

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Analysis and comparison of numerical algorithms for finding the GCD of certain types of polynomials in the Chebyshev basis

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Abstract

This research investigates on the numerical methods for computing the greatest common divisors (GCD) of two polynomials in the orthogonal basis without having to convert to the power series form. Previous implementations were conducted using the Gauss Elimination with partial pivoting (GEPP) and QR Householder algorithms, respectively. This work proceeds to seek for a better approximate solution by comparing the results of the implementations with the QR with column pivoting (QRCP) algorithm. The results reveal that QRCP is as competent as the GEPP algorithm, up to a certain degree, giving a reasonably good approximate solution. It is also found that normalizing the columns of the associated coefficient matrix slightly reduces the condition number of the matrix but has no significant effect on the GCD solutions when applying the GEPP and QR Householder algorithms. However equilibration of the columns by computing its ∞-norm is capable to improve the solution when QRCP is applied. Comparing the tree algorithms on some test problems, QR Householder outperforms the rest and is able to give a good approximate solution in the worst case condition when the smallest element of the matrix is 1, the entries ranging up to 15 digits integers.

Keywords: Greatest common divisor (GCD), Gauss elimination, QR decomposition, over determined systems, normalization

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INTRODUCTION

Problem arises in image processing [1, 2], control theory [3], and the calculation of multiple roots of a polynomial [4] require the computation of the greatest common divisor (GCD) of two poynomials. Generally, polynomials in the orthogonal basis may be better conditioned than that of the power series form when finding polynomial roots. The representation of polynomials in the orthogonal basis is very useful in the numeric computations due to its wellconditioned property which when applied using appropriate numerical methods give better approximation to the root finding problem.

The theory and applications of polynomials in the generalized form have been well studied by Barnett [5, 6, 7] as proposed in several of his works. Aris [8] and Ahmad et al. [9] has implemented the theories and analytical results in Barnett [5, 6, 7] by presenting a new symbolic algorithm for computing the GCD of polynomials in the orthogonal basis, in particular the Legendre and Chebyshev polynomial basis. The work have applied the modular homomorphic image scheme so as to avoid multiprecision operations involving very large integers and rational numbers in the coefficients of the polynomials represented in its orthogonal form. An improved algorithm that combines the modular approach with rational number computations at different stages of the algorithm had also been shown in Aris [10]. From these works, the computations were succesfully done in the orthogonal polynomial basis, rather then converting to the power series form. Thus, in the exact computation environment, the theoretical and emprical aspects of finding the GCD of certain class of polynomials in the orthogonal basis using the theorem of Barnett were well achieved and presented.

The question of whether it is also possible to apply appropriate numerical computational tools for solving the GCD or other related problems involving orthogonal basis polynomials, without having to convert to the power series basis remains a challenging task. The comrade matrix approach reduces to a linear algebra problem of finding the rank and solving overdetermined systems of linear equations. The motivation to proceed from previous works in Aris [8] and Ahmad *et al.* [9] using the comrade matrix approach under the floating point environment is not only for solving the GCD, but also to further investigate on the strength and limitations of the chosen numerical methods of solving the corresponding systems of equations. The main task is to develop a suitable technique that can solve the problem when the entries of the coefficient matrix involve very large integers with a large disparity in the magnitude of the smallest and largest entries of the matrix.

In this paper, the task of computing the GCD of two polynomials relative to an orthogonal basis, in particular the shifted Chebyshev polynomial basis, using the comrade matrix approach is investigated. Performing computations in the floating point environment, the ultimate aim of the research is to propose appropriate numerical methods for solving the problem. As in Isa *et. al.* [11], apart from getting a good approximate solution, this research intends to investigate how the input data from the polynomial coefficients or the coefficient matrix entries can affect the accuracy of the solutions. Therefore, besides the stability criterion of the chosen numerical methods, the conditioning property of the coefficient matrix is also considered.

The method of computing the GCD of two polynomials a(x) and b(x) based on comrade matrix approach leads to solving

corresponding systems of linear equations and the work done in two stages. In particular, the degree of GCD of the polynomials which equal to the rank loss of the coefficient matrix is initially determined, after which, the coefficients of the GCD are obtained from solving the associated systems. Considering the conditioning property of coefficient matrix, appropriate stable methods are needed to solve the systems of equations which is constructed from the comrade matrix. In this paper, results using the well-known Gauss elimination method with partial pivoting (GEPP), the QR Householder decomposition and the QR Householder with column pivoting (QRCP) algorithm for solving systems of linear equations are implemented to find the GCD of certain class of polynomials and the results presented.

THE COMRADE MATRIX APPROACH

The comrade matrix was introduced as the analogue of the companion matrix when a polynomial is expressed in terms of a basis set of orthogonal polynomials. It is shown that the determination of finding the greatest common divisor (GCD) of two or more polynomials can be extended to the case of generalized polynomials by using the comrade matrix (Barnett, 1984). Let

$$p_i(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n p_{ii} x_i. \tag{1}$$

be a set of real orthogonal polynomials defined by the relationship of

$$p_0(x) = 1, p_1(x) = \alpha_0 x + \beta_0, p_{i+1}(x) = (\alpha_i(x) + \beta_i(x))p_i(x) - \gamma_i p_{i-1}(x).$$
(2)

for i = 1, 2, 3, ..., n - 1 with $\alpha_i > 0, \beta_i > 0, \gamma_i > 0$. Any given *n*th degree univariate polynomial in *x* can be uniquely expressed as a linear combination of the set $p_0(x), p_1(x), ..., p_n(x)$.

Consider two arbitrary polynomials $\tilde{a}(x) = \tilde{a}_0 + \tilde{a}_1 x + \tilde{a}_n x^n$ and $\tilde{b}(x) = \tilde{b}_0 + \tilde{b}_1 x + \dots + \tilde{b}_m x^m$ with coefficient over a field can be written as

$$a(x) = a_0 p_0(x) + a_1 p_1(x) + \dots + a_n p_n(x).$$

$$b(x) = b_0 p_0(x) + b_1 p_1(x) + \dots + b_m p_m(x).$$
(3)

With no loss of generality, let $a_n = 1$ and m < n. If the values of $\alpha_i, \beta_i, \gamma_i$ for i = 0, 1, ..., n - 1 are known, the comrade matrix for a(x) is an $n \times n$ matrix given by



Constructing the system of equations

If A is the comrade matrix given as above, define

$$b(A) = b_0 I + b_1 p_1(A) + \dots + b_m p_m(A).$$
(5)

The rows of b(A) are respectively $r_0 = [b_0, b_1, ..., b_m, ..., b_{n-1}], r_1 = r_0 p_1(A), ..., r_{n-1} = r_0 p_{n-1}(A)$. Using the recurrence relation defined in (2), we obtain the rows in term of the comrade matrix and recurrence relation such that:

$$\begin{aligned} r_0 &= (b_0, b_1, \dots, b_m, 0 \dots, 0), \\ r_1 &= r_0(\alpha_0 A), \\ r_i &= r_{i-1}(\alpha_{i-1} A + \beta_{i-1} I) - \gamma_{i-1} r_{i-2}, \end{aligned}$$
 (6)

for i = 2, ..., n. It is known [6] that k = n - rank[b(A)] is the degree of the GCD of a(x) and b(x) such that

$$d(x) = d_0 p_0(x) + d_1 p_1(x) + \dots + p_k(x).$$
(7)

Theorem 1 For i = 1, 2, ..., n, let c_i be the i_{th} column of b(A). The columns $c_{k+1}, ..., c_n$ are linearly independent and the coefficients $d_0, ..., d_{k-1}$ in (7) are given by

$$c_i = d_{i-1}c_{k+1} + \sum_{k=2}^n x_{ij}c_j \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, k \quad \text{for some} \quad x_{ij}$$
(8)

The k-system of equations in (8) is described by the augmented matrix

$$(c_{k+1} \quad \vdots \quad c_{k+2} \quad \vdots \quad \dots \quad \vdots \quad c_n \quad \parallel \quad c_1 \quad \vdots \quad \dots \quad \vdots \quad c_k)$$
(9)

which is

$$\begin{pmatrix} c_{1,k+1} & c_{1,k+2} & \dots & c_{1,n} \\ c_{2,k+1} & c_{2,k+2} & \dots & c_{2,n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ c_{n,k+1} & c_{n,k+2} & \dots & c_{n,n} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_{i,k+1} \\ x_{i,k+2} \\ \vdots \\ x_{in} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_{1i} \\ c_{2i} \\ \vdots \\ c_{ni} \end{pmatrix}$$
(10)

for each i = 1, 2, ..., k and $x_{i,k+1} = d_{i-1}$.

The computation of the rank of b(A) and the coefficient of GCD, can be computed simultaneously from (9) and (10). The column of matrix b(A) is rearranged to produce a new matrix so that the j^{th} column of b(A) is the $n - (j - 1)^{th}$ column of the new matrix, say $L^{(0)}$ i.e:

$$l_{n-(j-1)}^0 = c_j$$
 for $j = 1, 2, ..., n$.

Reducing $L^{(0)}$ to upper row echelon form by s steps gives the matrix

$$L^{(s)} = \begin{pmatrix} l_{11}^{(s)} & l_{12}^{(s)} & \dots & l_{1r}^{(s)} & \vdots & l_{1,r+1}^{(s)} & \dots & l_{1,r+k}^{(s)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & l_{rr}^{(s)} & \vdots & l_{r,r+1}^{(s)} & \dots & l_{r,r+k}^{(s)} \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & \vdots & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & \vdots & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$
(11)

such that $r = \operatorname{rank}(L^{(0)})$. If k = n - r, the solution to the coefficient of d(x) is given as follows:

$$d_{k-1} = l_{r,r+i}^{s} \operatorname{Inv}\left(l_{rr}^{(s)}\right),$$

$$d_{k} = 1$$

for each i = 1, 2, ..., k. If r = n, then the degree of d(x) = 0 which implies that GCD is a unit element.

3-terms recurrence relation for the Chebyshev basis

The shifted Chebyshev polynomials of the first kind is orthogonal defined by:

$$T_n^*(x) = T_n(2x - 1)$$
(12)

Where

$$T_n^*(x) = \cos[n\cos^{-1}(2x-1)] = T_n(2x-1)$$
(13)

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The recurrence relation for the polynomial is

$$T_0^*(x) = 1,$$

$$T_1^*(x) = 2x - 1,$$

$$T_{n+1}^*(x) = (4x - 2)T_n^*(x) - T_{n-1}^*(x)$$

gives $\alpha_0 = 2, \beta_0 = 2, \alpha_n = 4, \beta_n = -2, \gamma_n = 1$, for $n = 1, 2, ..., n$.
(14)

Example 1:

Consider the polynomials in shifted chebyshev basis

$$\begin{aligned} a(x) &= p_6(x) - 72 p_5(x) + 1402 p_4(x) + 3480 p_3(x) \\ &- 299377 p_2(x) + 1931952 p_1(x) - 1637386 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$b(x) = p_5(x) - 6p_4(x) - 1875p_3(x) + 17976p_2(x) + 485714p_1(x) - 501810$$

With the value of each α , β , and γ as well as the coefficients of polynomial a(x) known, the comrade matrix in (4) can be constructed as below,

г 0.5	0.5	0	0	0	ך 0
0.25	0.5	0.25	0	0	0
0	0.25	0.5	0.25	0	0
0	0	0.25	0.5	0.25	0
0	0	0	0.25	0.25	0.25
L409346	-482988	74844.25	-870	-320.25	18.5 []]

From the comrade matrix, with the coefficients of polynomial b(x) known, then the b(A) matrix is constructed. By Theorem 1, the b(A) matrix is rearranged so that a coefficient matrix is obtained i.e:

г1	-6	-1875	17976	485714	-501810 1
34	-1644	5370	409584	-973084	559740
803	-42258	291495	9193128	-64643018	55199850
15524	-831864	6351060	175638624	-1430791544	1249618200
285061	-15355806	120491745	3213894936	-27252104806	23932788870
L5153062	-278046852	2200175790	58033455312	-498213904852	438253167540

The polynomials in this example is of degree 5 and 6 repectively. There is a large disparity in the sizes of the coefficients of the polynomials, considering monic polynomials with coefficient of the highest degree terms equals 1. The smallest entry of the matrix b(A) is 1 while the largest entry has at least 15 digits. The matrix is ill conditioned. Preconditioning may be required in order to obtain a good approximate solution.

Let deg(a(x)) = n and d(x) = gcd(a(x), b(x)). Here, we have k = deg(d(x)) = n - rank[b(A)]. In this paper, we consider the class of polynomials with big GCD in which case k has to be at least n/2, such that the coefficient matrix has small rank. We expect this to be the worst case, whereby roundoff errors are accumulated in the reduction and decomposition process.

The numerical methods considered in this work are Gauss Elimination with partial pivoting (GEPP), QR Householder decompositions and QR Householder with column pivoting (QRCP). Even though the GEPP method is not always stable, it is the simplest method as it can simultaneously determine the rank and reduces the coefficient matrix to its reduced form (11). From the rank, an augmented matrix representing the reduced systems of equations can be determined. Consequently, the desired coefficients of the GCD can be obtained directly from the reduced triangular matrix via backward substitutions. However, GEPP, is expected to be less appropriate and unstable for large matrices due to the accumulation of roundoff errors in the reduction process. The application of QR decomposition and QR with column pivoting which are known to be stable and widely used in solving the least square and over determined systems [12, 13, 14] are investigated and comparison between these algorithms is conducted.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The test polynomials are generated by converting from power series form such that the GCD of the polynomials is at least half the degree of the higher degree polynomial. In this paper, we present the results on the effects of partial pivoting in Gauss elimination, column pivoting in QR decomposition and normalization of the coefficient matrix columns on the condition number and the approximate solution of the GCD.

Table 1 Test examples of some	e polynomials (big GCD cases)
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Test Examples	Polynomials relative to the Chebyshev basis			
Test 1 (degree a(x)=6, rank =2)	$a(x) = p_6(x) - 72p_5(x) + 1402p_4(x) + 3480p_3(x) - 299377p_2(x) + 1931952p_1(x) - 1637386 b(x) = p_5(x) - 6p_4(x) - 1875p_3(x) + 17976p_2(x) + 485714p_1(x) - 501810 Greatest Common Divisor of a(x) and b(x) is d(x) = p_4(x) - 48p_3(x) + 140p_2(x) + 12144p_1(x) - 12237$			
Test 2 (degree a(x)=6, rank=2)	$\begin{aligned} a(x) &= p_6(x) + 128 p_5(x) + 4794 p_4(x) + 12416 p_3(x) \\ -2118385 p_2(x) - 18444544 p_1(x) + 86900790 \\ b(x) &= p_5(x) + 62 p_4(x) + 125 p_3(x) - 39672 p_2(x) \\ -184446 p_1(x) + 3541690 \end{aligned}$ Greatest Common Divisor of $a(x)$ and $b(x)$ is $d(x) &= p_4(x) + 76 p_3(x) + 1188 p_2(x) - 23116 p_1(x) \\ -254629 \end{aligned}$			
Test 3 (degree a(x)=7, rank=2)	$\begin{aligned} a(x) &= p_7(x) + 162p_6(x) + 9179p_5(x) + 190452p_4(x) \\ &- 184215p_3(x) - 37744002p_2(x) - 4248645p_1(x) \\ &+ 528581868 \\ b(x) &= p_6(x) + 112p_5(x) + 3546p_4(x) + 3760p_3(x) \\ &- 850801p_2(x) + 2699488p_1(x) + 3550614 \end{aligned}$ Greatest Common Divisor of $a(x)$ and $b(x)$ is $d(x) &= p_4(x) + 64p_3(x) + 380p_2(x) - 20544p_1(x) + 48259 \end{aligned}$			
Test 4 (degree a(x)=7, rank=3)	$\begin{aligned} a(x) &= p_7(x) + 38p_6(x) - 1221p_5(x) - 59492p_4(x) \\ &+ 10825p_3(x) + 18622522p_2(x) + 89447035p_1(x) \\ &- 548421628 \\ b(x) &= p_6(x) + 12p_5(x) - 1790p_4(x) - 19620p_3(x) \\ &+ 888047p_2(x) + 5696664p_1(x) - 72623602 \end{aligned}$ Greatest Common Divisor of $a(x)$ and $b(x)$ is $d(x) &= p_5(x) + 26p_4(x) - 1427p_3(x) - 39624p_2(x) \\ &+ 334738p_1(x) + 5211310 \end{aligned}$			
Test 5 (degree a(x)=7, rank=3)	$\begin{aligned} a(x) &= p_7(x) - 42p_6(x) + 155p_5(x) + 11964p_4(x) \\ -154071p_3(x) + 505482p_2(x) + 153915p_1(x) - 517404 \\ b(x) &= p_6(x) - 8p_5(x) - 822p_4(x) + 5400p_3(x) \\ + 141007p_2(x) - 1152272p_1(x) + 1006694 \end{aligned}$ Greatest Common Divisor of $a(x)$ and $b(x)$ is $d(x) &= p_4(x) - 16p_3(x) - 388p_2(x) + 3600p_1(x) - 3197 \end{aligned}$			

Table 2 Example of some polynomials (small rank, big GCD cases).

Test 6 (degree a(x)=8, rank=1)	$\begin{aligned} a(x) &= p_8(x) - 24p_7(x) - 616p_6(x) + 15672p_5(x) \\ &+ 41692p_4(x) - 2092824p_3(x) + 8649256p_2(x) \\ &+ 2077176p_1(x) - 8690333 \\ b(x) &= p_7(x) - 18p_6(x) - 725p_5(x) 11340 + p_4(x) \\ &+ 110457p_3(x) - 1441422p_2(x) - 109733p_1(x) + 1430100 \end{aligned}$ Greatest Common Divisor of $a(x)$ and $b(x)$ is $d(x) &= p_7(x) - 18p_6(x) - 725p_5(x) + 11339p_4(x) \\ &+ 110457p_3(x) - 1441422p_2(x) - 109733p_1(x) + 1430100 \end{aligned}$
Test 7 (degree a(x)=8, rank=1)	$\begin{aligned} a(x) &= p_8(x) + 44p_7(x) - 256p_6(x) - 31068p_5(x) \\ -301332p_4(x) + 1035020p_3(x) + 11119936p_2(x) \\ -1003996p_1(x) - 10818349 \\ b(x) &= p_7(x) + 26p_6(x) - 725p_5(x) - 18044p_4(x) \\ +24185p_3(x) + 617734p_2(x) - 23461p_1(x) - 599716 \end{aligned}$ Greatest Common Divisor of $a(x)$ and $b(x)$ is $d(x) &= p_7(x) + 26p_6(x) - 725p_5(x) - 18044p_4(x) \\ +24185p_3(x) + 617734p_2(x) - 23461p_1(x) - 599716 \end{aligned}$

The results of the implementation of the QRCP, QR Householder and GEPP algorithms on some test problems using C++ programming are presented as shown in Table 3.

Table 3	Normwise I	relative	error	(big	GCD	cases)).
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Test Method		Before	After
Examples	memou	normalization	normalization
Test 1	QRCP	1.54739×10^{-5}	1.43169×10^{-7}
(degree	QR Householder	0	1.49293×10^{-7}
a(x)=6, rank=2)	GEPP	0	6.93148×10^{-8}
Test 2	QRCP	2.44221×10^{-4}	6.63630×10^{-6}
(degree	QR Householder	1.81654×10^{-8}	2.67883×10^{-6}
a(x)=6, rank=2)	GEPP	0	2.21294×10^{-6}
Test 3	QRCP	0.05187	8.93167×10^{-5}
(degree	QR Householder	4.36021×10^{-4}	8.62325×10^{-5}
a(x)=7, rank=2)	GEPP	0	1.50610×10^{-4}
Test 4	QRCP	3.85379×10^{-5}	9.85492×10^{-6}
(degree	QR Householder	0	6.47758×10^{-5}
a(x)=7, rank=3)	GEPP	0	7.00335×10^{-5}
Test 5	QRCP	1.34992×10^{-5}	1.19408×10^{-6}
(degree	QR Householder	0	9.95838×10^{-7}
a(x)=7, rank=3)	GEPP	0	4.83029×10^{-6}
Test 6 (degree a(x)=8, rank=1)	QR Householder	0	1.86584×10^{-7}
Test 7 (degree a(x)=8, rank=1)	QR Householder	0	1.10550×10^{-7}

*QRCP – Qr Householder with column pivoting *GEPP – Gauss Elimination with partial pivoting

Test examples	Before normalization	After normalization
Test 1	1.58796e+024	2.06467e+013
Test 2	2.41847e+025	7.46846e+013
Test 3	1.23251e+027	1.20487e+013
Test 4	1.05173e+027	4.28692e+013
Test 5	2.50945e+023	9.06619e+006
Test 6	1.83353e+084	1.96320e+066
Test 7	6.32532e+045	2.27361e+063

Table 4 : Condition number of associated coefficient matrix.

The norm-wise relative error results in Table 3, illustrated that for test examples 1-5, the algorithms give a good approximation to the respective solution with reasonably small relative error, even though the condition number of the respective coefficient matrix indicate that the computed solutions ought to be sensitive to the order of arithmetic and precision applied. For each of these test examples, GEPP and QR Householder produce a better approximate solution compared to QRCP which shows that partial pivoting in the GEPP and QR without pivoting is sufficient to give a good approximate solution. As shown in Table 4, for all the test examples, the condition number for each coefficient matrix is slightly reduced after each column is normalized so as to have a uniform size in the column entries, in which case the QRCP do gives a better approximate solution after normalization. Thus for QRCP equilibration of the columns by ∞ -norm reduces the condition number and is also able to improve the solution.

Test examples 6 and 7 consider the cases whendeg(a(x)) = 8, such that the rank of b(A) equals 1

Thus the degree of the GCD is 7, which is just one degree less than that of degree a(x). For these polynomials, only QR Householder is able to give a good approximate solution. GEPP and QRCP fail to give a good approximation. These two examples are severely ill-conditioned compared to the other test examples. It can be seen for these two cases that normalizing each column of the coefficient matrix does not contribute a significant effect in reducing the condition number of the matrix. Nor does it lead to a good approximate solution, with the exception of the QR algorithm which proves to remain stable.

CONCLUSION AND FURTHER WORK

The results reveal the potential of the Gauss elimination with partial pivoting to solving overdetermined systems of linear equations up to a certain degree, despite the ill-condition property of the matrix involved, as depicted in the varying magnitude of the entries of the matrix and its respective condition number. The empirical results in the norm-wise relative error shows that the GEPP method is as competitive as the QR algorithm with column pivoting. The latter method involves finding the inverse of a triangular matrix before the final solution is obtained. On the other hand, QR Householder has less complexity, without having to do column pivoting and computing matrix inverse. It is the most effective method, so far. Further work is to work on test examples 6 and 7 and higher degree polynomials. Appropriate preconditioning or preprocessing strategies has to be determined since the higher the degree of the polynomials, the size of the integer matrix entries will also increase. Consequently, the larger will be the disparity in the magnitude of the entries of the matrix involved.

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