

Last Time: Least Squares Problems

minimize  $\|\vec{x} - \vec{b}\|_2^2 \leftarrow \sum_{i=1}^m \left( \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j - b_i \right)^2$

$(\vec{b} - A\vec{x}) \perp \text{col } A$

$\Rightarrow \underbrace{A^T A}_{\text{Normal Equation}} \vec{x} = A^T \vec{b}$

Solving the normal equations is bad idea numerically:

The condition number (relative  $l_2$ ) of  $A^T A$  is the square of that of  $A$ .

Instead solve a consistent system:

$A\vec{x} = \text{proj}_{\text{col } A} \vec{b} \Rightarrow$  If  $\hat{u}_1, \dots, \hat{u}_n$  is an orthonormal basis for  $\text{col } A$ , then  $U U^T \vec{b} = (\hat{u}_1 \dots \hat{u}_n) \begin{pmatrix} \hat{u}_1^T \vec{b} \\ \vdots \\ \hat{u}_n^T \vec{b} \end{pmatrix}$  is the projection of  $\vec{b}$  onto  $\text{col } A$ .

$\Rightarrow A\vec{x} = U U^T \vec{b}$  is consistent.

The columns of  $U$  are orthonormal, so  $U$  is an orthogonal matrix  $\Rightarrow U^T U = I$ .

Use Gram-Schmidt process.

## G-S Process:

Goal: Given some set of vectors  $\vec{a}_1, \dots, \vec{a}_n$ , form another sequence of vectors  $\hat{q}_1, \hat{q}_2, \dots, \hat{q}_n$  that are orthonormal.

Let:  $\hat{q}_1 = \vec{a}_1 / \|\vec{a}_1\| \Rightarrow \|\hat{q}_1\| = 1$  All norms are  $l_2$  norms.

$$\vec{q}'_2 = \vec{a}_2 - \underbrace{(\vec{a}_2, \hat{q}_1)}_{\text{inner product}} \hat{q}_1$$

is not normalized

$$(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) = \vec{x}^T \vec{y}$$

$\wedge$  means unit vector.

$$\hat{q}_2 = \vec{q}'_2 / \|\vec{q}'_2\|$$

Proceed ...

$$\vec{q}'_3 = \vec{a}_3 - (\vec{a}_3, \hat{q}_1) \hat{q}_1 - (\vec{a}_3, \hat{q}_2) \hat{q}_2$$

$$\hat{q}_3 = \vec{q}'_3 / \|\vec{q}'_3\|$$

So when we are done, by construction,

$$Q = (\hat{q}_1 \hat{q}_2 \dots \hat{q}_n) \quad \text{then} \quad Q^T Q = I$$

And the projection of  $\vec{x}$  onto the column space of  $A$ , i.e.  $\text{Span}\{\vec{a}_1, \dots, \vec{a}_n\}$  is just  $\text{proj}_A \vec{x} = Q Q^T \vec{x}$

Furthermore, this automatically yields a factorization of the matrix  $A$ :

$$\text{col } Q = \text{col } A$$

So any  $\hat{q}_j = c_1 \vec{a}_1 + \dots + c_n \vec{a}_n$

and likewise  $\vec{a}_j = d_1 \hat{q}_1 + \dots + d_n \hat{q}_n$

This gives us the QR factorization:

$$A = QR$$

$$(\vec{a}_1 \dots \vec{a}_n) = (\hat{q}_1 \hat{q}_2 \dots \hat{q}_n) \begin{pmatrix} r_{11} & r_{12} & r_{13} & \dots & r_{1n} \\ 0 & r_{22} & & & \\ 0 & & \ddots & & \\ \vdots & & & & r_{nn} \end{pmatrix}$$

The question is: what are the  $r_{ij}$ 's?

$r_{ij}$ 's can be obtained from G-S process.

Ex: From G-S:

$$\hat{q}_1 = \frac{\vec{a}_1}{\|\vec{a}_1\|} \Rightarrow \vec{a}_1 = \|\vec{a}_1\| \hat{q}_1 \Rightarrow r_{11} = \|\vec{a}_1\|$$

$$\vec{q}'_2 = \vec{a}_2 - (\vec{a}_2, \hat{q}_1) \hat{q}_1$$

$$\vec{q}'_2 = \|\vec{a}_2 - (\vec{a}_2, \hat{q}_1) \hat{q}_1\| \hat{q}_2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \vec{a}_2 &= \underbrace{(\vec{a}_2, \hat{q}_1)}_{r_{12}} \hat{q}_1 + \vec{q}'_2 \\ &= r_{12} \hat{q}_1 + r_{22} \hat{q}_2 \end{aligned}$$

With sufficient bookkeeping, the G-S process yields the factorization  $A = QR$ .

So now: to solve least squares:

$$\textcircled{1} A\vec{x} = Q \underbrace{Q^T \vec{b}}_{\vec{c}}$$

Alternatively:

$$\textcircled{2} \text{ Given that } A = QR$$

$$\text{Solve } \underbrace{R\vec{x}}_{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{upper triangular system}}} = \underbrace{Q^T \vec{b}}_{\vec{c}}$$

Preferred method

Show later on HW or exam...

# Applications: Linear Regression

Given data:  $(x_i^1, x_i^2, y_i)$  for  $i = 1 \dots n$

Generative model:  $y = a + bx_1 + cx_2 + \epsilon$   
 $\epsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$  error or measurement noise.

You observe  $y_i = a + bx_i^1 + cx_i^2 + \epsilon_i$   
 $\uparrow$  dependent variable  
 $\uparrow$  independent variables

Assumption is that noise only appears in  $y_i$ .

Given an estimate of  $a, b, c$ :  $\hat{a}, \hat{b}, \hat{c}$ , then the residuals are given as

$$r_i = y_i - \underbrace{(\hat{a} + \hat{b}x_i^1 + \hat{c}x_i^2)}_{\text{predicted value, given estimates } \hat{a}, \hat{b}, \hat{c}.}$$

$\uparrow$  observed value

Question: How do we estimate  $a, b, c$ ?

One option: minimize the squared residuals:

$$\min_{a, b, c} \|\vec{r}\|_2^2 = \min_{a, b, c} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - a - bx_i^1 - cx_i^2)^2$$

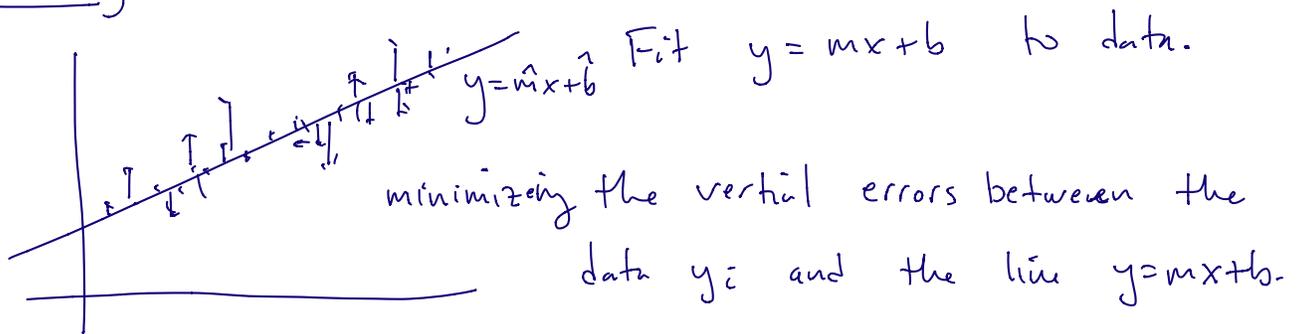
This is a least squares problem.

Form the least square system:

$$\min_{a, b, c} \left\| \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 1 & x_1^1 & x_1^2 \\ 1 & x_2^1 & x_2^2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_n^1 & x_n^2 \end{pmatrix}}_X \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{pmatrix}}_{\vec{a}} - \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix}}_{\vec{y}} \right\|$$

design matrix  
 $\downarrow$   
 $= \min_{\vec{a}} \|X\vec{a} - \vec{y}\|$

## Graphically



One additional method to solve least squares problems:

Using the SVD.

Recall: If  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $m > n$ ,  $\text{rank } A = n$ .

Then we can write  $A = U S V^T$

$U$ :  $m \times n$  orthogonal  
 $S$ : diagonal  $n \times n$   
 $V^T$ :  $n \times n$  orthogonal.

Special case: If  $A$  is invertible ( $m = n$ ) then

$$A^{-1} = (U S V^T)^{-1} = V^{-T} S^{-1} U^{-1} \quad \text{but } U, V \text{ are orthogonal} \\ \Rightarrow V^T = U^{-1} \\ = V S^{-1} U^T$$

If  $A$  is not invertible ( $m > n$ )

Define the pseudo-inverse of  $A$  to be:

$$A^+ = V S^{-1} U^T$$

$\Rightarrow$  Even though  $A$  is not invertible,

$$A^+ A = (V S^{-1} U^T)(U S V^T)$$

$$= V S^{-1} \underbrace{U^T U}_I S V^T$$

$$= V V^T = I \quad \text{since } V \text{ is square.}$$

HW/Exam problem:

Show that the least squares solution to  $A \vec{x} = \vec{b}$  is  $\vec{x} = V S^{-1} U^T \vec{b}$ .