

Numerical Matrix Analysis

Notes #7 — The QR-Factorization and Least Squares Problems: Gram-Schmidt and Householder

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Student Learning Targets, and Objectives

Target Gram-Schmidt Orthogonalization

- Objective “Classical” vs. Modified
- Objective Mathematically Equivalent
- Objective Numerically Divergent

Target Quantifying Computational “Speed”

- Objective Computational Complexity

Target Orthogonalization Alternatives

- Objective Householder Reflections
- Objective (Givens Rotations)



Outline

- 1 Student Learning Targets, and Objectives
 - SLOs: QR-Factorization Least Squares Problems
- 2 Recap
 - Projectors: Orthogonal and Non-Orthogonal
 - Classical Gram-Schmidt
- 3 Gram-Schmidt
 - Bad News for the Classical Version
 - Improving Gram-Schmidt
 - I Feel the Need for Speed!!!
- 4 Gram-Schmidt and Householder: Different Views of QR
 - Gram-Schmidt — Triangular Orthogonalization
 - Householder — Orthogonal Triangularization
 - Householder vs. Gram-Schmidt



Last Time (Projections; Classical Gram-Schmidt)

Orthogonal and non-orthogonal projectors

$$P = P^2, \quad \left[P = P^* \right].$$

Projection with an orthonormal, and arbitrary, basis

$$P = \widehat{Q}\widehat{Q}^*, \quad P = A(A^*A)^{-1}A^*.$$

Rank-one projections, rank- $(m - 1)$ complementary projections

$$P = \vec{q}\vec{q}^*, \quad P_{\perp} = I - \vec{q}\vec{q}^*.$$

QR-Factorization, using classical Gram-Schmidt orthogonalization.



Algorithm: Classical Gram-Schmidt

∃ Movies

Algorithm (Classical Gram-Schmidt)

```

1: for k ∈ {1, ..., n} do
2:   v_k ← a_k
3:   for i ∈ {1, ..., k-1} do
4:     r_ik ← q_i* a_k          /* projection */
5:     v_k ← v_k - r_ik q_i    /* projection */
6:   end for
7:   r_kk ← ||v_k||_2
8:   q_k ← v_k / r_kk
9: end for
    
```

Mathematically, we are done. Numerically, however, we can run into trouble due to roundoff errors.



A Hard Test Problem

Matlab-centric Notation

Let U and V be two randomly selected (80×80) unitary matrices

```
[U, ~] = qr(randn(80, 80)); [V, ~] = qr(randn(80, 80));
```

Build a matrix A with singular values $2^{-1}, 2^{-2}, \dots, 2^{-80}$:
(condition number — $\kappa(A) = 2^{79} \approx 10^{23}$)

```
S = diag(2.^(-1:-1:-80)); A = U * S * V';
```

Finally we compute the QR-factorization using both classical and modified Gram-Schmidt

```
[QC, RC] = qr_cgs(A); HW#3 [QM, RM] = qr_mgs(A); HW#4
```

Now, the diagonals of RC and RM contain the recovered singular values.

Burning Questions: What is the modified Gram-Schmidt method?!?
... and why do we need it?!?



Classical Gram-Schmidt: Revisited ~ The Modified Gram-Schmidt Method

Let $A \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times n}$, $m \geq n$, be a full-rank matrix with columns \vec{a}_k .
With orthogonal projectors P_k we can express the Gram-Schmidt orthogonalization using the formulas

$$\vec{q}_k = \frac{P_k \vec{a}_k}{\|P_k \vec{a}_k\|_2}, \quad k = 1, \dots, n$$

The projector P_k must be an $(m \times m)$ -matrix of rank $(m - (k - 1))$ which projects the space \mathbb{C}^m orthogonally onto the space orthogonal to $\text{span}(\vec{q}_1, \dots, \vec{q}_{k-1})$. ($P_1 = I$).

Note: $\vec{q}_k \in \text{span}(\vec{a}_1, \dots, \vec{a}_k)$ and $\vec{q}_k \perp \text{span}(\vec{q}_1, \dots, \vec{q}_{k-1})$; therefore this description is equivalent to the algorithm on slide 5.

We can represent the projector $P_k = (I - \hat{Q}_{k-1} \hat{Q}_{k-1}^*)$ where \hat{Q}_{k-1} is the $(m \times (k - 1))$ -matrix $[\vec{q}_1 \vec{q}_2 \dots \vec{q}_{k-1}]$.



Classical Gram-Schmidt: The Bad News

1 of 2

Unfortunately, classical Gram-Schmidt is not numerically stable — in finite precision, the vectors \vec{q}_k may lose orthogonality...

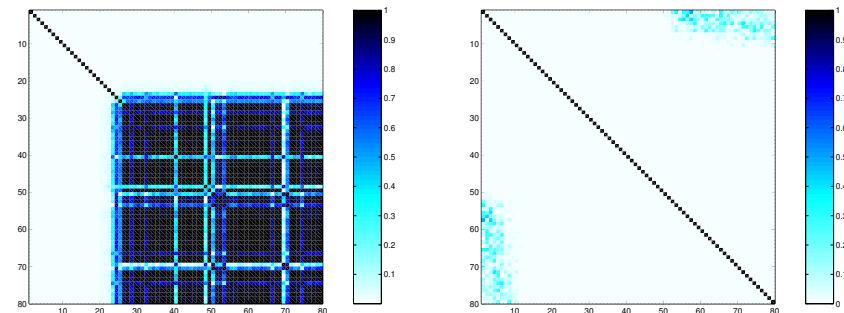


Figure: Comparing Q^*Q (which should be the identity matrix) for classical (left) and modified (right) Gram-Schmidt on a particularly hard problem where $\sigma_1 = 2^{-1}$ and $\sigma_{80} = 2^{-80}$. We see that CGS completely loses orthogonality after 20-some steps; whereas MGS does not suffer this catastrophic breakdown.



Classical Gram-Schmidt: The Bad News

2 of 2

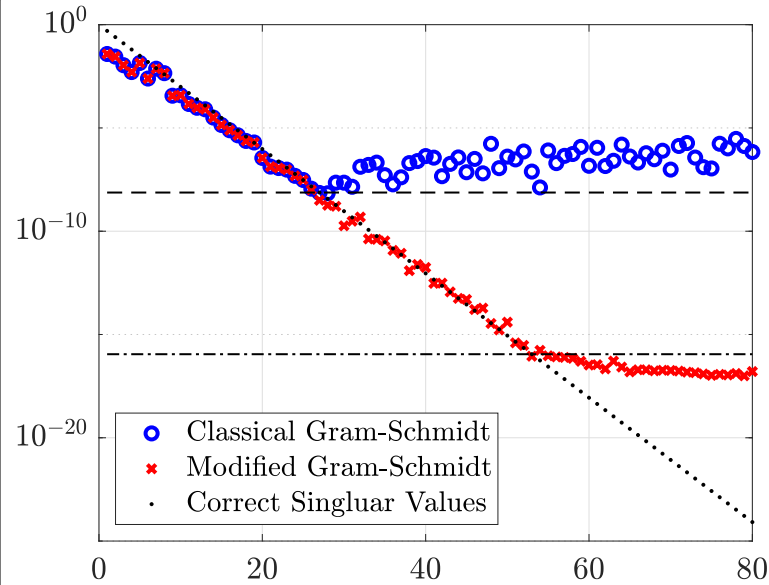


Figure: The performance of classical (blue 'o's') and modified (red 'x's') Gram-Schmidt on a particularly hard problem where $\sigma_1 = \frac{1}{2}$ and $\sigma_{80} = \frac{1}{2^{80}}$. C-GS identifies the first ~ 26 singular values (down to the size $\sim \sqrt{\epsilon_{\text{mach}}}$), whereas M-CG identifies ~ 54 singular values (down to the size $\sim \epsilon_{\text{mach}}$).



An Improvement: Modified Gram-Schmidt

For each k in classical Gram-Schmidt, we compute one orthogonal projection of rank $(m - (k - 1))$:

$$\vec{v}_k = P_k \vec{a}_k.$$

Modified Gram-Schmidt computes the same — **mathematically equivalent** quantity — by a sequence of $(k - 1)$ projections of rank $(m - 1)$:

$$P_1 = I, \quad P_k = P_{\perp \vec{q}_{k-1}} \dots P_{\perp \vec{q}_1}, \quad k > 1,$$

where

$$P_{\perp \vec{q}_k} = I - \vec{q}_k \vec{q}_k^*, \quad k > 1,$$

thus

$$\vec{v}_k = P_{\perp \vec{q}_{k-1}} \dots P_{\perp \vec{q}_1} \vec{a}_k.$$



What is "Machine Epsilon," ϵ_{mach} ???

Machine Epsilon is the smallest positive value for which $1.0 + \epsilon > 1.0$.

In most (double-precision / 64-bit) computational environments $\epsilon_{\text{mach}} \sim 2.22 \times 10^{-16}$, which means we can compute with AT MOST 15 significant (base-10) digits.

Algorithm (Find Machine Epsilon)

- 1: $\text{eps} = 1.0$
- 2: **while** $(1.0 + \text{eps} > 1.0)$ **do**
- 3: $\text{eps} \leftarrow \text{eps}/2$
- 4: **end while**
- 5: $\text{eps} \leftarrow \text{eps} * 2$



Algorithm: Modified Gram-Schmidt

Algorithm (Modified Gram-Schmidt)

- 1: **for** $k \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ **do**
- 2: $\vec{v}_k \leftarrow \vec{a}_k$
- 3: **end for**
- 4: **for** $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ **do**
- 5: $r_{ii} \leftarrow \|\vec{v}_i\|_2$
- 6: $\vec{q}_i \leftarrow \vec{v}_i / r_{ii}$
- 7: **for** $k \in \{(i + 1), \dots, n\}$ **do**
- 8: $r_{ik} \leftarrow \vec{q}_i^* \vec{v}_k$
- 9: $\vec{v}_k \leftarrow \vec{v}_k - r_{ik} \vec{q}_i$
- 10: **end for**
- 11: **end for**

The ordering of the computation is the key... in step $\#i$, we make all the remaining columns orthogonal to column $\#i$.

In practice, usually we let \vec{v}_i overwrite \vec{a}_i , in order to save storage.

We can also let \vec{q}_i overwrite \vec{v}_i to save additional storage.



Comparison: Modified/Classical Gram-Schmidt

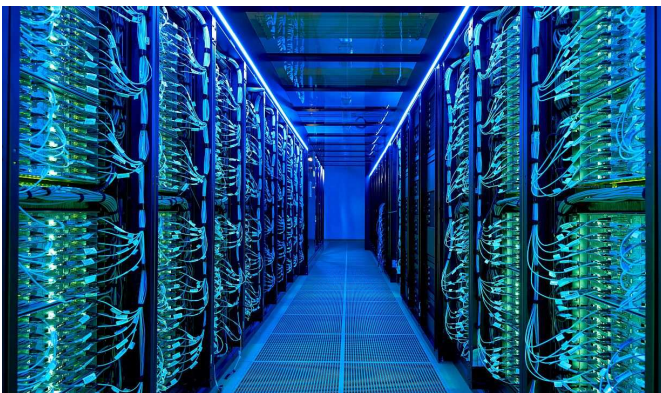
Algorithm (Modified vs. Classical Gram-Schmidt)

<pre> 1: for k ∈ {1, ..., n} do 2: v̄_k ← ā_k 3: end for 4: for i ∈ {1, ..., n} do 5: r̄_ii ← v̄_i _2 6: q̄_i ← v̄_i / r̄_ii 7: for k ∈ {(i+1), ..., n} do 8: r̄_ik ← q̄_i* v̄_k 9: v̄_k ← v̄_k - r̄_ik q̄_i 10: end for 11: end for </pre>	<pre> 1: for k ∈ {1, ..., n} do 2: v̄_k ← ā_k 3: for i ∈ {1, ..., k-1} do 4: r̄_ik ← q̄_i* ā_k 5: v̄_k ← v̄_k - r̄_ik q̄_i 6: end for 7: r̄_kk ← v̄_k _2 8: q̄_k ← v̄_k / r̄_kk 9: end for </pre>
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Clearly, unexpected subtle differences can have a huge impact on the result.



Counting Work: Ancient, Old, and Somewhat Recent Measures



How fast is fast???



Why is $\bar{q}_i^* \bar{v}_k \neq \bar{q}_i^* \bar{a}_k$???

In **infinite precision**, they are the same:

\bar{v}_k contains only the part of $\bar{a}_k \perp \text{span}(\bar{q}_1, \dots, \bar{q}_{k-1})$, i.e

$$\bar{a}_k = \bar{v}_k + \bar{a}_k^\dagger, \quad \text{where } \bar{a}_k^\dagger \in \text{span}(\bar{q}_1, \dots, \bar{q}_{k-1})$$

in the sense that:

$$\bar{q}_i^* \bar{a}_k = \bar{q}_i^* (\bar{v}_k + \bar{a}_k^\dagger) = \bar{q}_i^* \bar{v}_k + \underbrace{\bar{q}_i^* \bar{a}_k^\dagger}_0 = \bar{q}_i^* \bar{v}_k$$

However, *numerically*, throwing out the (infinite-precision) 0 is better than “mixing in” the numerical errors from the computation of $\bar{q}_i^* \bar{a}_k^\dagger$.



Counting Work: Ancient, Old, and Somewhat Recent Measures

We need some measure of how fast, or slow, an algorithm is...

In **ancient times** multiplications (and divisions) were a lot slower than additions (and subtractions) $T_{*,/} \gg T_{+,-}$; so one would count the number of multiplications.

Then the chip designers figured out how to make multiplications faster, so $T_{*,/} \approx T_{+,-}$, so in the **old days** one would count all operations.

Last week, processors were so fast that **memory accesses** dominated the processing time; in particular **cache-misses**, so we end up with a completely different model... (see next slide)

Yesterday, processors suddenly had multiple cores, and hence multiple memory pathways...

This morning we have to deal with GPUs with tens of thousands of cores, FPGAs...



Counting Work: The (Single-Threaded) Memory Access Latency Model

If we have three cache-levels (L1, L2, and L3), some average hit-rate (and hence miss-rate) for each level and the time it takes to access that cache-level (the hit-cycle-time), then we end up with a measure for the average memory access latency per memory access

$$T \sim (L1_hit_rate * L1_hit_cycle_time) + (L1_miss_L2_hit_rate * L2_hit_cycle_time) + (L2_miss_L3_hit_rate * L3_hit_cycle_time) + (L3_miss_rate * [S]DRAM_latency)$$

If this does not scare you, please get a Ph.D. in algorithm design! Meanwhile, the rest of us will count “flops”, i.e. floating-point operations (multiplications and additions)!



Counting Work: Gram-Schmidt Orthogonalization

Theorem (Computational Complexity of Modified Gram-Schmidt)

The modified Gram-Schmidt orthogonalization algorithm requires

$$\sim 2mn^2 \text{ flops}$$

to compute the QR-factorization of an $(m \times n)$ matrix.

Here we have assumed that complex arithmetic is just as fast as real arithmetic. This is not true in general.

$$\begin{aligned} c_1 \cdot c_2 &= [r_1 \cdot r_2 - i_1 \cdot i_2] + i[r_1 \cdot i_2 + r_2 \cdot i_1] \\ c_1 + c_2 &= [r_1 + r_2] + i[i_1 + i_2] \end{aligned}$$

Hence, the complex multiplication consists of 4 real multiplications and 2 real additions; and the complex addition consists of 2 real additions. Also, we need at least double the amount of memory accesses.



11th Generation Intel Core Cache Structure (Already Outdated)

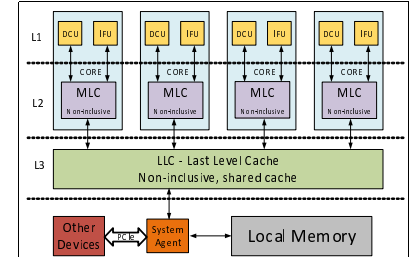
2.4.1 Intel® Smart Cache Technology

- The Intel® Smart Cache Technology is a shared Last Level Cache (LLC).
- The LLC is non-inclusive.
 - The LLC may also be referred to as a 3rd level cache.
 - The LLC is shared between all IA cores as well as the Processor Graphics.

2.4.2 IA Core Level 1 and Level 2 Caches

- The 1st level cache is divided into a data cache (DFU) and an instruction cache (IFU). The processor 1st level cache size is 48 KB for data and 32 KB for instructions. The 1st level cache is an 8-way associative cache.
- The 2nd level cache holds both data and instructions. It is also referred to as mid-level cache or MLC.
- The processor 2nd level cache size is 1.25 MB and is a 20-way non-inclusive associative cache.

Figure 2-4. Processor Cache Hierarchy



Source: 11th Generation Intel Core™ Processor Datasheet, Volume 1 of 2, pages 35–36.
<https://cdrdv2.intel.com/v1/dl/getContent/631121>

See also: <https://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/products/docs/processors/core/core-technical-resources.html>



Counting Flops

The Outer Loop: $\text{for } i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$
 The Inner Loop: $\text{for } k \in \{(i+1), \dots, n\}$
 r_{ik} is formed by an m -inner product -- requiring m multiplications and $(m-1)$ additions
 \vec{v}_k requires m multiplications and m subtractions
 End Inner Loop
 End Outer Loop

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Work} &\sim \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=i+1}^n 4m \sim \sum_{i=1}^n 4m(n-i) \\ &\sim 4mn^2 - 4mn^2/2 \sim 2mn^2 \end{aligned}$$

Note that to leading order summation is “just like” integration:

$$\sum_{i=0}^n i^p \sim \frac{n^{(p+1)}}{(p+1)}$$



Final Comment: Gram-Schmidt Orthogonalization

Comment (Advantages and Disadvantages)

“The Gram-Schmidt process is inherently numerically unstable. While the application of the projections has an appealing geometric analogy to orthogonalization, the orthogonalization itself is prone to numerical error. A significant advantage however is the ease of implementation, which makes this a useful algorithm to use for prototyping if a pre-built linear algebra library is unavailable.”

— Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QR_decomposition#Advantages_and_disadvantages



Householder Triangularization

By Picture

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \times & \times & \times \\ \times & \times & \times \\ \times & \times & \times \\ \times & \times & \times \\ \times & \times & \times \end{bmatrix}}_A \xrightarrow{Q_1} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} * & * & * \\ 0 & * & * \\ 0 & * & * \\ 0 & * & * \\ 0 & * & * \end{bmatrix}}_{Q_1 A} \xrightarrow{Q_2} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \times & \times & \times \\ & * & * \\ & 0 & * \\ & 0 & * \\ & 0 & * \end{bmatrix}}_{Q_2 Q_1 A} \xrightarrow{Q_3} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \times & \times & \times \\ & \times & \times \\ & & * \\ & & 0 \\ & & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{Q_3 Q_2 Q_1 A}$$

- 0 represents a new zero.
- * represents a modified entry.
- × represents an unchanged entry.

The Big Question: How do we find the unitary matrices Q_k !?!



Householder Triangularization

A More Stable Alternative

Householder triangularization is another way of computing the QR-factorization:

Gram-Schmidt	Householder
Numerically stable ^(?) Useful for iterative methods	Even better stability Not as useful for iterative methods
“Triangular Orthogonalization” $AR_1R_2 \dots R_n = \hat{Q}$	“Orthogonal Triangularization” $Q_n \dots Q_2 Q_1 A = R$

Gram-Schmidt: “Build triangular matrices that create orthogonal vectors”

Householder: “Build orthogonal transformations that create triangular matrices”



Householder Reflections

The matrices Q_k are of the form

$$Q_k = \begin{bmatrix} I & 0 \\ 0 & F \end{bmatrix},$$

where I is the $((k-1) \times (k-1))$ identity, and F is an $((m-k+1) \times (m-k+1))$ unitary matrix.

The matrix F is responsible for introducing zeros into the k th column.

Let $\vec{x} \in \mathbb{C}^{m-k+1}$ be the last $(m-k+1)$ entries in the k th column.

$$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} \times \\ \times \\ \vdots \\ \times \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{F} F\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} \pm \|\vec{x}\|_2 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \pm \|\vec{x}\|_2 \vec{e}_1.$$



Householder Reflections: A Geometric View

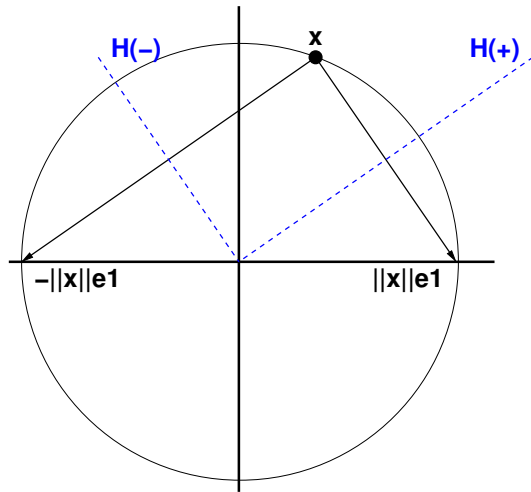


Figure: We can view the two points $\pm\|\vec{x}\|_2\vec{e}_1$ as reflections across the hyperplanes, H_{\pm} , orthogonal to $\vec{v}_{\pm} = \pm\|\vec{x}\|_2\vec{e}_1 - \vec{x}$.

Note: $\vec{e}_1 \in \mathbb{R}^m$ is a unit vector (for the appropriate m) in the first coordinate direction.



Householder Reflections: Which One???

In the real case we have two possibilities, *i.e.*

$$\vec{v}_{\pm} = \pm\|\vec{x}\|_2\vec{e}_1 - \vec{x}, \Rightarrow F_{\pm} = I - 2\frac{\vec{v}_{\pm}\vec{v}_{\pm}^*}{\vec{v}_{\pm}^*\vec{v}_{\pm}}$$

Mathematically, both choices give us an algorithm which produces a triangularization of A . However, from a numerical point of view, the choice which **moves \vec{x} the farthest** is optimal.

If \vec{x} and $\|\vec{x}\|_2\vec{e}_1$ are too close, then the vector $\vec{v} = (\|\vec{x}\|_2\vec{e}_1 - \vec{x})$ used in the reflection operation is the difference between two quantities that are almost the same — catastrophic **cancellation** may occur.

Therefore, we select

$$\tilde{\vec{v}} = -\text{sign}(x_1)\|\tilde{\vec{x}}\|\vec{e}_1 - \tilde{\vec{x}} \stackrel{*}{=} \text{sign}(x_1)\|\tilde{\vec{x}}\|\vec{e}_1 + \tilde{\vec{x}}$$

(*) We can take out the minus sign since \vec{v} always appears “squared” in the reflector.



Householder Reflections: As Projectors

We now use our knowledge of projectors and note that for any $\vec{y} \in \mathbb{C}^m$, the vector $P\vec{y}$ defined by

$$P\vec{y} = \left[I - \frac{\vec{v}\vec{v}^*}{\vec{v}^*\vec{v}} \right] \vec{y} = \vec{y} - \vec{v} \left[\frac{\vec{v}^*\vec{y}}{\vec{v}^*\vec{v}} \right],$$

is the orthogonal projection of \vec{y} onto the space H .

However, in order to **reflect across** the space H we must move the point twice as far, *i.e.*

$$F\vec{y} = \left[I - 2\frac{\vec{v}\vec{v}^*}{\vec{v}^*\vec{v}} \right] \vec{y} = \vec{y} - 2\vec{v} \left[\frac{\vec{v}^*\vec{y}}{\vec{v}^*\vec{v}} \right].$$



Algorithm: Householder QR-Factorization

Algorithm (Householder QR-Factorization)

- 1: **for** $k \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ **do**
- 2: $\vec{x} \leftarrow A(k:m, k)$
- 3: $\vec{v}_k \leftarrow \text{sign}(x_1)\|\vec{x}\|_2\vec{e}_1 + \vec{x}$
- 4: $\vec{v}_k \leftarrow \vec{v}_k / \|\vec{v}_k\|_2$
- 5: $A(k:m, k:n) \leftarrow A(k:m, k:n) - 2\vec{v}_k(\vec{v}_k^* A(k:m, k:n))$
- 6: **end for**

$A(k:m, k)$ Denotes the k th thru m th rows, in the k th column of A — a vector quantity.

$A(k:m, k:n)$ Denotes the k th thru m th rows, in the k th thru n th columns of A — a matrix quantity.



Householder-QR: Where is the Q?!?

1 of 2

At the completion of the Householder QR-factorization, the modified matrix A contains R (of the full QR-factorization), but Q is nowhere to be found.

Often, we only need Q implicitly, as in the **action** of Q on something. *I.e.* if we need $Q^* \vec{b}$, we can add the line

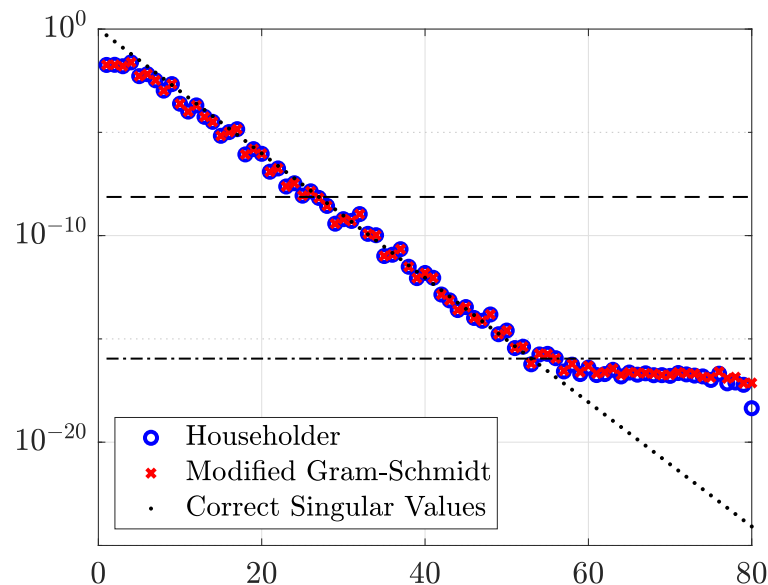
$$\vec{b}(k:m) \leftarrow \vec{b}(k:m) - 2\vec{v}_k(\vec{v}_k^* \vec{b}(k:m))$$

to the loop; or store the generated vectors \vec{v}_k , and *a posteriori* compute

```
for k ∈ {1, ..., n} do
     $\vec{b}(k:m) \leftarrow \vec{b}(k:m) - 2\vec{v}_k(\vec{v}_k^* \vec{b}(k:m))$ 
end for
```



Comparison: Householder vs. Gram-Schmidt (modified)



Householder-QR: Where is the Q?!?

2 of 2

If we need $Q\vec{x}$, then we must store the generated vectors \vec{v}_k , and compute

```
for k ∈ {n, ..., 1} do
     $\vec{x}(k:m) \leftarrow \vec{x}(k:m) - 2\vec{v}_k(\vec{v}_k^* \vec{x}(k:m))$ 
end for
```

We can also use this algorithm to explicitly generate Q

```
Q ← I_{n × n}
for k ∈ {n, ..., 1} do
    Q(k:m, k:n) ← Q(k:m, k:n) - 2\vec{v}_k(\vec{v}_k^* Q(k:m, k:n))
end for
```



Q-Orthogonality: Householder, Modified-GS, and Classical-GS

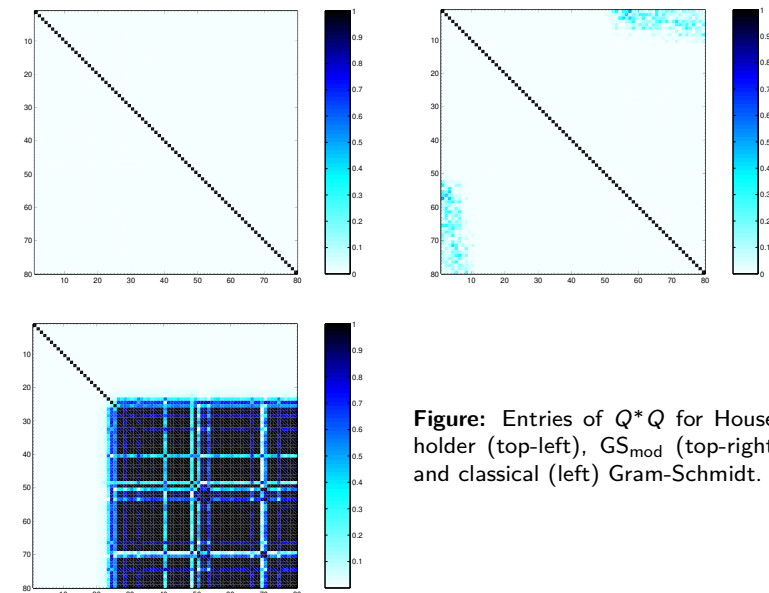


Figure: Entries of Q^*Q for Householder (top-left), GS_{mod} (top-right) and classical (left) Gram-Schmidt.



Householder-QR: Work

mgs: $\sim 2mn^2$

The dominating work is done in the operation

$$A(k:m, k:n) \leftarrow A(k:m, k:n) - 2\vec{v}_k(\vec{v}_k^* A(k:m, k:n))$$

Each entry in $A(k:m, k:n)$ is “touched” by 4 flops per iteration (2 from the inner product, 1 scalar multiplication, and 1 subtraction).

The size of the sub-matrix $A(k:m, k:n)$ is $((m - k + 1) \times (n - k + 1))$, so we get

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^n (m-k+1)(n-k+1) &\sim \sum_{k=1}^n (m-k)(n-k) \sim \sum_{k=1}^n (mn + k^2 - k(m+n)) \\ &\sim mn^2 + \frac{n^3}{3} - \frac{n^2}{2}(m+n) \sim \frac{mn^2}{2} - \frac{n^3}{6} \end{aligned}$$

Hence, the work of Householder-QR is $\sim 2mn^2 - \frac{2n^3}{3}$ flops.



Final Comment: Householder Reflections

Comment (Advantages and Disadvantages)

*“The use of Householder transformations is inherently the most simple of the numerically stable QR decomposition algorithms due to the use of reflections as the mechanism for producing zeroes in the R matrix. However, the Householder reflection algorithm is **bandwidth heavy and not parallelizable**, as every reflection that produces a new zero element changes the entirety of both Q and R matrices.”*

— Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QR_decomposition#Advantages_and_disadvantages.2

