

**comment** In finding the eigenvectors  $x$  of an  $n \times n$  matrix  $B$  after having found the eigenvalues  $\lambda$  of  $B$  by any of the many available methods, it is often desirable to start from the original matrix  $B$  and not from its transform from which the  $\lambda$ 's were obtained. Whereas the resulting eigenvectors will still be influenced by errors in the  $\lambda$ 's, the eigenvectors would not be influenced by errors in the transformed matrix.

Since  $M - B = A$  is a singular matrix of rank  $r$  the problem is to find  $ec = n - r$  vectors  $x$  which form a basis of the left null space of  $A$ .

Note: If the right null space is desired the matrix  $A$  should be transposed.

The following algorithm finds these  $n - r$  linearly independent vectors by the Gauss-Jordan elimination in place using the maximal available element for the pivot. The process will terminate after  $r$  steps, since the maximal available elements for pivoting are then equal to zero.

Now, replacing these zero pivot elements by unity, the rows of the matrix, from which no nonzero element has been chosen, are the basis of the null space of  $A$ , that is, if  $x$  is such a row then  $xA = z$ , the zero vector of order  $n$ .

The proof for this is established by the fact that the elimination amounts to premultiplying  $B$  by a matrix  $A'$ , a product of elementary matrices, such that  $A'A$  is a matrix with ones on  $r$  of the diagonal positions and zeros everywhere else.

Test results. A version of this procedure acceptable to the IBM 7094 (ALCOR-ILLINOIS 7090 ALGOL Compiler) was tested.

With  $eps = 10^{-6}$  the results for the  $5 \times 5$  matrix

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25

showed the dimension of the null space as 3 having as a basis

$$x_1 = (-.75, 1.00, 0.00, 0.00, -.25)$$

$$x_2 = (-.50, 0.00, 1.00, 0.00, -.50)$$

$$x_3 = (-.25, 0.00, 0.00, 1.00, -.75)$$

exact to 6 decimal places;

```

begin integer array r, c[1:n]; integer i, j, k, m, jj, kk, t;
real max, temp;
for i := 1 step 1 until n do r[i] := c[i] := 0;
for m := 1 step 1 until n do
  begin max := 0;
    for k := 1 step 1 until n do
      begin if r[k]  $\neq$  0 then go to L else
        for j := 1 step 1 until n do
          if c[j] = 0  $\wedge$  abs(a[k, j]) > max then
            begin kk := k; jj := j; max := abs(a[k, j])
            end j loop;
          end k loop;
        if max < eps then go to SORT;
        c[jj] := kk; r[kk] := jj; temp := 1/a[kk, jj]; a[kk, jj] := 1;
        for j := 1 step 1 until n do a[kk, j] := a[kk, j]  $\times$  temp;
        for k := 1 step 1 until kk - 1, kk + 1 step 1 until n do
          begin temp := a[k, jj]; a[k, jj] := 0;
            for j := 1 step 1 until n do
              begin
                a[k, j] := a[k, j] - temp  $\times$  a[kk, j];
                if abs(a[k, j]) < eps then a[k, j] := 0
              end;
            end k loop;
          end m loop;
        SORT: for j := 1 step 1 until n do
          begin
            REPEAT: if c[j]  $\neq$  0  $\wedge$  j  $\neq$  c[j] then

```

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begin
  for k := 1 step 1 until n do
    if r[k] = 0 then
      begin temp := a[k, j];
        a[k, j] := a[k, c[j]]; a[k, c[j]] := temp
      end k loop;
      t := c[j]; c[j] := c[t]; c[t] := t; go to REPEAT
    end;
  end conditional and j loop;
  ec := 0;
  for k := 1 step 1 until n do
    if r[k] = 0 then
      begin ec := ec + 1; a[k, k] := 1;
        if ec  $\neq$  k then
          begin
            for j := 1 step 1 until n do a[ec, j] := a[k, j]
          end;
        end conditional and k loop;
      comment The first ec rows of the matrix a are the vectors
        which are orthogonal to the columns of the matrix a;
    end NULLSPACE

```

## ALGORITHM 271

### QUICKERSORT [M1]

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\* The work described below was started while the author was at English Electric Co. Ltd, completed as part of the research programme of the National Physical Laboratory and is published by permission of the Director of the Laboratory.

```

procedure quickersort(a, j);
  value j; integer j; array a;
begin integer i, k, q, m, p; real t, x; integer array ut,
  lt[1:ln(abs(j)+2)/ln(2)+0.01];
comment The procedure sorts the elements of the array a[1:j]
  into ascending order. It uses a method similar to that of QUICK-
  SORT by C. A. R. Hoare [1], i.e., by continually splitting the
  array into parts such that all elements of one part are less than
  all elements of the other, with a third part in the middle con-
  sisting of a single element. I am grateful to the referee for point-
  ing out that QUICKERSORT also bears a marked resemblance
  to sorting algorithms proposed by T. N. Hibbard [2, 3]. In par-
  ticular, the elimination of explicit recursion by choosing the
  shortest sub-sequence for the secondary sort was introduced by
  Hibbard in [2].

```

An element with value  $t$  is chosen arbitrarily (in QUICKERSORT the middle element is chosen, in QUICKSORT a random element is chosen).  $i$  and  $j$  give the lower and upper limits of the segment being split. After the split has taken place a value  $q$  will have been found such that  $a[q] = t$  and  $a[I] \leq t \leq a[J]$  for all  $I, J$  such that  $i \leq I < q < J \leq j$ . The program then performs operations on the two segments  $a[i:q-1]$  and  $a[q+1:j]$  as follows. The smaller segment is split and the position of the larger segment is stored in the  $lt$  and  $ut$  arrays ( $lt$  and  $ut$  are mnemonics for lower temporary and upper temporary). If the segment to be split has two or fewer elements it is sorted and another segment obtained from the  $lt$  and  $ut$  arrays. When no more segments remain, the array is completely sorted.

#### REFERENCES:

1. HOARE, C. A. R. Algorithms 63 and 64. *Comm. ACM* 4 (July 1961), 321.
2. HIBBARD, THOMAS N. Some combinatorial properties of certain trees with applications to searching and sorting. *J. ACM* 9 (Jan. 1962), 13.
3. ——. An empirical study of minimal storage sorting. *Comm. ACM* 6 (May 1963), 206-213;

```

i := m := 1;
N: if j-i > 1 then
  begin comment This segment has more than two elements,
    so split it;
    p := (j+i) ÷ 2;
    comment p is the position of an arbitrary element in the
    segment a[i:j]. The best possible value of p would be one
    which splits the segment into two halves of equal size, thus
    if the array (segment) is roughly sorted, the middle ele-
    ment is an excellent choice. If the array is completely
    random the middle element is as good as any other.
    If however the array a[1:j] is such that the parts a[1:j÷2]
    and a[j÷2+1:j] are both sorted the middle element could
    be very bad. Accordingly in some circumstances
    p := (i+j) ÷ 2 should be replaced by p := (i+3×j) ÷ 4
    or p := RANDOM(i, j) as in QUICKSORT;
    t := a[p];
    a[p] := a[i];
    q := j;
    for k := i + 1 step 1 until q do
      begin comment Search for an element a[k] > t starting
        from the beginning of the segment;
        if a[k] > t then
          begin comment Such an a[k] has been found;
            for q := q step -1 until k do
              begin comment Now search for a[q] < t starting from
                the end of the segment;
                if a[q] < t then
                  begin comment a[q] has been found, so exchange
                    a[q] and a[k];
                    x := a[k];
                    a[k] := a[q];
                    a[q] := x;
                    q := q-1;
                    comment Search for another pair to exchange;
                    go to L
                  end
                end for q;
                q := k - 1;
                comment q was undefined according to Para. 4.6.5 of
                the Revised ALGOL 60 Report [Comm. ACM 6 (Jan.
                1963), 1-17];
                go to M
              end;
            end for k;
            comment We reach the label M when the search going up-
            wards meets the search coming down;
          M: a[i] := a[q];
            a[q] := t;
            comment The segment has been split into the three parts
            (the middle part has only one element), now store the
            position of the largest segment in the lt and ut arrays and
            reset i and j to give the position of the next largest segment;
            if 2 × q > i + j then
              begin
                lt[m] := i;
                ut[m] := q-1;
                i := q+1
              end
            else
              begin
                lt[m] := q+1;
                ut[m] := j;
                j := q-1
              end;
            comment Update m and split this new smaller segment;
            m := m+1;
            go to N
          end
        end

```

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else if i ≥ j then
  begin comment This segment has less than two elements;
    go to P
  end
else
  begin comment This is the case when the segment has just
    two elements, so sort a[i] and a[j] where j = i + 1;
    if a[i] > a[j] then
      begin
        x := a[i];
        a[i] := a[j];
        a[j] := x
      end;
    comment If the lt and ut arrays contain more segments
    to be sorted then repeat the process by splitting the smallest
    of these. If no more segments remain the array has been
    completely sorted;
  P: m := m-1;
    if m > 0 then
      begin
        i := lt[m];
        j := ut[m];
        go to N
      end
    end
  end quicksort

```

#### REMARK ON ALGORITHM 250 [G6] INVERSE PERMUTATION

[B. H. Boonstra, *Comm. ACM* 8 (Feb. 1965), 104]  
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Several simplifications may be made to the subject algorithm to permit more efficient operation.

1. On many compilers, the procedure would be more efficient if the outer loop were written as a **for** loop.

2. The initialization of the vector  $P$  to negative values may be omitted by reversing the interpretation of positive and negative values. As revised,  $P[i]$  contains a negative number if it contains the inverse value and  $i$  is less than the current value of the parameter  $n$ .  $P[i]$  contains a positive value in all other cases. This allows the **for** loop labeled *tag* to be eliminated.

3. The variable *first* may be eliminated by declaring the parameter  $n$  as a value parameter, and utilizing it as the controlled variable of the outer loop.

The author wishes to thank the referee for valuable suggestions. The revised algorithm then reads:

```

procedure inversepermutation (P) of natural numbers up to: (n);
value n; integer n; integer array P;
comment Given a permutation P(i) of the numbers i = 1(1)n,
the inverse permutation is computed in situ;
begin integer i, j, k;
for n := n step -1 until 1 do
  begin i := P[n];
    if i < 0 then P[n] := -i
    else if i ≠ n then
      begin k := n;
        loop: j := P[i]; P[i] := -k;
          if j = n then P[n] := i
          else
            begin k := i; i := j; go to loop
          end
        end
      end
    end
  end inversepermutation

```