

Chem237: Lecture 13

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1 Note

9-9-19; Just copied the lecture notes I have over, this has not been reviewed/edited/made ready for the world.

Gaussian Elimination

Reduce your matrix to an upper-triangular (or lower triangular) form by performing operations such that the determinant doesn't change.

Consider the square N by N matrix \mathbf{A} , which has column vectors labeled \vec{a}_i

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & \cdots & A_{1N} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ A_{1N} & \cdots & A_{NN} \end{bmatrix} = [\vec{a}_1 \quad \cdots \quad \vec{a}_N] \quad (1)$$

To compute the determinant of \mathbf{A} we know the following

$$\det(\mathbf{A}) = \det(\vec{a}_1 \cdots \vec{a}_N) = \det(\vec{a}_1 - \lambda_{a2}, \vec{a}_2 \cdots \vec{a}_N) \quad (2)$$

Let $\lambda_1 = \frac{A_{N1}}{A_{N2}}$ then we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} \star & A_{12} & \cdots & A_{1N} \\ \star & A_{22} & \cdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & A_{N2} & \cdots & A_{NN} \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

Next step set $\lambda_2 = \frac{A_{N2}}{A_{N3}}$ then we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} \star & \star & \cdots & \vdots \\ \star & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & A_{NN} \end{bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

In this way we can reduce every element of the N th row to 0 except for the final term A_{NN} . We can then repeat this process for the $N-1$ row (Second to last row), which will convert every element up to $N-1$ in the row to 0.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \star & \star & \cdots & \vdots \\ \star & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & \star \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & A_{NN} \end{bmatrix} \quad (5)$$

Repeating the process iteratively eventually ends in

$$\begin{bmatrix} \star & \star & \star & \star \\ 0 & \star & \star & \star \\ 0 & 0 & \star & \star \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \star \end{bmatrix} \quad (6)$$

What happens if you have a 0 at some point during the iterations? Just move it and keep going.

1.1 Numerical Linear Algebra

Using the definition of the determinant the scaling would be $N!$ which is very bad. Using the algorithm from above leads to N^3 scaling, which is a common result for numerical linear algebra algorithms. $a_1 - \lambda_{a2} = 2$ operations scaling as N , Apply to row = N , apply to other rows = N .

1.2 Linear Independence

Consider a set of n vectors $\vec{a}_1 \cdots \vec{a}_N$. These vectors are linearly independent if for any $\lambda_1 \cdots \lambda_N$

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i \vec{a}_i \neq 0 \quad (7)$$

and vice versa linearly dependent if

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i \vec{a}_i = 0 \quad (8)$$

Theorem: determinate matrix formed by N vectors $\det(\vec{a}_1 \cdots \vec{a}_N) = 0$ iff $\vec{a}_1 \cdots \vec{a}_N$ are linearly dependent, and vice versa linearly independent vectors produce a determinate $\neq 0$.

If your vectors are linearly independent can't ever get a diagonal element = 0, if 1 element on the diagonal is 0 the determinant is 0, for a linearly dependent set of vectors you can get 1 column being all 0.

2 Linear Systems

Consider a linear system of N equations

$$A_{11}x_1 + \cdots + A_{1N}x_N = b_1 \quad (9)$$

$$\cdots = \vdots \quad (10)$$

$$A_{N1}x_1 + \cdots + A_{NN}x_N = b_N \quad (11)$$

Where the vector \vec{x} contains our N unknown elements.

$$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_N \end{bmatrix} \quad (12)$$

For this system matrix A is referred to as the coefficient matrix, and the column vector b is the right hand side (RHS), so we have the matrix equation $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$. In general A can be rectangular, leading to different types of systems, namely overdetermined systems, and underdetermined systems, corresponding to no solution in general and an infinite number of solutions in general respectively.

Consider the case of a square matrix A , if the system is $A\vec{x} = 0$ then the linear system is termed homogeneous, if $vecb \neq 0$ the system is inhomogeneous.

Algebraically speaking if A^{-1} exists then $\vec{x} = A^{-1}\vec{b}$, however you would need the inverse of a matrix which can be non-trivial. The inverse of a matrix existing is related to the determinant of the matrix not being 0, if the determinant is 0 then the inverse does not exist.

Consider a matrix A of the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} \star & \star & \star & \star \\ 0 & \star & \star & \star \\ 0 & 0 & \star & \star \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \star \end{bmatrix} \quad (13)$$

The solution to the associated matrix equation is trivial, simply use recursion to solve the problem.

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & \star & \cdots & \star \\ 0 & A_{22} & \cdots & \star \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & A_{NN} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_n \end{bmatrix} \quad (14)$$

The last equation (bottom row) gives (remember \mathbf{A} is a coefficient matrix, we know the values).

$$A_{NN}x_N = b_N \Rightarrow x_N = \frac{b_N}{A_{NN}} \quad (15)$$

Using x_N we can solve for x_{N-1} using the second to last row, and clearly we can solve the problem recursively. The solution to a triangular matrix (upper or lower triangle doesn't matter) can always be solved recursively.

We can always add rows together (NOT COLUMNS), adding rows won't change anything. So start by reducing the matrix to an upper-triangular form with Gaussian elimination. Then you can use recursion to solve the system. This is analogous to the determinate problem, if $\det(\mathbf{A}) \neq 0$ then you can solve the linear system with recursion to find a unique solution.

2.1 Determinate = 0

In the case of $\det(\mathbf{A}) = 0$ the rows are linearly dependent, meaning 1 equation will have a LHS where all terms are 0. In general b_i does not have to be 0 therefore we find $0=b_i$ as one of our equations, meaning no solution unless $b_i=0$.

In general if the determinate of a matrix is 0 then if \vec{x} is a solution to $\mathbf{A}\vec{x} = 0$, $\lambda\vec{x}$ must also be a solution, leading to an infinite number of solutions. A homogeneous system has an infinite number of solutions if the system is linearly dependent. If you try removing an equation (to remove linear dependence) you will have more unknowns than equations and again get an infinite number of solutions in general.

3 Matrix Inverses

$$\mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^{-1} = \mathbf{I} \quad (16)$$

How do we compute matrix \mathbf{B} ($\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A}^{-1}$)? Consider a cofactor matrix \mathbf{A}_c , every element of this matrix is a cofactor.

$$\mathbf{A}_c = \begin{bmatrix} A_{c,11} & \cdots & A_{c,1N} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ A_{c,1N} & \cdots & A_{c,NN} \end{bmatrix} \quad (17)$$

In the context of square matrices the i th- j th cofactor ($A_{c,ij}$) is computed by removing the i th and j th row and column from the original matrix \mathbf{A} and then computing the subsequent determinate of the $(N-1 \times N-1)$ resulting matrix. Finally multiply by $(-1)^{i+j}$ and you have the cofactor.

Adjoint Method

It turns out that we can compute the inverse of a matrix using the cofactor matrix transpose.

$$\mathbf{A}^{-1} = \frac{\mathbf{A}_c^T}{\det(\mathbf{A})} \quad (18)$$

Clearly this is very expensive (computing the determinate for N^2 elements, however, it does give an explicit expression for the inverse of a matrix. It also shows that the determinate must not be 0, consistent with our claims before.

Consider a different approach for finding the inverse of a matrix.

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{I} \quad (19)$$

Where \mathbf{B} is the unknown inverse of a matrix we want to compute.

Consider the first term in this system.

$$\mathbf{A}\vec{b}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (20)$$

It is convention to define the columns of the identity matrix as \vec{e} .

$$\mathbf{I} = [\vec{e}_1 \quad \cdots \quad \vec{e}_N] \quad (21)$$

Where \vec{e}_i refers to a column vector containing all 0 terms, except a 1 at the i'th row. Our system can therefore be written as

$$\mathbf{A}\vec{b}_1 = \vec{e}_1 \quad (22)$$

$$\mathbf{A}\vec{b}_N = \vec{e}_N \quad (23)$$

$$(24)$$

Which can be solved independently

4 Solving Systems

You can easily solve a system of equations using Gaussian Elimination. Consider applying Gauss Elimination to

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{I} \quad (25)$$

5 Matrix Inverses

Some useful properties of matrix inverse, consider matrices A and B

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{AB})^{-1} &= \mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{A}^{-1} \\ (\mathbf{A}^{-1})^{-1} &= \mathbf{A} \\ [\mathbf{A}^{-1}, \mathbf{A}] &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

It is useful to think of the inverse of a matrix as simply some function acting upon a matrix.

6 Unitary Matrix

Unitary matrices are defined as a matrix whose inverse equals its conjugate transpose

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{U}^\dagger \mathbf{U} &= \mathbf{I} \\ \mathbf{U}^\dagger &= \mathbf{U}^{-1} \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

This means

$$\left(\mathbf{U}^\dagger\right)_{mn} = (\mathbf{U}^*)_{nm} \quad (28)$$

Unitary matrices have nice properties, and the associated unitary transformations have nice properties.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}^\dagger &= \mathbf{I} \\ |\mathbf{U}| &= 1 \\ \mathbf{U} &= e^{i\theta} \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

These numbers are special, all unitary matrices eigenvalues have this property.

Orthogonal vectors also have the Hermitian Inner Product (the final line below).

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{U} &= [\mathbf{U}_1 \quad \dots \quad \mathbf{U}_N] \\ \mathbf{U}_i^\dagger \mathbf{U}_j &= \delta_{ij} \\ \sum_k \mathbf{U}_{jk} \mathbf{U}_{ik}^* &= \delta_{ij} \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

6.1 Unitary Transformation

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{A}' &= \mathbf{U}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{U}^\dagger \\ \det(\mathbf{A}) &= \det(\mathbf{A})\end{aligned}\tag{31}$$

This last line comes from $\det(\mathbf{U}) = e^{i\theta}$, $\det(\mathbf{U}^\dagger) = e^{-i\theta}$.

The fourier transform is related to unitary transforms in special cases, all of which have special properties.

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{A}\Psi_k &= a_k\Psi_k \\ \mathbf{A}'\Psi_k &= a_k\Psi_k\end{aligned}\tag{32}$$

The unitary transformation preserves the determinant eigenvalues and eigenvectors.

Orthogonal Matrix

Orthogonal matrices are a special case of the unitary matrix

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{W}\mathbf{W}^T &= \mathbf{I} \\ \mathbf{W} &= [\vec{e}_1 \quad \dots \quad \vec{e}_N] \\ \vec{w}_i\vec{w}_j &= \delta_{ij}\end{aligned}\tag{33}$$

One example of an orthogonal matrix is the rotation matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} \cos(\theta) & \sin(\theta) \\ -\sin(\theta) & \cos(\theta) \end{bmatrix}\tag{34}$$

Gaussian elimination preserves the determinant of a matrix just like the unitary transformation. Unitary is better though, in gaussian elimination you divide (first step) which can generate numerical instability.

In numerical linear algebra using gaussian elimination is not feasible (even for well behaved matrices) because of this division instability and associated rounding errors. Gaussian elimination is unstable.

All good linear algebra is based on unitary matrices, much more stable. A unitary transformation is a non-trivial transformation, you perform a transformation that magically does not change the determinant or eigenvalues and eigenvectors, it is very powerful.

Many methods in numerical linear algebra combine LU decomposition with unitary transformations.