

# Package ‘Dykstra’

May 7, 2026

**Type** Package

**Title** Quadratic Programming using Cyclic Projections

**Version** 1.0-0

**Date** 2018-02-09

**Author** Nathaniel E. Helwig <helwig@umn.edu>

**Maintainer** Nathaniel E. Helwig <helwig@umn.edu>

**Description** Solves quadratic programming problems using Richard L. Dykstra's cyclic projection algorithm. Routine allows for a combination of equality and inequality constraints. See Dykstra (1983) <[doi:10.1080/01621459.1983.10477029](https://doi.org/10.1080/01621459.1983.10477029)> for details.

**License** GPL (>= 2)

**NeedsCompilation** no

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2018-02-09 18:34:56 UTC

## Contents

dykstra . . . . .	1
<b>Index</b>	<b>5</b>

---

dykstra	<i>Solve a Quadratic Programming Problem via Dykstra's Algorithm</i>
---------	--

---

## Description

This function uses Dykstra's cyclic projection algorithm to solve quadratic programming problems of the form

$$-d^T x + (1/2)x^T D x$$

subject to  $A^T x \geq b$  where  $D$  is a positive definite (or positive semidefinite) matrix.

**Usage**

```
dykstra(Dmat, dvec, Amat, bvec, meq = 0, factorized = FALSE,
        maxit = NULL, eps = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

Dmat	Quadratic program matrix $D$ of order $n \times n$ .
dvec	Quadratic program vector $d$ of length $n$ .
Amat	Constraint matrix $A$ of order $n \times r$ .
bvec	Constraint vector $b$ of length $r$ . Defaults to vector of zeros.
meq	First meq constraints are equality constraints (remaining are inequality constraints). Defaults to zero.
factorized	If TRUE, argument Dmat is $R^{-1}$ where $R^T R = D$ .
maxit	Maximum number of iterations (cycles). Defaults to $30n$ .
eps	Numeric tolerance. Defaults to $n * .Machine$double.eps$ .

**Details**

Arguments 1-6 of the [dykstra](#) function are inspired by (and identical to) the corresponding arguments of the [solve.QP](#) function in the **quadprog** package.

**Value**

solution	Vector $x$ that minimizes quadratic function subject to constraints.
value	Value of quadratic function at solution. Will be NA if factorized = TRUE.
unconstrained	Vector $x_0 = D^{-1}d$ that minimizes quadratic function ignoring constraints.
iterations	Number of iterations (cycles) of the algorithm.
converged	TRUE if algorithm converged. FALSE if iteration limit exceeded.

**Note**

For positive semidefinite  $D$ , a small constant is added to each eigenvalue of  $D$  before solving the quadratic programming problem.

**Author(s)**

Nathaniel E. Helwig <helwig@umn.edu>

**References**

Dykstra, Richard L. (1983). An algorithm for restricted least squares regression. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, Volume 78, Issue 384, 837-842. doi: 10.1080/01621459.1983.10477029

**Examples**

```
### EXAMPLE 1: Generic Quadratic Programming Problem ###

# constraint 1 (equality): coefficients sum to 1
# constraints 2-4 (inequality): coefficients non-negative

# define QP problem
Dmat <- diag(3)
dvec <- c(1, 1.5, 1)
Amat <- cbind(rep(1, 3), diag(3))
bvec <- c(1, 0, 0, 0)

# solve QP problem
dykstra(Dmat, dvec, Amat, bvec, meq = 1)

# solve QP problem (factorized = TRUE)
dykstra(Dmat, dvec, Amat, bvec, meq = 1, factorized = TRUE)

### EXAMPLE 2: Regression with Non-Negative Coefficients ###

# generate regression data
set.seed(1)
nobs <- 100
nvar <- 5
X <- matrix(rnorm(nobs*nvar), nobs, nvar)
beta <- c(0, 1, 0.3, 0.7, 0.1)
y <- X %*% beta + rnorm(nobs)

# define QP problem
Dmat <- crossprod(X)
dvec <- crossprod(X, y)
Amat <- diag(nvar)

# solve QP problem
dykstra(Dmat, dvec, Amat)

# solve QP problem (factorized = TRUE)
Rmat <- chol(Dmat)
Rinv <- solve(Rmat)
dykstra(Rinv, dvec, Amat, factorized = TRUE)

### EXAMPLE 3: Isotonic Regression ###

# generate regression data
set.seed(1)
n <- 50
x <- 1:n
y <- log(x) + rnorm(n)
```

```
# define QP problem
Dmat <- diag(n)
Amat <- Dmat[, 2:n] - Dmat[, 1:(n-1)]

# solve QP problem
dyk <- dykstra(Dmat, y, Amat)
dyk

# plot results
plot(x, y)
lines(x, dyk$solution)

### EX 4: Large Non-Negative Quadratic Program ###

# define QP problem
set.seed(1)
n <- 1000
Dmat <- Amat <- diag(n)
dvec <- runif(n, min = -2)

# solve QP problem with dykstra
dyk <- dykstra(Dmat, dvec, Amat)
dyk
```

# Index

\* **optimize**  
  dykstra, 1  
dykstra, 1, 2  
solve.QP, 2