

# Numerical Methods I

MATH-GA 2010.001/CSCI-GA 2420.001

Benjamin Peherstorfer  
Courant Institute, NYU

Based on slides by G. Stadler and A. Donev

# Today

## Last time

- ▶ Singular value decomposition (SVD)
- ▶ Iterative methods for systems of linear equations

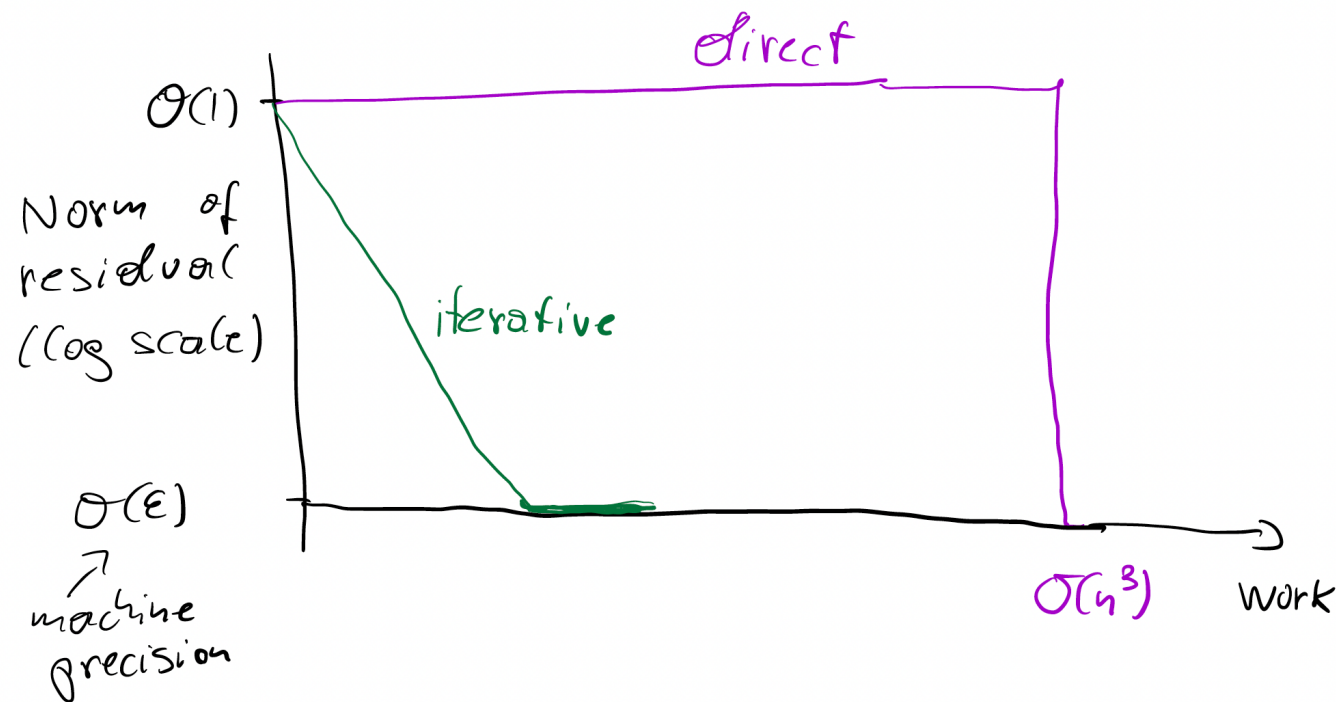
## Today

- ▶ Iterative methods
- ▶ Conjugate gradients method

## Announcements

- ▶ Homework 4 is due Mon, Nov 7, 2022 before class
- ▶ Midterm grades posted

## Recap: Iterative methods



- ▶ Iterative methods **can** converge geometrically until residual is below machine precision
- ▶ Direct methods make no progress at all until  $O(n^3)$  work is done, and then lead to residual on the order of machine precision

## Recap: Iterative methods

Let  $Q$  be invertible, then

$$\begin{aligned} A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b} &\Leftrightarrow Q^{-1}(\mathbf{b} - A\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{0} \\ &\Leftrightarrow (I - Q^{-1}A)\mathbf{x} + Q^{-1}\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{x} \\ &\Leftrightarrow G\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{x} \end{aligned}$$

Leads to fixed-point iteration

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = G\mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{c}$$

and  $\mathbf{x} = A^{-1}\mathbf{b}$  is stationary point

$$G\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{c} = (I - Q^{-1}A)\mathbf{x} + Q^{-1}\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{x} - Q^{-1}\mathbf{b} + Q^{-1}\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{x}$$

## Recap: Common choices for $Q$

Requirements on a good  $Q$  are

- ▶  $Q^{-1}$  is representative of  $A^{-1}$
- ▶ We can numerically solve  $Qy = z$  much quicker than  $Ax = b$  because in each step we solve

$$Q\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = (Q - A)\mathbf{x}_k + b$$

Split the matrix  $A$  as follows

$$A = L + D + U$$

## Recap: Jacobi method

**Theorem:** Select now  $Q = D$  ... **Jacobi method**. The Jacobi method converges for any starting point  $\mathbf{x}_0$  to the solution of  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  if  $A$  is strictly diagonal dominant, i.e.,

$$|a_{ii}| > \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij}|, \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, n.$$

Notice that  $Q = D$  is a good choice in terms of computational costs because we can very quickly solve  $D\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{z}$  for the diagonal matrix  $D$

# Gauss-Seidel method

**Theorem:** Choose  $Q = D + L \dots$  **Gauss-Seidel method**. The Gauss-Seidel method converges for any starting point  $\mathbf{x}_0$  if  $A$  is symmetric positive definite (spd).

$\rightsquigarrow$  **board**

Gauss-Seidel

$$\begin{aligned}x_{k+1} &= (\underline{I} - (D+L)^{-1}A)x_k + (D+L)^{-1}b \\&= \underbrace{((D+L)^{-1}(D+L) - (D+L)^{-1}(L+D+R))}_{-}x_k + (D+L)^{-1}b \\&= -(D+L)^{-1}R x_k + (D+L)^{-1}b\end{aligned}$$

For any spd  $A$ , we have a scalar product

$$\langle x, y \rangle_A = \langle x, Ay \rangle \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^n$$

And for any matrix  $B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , we have adjoint w.r.t.  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_A$  given by

$$B^* = A^{-1}B^T A$$

so that

$$\langle Bx, y \rangle_A = \langle x, B^*y \rangle_A \quad \forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

$B$  is positive w.r.t.  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_A$  if  $\langle Bx, x \rangle_A \geq 0$   
 $\forall x \neq 0$

Let  $G \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  with adjoint  $G^*$  w.r.t.  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ .

Then, if  $B = I - G^*G$  is positive w.r.t.  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ , it follows  $\rho(B) < 1$ .



In GS, we have

$$G = I - (D+L)^{-1}A$$

$B = I - G^*G$  is a positive matrix w.r.t.  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_A$ .

$$\begin{aligned} G^* &= A^{-1} G^T A = \\ &= I - A^{-1} A^T \underbrace{(D+L)^{-1}}_{(D+L)^{-T}} A \\ &= I - (D+L)^{-1} A \end{aligned}$$

$$B = I - G^*G = \dots = (D+L)^{-1} D (D+L)^T A$$

show that  $B$  is pos.

$$\begin{aligned} \langle Bx, x \rangle_A &= \langle D^{\frac{1}{2}} (D+L)^{-1} Ax, D^{\frac{1}{2}} (D+L)^{-1} Ax \rangle \\ &= \| \underbrace{D^{\frac{1}{2}} (D+L)^{-1}}_{\quad} \underbrace{Ax}_{\quad} \|_2^2 > 0 \quad \forall x \neq 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \rho(G) < 1$$

# Gauss-Seidel method

**Theorem:** Choose  $Q = D + L$  ... **Gauss-Seidel method**. The Gauss-Seidel method converges for any starting point  $\mathbf{x}_0$  if  $A$  is symmetric positive definite (spd).

↪ **board**

Notice that  $Q = D + L$  is a good choice in terms of computational costs because we can very quickly solve  $(D + L)y = z$  for the lower triangular matrix  $D + L$  (forward substitution)

## Relaxation methods:

Use linear combination between new and previous iterate:

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \omega \underbrace{(G\mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{c})}_{\mathbf{x}'_{k+1}} + (1 - \omega)\mathbf{x}_k = G_\omega \mathbf{x}_k + \omega \mathbf{c},$$

where  $\omega > 0$  is a **damping/relaxation parameter** (sometimes,  $\omega > 1$  is used, leading to overrelaxation). Target is to choose  $\omega$  such that  $\rho(G_\omega)$  is minimal.

**Def:** A fixed point method  $\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = G\mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{c}$  with  $G = G(A)$  is called *symmetrizable* if for any symmetric positive definite (spd) matrix  $A$ , the matrix  $I - G$  is similar to an spd matrix, i.e., there is a regular  $W$  such that  $W(I - G)W^{-1}$  spd.

Symmetrizable:

↳ Richardson:  $G = I - A$

$$\Rightarrow I - G = A \quad \text{is spd, if } A \text{ spd}$$

↳ Jacobi:  $G = I - D^{-1}A$ , set  $W = D^{\frac{1}{2}}$

$$\begin{aligned} D^{\frac{1}{2}} (I - G) D^{-\frac{1}{2}} &= I - I + D^{\frac{1}{2}} D^{-1} A D^{-\frac{1}{2}} \\ &= D^{-\frac{1}{2}} A D^{-\frac{1}{2}} \end{aligned}$$

For sym. schemes

$$x_{k+1} = G x_k + c, \quad G = G(A), \quad A \text{ spd}$$

$$\sigma(G) \subset (-\infty, 1)$$

$$x_{k+1} = w(Gx_k + c) + (1-w)x_k$$

$$= G_w x_k + wc$$

$$\text{with } G_w = wG + (1-w)I$$

want find  $0 < w < 1$  with minimal  $\rho(G_w)$

$\text{EV}$  of  $G_w$  are

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_i(G_w) &= w \lambda_i(G) + 1 - w \\ &= 1 - w(1 - \lambda_i(G))\end{aligned}$$

$$\lambda_{\min}(G) \leq \lambda_{\max}(G) < 1$$

$$\lambda_i(G_w) < 1$$

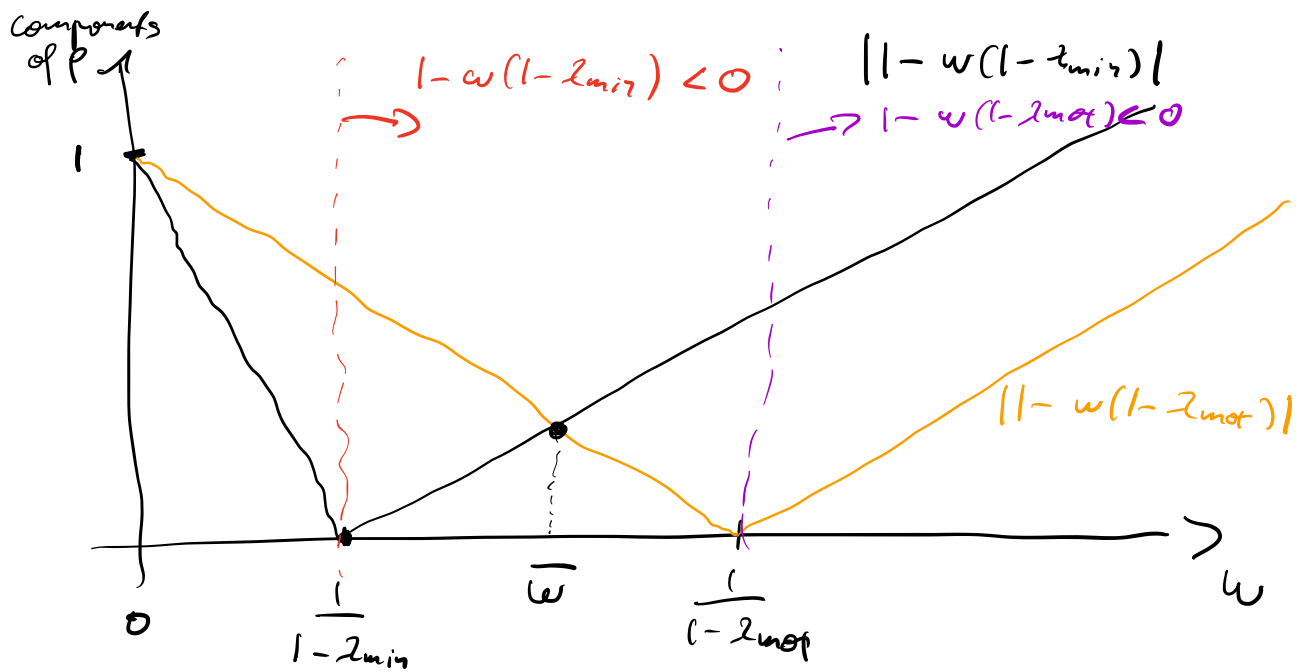
$$\rho(G_w) = \max \{ |1 - w(1 - \lambda_{\min}(G))|, |1 - w(1 - \lambda_{\max}(G))| \}$$

$$\text{Let's look at } w_{\min} = \frac{1}{1 - \lambda_{\min}(G)} > 0$$

$$|1 - w_{\min}(1 - \lambda_{\min}(G))| = 0$$

$$\text{Now } w_{\max} = \frac{1}{1 - \lambda_{\max}(G)}$$

$$|1 - w_{\max}(1 - \lambda_{\max}(G))| = 0$$



optimal  $\bar{w}$  satisfies

$$-(1 - \bar{w}(1 - z_{\min}(G))) = 1 - \bar{w}(1 - z_{\max}(G))$$

$$\bar{w} = \frac{2}{2 - z_{\max}(G) - z_{\min}(G)}$$

Richardson: spd matrix  $A$ ,  $G = I - A$

$$\lambda_{\min}(G) = 1 - \lambda_{\max}(A)$$

$$\lambda_{\max}(G) = 1 - \lambda_{\min}(A)$$

$$\bar{\omega} = \frac{2}{\lambda_{\max}(A) + \lambda_{\min}(A)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(G, \bar{\omega}) &= \dots = \frac{\lambda_{\max}(A) - \lambda_{\min}(A)}{\lambda_{\max}(A) + \lambda_{\min}(A)} \\ &= \dots = \frac{\kappa_2(A) - 1}{\kappa_2(A) + 1} < 1 \end{aligned}$$

Finding the optimal damping parameter:  $\rightsquigarrow$  board



Finding the optimal damping parameter:  $\rightsquigarrow$  board

We obtain that

$$\bar{\omega} = \frac{2}{2 - \lambda_{\max}(G) - \lambda_{\min}(G)}$$

is the optimal damping parameter for symmetrizable iteration methods that minimizes the spectral radius. The spectral radius is

$$\rho(G_{\bar{\omega}}) < 1$$

This means that for a suitable choice  $\bar{\omega}$  we can make *any* symmetrizable iteration method convergent for an spd  $A$ !

Finding the optimal damping parameter:  $\rightsquigarrow$  board

We obtain that

$$\bar{\omega} = \frac{2}{2 - \lambda_{\max}(G) - \lambda_{\min}(G)}$$

is the optimal damping parameter for symmetrizable iteration methods that minimizes the spectral radius. The spectral radius is

$$\rho(G_{\bar{\omega}}) < 1$$

This means that for a suitable choice  $\bar{\omega}$  we can make *any* symmetrizable iteration method convergent for an spd  $A$ !

Optimal damping parameter for Richardson iteration  $\rightsquigarrow$  board

# Algorithmic perspective on iterative methods

Richardson iterations

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})\mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{b}$$

for  $k = 0, 1, \dots$

for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$ :  $x_{k+1}[i] = x_k[i] + r_k[i]$

where the residual  $\mathbf{r}_k$  at iteration  $k$  is given by

$$\mathbf{r}_k = \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_k$$

What would we like to update  $\mathbf{x}_k$  with?

# Algorithmic perspective on iterative methods

Richardson iterations

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = (I - A)\mathbf{x}_k + b$$

for  $k = 0, 1, \dots$

for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$ :  $x_{k+1}[i] = x_k[i] + r_k[i]$

where the residual  $\mathbf{r}_k$  at iteration  $k$  is given by

$$\mathbf{r}_k = \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_k$$

What would we like to update  $\mathbf{x}_k$  with? We would like to update  $\mathbf{x}_k$  in the direction of the error  $\mathbf{e}_k = \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_k$  because then

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{e}_k = \mathbf{x}$$

However, we don't have the error  $\mathbf{e}_k$  and therefore it is reasonable to use the next best thing which is the residual in many situations

$$\mathbf{r}_k = \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_k = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_k = \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_k) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{e}_k$$

$\rightsquigarrow$  Richardson iteration updates  $\mathbf{x}_k$  in the direction of the residual  $\mathbf{r}_k$

## Jacobi iterations

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = (I - D^{-1}A)\mathbf{x}_k + D^{-1}b$$

$$\boxed{I} \ominus \boxed{A} \approx \boxed{B}$$

$$r_k[i] = b_i - a_{i,:} x_k$$

$$a_{i,:} x_{k+1} = b_i$$

for  $k = 0, 1, \dots$

for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$ :  $y[i] = 1/a_{ii} r_k[i]$

for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$ :  $x_{k+1}[i] = x_k[i] + y[i]$

- ▶ In every substep  $i$  of iteration  $k$ , an update  $y[i]$  is computed and stored
- ▶ Applied immediately, this would lead to the (momentary) disappearance of the  $i$ -th component of the residual  $r_k$
- ▶ Thus, with this current approximation, equation  $i$  would be solved exactly—an improvement that would be lost immediately in the following substep for the equation  $i + 1$
- ▶ However, the updates of a component are not applied immediately but only at the end of an iteration step (second  $i$ -loop)

## Gauss-Seidel iteration

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = (I - (L + D)^{-1}A)\mathbf{x}_k + (L + D)^{-1}b$$

for  $k = 0, 1, \dots$

for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$ :  $r_k[i] = b[i] - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} a_{ij}x_{k+1}[j] - \sum_{j=i}^n a_{ij}x_k[j]$   
 $y[i] = 1/a_{ii}r_k[i]$ ,  $x_{k+1}[i] = x_k[i] + y[i]$

- ▶ In contrast to Jacobi method, the update is performed immediately
- ▶ Therefore the new modified values for components  $1, \dots, i-1$  are already available for updating component  $i$

Damping (mostly Jacobi) or over-relaxation (mostly Gauss-Seidel) means to take step lengths different from 1 in the direction of the residual

# The spectral radius of typical iterative matrices

- ▶ The spectral radius  $\rho$  determines convergence and speed; the smaller  $\rho$ , the faster the error decays. In practice,  $\rho$  is often very close to 1 so that even though  $\rho < 1$  it takes an unreasonable amount of iterations to get a reasonable answer
- ▶ An important sample scenario is the discretization of PDEs: It is typical that  $\rho$  depends on the dimension  $n$  of the matrix  $A$ , and thus in terms of PDE discretization it depends on the mesh width  $h$  of the underlying grid. For example

$$\rho \in \mathcal{O}(1 - h_l^2) = \mathcal{O}(1 - \frac{1}{4^l})$$

with mesh width  $h_l = 2^{-l}$  in one dimension ( $\mathcal{O}(1 - 16^{-l})$  in two spatial dimensions)

- ▶ This is a huge disadvantage: **Why?**

# The spectral radius of typical iterative matrices

- ▶ The spectral radius  $\rho$  determines convergence and speed; the smaller  $\rho$ , the faster the error decays. In practice,  $\rho$  is often very close to 1 so that even though  $\rho < 1$  it takes an unreasonable amount of iterations to get a reasonable answer
- ▶ An important sample scenario is the discretization of PDEs: It is typical that  $\rho$  depends on the dimension  $n$  of the matrix  $A$ , and thus in terms of PDE discretization it depends on the mesh width  $h$  of the underlying grid. For example

$$\rho \in \mathcal{O}(1 - h_l^2) = \mathcal{O}(1 - \frac{1}{4^l})$$

with mesh width  $h_l = 2^{-l}$  in one dimension ( $\mathcal{O}(1 - 16^{-l})$  in two spatial dimensions)

- ▶ This is a huge disadvantage: **Why?** the finer the grid is (and therefore the more accurate our approximation of the PDE solution should be), the slower these iterative methods get.



Consider the Laplace equation

$$\Delta u(x_1, x_2) = 0,$$

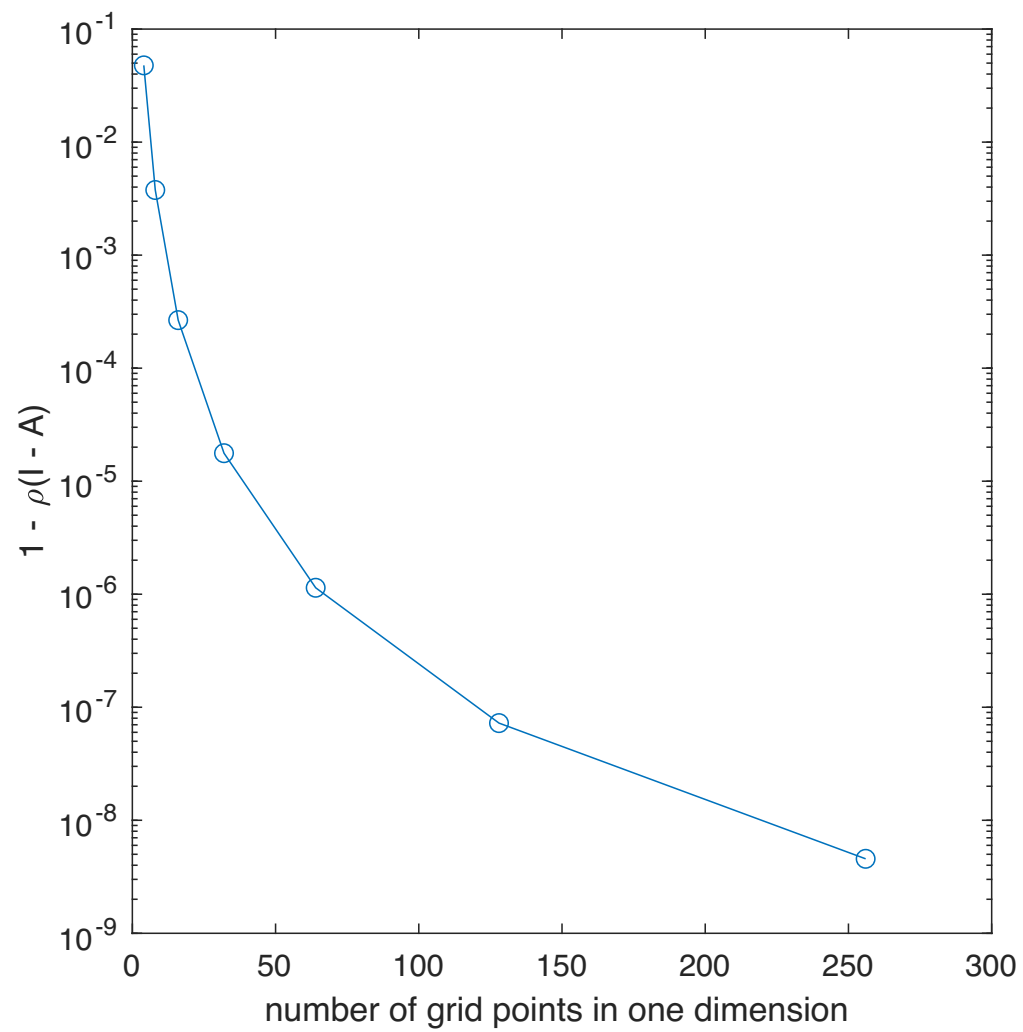
in two dimensions and discretize with five-point second-order finite-difference stencil on  $N \times N$  grid points ( $\rightsquigarrow$  NM2)

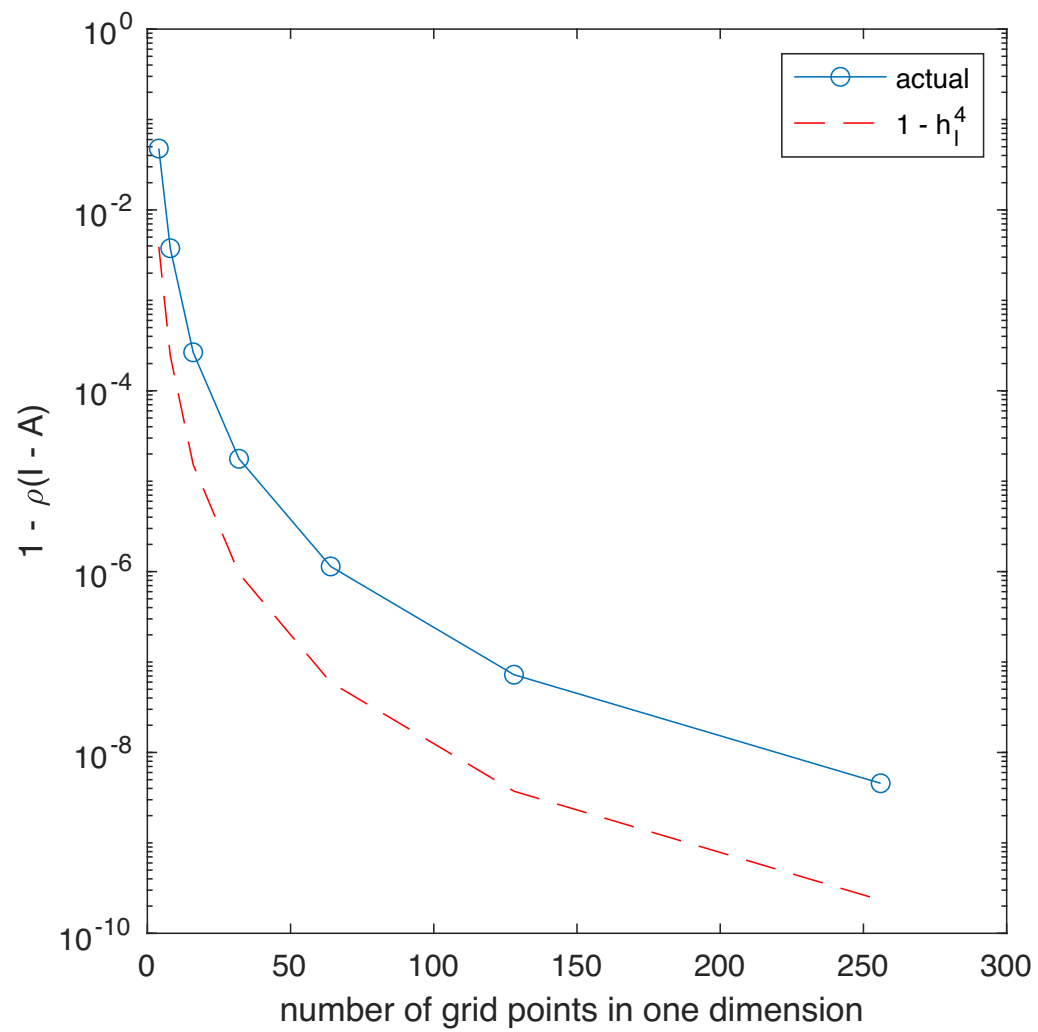
Plot the spectral radius  $\rho(I - A)$  (Richardson interpolation) w.r.t. number of grid points

---

```
1: Nlist = 2.^(2:8);
2: eList = [];
3: for N=Nlist
4:     X = gallery('poisson', N)*(1/N^2);
5:     eList(end + 1) = eigs(speye(N^2) - X, 1);
6: end
```

---





Running Jacobi on a Poisson matrix with  $N = 10$  and  $N = 100$  grid points in each dimension:

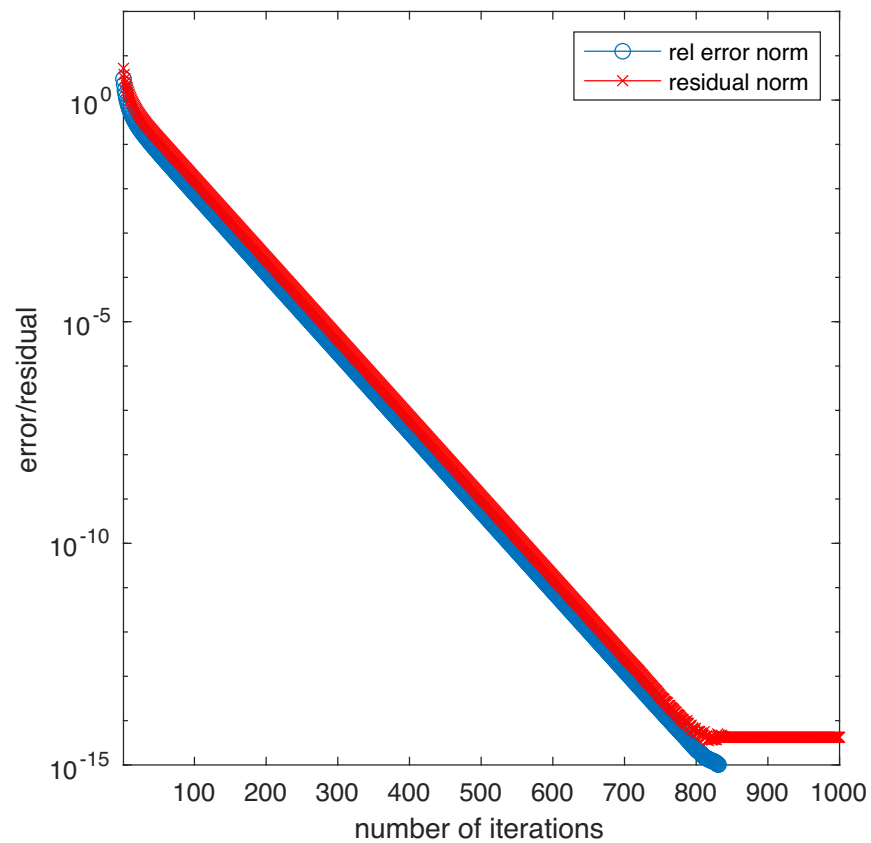
---

```
1: A = gallery('poisson', N)*(1/N^2);
2: b = randn(N^2, 1);
3: x = randn(N^2, 1);
4: xTrue = A\b;
5: M = speye(N^2) - spdiags(1./diag(A), 0, N^2, N^2)*A;
6: c = spdiags(1./diag(A), 0, N^2, N^2)*b;
7:
8: hist = [];
9: for iter=1:1000
10:     x = M*x + c;
11:     hist(iter, 1) = norm(x - xTrue)/norm(x);
12:     hist(iter, 2) = norm(A*x - b);
13: end
```

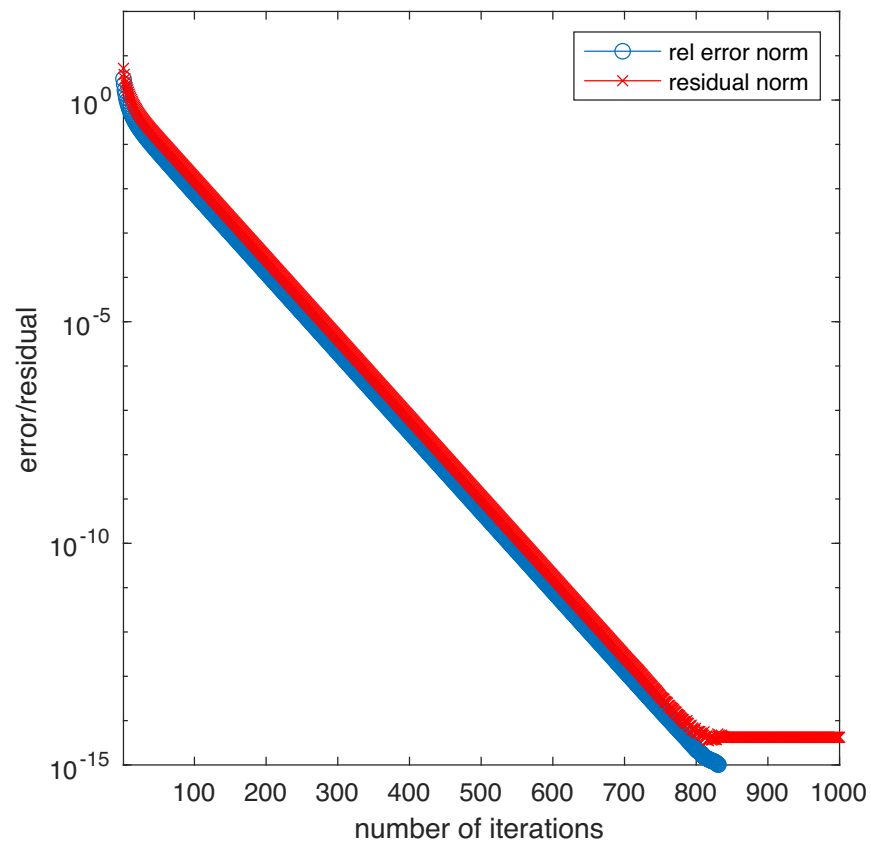
---

$N = 10$

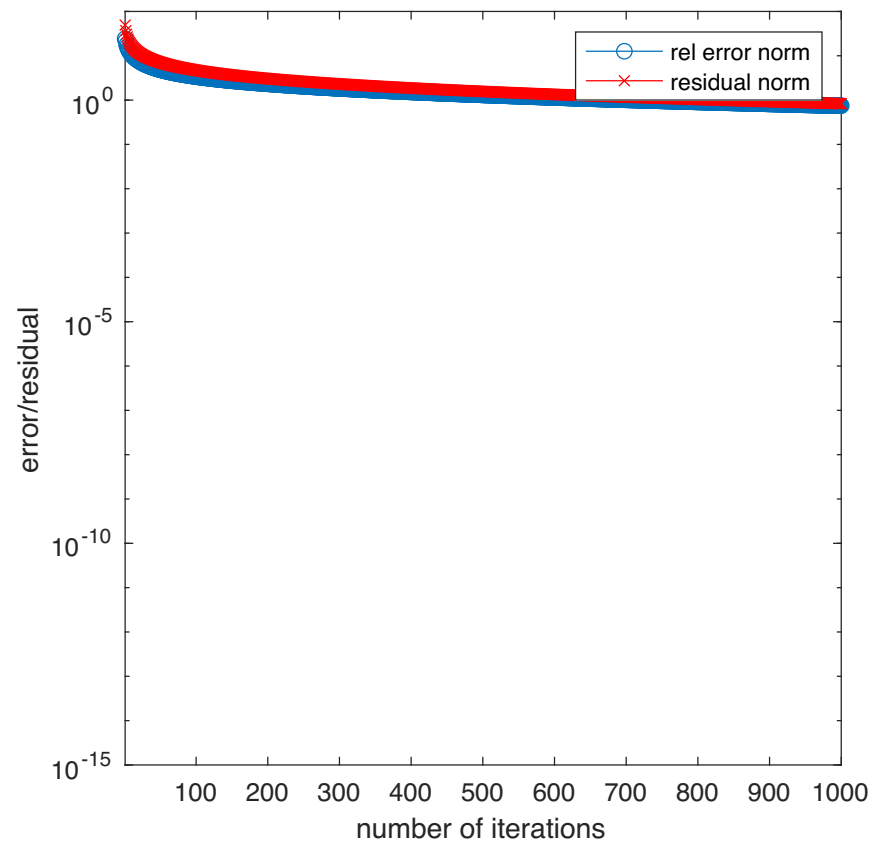
$N = 100$



$N = 10$



$N = 100$

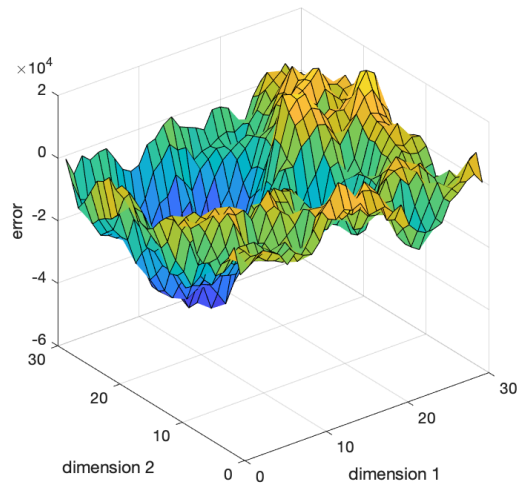


## First few iterations of Jacobi relaxation

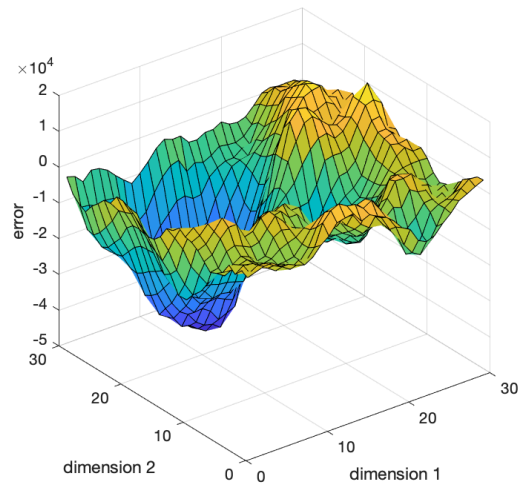
---

```
1:
2: N = 30; A = gallery('poisson', N)*(1/N^2);
3: [X, Y] = meshgrid(linspace(1, N, N), linspace(1, N, N));
4: b = 10*randn(N^2, 1);
5: x = randn(N^2, 1);
6: xTrue = A\b;
7:
8: for i=1:5
9:     x = (speye(N^2) - spdiags(1./diag(A), 0, N^2, N^2)*A)*x + ...
10:         spdiags(1./diag(A), 0, N^2, N^2)*b;
11: end
```

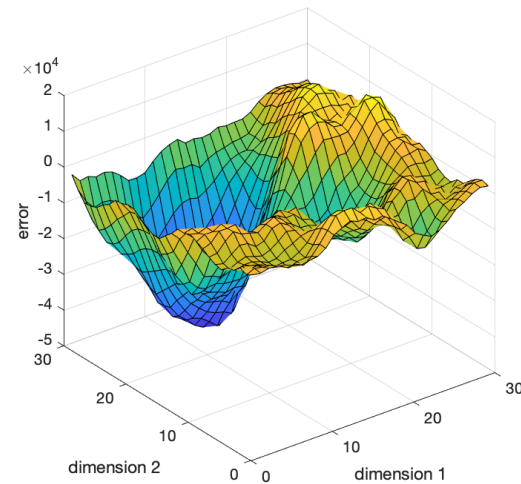
---



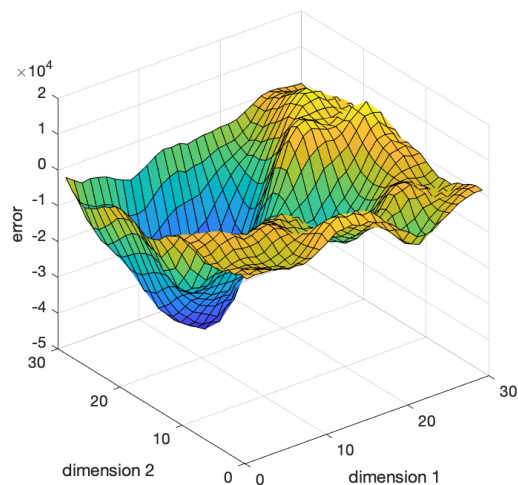
iteration 0



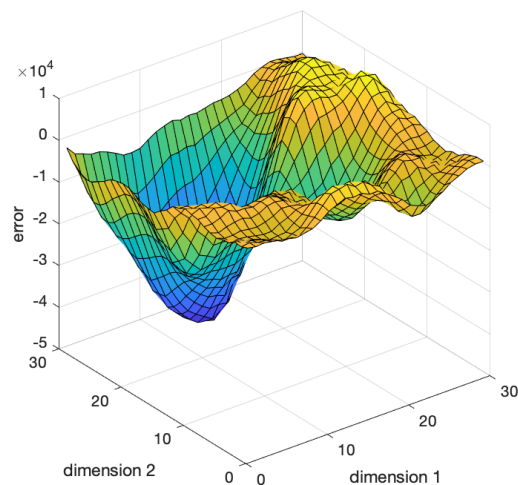
iteration 1



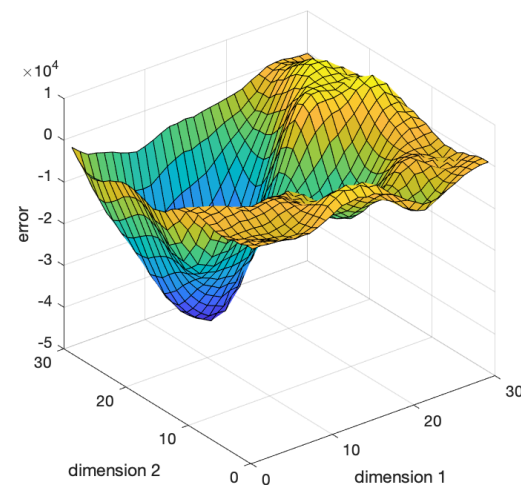
iteration 2



iteration 3



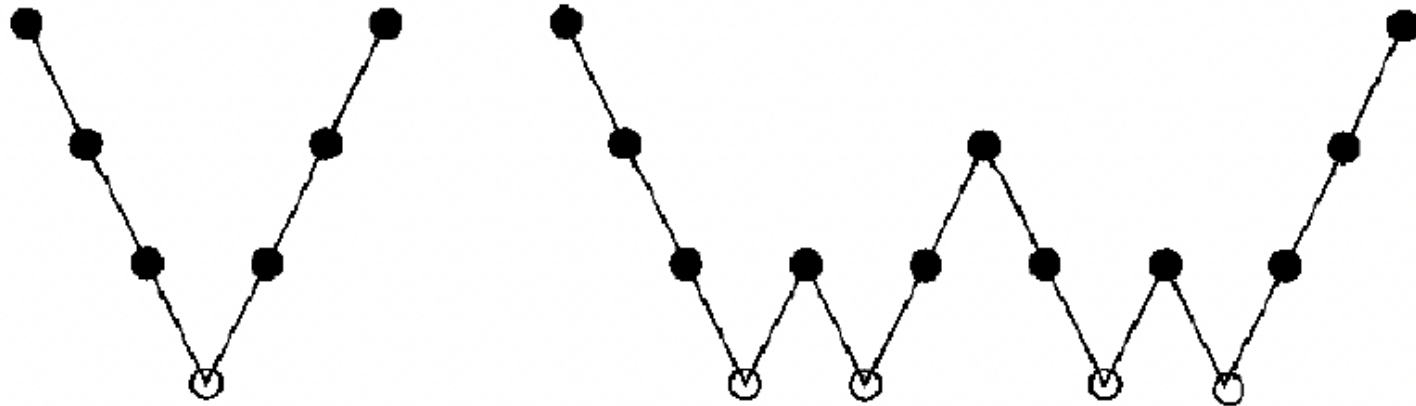
iteration 4



iteration 5



- ▶ Relaxation methods such as Jacobi and Gauss Seidel have a smoothing effect on the error
- ▶ Even if  $\rho \approx 1$ , only a few iterations are necessary to obtain a smooth error; this means that high-frequency error is reduced very quickly whereas the low-frequency error is reduced slowly
- ▶ Multigrid methods exploit this effect and represent the smoothed error on a coarse grid, where it becomes high-frequency error again, which can be smoothed quickly



⇒ Multigrid methods are among the most efficient solvers for PDE problems ⇒

## Conjugate gradient method

In the following  $A$  is symmetric positive definite.

Formulate solving  $Ax = b$  as an optimization problem: Define

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2}x^T Ax - b^T x,$$

and minimize

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x)$$

Because  $A$  is positive definite, the function  $f$  is convex. It is sufficient to look at the gradient

$$\nabla f(x) = \frac{1}{2}A^T x + \frac{1}{2}Ax - b = Ax - b = -r(x) = 0 \iff Ax = b$$

What is the benefit of this point of view?

In the following  $A$  is symmetric positive definite.

Formulate solving  $Ax = b$  as an optimization problem: Define

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2}x^T Ax - b^T x,$$

and minimize

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x)$$

Because  $A$  is positive definite, the function  $f$  is convex. It is sufficient to look at the gradient

$$\nabla f(x) = \frac{1}{2}A^T x + \frac{1}{2}Ax - b = Ax - b = -r(x) = 0 \iff Ax = b$$

**What is the benefit of this point of view?** We now can let loose all what we know about optimization to solve  $Ax = b$

Our first try is applying the method of steepest descent in the direction of the negative gradient

$$-\nabla f = r$$

which happens to be the residual

$$r_k = b - Ax_k$$

$$\alpha_k = \frac{r_k^T r_k}{r_k^T A r_k}$$

$$x_{k+1} = x_k + \alpha_k r_k$$

The step length  $\alpha_k$  minimizes  $f(x_k + \alpha_k r_k)$  as a function of  $\alpha_k \rightsquigarrow$  **board**

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2} x^T A x - b^T x, \quad \nabla f(x) = Ax - b$$

$$\min_{\alpha_k} f(x_k + \alpha_k r_k) = \frac{1}{2} (x_k + \alpha_k r_k)^T A (x_k + \alpha_k r_k) - b^T (x_k + \alpha_k r_k)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha_k} f(x_k + \alpha_k r_k) = r_k^T [\nabla f(x_k + \alpha_k r_k)]$$

$$= r_k^T [Ax_k + A\alpha_k r_k - b] \stackrel{!}{=} 0$$

$$r_k^T Ax_k + \alpha_k r_k^T A r_k - r_k^T b \stackrel{!}{=} 0$$

$$r_k^T (\underbrace{Ax_k - b}_{= -r_k}) + \alpha_k r_k^T A r_k \stackrel{!}{=} 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha_k^* = \frac{r_k^T r_k}{r_k^T A r_k}$$

For steepest descent, if  $A$  is spd, we obtain

$$\|x^* - x_k\|_A \leq \left( \frac{\kappa_2(A) - 1}{\kappa_2(A) + 1} \right)^k \|x^* - x_0\|_A,$$

where  $\langle x, y \rangle_A = x^T A y$  and  $\|\cdot\|_A = \sqrt{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_A}$ .

Proof  $\rightsquigarrow$  **board**

Spd  $A$ :

$$\|x_k - x^*\|_A \leq \left( \frac{\rho_2(A) - 1}{\rho_2(A) + 1} \right)^k \|x_k - x_0\|_A$$

$$\begin{aligned} x_{k+1}(\alpha) &= x_k + \alpha r_k & (r_k = b - Ax_k = Ax^* - Ax_k) \\ &= x_k + \alpha \underline{A(x^* - x_k)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \underbrace{x^* - x_{k+1}(\alpha)}_{e_{k+1}(\alpha)} &= x^* - x_k - \alpha A(x^* - x_k) = \\ &= (1 - \alpha A) \underbrace{(x^* - x_k)}_{e_k} \end{aligned}$$

$$e_{k+1}(\alpha) = (1 - \alpha A) e_k$$

$$\|e_{k+1}(\alpha)\|_A^2 = e_k^T (1 - \alpha A)^T A (1 - \alpha A) e_k$$

$$\boxed{e_k = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i z_i}$$