

8.3 Show that if the  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  is tridiagonal then a solution to the system of linear equation  $Ax=b$  can be obtained in  $O(n)$  step.

→ Consider the tridiagonal matrix as

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 & c_1 & & & 0 \\ a_2 & b_2 & c_2 & & \\ & a_3 & b_3 & c_3 & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\ 0 & & & a_n & b_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Then the equation  $Ax=b$ , becomes.

$$\begin{bmatrix} b_1 & c_1 & & & 0 \\ a_2 & b_2 & c_2 & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ 0 & & & a_n & b_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} d_1 \\ d_2 \\ \vdots \\ d_n \end{bmatrix}$$

→ Now Doing the steps of Gaussian elimination we obtain

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & \frac{c_1}{b_1} & & & 0 \\ a_2 & b_2 & c_2 & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ 0 & & & a_n & b_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{d_1}{b_1} \\ d_2 \\ \vdots \\ d_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \frac{c_1}{b_1} & & & \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{c_2 - a_2 \cdot \frac{c_1}{b_1}}{b_2} & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ 0 & & & a_n & b_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \frac{c_1}{b_1} & & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{c_2}{b_2 - a_2 \cdot \frac{c_1}{b_1}} & 0 \\ & & \ddots & \\ 0 & & & c_{n-1} \\ & & & a_n & b_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_{n-1} \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{d_1}{b_1} \\ \frac{d_2 - a_2 \cdot \frac{d_1}{b_1}}{b_2 - a_2 \cdot \frac{c_1}{b_1}} \\ \vdots \\ d_n \end{bmatrix}$$

After doing All steps of Gaussian elimination  
We obtain

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & c'_1 & & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & c'_2 & 0 \\ & & \ddots & \\ 0 & & & 1 & c'_{n-1} \\ & & & & a_n & b_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_{n-1} \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} d'_1 \\ d'_2 \\ \vdots \\ d'_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Where

$$c'_1 = \frac{c_1}{b_1} \text{ for } i=1$$

$$c'_i = \frac{c_i}{b_i - a_i \cdot c'_{i-1}} \text{ for } i=2, \dots, n-1$$

$$\text{and } d'_1 = \frac{d_1}{b_1} \text{ for } i=1$$

$$d'_i = \frac{d_i - a_i d'_{i-1}}{b_i - a_i c'_{i-1}} \text{ for } i=2, 3, \dots, n$$

Then in back-substitution we obtain the solution as -

$$x_n = d'_n$$

$$x_i = d'_i - c'_i \cdot x_{i+1} \text{ for } i=n-1, n-2, \dots, 1$$



Complexity

① Gaussian elimination -

a) Multiplication / division :-

$$1 + n + 1 + n + n + 1 + 2n$$

$$= 5n$$

b) Addition / subtraction :-

$$n + 1 + 2n$$

$$= (3n + 1)$$

② back substitution :-

a) Multiplication / division :-

$$(n - 1)$$

b) addition / subtraction :-  $(n - 1)$

$$\text{So, Total Complexity} = 5n + 3n + 1 + 2(n - 1)$$

$$= 5n + 3n + 1 + 2n - 2$$

$$= (10n - 1)$$

$$\sim O(n)$$

So, for a tridiagonal Matrix A, the solution of the system of linear equation is ~~order~~  $O(n)$ .

This particular algorithm is called

"Thomas algorithm"