

Triantafyllou Dimitrios

Professor
Department of Mathematics and Engineering Sciences
Hellenic Military Academy
GR-16673, Vari, Greece
e-mail: dtriant@math.uoa.gr, dtriant@sse.gr

2025

Home Page

Title Page



Householder Transformations

Definition

Let $u \in \mathbb{R}^n$ be a nonzero vector. A matrix of the form

$$H = I - 2 \frac{uu^T}{u^T u}$$

is called *Householder*.

Properties

- i. H is a symmetric matrix.
- ii. H is orthogonal matrix, thus $H^T H = I$.
- iii. $\|Hx\|_2 = \|x\|_2, \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n$.
- iv. $H^2 = I$.
- v. $\det(H) = -1$.
- vi. Matrix H has an eigenvalue equal to -1 with multiplicity 1 and an eigenvalue equal to 1 with multiplicity $n - 1$.

Householder Transformations

Lemma

Let x be a nonzero vector, $x \neq e_1$, where e_1 the first column of the identity matrix I . Then there exists a Householder matrix H such that Hx is a multiple of e_1 . More precisely, $H = I - 2\frac{uu^T}{u^T u}$, with $u = x + \text{sign}(x_1)\|x\|_2 e_1$.

$$Hx = H \begin{pmatrix} * \\ * \\ \vdots \\ * \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

where $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}^*$.

Home Page

Title Page

◀

▶

◀

▶

Algorithm Householder: Creating zeros in a vector

Input: A nonzero vector $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

Output: A vector which is multiple of e_1 .

Step 1: $m = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} |x_i|$

Step 2: $x_i \equiv u_i = \frac{x_i}{m}$

Step 3: $\sigma = \text{sign}(u_1) \sqrt{u_1^2 + u_2^2 + \dots + u_n^2}$

Step 4: $x_1 \equiv u_1 = u_1 + \sigma$

Step 5: $\sigma = -m \cdot \sigma$

Complexity

The required flops for the previous algorithm are $2(n + 1)$.

Home Page

Title Page



QR factorization with Column Pivoting (QRCP)

Theorem

Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, $m \geq n$. There exists an orthogonal matrix $Q \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$, a permutation matrix $P \in \mathbb{Z}^{n \times n}$ an upper triangular matrix $R_{11} \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times r}$ with $r \leq n$ and a matrix $R_{12} \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times (n-r)}$ such that

$$AP = QR \text{ or } Q^T AP = R = \begin{bmatrix} R_{11} & R_{12} \\ \mathbb{O}_{21} & \mathbb{O}_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$

where the matrix Q is the product of Householder matrices H_i , $i = 1, 2, \dots, r$: $Q = H_1 H_2 \dots H_r$ and \mathbb{O}_{21} , \mathbb{O}_{22} are zero matrices of size $(m-r) \times r$ and $(m-r) \times (n-r)$ respectively.

Product of Householder matrix H with a matrix A

Let $H = I - 2\frac{uu^T}{u^T u} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$, $u \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times 1}$ be a Householder matrix and vector respectively, and $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$. The QR factorization requires the products of Householder matrices with A . If we perform the matrix-matrix product with the classical way, the floating point operations are of order of $O(m^2 n)$. Because of the special structure of H , this computation can be evaluated in less flops, as follows.

Let $\beta = \frac{2}{u^T u}$. Then the (i, j) -th entry of $A - HA = (A - \beta uu^T A)$ is equal to

$$a_{ij} = \beta(u_1 a_{1j} + u_2 a_{2j} + \dots + u_m a_{mj})u_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, m, \quad j = 1, \dots, n.$$

Home Page

Title Page



Algorithm: Product of Householder matrix H with a matrix A

Input: Householder matrix $H \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$ and a matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$.

Output: $A - HA$.

```
for  $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ 
     $c = 0$ 
    for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, m$ 
         $c = c + u_k \cdot a_{k,j}$ 
    end for
     $c = \beta \cdot c$ 
    for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ 
         $a_{i,j} = c \cdot u_i$ 
    end for
end for
```

Complexity

The required flops for the previous algorithm are $2mn = O(mn)$, significantly less than those of the classical way.

[Home Page](#)

[Title Page](#)



QRCP factorization

Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, $m > n$.

Step 1:

Find column of A having max norm, let c be the one, and permute columns 1 and c of A : $A \leftarrow AP_1$. Use Householder algorithm to construct a Householder matrix H_1 such that the first column of

$H_1 A$ is a multiple of e_1 : $A^{(1)} = H_1 A P_1 = \begin{pmatrix} * & * & \dots & * \\ 0 & * & \dots & * \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & * & \dots & * \end{pmatrix}$, where

$$H_1 = I_m - 2 \frac{u_m u_m^T}{u_m^T u_m} \text{ and } H_1 \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} \\ a_{21} \\ \vdots \\ a_{m1} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} * \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A^{(1)} = H_1 \cdot A \cdot P_1 = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ 0 & a_{22}^{(1)} & \dots & a_{2n}^{(1)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & a_{m2}^{(1)} & \dots & a_{mn}^{(1)} \end{pmatrix}$$

QRCP factorization

Step 2:

Find column of $\hat{A}^{(1)}$ having max norm, where $\hat{A}^{(1)}$ is obtained from $A^{(1)}$ by deleting its 1st row and column. Let c be the one, and permute columns 1 and c of $\hat{A}^{(1)}$. Set $\tilde{A}^{(2)} \leftarrow A^{(1)}\hat{P}_2$. Use Householder algorithm to construct a Householder matrix H_2 such

$$\text{that : } A^{(2)} = H_2 A^{(1)} P_2 = \begin{pmatrix} * & * & * & \dots & * \\ 0 & * & * & \dots & * \\ 0 & 0 & * & \dots & * \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & * & \dots & * \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\text{where } \hat{H}_2 = I_{m-1} - 2 \frac{u_{m-1} u_{m-1}^T}{u_{m-1}^T u_{m-1}}, \quad \hat{H}_2 \begin{pmatrix} a_{22} \\ a_{32} \\ \vdots \\ a_{m2} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} * \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{and } H_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & & & \\ \vdots & \hat{H}_2 & & \\ 0 & & & \end{pmatrix}, \quad P_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & & & \\ \vdots & \hat{P}_2 & & \\ 0 & & & \end{pmatrix}.$$

QRCP factorization

In order to save memory, overwrite A with $A^{(2)}$

$$A^{(2)} = H_2 \cdot A^{(1)} P_2 = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ 0 & a_{22}^{(1)} & a_{23}^{(1)} & \dots & a_{2n}^{(1)} \\ 0 & 0 & a_{33}^{(2)} & \dots & a_{3n}^{(2)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \\ 0 & 0 & a_{m3}^{(2)} & \dots & a_{mn}^{(2)} \end{pmatrix}$$

[Home Page](#)

[Title Page](#)



QRCP factorization

⋮
Step r:

$$A^{(r)} = H_r A^{(r-1)} P_r = \left(\begin{array}{ccccc|ccc} * & * & \dots & * & * & * & \dots & * \\ 0 & * & \dots & * & * & * & \dots & * \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & * & * & * & \dots & * \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & * & * & \dots & * \\ \hline 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{array} \right),$$

where $\hat{H}_r = I_{m-r+1} - 2 \frac{u_{m-r+1} u_{m-r+1}^T}{u_{m-r+1}^T u_{m-r+1}}$, $\hat{H}_r \begin{pmatrix} a_{rn} \\ a_{r+1,n} \\ \vdots \\ a_{mn} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} * \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$

and $H_r = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & & & \\ \vdots & & \hat{H}_{m-r+1} & \\ 0 & & & \end{pmatrix}$, $P_r = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & & & \\ \vdots & & \hat{P}_{m-r+1} & \\ 0 & & & \end{pmatrix}$.

Home Page

Title Page

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

QRCP factorization

Thus,

$$R \equiv A^{(r)} = H_r \cdot A^{(r-1)} P_r = \begin{pmatrix} R_{11} & R_{12} \\ \hline \mathbb{O}_{21} & \mathbb{O}_{22} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Concluding,

$$\begin{aligned} R &= A^{(r)} = H_r A^{(r-1)} P_r = H_r H_{r-1} A^{(r-2)} P_{r-1} P_r = \dots \\ &= H_r H_{r-1} \dots H_1 A P_1 \dots P_{r-1} P_r. \end{aligned}$$

We set $Q^T = H_r H_{r-1} \dots H_1$, $P = P_1 P_2 \dots P_r$ and thus,

$$R = Q^T A P \Leftrightarrow A P = Q R$$

Home Page

Title Page

◀◀

▶▶

◀

▶

Algorithm: QRCP factorization

```
for  $j = 1, \dots, n$ 
     $c_j = A_{1:m,j}^T A_{1:m,j}$ 
end
 $r = 0$ ;  $t = \max\{c_1, \dots, c_n\}$ 
while  $t > 0$  and  $r < n$ 
     $r = r + 1$ 
    Find smallest  $k$ ,  $r \leq k \leq n$  :  $c_k = t$ 
     $piv(r) = k$ ;  $A_{1:m,r} \leftrightarrow A_{1:m,k}$ ;  $c_r \leftrightarrow c_k$ 
     $[u, \beta] = \text{house}(A_{r:m,r})$ 
     $A_{r:m,r:n} = (I_{m-r+1} - \beta u u^T) A_{r:m,r:n}$ 
     $A_{r+1:m,r} = u_{2:m-r+1}$ 
    for  $i = r + 1 : n$ 
         $c_i = c_i - A_{r,i}^2$ 
    end
     $t = \max\{c_{r+1}, \dots, c_n\}$ 
end
```

Home Page

Title Page

◀

▶

◀

▶

Algorithm: QRCP factorization

Remark

The column norms do not have to be computed at each step because of the property:

$$Q^T z = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ w \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} 1 \\ k-1 \end{matrix} \Rightarrow \|Q^T z\|_2 = \left\| \begin{bmatrix} a \\ w \end{bmatrix} \right\|_2$$
$$\Rightarrow \|Q^T\|_2^2 \|z\|_2^2 = a^2 + \|w\|_2^2 \Rightarrow \|w\|_2^2 = \|z\|_2^2 - a^2.$$

Numerical Rank

$$A^{(k)} = \begin{bmatrix} R_{11}^{(k)} & R_{12}^{(k)} \\ \mathbb{O}_{21}^{(k)} & R_{22}^{(k)} \end{bmatrix}$$

If $\left\| R_{22}^{(k)} \right\|_2 \leq \epsilon \|A\|_2$, with $\epsilon = O(u)$, where u the unit round off error, then the algorithm terminates and $\text{Rank}(A) = k$.

Algorithm: QRCP factorization

Complexity

The computational complexity for the QRCP factorization is:

$$O\left(2mnr - r^2(m + n) + \frac{2r^3}{3}\right) \text{ flops.}$$

[Home Page](#)

[Title Page](#)

