# NumCSE

Autumn Semester 2017 Prof. Rima Alaifari

Exercise sheet 3 Linear Least Squares, QR decomposition

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# **Problem 3.1: Estimating a Tridiagonal Matrix**

To determine the least squares solution of an overdetermined linear system of equations  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  we minimize the residual norm  $\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\|_2$  w.r.t.  $\mathbf{x}$ . However, we also face a linear least squares problem when minimizing the residual norm w.r.t. the entries of  $\mathbf{A}$ .

Template: tridiagleastsquares.cpp

Let two vectors  $\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , for  $n > 2 \in \mathbb{N}$ , be given. Define  $\alpha^*$  and  $\beta^*$  as:

$$(\alpha^*, \beta^*) = \underset{\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \|\mathbf{T}_{\alpha, \beta} \mathbf{z} - \mathbf{c}\|_{2'}$$
(3.1)

where  $\mathbf{T}_{\alpha,\beta} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  is the following tridiagonal matrix:

$$\mathbf{T}_{\alpha,\beta} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & \beta & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \beta & \alpha & \beta & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \beta & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \alpha & \beta \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & \beta & \alpha \end{bmatrix}$$
(3.2)

(a) Reformulate Eq. (3.1) as a linear least squares problem:

$$\mathbf{x}^* = \underset{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^k}{\operatorname{argmin}} \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\|_{2},\tag{3.3}$$

where  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m,k}$  and  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ , for  $m,k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

**Hint:** For  $\mathbf{x} = [\alpha, \beta]^{\top}$ , find  $\mathbf{A}$  such that  $\mathbf{T}_{\alpha, \beta} \mathbf{z} = \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$ .

SOLUTION:

The vector  $\mathbf{T}_{\alpha,\beta}\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{c}$  whose norm has to be minimized in Eq. (3.1) can be written as:

$$\mathbf{T}_{\alpha,\beta}\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{c} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha z_1 + \beta z_2 \\ \alpha z_2 + \beta (z_1 + z_3) \\ \vdots \\ \alpha z_{n-1} + \beta (z_{n-2} + z_n) \\ \alpha z_n + \beta z_{n-1} \end{bmatrix} - \mathbf{c} = \begin{bmatrix} z_1 & z_2 \\ z_2 & z_1 + z_3 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ z_{n-1} & z_{n-2} + z_n \\ z_n & z_{n-1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{bmatrix} - \mathbf{c} =: \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}$$
(3.4)

In this form, we have moved the unknown  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  into vector  $\mathbf{x}$ , while the data  $\mathbf{z}$  and  $\mathbf{c}$  are moved into matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  and the right-hand side vector  $\mathbf{b} \equiv \mathbf{c}$  (which is not affected by the transformation). The number of unknown k is equal to 2 and the number of equations m is equal to n.

(b) Implement a C++ function which solves the linear least squares problem of Eq. (3.1) using the normal equation method and returns the optimal parameters  $\alpha^*$  and  $\beta^*$ :

VectorXd lsqEst(const VectorXd &z, const VectorXd &c);

SOLUTION:

# C++11-code 3.1: Solution of (b)

```
// Initialization
2
       int n = z.size();
3
       assert( z.size() == c.size() && "z and c must have same size");
       VectorXd x(2);
       MatrixXd A(n,2);
8
       A. col(0) = z;
       A(0,1) = z(1);
       for(size_t i=1; i<n-1; ++i) {</pre>
11
           A(i,1) = z(i-1) + z(i+1);
12
13
       A(n-1,1) = z(n-2);
14
15
       // Normal equations
       MatrixXd Ihs = A.transpose() * A; // Left-hand side
17
       VectorXd rhs = A.transpose() * c; // Right-hand side
18
       x = lhs.fullPivLu().solve(rhs);
19
20
       return x;
21
```

Let  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{m,n}$ ,  $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{R}^m$  and  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Consider the scalar functions:

$$\Phi_1(\mathbf{X}) = \|\mathbf{X}\|_F^2 \tag{3.5a}$$

$$\Phi_2(\mathbf{X}) = \mathbf{a}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{b}. \tag{3.5b}$$

Here  $\|\cdot\|_F$  is the Frobenius norm of a matrix.

(c) Compute 
$$\frac{\partial (\Phi_1(\mathbf{X}))}{\partial \mathbf{X}}$$
 and  $\frac{\partial (\Phi_2(\mathbf{X}))}{\partial \mathbf{X}}$ .

SOLUTION:

$$\frac{\partial(\Phi_1(\mathbf{X}))}{\partial\mathbf{X}} = 2\mathbf{X} \tag{3.6a}$$

$$\frac{\partial(\Phi_2(\mathbf{X}))}{\partial\mathbf{X}} = \mathbf{a}\mathbf{b}^{\top} \tag{3.6b}$$

# **Problem 3.2: Sparse Approximate Inverse (SPAI)**

The SPAI method is a technique used in the numerical solution of partial differential equations. From a least squares viewpoint, we encounter a non-standard least squares problems. SPAI techniques are applied to huge and extremely sparse matrices, say, of dimension  $10^7 \times 10^7$  with only  $10^8$  non-zero entries. Therefore, sparse matrix techniques must be applied.

Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{N,N}$ ,  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ , be a regular sparse matrix with at most  $n \ll N$  non-zero entries per row and column. We define the space of matrices with the same pattern as A:

$$\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{A}) := \{ \mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{N,N} : (\mathbf{A})_{ij} = 0 \Rightarrow (\mathbf{X})_{ij} = 0 \}.$$
 (3.7)

The "primitive" SPAI (sparse approximate inverse) B of A is defined as

$$\mathbf{B} := \underset{\mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{A})}{\operatorname{argmin}} \|\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{X}\|_{F}, \qquad (3.8)$$

where  $\|\cdot\|_F$  stands for the Frobenius norm.

(a) Show that the columns of **B** can be computed independently of each other by solving linear least squares problems. Denote columns of **B** by  $\mathbf{b}_i$ .

#### SOLUTION:

Let  $\mathbf{x}_i$ ,  $\mathbf{b}_i$ ,  $\mathbf{a}_i$  denote the i-th columns of the matrices  $\mathbf{X}$ ,  $\mathbf{B}$ ,  $\mathbf{A}$  in (3.8), respectively. Notice, that the values in the i-th column of  $\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{X}$  depend only on the values in the vector  $\mathbf{x}_i$ . Hence, in order to minimize the Frobenius norm  $\|\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{X}\|_F^2$  one needs to (independently) minimize each of the terms  $\|\mathbf{e}_i - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_i\|_2^2$ :

$$\|\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{X}\|_F^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \|\mathbf{I}\mathbf{e}_i - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{X}\mathbf{e}_i\|_2^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \|\mathbf{e}_i - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_i\|_2^2.$$
 (3.9)

The corresponding minimization problems read

$$\mathbf{b}_i := \underset{\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{a}_i)}{\operatorname{argmin}} \|\mathbf{e}_i - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_i\|_2, \quad \text{for} \quad i = 1, \dots, N,$$
(3.10)

where for a vector  $\mathbf{a}$  we define  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{a}) := \{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N : a_i = 0 \ \Rightarrow \ x_i = 0 \}.$ 

**(b)** Implement an efficient C++ function

for the computation of B according to (3.8). You may rely on the normal equations associated with the linear least squares problems for computing the columns of B or you may simply invoke the least squares solver of EIGEN.

**Hint:** Exploit the underlying CCS data structure of SparseMatrix < double > Moreover, build the output matrix **B** in EIGEN using the intermediate triplet format.

### SOLUTION:

The formula (3.10) is not yet in the canonical form. Fix i. Define  $m_i := nnz(\mathbf{a}_i)$ . Notice that  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{a}_i) \simeq \mathbb{R}^{m_i}$  via the mapping  $\mathbf{x} \mapsto [x_{j_1}, \dots, x_{j_{m_i}}] =: \tilde{\mathbf{x}}$ , where  $j_k$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, m_i$  are the indices s.t.  $a_{j_k} \neq 0$ .

The product  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$  can be expressed, equivalently, with  $\mathbf{C}\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$ , where  $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times m_i}$  is defined as the matrix  $\mathbf{A}$ , without the columns i, s.t.  $a_i = 0$ :

$$\mathbf{C} := [\mathbf{A}_{j_1}, \ldots, \mathbf{A}_{j_{m_s}}].$$

We obtain:

$$\mathbf{b}_i := \underset{\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{m_i}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \|\mathbf{e}_i - \mathbf{C}\mathbf{x}_i\|_2, \quad \text{for} \quad i = 1, \dots, N.$$
(3.11)

This canonical form can be solved with the standard normal formula.

### C++11-code 3.2: Computation of B.

```
SparseMatrix < double > spai (SparseMatrix < double > & A) {
       // Size check
2
       assert(A.rows() == A.cols() &&
3
       "Matrix must be square!");
       unsigned int N = A.rows();
       A.makeCompressed();
       // Obtain pointers to data of A
       double* valPtr = A.valuePtr();
10
       index_t* innPtr = A.innerIndexPtr();
11
       index_t* outPtr = A.outerIndexPtr();
12
13
       // Create vector for triplets of B and reserve enough space
14
       std::vector<Triplet<double>> B triplets;
15
       B triplets.reserve(A.nonZeros());
16
       // Project \mathcal{P}(A) onto \mathcal{P}(a_i) and compute b_i
       for (unsigned int i = 0; i < N; ++i) {
           // Number of non-zeros in a_i
20
           index_t nnz_i = outPtr[i+1] - outPtr[i];
21
           if(nnz_i == 0) continue; // skip column, if empty
22
           // Smaller and denser matrix to store
           // non-zero elements relevant for computing b_i
25
           SparseMatrix < double > C(N, nnz i);
           std::vector<Triplet<double>> C triplets;
27
           C_triplets.reserve(nnz_i*nnz_i);
28
           // Build matrix C.
           for(unsigned int k = outPtr[i]; k < outPtr[i+1]; ++k) {
31
               // Row index of non-zero element in column b_i
32
               index_t row_k = innPtr[k];
33
               // Number of non-zero entries in (row_k)-th column
34
               index_t nnz_k = outPtr[row_k+1] - outPtr[row_k];
               // Loop over all non-zeros of row_kth-column
               // Store the triplet for the non-zero element
37
               for (unsigned int l = 0; l < nnz_k; ++1) {
38
                   unsigned int innldx = outPtr[row k] + l;
39
                    C triplets.emplace back(Triplet < double > (innPtr[innldx], k
40
                       - outPtr[i], valPtr[innldx]));
               }
41
           }
42
```

```
C. setFromTriplets (C_triplets.begin(), C_triplets.end());
43
           C.makeCompressed();
44
45
           // Normal equation method: b_i = (C^{\top}C)^{-1}C^{\top}e_i
46
            SparseMatrix < double > S = C.transpose() * C;
            VectorXd xt = C.row(i).transpose();
           SparseLU<SparseMatrix<double>> spLU(S);
           VectorXd b = spLU.solve(xt);
51
           // store the triplets for elements b_i
52
            for (unsigned int k = 0; k < b.size(); ++k) {
                B_triplets.emplace_back(Triplet<double>(innPtr[outPtr[i] + k],
54
                    i, b(k)));
           }
55
       }
57
       // Build and return B
58
       SparseMatrix < double > B =  SparseMatrix < double > (N, N);
59
       B. setFromTriplets(B_triplets.begin(), B_triplets.end());
       B.makeCompressed();
61
       return B;
62
63
```

(c) What is the total asymptotic computational effort of spai in terms of the problem size parameters N and n?

### SOLUTION:

In the body of the for loop (of size N) the matrix  ${\bf C}$  is assembled with two for loops of length at most n, then the matrix  ${\bf C}^{\top}{\bf C}$  is assembled with complexity  $O(n^3)$  (note:  ${\bf C}$  is sparse, with only n non-zeros per column), and then the corresponding linear system of size  $n \times n$  is solved (complexity  $O(n^3)$ ). Hence, the resulting total complexity is dominated by  $O(Nn^3)$ .

# Problem 3.3: QR decomposition

In this problem, we study the QR decomposition computed via Cholesky decomposition and Householder reflections. Refer section (2.8.13) in the lecture notes to read about Cholesky decomposition. Template: choleskyQR.cpp

(a) Given a matrix  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m,n}$ , s.t.  $\operatorname{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = n$ , show that  $\mathbf{A}^{\top}\mathbf{A}$  admits a Cholesky decomposition.

**Hint:** Cholesky decomposition of a matrix **B** exists only if **B** is symmetric and positive definite.

#### SOLUTION:

To prove:  $\mathbf{A}^{\top}\mathbf{A}$  is symmetric positive definite.

#### Proof:

$$\left(\mathbf{A}^{\top}\mathbf{A}\right)^{\top} = \mathbf{A}^{\top}\left(\mathbf{A}^{\top}\right)^{\top} = \mathbf{A}^{\top}\mathbf{A} \implies \text{symmetric.}$$

$$\operatorname{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = n \implies \mathbf{A} \text{ is injective. Hence, } \forall \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \mathbf{v} \neq \mathbf{0}, \text{ it holds that } \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v} \neq \mathbf{0}.$$

$$\implies \mathbf{v}^{\top}\mathbf{A}^{\top}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v} = |\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}|_2^2 > 0, \text{ which means that } \mathbf{A}^{\top}\mathbf{A} \text{ is positive definite.}$$

(b) Implement an EIGEN based C++ function:

```
void CholeskyQR(const MatrixXd & A, MatrixXd & Q, MatrixXd & R);
```

which computes an economical QR decomposition of a given full-rank matrix A. Give an analytical proof that your CholeskyQR works.

#### SOLUTION:

### C++11-code 3.3: QR-decomposition via Cholesky decomposition

```
void CholeskyQR(const MatrixXd & A, MatrixXd & R, MatrixXd & Q) {

MatrixXd AtA = A.transpose() * A;
LLT<MatrixXd> chol = AtA.IIt();
MatrixXd L = chol.matrixL();
R = L.transpose();
Q = L.triangularView<Lower>().solve(A.transpose()).transpose();
}
```

We need to verify three properties:

- R is upper triangular.
- Q is orthogonal.
- QR = A

This is done in the following:

• R is upper triangular from definition of Cholesky decomposition.

- Given that  $\mathbf{Q} = (\mathbf{R}^{-\top} \mathbf{A}^{\top})^{\top} = \mathbf{A} \mathbf{R}^{-1}$  and, from the Cholesky decomposition,  $\mathbf{R}^{\top} \mathbf{R} = \mathbf{A}^{\top} \mathbf{A} \Rightarrow \mathbf{R}^{-\top} \mathbf{A}^{\top} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{R}^{-1} = \mathbf{I}$ , we have that  $\mathbf{Q}^{\top} \mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{R}^{-\top} \mathbf{A}^{\top} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{R}^{-1} = \mathbf{I}$ . This means that  $\mathbf{Q}$  is orthogonal.
- $\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{R} = (\mathbf{R}^{-\top}\mathbf{A}^{\top})^{\top}\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{R}^{-1}\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{A}$
- (c) Implement an EIGEN based C++ function:

```
void DirectQR(const MatrixXd & A, MatrixXd & Q, MatrixXd & R);
```

which computes an *economical* QR decomposition of A using HouseholderQR class from EIGEN. Compare the results from CholeskyQR and DirectQR.

SOLUTION:

# C++11-code 3.4: QR-decomposition via Householder reflections in EIGEN

(d) Let EPS denote the machine precision. Does your function <code>CholeskyQR</code> return the correct result, compare with <code>DirectQR</code>, for  $\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ \frac{1}{2} \text{EPS} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} \text{EPS} \end{bmatrix}$ ? Explain.

SOLUTION:

 $\mathbf{A} \text{ has rank 2, but } \mathbf{A}^{\top} \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 + \frac{1}{4} \epsilon^2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 + \frac{1}{4} \epsilon^2 \end{bmatrix} \approx \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ has rank 1 in machine arithmetic. Hence,}$ 

 $\mathbf{A}^{\top}\mathbf{A}$  is symmetric but not positive definite: the hypothesis needed for the Cholesky decomposition are not satisfied.

### **Problem 3.4: Givens rotations**

In this problem, we look at Givens rotations to compute a QR decomposition and also briefly compare it with Householder reflections.

Let  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{3,2}$ ,

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 \\ \sqrt{2} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \tag{3.12}$$

(a) Use Householder reflections to transform  ${\bf A}$  to an upper triangular matrix  $\tilde{{\bf A}}$ . Perform the computations and show the steps on paper.

SOLUTION:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{a}_1 &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & \sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}^\top \implies \|\mathbf{a}_1\|_2 = 2 \\ \mathbf{v}_1 &= \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{a}_1 - \|\mathbf{a}_1\|_2 \mathbf{e}_1) \implies \mathbf{v}_1 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & \sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}^\top \\ \mathbf{H}_1(\mathbf{V}_1) &= \mathbf{I} - 2 \frac{\mathbf{v}_1 \mathbf{v}_1^\top}{\mathbf{v}_1^\top} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & \sqrt{2} \\ 1 & 1 & -\sqrt{2} \\ \sqrt{2} & -\sqrt{2} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ \tilde{\mathbf{A}}_1 &:= \mathbf{H}_1 \mathbf{A} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 3 + \sqrt{2} \\ 0 & 3 - \sqrt{2} \\ 0 & \sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} \\ \mathbf{a}_2 &= \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 - \sqrt{2} & \sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}^\top \implies \|\mathbf{a}_2\|_2 = \frac{\sqrt{13 - 6\sqrt{2}}}{2} \\ \tilde{\mathbf{A}} &= \begin{bmatrix} 2 & (3 + \sqrt{2})/2 \\ 0 & \|\mathbf{a}_2\|_2 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

- (b) Verify your computations for Sub-problem (a) using the HouseholderQR class provided by EIGEN.
- (c) Implement an EIGEN C++ function:

```
void rotInPlane(const \ Vector2d \& \ x, \ Matrix2d \& \ G, \ Vector2d \& \ y); which applies Givens rotation on a 2d vector x. It should also avoid cancellation.
```

SOLUTION:

#### C++11-code 3.5: Givens rotation of a 2d vector

```
void rotInPlane(const Vector2d& x, Matrix2d& G, Vector2d& y) {

if (x(1) != 0.0) {

    double t, s, c;
    // to avoid cancellation
    if (std::abs(x(1)) > std::abs(x(0))) {
```

```
t = x(0)/x(1);
8
                 s = 1./std::sqrt(1 + t*t);
9
                 c = s*t;
10
            } else {
11
                 t = x(1)/x(0);
12
                 c = 1./std::sqrt(1 + t*t);
13
                 s = c*t;
14
            }
15
16
            G \ll c,s,-s,c; // 2 \times 2 Givens rotation matrix
17
18
       } else G. setIdentity();
       y << x.norm(), 0; // y = Gx
20
21
22
```

# (d) Implement an EIGEN C++ function:

```
void givensQR(const Matrixxd& A, MatrixXd& Q, MatrixXd& R);
```

which uses the Givens rotation routine rotInPlane successively to compute the QR decomposition of a matrix A.

SOLUTION:

### C++11-code 3.6: QR decomposition using Givens rotations

```
void givensQR(const MatrixXd & A, MatrixXd & Q, MatrixXd & R) {
2
       unsigned int m = A.rows();
3
       unsigned int n = A.cols();
       Q. setIdentity();
       R = A;
       Vector2d x, y;
       Matrix2d G;
       for (int j=0; j < n; j++)
            for (int i=m-1; i>j; i---) {
12
                x(0) = R(i-1,j);
13
                x(1) = R(i, j);
14
                rotInPlane(x, G, y);
15
                R. block (i-1,j,2,n-j) = G*R. block (i-1,j,2,n-j);
                Q. block (0, i-1, m, 2) = Q. block (0, i-1, m, 2) *G. transpose ();
17
            }
18
19
20
```

- **(e)** Run basic sanity checks for your implementation of givensQR and compare your results with that of HouseholderQR. Is the QR decomposition unique?
- (f) Compare the complexity of givensQR and HouseholderQR for a general input matrix  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m,n}$ .

#### SOLUTION:

For Householder reflections, matrix blocks are updated as

$$\mathbf{A}_{k:m,k:n} = \mathbf{A}_{k:m,k:n} - 2\mathbf{v}_k(\mathbf{v}_k^{\top} \mathbf{A}_{k:m,k:n})$$

for k = 1, 2, ..., n. The operations involved are:

- 2(m-k)(n-k) dot products  $\mathbf{v}_k^{\top} \mathbf{A}_{k:m,k:n}$
- (m-k)(n-k) scalar-vector product  $\mathbf{v}^{\top}(\ldots)$
- (m-k)(n-k) subtraction  $\mathbf{A}_{k:m,k:n} \dots$

Total ops = 
$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} 4(m-k)(n-k) \sim 2mn^2 - 2n^3/3$$

In Givens rotations, a  $2 \times 2$  matrix **G** updates successive pairs of "2-row broad" block of length n-k, for  $k=1,2,\ldots,n$ . Therefore, the total number of operations are  $\sum_{k=1}^{n} 6(m-k)(n-k) \sim 3mn^2 - n^3$ .

Givens rotations are roughly 50% more expensive than Householder reflections. This observation becomes crucial with dealing with large matrices.