#### Linear equations 1

Linear algebra basics

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Numerical Methods (6E5X0), 2020-2021

# Today's outline

Introduction

- Introduction
- Matrix inversion
- Solving a linear system
- Towards larger systems
- Summary



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Introduction •00

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#### Overview

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#### Goals

- Different ways of looking at a system of linear equations
- Determination of the inverse, determinant and the rank of a matrix
- The existence of a solution to a set of linear equations



# Different views of linear systems

Separate equations:

Introduction

$$x + y + z = 4$$
$$2x + y + 3z = 7$$
$$3x + y + 6z = 5$$

• Matrix mapping Mx = b:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 7 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

Linear combination:

$$x \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + y \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + z \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 7 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$



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# Different views of linear systems

Separate equations:

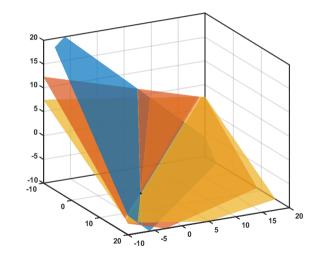
$$x + y + z = 4$$
$$2x + y + 3z = 7$$
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• Matrix mapping Mx = b:

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Linear combination:

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#### Inverse of a matrix

• The inverse  $M^{-1}$  is defined such that:

$$MM^{-1} = I$$
 and  $M^{-1}M = I$ 

• Use the inverse to solve a set of linear equations:

$$M\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$$
 $M^{-1}M\mathbf{x} = M^{-1}\mathbf{b}$ 
 $I\mathbf{x} = M^{-1}\mathbf{b}$ 
 $\mathbf{x} = M^{-1}\mathbf{b}$ 



#### How to calculate the inverse?

 The inverse of an N × N matrix can be calculated using the co-factors of each element of the matrix:

$$M^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det |M|} \begin{bmatrix} C_{11} & C_{12} & C_{13} \\ C_{21} & C_{22} & C_{23} \\ C_{31} & C_{32} & C_{33} \end{bmatrix}^T$$

- $\det |M|$  is the *determinant* of matrix M.
- $C_{ij}$  is the *co-factor* of the  $ij^{th}$  element in M.



Consider the following example matrix: 
$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$



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A co-factor (e.g.  $C_{11}$ ) is the determinant of the elements left over when you cover up the row and column of the element in question, multiplied by ±1, depending on the position.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \times & \times \\ \times & \mathbf{1} & 3 \\ \times & \mathbf{1} & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$



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$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & \times & \times \\ \times & 1 & 3 \\ \times & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \times & \times \\ \times & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{3} \\ \times & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{6} \end{bmatrix} \qquad \begin{bmatrix} + & - & + \\ - & + & - \\ + & - & + \end{bmatrix}$$



Consider the following example matrix: 
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$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \times & \times \\ \times & 1 & 3 \\ \times & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & \times & \times \\ \times & 1 & 3 \\ \times & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \qquad \begin{bmatrix} + & - & + \\ - & + & - \\ + & - & + \end{bmatrix}$$

$$C_{11} = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|}\hline +1 & \det & 1 & 3 \\ \hline 1 & 6 & 1 \\ \hline = 6 \times 1 - 3 \times 1 = 3 \\ \hline \end{array}$$



Back to our example:

$$M^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det|M|} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -3 & -1 \\ -5 & 3 & 2 \\ 2 & -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}^{T}$$



Back to our example:

$$M^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det |M|} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -3 & -1 \\ -5 & 3 & 2 \\ 2 & -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}^{T}$$

- The determinant is very important
- If det |M| = 0, the inverse does not exist (singular matrix)



#### Calculating the determinant

Compute the determinant by multiplication of each element on a row (or column) by its cofactor and adding the results:

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix} = +\det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix} - \det \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 6 \end{bmatrix} + \det \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = -1$$



#### Calculating the determinant

Compute the determinant by multiplication of each element on a row (or column) by its cofactor and adding the results:

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix} = +\det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix} - \det \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 6 \end{bmatrix} + \det \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = -1$$

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix} = +\det \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} - 3\det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + 6\det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = -1$$



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### Solving a linear system

• Our example:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 7 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$



### Solving a linear system

Our example:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 7 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

• The solution is:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = M^{-1}b = \frac{1}{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -5 & 2 \\ -3 & 3 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 7 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{-1} \begin{bmatrix} -13 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 13 \\ -4 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix}$$



### Solving a linear system

Our example:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 7 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

• The solution is:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = M^{-1}b = \frac{1}{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -5 & 2 \\ -3 & 3 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 7 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{-1} \begin{bmatrix} -13 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 13 \\ -4 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

• The inverse exists, because  $\det |M| = -1$ .



Create the matrix:

```
>> A = [1 1 1; 2 1 3; 3 1 6];
```



Create the matrix:

• Create solution vector:

$$>>$$
 b = [4; 7; 5];



Create the matrix:

Create solution vector:

```
>> b = [4; 7; 5];
```

• Get the matrix inverse:

```
>> Ainv = inv(A);
```



Create the matrix:

Create solution vector:

$$>> b = [4; 7; 5];$$

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>> Ainv = inv(A);
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• Compute the solution:

```
>> x = Ainv * b
```



Create the matrix:

Create solution vector:

$$>> b = [4; 7; 5];$$

Get the matrix inverse:

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>> Ainv = inv(A);
```

• Compute the solution:

```
>> x = Ainv * b
```

Matlab's internal direct solver:

$$>> x = A \setminus b$$



These are black boxes! We are going over some methods later!



```
% Generate random matrices of various sizes 's'.
% Invert the matrices and store the time required
% for the inversion. Plot the times vs 's'
s = [10:10:90 100:1000:1000 2000:1000:5000 10000]
for n = 1:length(s)
```



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s = [10:10:90 100:100:1000 2000:1000:5000 10000]
for n = 1:length(s)
    s(n)
    A = rand(s(n));
```

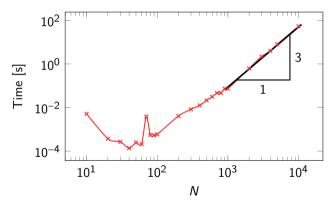


```
% Generate random matrices of various sizes 's'.
% Invert the matrices and store the time required
% for the inversion. Plot the times vs 's'
s = [10:10:90 100:100:1000 2000:1000:5000 10000]
for n = 1:length(s)
        s(n)
        A = rand(s(n));
        tic;
        Ainv = inv(A);
        t_inv(n) = toc;
end
loglog(s,t_inv)
xlabel('N')
ylabel('Time [s]')
```



#### Exercise: sample results

Each computer produces slightly different results because of background tasks, different matrices, etc. This is especially noticable for small systems.



The time increases by 3 orders of magnitude, for every magnitude in N. The *computational complexity* of matrix inversion scales with  $\mathcal{O}(N^3)$ !

$$Ax = b \qquad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 7 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Create matrix A in 3 x 3 cells
- Create right hand side vector **b** in 3 vertical cells



$$Ax = b \qquad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 7 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Create matrix A in 3 x 3 cells
- Create right hand side vector **b** in 3 vertical cells
- Compute the inverse / :
  - Select an empty area of 3 × 3 cells
  - Type =MINVERSE(B2:D4) (In Dutch Excel: INVERSEMAT)
  - Close with Ctrl+Shift+Enter



$$Ax = b \qquad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 7 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Create matrix A in 3 × 3 cells
- Create right hand side vector b in 3 vertical cells
- Compute the inverse / :
  - Select an empty area of 3 × 3 cells
  - Type =MINVERSE(B2:D4) (In Dutch Excel: INVERSEMAT)
  - Close with Ctrl+Shift+Enter
- Solution:
  - Select 3 vertical cells
  - Type =MMULT( H2:J4; B6:B8) (In Dutch Excel: PRODUCTMAT. The semicolon may be a comma.)
  - Close with Ctrl+Shift+Enter



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Computation of determinants and inverses of large matrices in this way is too difficult (slow), so we need other methods to solve large linear systems!



# Towards larger systems

Determinant of upper triangular matrix:

$$\det \left| \mathcal{M}_{\mathsf{tri}} \right| = \prod_{i=1}^{n} a_{ii} \qquad M = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & 9 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \det \left| \mathcal{M} \right| = 5 \times 9 \times 1 = 45$$

Matrix multiplication:

$$\det \left| AM \right| = \det \left| A \right| \times \det \left| M \right|$$

• When A is an identity matrix ( $\det |A| = 1$ ):

$$\det |AM| = \det |A| \times \det |M| = 1 \times \det |M|$$

With rules like this, we can use row-operations so that we can compute the determinant more cheaply.



# Solutions of linear systems

Rank of a matrix: the number of linearly independent columns (columns that can not be expressed as a linear combination of the other columns) of a matrix.

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & 9 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- 3 independent columns
- In Matlab:

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- $\operatorname{col} 2 = 2 \times \operatorname{col} 1$
- col 4 = col 3 col 1
- 2 independent columns: rank = 2



# Solutions of linear systems

The solution of a system of linear equations may or may not exist, and it may or may not be unique. Existence of solutions can be determined by comparing the rank of the Matrix M with the rank of the augmented matrix  $M_a$ :

```
>> rank(A)
>> rank([A b])
```

Our system: Mx = b

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} M_{11} & M_{12} & M_{13} \\ M_{21} & M_{22} & M_{23} \\ M_{31} & M_{32} & M_{33} \end{bmatrix}, b = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow M_a = \begin{bmatrix} M_{11} & M_{12} & M_{13} & b_1 \\ M_{21} & M_{22} & M_{23} & b_2 \\ M_{31} & M_{32} & M_{33} & b_3 \end{bmatrix}$$



#### Existence of solutions for linear systems

For a matrix M of size  $n \times n$ , and augmented matrix  $M_a$ :

• Rank(M) = n: Unique solution



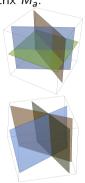


#### Existence of solutions for linear systems

For a matrix M of size  $n \times n$ , and augmented matrix  $M_a$ :

• Rank(M) = n: Unique solution

•  $Rank(M) = Rank(M_a) < n$ : Infinite number of solutions





# Existence of solutions for linear systems

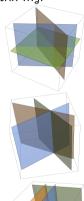
For a matrix M of size  $n \times n$ , and augmented matrix  $M_a$ :

• Rank(M) = n: Unique solution

• Rank $(M) = \text{Rank}(M_a) < n$ : Infinite number of solutions

• Rank(M) < n, Rank $(M) < Rank(M_a)$ : No solutions









#### Two examples

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} 17 \\ 11 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow M_a = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 17 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 & 11 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$rank(M) = 3 = n \Rightarrow Unique solution$$



#### Two examples

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} 17 \\ 11 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow M_a = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 17 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 & 11 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

 $rank(M) = 3 = n \Rightarrow Unique solution$ 

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} 17 \\ 11 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow M_a = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 17 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 & 11 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

 $rank(M) = rank(M_2) = 2 < n \Rightarrow$  Infinite number of solutions



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#### Summary

- Linear equations can be written as matrices
- Using the inverse, the solution can be determined
  - Inverse via cofactors
  - Inverse and solution in Matlab
  - Inverse and solution in Excel
- Introduced the concept of computational complexity: matrix inversion scales with  $N^3$
- A solution depends on the rank of a matrix



Summary

#### Linear equations 2

Direct methods

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- Partial Pivoting
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Introduction O •

#### Goals

Today we are going to write a program, which can solve a set of linear equations

- The first method is called Gaussian elimination
- We will encounter some problems with Gaussian elimination
- Then LU decomposition will be introduced



# Today's outline

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# Define the linear system

Consider the system:

$$Ax = b$$

In general:

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & A_{23} \\ A_{31} & A_{32} & A_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Desired solution:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1' \\ b_2' \\ b_3' \end{bmatrix}$$



- Use row operations to simplify the system. Eliminate element  $A_{21}$  by subtracting  $A_{21}/A_{11} = d_{21}$  times row 1 from row 2.
- In this case, Row 1 is the pivot row, and  $A_{11}$  is the pivot element.

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} & b_1 \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & A_{23} & b_2 \\ A_{31} & A_{32} & A_{33} & b_3 \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} & b_1 \\ 0 & A'_{22} & A'_{23} & b'_2 \\ A_{31} & A_{32} & A_{33} & b_3 \end{bmatrix}$$



Eliminate element  $A_{21}$  using  $d_{21} = A_{21}/A_{11}$ .

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} & b_1 \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & A_{23} & b_2 \\ A_{31} & A_{32} & A_{33} & b_3 \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} & b_1 \\ 0 & A'_{22} & A'_{23} & b'_2 \\ A_{31} & A_{32} & A_{33} & b_3 \end{bmatrix}$$



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- $d_{21} \to A_{21}/A_{11}$
- $A_{21} \rightarrow A_{21} A_{11} d_{21}$
- $A_{22} \rightarrow A_{22} A_{12}d_{21}$
- $A_{23} \to A_{23} A_{13}d_{21}$
- $b_2 \to b_2 b_1 d_{21}$



Eliminate element  $A_{21}$  using  $d_{21} = A_{21}/A_{11}$ .

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} & b_1 \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & A_{23} & b_2 \\ A_{31} & A_{32} & A_{33} & b_3 \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} & b_1 \\ 0 & A'_{22} & A'_{23} & b'_2 \\ A_{31} & A_{32} & A_{33} & b_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

- $d_{21} \rightarrow A_{21}/A_{11}$
- $A_{21} \rightarrow A_{21} A_{11}d_{21}$
- $A_{22} \rightarrow A_{22} A_{12}d_{21}$
- $A_{23} \rightarrow A_{23} A_{13}d_{21}$
- $b_2 \rightarrow b_2 b_1 d_{21}$



Eliminate element  $A_{31}$  using  $d_{31} = A_{31}/A_{11}$ .

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} & b_1 \\ 0 & A'_{22} & A'_{23} & b'_2 \\ A_{31} & A_{32} & A_{33} & b_3 \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} & b_1 \\ 0 & A'_{22} & A'_{23} & b'_2 \\ 0 & A'_{32} & A'_{33} & b'_3 \end{bmatrix}$$



Eliminate element  $A_{31}$  using  $d_{31} = A_{31}/A_{11}$ .

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} & b_1 \\ 0 & A'_{22} & A'_{23} & b'_{2} \\ A_{31} & A_{32} & A_{33} & b_{3} \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} & b_1 \\ 0 & A'_{22} & A'_{23} & b'_{2} \\ 0 & A'_{32} & A'_{33} & b'_{3} \end{bmatrix}$$

- $d_{31} \to A_{31}/A_{11}$
- $A_{31} \rightarrow A_{31} A_{11} d_{31}$
- $A_{32} \rightarrow A_{32} A_{12}d_{31}$
- $A_{33} \rightarrow A_{33} A_{13}d_{31}$
- $b_3 \to b_3 b_1 d_{31}$



Eliminate element  $A_{32}$  using  $d_{32} = A_{32}/A'_{22}$ . Note that now the second row has become the pivot row.

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} & b_1 \\ 0 & A'_{22} & A'_{23} & b'_2 \\ 0 & A_{32} & A_{33} & b_3 \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} & b_1 \\ 0 & A'_{22} & A'_{23} & b'_2 \\ 0 & 0 & A''_{33} & b''_3 \end{bmatrix}$$



Eliminate element  $A_{32}$  using  $d_{32} = A_{32}/A'_{22}$ . Note that now the second row has become the pivot row.

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} & b_1 \\ 0 & A'_{22} & A'_{23} & b'_{2} \\ 0 & A_{32} & A_{33} & b_{3} \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} & b_1 \\ 0 & A'_{22} & A'_{23} & b'_{2} \\ 0 & 0 & A''_{33} & b''_{3} \end{bmatrix}$$

- $d_{32} \rightarrow A_{32}/A'_{22}$
- $A_{32} \rightarrow A_{32} A'_{22}d_{32}$
- $A_{33} \rightarrow A_{33} A'_{23}d_{32}$
- $b_3 \rightarrow b_3 b_2' d_{32}$

```
d32 = A(3,2)/A(2,2);
A(3,2) = A(3,1) - A(2,2)*d32;
A(3,3) = A(3,2) - A(2,3)*d32;
b(3) = b(3) - b(2)*d32;
```



Eliminate element  $A_{32}$  using  $d_{32} = A_{32}/A'_{22}$ . Note that now the second row has become the pivot row.

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} & b_1 \\ 0 & A'_{22} & A'_{23} & b'_{2} \\ 0 & A_{32} & A_{33} & b_{3} \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} & b_1 \\ 0 & A'_{22} & A'_{23} & b'_{2} \\ 0 & 0 & A''_{33} & b''_{3} \end{bmatrix}$$

- $d_{32} \rightarrow A_{32}/A'_{22}$
- $A_{32} \rightarrow A_{32} A'_{22}d_{32}$
- $A_{33} \rightarrow A_{33} A'_{23}d_{32}$
- $b_3 \rightarrow b_3 b_2' d_{32}$

The matrix is now a triangular matrix — the solution can be obtained by back-substitution.



#### Backsubstitution

The system now reads:

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ 0 & A'_{22} & A'_{23} \\ 0 & 0 & A''_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b'_2 \\ b''_3 \end{bmatrix}$$



#### Backsubstitution

The system now reads:

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ 0 & A'_{22} & A'_{23} \\ 0 & 0 & A''_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b'_2 \\ b''_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Start at the last row N, and work upward until row 1.

$$x_3 = b_3''/A_{33}''$$

$$x_2 = (b_2' - A_{23}'x_3)/A_{22}'$$

$$x_1 = (b_1 - A_{12}x_2 - A_{13}x_3)/A_{11}$$



#### Backsubstitution

The system now reads:

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ 0 & A'_{22} & A'_{23} \\ 0 & 0 & A''_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b'_2 \\ b''_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$x_3 = b_3''/A_{33}''$$

$$x_2 = (b_2' - A_{23}'x_3)/A_{22}'$$

$$x_1 = (b_1 - A_{12}x_2 - A_{13}x_3)/A_{11}$$

$$x(3) = b(3) / A(3,3)$$
  
 $x(2) = (b(2) - A(2,3)*x(3)) / A(2,2)$   
 $x(1) = (b(1) - A(1,2)*x(2) - A(1,3)*x(3)) / A(1,1)$ 

In general:

$$x_{N} = \frac{b_{N}}{A_{NN}} \qquad x_{i} = \frac{b_{i} - \sum_{j=i+1}^{N} A_{ij} x_{j}}{A_{ii}}$$



# Writing the program

• Create a function that provides the framework: take matrix A and vector b as an input, and return the solution x as output:

```
function [x,A,b] = GaussianEliminate(A,b)
```

- We will use for-loops instead of typing out each command line.
- Useful Matlab shortcuts:

  - $A(1,2:end) = [A_{12}, A_{13}]$
- A row operation could look like:
  - A(i,:) = A(i,:) d\*A(1,:)



# The program: elimination

```
function [x,A,b] = GaussianEliminate(A,b)

% Perform elimination to obtain an upper triangular matrix
N = length(b);
for column=1:(N-1) % Select pivot
    for row=(column+1):N % Loop over subsequent rows (below pivot)
        d=A(row,column)/A(column,column);
        A(row,:)=A(row,:)-d*A(column,:);
        b(row) = b(row)-d*b(column);
end
end
```



#### The program: Backsubstitution

```
% Assign b to x
x = b:
% Perform backsubstitution
for row=N:-1:1
    x(row) = b(row);
    for i = (row + 1) : N
        x(row)=x(row)-A(row,i)*x(i);
    end
    x(row)=x(row)/A(row,row);
end
```

$$x_N = \frac{b_N}{A_{NN}} \qquad x_i = \frac{b_i - \sum_{j=i+1}^N A_{ij} x_j}{A_{ii}}$$



#### Exercise: Gaussian Elimination

- The function we just made can be found on Canvas
- Use help Gaussian Eliminate to find out how it works
- Solve the following system of equations:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 9 & 9 & 5 & 2 \\ 6 & 7 & 1 & 3 \\ 6 & 4 & 3 & 5 \\ 2 & 6 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 4 \\ 10 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

• Compare your solution with A\b



Partial Pivoting •0000

# Today's outline

- Introduction
- Gauss elimination
- Partial Pivoting
- LU decomposition
- Summary



# Partial pivoting

Now try to run the algorithm with the following system:

Partial Pivoting 00000

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ 10 \end{bmatrix}$$



# Partial pivoting

Now try to run the algorithm with the following system:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ 10 \end{bmatrix}$$

- It does not work! Division by zero, due to  $A_{11} = 0$ .
- Solution: Swap rows to move largest element to the diagonal.



#### Partial pivoting: implementing row swaps

Find maximum element row below pivot in current column

```
[dummy, index] = max(abs(A(column:end,column)));
Index = index + column - 1:
```



### Partial pivoting: implementing row swaps

- Find maximum element row below pivot in current column
- Store current row

```
[dummy,index] = max(abs(A(column:end,column)));
Index = index+column-1;
```

```
temp = A(column,:);
```



## Partial pivoting: implementing row swaps

- Find maximum element row below pivot in current column
- Store current row
- Swap pivot row and desired row in A

```
[dummy,index] = max(abs(A(column:end,column)));
Index = index+column-1;

temp = A(column,:);

A(column,:) = A(index,:);
A(index,:) = temp;
```



#### Partial pivoting: implementing row swaps

- Find maximum element row below pivot in current column
- Store current row
- Swap pivot row and desired row in A
- Do the same for b: store and swap

```
[dummy,index] = max(abs(A(column:end,column)));
Index = index+column-1;
```

```
temp = A(column,:);

A(column,:) = A(index,:);
A(index,:) = temp;
```

```
temp = b(column);
b(column) = b(index);
b(index) = temp;
```



#### Improve the program by using re-usable functions

```
function [x] = GaussianEliminate(A,b)
% GaussianEliminate(A.b): solves x in Ax=b
N = length(b);
for c=1:(N-1)
    [dummy,index]=max(abs(A(c:end,c)));
    index = index + c - 1:
    A = SWAP(A,c,index); % Created swap function
   b = SWAP(b.c.index):
   for row=(column+1):N
        d=A(row.column)/A(column.column):
        A(row.:) = A(row.:) - d*A(column.:):
        b(row) = b(row) - d*b(column):
    end
end
   backwardSub(A.b): % Created BS function
return
```

This function is also provided (named GaussianEliminate\_v2 and GaussianEliminate\_v3 on Canvas).



#### Alternatives to this program

- MATLAB can compute the solution to Ax=b with its own solvers (more efficient) A\b
- Too many loops. Loops make MATLAB slow.
- There are fundamental problems with Gaussian elimination



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- MATLAB can compute the solution to Ax=b with its own solvers (more efficient) A\b
- Too many loops. Loops make MATLAB slow.
- There are fundamental problems with Gaussian elimination
  - You can add a counter to the algorithm to see how many subtraction and multiplication operations it performs for a given size of matrix A.
  - The number of operations to perform Gaussian elimination is  $\mathcal{O}(2N^3)$  (where N is the number of equations)
  - Exercise: verify this for our script



#### Alternatives to this program

- MATLAB can compute the solution to Ax=b with its own solvers (more efficient) A\b
- Too many loops. Loops make MATLAB slow.
- There are fundamental problems with Gaussian elimination
  - You can add a counter to the algorithm to see how many subtraction and multiplication operations it performs for a given size of matrix A.
  - The number of operations to perform Gaussian elimination is  $\mathcal{O}(2N^3)$  (where N is the number of equations)
  - Exercise: verify this for our script
  - LU decomposition takes  $\mathcal{O}(2N^3/3)$  flops, 3 times less!
  - Forward and backward substitution each take  $\mathcal{O}(N^2)$  flops (both cases)



# Today's outline

- Introduction
- Gauss elimination
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## LU Decomposition

Suppose we want to solve the previous set of equations, but with several right hand sides:

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & A_{23} \\ A_{31} & A_{32} & A_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ x_1 & x_2 & x_3 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$



### LU Decomposition

Suppose we want to solve the previous set of equations, but with several right hand sides:

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & A_{23} \\ A_{31} & A_{32} & A_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ x_1 & x_2 & x_3 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$

Factor the matrix A into two matrices. L and U, such that A = LU:

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & A_{23} \\ A_{31} & A_{32} & A_{33} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \times & 1 & 0 \\ \times & \times & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \times & \times & \times \\ 0 & \times & \times \\ 0 & 0 & \times \end{bmatrix}$$

Now we can solve for each right hand side, using only a forward followed by a backward substitution!



#### Substitutions

- Define a lower and upper matrix L and U so that A = LU
- Therefore IUx = b
- Define a new vector y = Ux so that Ly = b
- Solve for v. use L and forward substitution
- Then we have y, solve for x, use Ux = y
- Solve for x, use U and backward substitution
- But how to get L and U?



# Decomposing the matrix (1)

When we eliminate the element  $A_{21}$  we can keep multiplying by a matrix that undoes this row operations, so that the product remains equal to A.

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & A_{23} \\ A_{31} & A_{32} & A_{33} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ d_{21} & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ 0 & A_{22} - d_{21}A_{12} & A_{23} - d_{21}A_{13} \\ A_{31} & A_{32} & A_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$



# Decomposing the matrix (2)

When we eliminate the element  $A_{31}$  we can keep multiplying by a matrix that undoes this row operations, so that the product remains equal to A.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ d_{21} & 1 & 0 \\ d_{31} & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ 0 & A'_{22} = A_{22} - d_{21}A_{12} & A'_{23} = A_{23} - d_{21}A_{13} \\ 0 & A'_{32} = A_{32} - d_{31}A_{12} & A'_{33} = A_{33} - d_{31}A_{21} \end{bmatrix}$$



# Decomposing the matrix (3)

When we eliminate the element  $A_{32}$  we can keep multiplying by a matrix that undoes this row operations, so that the product remains equal to A.

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & A_{23} \\ A_{31} & A_{32} & A_{33} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ d_{21} & 1 & 0 \\ d_{31} & d_{32} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ 0 & A'_{22} & A'_{23} \\ 0 & A'_{32} & A''_{33} = A'_{33} - d_{32}A'_{23} \end{bmatrix}$$



LU decomposition 0000000000000

When we eliminate the element  $A_{32}$  we can keep multiplying by a matrix that undoes this row operations, so that the product remains equal to A.

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & A_{23} \\ A_{31} & A_{32} & A_{33} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ d_{21} & 1 & 0 \\ d_{31} & d_{32} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ 0 & A'_{22} & A'_{23} \\ 0 & A'_{32} & A''_{33} = A'_{33} - d_{32}A'_{23} \end{bmatrix}$$

This finishes the LU decomposition!



Suppose we have arrived at the situation below, where  $A'_{32} > A'_{22}$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & A_{23} \\ A_{31} & A_{32} & A_{33} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ d_{21} & 1 & 0 \\ d_{31} & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ 0 & A'_{22} & A'_{23} \\ 0 & A'_{32} & A'_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$



Suppose we have arrived at the situation below, where  $A'_{32} > A'_{22}$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & A_{23} \\ A_{31} & A_{32} & A_{33} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ d_{21} & 1 & 0 \\ d_{31} & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ 0 & A'_{22} & A'_{23} \\ 0 & A'_{32} & A'_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$

Exchange rows 2 and 3 to get the largest value on the main diagonal. Use a permutation matrix to store the swapped rows:



Suppose we have arrived at the situation below, where  $A'_{32} > A'_{22}$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & A_{23} \\ A_{31} & A_{32} & A_{33} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ d_{21} & 1 & 0 \\ d_{31} & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ 0 & A'_{22} & A'_{23} \\ 0 & A'_{32} & A'_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$

Exchange rows 2 and 3 to get the largest value on the main diagonal. Use a permutation matrix to store the swapped rows:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & A_{23} \\ A_{31} & A_{32} & A_{33} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ d_{31} & 0 & 1 \\ d_{21} & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ 0 & A'_{22} & A'_{23} \\ 0 & A'_{22} & A'_{23} \end{bmatrix}$$



Suppose we have arrived at the situation below, where  $A'_{32} > A'_{22}$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & A_{23} \\ A_{31} & A_{32} & A_{33} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ d_{21} & 1 & 0 \\ d_{31} & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ 0 & A'_{22} & A'_{23} \\ 0 & A'_{32} & A'_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$

Exchange rows 2 and 3 to get the largest value on the main diagonal. Use a permutation matrix to store the swapped rows:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & A_{23} \\ A_{31} & A_{32} & A_{33} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ d_{31} & 0 & 1 \\ d_{21} & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ 0 & A'_{32} & A'_{33} \\ 0 & A'_{22} & A'_{23} \end{bmatrix}$$

Multiplying with a permutation matrix will swap the rows of a matrix. The permutation matrix is justically instruction matrix, whose rows have been interchanged.

## Recipe for LU decomposition

When decomposing matrix A into A = LU, it may be beneficial to swap rows to get the largest values on the diagonal of U (pivoting). A permutation matrix P is used to store row swapping such that:

$$PA = LU$$

- Write down a permutation matrix and the linear system
- Promote the largest value in the column diagonal
- Eliminate all elements below diagonal
- Move on to the next column and move largest elements to diagonal
- Eliminate elements below diagonal
- Repeat 5 and 6
- Write down L,U and P



# LU decomposition example (1)

Write down a permutation matrix, which starts as the identity matrix, and the linear system:

$$PA = LU$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



# LU decomposition example (1)

Write down a permutation matrix, which starts as the identity matrix, and the linear system:

$$PA = LU$$

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Promote the largest value into the diagonal of column 1 — swap row 1 and 2:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



# LU decomposition example (2)

Eliminate all elements below the diagonal — row 2 already contains a zero in column 1, row 3 = row 3 - 0.5 row 1. Record the multiplier 0.5 in L:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0.5 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1.5 & -0.5 \end{bmatrix}$$



# LU decomposition example (2)

Eliminate all elements below the diagonal — row 2 already contains a zero in column 1, row 3 = row 3 - 0.5 row 1. Record the multiplier 0.5 in L:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0.5 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1.5 & -0.5 \end{bmatrix}$$

Elimination of column 1 is done. Step to the next column, and move the largest value below/on the diagonal to the diagonal ( swap rows 2 and 3 ). Adjust P and lower triangle of L accordingly:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0.5 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1.5 & -0.5 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



Eliminate all elements below the diagonal — row 3 = row 3 -  $\frac{2}{3}$  row 2. Record the multiplier  $\frac{2}{3}$  in L:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0.5 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{2}{3} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1.5 & -0.5 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{4}{3} \end{bmatrix}$$



# LU decomposition example (3)

Eliminate all elements below the diagonal row 3 = row 3 -  $\frac{2}{3}$ row 2. Record the multiplier  $\frac{2}{3}$  in L:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0.5 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{2}{3} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1.5 & -0.5 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{4}{3} \end{bmatrix}$$

We have obtained the matrices from PA = LU:

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad L = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0.5 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{2}{3} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad U = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1.5 & -0.5 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{4}{3} \end{bmatrix}$$

Proceed with solving for x.



$$Ax = b \Rightarrow PAx = Pb \equiv d$$
  
 $PA = LU \Rightarrow LUx = d$ 

- Define a new vector y = Ux
  - $Ly = b \Rightarrow Ly = d$
  - Solve for y, forward substitution:

$$y_1 = \frac{d_1}{L_{11}}$$

$$y_i = \frac{d_i - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} L_{ij} y_j}{L_{ii}}$$

- Then solve Ux = y:
  - Solve for x. backward substitution:

$$x_{N} = \frac{y_{N}}{U_{NN}}$$

$$x_{i} = \frac{y_{i} - \sum_{j=i+1}^{N-1} U_{ij} x_{j}}{U_{ij}}$$



#### How to use the solver in Matlab

```
A = rand(5,5);  % Get random matrix
[L, U, P] = lu(A);  % Get L, U and P
b = rand(5,1);  % Random b vector
d = P*b;  % Permute b vector
y = forwardSub(L,d);  % Can also do y=L\d
x = backwardSub(U,y);  % Can also do x=U\y
rnorm = norm(A*x - b);  % Residual

% Compare results to internal Matlab solver
x = A\b
```



#### How to use the solver in Matlah

```
A = rand(5,5);
                   % Get random matrix
[L, U, P] = lu(A); % Get L, U and P
b = rand(5,1);
            % Random b vector
x = backwardSub(U, v); % Can also do x=U \setminus v
rnorm = norm(A*x - b): % Residual
% Compare results to internal Matlab solver
x = A \setminus b
```

- Use this as a basis to create a function that takes A and b, and returns x.
- Use the function to check the performance for various matrix sizes and inspect the performance.



# Today's outline

- Introduction
- Gauss elimination
- Partial Pivoting
- LU decomposition
- Summary



#### Summary

- This lecture covered direct methods using elimination techniques.
- Gaussian elimination can be slow  $(\mathcal{O}(N^3))$
- Back substitution is often faster  $(\mathcal{O}(N^2))$
- LU decomposition means that we don't have to do Gaussian elimination every time (saves time and effort), but the matrix has to stay the same.
- Matlab has build in routines for solving linear equations (backslash operator \) and LU decomposition (1u).
- Advanced techniques such as (preconditioned) conjugate gradient or biconjugate gradient solvers are also available.
- Next part covers iterative approaches



#### Linear equations 3

Iterative methods

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Numerical Methods (6E5X0), 2020-2021

# Today's outline

Introduction

- Introduction
- Sparse matrices
- Laplace's equation
- Creating a sparse system
- Iterative methods
- Summary



# Today's outline

Introduction

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#### Sparse matrices

- In many engineering cases, we deal with sparse matrices (as opposed to dense matrices)
- A matrix is sparse when it mostly consists of zeros
- Linear systems where equations depend on a limited number of variables (e.g. spatial discretization)
- Storing zeros is not very efficient:

```
>> A = eve(10000):
>> whos A
>> S = sparse(A):
>> whos S
```

- Can you think of a way to achieve this?
- Sparse matrix formats: Yale, CRS, CCS



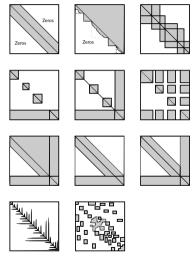
### Sparse matrix storage format

- Example: Yale storage format, storing 3 vectors:
  - A = [5 8 3 6]
  - $\bullet$  IA = [0 1 2 3 4]
  - JA = [0 1 2 1]
  - A stores the non-zero values
  - TA stores the index in A of the first non-zero in row i
  - A stores the column index
  - Note: zero-based indices are used here!

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 8 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 6 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



## Sparse matrix layout examples





## Today's outline

- Introduction
- Sparse matrices
- Laplace's equation
- Creating a sparse system
- Iterative methods
- Summary



# Laplace's equation

$$rac{\partial T}{\partial t} = lpha 
abla^2 T$$
 $T = \text{Temperature}$ 
 $lpha = \text{Thermal diffusivity}$ 

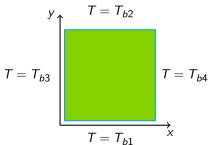


## Laplace's equation

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \alpha \nabla^2 T$$

$$T = \text{Temperature}$$

$$\alpha = \text{Thermal diffusivity}$$





## Laplace's equation

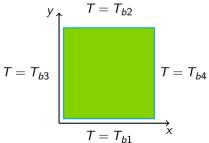
$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \alpha \nabla^2 T$$

$$T = \text{Temperature}$$

$$\alpha = \text{Thermal diffusivity}$$

In steady state:

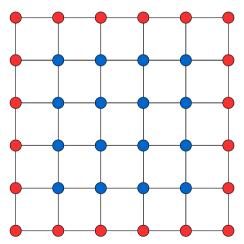
$$\nabla^2 T = 0$$







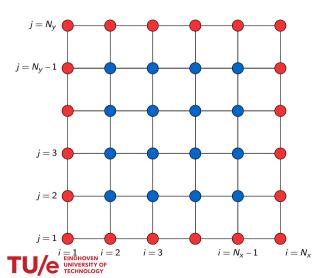
## Discretization of Laplace's equation (I)



 Define a grid of points in x and y

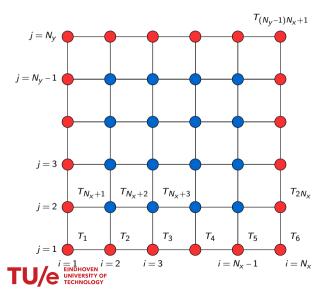


## Discretization of Laplace's equation (I)



- Define a grid of points in x and y
- Index of the grid points using 2D coordinates i and j

## Discretization of Laplace's equation (I)

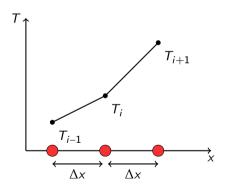


- Define a grid of points in x and v
- Index of the grid points using 2D coordinates i and i
- Set up the equations using a 1D index system:

$$T_{i,j} = T_{i+N_x(j-1)}$$

## Discretization of Laplace's equation (II)

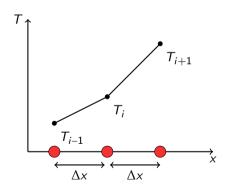
Estimate the second-order differentials: assume a piece-wise linear profile in the temperature:





## Discretization of Laplace's equation (II)

Estimate the second-order differentials: assume a piece-wise linear profile in the temperature:



$$\frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} \approx \frac{\frac{\partial T}{\partial x}\Big|_{i+\frac{1}{2}} - \frac{\partial T}{\partial x}\Big|_{i-\frac{1}{2}}}{\Delta x}$$

$$\approx \frac{\left(T_{i+1,j} - T_{i,j}\right)}{\frac{\Delta x}{\Delta x}} - \frac{\left(T_{i,j} - T_{i-1,j}\right)}{\frac{\Delta x}{\Delta x}}$$

$$=\frac{T_{i+1,j}-2T_{i,j}+T_{i-1,j}}{(\Delta x)^2}$$



# Discretization of Laplace's equation (III)

The y-direction is derived analogously, so that the 2D Laplace's equation is discretized as:

$$\frac{T_{i+1,j} - 2T_{i,j} + T_{i-1,j}}{(\Delta x)^2} + \frac{T_{i,j+1} - 2T_{i,j} + T_{i,j-1}}{(\Delta y)^2} = 0$$



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Use a single index counter  $k = i + N_x(j-1)$ , so that the equation becomes:

$$\frac{T_{k+1} - 2T_k + T_{k-1}}{(\Delta x)^2} + \frac{T_{k+N_x} - 2T_k + T_{k-N_x}}{(\Delta y)^2} = 0$$



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$$\frac{T_{k+1} - 2T_k + T_{k-1}}{(\Delta x)^2} + \frac{T_{k+N_x} - 2T_k + T_{k-N_x}}{(\Delta y)^2} = 0$$

For an equal spaced grid  $\Delta x = \Delta y = 1$ :

$$T_{k-N_x} + T_{k-1} - 4T_k + T_{k+1} + T_{k+N_x} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow AT = b$$



## Today's outline

- Introduction
- Sparse matrices
- Laplace's equation
- Creating a sparse system
- Iterative methods
- Summary



#### Creating the linear system

$$T_{k-N_x} + T_{k-1} - 4T_k + T_{k+1} + T_{k+N_x} = 0$$

Create a banded matrix A: the main diagonal k contains -4, whereas the bands at k-1, k+1,  $k-N_x$  and  $k+N_x$  contain a 1. Boundary cells just contain a 1 on the main diagonal so that the temperature is equal to  $T_b$  (e.g.  $T_1=1T_b$ ).



#### Creating the linear system

$$T_{k-N_x} + T_{k-1} - 4T_k + T_{k+1} + T_{k+N_x} = 0$$

Create a banded matrix A in Matlab, by setting the coefficients for the internal cells:

```
Nx=5; %number of points along x direction
Ny=5; %number of points in the y direction
Nc=Nx*Ny; % Total number of points

e = ones(Nc,1);
A = spdiags([e,e,-4*e,e,e],[-Nx,-1,0,1,Nx],Nc,Nc);
b = zeros(Nc,1);
```

The function spdiags uses the following arguments:

- The coefficients that have to be put on the diagonals arranged as columns in a matrix
- The position of the bands with respect to the main diagonal
- Size of the resulting matrix (in our case square  $N_x N_y \times N_x N_y$ )

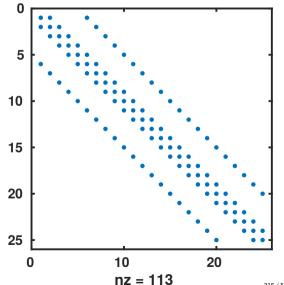


# Matrix sparsity

• Let's check the matrix layout:

>> spy(A)

- This command shows the non-zero values of a matrix
- Apart from the main diagonal, there are offset bands!





#### About boundary conditions

• For the nodes on the boundary, we have a simple equation:

$$T_{k,\text{boundary}} = \text{Some fixed value}$$

- However, we have set all nodes to be a function of their neighbors...
- Find the boundary node indices using k = i + Nx(j-1)
  - i = 1, j = 1:Ny
  - i = Nx, j = 1:Ny
  - j = 1, i = 1:Nx
  - j = Ny, i = 1:Nx
- Reset the row in A to zeros, set  $A_{kk} = 1$
- Set value in rhs:  $b_k = T_{k,\text{boundary}}$
- Boundary conditions are often more elaborate to implement! See setBoundaryConditions.m.



#### Partial implementation of the boundary conditions

See setBoundaryConditions.m.

```
function [A,b] = setBoundaryConditions(A,b,Tb,Nx,Ny)
% Set boundary conditions over x-direction
for i=1:Nx
    i = 1:
    ind = i + Nx * (j-1);
    A(ind.:) = 0; % Reset matrix for boundary cells
    A(ind,ind) = 1; % Add a 1 on the diagonal
   b(ind) = Tb(1):
   j = Ny;
    ind = i + Nx * (j-1);
    A(ind,:) = 0; % Reset matrix for boundary cells
    A(ind,ind) = 1; % Add a 1 on the diagonal
    b(ind) = Tb(2):
end
%% Repeat for v-direction
```



## How applying boundary conditions affects the linear system

```
function [A,b] = setBoundaryConditions(A,b,Tb,Nx,Ny)
```



#### How applying boundary conditions affects the linear system

```
function [A,b] = setBoundaryConditions(A,b,Tb,Nx,Ny)
```

- Make sure that matrix  ${\tt A}$  and right hand side vector  ${\tt b}$  are in your workspace, as well as  ${\tt Nx}$  and  ${\tt N_y}$
- Create a vector that holds the temperature at each boundary:

```
>> T = [10 20 30 40];
```

• Call the function, store A and b in new variables:

```
>> [A2,b2] = setBoundaryConditions(A,b,T,Nx,Ny);
```

• Check the new structure of the matrix and the right hand side:

```
>> subplot(1,2,1); spy(A2);
>> subplot(1,2,2); spy(b2);
```



#### A full program, including solver

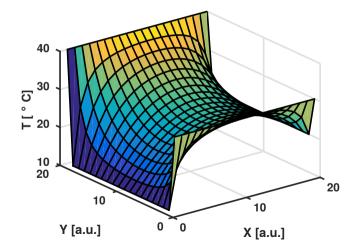
The program and auxiliary functions are on Canvas (solveLaplaceEq.m)

```
function [x,v,T,A] = solveLaplaceEq(Nx,Ny)
% Solves the steady-state Laplace equation
Tb = [10 20 30 40]; % Fixed boundary temperatures
% Fill sparse matrix with [1 1 -4 1 1]
e = ones(Nx*Ny,1);
A = spdiags([e.e.-4*e.e.e], [-Nx.-1.0.1.Nx], Nx*Nv, Nx*Nv);
b = zeros(Nx*Ny,1);
[A,b] = setBoundaryConditions(A,b,Tb,Nx,Ny);
T = A \setminus b: % Solve matrix
Tc = reshape(T,[Nx,Ny]); % Reshape x-vec to mat Nx,Ny
[xc vc] = meshgrid(1:Nx.1:Nv): % Get position arrays
surf(xc,yc,Tc); % Surface plot
```



## Sample results

Solved for a  $20 \times 20$  system with  $T_b = [10 \ 20 \ 30 \ 40]$ .





A Fourier-series expansion for the steady-state heat conduction in a flat plate is given for a domain:  $x, y \in [0, 1]$ , with fixed-temperature boundaries  $T|_{y=0} = T|_{y=1} = T|_{y=0} = 0$  and  $T|_{\nu=1}=1$ :

$$T = \frac{4}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin(m\pi x) \sinh(m\pi y)}{m \sinh(m\pi)} \quad \text{with} \quad m = 2n - 1$$

Compute and plot the exact temperature profile in the 2D plate, and compare it with the numerical solution:

#### Hints:

- Use meshgrid to create a mesh in x and y
- Compute the temperature using the Fourier series, use vectorised computations over x and y so that only 1 loop (over n) is required.
- Solve the numerics for the same problem (note the boundary conditions)
- Compare the numerical and exact solutions (e.g. a plot).



```
% Generate the mesh
Nx = 35; Ny = 35;
[x y] = meshgrid(linspace(0,1,Nx),linspace(0,1,Ny));
T = zeros(size(x));
```



```
% Generate the mesh
Nx = 35; Ny = 35;
[x y] = meshgrid(linspace(0,1,Nx),linspace(0,1,Ny));
T = zeros(size(x));
% Fourier series expansion
for n = 1:100
    m = 2*n-1;
    T = T + (sin(m*pi*x).*sinh(m*pi*y))./(m*sinh(m*pi));
end
Tex = T*4/pi;
```



```
% Generate the mesh
Nx = 35: Nv = 35:
[x v] = meshgrid(linspace(0,1,Nx),linspace(0,1,Ny));
T = zeros(size(x));
% Fourier series expansion
for n = 1:100
    m = 2*n-1:
    T = T + (\sin(m*pi*x).*sinh(m*pi*y))./(m*sinh(m*pi));
end
Tex = T*4/pi:
% Compute numerical solution and post-process
% First plot is created inside solveLaplaceEq. which also returns Tnum
figure; subplot (1,3,1)
[xc.vc.Tnum] = solveLaplaceEq(Nx.Nv)
% Plot exact (Fourier)
subplot(1,3,2); surf(x,y,Tex);
xlabel('x'); ylabel('y'); zlabel('T')
% Plot difference
subplot(1,3,3); surf(x,y,Tex-Tnum);
xlabel('x'); ylabel('y'); zlabel('T')
```



## LU decomposition of a sparse matrix

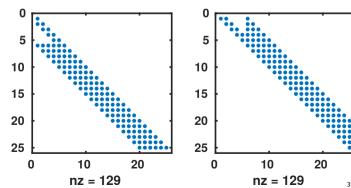
```
>> [L,U,P] = lu(A)
>> subplot(1,2,1)
>> spy(L)
>> subplot(1,2,2)
>> spy(U)
```



## LU decomposition of a sparse matrix

- With LU decomposition we produce matrices that are less sparse than the original matrix.
- Sparse storage often required, and also numerical techniques that fully utilizes this!

```
>> [L,U,P] = lu(A)
>> subplot(1,2,1)
>> spy(L)
>> subplot(1,2,2)
>> spy(U)
```





#### LU decomposition

- LU decomposition and Gaussian elimination on a matrix like A requires more memory (with 3D problems, the offset in the diagonal would even be bigger!)
- In general extra memory allocation will not be a problem for MATLAB
- MATLAB is clever, in that sense that it attempts to reorder equations, to move elements closer to the diagonal)



#### LU decomposition

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- In general extra memory allocation will not be a problem for MATLAB
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#### Alternatives for elimination methods

- Use iterative methods when systems are large and sparse.
- Often such systems are encountered when we want to solve PDE's of higher dimensions



- Introduction
- Sparse matrices
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## Examples of iterative methods

- Jacobi method
- Gauss-Seidel method
- Succesive over relaxation
- bicg Bi-conjugate gradient method
- ullet  $_{ t P^cg}$  preconditioned conjugate gradient method
- gmres generalized minimum residuals method
- bicgstab Bi-conjugate gradient method



Iterative methods 0000000000000

#### The Jacobi method

• In our example we derived the following equation:

$$T_{k-N_x} + T_{k-1} - 4T_k + T_{k+1} + T_{k+N_x} = 0$$

Rearranging gives:

$$T_k = \frac{T_{k-N_x} + T_{k-1} + T_{k+1} + T_{k+N_x}}{4}$$



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$$T_{k-N_x} + T_{k-1} - 4T_k + T_{k+1} + T_{k+N_x} = 0$$

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  - Start with an initial guess for the values of T at each node



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- In the Jacobi scheme the iteration proceeds as follows:
  - ① Start with an initial guess for the values of T at each node
  - Compute updated values and store a new vector:

$$T_k^{\text{new}} = \frac{T_{k-N_x}^{\text{old}} + T_{k-1}^{\text{old}} + T_{k+1}^{\text{old}} + T_{k+N_x}^{\text{old}}}{4}$$



#### The Jacobi method

• In our example we derived the following equation:

$$T_{k-N_{\star}} + T_{k-1} - 4T_k + T_{k+1} + T_{k+N_{\star}} = 0$$

• Rearranging gives:

$$T_{k} = \frac{T_{k-N_{x}} + T_{k-1} + T_{k+1} + T_{k+N_{x}}}{4}$$

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O this for all nodes



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$$T_k^{\text{new}} = \frac{T_{k-N_x}^{\text{old}} + T_{k-1}^{\text{old}} + T_{k+1}^{\text{old}} + T_{k+N_x}^{\text{old}}}{4}$$

- O this for all nodes
- 4 Repeat the procedure until converged



```
% Grid size
nx = 40; ny = 40;
```





```
% Grid size
nx = 40; ny = 40;
% The temperature field + boundaries at old and new times
T = zeros(nx,ny);
T(1,:) = 40;  % Left
T(nx,:) = 60;  % Right
T(:,1) = 20;  % Bottom
T(:,ny) = 30;  % Top
Tnew = T;
```



```
% Grid size
nx = 40; ny = 40;
% The temperature field + boundaries at old and new times
T = zeros(nx, ny);
T(1,:) = 40; % Left
T(nx,:) = 60; \% Right
T(:,1) = 20; \% Bottom
T(:,ny) = 30; \% Top
Tnew = T:
% For plotting
[x y] = meshgrid(1:nx, 1:ny);
```



```
% Grid size
nx = 40; ny = 40;
% The temperature field + boundaries at old and new times
T = zeros(nx, nv):
T(1,:) = 40; % Left
T(nx,:) = 60; \% Right
T(:,1) = 20; \% Bottom
T(:,ny) = 30; \% Top
Tnew = T:
% For plotting
[x \ v] = meshgrid(1:nx, 1:nv);
for iter = 1:1000
  for i = 2:nx-1
    for i = 2:nv-1
      Tnew(i,j) = (T(i-1,j)+T(i+1,j)+T(i,j-1)+T(i,j+1))/4.0:
    end
  end
```



```
% Grid size
nx = 40; ny = 40;
% The temperature field + boundaries at old and new times
T = zeros(nx, nv):
T(1,:) = 40; % Left
T(nx,:) = 60; \% Right
T(:,1) = 20: \% Bottom
T(:,ny) = 30; \% Top
Tnew = T:
% For plotting
[x \ v] = meshgrid(1:nx, 1:nv);
for iter = 1:1000
  for i = 2:nx-1
    for i = 2:nv-1
      Tnew(i,j) = (T(i-1,j)+T(i+1,j)+T(i,j-1)+T(i,j+1))/4.0;
    end
  end
  surf(x,y,Tnew);
  title(['Iteration: 'num2str(iter)]):
  drawnow
  T = Tnew; % Update T
end
```



# About the straightforward implementation

- The method as implemented works fine for a simple Laplace equation
- For generic systems of linear equations, the implementation cannot be used.



## About the straightforward implementation

- The method as implemented works fine for a simple Laplace equation
- For generic systems of linear equations, the implementation cannot be used.

We will now introduce the Jacobi method so it can be used for generic systems of linear equations.



#### The Jacobi method with matrices

We can split our (banded) matrix A into a diagonal matrix D and a remainder R:

$$A = D + B$$



### Jacobi method: solving a system

• We can solve AT = b, now written generally as Ax = b, by:

$$Ax = b$$

$$(D+R)x = b$$

$$Dx = b - Rx$$

$$Dx^{\text{new}} = b - Rx^{\text{old}}$$

$$x^{\text{new}} = D^{-1}(b - Rx^{\text{old}})$$

• Using the n and n+1 notation for old and new time steps, we find in general:

$$x^{n+1} = D^{-1}(b - Rx^n)$$

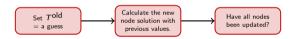
$$x_i^{n+1} = \frac{1}{A_{ii}} \left( b_i - \sum_{j \neq i} A_{ij} x_j^n \right)$$



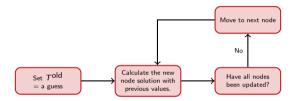
```
Set Told
= a guess
```





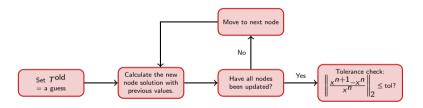




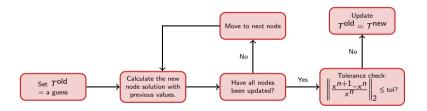




Iterative methods



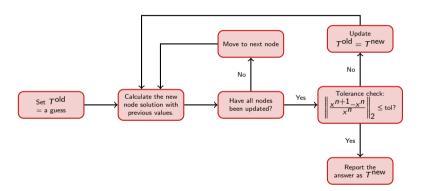








Iterative methods





#### The core of the solver

The full file is on Canvas, solveJacobi.m.

```
while ( xDiff > tol && it_jac < 1000 )</pre>
        x_old = x;
        for i=1:N
             s = 0:
             for j = 1:N
6
                 if (j ~= i)
                      s = s+A(i,j)*x_old(j);
                 end
9
             end
10
             x(i) = (b(i)-s)/A(i,i);
11
        end
12
        it_jac = it_jac+1;
13
         xDiff = norm((x-x_old)./x,2);
14
    end
15
    it_jac
```



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10
11
        end
12
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13
         xDiff = norm((x-x_old)./x,2);
14
    end
15
    it_jac
```

Try to call it from the solveLaplaceEq.m file, instead of using \.



### A few details on this algorithm

- The while loop holds two aspects
  - A convergence criterion  $(norm((x-x_old)./x,2) > tol)$ . Some considerations are:
    - $L_1$ -norm (sum)
    - L<sub>2</sub>-norm (Euclidian distance)
    - $L_{\infty}$ -norm (max)
  - Protection against infinite loops (no convergence)



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  - Protection against infinite loops (no convergence)
- Reset the sum for each row, before summing for the new unknown node
- Start vector x is not shown in the example, but should be there!
- It can have huge impact on performance!
- The for-loops also have a large performance penalty!



### The solver using array indices

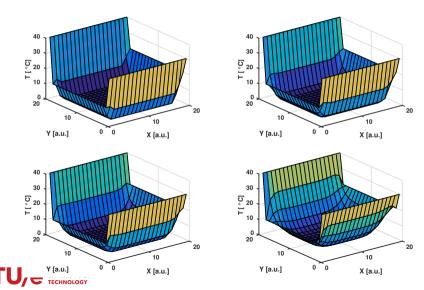
Make a copy of the Jacobian solver, and replace the for-loop by a vector-operation:

```
% While not converged or max_it not reached
while ( xDiff > tol && it_jac < 1000 )
  x_old = x;
for i=1:N
    % Sum off-diagonal*x_old
    offDiagonalIndex = [1:(i-1) (i+1):N];
    Aij_Xj = A(i,offDiagonalIndex)*x_old(offDiagonalIndex);

    % Compute new x value
    x(i) = (b(i)-Aij_Xj)/A(i,i);
end
it_jac = it_jac+1;
xDiff = norm((x-x_old)./x,2);
end</pre>
```



### Iterations 1, 2, 3 and 10



The Gauss-Seidel method is quite similar to Jacobi method

- The only difference is that the new estimate  $x^{\text{new}}$  is returned to the solution  $x^{\text{old}}$  as soon as it is completed
- For following nodes, the updated solution is used immediately



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- Our straightforward script (from the Jacobi method) is therefore changed easily:
  - Do not create a Tnew array (save memory!)
  - Do not store the solution in Tnew, but simply in T
  - Do not perform the update step T=Tnew
  - See laplace\_gaussseidel.m for the algorithm.



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  - Do not perform the update step T=Tnew
  - See laplace\_gaussseidel.m for the algorithm.
- The straightforward script works well for the current Laplace equation, but we define the generic Gauss-Seidel algorithm on the following slides.



- Define a lower and strictly upper triangular matrix, such that A = L + U
- Now we can solve AT=b by:

$$(L+U)T = b$$
  
 $LT = b - UT$   
 $LT^{\text{new}} = b - UT^{\text{old}}$   
 $T^{\text{new}} = L^{-1}(b - UT^{\text{old}})$ 

• Using the n and n+1 notation for old and new time steps, we find in for the general Gauss-Seidel method:

$$x^{n+1} = L^{-1} \left( b - U x^n \right)$$

$$x_i^{n+1} = rac{1}{A_{ii}} \left( b_i - \sum_{j < i} A_{ij} x_j^{n+1} - \sum_{j > i} A_{ij} x_j^n 
ight)$$



# Today's outline

- Introduction
- Sparse matrices
- Laplace's equation
- Creating a sparse system
- Iterative methods
- Summary



### Summary

- Partial differential equations can be discretized into sparse systems of linear equations
- Sparse matrices can be stored in memory efficiently using specialised formats (e.g. compressed row storage)
- The Jacobi and Gauss-Seidel methods were introduced as iterative methods; other methods are based on the same principle (successive over-relaxation method, for example)
- Various implementation issues were discussed, e.g. vectorised computing, convergence tolerances



#### Direct methods vs. Iterative methods

- Iterative methods converge gradually to a solution while direct methods (possibly with partial pivoting) factorise a (set of) matrix(ces) which allow to compute the solution by substitution.
- Direct methods generally use more memory, since they need to store also the result matrices
- A strictly (or irreducibly) diagonally dominant matrix is a prerequisite for convergence of the Jacobi and Gauss-Seidel method.
- For real-life situations; 1D problems are generally solved with direct methods (LU decomposition). If you have systems of more than 1 dimension, a direct method still can be used, if there are no memory issues, otherwise an iterative method would be more attractive.

