

# ECE240 Introduction to Linear Dynamical Systems

## Lecture 4: Matrix Factorization

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# Outline

## 1 Matrix Factorization

- CR Decomposition
- QR Decomposition
- Eigenvalue Decomposition
- Singular Value Decomposition

## 2 Positive Definite Matrices and Stability

## Column-Row (CR) Decomposition: $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{C}\mathbf{R}$

Given the CR decomposition:

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{C}\mathbf{R}, \quad \mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times r}, \quad \mathbf{R} \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times n}, \quad \text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = r.$$

where  $\mathbf{C}$  = independent columns of  $\mathbf{A}$ ,  $\mathbf{R}$  = coefficients to rebuild all columns.

**Example:**

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{C} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{R} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{C}\mathbf{R} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 5 \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{A}$$

$$\text{Range}(\mathbf{A}) = \text{Range}(\mathbf{C}) \text{ and } \text{Row}(\mathbf{A}) = \text{Row}(\mathbf{R})$$

**1. Show that**  $\text{Range}(\mathbf{A}) = \text{Range}(\mathbf{C})$

$\Rightarrow$  For any  $\mathbf{y} \in \text{Range}(\mathbf{A})$ ,  $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{Ax} = (\mathbf{CR})\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{Rx})$ . Let  $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{Rx}$ , then  $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{Cz} \in \text{Range}(\mathbf{C})$ . So  $\text{Range}(\mathbf{A}) \subseteq \text{Range}(\mathbf{C})$ .

$\Leftarrow$  Each column of  $\mathbf{C}$  is one of the columns of  $\mathbf{A}$ , so any linear combination of columns of  $\mathbf{C}$  lies in  $\text{Range}(\mathbf{A})$ . Thus,  $\text{Range}(\mathbf{C}) \subseteq \text{Range}(\mathbf{A})$ .

$$\boxed{\text{Range}(\mathbf{A}) = \text{Range}(\mathbf{C})}$$

**2. Show that**  $\text{Row}(\mathbf{A}) = \text{Row}(\mathbf{R})$

$$\mathbf{A}^\top = \mathbf{R}^\top \mathbf{C}^\top \quad \Rightarrow \quad \text{Range}(\mathbf{A}^\top) = \text{Range}(\mathbf{R}^\top) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \boxed{\text{Row}(\mathbf{A}) = \text{Row}(\mathbf{R})}$$

# CR Decomposition for $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{Ax}$

Consider  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{CR}$ , where  $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times r}$  and  $\mathbf{R} \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times n}$  with  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = r$ .

**System dynamics:**

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{CRx}$$

Define the reduced-order state:  $\mathbf{y} := \mathbf{Rx} \in \mathbb{R}^r$ , Then

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{Cy}, \quad \dot{\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{R}\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{RCy}$$

**Reduced-order system:**

$$\boxed{\dot{\mathbf{y}} = (\mathbf{RC})\mathbf{y}}$$

**Interpretation:**

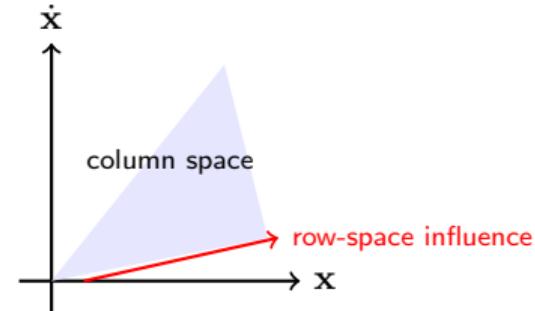
- $\mathbf{C}$ : basis for  $\text{Range}(\mathbf{A})$  — subspace where  $\dot{\mathbf{x}}$  evolves.
- $\mathbf{R}$ : projects  $\mathbf{x}$  into the active coordinates  $\mathbf{y}$
- $\mathbf{RC}$ : reduced-order dynamic matrix of size  $r \times r$ .

# Dynamics View: Column Space and Row Space Roles

In the system  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{C}\mathbf{R}\mathbf{x}$ :

- Column space of  $\mathbf{A}$  ( $=\text{Range}(\mathbf{C})$ ):  
set of all possible velocity directions  $\dot{\mathbf{x}}$  the system can produce.
- Row space of  $\mathbf{A}$  ( $=\text{Row}(\mathbf{R})$ ):  
set of all linear combinations of states that actually affect  $\dot{\mathbf{x}}$ .
- Dimensions of these spaces ( $= \text{rank}(\mathbf{A})$ ) determine how many independent modes the system possesses.

*Column space  $\rightarrow$  possible motions, Row space  $\rightarrow$  active state combinations.*



## LU Decomposition: $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{L}\mathbf{U}$

- $\mathbf{L}$ : lower triangular matrix
- $\mathbf{U}$ : upper triangular matrix
- Comes from Gaussian elimination
- Useful for solving  $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$  in two steps:

$$\mathbf{L}\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{b}, \quad \mathbf{Ux} = \mathbf{c}$$

### Why useful:

- Efficient solving of  $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$  for equilibrium or implicit time-stepping.
- Simplifies computation of  $e^{\mathbf{At}}$  or numerical integration.
- Reveals hierarchical (triangular) dependency among states.

*$\mathbf{L}$  and  $\mathbf{U}$  expose the causal chain of state dependencies and enable efficient computation.*

## QR Decomposition: $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{R}$

- $\mathbf{Q}$ : orthogonal matrix ( $\mathbf{Q}^\top \mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{I}$ );  $\mathbf{R}$ : upper triangular
- Columns of  $\mathbf{A} \rightarrow$  orthogonal basis in  $\mathbf{Q}$
- Built via Gram–Schmidt orthogonalization

### Interpretation:

- $\mathbf{Q}$  = orthogonal (rotation / reflection) transformation  $\rightarrow$  preserves lengths and angles.
- $\mathbf{R}$  = upper triangular scaling/shear  $\rightarrow$  describes hierarchical coupling among states.

### In dynamics: $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{Q}(\mathbf{R}\mathbf{x})$

- $\mathbf{R}$  defines the intrinsic interaction between state components.
- $\mathbf{Q}$  rotates these effects in the state-space without changing energy.

$\mathbf{Q}$ : *orthogonal change of basis (energy-preserving)*,     $\mathbf{R}$ : *directional scaling and coupling*.

# Gram-Schmidt (GS) Orthogonalization

Given  $k$  nonzero linearly independent vectors  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k$ , the GS process constructs orthogonal vectors  $\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_k$ , and orthonormal vectors  $\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \dots, \mathbf{e}_k$  as follows:

$$\mathbf{u}_1 = \mathbf{v}_1,$$

$$\mathbf{e}_1 = \frac{\mathbf{u}_1}{\|\mathbf{u}_1\|},$$

$$\mathbf{u}_2 = \mathbf{v}_2 - \text{proj}_{\mathbf{u}_1}(\mathbf{v}_2),$$

$$\mathbf{e}_2 = \frac{\mathbf{u}_2}{\|\mathbf{u}_2\|},$$

$$\mathbf{u}_3 = \mathbf{v}_3 - \text{proj}_{\mathbf{u}_1}(\mathbf{v}_3) - \text{proj}_{\mathbf{u}_2}(\mathbf{v}_3), \quad \mathbf{e}_3 = \frac{\mathbf{u}_3}{\|\mathbf{u}_3\|},$$

$$\vdots$$
$$\vdots$$

$$\mathbf{u}_k = \mathbf{v}_k - \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \text{proj}_{\mathbf{u}_j}(\mathbf{v}_k),$$

$$\mathbf{e}_k = \frac{\mathbf{u}_k}{\|\mathbf{u}_k\|}.$$

# Gram–Schmidt Animation

# Why QR Matters

## 1. Numerical Stability

- Solving  $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ : QR avoids numerical instability from ill-conditioning.
- Used in least-squares and Kalman filtering.

## 2. In dynamical systems $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{Ax}$ :

- Orthogonal basis  $\mathbf{Q}$  preserves state energy and norm.
- Enables stable time integration and modal analysis.
- Continuous QR methods track stability and Lyapunov exponents.

## 3. Physical view:

- $\mathbf{Q}$  = energy-preserving coordinate change.
- $\mathbf{R}$  = internal scaling or feedforward structure.

*QR links algebraic stability (orthogonality) to dynamic stability (bounded growth).*

# Rank-Revealing (Pivoted) QR Decomposition

Definition:

$$\mathbf{A}\boldsymbol{\Pi} = \mathbf{Q} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{R}_{11} & \mathbf{R}_{12} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{R}_{22} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}.$$

- $\boldsymbol{\Pi}$  : column permutation (pivoting).
- $\mathbf{Q} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$  : orthogonal ( $\mathbf{Q}^\top \mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{I}$ ).
- $\mathbf{R}_{11} \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times r}$  : upper-triangular, well-conditioned.
- $\|\mathbf{R}_{22}\|$  small  $\Rightarrow$  reveals numerical rank  $r$ .

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**Key idea:** Detects linearly independent columns of  $\mathbf{A}$  stably, even when  $\mathbf{A}$  is nearly rank deficient.

RRQR  $\approx$  fast, stable rank test (like SVD but cheaper).

## Rank-truncated RRQR

If the numerical rank is  $r$ , we can truncate the small trailing block  $\mathbf{R}_{22} \approx \mathbf{0}$ :

$$\mathbf{A} \approx [\mathbf{Q}_1 \ \mathbf{Q}_2] \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{R}_{11} & \mathbf{R}_{12} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{\Pi}^\top,$$

then

- Columns of  $\mathbf{Q}_1$  span  $\text{range}(\mathbf{A})$
- Columns of  $\mathbf{Q}_2$  span  $\text{null}(\mathbf{A}^\top)$ .
- Recall that  $\mathbb{R}^m = \text{range}(\mathbf{A}) \oplus \text{null}(\mathbf{A}^\top)$ .

# Modified Gram–Schmidt (MGS)

- Re-orthogonalizes step-by-step to reduce roundoff sensitivity versus classic GS.
- Same algebraic result ( $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{R}$ ), better numerical behavior.
- Often combined with column pivoting for RRQR.

## Projection View

$\mathbf{Q}$  spans  $\text{range}(\mathbf{A})$  and  $\text{Proj}_{\mathbf{Q}} = \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{Q}^\top$  is the orthogonal projector onto  $\text{range}(\mathbf{A})$ .

## Least Squares via QR

Solve  $\min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{Ax} - \mathbf{b}\|_2$  (full column rank):

$$\|\mathbf{Ax} - \mathbf{b}\|_2 = \|\mathbf{QRx} - \mathbf{b}\|_2 = \|\mathbf{Q}^T \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{Rx}\|_2,$$

since  $\mathbf{Q}$  is orthogonal. Partition  $\mathbf{Q} = [\mathbf{Q}_1 \ \mathbf{Q}_2]$ , then the solution satisfies

$$\mathbf{Rx} = \mathbf{Q}_1^T \mathbf{b}, \quad \text{solve by back substitution.}$$

# Eigenvalue Decomposition (EVD) for Square Matrices: $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{V}\Lambda\mathbf{V}^{-1}$

- $(\lambda, \mathbf{v})$  is an **eigenpair** of  $\mathbf{A}$  if

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v} = \lambda\mathbf{v}, \quad \mathbf{v} \neq \mathbf{0},$$

where  $\lambda$  = eigenvalue,  $\mathbf{v}$  = eigenvector.

Eigenvalue condition:

$$(\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I})\mathbf{v} = 0, \quad \mathbf{v} \neq \mathbf{0} \implies \boxed{\det(\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I}) = 0}$$

**Characteristic polynomial:**

$$p(\lambda) = \det(\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I})$$

- $p(\lambda)$  is a polynomial of degree  $n$  for an  $n \times n$  matrix.
- The roots  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$  are the **eigenvalues** of  $\mathbf{A}$ .

**Example:**

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A} &= \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow p(\lambda) = \det \left( \begin{bmatrix} 4 - \lambda & 2 \\ 1 & 3 - \lambda \end{bmatrix} \right) = (4 - \lambda)(3 - \lambda) - 2 \\ &\Rightarrow p(\lambda) = \lambda^2 - 7\lambda + 10 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \lambda_1 = 5, \lambda_2 = 2 \end{aligned}$$

# Diagonalizable Matrices

- A matrix  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  is **diagonalizable** if it has  $n$  linearly independent eigenvectors, i.e.,

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{V}\Lambda\mathbf{V}^{-1}, \quad \Lambda = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n).$$

- For a symmetric matrix:

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{U}\Lambda\mathbf{U}^\top$$

where  $\mathbf{U}$  is orthonormal and  $\Lambda$  is diagonal and real.

# Matrices that are Always Diagonalizable

Matrix Type	Field	Reason / Property
<b>Symmetric</b> ( $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}^T$ )	$\mathbb{R}$	Spectral theorem: $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{Q}\Lambda\mathbf{Q}^T$ , orthogonally diagonalizable. Eigenvalues are real.
<b>Hermitian</b> ( $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}^H$ )	$\mathbb{C}$	Unitarily diagonalizable: $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{U}\Lambda\mathbf{U}^H$ , eigenvalues are real.
<b>Unitary</b> ( $\mathbf{A}^H\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^H = \mathbf{I}$ )	$\mathbb{C}$	Normal matrices $\Rightarrow$ unitarily diagonalizable. Eigenvalues satisfy $ \lambda_i  = 1$ .
<b>Normal</b> ( $\mathbf{A}^H\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^H$ )	$\mathbb{C}$	All normal matrices are unitarily diagonalizable (includes Hermitian, skew-Hermitian, unitary).
<b>Distinct Eigenvalues</b>	any	$n$ distinct eigenvalues $\Rightarrow n$ linearly independent eigenvectors.

# Left and Right Eigenvectors

- Right eigenvector:  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_R = \lambda\mathbf{v}_R$ .

- Left eigenvector:  $\mathbf{v}_L^\top \mathbf{A} = \lambda\mathbf{v}_L^\top$ .

- Left and right eigenvectors are related by:

$$\mathbf{v}_{L,i}^\top \mathbf{v}_{R,j} = 0 \quad \text{if } i \neq j.$$

- Important in dynamical systems:

- Right eigenvectors → mode shapes of the state.
- Left eigenvectors → sensitivity of outputs or adjoint systems.

# Singular Value Decomposition (SVD): $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{U}\Sigma\mathbf{V}^\top$

Extending eigenvalue decomposition for non-square matrices, we get full SVD

$$\mathbf{A}_{m \times n} = \mathbf{U}_{m \times m} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{m \times n} \mathbf{V}_{n \times n}^\top,$$

where

- $\mathbf{U}$  and  $\mathbf{V}$  are orthonormal:  $\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}^\top = \mathbf{U}^\top\mathbf{U} = \mathbf{I}$ ,  $\mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^\top = \mathbf{V}^\top\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{I}$ .

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- $\Sigma$  is a rectangular diagonal matrix whose non-negative diagonal entries  $\sigma_i$  represent the singular values of  $\mathbf{A}$ .
- $\sigma_i = \sqrt{\lambda_i(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^\top)}$ . If  $\mathbf{A}$  is symmetric, then  $\sigma_i(\mathbf{A}) = |\lambda_i(\mathbf{A})|$ .
- *Rank of a matrix:*  $r =$  number of non-zero singular values.

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- *Rank of a matrix*:  $r =$  number of non-zero singular values.
- Columns of  $\mathbf{U}$  are *left singular vectors*, which are the eigenvectors of  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^\top$ .
- Columns of  $\mathbf{V}$  are *right singular vectors*, which are the eigenvectors of  $\mathbf{A}^\top\mathbf{A}$ .

# Compact SVD

Expresses  $\mathbf{A}$  as sum of rank-1 components:

$$\mathbf{A}_{m \times n} = \mathbf{U}_{m \times r} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{r \times r} \mathbf{V}_{r \times n}^\top = \sum_{i=1}^r \sigma_i \mathbf{u}_i \mathbf{v}_i^\top$$

where

- $\mathbf{U} = [\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_r]$  and  $\mathbf{V} = [\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_r]$  are column-orthonormal:  $\mathbf{U}^\top \mathbf{U} = \mathbf{V}^\top \mathbf{V} = \mathbf{I}_r$
- $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$  is a square diagonal matrix with all positive singular values of  $\mathbf{A}$  on the diagonal.

## SVD and Four Subspaces (1/3)

Consider the SVD of a given matrix  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  with rank  $r$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{A}_{m \times n} &= \mathbf{U}_{m \times m} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{m \times n} \mathbf{V}_{n \times n}^\top = [\mathbf{U}_L, \mathbf{U}_R] \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{D}_{r \times r} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} [\mathbf{V}_L, \mathbf{V}_R]^\top \\ &= [\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_r, \mathbf{u}_{r+1}, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m] \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{D}_{r \times r} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{v}_1^\top \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{v}_r^\top \\ \mathbf{v}_{r+1}^\top \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{v}_n^\top \end{bmatrix}\end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathbf{D}_{r \times r} = \text{diag}(\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_r)$  with ordered singular values  $\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_r > 0$ .

## SVD and Four Subspaces (2/3)

The full SVD provides basis vectors of 4 subspaces associated with  $\mathbf{A}$ :

- Column space:  $\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{A}) = \mathcal{R}(\mathbf{U}_L) = \text{span}\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_r\}$
- Row space:  $\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{A}^\top) = \mathcal{R}(\mathbf{V}_L) = \text{span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_r\}$
- Left null space:  $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{A}^\top) = \mathcal{R}(\mathbf{U}_R) = \text{span}\{\mathbf{u}_{r+1}, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m\}$
- Null space:  $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{A}) = \mathcal{R}(\mathbf{V}_R) = \text{span}\{\mathbf{v}_{r+1}, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$

# SVD and Four Subspaces (3/3)

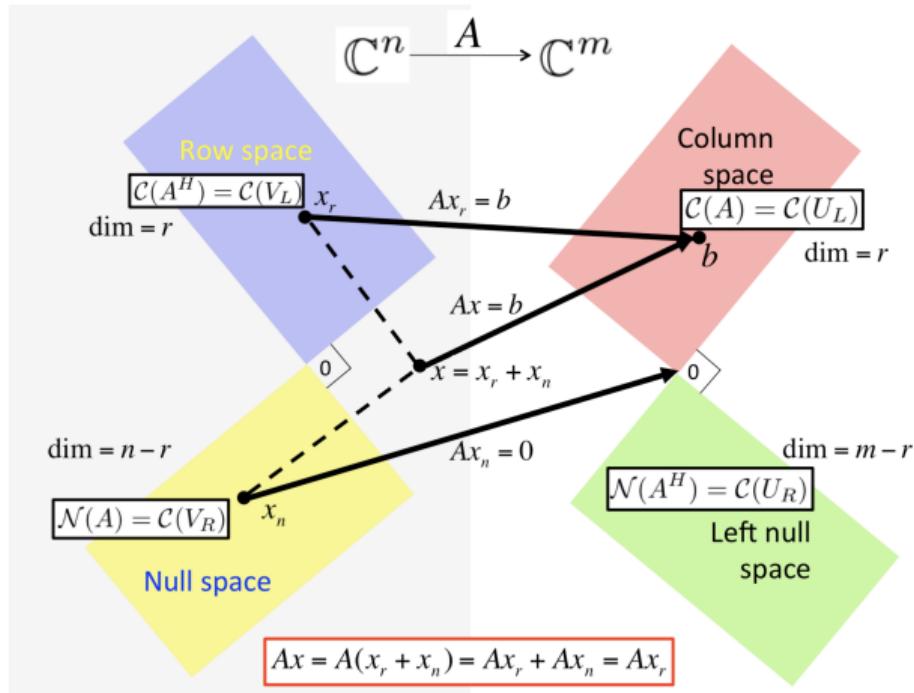


Figure: Source link

# Matrix Factorization Matlab Commands

Factorization	Mathematical Form	MATLAB Command
CR	$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{C}\mathbf{R}$	no built-in command <sup>1</sup>
LU	$\mathbf{P}\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{L}\mathbf{U}$	$[\mathbf{L}, \mathbf{U}, \mathbf{P}] = \text{lu}(\mathbf{A})$
QR	$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{R}$	$[\mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{R}] = \text{qr}(\mathbf{A})$
EVD	$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{V}\Lambda\mathbf{V}^{-1}$	$[\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{D}] = \text{eig}(\mathbf{A})$
SVD	$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{U}\Sigma\mathbf{V}^\top$	$[\mathbf{U}, \mathbf{S}, \mathbf{V}] = \text{svd}(\mathbf{A})$
Jordan	$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{P}\mathbf{J}\mathbf{P}^{-1}$	$[\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{J}] = \text{jordan}(\mathbf{A})$

Table: Summary of matrix factorizations and corresponding MATLAB commands; see more factorizations in this reference link

<sup>1</sup>by pivoted QR:  $[\mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{R}, \mathbf{P}] = \text{qr}(\mathbf{A}, 0)$ ;  $r = \text{rank}(\mathbf{A})$ ;  $\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{A}(:, \mathbf{P}(1:r))$ ;  $\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{C} \setminus \mathbf{A}$

# Positive Definite Matrices

- If all eigenvalues are positive, symmetric  $\mathbf{A}$  is *positive definite*  $\mathbf{A} \succ \mathbf{0}$ .
- If all eigenvalues are non-negative, symmetric  $\mathbf{A}$  is *positive semi-definite*  $\mathbf{A} \succeq \mathbf{0}$ .

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- If all eigenvalues are non-negative, symmetric  $\mathbf{A}$  is *positive semi-definite*  $\mathbf{A} \succeq \mathbf{0}$ .
- $\mathbf{A} \succeq \mathbf{0}$  iff all principal minors of  $\mathbf{A}$  are nonnegative.
- $\mathbf{A} \succeq \mathbf{0}$  iff there exists  $\mathbf{B}$  such that  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{B}^\top \mathbf{B}$ .
- $\mathbf{A} \succeq \mathbf{0}$  iff  $\mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} \geq 0$  for all  $\mathbf{x}$ .
- *Square root:*  $\mathbf{A}^{1/2} = \mathbf{U} \sqrt{\boldsymbol{\Lambda}} \mathbf{U}^\top$

# Lyapunov Stability: Core Idea

- Lyapunov's method studies stability using an **energy-like function**:

$$V(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{P} \mathbf{x},$$

where  $\mathbf{P}$  is a **symmetric positive definite** matrix ( $\mathbf{P} \succ 0$ ).

- $V(\mathbf{x})$  acts like a potential or energy function:

$$V(\mathbf{x}) > 0 \text{ for } \mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}, \quad V(\mathbf{0}) = 0.$$

- The sign of its time derivative  $\dot{V}$  determines whether energy decreases over time.

# Continuous-Time Linear System

Consider a linear system:

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}.$$

The time derivative of  $V(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{P} \mathbf{x}$  is

$$\dot{V} = \mathbf{x}^\top (\mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{P} + \mathbf{P}\mathbf{A})\mathbf{x}.$$

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If there exists  $\mathbf{P} \succ 0$  such that

$$\mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{P} + \mathbf{P}\mathbf{A} \prec 0,$$

then  $\dot{V} < 0$  for all  $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$ , implying **asymptotic stability**.

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then  $\dot{V} < 0$  for all  $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$ , implying **asymptotic stability**. This condition is equivalent to the **Lyapunov equation**:

$$\mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{P} + \mathbf{P}\mathbf{A} = -\mathbf{Q}, \quad \mathbf{Q} \succ 0.$$

## Relation to Definiteness

- **Positive definite  $\mathbf{P}$**  ensures  $V(\mathbf{x}) > 0$  (energy is always positive).
- **Negative definite  $\dot{V}$**  ensures  $V(\mathbf{x})$  decreases over time.
- Together, these guarantee that trajectories decay to the equilibrium  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ .

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**Interpretation:** Matrix definiteness provides an algebraic test for energy dissipation and stability in linear dynamical systems.

## Schur Complement<sup>2</sup>

- For invertible  $\mathbf{A}$  and matrix  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{S}^N$  :  $\mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{B} \\ \mathbf{B}^\top & \mathbf{C} \end{bmatrix}$
- Define **Schur complement** as  $\mathbf{S} := \mathbf{C} - \mathbf{B}^\top \mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{B}$
- Property 1:  $\det(\mathbf{X}) = \det(\mathbf{A}) \det(\mathbf{S})$
- Property 2:  $\mathbf{X} \succ \mathbf{0}$  iff  $\mathbf{A} \succ \mathbf{0}$  and  $\mathbf{S} \succ \mathbf{0}$
- Property 3: For  $\mathbf{A} \succ \mathbf{0}$  it holds,  $\mathbf{X} \succeq \mathbf{0}$  iff  $\mathbf{S} \succeq \mathbf{0}$
- For linear dynamical systems: Schur complement is useful in *state-space reduction, Lyapunov and Riccati equations, block matrix inversion, and stability/definiteness tests.*

<sup>2</sup>see page 672 of the book *Convex Optimization* by Boyd-Vandenberghe