

Iterative Linear Algebra Methods

The following are outlines of the best-known iterative methods for approximately solving $Ax = b$, where $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, and $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

1. The classical iterative methods: Jacobi, Gauss–Seidel, and SOR.

Notation: In describing the matrix-vector forms of the classical iterative methods, we use the decomposition $A = L + D + U$, in which L , D , and U are the strict lower-triangular, diagonal, and strict upper-triangular parts of A , respectively. In describing the componentwise forms, we denote the i th components of x and b and the ij th entry of A by x_i , b_i , and A_{ij} , respectively.

JACOBI ITERATION: (matrix-vector form)

Given A , b , and initial x .

Until “stop”:

$$\text{Update } x \leftarrow D^{-1}[b - (L + U)x].$$

JACOBI ITERATION: (componentwise form)

Given A , b , and initial x .

Until “stop”:

For $i = 1, \dots, n$:

$$\text{Set } x_i^+ = (b_i - \sum_{j \neq i} A_{ij}x_j) / A_{ii}.$$

Update $x \leftarrow x^+$.

GAUSS–SEIDEL ITERATION: (matrix-vector form)

Given A , b , and initial x .

Until “stop”:

$$\text{Update } x \leftarrow (L + D)^{-1}(b - Ux).$$

GAUSS–SEIDEL ITERATION: (componentwise form)

Given A , b , and initial x .

Until “stop”:

For $i = 1, \dots, n$:

$$\text{Update } x_i \leftarrow (b_i - \sum_{j \neq i} A_{ij}x_j) / A_{ii}.$$

SUCCESSIVE OVERRELAXATION (SOR): (matrix-vector form)

Given A , b , initial x , and ω .

Until “stop”:

$$\text{Update } x \leftarrow (\omega L + D)^{-1}\{\omega b + [(1 - \omega)D - \omega U]x\}.$$

SUCCESSIVE OVERRELAXATION (SOR): (componentwise form)

Given A , b , initial x , and ω .

Until “stop”:

For $i = 1, \dots, n$:

$$\text{Update } x_i \leftarrow (1 - \omega)x_i + \omega(b_i - \sum_{j \neq i} A_{ij}x_j) / A_{ii}.$$

2. Krylov subspace methods: GMRES(m), CG, and PCG.

Notation: In GMRES(m), $e_1 = (1, 0, \dots, 0)^T \in \mathbb{R}^{m+1}$ and w_{k+1} is the $(k+1)$ st component of the vector $w \in \mathbb{R}^{m+1}$. Generally, subscripted quantities may denote scalars, vectors, or matrices, depending on the context.

GMRES(m): (standard Gram–Schmidt implementation)

Given A , b , x , tol , itmax.

INITIALIZE: Set $r \equiv b - Ax$, $v_1 \equiv r/\|r\|_2$, $w \equiv \|r\|_2 e_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{m+1}$.

ITERATE: For $k = 1, \dots, m$, do:

Initialize $v_{k+1} = Av_k$.

For $i = 1, \dots, k$, do:

Set $h_{ik} = v_i^T v_{k+1}$.

Update $v_{k+1} \leftarrow v_{k+1} - h_{ik} v_i$.

Set $h_{k+1,k} = \|v_{k+1}\|_2$.

If $k > 1$, apply $J_{k-1} \cdots J_1$ to $(h_{1,k}, \dots, h_{k,k}, h_{k+1,k}, 0, \dots)^T \in \mathbb{R}^{m+1}$.

Determine a Givens rotation J_k such that

$$J_k \cdots J_1 \begin{pmatrix} h_{1,k} \\ \vdots \\ h_{k,k} \\ h_{k+1,k} \\ 0 \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} r_{1,k} \\ \vdots \\ r_{k,k} \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix}.$$

If $k = 1$, form $R_1 \equiv (r_{11})$; else form $R_k \equiv \begin{pmatrix} R_{k-1} & r_{1,k} \\ 0 \cdots 0 & r_{k,k} \end{pmatrix}$.

Update $w \leftarrow J_k w$. If $|w_{k+1}| \leq tol$ or $k = m$, go to SOLVE; else

update $v_{k+1} \leftarrow v_{k+1}/h_{k+1,k}$.

SOLVE: Let k be the final iteration number from ITERATE.

Solve $R_k y = \bar{w}$ for y , where $\bar{w} \equiv (w_1, \dots, w_k)^T$.

Update $x \leftarrow x + (v_1, \dots, v_k)y$.

If $|w_{k+1}| \leq tol$, accept x and stop; otherwise, return to INITIALIZE.

CONJUGATE GRADIENT METHOD (CG):

Given A , b , x , and tol .

Set $r = b - Ax$, $\rho^2 = \|r\|_2^2$, $z = 0$, $\beta = 0$.

Until “stop”:

If $\rho \leq tol$, update $x \leftarrow x + z$ and stop.

Update $p \leftarrow r + \beta p$.

Compute Ap .

Compute $p^T Ap$ and $\alpha = \rho^2 / p^T Ap$.

Update $z \leftarrow z + \alpha p$ and $r \leftarrow r - \alpha Ap$.

Update $\beta \leftarrow \|r\|_2^2 / \rho^2$ and $\rho^2 \leftarrow \|r\|_2^2$.

PRECONDITIONED CONJUGATE GRADIENT METHOD (PCG):

Given A , b , x , tol , and a symmetric positive-definite preconditioner M .

Set $r = b - Ax$, $w = M^{-1}r$, $\rho^2 = r^T w$, $z = 0$, $\beta = 0$.

Until “stop”:

If $\rho \leq tol$, update $x \leftarrow x + z$ and stop.

Update $p \leftarrow w + \beta p$.

Compute Ap .

Compute $p^T Ap$ and $\alpha = \rho^2 / p^T Ap$.

Update $z \leftarrow z + \alpha p$ and $r \leftarrow r - \alpha Ap$.

Update $w = M^{-1}r$, $\beta = r^T w / \rho^2$, and $\rho^2 = r^T w$.