to form  $Q$  and  $\hat{Q}$ , respectively?
- Answer: Apply  $x = I_{m \times m}$  or first  $n$  columns of  $I$ , respectively

## Operation Count

- Most work done at step  $\mathbf{A}_{k:m,k:n} = \mathbf{A}_{k:m,k:n} - 2\mathbf{v}_k(\mathbf{v}_k^* \mathbf{A}_{k:m,k:n})$
- Flops per iteration:
  - $\sim 2(m-k)(n-k)$  for dot products  $\mathbf{v}_k^* \mathbf{A}_{k:m,k:n}$
  - $\sim (m-k)(n-k)$  for outer product  $2\mathbf{v}_k(\dots)$
  - $\sim (m-k)(n-k)$  for subtraction
  - $\sim 4(m-k)(n-k)$  total
- Including outer loop, total flops is

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{k=1}^n 4(m-k)(n-k) &= 4 \sum_{k=1}^n (mn - km - kn + k^2) \\
 &\sim 4mn^2 - 4(m+n)n^2/2 + 4n^3/3 \\
 &= 2mn^2 - \frac{2}{3}n^3
 \end{aligned}$$

If  $m \approx n$ , it is more efficient than Gram-Schmidt method, but if  $m \gg n$ , similar to Gram-Schmidt

## Givens Rotations

- Instead of using reflection, we can rotate  $\mathbf{x}$  to obtain  $\|\mathbf{x}\| \mathbf{e}_1$
- A Givens rotation  $\mathbf{R} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos\theta & -\sin\theta \\ \sin\theta & \cos\theta \end{bmatrix}$  rotates  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2$  counterclockwise by  $\theta$
- Choose  $\theta$  to be angle between  $(x_i, x_j)^T$  and  $(1, 0)^T$ , and we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} \cos\theta & -\sin\theta \\ \sin\theta & \cos\theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_i \\ x_j \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{x_i^2 + x_j^2} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

where

$$\cos\theta = \frac{x_i}{\sqrt{x_i^2 + x_j^2}}, \quad \sin\theta = \frac{-x_j}{\sqrt{x_i^2 + x_j^2}}$$

## Givens QR

- Introduce zeros in column bottom-up, one zero at a time

$$\begin{bmatrix} \times & \times & \times \\ \times & \times & \times \\ \times & \times & \times \\ \times & \times & \times \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{(4,5)} \begin{bmatrix} \times & \times & \times \\ \times & \times & \times \\ \times & \times & \times \\ 0 & \times & \times \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{(3,4)} \begin{bmatrix} \times & \times & \times \\ \times & \times & \times \\ 0 & \times & \times \\ \times & \times & \times \end{bmatrix} \dots$$

- To zero  $a_{ij}$ , left-multiply matrix  $\mathbf{F}$  with  $\mathbf{F}_{i:i+1,i:i+1}$  being rotation matrix and  $\mathbf{F}_{kk} = 1$  for  $k \neq i, i+1$
- Flop count of Givens QR is  $3mn^2 - n^3$ , which is about 50% more expensive than Householder QR

## Linear Least Squares Problems

## Linear Least Squares Problems

- Overdetermined system of equations  $\mathbf{Ax} \approx \mathbf{b}$ , where  $\mathbf{A}$  has more rows than columns and has full rank, in general has no solutions
- Example application: Polynomial least squares fitting
- In general, minimize the residual  $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{Ax}$
- In terms of 2-norm, we obtain linear least squares problem: Given  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times n}$ ,  $m \geq n$ , and  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{C}^m$ , find  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^n$  such that  $\|\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{Ax}\|_2$  is minimized
- If  $\mathbf{A}$  has full rank, the minimizer  $\mathbf{x}$  is the solution to the normal equation

$$\mathbf{A}^* \mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{A}^* \mathbf{b}$$

or in terms of the pseudoinverse  $\mathbf{A}^+$ ,

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A}^+ \mathbf{b}, \text{ where } \mathbf{A}^+ = (\mathbf{A}^* \mathbf{A})^{-1} \mathbf{A}^* \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times m}$$



## Geometric Interpretation

- $\mathbf{Ax}$  is in  $\text{range}(\mathbf{A})$ , and the point in  $\text{range}(\mathbf{A})$  closest to  $\mathbf{b}$  is its orthogonal projection onto  $\text{range}(\mathbf{A})$
- Residual  $\mathbf{r}$  is then orthogonal to  $\text{range}(\mathbf{A})$ , and hence  $\mathbf{A}^*\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{A}^*(\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{Ax}) = 0$
- $\mathbf{Ax}$  is orthogonal projection of  $\mathbf{b}$ , where  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A}^+\mathbf{b}$ , so  $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{AA}^+ = \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{A}^*\mathbf{A})^{-1}\mathbf{A}^*$  is orthogonal projection (recall lecture 5)

## Solution of Least Squares Problems

- One approach is to solve normal equation  $\mathbf{A}^* \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A}^* \mathbf{b}$  directly using Cholesky factorization
  - Is unstable, but is very efficient if  $m \gg n$  ( $mn^2 + \frac{1}{3}n^3$ )
- More robust approach is to use QR factorization  $\mathbf{A} = \hat{\mathbf{Q}} \hat{\mathbf{R}}$ 
  - $\mathbf{b}$  can be projected onto  $\text{range}(\mathbf{A})$  by  $\mathbf{P} = \hat{\mathbf{Q}} \hat{\mathbf{Q}}^*$ , and therefore  $\hat{\mathbf{Q}} \hat{\mathbf{R}} \mathbf{x} = \hat{\mathbf{Q}} \hat{\mathbf{Q}}^* \mathbf{b}$
  - Left-multiply by  $\hat{\mathbf{Q}}^*$  and we get  $\hat{\mathbf{R}} \mathbf{x} = \hat{\mathbf{Q}}^* \mathbf{b}$  (note  $\mathbf{A}^+ = \hat{\mathbf{R}}^{-1} \hat{\mathbf{Q}}^*$ )

Least squares via QR Factorization:

Compute reduced QR factorization  $\mathbf{A} = \hat{\mathbf{Q}} \hat{\mathbf{R}}$

Compute vector  $\mathbf{c} = \hat{\mathbf{Q}}^* \mathbf{b}$

Solve upper-triangular system  $\hat{\mathbf{R}} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{c}$  for  $\mathbf{x}$



## Solution by SVD

- Using  $\mathbf{A} = \hat{\mathbf{U}}\hat{\Sigma}\mathbf{V}^*$ ,  $\mathbf{b}$  can be projected onto  $\text{range}(\mathbf{A})$  by  $\mathbf{P} = \hat{\mathbf{U}}\hat{\mathbf{U}}^*$ , and therefore  $\hat{\mathbf{U}}\hat{\Sigma}\mathbf{V}^*\mathbf{x} = \hat{\mathbf{U}}\hat{\mathbf{U}}^*\mathbf{b}$
- Left-multiply by  $\hat{\mathbf{U}}$  and we get  $\hat{\Sigma}\mathbf{V}^*\mathbf{x} = \hat{\mathbf{U}}^*\mathbf{b}$

Least squares via SVD:

Compute reduced SVD factorization  $\mathbf{A} = \hat{\mathbf{U}}\hat{\Sigma}\mathbf{V}^*$

Compute vector  $\mathbf{c} = \hat{\mathbf{U}}^*\mathbf{b}$

Solve diagonal system  $\hat{\Sigma}\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{c}$  for  $\mathbf{w}$

Set  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{V}\mathbf{w}$

- Work is dominated by SVD, which is  $\sim 2mn^2 + 11n^3$  flops, very expensive if  $m \approx n$
- Best numerical stability
- Question: If  $\mathbf{A}$  is rank deficient, how to solve  $\mathbf{Ax} \approx \mathbf{b}$ ?

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- Left-multiply by  $\hat{\mathbf{U}}$  and we get  $\hat{\Sigma}\mathbf{V}^*\mathbf{x} = \hat{\mathbf{U}}^*\mathbf{b}$

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- Best numerical stability
- Question: If  $\mathbf{A}$  is rank deficient, how to solve  $\mathbf{Ax} \approx \mathbf{b}$ ?
- Answer:  $\mathbf{x}$  is no longer unique. Constrain  $\mathbf{x}$  to be orthogonal to null space of  $\mathbf{A}$ .