

Back substitution

idea: Gaussian Elimination

1st step: reduce to an equivalent upper triangular system by row operations on column 1, col 2, ...

2nd step: solve upper triangular system by backsubstitution

Triangular System:

def. A matrix $L \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is lower-triangular (\blacktriangle) if $L_{ij} = 0$, when $i < j$

$U \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is upper-triangular (\blacktriangledown) if $U_{ij} = 0$ when $i > j$

L is unit lower triangular if $L_{ii} = 1$
unit upper $U_{ii} = 1$

Back-substitution:

Suppose we have an $n \times n$ system. $U \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is upper triangular and $U_{ii} \neq 0 \forall i$

$$U\vec{x} = \vec{b}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} U_{11} & U_{12} & \dots & U_{1n} \\ & U_{22} & \dots & U_{2n} \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & U_{nn} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_n \end{pmatrix}$$

$$U_{n-1, n-1} x_{n-1} + U_{n-1, n} x_n = b_{n-1}$$

$$x_{n-1} = \frac{1}{U_{n-1, n-1}} (b_{n-1} - U_{n-1, n} x_n)$$

$$i^{\text{th}} \text{ row: } U_{ii} x_i + \sum_{j=i+1}^n U_{ij} x_j = b_i$$

$$\Rightarrow U_{ii} x_i = b_i - \sum_{j=i+1}^n U_{ij} x_j$$

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

Similarly, $L\vec{x} = \vec{b}$ solved by forward-sub, if $l_{ii} \neq 0$

$$\begin{pmatrix} l_{11} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ l_{21} & l_{22} & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & 0 \\ l_{n1} & \dots & l_{nn} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_n \end{pmatrix}$$

$$l_{11} x_1 = b_1 \quad x_1 = \frac{b_1}{l_{11}}$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^{i-1} (l_{ij} x_j + l_{ii} x_i) = b_i$$

$$x_i = \frac{1}{l_{ii}} (b_i - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} l_{ij} x_j)$$

Operation count for backsubstitution

1st step: $x_n = \frac{1}{l_{nn}} b_n$ 1 division

2nd step: $x_{n-1} = \frac{1}{l_{n-1,n-1}} b_{n-1} - l_{n-1,n} x_n$ 1 mult 1 subtraction 1 div.

⋮

ith step: 1 div (i-1) mult (i-1) sub

mult count: $\sum_{i=1}^n (i-1) = 0+1+\dots+(n-1) = \frac{n(n-1)}{2}$

sub count $\frac{n(n-1)}{2}$

division n .

total: $\frac{n(n-1)}{2} \cdot 2 + n = n^2 - n + n = n^2$