PHAS0102: Techniques of High-Performance Computing



Direct solvers

An iterative solver finds a series of approximate solutions $x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, ...$

A direct solver finds the exact solution \mathbf{x}

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 3 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 10 \\ 26 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 3 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 10 \\ 26 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 3 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 10 \\ 26 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 3 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 10 \\ 26 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 11 \\ 0 \\ 15 \end{pmatrix}$$

Solving an LU system

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 2 & 0 \\ -1 & 3 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 & 8 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 10 \\ 26 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Solve

then solve

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 2 & 0 \\ -1 & 3 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_0 \\ y_1 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 10 \\ 26 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 & 8 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} y_0 \\ y_1 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -2 & 4 & 3 & 4 \\ -2 & 3 & 5 & 3 \\ -2 & 5 & 3 & -2 \\ -2 & 4 & 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} * & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & 0 \\ * & * & * & * \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & * & * & * \\ 0 & 1 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$





$$\begin{pmatrix} -2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & * & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & * & * & 0 \\ -2 & * & * & * \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 & -\frac{3}{2} & -2 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \div (-1)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & * & * & 0 \\ -2 & * & * & * \end{pmatrix} \qquad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 & -\frac{3}{2} & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -2 \end{pmatrix} = b \\ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & -6 \\ -1b \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -2 \end{pmatrix} = b \\ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & -6 \\ -1b \\ -0b \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 1 & * & 0 \\ -2 & 0 & * & * \end{pmatrix} \qquad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 & -\frac{3}{2} & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & -7 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

[live Python example]

$$\begin{pmatrix} -2 & 4 & 3 & 4 \\ -2 & 3 & 5 & 3 \\ -2 & 5 & 3 & -2 \\ -2 & 4 & 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ -2 & 0 & -1 & -\frac{11}{2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 & -\frac{3}{2} & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{7}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

What could go wrong?

- Division by 0
 - LU with pivoting moves the largest number to the diagonal to avoid this in most cases

$$\mathrm{PA}=\mathrm{LU}$$

Cost of LU

- Computing LU factorisation is O(n³)
- Solving using the LU factors is O(n²)

- LU is not good for general large matrices
- ... so why are we learning about it?

LU for tridiagonal matrices



Incomplete LU

- Incomplete LU is a variant of LU that throws away some data in the decomposition to make it faster.
- ILU can make a good preconditioner

[live Python example]