

# The conjugate gradient method in finite precision computations

Krystyna Ziętak

Wrocław University of Technology  
Institute of Mathematics and Computer Science

Warsaw, October 7, 2006

## Lanczos method

C. Lanczos,

An iteration method for the solution  
of the eigenvalue problem of linear differential and  
integral equation,

**J. Res. Nat. Bur. Standards 45 (1950),  
255–282.**

## Conjugate gradient method

M.R. Hestenes, E. Stiefel,

Methods of conjugate gradients for solving linear  
systems,

**J. Nat. Bur. Standards 49 (1952), 409–436.**

# Pioneering papers of Woźniakowski

- 1 H. Woźniakowski, Numerical stability of the Chebyshev method for the solution of large linear systems,  
**Numer. Math. 28 (1977), 191–209.**
- 2 H. Woźniakowski, Roundoff error analysis iterations for large linear systems,  
**Numer. Math. 30 (1978), 301–314.**
- 3 H. Woźniakowski, Roundoff-error analysis of a new class of conjugate-gradient algorithms,  
**Linear Alg. Appl. 29 (1980), 507–529.**

# Pioneering papers of Woźniakowski

- 1 H. Woźniakowski, Numerical stability of the Chebyshev method for the solution of large linear systems,  
**Numer. Math.** **28 (1977), 191–209.**
- 2 H. Woźniakowski, Roundoff error analysis iterations for large linear systems,  
**Numer. Math.** **30 (1978), 301–314.**
- 3 H. Woźniakowski, Roundoff-error analysis of a new class of conjugate-gradient algorithms,  
**Linear Alg. Appl.** **29 (1980), 507–529.**

# Pioneering papers of Woźniakowski

- 1 H. Woźniakowski, Numerical stability of the Chebyshev method for the solution of large linear systems,  
**Numer. Math.** **28 (1977), 191–209.**
- 2 H. Woźniakowski, Roundoff error analysis iterations for large linear systems,  
**Numer. Math.** **30 (1978), 301–314.**
- 3 H. Woźniakowski, Roundoff-error analysis of a new class of conjugate-gradient algorithms,  
**Linear Alg. Appl.** **29 (1980), 507–529.**

# Pioneering PhD thesis

- 1 **C.C. Paige**, The computation of eigenvalues and eigenvectors of very large sparse matrices, *University of London 1971*.
- 2 **A. Greenbaum**, Convergence properties of the conjugate gradient algorithm in exact and finite precision arithmetic, *University of California, Berkeley 1981*.

## Review paper

- **G. Meurant, Z. Strakoš**,  
The Lanczos and conjugate gradient algorithms in finite precision arithmetic,  
*Acta Numerica 2006, 471–542*.

# Pioneering PhD thesis

- 1 **C.C. Paige**, The computation of eigenvalues and eigenvectors of very large sparse matrices, *University of London 1971*.
- 2 **A. Greenbaum**, Convergence properties of the conjugate gradient algorithm in exact and finite precision arithmetic, *University of California, Berkeley 1981*.

## Review paper

- **G. Meurant, Z. Strakoš**,  
The Lanczos and conjugate gradient algorithms in finite precision arithmetic,  
*Acta Numerica 2006, 471–542*.

# Pioneering PhD thesis

- 1 **C.C. Paige**, The computation of eigenvalues and eigenvectors of very large sparse matrices, *University of London 1971*.
- 2 **A. Greenbaum**, Convergence properties of the conjugate gradient algorithm in exact and finite precision arithmetic, *University of California, Berkeley 1981*.

## Review paper

- **G. Meurant, Z. Strakoš**,  
The Lanczos and conjugate gradient algorithms in finite precision arithmetic,  
**Acta Numerica 2006, 471–542.**



## Roundoff error analysis of iterations for linear systems

$Ax = b$ ,  $A$  Hermitian positive definite  
 $\alpha$  exact solution,  $y$  computed solution in  $t$  iterations

## Numerical stability of method

$\|y - \alpha\|$  is of order  $2^{-t} \|A\| \|A^{-1}\| \|\alpha\|$

## Well behaviour

$(A + \Delta A)y = b$ ,  $\|\Delta A\|$  is of order  $2^{-t} \|A\|$

## Numerical stability of iterative method

$x_k$  computed sequence in  $fI$

$\overline{\lim}_k \|x_k - \alpha\|$  is of order  $2^{-t} \|A\| \|A^{-1}\| \|\alpha\|$

## Woźniakowski 1977

- Chebyshev method is numerically stable,
- but not well-behaved
- residuals

$\|Ax_k - b\|$  are of order  $2^{-t} \|A\|^2 \|A^{-1}\| \|\alpha\|$

## Numerical stability of iterative method

$x_k$  computed sequence in  $fI$

$\overline{\lim}_k \|x_k - \alpha\|$  is of order  $2^{-t} \|A\| \|A^{-1}\| \|\alpha\|$

## Woźniakowski 1977

- Chebyshev method is numerically stable,
- but not well-behaved
- residuals

$\|Ax_k - b\|$  are of order  $2^{-t} \|A\|^2 \|A^{-1}\| \|\alpha\|$

## Numerical stability of iterative method

$x_k$  computed sequence in  $fI$

$\overline{\lim}_k \|x_k - \alpha\|$  is of order  $2^{-t} \|A\| \|A^{-1}\| \|\alpha\|$

## Woźniakowski 1977

- Chebyshev method is numerically stable,
- but not well-behaved
- residuals

$\|Ax_k - b\|$  are of order  $2^{-t} \|A\|^2 \|A^{-1}\| \|\alpha\|$

## Chebyshev method

$$x_k - \alpha = W_k(A)(x_0 - \alpha)$$

$$W_k(z) = \frac{T_k(f(z))}{T_k(f(0))}, \quad f(z) = \frac{b+a}{b-a} - 2\frac{z}{b-a}$$

$T_k(z)$  Chebyshev polynomial

$$r_k := Ax_k - b, \quad x_{k+1} := x_k + [p_{k-1}(x_k - x_{k-1}) - r_k]/q_k,$$

**new algorithm for computing  $p_k$  and  $q_k$**

$A = A^H > 0$  has property A

consistently ordered,  $A = D - L - U$ ,  $\gamma D^{-1}U + \gamma^{-1}D^{-1}U$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} D_1 & A_{12} \\ A_{21} & D_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Woźniakowski 1978

- Jacobi, Richardson, SOR methods are numerically stable, but not well-behaved
- Gauss-Seidel is well-behaved

$A = A^H > 0$  has property A

consistently ordered,  $A = D - L - U$ ,  $\gamma D^{-1}U + \gamma^{-1}D^{-1}U$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} D_1 & A_{12} \\ A_{21} & D_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Woźniakowski 1978

- Jacobi, Richardson, SOR methods are numerically stable, but not well-behaved
- Gauss-Seidel is well-behaved

$$Ax = b$$

$$A = A^H > 0, \quad \text{order } n$$

- In exact arithmetic *cg* generates orthogonal residual vectors  $r_k = b - Ax_k$

$$\langle r_i, r_j \rangle = 0$$

- in exact arithmetic  $\alpha = A^{-1}b$  is obtained after at most  $n$  steps.



$$Ax = b$$

$$A = A^H > 0, \quad \text{order } n$$

- In exact arithmetic *cg* generates orthogonal residual vectors  $r_k = b - Ax_k$

$$\langle r_i, r_j \rangle = 0$$

- in exact arithmetic  $\alpha = A^{-1}b$  is obtained after at most  $n$  steps.

# Hestenes-Stiefel formulation of cg

- given  $x_0$ ,  $r_0 = b - Ax_0$ ,  $p_0 = r_0$
- for  $j = 1, 2, \dots$

$$x_j = x_{j-1} + \gamma_{j-1}p_{j-1}$$

$$\gamma_{j-1} = \frac{\langle r_{j-1}, r_{j-1} \rangle}{\langle p_j, Ap_{j-1} \rangle}, \quad \delta_j = \frac{\langle r_j, r_j \rangle}{\langle r_{j-1}, r_{j-1} \rangle}$$

$$p_j = r_j + \delta_j p_{j-1}, \quad r_j = r_{j-1} - \gamma_{j-1} Ap_{j-1},$$

## Woźniakowski 1980

- new class of conjugate gradient algorithms
- numerical stability of these algorithms with iterative refinement
- numerical well behaviour if  $2^{-t}[\text{cond}_2(A)]^2$  is at most of order unity

**Gatlinburg VII at Asilomar 1977**

## Woźniakowski 1980

- new class of conjugate gradient algorithms
- numerical stability of these algorithms with iterative refinement
- numerical well behaviour if  $2^{-t}[\text{cond}_2(A)]^2$  is at most of order unity

**Gatlinburg VII at Asilomar 1977**

## Woźniakowski 1980

- new class of conjugate gradient algorithms
- numerical stability of these algorithms with iterative refinement
- numerical well behaviour if  $2^{-t}[\text{cond}_2(A)]^2$  is at most of order unity

**Gatlinburg VII at Asilomar 1977**

# Woźniakowski algorithm

## Woźniakowski *cg*

$$\begin{aligned}r_k &= Ax_k - b, & z_k &= x_k - c_k r_k \\ y_k &= x_{k-1} - z_k, & c_k &= \frac{\langle r_k, r_k \rangle}{\langle r_k, Ar_k \rangle}\end{aligned}$$

$$x_{k+1} = z_k - u_k y_k$$

algorithm for computation of  $u_k$  is not given explicitly

**Classical version of *cg*:**  $x_{k+1} = x_k + \gamma_k p_k$

Higham writes:

- 1 Woźniakowski (1980) analyses a class of conjugate gradient algorithms (which does not include the usual conjugate gradient method).
- 2 Woźniakowski obtains a forward error bound proportional to  $[\text{cond}(A)]^{3/2}$  and a residual bound proportional to  $\text{cond}(A)$ .

Higham writes:

- 1 Woźniakowski (1980) analyses a class of conjugate gradient algorithms (which does not include the usual conjugate gradient method).
- 2 Woźniakowski obtains a forward error bound proportional to  $[\text{cond}(A)]^{3/2}$  and a residual bound proportional to  $\text{cond}(A)$ .



Higham writes:

- 1 Greenbaum (1989) presents a detailed error analysis of the conjugate gradient method, but her concern is with the rate of convergence rather than the attainable accuracy.
- 2 Notay (1993) analyses how rounding errors influence the convergence rate of the conjugate gradient method for matrices with isolated eigenvalues at the ends of the spectrum.

Higham writes:

- 1 Greenbaum (1989) presents a detailed error analysis of the conjugate gradient method, but her concern is with the rate of convergence rather than the attainable accuracy.
- 2 Notay (1993) analyses how rounding errors influence the convergence rate of the conjugate gradient method for matrices with isolated eigenvalues at the ends of the spectrum.

## Woźniakowski class of *cg* algorithms

For these algorithms there exists computed vector  $x_k$  such that

$$\|A^{1/2}(x_k - \alpha)\| \leq c_n 2^{-t} \|A^{1/2}\| \|x_k\|$$

If  $\|A^{1/2}\| \|x_k\|$  is of order  $\|A^{1/2}x_k\|$

then these *cg* algorithms

are numerically stable in  $A$ -norm:

$$\|A^{1/2}(x_k - \alpha)\| = O(2^{-t} \text{cond}(A) \|A^{1/2}x_k\|),$$

but not well behaved

# Relationship between cg and Lanczos

## Krylov subspace

$A$   $n \times n$ , nonsingular sym. posit. def.,  $\|v\|_2 = 1$

$$\mathcal{K}_k(v, A) = \text{span}\{v, Av, \dots, A^{k-1}v\},$$

$$Ax = b, \quad r_0 = b - Ax_0$$

$$x_k = x_0 + V_k y_k$$

$V_k$  is the matrix of orthonormal basis of  $\mathcal{K}_k(v_1, A)$ , where Krylov subspace is generated by Lanczos algorithm with  $v_1 = r_0/\|r_0\|$

# Conjugate gradient method *cg* and Lanczos

## Matrix notation Lanczos algorithm

$$AV_k = V_k T_k + \eta_{k+1} v_{k+1} e_k^T, \quad T_k \text{ sym. tridiag.}$$

$$(*) \quad T_k y_k = \|r_0\| e_1, \quad x_k = x_0 + V_k y_k$$

(\*) is equivalent to *cg* method  
of Hestenes and Stiefel

# Properties of $cg$

If  $r_k = b - Ax_k = r_0 - AV_k y_k$  is orthogonal to  $V_k$   
then  $r_{n+1} = 0$

- $r_0 = b - Ax_0, \quad v_1 = r_0 / \|r_0\|$
- $\mathcal{K}_k(v_1, A) = \text{span}\{r_0, \dots, r_{k-1}\}$
- $\langle r_i, r_j \rangle = 0, \quad r_k \perp \mathcal{K}_k(v_1, A)$
- 

$$v_{k+1} = (-1)^k \frac{r_k}{\|r_k\|}$$

# Properties of $cg$

If  $r_k = b - Ax_k = r_0 - AV_k y_k$  is orthogonal to  $V_k$   
then  $r_{n+1} = 0$

- $r_0 = b - Ax_0, \quad v_1 = r_0 / \|r_0\|$
- $\mathcal{K}_k(v_1, A) = \text{span}\{r_0, \dots, r_{k-1}\}$
- $\langle r_i, r_j \rangle = 0, \quad r_k \perp \mathcal{K}_k(v_1, A)$

$$v_{k+1} = (-1)^k \frac{r_k}{\|r_k\|}$$

# Properties of $cg$

If  $r_k = b - Ax_k = r_0 - AV_k y_k$  is orthogonal to  $V_k$   
then  $r_{n+1} = 0$

- $r_0 = b - Ax_0, \quad v_1 = r_0 / \|r_0\|$
- $\mathcal{K}_k(v_1, A) = \text{span}\{r_0, \dots, r_{k-1}\}$
- $\langle r_i, r_j \rangle = 0, \quad r_k \perp \mathcal{K}_k(v_1, A)$

$$v_{k+1} = (-1)^k \frac{r_k}{\|r_k\|}$$



# Properties of $cg$

If  $r_k = b - Ax_k = r_0 - AV_k y_k$  is orthogonal to  $V_k$   
then  $r_{n+1} = 0$

- $r_0 = b - Ax_0, \quad v_1 = r_0 / \|r_0\|$
- $\mathcal{K}_k(v_1, A) = \text{span}\{r_0, \dots, r_{k-1}\}$
- $\langle r_i, r_j \rangle = 0, \quad r_k \perp \mathcal{K}_k(v_1, A)$
- 

$$v_{k+1} = (-1)^k \frac{r_k}{\|r_k\|}$$

# Error norms in $cg$

- 1 Lanczos and  $cg$  can be formulated in terms of orthogonal polynomials and Gauss quadrature of some integral determined by  $A$ ,  $v_1$
- 2 Lanczos and  $cg$  can be viewed as matrix representations of Gauss quadrature
- 3  $A$ -norm of the error  $x_k - \alpha$  and Euclidean norm of the error in  $cg$  can be computed using Gauss quadrature.

- 1 Lanczos and  $cg$  can be formulated in terms of orthogonal polynomials and Gauss quadrature of some integral determined by  $A$ ,  $v_1$
- 2 Lanczos and  $cg$  can be viewed as matrix representations of Gauss quadrature
- 3  $A$ -norm of the error  $x_k - \alpha$  and Euclidean norm of the error in  $cg$  can be computed using Gauss quadrature.

- 1 Lanczos and  $cg$  can be formulated in terms of orthogonal polynomials and Gauss quadrature of some integral determined by  $A$ ,  $v_1$
- 2 Lanczos and  $cg$  can be viewed as matrix representations of Gauss quadrature
- 3  $A$ -norm of the error  $x_k - \alpha$  and Euclidean norm of the error in  $cg$  can be computed using Gauss quadrature.

- 1 Computing  $A$ -norm of the error  $x_k - \alpha$  is closely related to approximating quadratic forms.
- 2 This has been studied extensively by Gene Golub with many collaborators during the last thirty-five years (see the review paper of Meurant and Strakoš)

- 1 Computing  $A$ -norm of the error  $x_k - \alpha$  is closely related to approximating quadratic forms.
- 2 This has been studied extensively by **Gene Golub with many collaborators during the last thirty-five years** (see the review paper of Meurant and Strakoš)

# Lanczos and $cg$ in finite precision

- 1 What happens numerically to the equivalence of Lanczos and  $cg$  as well as to the equivalence with orthogonal polynomials and Gauss quadrature?
- 2 How do we evaluate convergence of  $cg$  in finite precision arithmetic?
- 3 see **Z. Strakoš and P. Tichy**, On error estim. in  $cg$  and why it works in finite precision computation, *Electr. Trans. Numer. Anal.* 13 (2002).

# Lanczos and $cg$ in finite precision

- 1 What happens numerically to the equivalence of Lanczos and  $cg$  as well as to the equivalence with orthogonal polynomials and Gauss quadrature?
- 2 How do we evaluate convergence of  $cg$  in finite precision arithmetic?
- 3 see **Z. Strakoš and P. Tichy**, On error estim. in  $cg$  and why it works in finite precision computation, *Electr. Trans. Numer. Anal.* 13 (2002).



# Lanczos and $cg$ in finite precision

- 1 What happens numerically to the equivalence of Lanczos and  $cg$  as well as to the equivalence with orthogonal polynomials and Gauss quadrature?
- 2 How do we evaluate convergence of  $cg$  in finite precision arithmetic?
- 3 see **Z. Strakoš and P. Tichy**, On error estim. in  $cg$  and why it works in finite precision computation, *Electr. Trans. Numer. Anal.* 13 (2002).

Conclusion  
from Strakoš and Tichy talk:

*Hestenes and Stiefel cg (1952)  
should be celebrated,  
but also studied,  
even after 50 years!*

My congratulations to  
Henryk  
who was the pioneer  
in this field!!!

Many happy and fruitful years!!!

