

Lecture #10
02/01/2023

Math problem: solving a system of linear equations

Example:

$$5x - 2.8y + z = 1$$

$$x + 7y - 9.2z = 7$$

$$-3x \quad \quad \quad + z = 11.8$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 5 & -2.8 & 1 \\ 1 & 7 & -9.2 \\ -3 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 7 \\ 11.8 \end{pmatrix}$$

3×3 matrix 3×1 vector 3×1 vector

$$\Leftrightarrow \underbrace{A}_{\text{square matrix of real entries}} \underline{x} = \underbrace{b}_{\text{column vector of real entries}}$$

Given A, \underline{b} , compute unknown \underline{x} .

In general, we want to solve:

$$\begin{matrix} & \uparrow & \uparrow & \uparrow \\ A \underline{x} = b \\ \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} & \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1} & \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1} \end{matrix}$$

$\begin{matrix} A, \underline{b} & \text{known} \\ \underline{x} & \text{unknown} \end{matrix}$

In practice, n is large.

Recall facts from linear algebra:

Solving $A\underline{x} = \underline{b}$

$\underline{b} = \underline{0}$

(homogeneous system)

$\det(A) \neq 0$



$\underline{x} = \underline{0}$ is the
unique solution

$\det(A) = 0$



There are
infinitely many
solutions

(If \underline{u} and \underline{v}
are solutions, then
so is $\alpha \underline{u} + \beta \underline{v}$)

$\underline{b} \neq \underline{0}$

(non-homogeneous system)

$\det(A) \neq 0$



unique
solution

$\underline{x} = ?$

$\det(A) = 0$

depends on
both A, \underline{b}

No solution
(# of
solution = 0)

Infinitely
many
solutions

(# of solution
= ∞)

mostly this case

Geometric meaning of solving a square linear system:

finding common point(s) of intersection of the hyperplanes

For $n=3$: we have 3 planes in 3 dimensions.

If all 3 planes intersect at a common point, then unique solution.

→ All 3 planes are parallel to each other

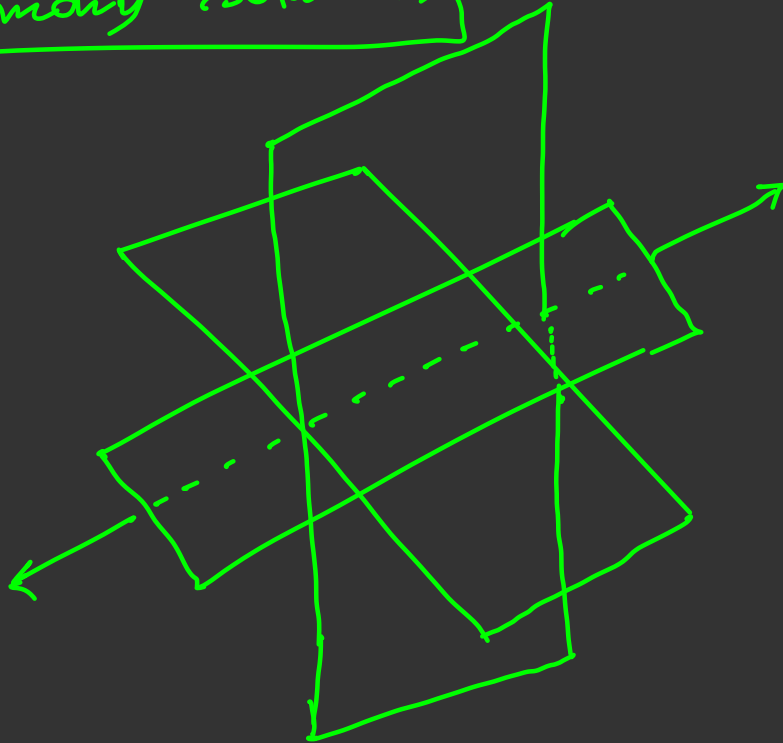
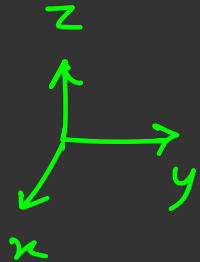
OR 2 planes " " " " " and 1 intersects them

No solutions

OR No planes are parallel but the lines of intersection of each pair are parallel

- If none of the 3 planes is parallel to any other two, but one passes through the line of intersection of the other two, then

infinitely many solutions



Suppose, we have a square linear system $A\underline{x} = \underline{b}$
with $\underline{b} \neq \underline{0}$, $\det(A) \neq 0$

Question: How to compute the unique solution \underline{x} ?

Example: Naïve idea: Gauss elimination:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} x_1 + 2x_2 - x_3 = 3 \\ 2x_1 + x_2 - 2x_3 = 3 \\ -3x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = -6 \end{array} \right\} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} A \end{bmatrix}}_{\substack{3 \times 3 \\ A}} \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix}}_{\substack{3 \times 1 \\ \underline{x}}} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ -6 \end{pmatrix}}_{\substack{3 \times 1 \\ \underline{b}}}$$

Elimination step (try to get an upper triangular matrix structure)

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & -1 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & -2 & 3 \\ -3 & 1 & 1 & -6 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow[\substack{\text{row \# 2} \\ R_2 - 2R_1}]{\substack{\text{row \# 1} \\ R_3 - (-3R_1)}} \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & -1 & 3 \\ \textcircled{0} & -3 & 0 & -3 \\ -3 & 1 & 1 & 6 \end{array} \right]$$

A \underline{b}

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & -1 & 3 \\ \textcircled{0} & -3 & 0 & -3 \\ \textcircled{0} & \textcircled{0} & -2 & -4 \end{array} \right] \xleftarrow{R_3 - (-\frac{7}{3})R_2} \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & -1 & 3 \\ \textcircled{0} & -3 & 0 & -3 \\ \textcircled{0} & 7 & -2 & 3 \end{array} \right]$$

$R_3 - (-\frac{7}{3})R_2$

we have got:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} x_1 + 2x_2 - x_3 & = & 3 \\ -3x_2 & = & -3 \\ -2x_3 & = & -4 \end{array} \quad \uparrow$$

Back substitution:

$$x_3 = -4 / -2 = +2$$

$$-3x_2 = -3 \Rightarrow x_2 = +1$$

$$x_1 + \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ 1}}{2x_2} - \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ 2}}{x_3} = 3$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 + \cancel{2} - \cancel{2} = 3$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 = 3$$

$$\therefore \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Done.

Operational count:

$$\underbrace{A}_{n \times n} \underbrace{x}_{n \times 1} = \underbrace{b}_{n \times 1}$$

elimination step:

$$\underbrace{\frac{2}{3} n^3 + \frac{1}{2} n^2 - \frac{7}{6} n}_{\text{operations}}$$

back substitution step: n^2 operations

Total: $O(n^3)$

↑↑
"Big O-notation"
"of the order of".

Algorithm:

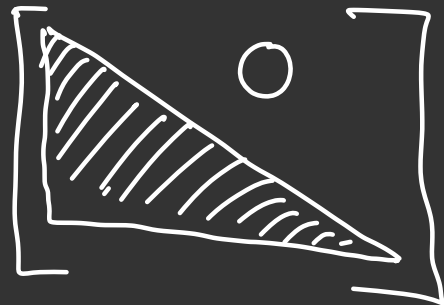
L U decomposition
↑ ↑
Lower triangular upper triangular

Systematic version of Gauss elimination

Consider a square matrix $A = [a_{ij}]$

We call this matrix lower triangular if

$a_{ij} = 0$ for all $i < j$



Similarly, we say A is upper triangular matrix
if $a_{ij} = 0$ for all $i > j$

