

**Accurate and Efficient Matrix Computations  
with Totally Positive Generalized Vandermonde Matrices  
Using Schur Functions**

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# GOALS

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- **Accurate** (Small relative error) and **Efficient** ( $O(n^3)$  or perhaps  $O(n^p)$ , independent of condition number)  
**Linear Algebra**
  - $A^{-1}$
  - $Ax = b$
  - LDU from GENP, GEPP, GECP
  - SVD
- Can't be done for general matrices, must be “structured”
  - Certain sparsity patterns
  - Cauchy
  - Vandermonde
  - ...
- Goal of this talk: Accurate and Efficient Linear Algebra for **Generalized Vandermonde Matrices**

Type of Matrix	$\det(A)$	$A^{-1}$	Any minor	GENP GEPP	GECP	SVD	Small Forward Error in $Ax = b$	Small Backward Error in $Ax = b$
Cauchy								
Totally Positive Cauchy								
Vandermonde								
Totally positive Vandermonde								
Polynomial Vandermonde								
Poly. Vand. Orth. poly.								
Generalized Vandermonde								
TP Generalized Vandermonde								

**Totally Positive** = Matrix with all minors  $> 0$

# OUTLINE

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- Model of arithmetic
- Classical method for achieving the goals for simple examples –  
The Björck-Pereyra Method for Vandermonde Matrices
- How and why it works?
- Application to TP Generalized Vandermonde matrices

# How can we lose accuracy in computing in floating point?

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- $\text{fl}(a \otimes b) = (a \otimes b)(1 + \delta)$  model of arithmetic with no over/underflow
- OK to multiply, divide, add positive numbers  
Proof:  $1 + \delta$  factors can be factored out
- $x_i \pm x_j$ , where  $x_i$  and  $x_j$  are initial data (so exact)
- $(x_i + y_j)(x_i - y_{j-1})x_{i+1}/(x_{i-1} - y_j)$  - OK
- Cancellation when subtracting approximate results dangerous:

$$\begin{array}{r} .12345\mathbf{xxx} \\ - .12345\mathbf{yyy} \\ \hline .00000\mathbf{zzz} \end{array}$$

- We will compute everything using only allowable expressions

# Classical Example: A Vandermonde Linear System

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- Solve  $Vy = b$ , where  $V$  is Vandermonde:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_1 & \dots & x_1^{n-1} \\ 1 & x_2 & \dots & x_2^{n-1} \\ 1 & x_3 & \dots & x_3^{n-1} \\ & & \ddots & \\ 1 & x_n & \dots & x_n^{n-1} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ y_3 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} + \\ - \\ + \\ \vdots \\ - \end{bmatrix}$$

and  $0 < x_1 < \dots < x_n$ .

- Equivalent to interpolation
- The Björck-Pereyra method solves  $Vy = b$ 
  - In  $O(n^2)$  time
  - With small **forward** error:  $|y_i - \hat{y}_i| \leq O(\epsilon)|y_i|$
  - With small **backward** error: If  $\hat{V}\hat{y} = b$  then  $|V_{ij} - \hat{V}_{ij}| \leq O(\epsilon)|V_{ij}|$ .
- How does it work?

# The Björck-Pereyra Method

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- If  $(x_1, x_2, x_3) = (1, 2, 3)$  and  $b = (2, -1, 14)^T$  then using BP to solve

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 2^2 \\ 1 & 3 & 3^2 \end{bmatrix} \cdot y = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 14 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{means}$$

$$y = V^{-1}b = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & \\ & 1 & -1 \\ & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & \\ & 1 & -2 \\ & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & \\ & 1 & \\ & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & \\ -1 & 1 & \\ & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 14 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 23 \\ -30 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Notice:

- Bidiagonal Decomposition of  $V^{-1}$  (accurate)
- Checkerboard sign pattern

⇒ No subtractive cancellation

⇒ High relative accuracy

- Questions:

- Which matrices have bidiagonal decomposition of their inverses?
- Checkerboard signs?
- Accurate?

# The Björck-Pereyra Method Dissected

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- Questions:

- Which matrices have bidiagonal decomposition of their inverses?
- Checkerboard signs?
- Accurate?

- Answers:

- **All** nonsingular matrices do

This is *Neville elimination* in matrix form:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & & \\ -1 & 1 & \\ & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 1 & 3 & 9 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 \end{bmatrix}; \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & \\ & 1 & \\ & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & \\ & 1 & -1 \\ & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & \\ & 1 & -2 \\ & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & \\ & 1 & \\ & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & \\ -1 & 1 & \\ & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 1 & 3 & 9 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Checkerboard sign pattern  $\iff$  **Total positivity**  
( $A$  is TP  $\iff$  all minors  $> 0$ )
- Accurate? Yes.



# ACCURACY OF THE BJÖRCK-PEREYRA METHOD

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$$\left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_1 & x_1^2 & x_1^3 \\ 1 & x_2 & x_2^2 & x_2^3 \\ 1 & x_3 & x_3^2 & x_3^3 \\ 1 & x_4 & x_4^2 & x_4^3 \end{bmatrix} \right)^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -x_1 & & \\ & 1 & -x_1 & \\ & & 1 & -x_1 \\ & & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & -x_2 & \\ & & 1 & -x_2 \\ & & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & -x_3 \\ & & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \times$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & \frac{-1}{x_4-x_1} \quad \frac{1}{x_4-x_1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & \frac{-1}{x_3-x_1} \quad \frac{1}{x_3-x_1} & \\ & & & \frac{-1}{x_4-x_2} \quad \frac{1}{x_4-x_2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \frac{-1}{x_2-x_1} \quad \frac{1}{x_2-x_1} & & \\ & & \frac{-1}{x_3-x_2} \quad \frac{1}{x_3-x_2} & \\ & & & \frac{-1}{x_4-x_3} \quad \frac{1}{x_4-x_3} \end{bmatrix}$$

Other TP matrices? ... Yes

TP *Cauchy* matrices  $x_1 > \dots > x_n > y_1 > \dots > y_n$

$$\left( \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{x_1-y_1} & \frac{1}{x_1-y_2} & \frac{1}{x_1-y_3} \\ \frac{1}{x_2-y_1} & \frac{1}{x_2-y_2} & \frac{1}{x_2-y_3} \\ \frac{1}{x_3-y_1} & \frac{1}{x_3-y_2} & \frac{1}{x_3-y_3} \end{bmatrix} \right)^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \frac{-(x_1-y_1)}{y_1-y_2} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{x_1-y_2}{y_1-y_2} & \frac{-(x_1-y_2)}{y_2-y_3} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{x_1-y_3}{y_2-y_3} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{-(x_2-y_1)}{y_1-y_3} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{x_2-y_3}{y_1-y_3} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 - y_1 & & \\ & x_2 - y_2 & \\ & & x_3 - y_3 \end{bmatrix} \times$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{-(x_1-y_2)}{x_3-x_1} & \frac{x_3-y_2}{x_3-x_1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{-(x_1-y_1)}{x_2-x_1} & \frac{x_2-y_1}{x_2-x_1} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{-(x_2-y_1)}{x_3-x_2} & \frac{x_3-y_1}{x_3-x_2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Unifying Characteristic?

# The Connection with Minors

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- Which TP matrices permit *accurate* bidiagonal decomposition?
- Each entry is *product of quotients of minors*

$$L_{i+1,i}^{(k)} = -\frac{\det(A(i-k+2:i+1, 1:k))}{\det(A(i-k+2:i, 1:k-1))} \cdot \frac{\det(A(i-k+1:i-1, 1:k-1))}{\det(A(i-k+1:i, 1:k))}$$

- Specifically: **Initial minors**
  - Contiguous
  - Include first row and column
- Initial minors of Cauchy:

$$\det(C) = \frac{\prod_{i < j} (x_j - x_i)(y_j - y_i)}{\prod_{i, j} (x_i + y_j)}$$

- Initial minors of Vandermonde:

$$\det V = \prod_{i > j} (x_i - x_j)$$

- How did we think of minors?
- Gaussian Elimination and Neville Elimination
  - Each entry of  $V = LDU$  is a quotient of minors, so not surprising

# New results: Generalized Vandermonde Matrices

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- TP Matrices with initial minors that are easy to compute accurately  
Vandermonde and Generalized Vandermonde

$$V = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_1 & \dots & x_1^{n-1} \\ 1 & x_2 & \dots & x_2^{n-1} \\ & & \ddots & \\ 1 & x_n & \dots & x_n^{n-1} \end{bmatrix}, \quad G_\lambda = \begin{bmatrix} x_1^{\lambda_1} & x_1^{1+\lambda_2} & \dots & x_1^{n-1+\lambda_n} \\ x_2^{\lambda_1} & x_2^{1+\lambda_2} & \dots & x_2^{n-1+\lambda_n} \\ & & \ddots & \\ x_n^{\lambda_1} & x_n^{1+\lambda_2} & \dots & x_n^{n-1+\lambda_n} \end{bmatrix},$$

where  $x_1 > x_2 > \dots > x_n > 0$ ,  $\lambda_n \geq \lambda_{n-1} \geq \dots \geq \lambda_1 \geq 0$ ,  $|\lambda| = \lambda_1 + \dots + \lambda_n$

- Initial Minors for  $G_\lambda$ ?

$$\det(G_\lambda) = \det(V) \cdot s_\lambda(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$$

- $s_\lambda$  - called **Schur function**
  - Polynomial with positive integer coefficients
  - Widely studied in combinatorics [MacDonald], group representation theory

- Example:

$$\det \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_1^2 & x_1^4 \\ 1 & x_2^2 & x_2^4 \\ 1 & x_3^2 & x_3^4 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \det \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_1 & x_1^2 \\ 1 & x_2 & x_2^2 \\ 1 & x_3 & x_3^2 \end{bmatrix} \right) \cdot (2x_1x_2x_3 + x_1^2x_2 + x_1x_2^2 + x_1^2x_3 + x_1x_3^2 + x_2^2x_3 + x_2x_3^2)$$

# Accuracy and Efficiency for Generalized Vandermonde Matrices

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- **Example:**

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x_1^2 & x_1^4 \\ 1 & x_2^2 & x_2^4 \\ 1 & x_3^2 & x_3^4 \end{pmatrix} = \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x_1 & x_1^2 \\ 1 & x_2 & x_2^2 \\ 1 & x_3 & x_3^2 \end{pmatrix} \cdot (2x_1x_2x_3 + x_1^2x_2 + x_1x_2^2 + x_1^2x_3 + x_1x_3^2 + x_2^2x_3 + x_2x_3^2)$$

- **Accuracy?**

- $\det(V) = \prod_{i>j}(x_i - x_j)$  - **YES.**
- $s_\lambda$  - **polynomials with  $> 0$  coefficients - YES.**

- **Efficiency?**

- $\det(V) = \prod_{i>j}(x_i - x_j)$  - **OK.**
- $s_\lambda(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ ?

- \* **Traditional algorithm - exponential** –  $n^{|\lambda|}$

- \* **Now exponential speedup: Linear complexity in  $n$ . Idea:**

$$s_{(2)}(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{i \leq j} x_i x_j = (x_1 + \dots + x_n)x_1 + (x_2 + \dots + x_n)x_2 + \dots + (x_{n-1} + x_n)x_{n-1} + x_n x_n$$

- cost:  $3n$ , although  $n^2$  terms.**

Type of Matrix	$\det(A)$	$A^{-1}$	Any minor	GENP GEPP	GECP	SVD	NENP	$Ax = b$ Frwrd*	$Ax = b$ Bckwrd*
Cauchy	$n^2$	$n^2$	$n^2$	$n^3$	$n^3$	$n^3$	$n^2$	$n^2$	
TP Cauchy	$n^2$	$n^2$	$n^2$	$n^3$	$n^3$	$n^3$	$n^2$	$n^2$	$n^2$
Vandermonde	$n^2$					$n^3$	$n^2$	$n^2$	
TP Vandermonde	$n^2$	$n^3$	EXP	$n^3$	EXP	$n^3$	$n^2$	$n^2$	$n^2$
Polynomial Vandermonde Orth. Poly.	$n^2$			$n^3$		$n^3$			
Poly. Vand. Orth. poly. <sup>1)</sup> $0 < x_1 < \dots < x_n$	$n^2$	$n^3$	EXP	$n^3$	EXP	$n^3$			
Generalized Vandermonde									
TP Generalized Vandermonde	$\Lambda n + n^2$	$\Lambda n^2 + n^3$	EXP	$\Lambda n^2$	EXP	EXP	$\Lambda n^2$	$\Lambda n^2$	$\Lambda n^2$

Big-O sense

\*FORWARD BOUND:  $|x - \hat{x}| \leq O(\epsilon)|A^{-1}||b|$ , implying  $|x - \hat{x}| \leq O(\epsilon)|x|$  for  $x$  checkerboard

BACKWARD BOUND:  $|A - \hat{A}| \leq O(\epsilon)|A|$ , where  $\hat{A}\hat{x} = b$ .

1) + Other conditions on the signs of the three-term recurrence

$\Lambda \leq (\lambda_1 + 1)(\lambda_2 + 1)^2 \dots (\lambda_p + 1)^2 p$ , where  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_p)$ .

## Conclusions

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- TP Structured linear systems can be solved very accurately, if initial minors factor
- Implies accurate  $A^{-1}$
- New application: Generalized Vandermonde Matrices
- Accurate SVD of some Polynomial Vandermonde Matrices
- Sometimes the SVD is easier than the inverse

## Open Problems

- Totally Positive Matrices in general appear impossible. Proof?
- Characterize which structured matrices permit accurate and efficient linear algebra

## Resources

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- These slides: [www.math.berkeley.edu/~plamen/bascd02.pdf](http://www.math.berkeley.edu/~plamen/bascd02.pdf)
- Reports:
  - J. Demmel and P. Koev, Necessary and sufficient conditions for accurate and efficient rational function evaluation and factorizations of rational matrices. In *Structured matrices in mathematics, computer science, and engineering. II (Boulder, CO, 1999)*, pages 117–143. Amer. Math. Soc., Providence, RI, 2001.
  - J. Demmel and P. Koev, Accurate and Efficient Matrix Computations with Totally Positive Generalized Vandermonde Matrices Using Schur Functions, [www.math.berkeley.edu/~plamen/hagen.ps](http://www.math.berkeley.edu/~plamen/hagen.ps)
  - J. Demmel, M. Gu, S. Eisenstat, I. Slapničar, K. Veselić, and Z. Drmač. Computing the singular value decomposition with high relative accuracy. *Lin. Alg. Appl.*, 299(1–3):21–80, 1999. [www.cs.berkeley.edu/~demmel/DGESVD.ps](http://www.cs.berkeley.edu/~demmel/DGESVD.ps)
  - J. Demmel, Accurate SVDs for Structured Matrices, Accurate SVDs of structured matrices. *SIAM J. Mat. Anal. Appl.*, 21(2):562–580, 1999. [www.netlib.org/lapack/lawns/lawn130.ps](http://www.netlib.org/lapack/lawns/lawn130.ps)