

6 QR decomposition

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Def 11.8 Given any $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, a QR-decomposition of A is any pair of $n \times n$ matrices (Q, R) , where Q is an orthogonal matrix and R is an upper triangular matrix s.t. $A = QR$.
 (Note that if A is not invertible, then some diagonal entry in R must be 0.)

Prop. 11.14/11.16 Given any invertible $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, then \exists an orthogonal Q and upper triangular R with pos. diag. entries s.t. $A = QR$.

proof. Let $A = (A^1 \dots A^n)$, so $A^i \in \mathbb{R}^n$ are cols of A .

If A is invertible, then A^i 's are lin. ind., so we can produce an orthonormal basis using Gram-Schmidt orthonormalization.

$$\text{Let } Q^1 = A^1, \quad Q^1 = \frac{Q^1}{\|Q^1\|}.$$

$$\text{and } Q^{k+1} = A^{k+1} - \sum_{i=1}^k (A^{k+1} \cdot Q^i) Q^i, \quad Q^{k+1} = \frac{Q^{k+1}}{\|Q^{k+1}\|}.$$

We can rewrite those equations:

$$A^1 = \|Q^1\| Q^1$$

$$\vdots$$

$$A^j = \sum_{k=1}^{j-1} (A^j \cdot Q^k) Q^k + \|Q^j\| Q^j$$

$$\vdots$$

$$A^n = \sum_{k=1}^n (A^n \cdot Q^k) Q^k + \|Q^n\| Q^n$$

Let $r_{kk} = \|Q^k\|$ and $r_{ij} = A^j \cdot Q^i$, $1 \leq k \leq n$, $2 \leq j \leq n$, $1 \leq i \leq j-1$.

$$\text{Then } A^j = \sum_{k=1}^{j-1} r_{kj} Q^k + r_{jj} Q^j$$

$$\text{So } a_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^{j-1} r_{kj} q_{ik} + r_{jj} q_{ij} \quad \text{for } 2 \leq j \leq n, \quad 1 \leq i \leq j-1.$$

Note:

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & \dots & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} r_{11} & \dots & r_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & r_{nn} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11}r_{11} & a_{11}r_{12} + a_{12}r_{22} & \dots & \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} a_{1k}r_{kn} + a_{1n}r_{nn} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \end{bmatrix} = (a_{ij})_{i,j}$$

Thus, if we let $Q = (Q^1 \dots Q^n)$

$R = (r_{ij})$ as given above (and 0 below the diagonal),

$$A = QR.$$



Aside: The QR decomposition is unique when requiring pos. diag. entries because if $A = Q_1 R_1 = Q_2 R_2$

$$\Rightarrow R_1 R_2^{-1} = Q_1^T Q_2 \text{ is orthogonal}$$

$$\Rightarrow R_1 R_2^{-1} \text{ is diagonal (because upper triangular and orthogonal)} \\ \text{with } \pm 1 \text{ entries.}$$

$$\Rightarrow Q_2 = Q_1 D \text{ and } R_2 = D R_1.$$

We will see later that we do not require invertibility.

Prop 11.5/11.17 (Hadamard) For any real $n \times n$ matrix $A = (a_{ij})$,

$$|\det(A)| \leq \prod_{i=1}^n \left(\sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \text{ and } |\det(A)| \leq \prod_{j=1}^n \left(\sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

Equality holds iff either A has a zero row in the left inequality or a zero col in the right inequality or the columns of A are orthogonal.

proof. If $\det(A) = 0$, inequality is trivial.

Further, if RHS = 0, then some column or row is 0.

If $|\det(A)| \neq 0$ then $A = QR$ $r_{ii} > 0$, Q orthogonal, R upper triangular.

Further, if $\text{RHS} = 0$, then some column is zero.
 If $\det(A) \neq 0$, then $A = QR$, $r_{ii} > 0$, Q orthogonal, R upper triangular.
 $\det(Q^T Q) = 1 \Rightarrow \det(Q) = \pm 1$.

$$\Rightarrow |\det(A)| = |\det(Q)| |\det(R)| = \prod_{j=1}^n r_{jj}.$$

Note $\sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij}^2 = \|A^j\|_2^2 = \|QR^j\|_2^2 = \|R^j\|_2^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n r_{ij}^2 \geq r_{jj}^2$.

$$\Rightarrow |\det(A)| = \prod_{j=1}^n r_{jj} \leq \prod_{j=1}^n \|R^j\|_2 = \prod_{j=1}^n \left(\sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

Can apply same proof to A^T to get other ineq.

Finally, if $\det(A) \neq 0$ and equality holds, then

$$\begin{aligned} r_{jj} &= \|A^j\|_2 \\ \Rightarrow r_{jj} &= \|Q^T A^j\|_2 \\ &= \|R^j\|_2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} A &= QR \\ Q^T A &= R \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow r_{ij} = 0 \quad \forall i \neq j. \Rightarrow R \text{ is diagonal}$$

$$\Rightarrow A = QR = (Q^1 \dots Q^n) \begin{pmatrix} r_{11} & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & r_{nn} \end{pmatrix} = (r_{11} Q^1 \dots r_{nn} Q^n).$$

\Rightarrow rows of A are orthogonal.



Prop. 11.16/11.18 (Hadamard) If $A = (a_{ij}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is symmetric pos. semi-definite

then $\det(A) \leq \prod_{i=1}^n a_{ii}$.

Moreover, if A is pos. def., equality holds iff A is diagonal.

proof. Trivial if $\det(A) = 0$.

Otherwise, let $A = B^T B$, B an upper triangular matrix with pos. diagonal entries. (Cholesky)

Then $\det(A) = \det(B)^2$.

By the prev. Prop., $\det(B) \leq \prod_{j=1}^n \left(\sum_{i=1}^n b_{ij}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$.

$$\text{But } a_{jj} = \sum_{i=1}^n b_{ij}^2 \Rightarrow \det(B) \leq \prod_{j=1}^n \sqrt{a_{jj}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \det(A) = \det(B)^2 \leq \prod_{j=1}^n a_{jj}$$

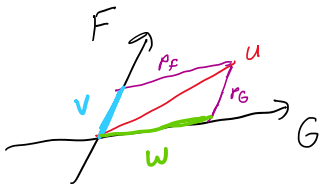
For equality, note that then B has to be orthogonal $\Rightarrow B$ is diagonal $\Rightarrow A$ is diagonal. □

So far, we have only shown the QR decomposition for square invertible matrices. Here, we show that you don't need invertibility.

Aside: can even do for rectangular matrices $m \times n$, if $m \geq n$.

Define: Recall that given a vector space E , and subspaces F and G of E , the direct sum $E = F \oplus G$ means that $\forall u \in E$, u can be uniquely written as $u = v + w$, where $v \in F$ and $w \in G$.

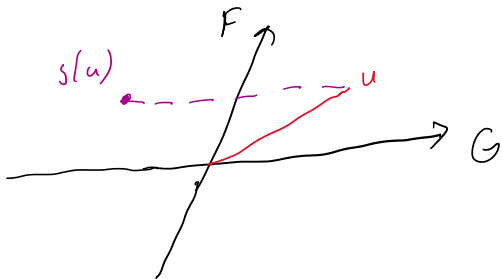
Define: We define the projections $p_F: E \rightarrow F$ and $p_G: E \rightarrow G$ s.t. $p_F(u) = v$ and $p_G(u) = w$, where $u = v + w$.



Note: p_F and p_G are linear, and $p_F^2 = p_F$, $p_G^2 = p_G$, $p_F \circ p_G = p_G \circ p_F = 0$, $p_F + p_G = \text{id}$.

Definition 12.1 Given a vector space $E = F \oplus G$, the symmetry (or reflection) with respect to F and parallel to G is the linear map $s: E \rightarrow E$ defined s.t. $s(u) = 2p_F(u) - u$, $\forall u \in E$.

Note: $s(u) = p_F(u) - p_G(u) = u - 2p_G(u)$, $s^2 = \text{id}$, $s = \text{id}_F$, $s = -\text{id}_G$.



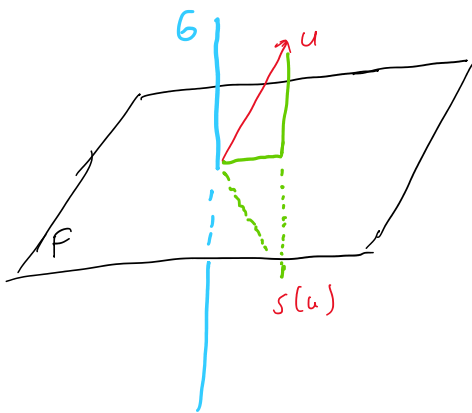
Definition 12.2 Let E be a Euclidean space of finite dim n . For $F, G \subset E$ s.t. $E = F \oplus G$ is an orthogonal

Definition 12.2 Let E be a Euclidean space of finite dim n . For any two subspaces F and G , if $E = F \oplus G$ and F and G are orthogonal (i.e. $F = G^\perp$), the **orthogonal symmetry (or reflection)** w.r.t. F and parallel to G is the linear map $s: E \rightarrow E$ defined s.t.

$$s(u) = 2p_F(u) - u = p_F(u) - p_G(u), \quad \forall u \in E.$$

When F is a hyperplane, we call s a **hyperplane symmetry** with respect to F (or **reflection about F**) and when G is a plane (i.e. $\dim(F) = n-2$), we call s a **flip about F** .

(recall hyperplanes have $\dim n-1$)



Lemma: Let $s: E \rightarrow E$ be an orthogonal symmetry w.r.t. F and parallel to G . Then s is an isometry.

Proof. $\forall u, v \in E, \quad \|u+v\|^2 - \|u-v\|^2 = 4(u \cdot v)$
So if $u \cdot v = 0$, then $\|u+v\| = \|u-v\|$

(intuitively, flipping the sign of a coordinate doesn't change the Euclidean norm)

Recall $u = p_F(u) + p_G(u)$ and $s(u) = p_F(u) - p_G(u)$

Further, F and G are orthogonal, so $p_F(u) \cdot p_G(u) = 0$.

Thus, $\|s(u)\| = \|p_F(u) - p_G(u)\| = \|p_F(u) + p_G(u)\| = \|u\|$. ◻

Recall: We can find an orthonormal basis (e_1, \dots, e_n) of E s.t. (e_1, \dots, e_p) is an orthonormal basis of F and (e_{p+1}, \dots, e_n) is an orthonormal basis of G .

Then, the matrix of s in this basis is

$$\begin{pmatrix} I_p & 0 \\ 0 & -I_{n-p} \end{pmatrix}.$$

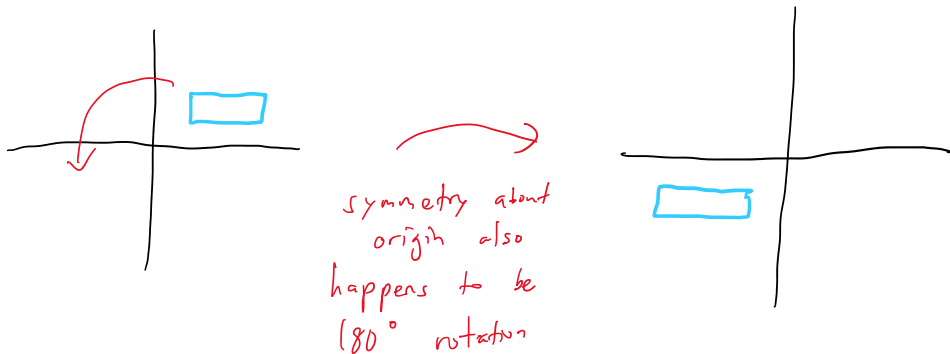
$$\Rightarrow \det(s) = (-1)^{n-p}$$

Thus, s is a **rotation** if $n-p$ is even (recall, rotations have $\det = 1$)

If $F = \{0\}$, then $s = -id$, the symmetry w.r.t. the origin

(a rotation if n is even)

(an improper orthogonal transformation if n is odd)



If $F = H$ a hyperplane (i.e. $\dim(F) = n-1$), and s is an orthogonal symmetry w.r.t. F and parallel to G , then $p_G(u) = \lambda w$ for some $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$, $\lambda \neq 0$ orthogonal to H .

Then, because $u \cdot w = \lambda \|w\|^2$

$$\Rightarrow p_G(u) = \frac{(u \cdot w)}{\|w\|^2} w$$

$$\text{Then } s(u) = u - 2p_G(u) = u - 2 \frac{(u \cdot w)}{\|w\|^2} w.$$

Prop. 12.1: Let E be a finite-dim. Euclidean space and let H be a hyperplane in E . For any nonzero vector w orthogonal to H , the hyperplane reflection s about H is given by

$$s(u) = u - 2 \frac{(u \cdot w)}{\|w\|^2} w, \quad u \in E.$$

Of course, we can also write s in matrix form.

Def. 12.3: A Householder matrix is a matrix of the form

$$H = I_n - 2 \cdot \frac{WW^T}{\|w\|^2} = I_n - 2 \cdot \frac{WW^T}{W^T W},$$

where $W \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is a nonzero vector.

Note: H is clearly symmetric.

$$H^T H = \left(I_n - 2 \cdot \frac{WW^T}{\|w\|^2} \right)^2 = I_n - 4 \cdot \frac{WW^T}{\|w\|^2} + 4 \cdot \frac{W(W^T W)W^T}{\|w\|^2} = I_n;$$

so H is orthogonal.

Suppose H is the hyperplane orthogonal to a nonzero vector w ,
and W is the representation of w in an orthonormal basis (e_1, \dots, e_n) .

Then $P_G = \frac{WW^T}{W^T W}$ and $P_H = I_n - \frac{WW^T}{W^T W}$, so the Householder matrix
 $H = I_n - 2 \cdot \frac{WW^T}{\|w\|^2}$ is exactly

$$\left(P_G(u) = \frac{(u \cdot w)}{\|w\|^2} w \right) \quad \left(P_G + P_H = I \right)$$

the reflection about H
under the chosen basis.

Aside: Rotations in \mathbb{R}^3 can be expressed in this form.

Prop. 12.2 Let E be any nontrivial Euclidean space, $\forall u, v \in E$, if $\|u\| = \|v\|$,
then there is a hyperplane H s.t. the reflection s about H maps
 u to v , and if $u \neq v$, then this reflection is unique.

proof. If $u = v$, then let $u \in H$. Any such H will do.

Otherwise, let $H = \{v - u\}^\perp$

$$\Rightarrow s(u) = u - 2 \frac{u \cdot (v - u)}{\|v - u\|^2} (v - u) = u + \frac{2\|u\|^2 - 2u \cdot v}{\|v - u\|^2} (v - u)$$

Note $\|v - u\|^2 = \|u\|^2 + \|v\|^2 - 2u \cdot v = 2\|u\|^2 - 2u \cdot v$

$$\Rightarrow s(u) = u + (v - u) = v.$$



Now that we have Householder matrices, we can get another more general proof of QR-decompositions, even for non-invertible matrices.

Prop. 12.3 Let E be a nontrivial Euclidean space of dim n . For any orthonormal basis (e_1, \dots, e_n) and for any n -tuple of vectors (v_1, \dots, v_n) , there is a sequence of n isometries h_1, \dots, h_n s.t. h_i is a hyperplane reflection or the identity, and if (r_1, \dots, r_n) are the vectors given by

$$r_j = h_n \circ \dots \circ h_2 \circ h_1(v_j),$$

then every r_j is a linear combination of the vectors (e_1, \dots, e_j) . Equivalently, the matrix R whose cols are r_j expressed over (e_1, \dots, e_n) is an upper triangular matrix.

Furthermore, the h_i can be chosen so that the diagonal entries of R are nonnegative.

proof.

For $n=1$, $v_1 = \lambda e_1$ for some $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$.

If $\lambda \geq 0$, let $h_1 = \text{id}$.

Else, let $h_1 = -\text{id}$, the reflection about the origin.

For $n \geq 2$, we need to find h_1 , and then we proceed by induction.

Let $r_{1,1} = \|v_1\|$.

If $v_1 = r_{1,1} e_1$, let $h_1 = \text{id}$.

Else, let h_1 be the unique hyperplane reflection taking v_1 to $r_{1,1} e_1$.

$$\begin{cases} h_1(v_1) = r_{1,1} e_1 \\ h_1(u) = u - 2 \frac{(u \cdot w_1)}{\|w_1\|^2} w_1, \quad w_1 = r_{1,1} e_1 - v_1 \end{cases}$$

Clearly, then $r_1 = \text{span}\{e_1\}$ and $r_{1,1} = \|v_1\| \geq 0$.

Now let's suppose we already have k linear maps h_1, \dots, h_k such that $r_j = h_k \circ \dots \circ h_1(v_j)$ is a linear combination of e_1, \dots, e_j .

Let $U_k' = \text{span}\{e_1, \dots, e_k\}$

$U_k'' = \text{span}\{e_{k+1}, \dots, e_n\}$, so $E = U_k' \oplus U_k''$.

$$U_k'' = \text{span} \{ e_{k+1}, \dots, e_n \}, \quad \text{so } E = U_k' \oplus U_k''.$$

$$\text{Let } u_{k+1} = h_k \circ \dots \circ h_1 (v_{k+1}). \quad (\text{the application of the first } k \text{ reflections to } v_{k+1})$$

$$\text{Then } u_{k+1} = u_{k+1}' + u_{k+1}'', \quad \text{where } u_{k+1}' \in U_k' \text{ and } u_{k+1}'' \in U_k''.$$

$$\text{Let } r_{k+1, k+1} = \|u_{k+1}''\|.$$

$$\text{If } u_{k+1}'' = r_{k+1, k+1} e_{k+1}, \quad \text{let } h_{k+1} = \text{id}.$$

If the part of u_{k+1} not in the span of the first k basis vectors is exactly in the span of the $(k+1)$ th basis vector, then we don't have to do anything

$$H^k \dots H^1 V = \begin{bmatrix} * & * \\ 0 & * \\ * & * \\ 0 & ? \\ * & * \end{bmatrix}$$

Otherwise, choose the unique hyperplane reflection s.t.

$$h_{k+1}(u_{k+1}'') = r_{k+1, k+1} e_{k+1}.$$

$$\text{defined by } h_{k+1}(u) = u - \frac{2(u \cdot w_{k+1})}{\|w_{k+1}\|^2} w_{k+1}, \quad w_{k+1} = r_{k+1, k+1} e_{k+1} - u_{k+1}''.$$

This of course corresponds to reflection about the hyperplane H_{k+1} orthonormal to w_{k+1} .

$$\text{But } u_{k+1}'', e_{k+1} \in U_k'', \text{ so } w_{k+1} \in U_k''.$$


$$\Rightarrow H_{k+1} = \{w_{k+1}\}^\perp \supseteq U_k'.$$

$$\Rightarrow r_1, \dots, r_k \text{ and } U_{k+1}' \text{ are invariant under } h_{k+1}.$$

$$\Rightarrow h_{k+1}(u_{k+1}) = h_{k+1}(u_{k+1}') + h_{k+1}(u_{k+1}'') = u_{k+1}' + r_{k+1, k+1} e_{k+1} \in \text{span} \{e_1, \dots, e_{k+1}\}.$$

$$\text{Let } r_{k+1} = h_{k+1}(u_{k+1}) \in \text{span} \{e_1, \dots, e_{k+1}\}.$$

$$= h_{k+1} \circ h_k \circ \dots \circ h_2 \circ h_1 (v_{k+1}).$$

Furthermore, $r_{k+1, k+1} = \|u_{k+1}''\| \geq 0$, completing the induction step. 

Theorem 12.1/12.4 For every real $n \times n$ matrix A , \exists a sequence H_1, \dots, H_k where each H_i is either a Householder

Theorem 12.1/12.4 For every real $n \times n$ matrix A , \exists a sequence H_1, \dots, H_n of matrices, where each H_i is either a Householder matrix or the identity, and an upper triangular matrix R , s.t.

$$R = H_n \cdots H_2 H_1 A.$$

Corollary: For any $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, $A = QR$, where Q is orthogonal and R is upper triangular with nonnegative diagonal entries.

Notes: (1) If A is invertible, and the diagonal of R is strictly positive, then $A = QR$ is unique.

(2) $\det(A) = (-1)^m \det(R)$.

(3) The condition number of A is preserved.

(4) The method also applies to any m -tuple of vectors (v_1, \dots, v_n) with $m \leq n$. Then R is an upper triangular $m \times m$ matrix and Q is an $n \times m$ matrix with orthogonal columns $Q^T Q = I_m$.

(5) Similarly, applies to $m \times n$ matrix with $m \geq n$. Then $R \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ triangular and $Q \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ s.t. $Q^T Q = I_n$.

Aside: There is a complex analogue to QR decomposition, where Q is a unitary matrix.