

# Gaussian elimination

Note Title

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Let  $A$  be a square  $m \times m$  matrix.

Idea - to transform  $A$  into an upper triangular matrix by introducing zeroes below the diagonal.

Suppose  $A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1m} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \dots & a_{mm} \end{bmatrix}$  such that  $A$  is invertible &  $a_{ii} \neq 0 \forall i$ .

Step 1: To annihilate  $a_{21}, \dots, a_{m1}$ ; assume  $a_{11} \neq 0$ .

•  $R_2 - \frac{a_{21}}{a_{11}} R_1 \iff$  multiplying  $A$  on the left by

$$L_{21} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & 0 \\ -\frac{a_{21}}{a_{11}} & 1 & & \\ 0 & & \ddots & \\ 0 & & & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

•  $R_3 - \frac{a_{31}}{a_{11}} R_1 \iff$  left multi. by  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & & \\ -\frac{a_{31}}{a_{11}} & & \ddots & \\ 0 & & & 1 \end{bmatrix} = L_{31}$

$\vdots$

•  $R_m - \frac{a_{m1}}{a_{11}} R_1 \iff$  L.M. by  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & & \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \\ 0 & & & 1 \end{bmatrix} = L_{m1}$

Let  $l_{21} = \frac{a_{21}}{a_{11}}$ ,  $l_{31} = \frac{a_{31}}{a_{11}}$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $l_{m1} = \frac{a_{m1}}{a_{11}}$ .

$$L_1 = L_{m1} \dots L_{31} L_{21} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & 0 \\ -l_{21} & 1 & & \\ -l_{31} & & \ddots & \\ \vdots & & & \ddots & \\ -l_{m1} & & & & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$L_1 A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1m} \\ 0 & a'_{22} & \dots & a'_{2m} \\ 0 & a'_{32} & \dots & a'_{3m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & a'_{m2} & \dots & a'_{mm} \end{bmatrix}$$

Assuming  $a'_{22} \neq 0$ ,  $L_{32} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ -l_{32} & & 1 & \\ & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  & so on.

$$l_{32} = \frac{a'_{32}}{a'_{22}}$$

Finally get  $L_2$ .

Step  $k$ :  $A_{k-1} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & \dots & a_{1k-1} & a_{1k} & \dots & a_{1m} \\ 0 & a'_{22} & a'_{23} & & & & & a'_{2m} \\ 0 & 0 & a''_{33} & & & & & \\ \vdots & \vdots & & & & & & \\ & & & & a^{k-1}_{k-1,k-1} & & & \\ & & & & 0 & a_{kk} & & \\ & & & & \vdots & & & \\ & & & & 0 & & & \end{bmatrix}$

$L_k = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & & & & & \\ & 1 & & & & & & \\ & & \ddots & & & & & \\ & & & 1 & & & & \\ & & & l_{k+1,k} & & & & \\ & & & \vdots & & & & \\ & & & & l_{m,k} & & & \\ & & & & & \ddots & & \\ & & & & & & 1 & \end{bmatrix}$ , where  $l_{k+1,k} = \frac{a_{k+1,k}^{k-1}}{a_{kk}^{k-1}}$   
 $l_{jk} = \frac{a_{jk}}{a_{kk}}$

&  $A_k = L_k A_{k-1}$

Continuing in this way,  $(L_{m-1} L_{m-2} \dots L_2 L_1) A = U$  (say)  
 (upper  $A^u$ )

Let  $L = L_1^{-1} L_2^{-1} \dots L_{m-1}^{-1}$ , then  $A = L U$ .

(the LU-factorization of  $A$ ).

Note that  $L = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & & 0 \\ l_{21} & 1 & & & \\ l_{31} & l_{32} & \ddots & & \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ l_{m1} & \vdots & \ddots & l_{m,m-1} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ ;  $\det L = 1$ .

If  $A$  is any square matrix with  $a_{ii}$  not necessarily  $\neq 0$ , then we have to introduce "pivoting".

This is done as follows-

Step 1: check whether  $a_{11} \neq 0$ . If yes, find  $L_1$  & compute  $L_1 A$ .

Else, suppose  $a_{j1}$  is the first nonzero element in the first column.

$j \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ a_{j1} \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix}$

Then exchange rows  $j$  & 1.

i.e. left multiply by  $E_{1j} = j \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & & \\ & \ddots & & & \\ & & 1 & & \\ & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

So  $E_{ij} A$  has a non-zero pivot  $a_{ji}$  at the  $(1, 1)$  spot.

Proceed as usual, form the matrix  $L_1$  &  $A_1 = L_1(P_1 A)$

• Check if the next pivot is nonzero.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \alpha_{11} & \dots & \alpha_{1m} \\ 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & & \\ 0 & \dots & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{array}{c} \\ \hline B \\ \end{array}$$

Step  $k$ :  $P_k = \begin{cases} I & \text{if } a_{kk}^{k-1} \text{ is the pivot.} \\ E_{kj} & \text{if pivot is } a_{jk}^{k-1}. \end{cases}$

$$(\det P_k = \pm 1).$$

$$A_{k+1} = \left( L_k P_k \dots \left( L_3 P_3 \left( L_2 P_2 \left( \underbrace{L_1 P_1 A}_{A_1} \right) \right) \right) \right)$$

Continuing:

$$\underbrace{L_{m-1} P_{m-1} L_{m-2} P_{m-2} \dots L_1 P_1 A}_{L^{-1}} = U. \quad (\text{check } L^{-1} \text{ is actually lower } A')$$

- Note that  $\det U = \pm \det A$  depending on # of permutation matrices reqd.
- At each step  $\det(A_k) = \pm \det A \neq 0$ , at least one of the elements  $a_{jk}^{k-1} \neq 0$ , so a pivot can be chosen.
- $\det A = \pm (\text{product of pivots})$ .
- $U$  can be found irrespective of whether  $A$  is invertible or not.

If  $A$  is not invertible,  $\exists A_k$  such that  $a_{jj}^{k-1} = 0$   
Then let  $A_k = A_{k+1}$  & set  $P_k = L_k = I$ .  $\forall k \leq j \leq n$

## Algorithms

I) G.E. without pivoting:  $U = A$ ,  $L = I$ .

(column) for  $k=1$  to  $m-1$   
(row) for  $j=k+1$  to  $m$   
working on  $j^{\text{th}}$  row  
$$\begin{cases} l_{jk} = u_{jk} / u_{kk} \\ u_{j,k:m} = u_{j,k:m} - l_{jk} \cdot u_{k,k:m} \end{cases}$$

Operation count: each addition, subtraction, multi., division & sq. root counts as 1 flop.

$$\approx \frac{2}{3} m^3.$$

II) G.E. with partial pivoting (GEPP).

If at any step<sup>k</sup>, the pivot element is zero, then choose the largest among subdiagonal elements of the  $k^{\text{th}}$  column & use it as pivot (i.e. do corr. row exchanges)

Algorithm:  $U = A$ ,  $L = I$ .

for  $k=1$  to  $m-1$   
if  $u_{kk}=0$  { select  $i \geq k$  to maximize  $|u_{ik}|$   
interchange rows  $u_i$  &  $u_k$   
(for  $j=1$  to  $k-1$   
 $u_{kj} \leftrightarrow u_{ij}$ )

for  $j=k+1$  to  $m$

$$l_{jk} = u_{jk} / u_{kk}$$

$$u_{j,k:m} = u_{j,k:m} - l_{jk} u_{k,k:m}.$$

Operation count is same as before, but time reqd. is longer.

III) G.E. with complete pivoting (GECP).

At the  $k^{\text{th}}$  step, pivot is chosen from maximum of  $(m-k) \times (m-k)$  elements.

This is rarely done in practice because selection of pivots takes a long time & improvement in stability is not considerable.

