Bi7740: Scientific computing

Non-square linear systems

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Outline



Non-square systems

- The underdetermined case
- The overdetermined case
- 2 Numerical methods for LS problem
 - Orthogonal transformations
 - Singular Value Decomposition
 - Total least squares





Non-square systems

The underdetermined case Numerical methods for LS problem The overdetermined case Comparison of various decompositions

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The underdetermined case The overdetermined case

The systems of linear equations

General form:

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ & \ddots & \\ a_{m1} & \dots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ \vdots \\ b_m \end{bmatrix}$$

- if *m* < *n*: underdetermined case; find a minimum-norm solution
- if *m* > *n*: overdetermined case; minimize the squared error
- if *m* = *n*: determined case; already discussed



Reminder

- two vectors \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z} are orthogonal if $\mathbf{y}^T \mathbf{z} = \mathbf{0}$
- the span of a set of *n* independent vectors is span({ $\mathbf{v}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_n$ }) = { $\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \mathbf{v}_i \mid \alpha_i \in \mathbb{R}$ }
- the row (column) space of a matrix **A** is the linear subspace generated (or spanned) by the rows (colums) of **A**. Its dimension is equal to $rank(\mathbf{A}) \leq min(m, n)$.
- by definition, span(A) is the column space of A and can be written as

$$C(\mathbf{A}) = {\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^m : \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n},$$

so it is the space of transformed vectors by the action of multiplication by the matrix.



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Underdetermined case

- *m* < *n* there are more variables than equations, hence the solution is not unique
- consider the rows to be linearly independent
- then, any *n*-dimensional vector $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ can be decomposed into

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}^+ + \mathbf{x}^-$$

where \mathbf{x}^+ is in the row space of **A** and \mathbf{x}^- is in the null space of **A** (orthogonal to the previous space):

$$\mathbf{x}^+ = \mathbf{A}^T \boldsymbol{\alpha} \qquad \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}^- = \mathbf{0}$$

this leads to

$$\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}^{+} + \mathbf{x}^{-}) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^{T}\alpha + \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^{-} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^{T}\alpha = \mathbf{b}$$

- $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^T$ is a $m \times m$ nonsingular matrix, so $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^T\alpha = \mathbf{b}$ has a unique solution $\alpha_0 = (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^T)^{-1}\mathbf{b}$
- the corresponding minimal norm solution to original system is

$$\mathbf{x}_0^+ = \mathbf{A}^T (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^T)^{-1} \mathbf{b}$$

- note, however, that the orthogonal component x⁻ remains unspecified
- the matrix A^T(AA^T)⁻¹ is called the right pseudo-inverse of A (right: A · A^T(AA^T)⁻¹ = I)
- MATLAB: pinv()

The underdetermined case The overdetermined case

Example: let
$$\mathbf{A} = [1 \ 2]$$
 and $\mathbf{b} = [3]$ (hence $m = 1$).

solution space:

$$x_{2} = -\frac{1}{2}x_{1} + \frac{3}{2}$$

is a solution, for any $x_{1} \in \mathbb{R}$.
$$\mathbf{x}^{+} = \mathbf{A}^{T} \alpha = \begin{bmatrix} 1\\2 \end{bmatrix} \alpha \text{ (row space)}$$

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^{-} = 0 \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1\\2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_{1}^{-} & x_{2}^{-} \end{bmatrix}^{T} = 0.$$

$$\Rightarrow x_{2}^{-} = -\frac{1}{2}x_{1}^{-} \text{ (null space)}$$

The minimal norm solution is the intersection of solution space with the row space and is the closest vector to the origin, among all vectors in the solution space:

$$\mathbf{x}_0^+ = [0.6 \ 1.2]^T$$



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Overdetermined case

- if the rows of A are independent, there is no *perfect* solution to the system (b ∉ span(A))
- one needs some other criterion to call a solution acceptable
- least squares solution x₀ minimizes the square Euclidean norm of the residual vector:

$$\mathbf{x}_0 = \arg\min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{r}\|_2^2 = \arg\min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2$$



The underdetermined case The overdetermined case

Solution to the LS problem

From a linear system problem, we arrived at solving an optimization problem with objective function

$$J = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 = \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x})^T (\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x})$$

Set the derivative wrt x to zero:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{x}} J = \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = 0$$

which leads to normal equations $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{b}$, with the solution

$$\mathbf{x}_0 = (\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A})^{-1} \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{b}$$

 $\mathbf{A}^{\dagger} = (\mathbf{A}^{T}\mathbf{A})^{-1}\mathbf{A}^{T}$ is the *left pseudo-inverse* of **A**.



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Solution to the LS problem - geometric interpretation

- let $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$, where \mathbf{x} is the LS solution
- the residual $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{b} \mathbf{y}$ is orthogonal to span(A),





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LS data approximation

Model: $y = c_3x^2 - c_2x + c_1$. Problem: $c_i = ?$ when (x_i, y_i) are given.

```
1 x = \text{linspace}(-2, 2, 100);
2 v = 2 * x^2 - x + 3;
                                  % known model
3 \text{ yn} = y + 2*(\text{rand}(1, 100) - 0.5);  % add some noise
4
  A = [ones(100,1), x', x'.^2]; % Vandermonde matrix
5
6 coef = pinv(A) * y'; % solution, no noise in y
  coefn = pinv(A) * yn'; % solution, uniform noise in y
7
8
  hold on;
9
10 plot(x, yn, 'b.');
11 plot(x, coef(1) + coef(2) .* x + coef(3) .* x.^2, 'k-');
12 plot(x, coefn(1) + coefn(2) \cdot x + coefn(3) \cdot x \cdot x^2, \ldots
     'r-');
13 hold off:
```

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Condition number

 if rank(A) = n (columns are independent), the condition number is

$$\text{cond}(\boldsymbol{A}) = \|\boldsymbol{A}\|_2 \|\boldsymbol{A}^\dagger\|_2$$

- by convention, if $rank(\mathbf{A}) < n$, $cond(\mathbf{A}) = \infty$
- for non-square matrices, the condition number measures the closeness to rank deficiency



Orthogonal transformations Singular Value Decomposition Total least squares

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Numerical methods for LS problem

• the LS solution can be obtained using the pseudo-inverse $\mathbf{A}^{\dagger} = (\mathbf{A}^{T}\mathbf{A})^{-1}\mathbf{A}^{T}$ or by solving the normal equations

$$\mathbf{A}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{b}$$

which is a system of n equations

A^TA is symmetric positive definite, so it admits a Cholesky decomposition,

$$\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{L} \mathbf{L}^T$$



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Issues with normal equations method

- floating-point computations in A^TA and A^Tb may lead to information loss
- sensitivity of the solution is worsen, since cond(A^TA) = [cond(A)]²

Example:

Let
$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ \epsilon & 0 \\ 0 & \epsilon \end{bmatrix}$$
 with $\epsilon \in \mathbb{R}_+$ and $\epsilon < \sqrt{\epsilon_{\text{mach}}}$. Then, in floating-point arithmetic, $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 + \epsilon^2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 + \epsilon^2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ which is singular!



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Augmented systems

- idea: find the solution and the residual as a solution of an extended system, under the orthogonality requirement
- the new system is

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{A} \\ \mathbf{A}^T & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{r} \\ \mathbf{x} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{b} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}$$

- despite requiring more storage and not being positive definite, it allows more freedom in choosing pivots for LU decomposition
- in some cases it is useful, but not much used in practice



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Orthogonal transformations

- a matrix **Q** is orthogonal if $\mathbf{Q}^T \mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{I}$
- multiplication of a vector by an orthogonal matrix does not change its *Euclidean* norm:

$$\|\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{v}\|_2^2 = (\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{v})^T\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}^T\mathbf{Q}^T\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}^T\mathbf{v} = \|\mathbf{v}\|_2^2$$

- so, multiplying the two sides of the system by Q does not change the solution
- again: try to transform the system so it's easy to solve e.g. triangular system



• an upper triangular overdetermined (m > n) LS problem has the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{R} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{X} \approx \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{b}_1 \\ \mathbf{b}_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

where **R** is an $n \times n$ upper triangular matrix and **b** is partitioned accordingly

• the residual becomes

$$\|\bm{r}\|_2^2 = \|\bm{b}_1 - \bm{R}\bm{x}\|_2^2 + \|\bm{b}_2\|_2^2$$

 to minimize the residual, one has to minimize ||b₁ - Rx||²₂ (since ||b₂||²₂ is fixed) and this leads to the system

$\mathbf{R}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}_1$

which can be solved by back-substitution

• the residual becomes $\|\mathbf{r}\|_2^2 = \|\mathbf{b}_2\|_2^2$ and \mathbf{x} is the LS solution



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QR factorization

problem: find an *m* × *m* orthogonal matrix **Q** such that an *m* × *n* matrix **A** can be written as

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{Q} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{R} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}$$

where **R** is $n \times n$ upper triangular

the new problem to solve is

$$\boldsymbol{Q}^{T}\boldsymbol{A}\boldsymbol{x} = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{R} \\ \boldsymbol{0} \end{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{x} \approx \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{b}_{1} \\ \boldsymbol{b}_{2} \end{bmatrix} = \boldsymbol{Q}^{T}\boldsymbol{b}$$



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• if **Q** is partitioned as $\mathbf{Q} = [\mathbf{Q}_1 \mathbf{Q}_2]$ with \mathbf{Q}_1 having *n* columns, then

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{Q} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{R} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{Q}_1 \mathbf{R}$$

is called reduced QR factorization of A (MATLAB:

[Q, R] = qr(A, 0))

- columns of Q_1 form an orthonormal basis of span(A), and the columns of Q_2 forn an orthonormal basis of span(A)^{\perp}
- **Q**₁**Q**₁^T is orthogonal projector onto span(**A**)
- the solution to the initial problem is given by the solution to the square system

$$\mathbf{Q}_1^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{Q}_1^T \mathbf{b}$$

QR factorization - Remember:

In general, for an $m \times n$ matrix A, with m > n, the factorization is

 $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{R}$

and

- **Q** is an *orthogonal* matrix: $\mathbf{Q}^T \mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{I} \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{Q}^{-1} = \mathbf{Q}^T$
- **R** is an upper triangular matrix
- solving the normal equations (for LS solution) A^TAx = A^Tb comes to solving

$$\mathbf{R}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{Q}^T \mathbf{b}$$

HOMEWORK: prove the above statement.



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Example

```
1 A = [3 -6; 4 -8; 0 1];
2 b = [-1 7 2]';
3 [Q1,R] = qr(A,0)
4 d = Q1*b;
5 bksolve(R, d) % remember back-subsitution method
6
7 % equivalent (linear regression!):
8 regress(b, A)
```



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A statistical perspective

Changing a bit the notation, the linear model is

$$E[\mathbf{y}] = \mathbf{X}\beta, \qquad \operatorname{Cov}(\mathbf{y}) = \sigma^2 I$$

It can be shown that the best linear unbiased estimator is

$$\hat{eta} = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{R}^{-1} \mathbf{Q}^T \mathbf{y}$$

for a decomposition $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{QR}$. Then $\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{QQ}^T \mathbf{y}$. (Gauss-Markov thm.: LS estimator has the lowest variance among all unbiased linear estimators.) Also,

$$\operatorname{Var}(\hat{\beta}) = (\mathbf{X}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{X})^{-1}\sigma^2 = (\mathbf{R}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{R})^{-1}\sigma^2$$

where $\sigma^2 = \|\mathbf{y} - \hat{\mathbf{y}}\|^2 / (m - n - 1)$.



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Computing the QR factorization

- similarly to LU factorization, we nullify entries under the diagonal, column by column
- now, use orthogonal transformations:
 - Householder transformations
 - Givens rotations
 - Gram-Schmidt orthogonalization
- Matlab:qr()



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Householder transformations

$$\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{I} - 2\frac{\mathbf{v}\mathbf{v}^{T}}{\mathbf{v}^{T}\mathbf{v}}, \qquad \mathbf{v} \neq \mathbf{0}$$

- **H** is orthogonal and symmetric: $\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{H}^T = \mathbf{H}^{-1}$
- v are chosen such that for a vector a:

$$\mathbf{Ha} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \alpha \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \alpha \mathbf{e}_1$$

this leads to v = a - αe₁ with α = ±||a||₂, where the sign is chosen to avoid cancellation



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Householder QR factorization

- apply, the Householder transformation to nuliffy the entries below diagonal
- the process is applied to each column (of the *n*) and produces a transformation of the form

$$\mathbf{H}_n \dots \mathbf{H}_1 \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{R} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}$$

where **R** is $n \times n$ upper triangular

- then take $\mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{H}_1 \dots \mathbf{H}_n$
- note that the multiplication of **H** with a vector **u** is much cheaper than a general matrix-vector multiplication:

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



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Gram-Schmidt orthogonalization

 idea: given two vectors a₁ and a₂, we seek orthonormal vectors q₁ and q₂ having the same span



- method: subtract from a₂ its projection on a₁ and normalize the resulting vectors
- apply this method to each column of **A** to obtain the classical Gram-Schmidt procedure



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```
Algorithm: Classical Gram-Schmidt
for k = 1 to n do
       \mathbf{q}_k \leftarrow \mathbf{a}_k;
       for i = 1 to k - 1 do
              r_{jk} \leftarrow \mathbf{q}_j^T \mathbf{a}_k;
              \mathbf{q}_k \leftarrow \mathbf{q}_k - r_{ik}\mathbf{q}_i;
       end for
       r_{kk} \leftarrow ||\mathbf{q}_k||_2;
       \mathbf{q}_k \leftarrow \mathbf{q}_k / r_{kk};
end for
```

The resulting matrices **Q** (with \mathbf{q}_k as columns) and **R** (with elements r_{jk}) form the reduced QR factorization of **A**.



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Modified Gram-Schmidt procedure

- improved orthogonality in finite-precision
- reduced storage requirements
- HOMEWORK: implement the procedure below in Matlab

```
Algorithm: Modified Gram-Schmidt
```

```
for k = 1 to n do

\begin{vmatrix} r_{kk} \leftarrow ||\mathbf{a}_k||_2; \\ \mathbf{q}_k \leftarrow \mathbf{a}_k/r_{kk}; \\ \text{for } j = k + 1 \text{ to } n \text{ do} \\ | r_{jk} \leftarrow \mathbf{q}_k^T \mathbf{a}_j; \\ | \mathbf{a}_j \leftarrow \mathbf{a}_j - r_{kj} \mathbf{q}_k; \\ \text{end for} \\ \text{end for} \end{aligned}
```



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Further topics on QR factorization

- if rank(A) < n then R is singular and there are multiple solutions x; choose the x with the smallest norm
- in limited precision, the rank can be lower than the theoretical one, leading to highly sensitive solutions → an alternative could be the SVD method (later)
- there exists a version, QR with pivoting, that chooses everytime the column with largest Euclidean norm for reduction → improves stability in rank deficient scenarios
- another method of factorization: Givens rotations makes one
 0 at a time



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Singular Value Decomposition - SVD

• SVD of an $m \times n$ matrix **A** has the form

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{V}^T$$

where **U** is $m \times m$ orthogonal matrix, **V** is $n \times n$ orthogonal matrix, and Σ is $m \times n$ diagonal matrix, with

$$\sigma_{ii} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \neq j \\ \sigma_i \ge 0 & \text{if } i = j \end{cases}$$

- *σ_i* are usually ordered such that *σ*₁ ≥ ··· ≥ *σ_n* and are called singular values of **A**
- the columns u_i and v_i are called left and right singular vectors of A, respectively



• minimum norm solution to $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} \approx \mathbf{b}$ is

$$\mathbf{x} = \sum_{\sigma_i \neq 0} rac{\mathbf{u}_i^T \mathbf{b}}{\sigma_i} \mathbf{v}_i$$

- for ill-conditioned or rank-deficient problems, the sum should be taken over "large enough" σ's: Σ_{σi≥ε}...
- Euclidean norm: $\|\mathbf{A}\|_2 = \max_i \{\sigma_i\}$
- Euclidean condition number: $cond(\mathbf{A}) = \frac{\max_i \{\sigma_i\}}{\min_i \{\sigma_i\}}$
- Rank of **A** : rank(**A**) = $\#\{\sigma_i > 0\}$



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Pseudoinverse (again)

the pseudoinverse of an *m* × *n* matrix **A** with SVD decomposition **A** = **U**Σ**V**^T is

$$\mathbf{A}^+ = \mathbf{V} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} \mathbf{U}^T$$

where

$$[\Sigma^{-1}]_{ii} = \begin{cases} 1/\sigma_i & \text{for } \sigma_i > 0\\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- pseudoinverse always exists and minimum norm solution to $\textbf{Ax} \approx \textbf{b}$ is $\textbf{x} = \textbf{A}^+ \textbf{b}$
- if **A** is square and nonsingular, $\mathbf{A}^{-1} = \mathbf{A}^+$

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SVD and subspaces relevant to A

- \mathbf{u}_i for which $\sigma_i > 0$ form the orthonormal basis of span(A)
- u_i for which σ_i = 0 form the orthonormal basis of the orthogonal complement of span(A)
- v_i for which σ_i = 0 form the orthonormal basis of the null space of A
- v_i for which σ_i > 0 form the orthonormal basis of the orthogonal complement of the null space of A



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SVD and matrix approximation

• A can be re-written as

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{V}^{\mathsf{T}} = \sigma_1 \mathbf{u}_1 \mathbf{v}_1^{\mathsf{T}} + \dots + \sigma_n \mathbf{u}_n \mathbf{v}_n^{\mathsf{T}}$$

- let E_i = u_iv_i^T; E_i has rank 1 and requires only m + n storage locations
- $E_i x$ multiplication requires only m + n multiplications
- assuming σ₁ ≥ σ₂ ≥ ... σ_n then by using the largest k singular values, one obtains the closes approximation of A of rank k:

$$\mathbf{A} \approx \sum_{i=1}^{k} \sigma_i \mathbf{E}_i$$

 many applications to image processing, data compression, cryptography, etc.



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Example - image compression

MATLAB: [U, S, V] = svd(X)





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Example - image compression

MATLAB: [U, S, V] = svd(X)





```
1 X = imread('face01.png');
2 X = double(X) ./ 255.0;
3 
4 [U,S,V] = svd(X);
5 
6 imshow(U(:,1) * S(1,1) * V(:,1)');
7 imshow(U(:,1:5) * S(1:5, 1:5) * V(:,1:5)');
8 imshow(U(:,1:10) * S(1:10, 1:10) * V(:,1:10)');
```



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Total least squares

$\bm{A}\bm{x} \cong \bm{b}$

- ordinary least squares applies when the error affects only **b**
- what if there is error (uncertainty) in A as well?
- total least squares minimizes the orthogonal distances, rather than vertical distances, between model and data



• can be computed using SVD of [A, b]



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Ocmparison of various decompositions



Comparison: work effort

- computing A^TA requires about n²m/2 multiplications and solving the resulting symmetric system, about n³/6 multiplications
- LS problem solution by Householder QR requires about $mn^2 n^3/3$ multiplications
- if *m* ≫ *n*, Householder method requires about twice as much work normal eqs.
- cost of SVD is $\approx (4...10) \times (mn^2 + n^3)$ depending on implementation



Comparison: precision

- relative error for normal eqs. is ~ [cond(A)]²; if cond(A) ≈ 1/ √εmach, Cholesky factorization will break
- Householder method has a relative error

 $\sim \text{cond}(\mathbf{A}) + \|\mathbf{r}\|_2[\text{cond}(\mathbf{A})]^2$

which is the best achievable for LS problems

- Householder method breaks (in back-substitution step) for cond(A) $\lessapprox 1/\epsilon_{mach}$
- while Householder method is more general and more accurate than normal equations, it may not always be worth the additional cost



Comparison: precision, cont'd

- for (nearly) rank-deficient problems, the pivoting Householder method produces useful solution, while normal equations method fails
- SVD is more precise and more robust than Householder method, but much more expensive computationally

