MA398 Matrix Analysis and Algorithms: Exercise Sheet 4

1. Prove that the condition number of a scalar function $f: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ is invariant under scaling of the function. That is, show that if f(x) = ag(x) for some constant a and function g, then $\kappa_f(x) = \kappa_g(x)$.

Hint: Use the fact that the derivative of f(x) with respect to x is f'(x) = ag'(x) and apply the definition of the condition number.

2. Write a Python function that computes the condition number of a non-singular matrix A. Use numpy's built-in functions to compute matrix norms and inverses. Your function should take a 2D numpy array A as input and return the condition number of A as output.

Then, generate a random matrix A (you can use numpy's np.random.rand(n, n) function to generate an $n \times n$ matrix with entries between 0 and 1), compute its condition number using your function, and discuss the implications of the condition number in the context of solving a system of linear equations Ax = b.

After you run the program, interpret the output by discussing how the condition number affects the sensitivity of the solution x to small changes in the matrix A or the right-hand side b. You might also discuss what it means if the condition number is close to 1, significantly larger than 1, or very large.

- 3. Analyze the backward stability of the division operation in floating-point arithmetic similar to the subtraction operation shown in Example 1 in lecture 11. Assume that the exact input is $x = (x_1, x_2)^T$, and exact operation is $f(x) = x_1/x_2 = y$. Define and calculate the backward error, discuss the stability of this operation and any potential limitations or special cases that need to be considered.
- 4. Consider a simple algorithm for calculating the dot product between two vectors in Python using numpy's built-in function np.dot(). Write a Python function that introduces a small perturbation to each element of the input vectors before computing the dot product. Then, compare the result of the perturbed dot product with the exact result and calculate the relative forward and backward errors. Discuss your findings with respect to the backward stability of the dot product operation.

5. (Growth factor) Show that

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -1 & \cdots & \cdots & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

has growth factor $g_n(A) = 2^{n-1}$. Hint: Denoting the U matrix in algorithm LU after step K by $U^{(k)}$, show by induction that $U_{n,n}^{(k)} = 2^k$.