

MCEN 3030

5 Mar 2024

HW #5 Released Tonight

Previously: 2D Newton-Raphson  
Modeling

Today: QR decomposition

← how MATLAB does  
 $A \setminus b$

A couple weeks ago

Modeling

model:  $a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + \dots$

↑    ↑  
parameters  
TBD

data (with error)

Tough to decide what  
component of this is  
"part of"  $x$  vs  $x^2$  etc

⇒ ill-conditioned system, fits  $a_0, a_1, a_2$   
may be sensitive to error.

# The QR Decomposition

(more stable method of fitting data)

With model fitting we had something like this:

$$Z^T Z A = Z^T Y$$

$\downarrow$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_0 \\ a_1 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{bmatrix} \quad n \text{ parameters (unknown)}$$

$\rightarrow Y = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_m \end{bmatrix}$   $m$  data points (known)

$Z = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_1 & \cdots \\ 1 & x_2 & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \\ 1 & x_m & \end{bmatrix}$  data (known)

Ostensibly:  $A = (Z^T Z) \setminus (Z^T Y)$

this may be "ill-conditioned"

$\rightarrow$  we bump up against num error

$$a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + \dots$$

Theorem: Every real  $m \times n$  matrix can be decomposed

into  $Z = QR$  where  $Q$  is an  $m \times m$

orthogonal matrix and  $R$  is an  $m \times n$

upper triangular matrix.

$$\begin{bmatrix} Z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \uparrow & \uparrow \\ q_1 & q_2 & \cdots \\ \downarrow & \downarrow \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \uparrow \\ q_m \\ \downarrow \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} r_{11} & r_{12} & \cdots & r_{1n} \\ 0 & r_{22} & & \\ 0 & 0 & \ddots & \\ \vdots & \vdots & & r_{nn} \\ 0 & \cdots & & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Orthogonal Matrices have special properties:

(orthonormal)

1) Their columns are **orthogonal vectors**

e.g. if one is  $\langle 1, 0, 0 \rangle$ ,

another might be  $\langle 0, 1, 0 \rangle$

$$Q^T Q = \begin{bmatrix} \leftarrow q_1^T \rightarrow \\ \leftarrow q_2^T \rightarrow \\ \vdots \\ \leftarrow q_m^T \rightarrow \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \\ q_1 \quad q_2 \quad \dots \quad q_m \\ \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} q_1^T q_1 & q_1^T q_2 & \dots & \\ q_2^T q_1 & \ddots & & \\ \vdots & & & \\ q_m^T q_m \end{bmatrix} = I_{m \times m}$$

$$\therefore Q^T = Q^{-1} \implies \text{so easy to determine } Q^{-1}$$

2)  $Q^T$  is also orthogonal

3) The condition number of  $Q$  is 1

The factorization process

(copied from above:)

$$\begin{bmatrix} Z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \uparrow & \uparrow & & \\ q_1 & q_2 & \dots & \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & & \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} q_m \uparrow \\ \begin{bmatrix} r_{11} & r_{12} & \dots & r_{1n} \\ 0 & r_{22} & & \\ 0 & 0 & \ddots & \\ & & & r_{nn} \\ \text{shaded row} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

the vectors  $q_{n+1} \rightarrow q_m$  end up not contributing to calculation of  $Z$

$$\downarrow$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \uparrow & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ q_1 & q_2 & \dots & q_n \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & & \downarrow \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} r_{11} & r_{12} & r_{13} & \dots & r_{1n} \\ 0 & r_{22} & & & \\ 0 & 0 & \cdot & & \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \ddots & \\ \vdots & \vdots & & & r_{nn} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Z = \hat{Q} \cdot \hat{R}$$

OK now into the least-squares regression equation

$$Z^T Z A = Z^T Y$$

$$(\hat{Q} \hat{R})^T (\hat{Q} \hat{R}) A = (\hat{Q} \hat{R})^T Y$$

$$\hat{R}^T \underbrace{\hat{Q}^T \hat{Q}}_I \hat{R} A = \hat{R}^T \hat{Q}^T Y$$

$$\hat{R}^T \hat{R} A = \hat{R}^T \hat{Q}^T Y \rightarrow \hat{R} A = \hat{Q}^T Y$$

$\therefore$  Once we have  $\hat{Q}^T$  generated (e.g. Gram-Schmidt or Householder), the best fits  $A$  can be determined from a back-sub algorithm (since  $\hat{R}$  = upper triangular)

Q: Why couldn't we just do this?

$$Z^T Z A = Z^T Y \rightarrow Z A = Y$$

$\Rightarrow Z^T$  is not square

Q: Why do we care?

We were using  $Z^T Z A = Z^T Y$ .

$Z$  is often "ill-conditioned", which means  $Z^T$  is too. Ostensibly this means multiplying by  $(Z^T Z)^{-1}$  leads to really big numbers, where we have errors associated with storing the full detail of the numbers.

Then, we immediately undo some of this "bigness" with the multiplication by  $Z^T$ , but the damage has been done! And, as mentioned above,  $Z^T Z A = Z^T Y \nRightarrow ZA = Y$ .

With QR decomposition, we write

$$\hat{R}^T \underbrace{\hat{Q}^T \hat{Q}}_{= I} \hat{R} A = \hat{R}^T \hat{Q}^T Y \implies \hat{R} A = \hat{Q}^T Y$$

If  $Z$  is ill-conditioned,  $\hat{R}$  will be too.

But! We were able to cancel out  $\hat{R}^T$ , because it is square. So there is only one ill-conditioned bit, not two.  $(\text{ill-conditioned})^2 \rightarrow (\text{ill-conditioned})$ , and so we are less inclined to hit numerical error limits.