

# QR Factorization

Note Title

2024-10-30

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \|Ax - y\| \quad \text{for given } A, y \quad x = A^+ y = (A^T A)^{-1} A^T y$$

We see a factorization similar to LU factorization

Problem:  $x \in \mathbb{R}^m$  given, find  $H$  orthogonal ( $H^T H = H H^T = I$ )  
such that  $Hx = \begin{bmatrix} s \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = e_1 s$  for some  $s \in \mathbb{R}$

Observation: since  $\|Hx\| = \|x\|$ , one must take  $s = \pm \|x\|$

A solution is given by Householder reflectors

$H$  is a Householder reflector if it has the form

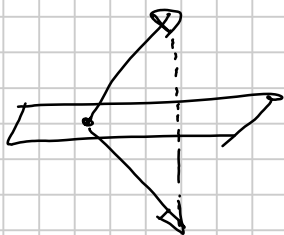
$$H = I - 2 \frac{1}{v^T v} v v^T \quad \text{for some vector } v \in \mathbb{R}^m$$

$$\square - \circ \parallel \Rightarrow$$

Lemma:  $H$  is orthogonal and symmetric

$$H^T = \left( I - 2 \frac{1}{v^T v} v v^T \right)^T = I^T - \frac{2}{v^T v} (v v^T)^T = I - \frac{2}{v^T v} v v^T = H$$

$$H^T H = H^2 = \left( I - \frac{2}{v^T v} v v^T \right) \left( I - \frac{2}{v^T v} v v^T \right) = I - \frac{2}{v^T v} v v^T - \frac{2}{v^T v} v v^T + \frac{4}{(v^T v)^2} v \cancel{v^T} v^T = I$$



$H$  is a reflection (mirror symmetry) w.r.t. the plane normal to  $v$

$$H = I - \frac{2}{v^T v} v v^T = I - \frac{2}{\|v\|^2} v v^T = I - 2 U U^T \quad \text{with} \quad U = \frac{1}{\|v\|} \cdot v$$

Obs: Given  $H = I - 2 U U^T$  and  $x \in \mathbb{R}^m$ , one can compute the product  $H \cdot x$  in time  $O(m)$  rather than  $O(m^2)$

$$Hx = (I - 2 U U^T)x = x - 2 U (U^T x)$$

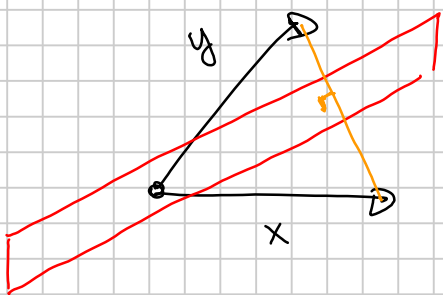
$$1. \text{ compute } U^T x = \alpha \quad 2m + O(1)$$

$$2. \text{ compute } x - (2\alpha)U \quad 2m + O(1)$$

Lemma: given two vectors  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^m$ , with  $\|x\| = \|y\|$ , the Householder reflector  $H = I - \frac{2}{v^T v} v v^T$  constructed with  $v = x - y$  is such that  $Hx = y$ .

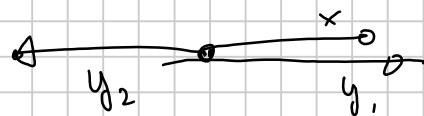
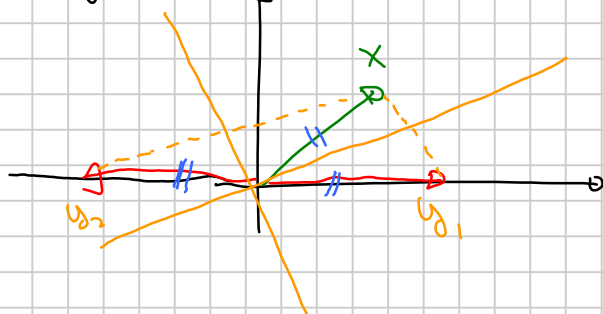
To find  $H$  such that

$$Hx = \begin{bmatrix} s \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad s = \pm \|x\|, \quad \text{we just take } y = \begin{bmatrix} s \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ in the Lemma.}$$



$$v = x - \begin{bmatrix} s \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_m \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} s \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 - s \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_m \end{bmatrix}$$

By choosing  $s$  to have the opposite sign as  $x_1$ , we ensure no numerical cancellation



Theorem: for every  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ , there exists  
 $Q \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$  orthogonal,  $R \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  upper triangular  
 such that  $A = QR$ .  $\hookrightarrow R_{ij} = 0 \text{ if } i > j$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{bmatrix} \quad R = \begin{bmatrix} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Idea: work as in LU factorization / Gaussian elimination

$n=1$  case:  $A = \begin{bmatrix} s \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$   $HA = \begin{bmatrix} s \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \iff A = H \begin{bmatrix} s \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  already solved!

$A = \begin{bmatrix} x & x & x \\ x & x & x \\ x & x & x \\ x & x & x \end{bmatrix}$   $[U_1, S_1]$   
 householder-vector ( $A(1:\text{end}, 1)$ ) returns  
 a Householder matrix such that

$$A_2 = H_1 A = \begin{bmatrix} s_1 & x & x \\ 0 & x & x \\ 0 & x & x \\ 0 & x & x \end{bmatrix} \quad Q_1 = H_1$$

$[U_2, S_2] = \text{householder\_vector}(A_2(2:\text{end}, 2))$

$$H_2 A_2 = \begin{bmatrix} \Delta \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} \text{Core with dimensions! } (m-1) \times 1$$

$$H_2 = I - 2U_2 U_2^T$$

$$Q_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \boxed{H_2} & & \\ 0 & & & \\ 0 & & & \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$$

$$A_3 Q_2 A_2 = \begin{bmatrix} A_2(1, :) \\ H_2 A_2(2:\text{end}, :) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x & x & x \\ 0 & x & x \\ 0 & 0 & x \\ 0 & 0 & x \end{bmatrix}$$

$[U_3, S_3] = \text{householder\_vector}(A_3(3:\text{end}, 3))$

$$H_3 = I - 2U_3 U_3^T \quad Q_3 = \begin{bmatrix} I_2 & 0 \\ 0 & H_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Q_k = \left[ \begin{array}{c|c} I_{k-1} & 0 \\ \hline 0 & H_k \end{array} \right] \text{ is still symmetric + orthogonal.}$$

$$A \rightarrow Q_1 A \rightarrow Q_2 Q_1 A \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow Q_n Q_{n-1} \dots Q_2 Q_1 A = R$$

$$A = \underbrace{Q_1 Q_2 \dots Q_{n-1} Q_n}_{} R$$

↓  
 = Q. Product of orthogonal matrices  
 → orthogonal.

Optimization: Householder arithmetic:

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} R_{11} & R_{12} \\ 0 & R_{22} \end{bmatrix}_{p \times q} \quad Q = \begin{bmatrix} I & 0 \\ 0 & I - 2uu^T \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Q \cdot R = \begin{bmatrix} R_{11} & R_{12} \\ 0 & R_{22} - 2u(u^T R_{22}) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$p \times q - p \times 1 \quad \boxed{1 \times p \quad p \times q}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{O(pq)} \\ \underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{O(pq)} \\ \text{subtraction: } O(pq) \end{array}$$

With this optimization, we can obtain cost  $O(mn)$  per iteration →  $O(mn^2)$  in total for the

$$\text{line } R = Q_k \cdot R$$

Problem: if  $m \gg n$ , we do not want to return a  $m \times m$  matrix  $Q$ !

Solution 1: use the Householder vectors  $u_1, \dots, u_n$  to represent  $Q$ :

$$Q = Q_1 Q_2 \dots Q_n = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & \ddots \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & \ddots \end{bmatrix} \cdot \dots \cdot \begin{bmatrix} I_{n-1} & \\ & I - 2u_n u_n^T \end{bmatrix}$$

With the  $u_i$ 's, one can compute for instance  $QW$  given  $W \in \mathbb{R}^m$  in time  $O(mn)$ :

$$\left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & \ddots \end{bmatrix} \dots \left( \begin{bmatrix} I_{n-1} & \\ & I - 2u_n u_n^T \end{bmatrix} W \right) \right)$$

Each factor can be multiplied by a vector (starting from the last) in time  $O(m)$ .

Solution 2: (thin QR factorization)

$$A = QR = \begin{bmatrix} Q_0 & Q_c \\ \hline & \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} R_0 \\ \hline 0 \end{bmatrix} = Q_0 R_0 + Q_c \cdot 0 = Q_0 R_0$$

$m \times n$     $m \times (m-n)$     $n \times n$     $(m-n) \times n$

Thin QR factorization: for all  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ , there exist

$Q_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  with orthonormal columns,  $R_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  upper triangular such that  $A = Q_0 R_0$

$$\boxed{A} = \boxed{Q_0} \cdot \boxed{R_0}$$

To compute  $Q_0$ , we can use Householder arithmetic as in Solution 1 to compute

$$Q_0 = Q \begin{bmatrix} I_n \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & \ddots \end{bmatrix} \dots \left( \begin{bmatrix} I_{n-1} & \\ & I - 2u_n u_n^T \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I_n \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right) \right)$$

Cost:  $O(mn^2)$

If we handle  $Q$  in one of these ways,  $QR$  factorization costs  $2mn^2 - \frac{2}{3}n^3 + O(mn)$

If  $m \approx n \rightarrow \frac{4}{3}n^3$  (twice as much as LU)

If  $m \gg n \rightarrow 2mn^2$  (linear in the largest dimension)