

# Sparse Systems

# Sparse Matrices

Some type of matrices contain many zeros.

Storing all those zero entries is wasteful!

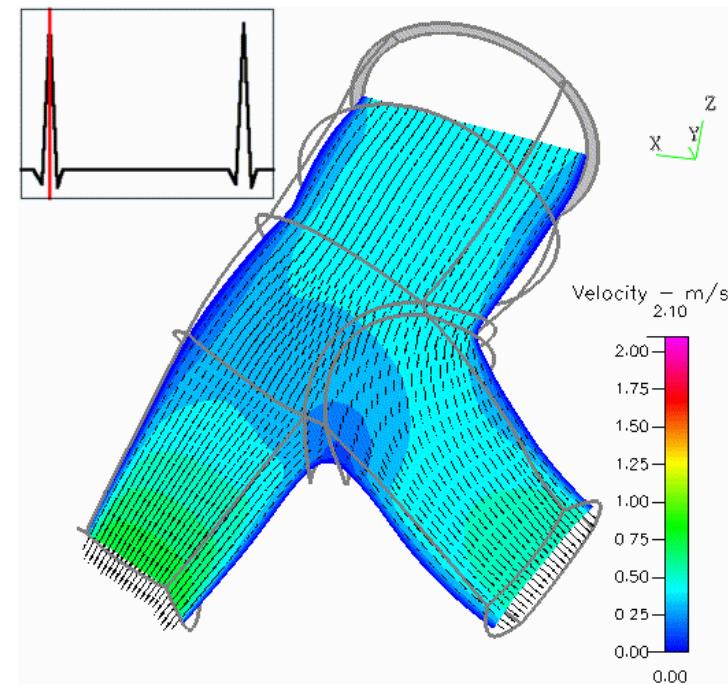
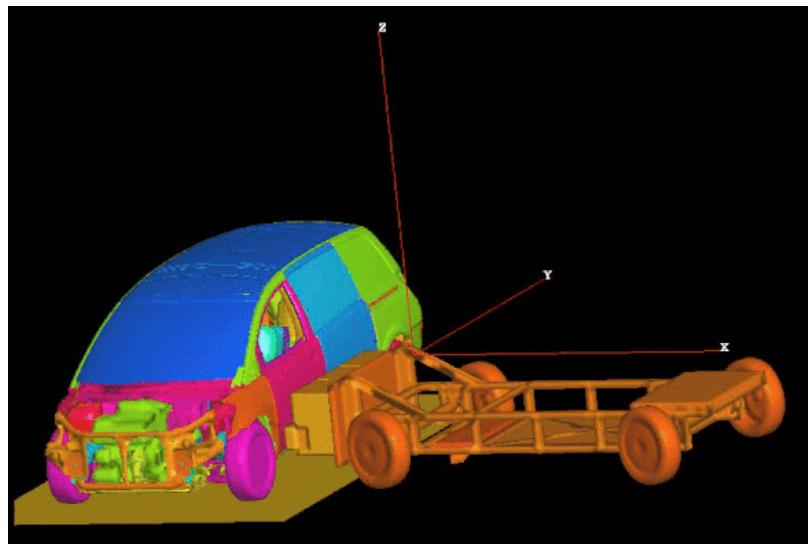
How can we efficiently store large  
matrices without storing tons of zeros?



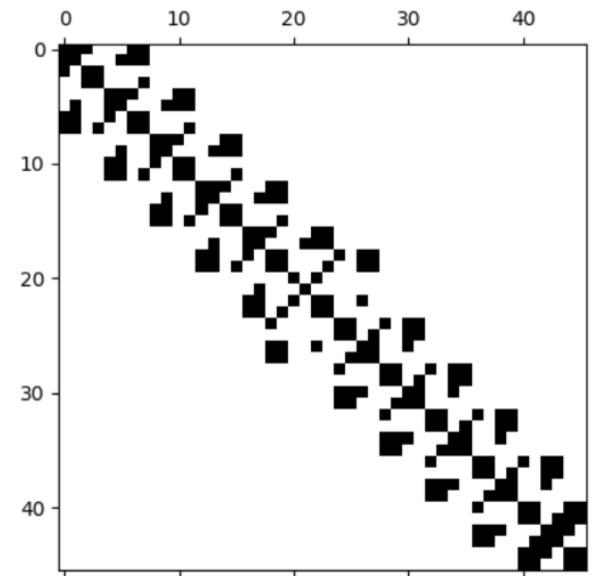
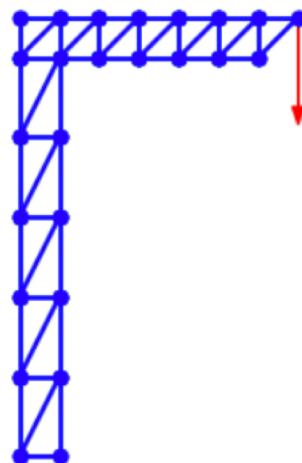
- **Sparse matrices** (vague definition): matrix with few non-zero entries.
- For practical purposes: an  $m \times n$  matrix is sparse if it has  $O(\min(m, n))$  non-zero entries.
- This means roughly a constant number of non-zero entries per row and column.
- Another definition: “matrices that allow special techniques to take advantage of the large number of zero elements” (J. Wilkinson)

# Sparse Matrices: Goals

- Perform standard matrix computations economically, i.e., without storing the zeros of the matrix.
- For typical Finite Element and Finite Difference matrices, the number of non-zero entries is  $O(n)$



# Sparse Matrices: MP example



# Sparse Matrices

## EXAMPLE:

Number of operations required to add two square dense matrices:

$$O(n^2)$$

Number of operations required to add two sparse matrices **A** and **B**:

$$O(\text{nnz}(\mathbf{A}) + \text{nnz}(\mathbf{B}))$$

where  $\text{nnz}(\mathbf{X})$  = number of non-zero elements of a matrix **X**

# Popular Storage Structures

DNS	Dense	ELL	Ellpack-Itpack
BND	Linpack Banded	DIA	Diagonal
COO	Coordinate	BSR	Block Sparse Row
CSR	Compressed Sparse Row	SSK	Symmetric Skyline
CSC	Compressed Sparse Column	BSR	Nonsymmetric Skyline
MSR	Modified CSR	JAD	Jagged Diagonal
LIL	Linked List		

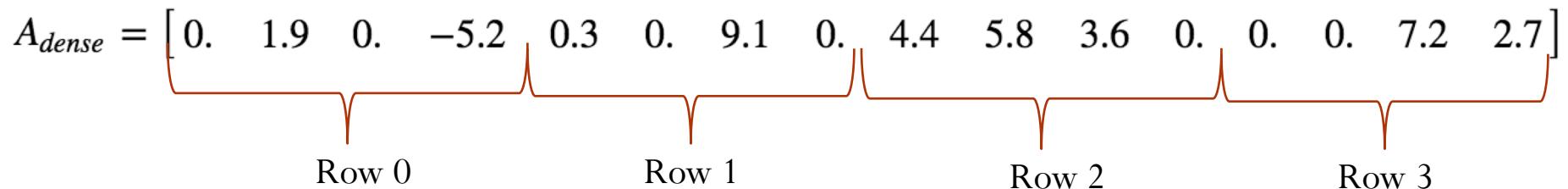
note: CSR = CRS, CCS = CSC, SSK = SKS in some references

We will focus on COO and CSR!

# Dense (DNS)

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0. & 1.9 & 0. & -5.2 \\ 0.3 & 0. & 9.1 & 0. \\ 4.4 & 5.8 & 3.6 & 0. \\ 0. & 0. & 7.2 & 2.7 \end{bmatrix}$$

$A$  shape =  $(nrow, ncol)$



- Simple
- Row-wise
- Easy blocked formats
- Stores all the zeros

# Coordinate (COO)

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0. & 1.9 & 0. & -5.2 \\ 0.3 & 0. & 9.1 & 0. \\ 4.4 & 5.8 & 3.6 & 0. \\ 0. & 0. & 7.2 & 2.7 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$data = [1.9 \quad -5.2 \quad 0.3 \quad 9.1 \quad 4.4 \quad 5.8 \quad 3.6 \quad 7.2 \quad 2.7]$$

$$row = [0 \quad 0 \quad 1 \quad 1 \quad 2 \quad 2 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 3]$$

$$col = [1 \quad 3 \quad 0 \quad 2 \quad 0 \quad 1 \quad 2 \quad 2 \quad 3]$$

- Simple
- Does not store the zero elements
- Not sorted
- $row$  and  $col$ : array of integers
- $data$ : array of doubles

# Iclicker question

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 3 & 4 & 0 & 5 & 0 \\ 6 & 0 & 7 & 8 & 9 \\ 0 & 0 & 10 & 11 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 12 \end{bmatrix}$$

```
data = [ 12.0 9.0 7.0 5.0 1.0 2.0 11.0 3.0 6.0 4.0 8.0 10.0 ]  
row = [ 4 2 2 1 0 0 3 1 2 1 2 3 ]  
col = [ 4 4 2 3 0 3 3 0 0 1 3 2 ]
```

How many integers are stored in COO format  
( $A$  has dimensions  $n \times n$ )?

- A)  $nnz$
- B)  $n$
- C)  $2 nnz$
- D)  $n^2$
- E)  $2 n$

# Iclicker question

## Representing a Sparse Matrix in Coordinate (COO) Form

1 point

Consider the following matrix:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1.3 \\ -1.5 & 0.2 & 0 \\ 5 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.3 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- A) 56 bytes
- B) 72 bytes
- C) 96 bytes
- D) 120 bytes
- E) 144 bytes

Suppose we store one row index (a 32-bit integer), one column index (a 32-bit integer), and one data value (a 64-bit float) for each non-zero entry in  $A$ . How many bytes in total are stored? Please note that 1 byte is equal to 8 bits.

# Compressed Sparse Row (CSR)

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 3 & 4 & 0 & 5 & 0 \\ 6 & 0 & 7 & 8 & 9 \\ 0 & 0 & 10 & 11 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 12 \end{bmatrix}$$

```
data = [ 1.0 2.0 3.0 4.0 5.0 6.0 7.0 8.0 9.0 10.0 11.0 12.0 ]
```

Diagram illustrating a 2D list 'data' represented as a grid of 12 numbers. The numbers are grouped into 4 rows by red brackets below them. The first row contains 2 numbers (1.0, 2.0). The second row contains 3 numbers (3.0, 4.0, 5.0). The third row contains 3 numbers (6.0, 7.0, 8.0). The fourth row contains 3 numbers (9.0, 10.0, 11.0). Each row is labeled 'Row 0', 'Row 1', 'Row 2', 'Row 3', or 'Row 4' centered under its respective row of numbers.

$$col = [0 \quad 3 \quad 0 \quad 1 \quad 3 \quad 0 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4]$$

# Compressed Sparse Row (CSR)

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 3 & 4 & 0 & 5 & 0 \\ 6 & 0 & 7 & 8 & 9 \\ 0 & 0 & 10 & 11 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 12 \end{bmatrix}$$

```
data    = [ 1.0  2.0  3.0  4.0  5.0  6.0  7.0  8.0  9.0  10.0 11.0 12.0 ]  
col     = [ 0    3    0    1    3    0    2    3    4    2    3    4    ]  
rowptr = [ 0    2    5    9    11   12   ]
```

- Does not store the zero elements
- Fast arithmetic operations between sparse matrices, and fast matrix-vector product
- *col*: contain the column indices (array of  $nnz$  integers)
- *data*: contain the non-zero elements (array of  $nnz$  doubles)
- *rowptr*: contain the row offset (array of  $n + 1$  integers)

# Example - CSR format

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0. & 1.9 & 0. & -5.2 \\ 0. & 0. & 0. & 0. \\ 4.4 & 5.8 & 3.6 & 0. \\ 0. & 0. & 7.2 & 2.7 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$data = [1.9 \quad -5.2 \quad 4.4 \quad 5.8 \quad 3.6 \quad 7.2 \quad 2.7]$$

$$rowptr = [0 \quad 2 \quad 2 \quad 5 \quad 7]$$

$$col = [1 \quad 3 \quad 0 \quad 1 \quad 2 \quad 2 \quad 3]$$