MATH 231 : Numerical ODEs
Random Examples

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Question 1: Eigenvalues of special tridiagonal matrices

This question is about finding eigenvalues of tridiagonal linear systems arising from applications, specifically finding the eigenvalues of an $n \times n$ matrix of the form,

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & & & \\ c & a & b & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & c & a & b \\ & & & c & a \end{pmatrix}$$

where a, b, c are real numbers with $bc > 0$ (i.e. b and c have the same signs).

(a) Show that the eigenvalue problem of A is equivalent to the equations

$$c v_{j-1} + (a - \lambda) v_j + b v_{j+1} = 0, \quad j = 1, \dots, n$$
$$v_0 = 0 = v_{n+1}$$

where $\boldsymbol{v} = (v_1, \dots, v_n)^T$ is an eigenvector of A associated with the eigenvalue λ.

(b) The recurrence relation (1) is a second order linear difference equation and can be solved similar to second order linear differential equations. By guessing $v_j = r^j$ for some constant r, show that r satisfies

$$r_{\pm} = \frac{\lambda - a \pm \sqrt{(\lambda - a)^2 - 4bc}}{2b}, \quad \text{with} \quad r_+ r_- = \frac{c}{b}$$

(c) Show by contradiction that $r_{\pm}$must be distinct.

Hint: if $r_{\pm} = r$ are repeated, then $v_j = A r^j + B j r^j$ for some constants A, B.

(d) Since $r_{\pm}$are distinct, the general solution for (1) is $v_j = A r_+^j + B r_-^j$ for constants A, B. Use this to conclude from (2) and (3) that,

$$\left(\frac{b r_+^2}{c} \right)^{n+1} = 1$$

(e) From part (c), (3) and (4), show that $r_{\pm}$must be complex valued and conclude that (4) has the solutions for $k = 1, \dots, n$,

$$r_{\pm,k} = \sqrt{\frac{c}{b}} \exp\left(\frac{\pm i k \pi}{n+1} \right), \quad \text{where } i = \sqrt{-1}$$

(f) Using part (e), conclude that the eigenvalues of A is given by

$$\lambda_k = a + 2 \operatorname{sgn} \sqrt{bc} \cos\left(\frac{\pi k}{n+1} \right), \quad k = 1, \dots, n$$

(g) Find the eigenvalues of the $n \times n$ finite difference matrix $A_h = \frac{1}{h^2} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & & & \\ -1 & 2 & \ddots & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & & \\ & & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ & & & -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$, where $h = \frac{1}{n+1}$.

Conclude that A_h is symmetric positive definite and find its condition number $\kappa(A_h)$ with respect to $\|\cdot\|_2$. Show that $\kappa(A_h) = \mathcal{O}(h^{-2})$ as number of grid points n increases. What does this mean for solving $A_h \boldsymbol{x} = \boldsymbol{b}$ when n is large?

Solution

(a) Let $(\lambda, \vec{v})$ be an eigenpair of A

$$\begin{aligned}
&\implies A\vec{v} = \lambda\vec{v} \\
&\implies (A - \lambda I)\,\vec{v} = \vec{0} \\
&\implies \begin{pmatrix} (a-\lambda)\,v_1 + bv_2 \\ cv_1 + (a-\lambda)v_2 + bv_3 \\ \vdots \\ cv_{n-2} + (a-\lambda)v_{n-1} + b_n \\ c_{n-1} + (a-\lambda)v_n \end{pmatrix} = \vec{0}.
\end{aligned}$$

We can write the above relation as the following,

$$cv_{j-1} + (a-\lambda)\,v_j + bv_{j+1} = 0. \tag{1}$$

Where $0 \leq j \leq n+1$ and $v_0 = 0 = v_{n+1}$ ☺

(b) Using the hint we guess the following form of the solution $v_j = r^j$. Substituting in 1,

$$\begin{aligned}
cr^{j-1} + (a-\lambda)\,r^j + br^{j+1} &= 0 \\
c + (a-\lambda)\,r + br^2 &= 0 \\
&.
\end{aligned}$$

Using the quadratic formula, we get

$$r_{\pm} = \frac{\lambda - a \pm \sqrt{(a-\lambda)^2 - 4bc}}{2b}..$$

(c) If 1 has a repeated root, say $r_{\pm} = r$, then solution to the recursion would look like,

$$v_j = Ar^j + Bjr^j.$$

Question 2: Classical iterative methods for strictly diagonally dominant matrices

(a) Show that the diagonal part of any strictly diagonally dominant (S.D.D.) matrix is invertible.

(b) Recall the Gershgorin's theorem below, which can give useful information about the eigenvalues of a matrix. The eigenvalues of a complex valued matrix A lies in the union of n discs $\bigcup_{i=1}^{n} D_i$ on the complex plane, where

$$D_i = \left\{ z \in \mathbb{C} : |z - a_{ii}| \leqslant \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij}| \right\}$$

Using Gershgorin's theorem, conclude S.D.D. matrices are invertible. Hint: Show that $0 \notin D_i$ for all $i = 1, \ldots, n$. The next two parts are about showing convergence of Jacobi and Gauss-Seidel iterations for S.D.D. matrices.

(c) Recall the matrix $-M^{-1}N$ associated with the Jacobi iteration takes the form $-D^{-1}(L+U)$, where $A = L + D + U$.

(d) Let A be S.D.D. and λ be any eigenvalue of $-D^{-1}(L+U)$. Show that $\det(L+U+\lambda D) = 0$ using part (a). (ii) Now suppose $|\lambda| \geqslant 1$. Deduce from A being S.D.D. that $L + U + \lambda D$ must also be S.D.D. (iii) Deduce a contradiction by applying the result from part (b) to $L + U + \lambda D$, and conclude that $|\lambda| < 1$. (iv) Combine parts (i)-(iii) to conclude that Jacobi iteration converges for S.D.D. matrices.

(e) Follow a similar argument as part (c) to show that Gauss-Seidel iterations converges for S.D.D. matrices.

Question 3: Classical iterative methods for symmetric positive definite matrices

This question is about coding and comparing classical iterative methods for the S.P.D. matrix A_h from Q1(g).

(a) Write a pseudocode for the classical iterative methods: Richardson, optimal Richardson, Jacobi, Gauss-Seidel, S.O.R., and optimal S.O.R.

(b) Implement a program to solve $A_h \boldsymbol{x} = \boldsymbol{b}$ with $\boldsymbol{b} = (1, \ldots, 1)^T \in \mathbb{R}^{20}$ and $\boldsymbol{x}_0 = (1, 0, \ldots, 0)^T \in \mathbb{R}^{20}$ using Richardson (with $\omega = \lambda_{\max}^{-1}$), optimal Richardson, Jacobi, Gauss-Seidel, S.O.R. (with $\theta = 1.2$) and optimal S.O.R. Generate a plot comparing the log of their residual in ℓ_2 norm versus iterations up to 5000 . Rank the performance of each method by comparing the iterations needed to reach the residual tolerance of 10^{-14}. Use sparse representation when appropriate. Hint: Use Q1(g) to find parameters for Richardson and vary θ to find an approximate optimal parameter for S.O.R. (c) Comment on the decreases in performance when $n = 1000$. Explain briefly how this relates to $\kappa(A_h) = \mathcal{O}(h^{-2})$.

Question 4: Steepest Descent and Conjugate Gradient

(a) Let A be a S.P.D. matrix. Show that $(\boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{y})_A := \boldsymbol{x}^T A \boldsymbol{y}$ for $\boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ forms an inner product on $\mathbb{R}^n$.

(b) Using part (a), conclude that $\|\boldsymbol{x}\| = (\boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{x})_A^{1/2}$ for $\boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is a norm on $\mathbb{R}^n$.

Hint: You can assume the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality $\left|(\boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{y})_A\right| \leqslant \|\boldsymbol{x}\|_A \|\boldsymbol{y}\|_A$ holds.

(c) For the method of Steepest Descent, show that $\nabla f(\boldsymbol{x}_k)$ and $\nabla f(\boldsymbol{x}_{k+1})$ are orthogonal (i.e. zig-zaging behavior), where $f(\boldsymbol{y}) = \frac{1}{2}\boldsymbol{y}^T A \boldsymbol{y} - \boldsymbol{y}^T \boldsymbol{b}$. Hint: Recall how the step size for Steepest Descent is determined.

(d) Repeat the experiment from **Q3(b)** with $\boldsymbol{b} = (1, \ldots, 1)^T \in \mathbb{R}^{1000}$ and $\boldsymbol{x}_0 = (1, 0, \ldots, 0)^T \in \mathbb{R}^{1000}$ using the method of Steepest Descent and Conjugate Gradient. Generate a plot comparing the log of their residual in ℓ_2 norm versus iterations up to 5000 . Rank their performance by comparing the iterations needed to reach the residual tolerance of 10^{-14}, as well as versus the classical iterative methods. Verify your CG method terminates after the desired number of iterations. Use sparse representation when appropriate.