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6.2.1 Reducing a System of Linear Equations to an Upper Triangular System

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Week 6 due Nov 13, 2023 12:12 IST   Completed

# 6.2.1 Reducing a System of Linear Equations to an Upper Triangular System

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Dr. Robert van de Geijn: So we're going to look at how to reduce a system of linear equations to an upper triangular system, and this is probably a method that you've seen before for solving simultaneous equations.

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▶ 2.0x

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CC

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Reading Assignment

0 points possible (ungraded)  
Read Unit 6.2.1 of the notes. [\[LINK\]](#)

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Calculator

Video for Homework 6.2.1.1

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Dr. Robert van de Geijn: So what we've done is we've created a web page where you can practice different ways of performing Gaussian elimination. Notice that it's organized by Unit, 6.2.1, 2.2, 2.3, et cetera.



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Homework 6.2.1.1

3/3 points (graded)

Practice reducing a system of linear equations to an upper triangular system of linear equations by visiting the "[Practice with Gaussian Elimination](#)" webpage we created for you. For now, only work with the top part of that webpage.

Problem 1 in that webpage starts with the system of linear equations

$$\begin{array}{rrcrcl} 1 & x_0 & + & 1 & x_1 & + & 2 & x_2 & = & -1 \\ 3 & x_0 & + & 1 & x_1 & + & 7 & x_2 & = & -7 \\ 1 & x_0 & + & 7 & x_1 & + & 1 & x_2 & = & 7 \end{array}$$

and yields the upper triangular system

$$\begin{array}{rrcrcl} 1 & x_0 & + & 1 & x_1 & + & 2 & x_2 & = & -1 \\ & & & \alpha_{1,1} & x_1 & + & 1 & x_2 & = & \beta_1 \\ & & & & \alpha_{2,2} & x_2 & = & -4 \end{array}$$

Enter the values for  $\alpha_{1,1}$ ,  $\alpha_{2,2}$ , and  $\beta_1$  below:

$\alpha_{1,1} =$

✓ Answer: -2

$\alpha_{2,2} =$

✓ Answer: 2

$\beta_1 =$

Calculator

-4

✓ Answer: -4

Submit

Answers are displayed within the problem

Homework 6.2.1.2

3/3 points (graded)

$-2\chi_0$

$+$

$\chi_1$

$+$

$2\chi_2$

$=$

$0$

$4\chi_0$

$-$

$\chi_1$

$-$

$5\chi_2$

$=$

$4$

$2\chi_0$

$-$

$3\chi_1$

$-$

$\chi_2$

$=$

$-6$

$\begin{pmatrix} \chi_0 \\ \chi_1 \\ \chi_2 \end{pmatrix} =$

-1

✓ Answer: -1

2

✓ Answer: 2

-2

✓ Answer: -2

Answer:

$-2\chi_0$

$+$

$\chi_1$

$+$

$2\chi_2$

$=$

$0$

$4\chi_0$

$-$

$\chi_1$

$-$

$5\chi_2$

$=$

$4$

$2\chi_0$

$-$

$3\chi_1$

$-$

$\chi_2$

$=$

$-6$

$\rightarrow$

$-2\chi_0$

$+$

$\chi_1$

$+$

$2\chi_2$

$=$

$0$

$\chi_1$

$-$

$\chi_2$

$=$

$4$

$-2\chi_1$

$+$

$\chi_2$

$=$

$-6$

$\rightarrow$

$-2\chi_0$

$+$

$\chi_1$

$+$

$2\chi_2$

$=$

$0$

$\chi_1$

$-$

$\chi_2$

$=$

$4$

$-\chi_2$

$=$

$2$

$\rightarrow$

$-\chi_2 = 2 \Rightarrow \chi_2 = -2$

$\chi_1 - (-2) = 4 \Rightarrow \chi_1 = 2$

$-2\chi_0 + (2) + 2(-2) = 0 \Rightarrow \chi_0 = -1$

Submit

Answers are displayed within the problem

Homework 6.2.1.3

3/3 points (graded)

Compute the coefficients  $\gamma_0, \gamma_1$ , and  $\gamma_2$  so that

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} i = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 n + \gamma_2 n^2$$

Hint: let  $p_2(n) = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 n + \gamma_2 n^2$ . Evaluate  $p_2(0), p_2(1)$ , and  $p_2(2)$  by plugging  $n$  into the expression. Then also evaluate  $\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} i$ . This then gives you three equations in three unknowns (the coefficients). Then you solve!

In other words: if  $n = 0$  then

$$\gamma_0 + \gamma_1 \times 0 + \gamma_2 \times 0^2 = \sum_{i=0}^{0-1} i$$

or

$$\gamma_0 + 0 \times \gamma_1 + 0 \times \gamma_2 = 0$$

since  $\sum_{i=0}^{-1} i = 0$  (because the sum over an "empty range" is defined to equal zero). That is your first equation. Similarly, create the second equation and third equation by setting  $n = 1$  and  $n = 2$ , respectively. Then solve your system of linear equations with three equations in three unknowns.

$\gamma_0 =$

Calculator

https://learning.edx.org/course/course-v1:UTAustinX+UT.5.05x+1T2022/block-v1:UTAustinX+UT.5.05x+1T2022+type@sequential+block@512525e3974e4b708f1bc0d570e48134/block-v1:UTAustinX+UT.5.05x+1T20...

4/6

/0

0

✓ Answer: 0

 $\gamma_1 =$ 

-1/2

✓ Answer: -.5

 $\gamma_2 =$ 

1/2

✓ Answer: .5

**Answer:** Earlier in this course, as an example when discussing proof by induction and then again later when discussing the cost of a matrix-vector multiplication with a triangular matrix and the solution of a triangular system of equations, we encountered

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} i.$$

Now, you may remember that this equalled some quadratic (second degree) polynomial in  $n$ , but not what the coefficients of that polynomial were:

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} i = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 n + \gamma_2 n^2,$$

for some constant scalars  $\gamma_0$ ,  $\gamma_1$ , and  $\gamma_2$ . What if you wanted to determine what these coefficients are? Well, you now know how to solve linear systems, and we now see that determining the coefficients is a matter of solving a linear system.

Starting with

$$p_2(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} i = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 n + \gamma_2 n^2,$$

we compute the value of  $p_2(n)$  for  $n = 0, 1, 2$ :

$$\begin{aligned} p_2(0) &= \sum_{i=0}^{(0)-1} i = \gamma_0(0)^0 + \gamma_1(0) + \gamma_2(0)^2 = 0 = 0 \\ p_2(1) &= \sum_{i=0}^{(1)-1} i = \gamma_0(1)^0 + \gamma_1(1) + \gamma_2(1)^2 = 0 = 0 \\ \sum_{i=0}^{(2)-1} i &= \gamma_0(2)^0 + \gamma_1(2) + \gamma_2(2)^2 = 0 + 1 = 1 \end{aligned}$$

or, in matrix notation,

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \gamma_0 \\ \gamma_1 \\ \gamma_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

One can then solve this system to find that

$$\begin{pmatrix} \gamma_0 \\ \gamma_1 \\ \gamma_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -\frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

so that

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} i = \frac{1}{2}n^2 - \frac{1}{2}n$$

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