

## Lecture 5

### Least-Square

⇒ Least-Square is about approximate solution of overdetermined equations.

#### \* Overdetermined linear equations

⇒ Consider  $y = Ax$  where  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  is (strictly) skinny i.e.  $m > n$ .

- Called overdetermined set of linear equations (more equations than unknowns)
- For most  $y$ , cannot solve for  $x$

⇒ One approach to approximately solve  $y = Ax$ .

→ define residual or error  
$$r = Ax - y$$

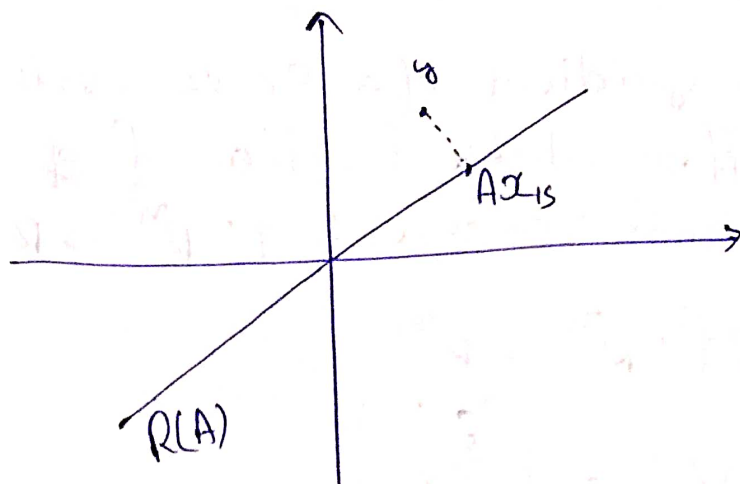
→ find  $x = x_{ls}$  that minimizes  $\|r\|$

⇒  $x_{ls}$  called least-square (approximate) solution of  $y = Ax$ .

## \* Geometric interpretation

$\Rightarrow Ax_{ls}$  is point in  $R(A)$  closest to  $y$ .

$\{Ax_{ls} \text{ is projection of } y \text{ onto } R(A)\}$



$$\boxed{Ax_{ls} = P_{R(A)}(y)} \quad \{ \text{Notation for projection} \}$$

## \* Least-Square (approximate) solution

$\Rightarrow$  Assume  $A$  is full rank, skinny.

$\Rightarrow$  to find  $x_{ls}$  we'll minimize norm of residual squared.

$$\begin{aligned} \|r\|^2 &= (Ax - y)^T (Ax - y) \\ &= (x^T A^T - y^T) (Ax - y) \end{aligned}$$

$$= x^T A^T A x - y^T A x - x^T A^T y + y^T y$$

$\downarrow$   
 $y^T A x$  { since they are  $1 \times 1$  transp of each other. }

$$= x^T A^T A x - 2y^T A x + y^T y$$

$\downarrow$  Quadratic       $\downarrow$  Linear       $\rightarrow$  Constant

⇒ Set gradient wrt  $x$  to zero:

$$\nabla_x \|y - Ax\|^2 = 2A^T A x - 2A^T y = 0$$

### gradient definition

The gradient of a scalar-valued differentiable function  $f$  of several variables:  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$\nabla f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$\nabla f = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} \end{bmatrix}$$

⇒ yields the normal equations:

$$A^T A x = A^T y$$

→ { This is ~~an~~ invertible  $n \times n$  matrix  
as  $A$  is full rank and skinny }

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{x_{ls} = (A^T A)^{-1} A^T y} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Very famous} \\ \text{formula} \end{array} \right\}$$



$\Rightarrow x_{ls} = A^{-1}y$  if  $A$  is square

$\Rightarrow x_{ls}$  solves  $y = Ax_{ls}$  if  $y \in R(A)$

$\Rightarrow A^+ = (A^T A)^{-1} A^T$  is called pseudo-inverse of  $A$   
or  
Moore-Penrose  
inverse

$\Rightarrow A^+$  is left inverse of (full rank, skinny)  $A$ .

$$\begin{aligned} A^+ A &= [(A^T A)^{-1} A^T] A \\ &= (A^T A)^{-1} (A^T A) \\ &= I_{n \times n} \end{aligned}$$

### ★ Projection on $R(A)$

$\Rightarrow Ax_{ls}$  is (by definition) the point in  $R(A)$  that is closest to  $y$ , i.e. it is the projection of  $y$  onto  $R(A)$ .

$$Ax_{ls} = P_{R(A)}(y)$$

$\Rightarrow$  The projection function  $P_{R(A)}$  is linear and given by

$$P_{R(A)}(y) = Ax_{ls} = (A(A^T A)^{-1} A^T) y$$

↓  
{ Called projection matrix associated with  $R(A)$  }

## \* Orthogonality principle

→ Optimal residual

$$r = A\hat{x} - y = (A(A^T A)^{-1} A^T - I)y$$

is orthogonal to  $R(A)$ .

## \* Least-square via QR factorization

→  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  skinny, full rank.

→ factor  $A = QR$  with  $Q^T Q = I_n$ ,  $R \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  upper triangular invertible.

→ pseudo-inverse is

$$\begin{aligned} (A^T A)^{-1} A^T &= (QR^T QR)^{-1} (QR)^T \\ &= (Q \underbrace{R^T Q^T Q}_I R)^{-1} (R^T Q^T) \\ &= (R^T R)^{-1} R^T Q^T \\ &= R^{-1} \underbrace{R^{-T} R^T}_I Q^T \\ &= R^{-1} Q^T \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{so } \boxed{\hat{x} = R^{-1} Q^T y}$$

→ projection on  $R(A)$  given by matrix

$$A(A^T A)^{-1} A^T = AR^{-1} Q^T = QRR^{-1} Q^T = QQ^T$$

## ★ Least-Squares via Full QR factorization

⇒ full QR factorization:

$$A = [Q_1, Q_2] \begin{bmatrix} R_1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

With  $[Q_1, Q_2] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$  orthogonal,  $R_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  upper triangular invertible.

⇒ multiplication by orthogonal matrix doesn't change norm, so

$$\|Ax - y\|^2 = \left\| [Q_1, Q_2] \begin{bmatrix} R_1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} x - y \right\|^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \left\| [Q_1, Q_2]^T [Q_1, Q_2] \begin{bmatrix} R_1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} x - [Q_1, Q_2]^T y \right\|^2$$

$$= \left\| \begin{bmatrix} R_1 x - Q_1^T y \\ -Q_2^T y \end{bmatrix} \right\|^2$$

$$= \|R_1 x - Q_1^T y\|^2 + \|Q_2^T y\|^2$$

⇒ to minimize this,

$$R_1 x - Q_1^T y = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{x_{ls} = R_1^{-1} Q_1^T y}$$



⇒ residual with optimal  $\alpha$  is

$$A\alpha_{ls} - y = Q_2 Q_2^T y$$

- $Q_1 Q_1^T$  gives projection onto  $R(A)$
- $Q_2 Q_2^T$  gives projection onto  $R(A)^\perp$

### \* Least-squares estimation

$$y = Ax + v$$

→  $x$  is what we want to estimate or reconstruct.

→  $y$  is our sensor measurement

→  $v$  is an unknown noise or measurement error (assumed small)

⇒ least-square estimation: Choose an estimate  $\hat{x}$  that minimizes

$$\|A\hat{x} - y\|$$

least-square estimate is just  $\hat{x} = (A^T A)^{-1} A^T y$

# \* BLUE Property (Best Linear Unbiased Estimator)

⇒ Linear measurement with noise.

$$y = Ax + v \quad \left\{ A \Rightarrow \text{skinny \& full rank} \right\}$$

⇒ Consider a linear estimator of form

$$\hat{x} = By \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Called unbiased if } \hat{x} = x \\ \text{whenever } v = 0 \end{array} \right\}$$

↓

$B$  is left inverse of  $A$

⇒ Estimation error of unbiased linear estimator is

$$\begin{aligned} x - \hat{x} &= x - B(Ax + v) \\ &= x - x - Bv \\ &= -Bv \end{aligned}$$

↓

Independent of  $x$

⇒ We want  $B$  "small".

⇒ Fact:  $A^+ = (A^T A)^{-1} A^T$  is the smallest left inverse of  $A$ .



Smallest left inverse means for any  $B$  with  $BA = I$ , we have

$$\sum_{i,j} B_{ij}^2 \geq \sum_{i,j} A_{ij}^{+2}$$

{ So least-square provides the best linear unbiased estimator (BLUE) }