Lab Session 8

MA423 : Matrix Computations July-November 2021 S. Bora

Write a single consolidated report on your experiments.

1. (**You must read the stuff explained here. It will not be discussed in the lectures.**) This exercise will teach you various matrix decompositions and their relationships. The results are true for real and complex matrices. So, we present the results by considering only real matrices.

   Polar decomposition: A complex number z has a polar representation $z = rw$, where $r \geq 0$ and $|w| = 1$. In a sense, matrices are non-commutative analogues of complex numbers. [This topic is beyond the scope of this course.] So, quite naturally, a matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n\times n}$ admits a polar decomposition

   $$A = RW,$$

   where $R \geq 0$, meaning R is Hermitian and positive semidefinite, and W is unitary. Here R and W are called polar factors of A. Is polar decomposition of A unique?

   More generally, if $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m\times n}$ then we have

   $$A = \begin{cases} RW, & \text{if } m \leq n, \\ WR, & \text{if } m \geq n, \end{cases}$$

   where $W \in \mathbb{R}^{m\times n}$ is such that W is an isometry if $m \geq n$ and W^T is an isometry otherwise and $R \in \mathbb{R}^{p\times p}, p = \min(m, n)$, is Hermitian and positive semidefinite. Note that for a square matrix A, the polar decomposition of A can be written as $A = RW$ or $A = WR$ whichever we prefer (of course, the polar factors are not the same in both the cases).

   Proof: Using SVD of A, we obtain a simple and elegant proof of polar decomposition. Here are the details. Suppose that $m \geq n$ and consider the condensed SVD $A = U\Sigma V^*$, where $U \in \mathbb{R}^{m\times n}$ and $V, \Sigma = \text{diag}(\sigma_1, \cdots, \sigma_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{n\times n}$. Then

   $$A = U\Sigma V^* = UV^*(V\Sigma V^*) = WR,$$

   where $W = UV^* \in \mathbb{R}^{m\times n}$ is easily seen to be isometry and $R = V\Sigma V^*$ is obviously Hermitian and positive semidefinite. When $m \leq n$, the proof is similar. ■

   Your Task: Based on the above proof write a matlab function

   ```
   [ W, R] = polard1(A)
   % [W, R] = polard1(A) computes polar factors W and R of the matrix A.
   ```

   Next, suppose that $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n\times n}$. Then the polar decomposition $A = RW$ gives

   $$AA^* = RWW^*R = R^2.$$

   This shows that the polar factor R is such that $R^2 = AA^*$. Considering the polar decomposition $A = WR$ it follows that $R^2 = A^*A$.

2. **Square root of a matrix:** Let $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n\times n}$. If a matrix $R \in \mathbb{C}^{n\times n}$ satisfies $R^2 = A$ then R is called a square root of A. Square root of a complex number is a complicated concept. So, quite naturally, square root of a matrix is a highly complicated concept. A matrix can have no square roots; try $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$. A matrix can have finitely many square roots (how many? well, it all depends on Jordan canonical form of the matrix); try $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$. A matrix can have infinitely many square roots; try $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$. And finally, there may be funny square roots; e.g. $\begin{bmatrix} a & 1+a^2 \\ -1 & -a \end{bmatrix}^2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$, $a \in \mathbb{C}$.

   Fortunately, there are easy cases. For example, if A is diagonalizable and all eigenvalues of A are real and positive then A has a unique square root R such all eigenvalues of R are real and positive. By the assumption $A = XDX^{-1}$, where $D = \mathrm{diag}(\lambda_1, \cdots, \lambda_n)$ and $\lambda_j > 0$. The matlab command `[X, D] = eig(A)` gives above decomposition. Defining $R := X\mathrm{diag}(\sqrt{\lambda_1}, \cdots, \sqrt{\lambda_n})X^{-1}$, it follows that R is the unique square root of A with positive eigenvalues.

   This shows that if A is SPD (selfadjoint and positive definite) then A has a unique SPD square root R. That R is SPD is immediate from the above proof. (WHY?). In such a case, R is denoted by $A^{1/2}$ or $\sqrt{A}$.

   Since A is SPD, Cholesky decomposition of A can also be used to construct $A^{1/2}$. Let $A = G^*G$ be the Cholesky decomposition. Now compute the SVD $G = U\Sigma V^*$ and define $R = V\Sigma V^*$. Then

$$A = G^*G = (U\Sigma V^*)^*(U\Sigma V^*) = V\Sigma^2 V^* = R^2.$$

   To compute Cholesky decomposition you may use the matlab command `R= chol(A)`) or use your own function.

   The methods we have outlined are expensive and are applicable to special matrices. The matlab command `sqrtm(A)` computes principal square root of a general matrix using a method known as squaring and scaling. See `help sqrtm`.

   Your task: Write two matlab functions, say, `R1 = mysqrt1(A)` and `R2 = mysqrt2(A)` implementing the first and the second method, respectively, to compute square root of an SPD matrix A. Also compute `R3 = sqrtm(A)`. Test these methods on the Hilbert matrix for various values of n. Plot the values `norm( A-R1 * R1 )/norm(A)`, `norm( A-R2 * R2)/norm(A)` and `norm( A-R3 * R3)/norm(A)` (in a single plot) for $n = 5, 7, 10, 12$. Which method is reliable and better? What is your conclusion?

3. We have used SVD of a matrix to compute polar factors and square root of A. When A is nonsingular, we can follow the backward direction, that is, we can compute SVD of A from polar factors of A. So, how to compute polar decomposition of A?

   Note that if $A = RW$ then $R^2 = AA^*$, that is, R is the square root of the SPD matrix AA^*. So, we get R from `R = mysqrt1(A * A')`. Once R is known, we obtain W by setting $W = R^{-1}A$.

   Your task: Write a matlab function implementing above method to compute polar decomposition of a nonsingular matrix.

```
[W, R] = polard2(A)
% [W, R] = polard2(A) computes polar factors of a nonsingular matrix A.
```

Generate 15 nonsingular (random) test matrices A_j of size 20 such that $\sigma_{\min}(A_j) = 10^{-j+6}$ for $j = 1:15$. You know how to generate such matrices. Now compute $[W_j, R_j] =$ polard1(A_j) and $[X_j, T_j] =$ polard2(A_j) for $j = 1:15$. For $j = 1:n$, compute norm$(W_j^* W_j - I)$ and norm$(X_j^* X_j - I)$ and plot the results (in a single plot). What is your conclusion? Which method is better and reliable?

4. Finally, we use polar decomposition to compute SVD of a nonsingular matrix A. Here are the details. Compute a polar decomposition $A = WR$ (using `polard2`) and then compute $R = VDV^*$, where V consists of orthonormal eigenvectors of R and D is the diagonal matrix containing eigenvalues of R is descending order. Then $A = WR = WVDV^* = UDV^*$, is an SVD of A.

   Your task: Write a matlab function implementing above method to compute SVD of A. For the 15 test matrices generated to test polar decomposition, compute $\|V_j^* V_j - I\|_2$ and $\|U_j^* U_j - I\|_2$ when U_j and V_j are obtained by your function as well as the matlab function `svd(A)`. Plot the results and conclude which method is better and reliable.