

### Problem 1

(a) Derive, mathematically, the forward substitution method for solving the lower triangular linear system

$$Lx = b$$

using componentwise, row-oriented and column-oriented algorithms, respectively.

(b) Write the three MATLAB functions:

```
x = myfscomponent(L,b)
x = myfsrow(L,b)
x = myfscolumn(L,b)
```

for the componentwise, row-oriented and column-oriented algorithms, respectively.

(c) Test the correctness of your functions and compare the execution time of these functions for a set of different sizes of lower triangular systems.

### Problem 1 solution

(a) Derivations:

1. The  $i$ th equation of the lower triangular linear system

$$l_{i,1}x_1 + l_{i,2}x_2 + \cdots + l_{i,i-1}x_{i-1} + l_{i,i}x_i = b_i$$

can be rewritten as

$$x_i = (b_i - l_{i,1}x_1 - l_{i,2}x_2 - \cdots - l_{i,i-1}x_{i-1}) / l_{i,i}$$

to arrive at the **row-oriented componentwise** form of the forward substitution algorithm.

2. The **row-oriented vectorized** form comes from writing out the dot product

$$x_i = \left( b_i - [l_{i,1} \quad l_{i,2} \quad \cdots \quad l_{i,i-1}] \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_{i-1} \end{bmatrix} \right) / l_{i,i}$$

3. The **column-oriented** forward substitution algorithm is derived as follows (Handout A).  
By the partition

$$\begin{matrix} & 1 & n-1 \\ 1 & & \\ n-1 & \begin{bmatrix} \ell_{11} & \\ L_{21} & L_{22} \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_{(2:n)} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_{(2:n)} \end{bmatrix}$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned}\ell_{11}x_1 &= b_1 \\ L_{21}x_1 + L_{22}x_{(2:n)} &= b_{(2:n)}\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $x_1 = b_1/\ell_{11}$ , and then after updating  $\hat{b}_{(2:n)} = b_{(2:n)} - L_{21}x_1$ , we solve the same-kind of lower triangular system with dimension  $n - 1$ :

$$L_{22}x_{(2:n)} = \hat{b}_{(2:n)}.$$

The procedure is repeated until finding all entries of  $x$ .

(b) Code attachments:

**myfscomponent** implements row-oriented componentwise form of the forward substitution.

**myfsrow** implements row-oriented vectorized form of the forward substitution.

**myfscolumn** implements column-oriented form of the forward substitution.

**FSbenchmark** times the execution of the algorithms.

**myfstest** tests the correctness of the algorithms.

(c)

1. Performance timing:

The table below lists the execution times of the three forward substitution algorithms for a range of random matrix sizes from 100 to 5000. The column-oriented forward substitution algorithm performs best in terms of timing.

Table 1: Execution times in second (using MATLAB's **tic-toc** timer)

n	Row-component	Row-vectorized	Col-vectorized
100	0.0033	0.0026	0.0025
1000	0.0199	0.0154	0.0128
2000	0.0815	0.0589	0.0432
3000	0.2012	0.1142	0.0797
4000	0.3619	0.2090	0.1464
5000	0.5869	0.3244	0.2141

2. Accuracy test:

Starting with a vector of all ones,  $\mathbb{1}$ , and a random lower triangular matrix  $L$ , we can form the right hand side  $b$  as  $L \cdot \mathbb{1}$  to give us a lower tridiagonal system  $(L, b)$  with known solution.

*error1*, *error2*, and *error3* are errors of the row-oriented component substitution, row-oriented vectorized, and column-oriented vectorized respectively, measured by taking the 2-norm of the difference between computed and true solution ( $\mathbb{1}$ ) and dividing by square root of  $n$ . All three errors are around machine precision.

```
error1 =
    2.381163109968744e-16
```

```
error2 =  
    3.510833468576701e-17  
error3 =  
    3.510833468576701e-17
```