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**LINDBERG CONDITION
to MULTITRAIT-MULTIMETHOD MATRICES**

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L *continued*

LINDEBERG CONDITION See LINDEBERG-FELLER THEOREM

LINDEBERG-FELLER THEOREM

HISTORY

The Lindeberg-Feller central limit theorem gives necessary and sufficient conditions for the convergence in distribution of a sequence of suitably standardized sums of independent random variables with finite variance, to a standard normal random variable. An important forerunner to the Lindeberg-Feller theorem was proved by Liapunov* in 1900, who established sufficient conditions for convergence to normality assuming the existence of moments of order $2 + \delta$ for some $\delta > 0$. Lindeberg [5] strengthened Liapunov's theorem* by assuming the existence of the second moments while Feller [1] established the necessity of Lindeberg's condition for convergence to normality, provided that the uniformly asymptotically negligible condition is satisfied. The theorem given below is for a single sequence of random variables. A more general version for double arrays of random variables may be

found in most textbooks on probability theory (see, e.g., Gnedenko and Kolmogorov [4]).

STATEMENT OF THE LINDEBERG-FELLER THEOREM

Let X_1, X_2, \dots , be a sequence of independent random variables and let the distribution function of X_k be $F_k(x)$. Suppose that $\text{var}(X_k) = \sigma_k^2 < \infty$ for all k . Let $S_n = \sum_{k=1}^n (X_k - E[X_k])/s_n$, where $s_n^2 = \sum_{k=1}^n \text{var}(X_k)$. Then in order that as $n \rightarrow \infty$,

$$(a) \quad \Pr[S_n \leq x] \rightarrow (1/\sqrt{2\pi}) \int_{-\infty}^x e^{-t^2/2} dt$$

for all $x > 0$,

$$(b) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \max_{1 \leq k \leq n} \Pr[|(X_k - E[X_k])/s_n| > \epsilon] = 0 \quad \text{for all } \epsilon > 0,$$

it is necessary and sufficient that for each $\eta > 0$, we have

$$(L) \quad (1/s_n^2) \sum_{k=1}^n \int_{|x| > \epsilon s_n} x^2 dF_k(x + E[X_k]) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{for each } \epsilon > 0.$$

2 LINDEBERG-LÉVY THEOREM

IDEA OF PROOF: SUFFICIENCY

Form a sequence of truncated bounded random variables and using the Lindeberg condition together with a limit result due to Liapunov, establish sufficiency for this truncated sequence. Finally, show that the standardized sums arising from the truncated random variables behave the same way in the limit as do the standardized sums arising from the original random variables.

An alternative approach using convolution operators may be found in Feller [2].

NECESSITY

The proof is technical and involves manipulations with characteristic functions.*

REMARKS

1. Condition (b), sometimes called the uniformly asymptotically negligibility (UAN) condition, ensures that the relative contribution of each of the summands of S_n tends to zero as $n \rightarrow \infty$.
2. Condition (L) is referred to the Lindeberg condition. Again, it is a condition on the relative smallness of each summand, and may be shown to imply that $\max_{1 \leq j \leq n} \sigma_j / s_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.
3. Condition (L) may be easily shown to imply the Liapunov condition.*
4. As in the case of the Lindeberg-Lévy theorem,* there exist various extensions of the Lindeberg-Feller theorem to sums of random vectors [3] in \mathbb{R}^k and to sums of dependent random variables. (See LIMIT THEOREM, CENTRAL.)

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(LIMIT THEOREM, CENTRAL LINDEBERG-LÉVY THEOREM)

D. WOLFSON

LINDEBERG-LÉVY THEOREM

HISTORY

The Lindeberg-Lévy central limit theorem is widely known more simply as “the” central limit theorem, although it is, strictly speaking, a single representative of central limit theorems in general. It refers to the convergence in distribution of a suitably standardized sum of independent, identically distributed random variables with finite variance, to a normal random variable with zero mean and unit variance. The form given below is due, independently, to Lévy [1] and Lindeberg [2].

STATEMENT OF THE LINDEBERG-LÉVY CENTRAL LIMIT THEOREM

Let X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots be a sequence of independent and identically distributed random variables with $E[X_i] = \mu$ and $0 < \text{var}(X_i) = \sigma^2 < \infty$. Then

$$\Pr \left[\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu) / (\sqrt{n} \sigma) \leq x \right] \\ \rightarrow (1/\sqrt{2\pi}) \int_{-\infty}^x e^{-t^2/2} dt$$

for all $x \in (-\infty, \infty)$, as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

IDEA OF PROOF

The characteristic function* of

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu) / (\sqrt{n} \sigma)$$

is expanded using Taylor's theorem and the

assumed existence of a second moment. This expanded characteristic function (ch.f) is then shown to converge pointwise to $e^{-t^2/2}$, the ch.f. of the standard normal distribution. An application of the continuity theorem then leads to the stated result.

EXTENSIONS AND GENERALIZATIONS

The Lindeberg-Lévy theorem may be extended to include random vectors:

Random Vector Lindeberg-Lévy Theorem. Let $\mathbf{X}_n = (X_{n1}, X_{n2}, \dots, X_{nk})$ be independent, identically distributed random vectors with mean vector $\boldsymbol{\mu} = (\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_k)$, where $\mu_j = E[X_{nj}]$, $j = 1, 2, \dots, k$. Suppose further that $E[X_{nj}^2] < \infty$ and that the covariance matrix* of \mathbf{X}_n is $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$. Then $\sum_{j=1}^n (\mathbf{X}_j - \boldsymbol{\mu})/\sqrt{n}$ converges in distribution to a multivariate normal* random vector having mean zero and covariance matrix $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$.

A second extension, to random sums of random variables, is exemplified by the following theorem:

Random Sums Lindeberg-Lévy Theorem. Let X_1, X_2, \dots be a sequence of independent, identically distributed random variables with $E[X_i] = \mu$ and $\text{var}(X_i) = \sigma^2$. Let $\{v_n, n \geq 1\}$ be a sequence of random variables taking on only strictly positive integer values such that $v_n/n \rightarrow \alpha$ in probability, where α is a constant satisfying $0 < \alpha < \infty$. Then

$$\Pr \left[\sum_{i=1}^{v_n} (X_i - \mu) / (\sigma \sqrt{v_n}) \leq x \right] \rightarrow (1/\sqrt{2\pi}) \int_{-\infty}^x e^{-t^2/2} dt$$

for all $x \in (-\infty, \infty)$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Related to the central limit theorem but requiring more delicate analyses are the laws of the iterated logarithm,* which describe the transient behavior of the standardized sums as n increases. These results complement those describing the limiting behavior given by the central-limit-type theorems.

Other generalizations of the Lindeberg-Lévy theorem may be found in LIMIT THEOREMS, CENTRAL, which includes examples of central-limit-type theorems for dependent random variables; also discussed are the concepts of infinite divisibility* and stability as well as the famous Berry-Esseen theorem on rate of convergence to normality (see ASYMPTOTIC NORMALITY).

APPLICATIONS

Either in its original form or in one of its extended forms, the Lindeberg-Lévy theorem lies at the heart of most of the asymptotic theory of statistics. The construction of confidence intervals, indeed much of the theory and practice of statistical inference* and hypothesis testing,* is facilitated by the availability of the central limit theorem. The frequent occurrence of sums of random variables in statistics is the reason for the wide applicability of this important theorem.

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- [2] Lindeberg, J. W. (1922). *Math. Zeit.*, **15**, 221.

Further Reading

In addition to the references just given, the following texts contain many of the topics referred to in this article.

- Billingsley, P. (1979). *Probability and Measure*. Wiley, New York.
- Feller, W. (1966). *An Introduction to Probability Theory and Its Applications*, Vol. 2. Wiley, New York.
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All of these books are rigorous in spirit and require some mathematical sophistication.

(LIMIT THEOREM, CENTRAL)

D. WOLFSON

LINDLEY'S EQUATION

Let W_n be the waiting time of the n th customer in a queue, S_n be the corresponding service time, and X_{n+1} be the length of time between the n th and $(n+1)$ th arrivals. Then, for a general $G/G/1$ queueing system (with one customer),

$$W_{n+1} = \max(0, W_n + S_n - X_n).$$

This basic result, due to Lindley [2], implies that the distribution function

$$F_n(x) = \Pr(W_n \leq x)$$

of the W s converges as $n \rightarrow \infty$ to some limit function F . For more details see Lindley [2] and Cohen [1].

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(QUEUEING THEORY)

LINDSTROM-MADDEN METHOD

The Lindstrom-Madden method is a method for constructing approximate lower confidence limits* on the reliability of a series system, given Bernoulli subsystem data. This is a fundamental problem in reliability theory* and is discussed in ref. 6, together with the Lindstrom-Madden method. A series system of independent components functions only if all the components function. More precisely, let Y_i , $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$, be independent binomial random variables with parameters (n_i, p_i) , $n_1 \leq n_2 \leq \dots \leq n_k$, where p_i is the probability that the i th subsystem will function, and let the observed values be y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k , with $x_i = n_i - y_i$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$. The reliability of the system is $\prod_{i=1}^k p_i$. A general method of constructing a lower $1 - \alpha$ level confidence limit for $\prod_{i=1}^k p_i$ was given in ref. 1. How-

ever, this is very difficult to implement in practice. Lipow and Riley [5] constructed the exact lower confidence limit for $\prod_{i=1}^k p_i$ for specific values of x_i , n_i , $k = 2, 3$, and Lloyd and Lipow [6] noted that the tabulated values were close to an approximation, the Lindstrom-Madden method, described below. Consider building systems by randomly selecting without replacement a single test result (success or failure) from each of the k subsystem data. Then there are n_1 systems and the expected number of failures is $z_1 = n_1 q_0$, $q_0 = 1 - \prod_{i=1}^k ((n_i - x_i)/n_i)$. Let

$$I_p(r, s) = \frac{1}{\beta(r, s)} \int_0^p t^{r-1} (1-t)^{s-1} dt;$$

i.e., $I_p(r, s)$ is the incomplete beta function. Then if y is an integer, $y < n$, we have

$$\sum_{i=0}^y \binom{n}{i} p^{n-i} q^i = I_p(n-y, y+1).$$

A complete discussion of the above can be found in ref. 4. For $0 \leq y < n$, real, define $u(n, y, \alpha)$ by $\alpha = I_{u(n, y, \alpha)}(n-y, y+1)$. Thus, for integer values of y , $u(n, y, \alpha)$ is a $100(1 - \alpha)\%$ lower confidence limit for p . Then the Lindstrom-Madden method consists of using $u(n_1, z_1, \alpha)$ as an approximation to the exact lower confidence limit b and reduces to the usual method for putting a lower confidence limit on the success probability if z_1 is an integer.

Denote by $[x]$ the integral part of x , x real. Sudakov [7] showed that $u(n_1, z_1, \alpha) \leq b \leq u(n_1, [z_1], \alpha)$, and hence if z_1 is an integer, then the Lindstrom-Madden method is exact. The special case when only x_1 is nonzero (in this case $z_1 = x_1$) was proved by Winterbottom [8]. Sudakov's results were simplified and generalized by Harris and Soms [2]. Also, Harris and Soms [3] improved the lower bound $u(n_1, z_1, \alpha)$ by the use of a short FORTRAN program, whose listing they provide. We now give two examples.

Example 1. Let $\alpha = 0.05$, $(n_1, n_2, n_3) = (5, 10, 20)$, and $(x_1, x_2, x_3) = (1, 0, 0)$. Then $z_1 = 1$, $u(5, 1, 0.05) = 0.343$, so $b = 0.343$.

Example 2. Let $\alpha = 0.05$, $(n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4) = (10, 15, 20, 25)$, and $(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = (1, 3, 2, 4)$. Then $z_1 = 4.557$, $u(10, 4.557, 0.05) = 0.257$, $u(10, 4, 0.05) = 0.304$, so $0.257 \leq b \leq 0.304$. Using the program in Harris and Soms [3], this can be improved to $0.291 \leq b \leq 0.304$.

Addendum—Added in Proof An error has been discovered in the proof of one of the lemmas employed in the proof of Sudakov's inequality. This is documented in "The Theory of Optimal Confidence Limits for Systems Reliability with Counterexamples for Results on Optimal Confidence Limits for Series Systems", B. Harris and A. P. Soms, Tech. Rep. 643, Dept. of Statistics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wis. Numerical evidence indicates that for confidence levels of practical interest the inequality is still valid.

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(RELIABILITY

SYSTEM RELIABILITY ANALYSIS)

ANDREW P. SOMS

LINEAR ALGEBRA, COMPUTATIONAL

Computational linear algebra may be divided into three parts. The first part deals with discrete computations, such as manipulating the graph of a matrix or performing exact calculations on matrices with integer or rational elements. The second part is concerned with constrained optimization problems that are defined in terms of matrices—for example, linear and quadratic programming problems. The third part is often called numerical linear algebra. It deals with the solution in floating-point arithmetic of such problems as solving linear systems of equations, linear least-squares problems, the computation of eigenvalues, etc.

Because of limitations of space this article will be restricted to numerical linear algebra.

It should be appreciated, however, that even this restriction is insufficient. Specifically, a matrix may be too large to fit into the high-speed memory of the computer in question, and it is a matter of considerable algorithmic ingenuity to solve such problems. Most of the recent research in this area has been devoted to *sparse matrices*, most of whose elements are zero. No attempt will be made to survey sparse matrix computations here; instead, this article will treat matrix problems that can be held in the high-speed memory of the computer or at least can be solved with one or two passes of the data through memory.

It is hardly necessary to argue the importance of numerical linear algebra in statistics. This is obvious for areas like multivariate analysis,* where matrix notation has become standard. It is less well appreciated that a significant amount of matrix computations is essential for maximum likelihood estimation,* robust estimation,* and other essentially nonlinear statistical problems. This is because nonlinear problems are frequently solved by solving a sequence of linearized approximations.

Modern numerical linear algebra has five principal features:

1. The systematic use of matrix decompositions
2. The use of updating methods to recompute decompositions of slightly altered matrices
3. The use of backward rounding-error analysis to assess the stability of algorithms
4. The use of perturbation theory to assess the accuracy of computed solutions
5. The implementation of matrix algorithms in high-quality mathematical software

In selecting or developing methods for solving a problem, it is necessary to have an understanding of each of these five features. Accordingly, they will be discussed separately

in the next five sections. The treatment is primarily didactic; technical comments and references will be found in the section "Bibliographical Notes."

DECOMPOSITIONS

The method of Gaussian elimination for solving the linear equation

$$Ax = b \quad (1)$$

of order p will serve to introduce the use of matrix decompositions in numerical linear algebra. The result of performing Gaussian elimination on the system is to produce a lower triangular matrix L and an upper triangular matrix U such that

$$A = LU. \quad (2)$$

Given this LU decomposition, one may solve the system (1) by first solving the upper triangular system

$$Uy = b$$

(this is equivalent to performing the elimination operations on the vector b). The upper triangular system

$$Lx = b$$

is then solved for x (this is usually called the back-substitution phase of the algorithm); see GAUSS — JORDAN ELIMINATION.

From the foregoing it is evident that the LU decomposition (2) and its computation are distinct from the problem (1) and its solution. Once an LU decomposition has been computed [an $O(p^3)$ process], it may be used again and again to solve systems of the form (1) at a cost of $O(p^2)$ work per solution. Moreover, the same LU decomposition can be used to solve the system $A^T x = b$. Finally, if the LU decomposition of A is available, it is unnecessary to form A^{-1} to solve (1), even though the formula $x = A^{-1}b$ suggests that it is. In fact, the calculation of A^{-1} is not only unnecessary, but it is expensive [an extra $O(p^3)$ work] and undesirable on grounds of numerical stability.

The foregoing comments about the LU decomposition hold generally for the decom-

positional approach to numerical linear algebra. A decomposition may be regarded as a computational platform from which a variety of problems may be solved. It may be relatively expensive to compute; but once it is available, it can be used repeatedly at little additional cost. Moreover, a decomposition may make it unnecessary to compute such notationally convenient but numerically tricky objects as inverses or generalized inverses*. Finally, although it is not evident from the LU decomposition, a well-chosen decomposition may aid in the mathematical analysis of a statistical process.

There are a large number of decompositions that are used in numerical linear algebra, and it can be a matter of some delicacy to select the right one. Accordingly, the rest of this section is devoted to a survey of the most frequently used matrix decompositions.

Pivoted LU Decomposition

The LU decomposition (2) need not exist, and even when it does it may be impossible to compute it in a stable manner. The cure for this situation is to interchange rows and columns of A during the computations in order to ensure numerical stability, a process that is called *pivoting*. The result is a decomposition of the form

$$P_r A P_c = LU,$$

where P_r and P_c are the permutation matrices corresponding to the row and column interchanges. There are two common strategies for choosing interchanges. At the k th step of the algorithm, *partial pivoting* interchanges rows to bring the largest element in column k into the (k, k) -position. *Complete pivoting* interchanges both rows and columns to place the largest element in the matrix in the (k, k) -position. Although one can prove stronger theorems about the stability of complete pivoting, in practice the simpler partial-pivoting strategy is just as stable and is consequently the method of choice.

The principal application of the LU decomposition is to the solution of linear equa-

tions and, where it is required, the computation of inverses. It is computed by Gaussian elimination or one of its variants, such as the algorithms of Crout or Doolittle. It requires $O(p^3)$ work.

Cholesky Decomposition

If A is a $p \times p$ positive-definite matrix (which here implies symmetry), it can be factored uniquely in the form

$$A = R^T R, \quad (3)$$

where R is upper triangular with positive-diagonal elements. This factorization is called the *Cholesky decomposition*.

There is an important variant in which pivoting is used to produce a decomposition of the form

$$P^T A P = R^T R,$$

where P is a permutation matrix. The interchanges may be chosen so that the elements of R satisfy

$$r_{kk}^2 \geq \sum_{i=k}^j r_{ij}^2 \quad (j = k + 1, k + 2, \dots, p).$$

This implies that the diagonals of R are decreasing. In particular, if A is near a semi-definite matrix, then a trailing principal submatrix of A will be small.

The Cholesky decomposition is used to solve linear systems involving positive-definite matrices. In statistical applications the matrix is often a correlation matrix. The Cholesky decomposition of the augmented cross-product matrix $(X \ y)^T (X \ y)$ is used in the analysis of the linear model $y = XB + e$. The Cholesky decomposition is also used in the solution of symmetric eigenvalue problems of the type $Ax = \lambda Bx$, a problem that occurs frequently in statistical applications. The algorithm for computing the decomposition is called variously the Cholesky algorithm or the square-root method.¹ It is simply an adaptation of Gaussian elimination and requires $O(p^3)$ work.

QR Decomposition

Given any $n \times p$ ($n > p$) matrix X there is an $n \times n$ orthogonal matrix Q such that

$$Q^T X = \begin{bmatrix} R \\ O \end{bmatrix},$$

where R is upper triangular with nonnegative diagonal elements. If Q is partitioned in the form

$$Q = \begin{pmatrix} Q_X & Q_\perp \end{pmatrix},$$

then

$$X = Q_X R, \quad (4)$$

an expression that is sometimes called the *QR factorization*. The *QR* decomposition is closely related to the Cholesky factorization, as the relation

$$X^T X = R^T R \quad (5)$$

shows.

The *QR* decomposition is extraordinarily versatile. To cite one example, if X is of rank p , $Q_\perp Q_\perp^T$ is the projection onto the orthogonal complement of the column space of X . Thus $Q_\perp Q_\perp^T y$ is the residual vector $y - X\hat{b}$ of linear regression. As another example, the generalized inverse X^\dagger of X is given by $X^\dagger = R^{-1} X^T$. Thus operations involving X^\dagger can be replaced by a multiplication by X^T followed by the solution of upper triangular systems.

The *QR* decomposition may be computed by three distinct algorithms: the Golub–Householder algorithm, the method of plane rotations, and the Gram–Schmidt* method with reorthogonalization. They each have their own advantages and drawbacks. Each requires $O(np^2)$ work.

Spectral Decomposition

It is well known that a symmetric matrix A of order p has a set of orthonormal eigenvectors v_1, \dots, v_p satisfying

$$A v_i = \lambda_i v_i \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, p). \quad (6)$$

If $V = (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p)$, then V is orthogonal

and it follows from (6) that

$$V^T A V = \Lambda = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_p). \quad (7)$$

The decomposition (7) is called the *spectral decomposition* of A .

The spectral decomposition is widely used both inside and outside of statistics. For example, the spectral decomposition of a sample correlation matrix gives estimates of the principal components (see COMPONENTS ANALYSIS).

All methods for computing eigenvalues and eigenvectors are necessarily iterative. For the spectral decomposition the procedure is to perform a direct reduction to a tridiagonal matrix* followed by the iterative *QR* algorithm (not to be confused with the *QR* decomposition). The amount of work varies, but it is always $O(p^3)$. This algorithm supersedes the older Jacobi algorithm, which, unfortunately, is still to be found in some statistical programs.

Singular Value Decomposition

Given any $n \times p$ ($n \geq p$) matrix X , there is an $n \times n$ orthogonal matrix U and a $p \times p$ orthogonal matrix V such that

$$U^T X V = \begin{bmatrix} \Psi \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

where

$$\Psi = \text{diag}(\psi_1, \psi_2, \dots, \psi_p)$$

with

$$\psi_1 \geq \psi_2 \geq \dots \geq \psi_p \geq 0.$$

The numbers ω_i are called the *singular values* of X , the columns of U the *left singular vectors*, and the columns of V the *right singular vectors*. The singular value decomposition is related to the spectral decomposition of $X^T X$ in much the same way as the *QR* and Cholesky decompositions are related; compare the relation

$$V^T X^T X V = \Psi^2$$

with (7).

Since there are relatively few computational tasks that require a singular value decomposition and since the decomposition

is expensive to compute, it is less used than the other decompositions. On the other hand, it has many interesting properties that make it of theoretical interest to both numerical analysts and statisticians. For example, the matrix \bar{X} of rank k nearest X in the least-squares sense may be obtained by setting $\bar{\Psi} = \text{diag}(\psi_1, \psi_2, \dots, \psi_k, 0, \dots, 0)$ and forming

$$\bar{X} = U \begin{bmatrix} \bar{\Psi} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} V^T.$$

The customary way of calculating the singular value decomposition is by an initial reduction to bidiagonal form followed by a variant of the QR algorithm. When $n > p$, a great deal of work can be saved by first calculating the QR decomposition of X and then the singular value decomposition of R , from which the singular value decomposition of X can be reconstituted.

Schur Decomposition

It is natural to attempt to generalize the spectral decomposition of a symmetric matrix to nonsymmetric matrices by asking for a nonsingular matrix W such that $W^{-1}AW$ is diagonal, in which case the columns of W are eigenvectors of A . Unfortunately, such a decomposition need not exist, and even when it does, the matrix W may be so near a singular matrix as to be computationally useless. If W is restricted to be unitary, then it can be determined so that

$$W^H A W = T,$$

where T is an upper triangular matrix. The diagonal elements of T , which are eigenvalues of A , can be made to appear in any order, although usually they are thought of as appearing in descending order of magnitude. Whatever the order, the decomposition is called a *Schur decomposition* and the columns of W are called *Schur vectors*. The first k Schur vectors span the invariant subspace corresponding to the first k eigenvalues of A as they appear in T .

When A is real, it is desirable on grounds of computational efficiency to remain in the

real field, even when A has complex eigenvalues. It can be shown that there is an orthogonal matrix W such that $W^T A W$ is quasi-triangular; i.e., $W^T A W$ is block upper triangular with at most 2×2 blocks. The 1×1 blocks are eigenvalues of A , while the 2×2 blocks contain complex conjugate pairs of eigenvalues. The decomposition is sometimes called a real Schur decomposition.

The Schur decomposition is used in the computation of eigenvectors and other objects related to the spectrum of A . In fact, many problems that would seem to require eigenvectors for their solution actually require no more than the Schur decomposition. The decomposition is computed by an initial reduction to Hessenberg form followed by the QR algorithm at a cost of $O(p^3)$ work.

Generalized Schur Decomposition

Although a theory of canonical forms exists for the generalized eigenvalue problem $Ax = \lambda Bx$, an attempt to compute one of these forms may lead to numerical difficulties. If one restricts oneself to unitary equivalences of the form $(A, B) \rightarrow (Y^H A W, Y^H B W)$, then one can find unitary matrices Y and W such that $Y^H A W$ and $Y^H B W$ are both upper triangular. This decomposition may be called a *generalized Schur decomposition*. The eigenvalues of the problem are ratios of the corresponding diagonal elements of $Y^H A W$ and $Y^H B W$, and they may be made to appear in any order. If B is nonsingular, this decomposition is related to the Schur decomposition of $B^{-1}A$, since $W^H B^{-1} A W$ is upper triangular. When A and B are real, there is a variant decomposition in which B is quasi-triangular.

The generalized Schur decomposition is used principally to solve the generalized eigenvalue problem. It is computed by a variant of the QR algorithm.

For square matrices, the total work required to compute any of the decompositions described here is $O(p^3)$; however, the order constants vary widely. The following is