

Lecture 5: System of Equations

Abhinav Jha

Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar

23rd March 2026



1 Matrix Factorisation

1.1 LU Decomposition

1.2 LDL Decomposition

1.3 Cholesky Decomposition

1.4 Computational Complexity

2 Iterative Methods



LU Decomposition

Matrix Factorisation Iterative Methods

$$\underline{Ax} = \underline{b} \Rightarrow (\underline{LU})\underline{x} = \underline{b} \Rightarrow \underline{Ly} = \underline{b} \text{ and } \underline{Ux} = \underline{y}$$

L: Lower triangular
U: Upper triangular } → Backward Substitution
O(n²) process

Starting point: Gaussian elimination

$$[A, b] = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} & b_1 \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} & b_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \dots & a_{nn} & b_{nn} \end{bmatrix} \rightsquigarrow \begin{bmatrix} \bar{a}_{11} & \bar{a}_{12} & \dots & \bar{a}_{1n} & \bar{b}_1 \\ 0 & \bar{a}_{22} & \dots & \bar{a}_{2n} & \bar{b}_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \bar{a}_{nn} & \bar{b}_{nn} \end{bmatrix}$$

A U



LU Decomposition

Matrix Factorisation Iterative Methods

$$A^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11}^{(1)} & a_{12}^{(1)} & \dots & a_{1n}^{(1)} \\ a_{21}^{(1)} & a_{22}^{(1)} & \dots & a_{2n}^{(1)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1}^{(1)} & a_{n2}^{(1)} & \dots & a_{nn}^{(1)} \end{bmatrix}$$

1st Step:

\rightsquigarrow

$$A^{(2)} = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{a}_{11}^{(2)} & \bar{a}_{12}^{(2)} & \dots & \bar{a}_{1n}^{(2)} \\ 0 & a_{22}^{(2)} & \dots & a_{2n}^{(2)} \\ 0 & \bar{a}_{32}^{(2)} & \dots & \bar{a}_{3n}^{(2)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \bar{a}_{n2}^{(2)} & \dots & \bar{a}_{nn}^{(2)} \end{bmatrix}$$



$R_j \mapsto R_j - m_{j1} R_1$, where $m_{j1} = \frac{a_{j1}^{(1)}}{a_{11}^{(1)}}$, $j=2, \dots, n$

$$M^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ -m_{21} & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ -m_{31} & 0 & \dots & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -m_{n1} & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\rightarrow A^{(2)} = M^{(1)} A^{(1)}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ -m_{21} & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ -m_{31} & 0 & \dots & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -m_{n1} & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11}^{(1)} & a_{12}^{(1)} & \dots & a_{1n}^{(1)} \\ a_{21}^{(1)} & a_{22}^{(1)} & \dots & a_{2n}^{(1)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1}^{(1)} & a_{n2}^{(1)} & \dots & a_{nn}^{(1)} \end{bmatrix}$$



$$-m_{21} a_{11}^{(1)} + a_{21}^{(1)} = -\frac{a_{21}^{(1)}}{a_{11}^{(1)}} a_{11}^{(1)} + a_{21}^{(1)} = 0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11}^{(1)} & a_{12}^{(1)} & \dots & a_{1n}^{(1)} \\ 0 & a_{22}^{(2)} & \dots & a_{2n}^{(2)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & a_{n2}^{(2)} & \dots & a_{nn}^{(2)} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-m_{21} a_{12}^{(1)} + a_{22}^{(1)} = a_{22}^{(1)} - \frac{a_{21}^{(1)}}{a_{11}^{(1)}} a_{12}^{(1)}$$



LU Decomposition

$$A^{(2)} = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{a}_{11}^{(2)} & \bar{a}_{12}^{(2)} & \dots & \bar{a}_{1n}^{(2)} \\ 0 & \bar{a}_{22}^{(2)} & \dots & \bar{a}_{2n}^{(2)} \\ 0 & \bar{a}_{32}^{(2)} & \dots & \bar{a}_{3n}^{(2)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \bar{a}_{n2}^{(2)} & \dots & \bar{a}_{nn}^{(2)} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow A^{(3)} = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{a}_{11}^{(3)} & \bar{a}_{12}^{(3)} & \dots & \bar{a}_{1n}^{(3)} \\ 0 & \bar{a}_{22}^{(3)} & \dots & \bar{a}_{2n}^{(3)} \\ 0 & 0 & \bar{a}_{33}^{(3)} & \dots & \bar{a}_{3n}^{(3)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \bar{a}_{n3}^{(3)} & \dots & \bar{a}_{nn}^{(3)} \end{bmatrix}$$

$R_j \rightarrow R_j - m_{j2} R_2$ where $m_{j2} = \frac{a_{j2}^{(2)}}{a_{22}^{(2)}}$ for $j=3, \dots, n$

$$M^{(2)} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & -m_{32} & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & -m_{n2} & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} A^{(3)} &= M^{(2)} A^{(2)} \\ &= M^{(2)} (M^{(1)} A^{(1)}) = M^{(2)} M^{(1)} A \\ &\vdots \\ A^{(n)} &= M^{(n-1)} M^{(n-2)} \dots M^{(2)} M^{(1)} A \end{aligned}$$

$$U = \underbrace{(M^{(n-1)} \dots M^{(2)} M^{(1)})}_{\text{is Invertible}} A \Rightarrow A = LU$$



LU Decomposition

Matrix Factorisation Iterative Methods

$$A=LU \quad \text{where } L = (M^{(n-1)} M^{(n-2)} \dots M^{(1)})^{-1}$$

Theorem: Doolittle LU

If Gaussian elimination can be performed without using row-pivoting then we can write $A=LU$

where L and U are defined as early.

Remark: If U has unit diagonal then it is Crout LU factorisation.

Example:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 3 & 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad ; \quad L = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ l_{21} & 1 & 0 \\ l_{31} & l_{32} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad U = \begin{bmatrix} u_{11} & u_{12} & u_{13} \\ 0 & u_{22} & u_{23} \\ 0 & 0 & u_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$L = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} u_{11} & u_{12} & u_{13} \\ l_{21}u_{11} & u_{21}u_{12} + u_{22} & u_{21}u_{13} + u_{23} \\ l_{31}u_{11} & l_{31}u_{12} + l_{32}u_{22} & l_{31}u_{13} + l_{32}u_{23} + u_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$

Diagram annotations: A blue oval highlights the top row u_{11}, u_{12}, u_{13} labeled "1st". A red oval highlights the first column $u_{11}, l_{21}u_{11}, l_{31}u_{11}$ labeled "2nd". A green oval highlights the second row elements $u_{21}u_{12} + u_{22}$ and $u_{21}u_{13} + u_{23}$ labeled "3rd". An orange oval highlights the third row elements $l_{31}u_{12} + l_{32}u_{22}$ and $l_{31}u_{13} + l_{32}u_{23} + u_{33}$ labeled "4th".




LU Decomposition

Matrix Factorisation Iterative Methods

Ques:

$$A = LU$$

$$L = \begin{bmatrix} l_{11} & 0 & 0 \\ l_{21} & l_{22} & 0 \\ l_{31} & l_{32} & l_{33} \end{bmatrix} \quad U = \begin{bmatrix} u_{11} & u_{12} & u_{13} \\ 0 & u_{22} & u_{23} \\ 0 & 0 & u_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$

Imp: $\det(A) = \det(LU)$ 

$$= \det(L) \det(U)$$
$$= \det(U)$$

Theorem: If A has LU decomposition, then it is not unique.

Proof: Let $A = LU$ and D is invertible diagonal matrix

$$= L(DD^{-1})U$$
$$= (LD) (D^{-1}U)$$
$$= \tilde{L} \tilde{U}$$



Definition (Diagonally Dominant Matrix)

A matrix $\mathbf{A} = (a_{ij})$ is said to be *diagonally dominant* if

$$|a_{ii}| \geq \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^n |a_{ij}|, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

If the inequality is strict for every i , then \mathbf{A} is called *strictly diagonally dominant*.

$$\mathbf{A}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 2 \\ -1 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{A}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{A}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$



Theorem

A strictly diagonally dominant matrix \mathbf{A} is nonsingular. Moreover, Gaussian elimination applied to a system $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ can be carried out without row or column interchanges, and the computation is stable with respect to the growth of round-off errors.



Definition (Positive Definite Matrix)

A matrix A is said to be *positive definite* if

$$\mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} > 0 \quad \text{for all } \mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}.$$

If A is symmetric and positive definite, it is called a *symmetric positive definite (SPD)* matrix.

Example: Let $A_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$; $A_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \mathbf{x}^\top A_2 \mathbf{x} = x_1^2 - x_2^2$

$$\text{Let } \underline{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2, \underline{x} = (x_1, x_2) \therefore \underline{x}^\top A_1 \underline{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2x_1 - x_2 \\ -x_1 + 2x_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= x_1^2 + x_2^2 - (x_1 - x_2)^2 > 0$$



LDL Decomposition

Definition (Leading Principal Submatrix)

A leading principal submatrix of a matrix A is a matrix of the form

$$A_k = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1k} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2k} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{k1} & a_{k2} & \cdots & a_{kk} \end{bmatrix},$$

for some $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & \cdots & a_{3n} \end{bmatrix}$$



Theorem (Necessary and Sufficient Condition for SPD)

A symmetric matrix A is symmetric positive definite if and only if all its leading principal submatrices have positive determinants.



LDL Decomposition

Matrix Factorisation Iterative Methods

Example: $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$

$A_1 = [2]$, $\det(A_1) > 0$

$A_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$, $\det(A_2) = 3 > 0$

$\odot A_3 = A$, $\det(A_3) = 4 > 0 \Rightarrow A$ is spd.



Theorem

A symmetric matrix \mathbf{A} is symmetric positive definite if and only if Gaussian elimination without row interchanges can be applied to the linear system $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ with all pivot elements positive. Moreover, in this case, the computations are stable with respect to the growth of round-off errors.

Corollary (\mathbf{LDL}^T Factorisation)

A matrix \mathbf{A} is symmetric positive definite if and only if it admits a factorisation of the form $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{LDL}^T$, where \mathbf{L} is a unit lower triangular matrix and \mathbf{D} is a diagonal matrix with positive diagonal entries.



Corollary

Let \mathbf{A} be a symmetric matrix for which Gaussian elimination can be applied without row interchanges. Then \mathbf{A} admits a factorisation of the form $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{LDL}^T$, where \mathbf{L} is a unit lower triangular matrix and \mathbf{D} is a diagonal matrix whose diagonal entries are the pivots $a_{11}^{(1)}, a_{22}^{(2)}, \dots, a_{nn}^{(n)}$.



LDL Decomposition

Matrix Factorisation Iterative Methods

Example

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{bmatrix}; L = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ l_{21} & 1 & 0 \\ l_{31} & l_{32} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad D = \begin{bmatrix} d_{11} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & d_{22} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & d_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$LDL^T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ l_{21} & 1 & 0 \\ l_{31} & l_{32} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} d_{11} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & d_{22} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & d_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & l_{21} & l_{31} \\ 0 & 1 & l_{32} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} d_{11} & d_{11}l_{21} & d_{11}l_{31} \\ d_{11}l_{21} & d_{22} + d_{11}l_{21}^2 & d_{22}l_{32} + d_{11}l_{21}l_{32} \\ d_{11}l_{31} & d_{22}l_{32} + d_{11}l_{21}l_{32} & d_{11}l_{31}^2 + d_{22}l_{32}^2 + d_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$



Corollary (Cholesky Decomposition)

A matrix A is symmetric positive definite if and only if it can be factored in the form

$$A = LL^T,$$

where L is a lower triangular matrix with strictly positive diagonal entries.



Cholesky Decomposition

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{bmatrix} ; L = \begin{bmatrix} d_{11} & 0 & 0 \\ l_{21} & d_{22} & 0 \\ l_{31} & l_{32} & d_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A = LL^T$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} d_{11} & 0 & 0 \\ d_{21} & d_{22} & 0 \\ d_{31} & d_{32} & d_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} d_{11} & d_{21} & d_{31} \\ 0 & d_{22} & d_{32} \\ 0 & 0 & d_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} d_{11}^2 & d_{11}d_{21} & d_{11}d_{31} \\ \times & d_{21}^2 + d_{22}^2 & d_{21}d_{31} + d_{22}d_{32} \\ \times & \times & d_{31}^2 + d_{32}^2 + d_{33}^2 \end{bmatrix}$$



Computational Complexity

Matrix Factorisation Iterative Methods

Method	Applicability	Advantages	Computational	
			M/D	ALS
LU	General square matrix	Works for anything but needs pivoting	$\frac{n^3}{2} - \frac{n}{3}$	$\frac{n^3}{2} - \frac{n^2}{2} + \frac{n}{6}$
LDL ^T	Symmetric matrix	More stable than LU, reduce storage, No pivot	$\frac{n^3}{6} + \frac{n^2 \cdot 7n}{6}$	$\frac{n^3}{6} - \frac{n}{6}$
Cholesky	SPD	Fastest and most efficient	$\frac{n^3}{6} + \frac{n^2}{2} - \frac{2n}{3}$	$\frac{n^3}{6} - \frac{n}{6}$



Definition

A *vector norm* on \mathbb{R}^n is a function $\|\cdot\| : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfying the following properties:

- 1 $\|\mathbf{x}\| \geq 0$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$.
- 2 $\|\mathbf{x}\| = 0$ if and only if $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$.
- 3 $\|\alpha\mathbf{x}\| = |\alpha| \|\mathbf{x}\|$ for all $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$.
- 4 $\|\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y}\| \leq \|\mathbf{x}\| + \|\mathbf{y}\|$ for all $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$.



Definition

The l_2 and l_∞ norms of a vector $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ are defined as

$$\|\mathbf{x}\|_2 = \left(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 \right)^{1/2}, \quad \|\mathbf{x}\|_\infty = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} |x_i|.$$

Definition

A sequence $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k)}\}_{k=1}^\infty$ in \mathbb{R}^n is said to converge to \mathbf{x} with respect to a norm $\|\cdot\|$ if for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists an integer $N(\varepsilon)$ such that

$$\|\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - \mathbf{x}\| < \varepsilon \quad \text{for all } k \geq N(\varepsilon).$$



Theorem

If $\|\cdot\|$ is a vector norm on \mathbb{R}^n , then

$$\|\mathbf{A}\| = \max_{\|\mathbf{x}\|=1} \|\mathbf{Ax}\|$$

defines a matrix norm.

Corollary

For any vector $\mathbf{y} \neq \mathbf{0}$, any matrix \mathbf{A} , and any induced matrix norm $\|\cdot\|$, we have

$$\|\mathbf{Ay}\| \leq \|\mathbf{A}\| \|\mathbf{y}\|.$$



Iterative Methods

Matrix Factorisation Iterative Methods

