

Given the Krylov subspace

$$\mathcal{K}(A, q_1, n) := \text{span}\{q_1, Aq_1, \dots, A^{n-1}q_1\} \quad (1)$$

and the Lanczos Algorithm

$$q_j = r_{j-1}/\beta_{j-1}, \quad (2)$$

$$\alpha_j = q_j^t A q_j \quad (3)$$

$$r_j = (A - \alpha_j I)q_j - \beta_{j-1}q_{j-1} \quad (4)$$

$$\beta_j = \|r_j\|_2 \quad (5)$$

for $j = 1, \dots, M$ with $r_0 = q_1$, $\beta_0 = 1$, $q_0 = 0$, and M is the smallest positive integer such that $\beta_M = 0$.

Theorem: Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ be symmetric and assume $q_1 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ with $\|q_1\|_2 = 1$. Then the Lanczos iteration runs until $j = m$ where $m = \text{rank}(\{\mathcal{K}(A, q_1, n)\})$. Moreover, for $j = 1, \dots, m$ we have

$$AQ_j = Q_j T_j + r_j e_j^t \quad (6)$$

where

$$T_j = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 & \beta_1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \beta_1 & \alpha_2 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \alpha_{j-1} & \beta_{j-1} \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \beta_{j-1} & \alpha_j \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{j \times j} \quad (7)$$

$e_j = [0, 0, \dots, 1]^t \in \mathbb{R}^j$ and $Q_j = [q_1 | \dots | q_j]$ has orthonormal columns that span $\mathcal{K}(A, q_1, j)$.

Proof:

(1) We prove the statements by using the mathematical induction on j .

For $j = 1$, by (4) we have $Aq_1 = r_1 + \beta_0 q_0 + \alpha_1 q_1 = \alpha_1 q_1 + r_1 e_1^t$, then (6) followed by $Q_1 = q_1$ and $T_1 = [\alpha_1]$. The Q_2 has orthonormal columns is due to $q_1^t q_1 = \|q_1\|_2^2 = 1$, $q_2^t q_2 = \|q_2\|_2^2 = \|r_1/\beta_1\|_2^2 = 1$, and $q_1^t q_2 = [q_1^t (A - \alpha_1 I)q_1 - \beta_0 q_1^t q_0]/\beta_1 = [q_1^t A q_1 - \alpha_1 q_1^t q_1]/\beta_1 = 0$. And by (2) and (4) we have $Aq_1 = \alpha_1 q_1 + r_1 = \alpha_1 q_1 + \beta_1 q_2$, so $\text{span}\{q_1, q_2\} = \text{span}\{q_1, Aq_1\} = \mathcal{K}(A, q_1, 2)$.

Now assume that it holds for $j \leq k$, where $k \leq M - 1$ (i.e., $\beta_k \neq 0$).

We have $AQ_k = Q_k T_k + r_k e_k^t$, $Q_k^t Q_k = I_k$, and $\text{range}(Q_j) = \mathcal{K}(A, q_1, j)$ for $j \leq k$. When $j = k + 1$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} Q_{k+1} T_{k+1} + r_{k+1} e_{k+1}^t &= \begin{bmatrix} Q_k & q_{k+1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} T_k & \beta_k e_k \\ \beta_k e_k^t & \alpha_{k+1} \end{bmatrix} + r_{k+1} \begin{bmatrix} 0_{k \times 1} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} Q_k T_k + \beta_k q_{k+1} e_k^t & \beta_k Q_k e_k + \alpha_{k+1} q_{k+1} + r_{k+1} \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} Q_k T_k + r_k e_k^t & \beta_k q_k + \alpha_{k+1} q_{k+1} + r_{k+1} \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} AQ_k & Aq_{k+1} \end{bmatrix} \\ &= AQ_{k+1} \end{aligned}$$

where the third and forth equalities are due to (2), (4), and induction hypothesis, so we had proven (6) for $j = k + 1$.

To prove $Q_{k+1}^t Q_{k+1} = I_{k+1}$, it suffices to prove $q_i^t q_{k+1} = 0$ for $i \leq k$ and $q_{k+1}^t q_{k+1} = 1$. The latter one is obvious (by (2)) and the former one is more complicated. For $i = k$, it is clear that

$$\begin{aligned} q_k^t q_{k+1} &= (q_k^t A q_k - \alpha_k q_k^t q_k - \beta_{k-1} q_k^t q_{k-1})/\beta_k \\ &= (q_k^t A q_k - \alpha_k)/\beta_k \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

For $i = k - 1$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} q_{k-1}^t q_{k+1} &= (q_{k-1}^t A q_k - \alpha_k q_{k-1}^t q_k - \beta_{k-1} q_{k-1}^t q_{k-1}) / \beta_k \\ &= (q_{k-1}^t A q_k - \beta_{k-1}) / \beta_k \\ &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} q_{k-1}^t A q_k &= (A q_{k-1})^t q_k \\ &= (r_{k-1} + \alpha_{k-1} q_{k-1} + \beta_{k-1} q_{k-2})^t q_k \\ &= r_{k-1}^t q_k = r_{k-1}^t r_{k-1} / \beta_{k-1} \\ &= \beta_{k-1}. \end{aligned}$$

And for $i \leq k - 2$ we have $q_i^t q_{k+1} = (q_i^t A q_k - \alpha_k q_i^t q_k - \beta_{k-1} q_i^t q_{k-1}) / \beta_k = ((A q_i)^t) q_k / \beta_k = 0$, where the last equality we used $q_i \in \mathcal{K}(A, q_1, k - 2) = \text{span}\{q_1, A q_1, \dots, A^{k-3} q_1\}$ so $A q_i \in \text{span}\{A q_1, A^2 q_1, \dots, A^{k-2} q_1\} \subset \mathcal{K}(A, q_1, k - 1)$, i.e., $A q_i$ is a linear combination of $\{q_1, q_2, \dots, q_{k-1}\}$, so $(A q_i)^t q_k = 0$.

It is clearly that $\text{rank}(\mathcal{K}(A, q_1, k + 1)) \leq k + 1$. Since q_1, \dots, q_{k+1} are linearly independent, $\text{span}\{q_1, \dots, q_k\} \subset \mathcal{K}(A, q_1, k) \subset \mathcal{K}(A, q_1, k + 1)$, and $q_{k+1} = (A q_k - \alpha_k q_k - \beta_{k-1} q_{k-1}) / \beta_k \in \text{span}\{A q_k, q_k, q_{k-1}\} \subset \text{span}\{q_1, A q_1, \dots, A^k q_1\} = \mathcal{K}(A, q_1, k + 1)$, so $\text{span}\{q_1, \dots, q_{k+1}\} = \mathcal{K}(A, q_1, k + 1)$.

(2) We show that $M = m$, in fact, for $j = M - 1$, the above results tell us $\text{span}\{q_1, \dots, q_M\} = \mathcal{K}(A, q_1, M) \subset \mathcal{K}(A, q_1, n)$, thus $m \geq M$.

Now, since M is finite, so for $j = M$ we have $A Q_M = Q_M T_M$, thus, $A q_M$ is a linear combination of $\{q_1, \dots, q_M\}$ for $i \leq M$. But

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{K}(A, q_1, M + 1) &= \text{span}\{q_1, A q_1, \dots, A^M q_1\} \\ &= \text{span}\{q_1, A \mathcal{K}(A, q_1, M)\} \\ &= \text{span}\{q_1, A q_1, \dots, A q_M\} \\ &= \text{span}\{q_1, A q_1, \dots, A q_{M-1}\} \\ &= \text{span}\{q_1, A \mathcal{K}(A, q_1, M - 1)\} \\ &= \text{span}\{q_1, A q_1, \dots, A^{M-1} q_1\} \\ &= \mathcal{K}(A, q_1, M) \end{aligned}$$

and use the induction sense we can show that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{K}(A, q_1, i + 1) &= \text{span}\{q_1, A q_1, \dots, A^i q_1\} \\ &= \text{span}\{q_1, A \mathcal{K}(A, q_1, i)\} \\ &= \text{span}\{q_1, A \mathcal{K}(A, q_1, i - 1)\} \\ &= \text{span}\{q_1, A q_1, \dots, A^{i-1} q_1\} \\ &= \mathcal{K}(A, q_1, i) \end{aligned}$$

for $i \geq M + 1$ provided $\mathcal{K}(A, q_1, i) = \mathcal{K}(A, q_1, i - 1)$. So $\mathcal{K}(A, q_1, M) = \mathcal{K}(A, q_1, n)$ has rank m , i.e., $M \geq m$.