

# **QR and LQ Decomposition Matrix Backpropagation Algorithms for Square, Wide, and Deep - Real or Complex - Matrices and Their Software Implementation**

8th International Conference on  
Algorithmic Differentiation,  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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# Algorithmic Differentiation

- Matrix Background
- Algorithmic Differentiation Background
- Paper Contributions
- Future Ideas



# Matrix Background

*An {over,re}view of some Matrix Analysis material.*





## Matrix Concepts I.

- Linear Independence (LIN) ( $x_0, \dots, x_{n-1}$ ): are said to be LIN iff  $\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} a_i x_i = 0$  with not all  $a_i = 0$ .
- Rank of a matrix: The largest number columns that constitute a LIN set of columns of the matrix.
- Partitioning: A matrix may be partitioned into sub-matrices  $\mathbf{A} = [\mathbf{X}|\mathbf{Y}]$ . Here the  $\#\{\text{rows of } \mathbf{X}\} + \#\{\text{rows of } \mathbf{Y}\} = \#\{\text{rows of } \mathbf{A}\}$  and *mutatis mutandis* for columns.

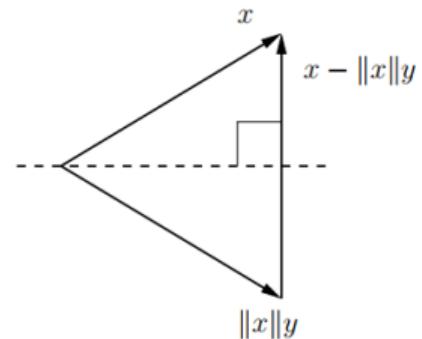


## Matrix Concepts II.

- Householder Reflection: Let  $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$  be a non-zero vector. A Householder vector of  $v$  is of the form  $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{I} - 2\frac{vv^T}{v^Tv}$ .
- Householder Matrix:  $\mathbf{Q} = \prod_{i=0}^{n-1} \mathbf{Q}_i$ , a product of  $n$  distinct Householder vectors.
- QR Factorization:  $\mathbf{A}_{n \times m} = \mathbf{Q}_{n \times m} \mathbf{R}_{m \times m}$  where  $n \geq m$ .

## Some Intuition

- Given a vector  $x$  we want to find a reflection that transforms  $x$  into a direction parallel to some unit vector  $y$ .
- To achieve this we do  $u = x - \|x\|y$  and  $v = u/\|u\|$ .
- Then calculate  $\mathbf{I} - 2vv^T = \|x\|y$ .
- Now by choosing  $y = e_1$ , the Euclidean basis vector with first element 1, we recurse on corresponding vectors to arrive at an upper diagonal matrix  $R$ .
- $Q$  is the product of the Householder reflection matrices and  $A = QR$ .



# Intuition (cont)

- Start with the first column of  $A$  and zero out all entries beneath the main diagonal entry.
- Then recurse onto the  $(n - 1) \times (m - 1)$  sub-matrix. Repeat until empty matrix.

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} \times & \times & \times \\ \times & \times & \times \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{Q_1} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} \times & \times & \times \\ 0 & \times & \times \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{Q_2} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} \times & \times & \times \\ & \times & \times \\ 0 & \times & \times \\ 0 & \times & \times \\ 0 & \times & \times \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{Q_3} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} \times & \times & \times \\ & \times & \times \\ & & \times \\ 0 & & 0 \end{array} \right] \\
 A \qquad\qquad\qquad Q_1A \qquad\qquad\qquad Q_2Q_1A \qquad\qquad\qquad Q_3Q_2Q_1A
 \end{array}$$

- This gives you  $Q^T A = R$ .



## Useful QR Facts

- $A = QR$ .
- $QQ^T = I_{n \times n}$  and  $Q^T Q = I_{m \times m}$ .
- $\text{span}(A) = \text{span}(Q)$ .

Span is the collection of all vectors which can be represented as linear combinations of the basis from the vector space.



# Algorithmic Differentiation Background

*An {over,re}view of some Algorithmic Differentiation material.*





## Brief Algorithmic Differentiation Intro I

- Reverse mode will be the primary focus of the talk.
- In algo-diff, represent a function as a Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG).
- Then topologically sort the graph-if necessary.
- Then generate intermediate node values on the forward pass.
- In the reverse pass generate the gradient values.



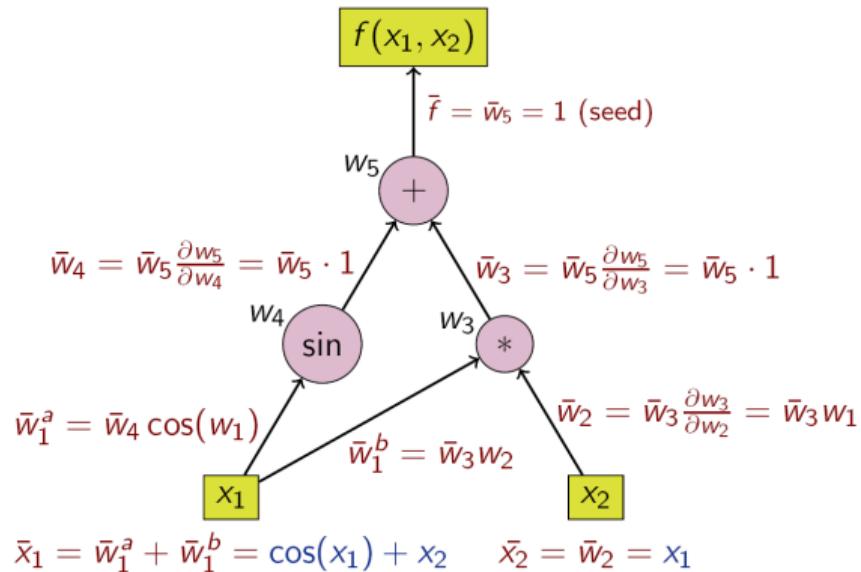
## Brief Algorithmic Differentiation Intro II

- In many examples, the node values are expressed as scalars. However, the same approach applies if the node values are matrices.
- As we'll see, the equations become more difficult to derive. However, the closed form solutions enable speedups.
- A motivating idea for matrix algorithmic differentiation is to use the BLAS routines directly when possible, see Seeger et al. also Giles paper.



## Brief Algorithmic Differentiation Example

Backward propagation  
of derivative values





## Paper Contributions

*E.g. What is new and worth noting and citing.*





## Equations Non-wide Case

- For  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times c}$  let  $A = QR$  then,  
 $\bar{A} = (\bar{Q} + Q \text{copyltu}(\mathbf{M})) R^{-T}$  with  $\mathbf{M} = RR^T - \bar{Q}^T Q$ , (eqn 3.3)
- $\bar{A} = Q [\bar{R} + P_L \circ (R\bar{R}^T - \bar{R}\bar{R}^T + Q^T\bar{Q} - \bar{Q}^T Q) R^{-T}] + (\bar{Q} - QQ^T\bar{Q}) R^{-T}$  (eqn 3.8)  
(prior work from S. Walther)  
 $P_L$  is a strictly lower tridiagonal matrix with all ones beneath the diagonal and zeroes along and above the main diagonal
- We will refer to these two equations throughout the remainder of the talk and argue that they are equivalent-or can be made so-and that (3.3) is preferred to (3.8).



## Equations Wide Case

- Let  $\bar{\mathbf{Q}}_p = \bar{\mathbf{Q}} + \mathbf{Y}\bar{\mathbf{V}}^T$ .
- For  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times c}$  let  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{QR}$  then  $\mathbf{A} = [\mathbf{X}|\mathbf{Y}] = \mathbf{QR} = \mathbf{Q}[\mathbf{U}|\mathbf{V}]$ .
- $\bar{\mathbf{A}} = [(\bar{\mathbf{Q}}_p + \mathbf{Q} \text{copyltu}(\mathbf{M})) \mathbf{U}^{-T} | \bar{\mathbf{Y}}]$ , (eqn 3.3).
- $\bar{\mathbf{A}} = [\mathbf{Q} (\bar{\mathbf{Q}}_p + \mathbf{P}_L \circ (\mathbf{U}\bar{\mathbf{U}}^T - \bar{\mathbf{U}}\mathbf{U}^T + \mathbf{Q}^T\bar{\mathbf{Q}}_p - \bar{\mathbf{Q}}_p^T\mathbf{Q}) \mathbf{U}^{-T}] + (\bar{\mathbf{Q}}_p - \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{Q}^T\bar{\mathbf{Q}}_p) \mathbf{U}^{-T} | \bar{\mathbf{Y}}]$ .
- In both equations  $\bar{\mathbf{Y}} = \mathbf{Q}\bar{\mathbf{V}}$ .
- If  $\mathbf{X}$  is not full rank use an rank revealing QR and permute the columns to get the columns first,  $\mathbf{AP}_\pi = \mathbf{QR}$ . For  $\mathbf{P}_\pi$  the permutation matrix.
- \*Define the matrix product of  $\mathbf{Y}$  or  $\bar{\mathbf{Y}}$  to generate a  $\mathbf{0}$  when  $\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{V}$  are empty then these equations give the non-wide equations as a special case.



## Paper Contributions

- Proof of Equivalence of Eqn 3.3 vs Eqn 3.8. for  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathbb{C}$  fields.
- Full proofs of QR derivative formulae from first principles for wide case (rows < columns), for both  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathbb{C}$ .
- Correction term for  $\mathbb{C}$  field when using Eqn 3.8.
- Implementations in wide case for major open source deep learning frameworks (PyTorch & Tensorflow), for both  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathbb{C}$ .
- Also tall/deep case of LQ decomposition, analogous to transpose, of QR.

For completeness, also include derivations of gradients for the tall/deep and the square QR cases for  $\mathbb{R}$ .

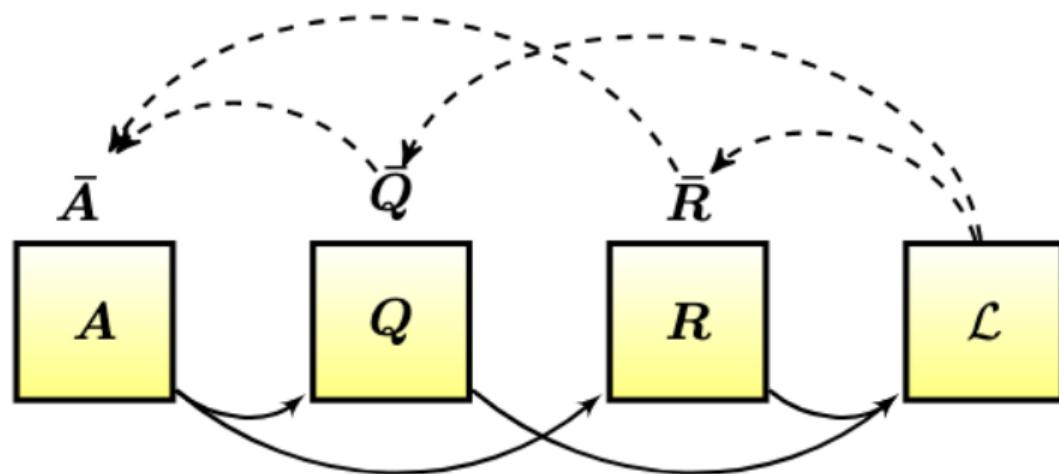


## Ideas Driving The Proofs

- $\mathbf{C} = f(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B})$  where  $f$  is some function with matrix argument(s), for us  $f$  is a QR factorization.
- Express loss:  $d\mathcal{L} = \text{tr}(\bar{\mathbf{C}}^T d\mathbf{C}) = \text{tr}(\bar{\mathbf{C}}^T \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{A}} d\mathbf{A}) + \text{tr}(\bar{\mathbf{C}}^T \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{B}} d\mathbf{B}).$
- Then, identify  $\bar{\mathbf{A}} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{A}}^T \bar{\mathbf{C}}$  and  $\bar{\mathbf{B}} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{B}}^T \bar{\mathbf{C}}$ , as the variations/gradients sought.
- (Wide case) Partition the input matrix  $\mathbf{A} = [\mathbf{X} | \mathbf{Y}]$  with  $\mathbf{X}$  square and  $\mathbf{Y}$  tall/deep.
- Assume  $\mathbf{X}$  is full column rank, then  $\mathbf{Y}$  can be expressed as a linear combination of  $\mathbf{X}$ .
- Analogous partition of  $\mathbf{R}$  as  $\mathbf{R} = [\mathbf{U} | \mathbf{V}]$ .

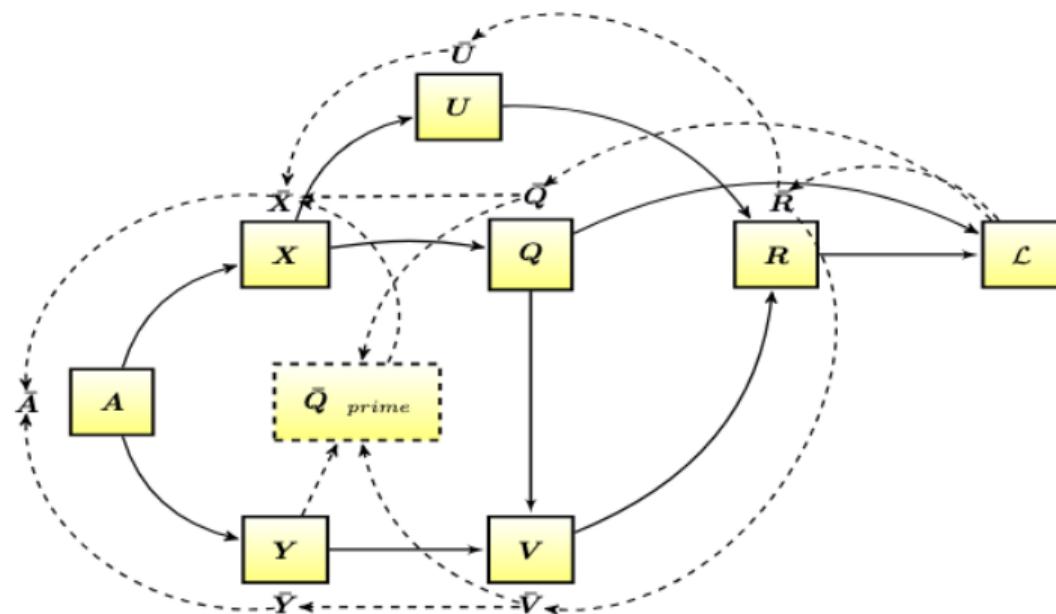


## QR Algo-diff Data Flow Square/Deep-Tall





## QR Algo-diff Data Flow Wide Case





## Key Point-A New Matrix

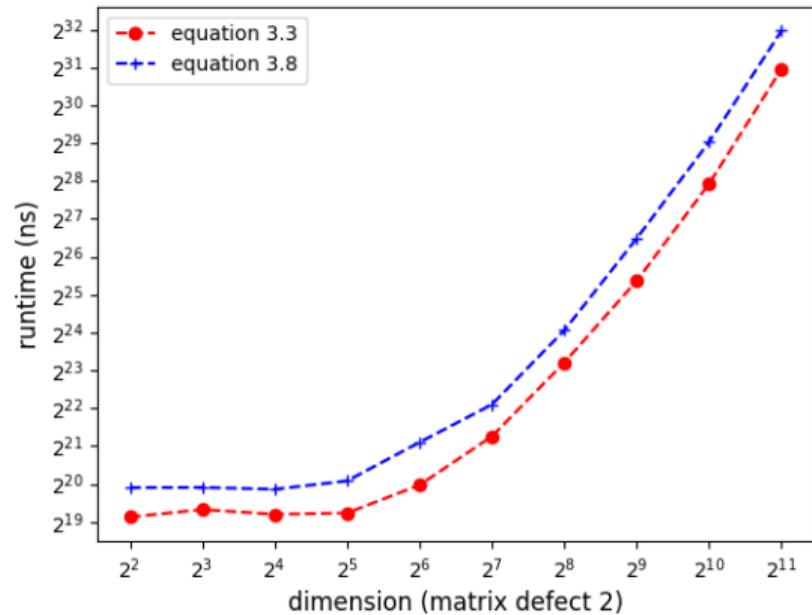
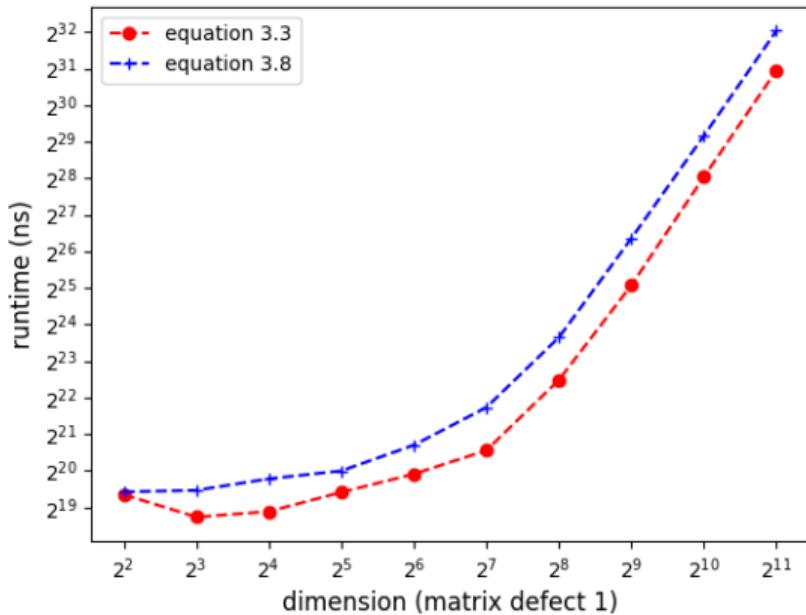
- We define a new gradient matrix  $\bar{Q}_p$ , denoted  $\bar{Q}_{prime}$  in our paper.
- In deep/square cases this corresponds to the original  $\bar{Q}$  (e.g. a special case).
- Allows use of Equation (3.8) if desired for wide  $A$  matrices by replacing all instances of  $\bar{Q}$  with  $\bar{Q}_p$  in gradient.
- However, we prefer equation 3.3.



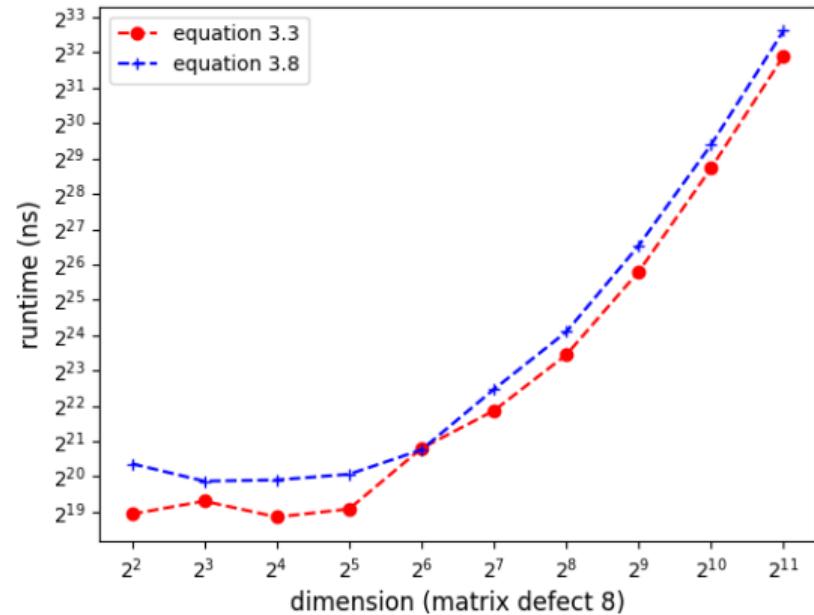
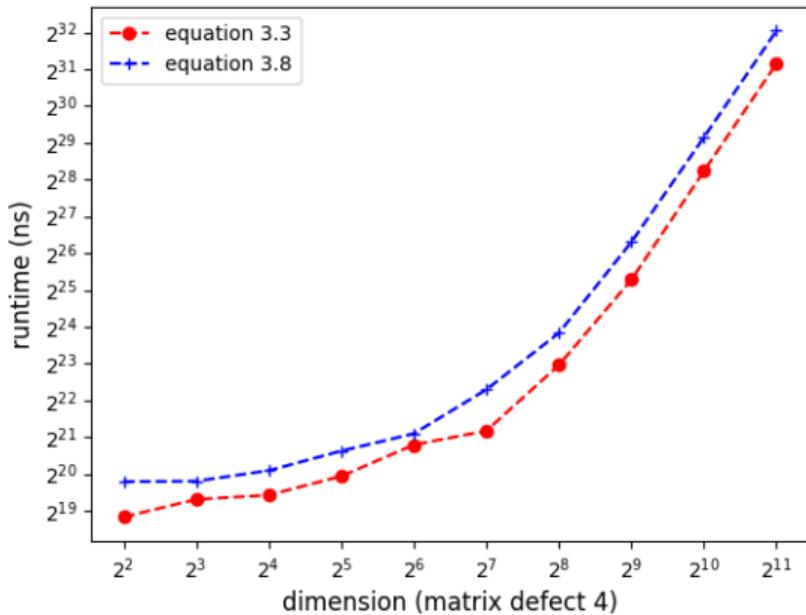
## Simulated Matrices Setup-Varying Matrix Defect

- We call the matrix defect the value by which we multiply rows to get columns.
- For example, with a defect of 2, we have 4 rows, 8 columns.
- A square matrix has defect 1.
- All matrix entries are Gaussian mean 0, variance 1.

## Equation 3.3 vs 3.8 Runtimes



# Equation Runtimes-Larger Defects





## Equation 3.3 vs 3.8 Matrix Market Examples

- The simulated values indicate some form of expected behavior. What if naturally occurring matrices are not what we expect?
- Let's look at a few matrix market examples-Harwell Boeing economic matrices.
- In all 3 cases the use of equation 3.3 has a better runtime.



## Matrix Market Examples-All Times In (ns)

From The Harwell-Boeing Economic Models

| Matrix | Eqn 3.3 | Eqn 3.8  | rows | columns |
|--------|---------|----------|------|---------|
| Wm1    | 4553340 | 11666639 | 207  | 277     |
| Wm2    | 3677850 | 8686058  | 207  | 260     |
| Wm3    | 3465780 | 7900550  | 207  | 260     |

## Equation 3.3 vs 3.8 Runtimes

- Prefer Equation 3.3, why? The evidence:
- The TLDR (too long, didn't read) here is that using equation 3.3 is faster on average than equation 3.8.
- For larger defects, the difference decreases. This is because the proportion of the total computation being done is by the calculation required for the additional (*columns – rows*) columns, e.g. the wide/defect part. Even here Equation 3.3 is modestly faster.
- Using Equation 3.3 obviates using a special branch for C fields, simpler code and easier to maintain and also faster.



## Why $\mathbb{C}$ Is Different?

- The reason falls out naturally from the proof in the wide case.
- For the proof to work for  $\mathbb{C}$  we need  $\mathbf{P}_L \circ (\mathbf{M} - \mathbf{M}^\dagger) + \mathbf{M}^\dagger$  to equal  $\text{symh}(\mathbf{M} \circ \mathbf{E})$  where  $\mathbf{E}$  is a matrix of 1s along the main diagonal, 0s above and 2s beneath. For complex, wide matrices these two are not equal.
- We derive a correction term to make them equal,  $\mathcal{C} = i\Im(\text{diag}(\mathbf{M}))$ , where  $i = \sqrt{-1}$ .
- Use the correction term if you want to use Equation 3.8 with complex valued matrices.



## Some Future Research Areas

*Get in touch if interested*



## Immediate Next Steps: JAX?

- I plan to implement the wide case in JAX if the maintainers will accept a PR. I've initiated discussion on a github issue. If you are someone who maintains or contributes to JAX-or who knows the codebase well-please let's talk during the conference.
- Julia? I'm not a Julia developer. If a Julia developer wants to contribute this-and they do not already support I'm happy to work with you to help ensure the code is correctly implemented.



## References Cited

- Algorithmic Differentiation of Linear Algebra Functions with Application in Optimum Experimental Design, S. Walther and L. Lehmann
- An extended collection of matrix derivative results for forward and reverse mode algorithmic differentiation, Mike Giles
- Auto-Differentiating Linear Algebra, Seeger et al.
- Fast Differentiable Sorting and Ranking, Blondel et al. Gini-regularized Optimal Transport with an Application to Spatio-Temporal Forecasting, Roberts et al. Neurips 2017 Smart Vision-Language Reasoners, Roberts and Roberts ICML 2024



## Some (Natural) Extensions

A non-exhaustive list.

- Parallelization
- Special matrix structures
- Partitioning technique for other matrix factorizations
- Extend to rank revealing QR via propagating *an approximate* gradient through the (learned) permutation,  $P_\pi$  to determine  $\bar{P}_\pi$ .



## Other Research Areas Of Interest

Other things you can speak to me about during coffee breaks

- NLP and IR
- Multimodal LLMs
- Math AI: Smarter VLMs
  - Using images and fine tuning (ICML 2024)
  - VLMs-(submitted Neurips 2024)
  - Scaling laws/data paucity
- AI generated content detection (WIP)



Thank you!