

18-660: Numerical Methods for Engineering Design and Optimization

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Overview

Over-determined Linear Equation Solver

- Pseudo-inverse
- QR decomposition

Fit an approximate function f(x) from sampling points

 $f(x) \approx \alpha_1 \cdot b_1(x) + \alpha_2 \cdot b_2(x) + \cdots$



- Solve over-determined linear equation
 - No exact solution to satisfy all equations, but we can find the least-squares solution:

$$A \cdot \alpha = B$$

$$\square$$

$$\square$$

$$\square$$

$$\|A \cdot \alpha - B\|_{2}^{2}$$

(Least-squares solution)

There are two popular approaches to solve over-determined linear equations





Solution 1



We can prove that the solution yields least-squared error

$$\min_{\alpha} \|A \cdot \alpha - B\|_2^2$$

$$F(\alpha) = \|A \cdot \alpha - B\|_{2}^{2} = (A \cdot \alpha - B)^{T} \cdot (A \cdot \alpha - B)$$

$$F(\alpha) = \left\| A \cdot \alpha - B \right\|_{2}^{2} = \left(\alpha^{T} \cdot A^{T} - B^{T} \right) \cdot \left(A \cdot \alpha - B \right)$$

$$F(\alpha) = \alpha^T A^T A \alpha - \alpha^T A^T B - B^T A \alpha + B^T B$$

$$F(\alpha) = \alpha^T A^T A \alpha - \alpha^T A^T B - B^T A \alpha + B^T B$$

$$\alpha^T A^T B = \left(\alpha^T A^T B\right)^T = B^T A \alpha$$

$$F(\alpha) = \alpha^T A^T A \alpha - 2B^T A \alpha + B^T B$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha} F(\alpha) = \frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha} (\alpha^T A^T A \alpha) - \frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha} (2B^T A \alpha) = 0$$







Proof of optimality



 $2A^T A \alpha - 2A^T B = 0$

$$\alpha = \left(A^T A\right)^{-1} \cdot \left(A^T B\right)$$

Solution 2

 $A \cdot \alpha = B$ **QR** decomposition $A = \begin{bmatrix} Q \\ M \times N \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \times & \times & \times \\ R & \times \\ N \times N & \times \end{bmatrix}$ Orthogonal, i.e., Q^TQ = I Upper triangular

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_1 & A_2 & \cdots \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} Q_1 & Q_2 & \cdots \\ Q_1 & Q_2 & \cdots \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} r_{11} & r_{12} & \cdots \\ & r_{22} & \cdots \\ & & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$



$$A_2 = Q_1 \cdot r_{12} + Q_2 \cdot r_{22} \quad Q_2^T Q_2 = 1 \quad Q_1^T Q_2 = 0$$

$$Q_{1}^{T}A_{2} = Q_{1}^{T}Q_{1} \cdot r_{12} + Q_{1}^{T}Q_{2} \cdot r_{22}$$
$$r_{12} = Q_{1}^{T}A_{2}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_1 & A_2 & \cdots \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} Q_1 & Q_2 & \cdots \\ Q_1 & Q_2 & \cdots \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} r_{11} & r_{12} & \cdots \\ & r_{22} & \cdots \\ & & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A_{2} = Q_{1} \cdot r_{12} + Q_{2} \cdot r_{22} \qquad Q_{2}^{T} Q_{2} = 1 \qquad Q_{1}^{T} Q_{2} = 0$$

$$A_{2} - r_{12} Q_{1} = Q_{2} r_{22}$$

$$|A_{2} - r_{12} Q_{1}||_{2} = r_{22} \cdot ||Q_{2}||_{2}$$

$$Q_{2} = \frac{A_{2} - r_{12} Q_{1}}{r_{22}}$$

$$Q_{2} = \frac{A_{2} - r_{12} Q_{1}}{r_{22}}$$

Continue iteration until Q and R are found

Geometrical interpretation



Start from two vectors A₁ and A₂



Normalized A₁ to determine Q₁

Geometrical interpretation



Decompose A_2 into $r_{12}Q_1$ and $r_{22}Q_2$



Normalized $r_{22}Q_2$ to determine Q_2

- It is referred to as classical Gram-Schmidt algorithm
 Q may not be orthogonal due to numerical errors
- Modified Gram-Schmidt algorithm was proposed to further improve numerical stability

More details can be found at

Numerical Recipes: The Art of Scientific Computing, 2007

Solution 2



In theory, these two approaches yield identical results

$$A \cdot \alpha = B \quad A = Q \cdot R$$

$$A^T A = R^T Q^T Q R = R^T R$$

$$(A^T A)^{-1} = (R^T R)^{-1} = R^{-1} (R^T)^{-1}$$

 $A^T B = R^T Q^T B$

$$\alpha = \left(A^T A\right)^{-1} \cdot \left(A^T B\right) = R^{-1} \left(R^T\right)^{-1} \cdot R^T Q^T B = R^{-1} Q^T B$$

 $(A^{T}A)^{-1}A^{T} = R^{-1}Q^{T}$ is often referred to as pseudo-inverse of A

- In practice, Solution 2 is preferred since it is more robust to numerical noise
 - MATLAB uses a modified version of solution 2 to solve overdetermined linear equations
 - You can use a simple command "α = A\B" to solve overdetermined linear equations in MATLAB

To understand the numerical difference, we check the condition number of both approaches

A simple example based on L₁ matrix norm



Comparison on two solutions

Solution 1 $\alpha = (A^T A)^{-1} \cdot (A^T B)$ Solution 2 $\alpha = R^{-1} \cdot (Q^T B)$

 $k(A^T A) >> k(R)$

Solution 2 is more numerically robust

Summary

- Over-determined linear equation solver
 - Pseudo-inverse
 - QR decomposition