

LEAST SQUARES METHOD

LA 2

10/3/2026

Solving $Ax=b$ when $b \notin C(A)=W$

↳ Solve $Ax=p_W(b)$ instead

How to avoid the projection?

$b \notin W$



Theorem: Let $\mathcal{O} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid Ax = p_W(b)\}$, Then $\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{O}'$.

$$\mathcal{O}' = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid A^T Ax = A^T b\}.$$

Proof: we already know: $b - p_W(b) \in \text{Null}(A^T)$

(as $(b - p_W(b)) \perp W$, and $W = C(A) = R(A^T)$)

$$\subseteq: x \in \mathcal{O}: Ax = p_W(b) \Rightarrow A^T(Ax - p_W(b)) = 0 \Leftrightarrow Ax - p_W(b) \in \text{Null}(A^T) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \underbrace{Ax - p_W(b)}_{\in C(A)} + \underbrace{(p_W(b) - b)}_{\in C(A)} \in \text{Null}(A^T) \Leftrightarrow A^T(Ax - b) = 0 \Leftrightarrow x \in \mathcal{O}'.$$

\supseteq : note that $Ax - p_W(b) \in C(A)$, and $Ax - p_W(b) \perp C(A)$ $\Rightarrow Ax - p_W(b) = 0$ the inner product on \perp i.e., $x \in \mathcal{O}$

ORTHOGONAL MATRICES

Consider VS \mathbb{R}^n with standard inner product, and $\|\cdot\|$.

Def: A matrix $Q \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is orthogonal iff $Q^T Q = I$.

Theorem: The following claims are equivalent:

- a) Q is orthogonal.
- b) Q is invertible and $Q^{-1} = Q^T$,
- c) $Q \cdot Q^T = I$
- d) Q^T is orthogonal.

} follows from properties of matrix inverse

E.g. In \mathbb{R}^2 , matrices of rotation, reflection.

GRAM-SCHMIDT ORTHOGONALIZATION

given a basis (b_1, \dots, b_n) , constructs an ON basis (v_1, \dots, v_n)

for $i = 1, \dots, n$

$$\textcircled{*} \begin{cases} y_i := b_i - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \langle b_i, v_j \rangle \cdot v_j \\ v_i = \frac{y_i}{\|y_i\|} \end{cases}$$

projection of b_i onto $\text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_{i-1})$

Theorem (QR decomposition of invertible matrices):

For every invertible $B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, there exists an orthogonal matrix Q and an upper triangular matrix R with positive diagonal s.t. $B = Q \cdot R$.

Proof: Consider Gram-Schmidt orthogonalization of b_1, \dots, b_n :

note: v_i, v_i is a linear combination of b_1, \dots, b_i , with positive coefficient of b_i .

$$\Rightarrow \text{For } Q = \begin{pmatrix} | & & | \\ v_1 & \dots & v_n \\ | & & | \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } B = \begin{pmatrix} | & & | \\ b_1 & \dots & b_n \\ | & & | \end{pmatrix}, \quad Q = B \cdot P$$

for an upper triangular P with positive diagonal!

Recall (?): An inverse of an upper Δ is upper Δ .

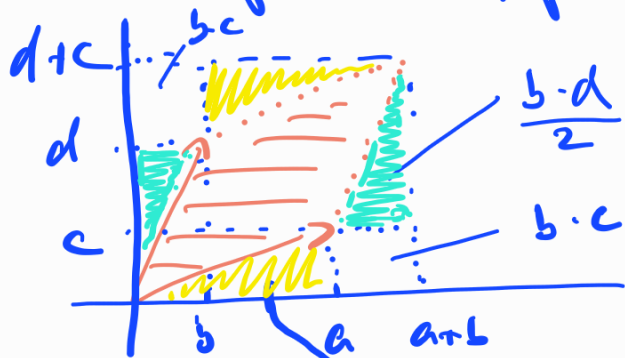
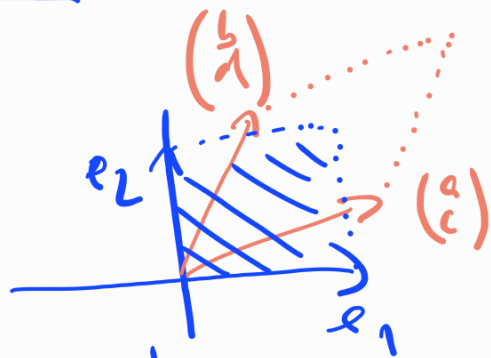
Let $R = P^{-1}$. Then $B = Q \cdot R$.

Moreover, by construction $Q^T \cdot Q = I$. ▣

Meaning: Decomposition is to a product of special matrices.

DETERMINANTS

Motivation 1: Consider linear transformation $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$, $f(x) = Ax$.



$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \quad A \cdot e_1 = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ c \end{pmatrix} \quad A \cdot e_2 = \begin{pmatrix} b \\ d \end{pmatrix} \quad \frac{a \cdot c}{2}$$

f changes a square into a **parallelogram**

The **area** of it: $(a+b)(c+d) - 2 \cdot bc - ac - bd =$
 $= ac + bc + ad + bd - 2bc - ac - bd =$
 $= ad - bc$

The area of the square = 1 \Rightarrow **$(ad - bc)$** -times the area **changed**

Motivation 2: Consider system $Ax = h$.

We know: exactly 1 solution $\Leftrightarrow A$ is invertible.
How to recognize it? We have an algorithm (Gauss elim.) but we want a formula

i) Assume $a \neq 0$ $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \sim \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & ad - bc \end{pmatrix}$

i.e., $ad - bc \neq 0 \Leftrightarrow A$ invertible

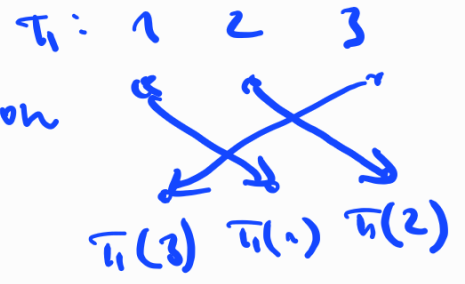
ii) For $a = 0$: $bc \neq 0 \Leftrightarrow A$ invertible
 $ad - bc$

In both cases, the same number $ad - bc$ reveals something important about the matrix A .

Recall:

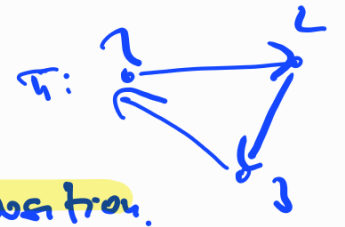
permutation of $\{1, \dots, n\}$ is a bijection

$$\pi: \{1, \dots, n\} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, n\}$$



sign of a permutation

$$\text{sgn}(\pi) = (-1)^{\# \text{inversions}} = (-1)^{n - \# \text{cycles}} = (-1)^{\# \text{transpositions}}$$



transposition

Eg. $\pi = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ $t_{23} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$ $t_{ij}(k) = \begin{cases} i & k=j \\ j & k=i \\ k & k \neq i, j \end{cases}$

$\pi = t_{12} \circ t_{23}$ $t_{12} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$

2 inversions 1 cycle 2 transpositions

$\text{sgn}(\pi) = -1^2 = -1^3 \cdot 1 = -1^2 = 1$... composition

Lemma: i) $\text{sgn}(p \circ q) = \text{sgn}(p) \cdot \text{sgn}(q)$,
ii) $\text{sgn}(p^{-1}) = \text{sgn}(p)$.

Notation: S_n - set of all permutations of $\{1, \dots, n\}$

\odot For every $G \in S_n: \{\pi \circ \sigma : \pi, \sigma \in S_n\} = S_n$.

Note: For a 2×2 matrix ($n=2$) $A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix}$,

we get the formula $a_{11} \cdot a_{22} - a_{12} \cdot a_{21}$, i.e., we sum products of the form $\prod_{i=1}^n a_{i\pi(i)}$ over all permutations $\pi \in S_n$,

appropriately multiplied by ± 1 , depending on $\text{sgn}(\pi)$

Definition: Determinant of a square matrix $A \in \mathbb{T}^{n \times n}$

is the number $\text{det}(A) = \sum_{\pi \in S_n} \text{sgn}(\pi) \cdot \prod_{i=1}^n a_{i\pi(i)}$.

\odot For a triangular (upper or lower) matrix A ,

$\text{det}(A) = \prod_{i=1}^n a_{ii}$ - product of diagonal entries

Theorem:

matrix

vector

scalars

i) If $A = \begin{pmatrix} - & v_1 & - \\ & \vdots & \\ - & v_n & - \end{pmatrix} \in T^{n \times n}$, $z \in T^n$, $\alpha, \beta \in T$,

then for each $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$

$\det \begin{pmatrix} - & v_1 & - \\ \alpha v_i + \beta z & & \\ - & \vdots & \\ - & v_n & - \end{pmatrix} = \alpha \cdot \det(A) + \beta \cdot \det \begin{pmatrix} - & v_1 & - \\ & z & \\ - & \vdots & \\ - & v_n & - \end{pmatrix}$ ← i-th row

(i.e., det is a linear function of each its rows)

ii) If A' is obtained from A by a swap of two rows, then $\det(A') = -\det(A)$.

iii) $\det(I) = 1$.

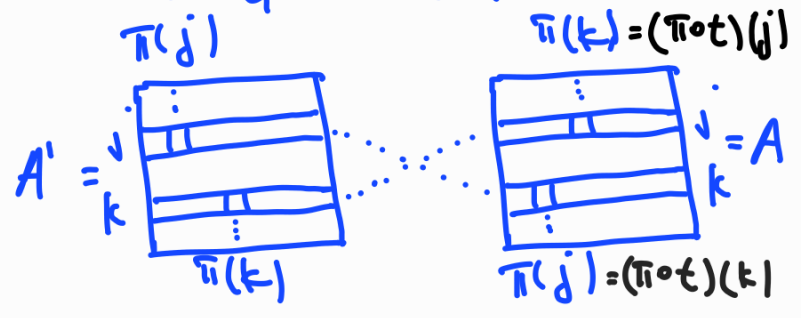
notation: i-th row: $v_i = (a_{i1} \dots a_{in})$

Proof: i) by def.

$\det(B) = \sum_{\pi \in S_n} \text{sgn}(\pi) \cdot a_{1\pi(1)} \dots (\alpha a_{i\pi(i)} + \beta z_{\pi(i)}) \dots a_{n\pi(n)} =$
 $= \alpha \left(\sum_{\pi \in S_n} \text{sgn}(\pi) \cdot a_{1\pi(1)} \dots a_{i\pi(i)} \dots a_{n\pi(n)} \right) +$
 $\beta \left(\sum_{\pi \in S_n} \text{sgn}(\pi) a_{1\pi(1)} \dots z_{\pi(i)} \dots a_{n\pi(n)} \right) = \det(A) + \det \begin{pmatrix} - & v_1 & - \\ & z & \\ - & \vdots & \\ - & v_n & - \end{pmatrix}$

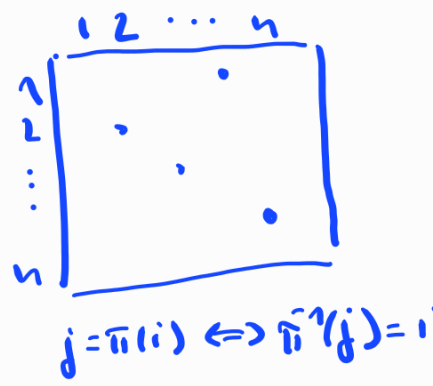
ii) Let $j \neq k$ be the indices of the swapped rows, and $t \in S_n$ be a transposition $t(j)=k, t(k)=j, t(i)=i$ for $i \neq j, k$.

$\det(A') = \sum_{\pi \in S_n} \text{sgn}(\pi) \cdot \prod_{i=1}^n a'_{i\pi(i)} = \sum_{\pi \in S_n} \text{sgn}(\pi) \cdot \prod_{i=1}^n a_{i(\pi \circ t)(i)} =$
 $= \sum_{(\pi \circ t) \in S_n} -\text{sgn}(\pi \circ t) \prod_{i=1}^n a_{i(\pi \circ t)(i)} = -\det(A)$



iii) we already know -
 - I is an upper triangular.

Theorem: $\det(A) = \det(A^T)$



Proof: Note that for each $\pi \in S_n$:

$$\prod_{i=1}^n a_{i, \pi(i)} = \prod_{j=1}^n a_{\pi^{-1}(j), j}$$

As $\text{sgn}(\pi) = \text{sgn}(\pi^{-1})$, we get:

$$\det(A) = \sum_{\pi \in S_n} \text{sgn}(\pi) \prod_{i=1}^n a_{i, \pi(i)} = \sum_{\pi^{-1} \in S_n} \text{sgn}(\pi^{-1}) \prod_{j=1}^n a_{\pi^{-1}(j), j}$$

$$= \sum_{\pi^{-1} \in S_n} \text{sgn}(\pi^{-1}) \sum_{j=1}^n A_{j, \pi^{-1}(j)}^T = \det(A^T)$$

denote

$\pi^{-1} = \pi^{-1}$

