

# Precept 5: Midterm practice problems

October 01, 2025

## 1 Definitions and Concepts

Make sure you can define and explain all these definitions and concepts.

Definitions:

- LU, partially pivoted LU
- reduced SVD, full SVD, truncated SVD
- thin(/reduced/economy) QR, full QR
- Cholesky decomposition
- Operator norms:  $\|\cdot\|_p$  for  $p = 1, 2, \infty$  (both definition and how to compute them)
- Eckart-Young-Mirsky theorem
- Gauss transformations, Givens Rotations, Householder reflections

Concepts:

- What is the complexity of LU for an  $n \times n$  matrix? QR for an  $m \times n$  matrix? matrix-vector multiply for an  $m \times n$  matrix?
- Suppose we run bisection on a function  $f$  and an interval  $[a, b]$ . Under what condition does the Bisection method converge? At what rate?
- Under what condition does Newton's method converge quadratically locally? What about linearly? (Can you prove this?)
- Under what condition does a fixed point iteration  $x_{k+1} = f(x_k)$  converge linearly locally? What about quadratically? (Can you prove this?)

## 2 Iterative solution (5 pts)

Let  $A, B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  be invertible, and  $B$  is close to  $A$  in the sense that  $\sigma_1(B^{-1}A - I) = \rho < 1$ . That is,  $\rho$  is the largest singular value of  $C := (B^{-1}A - I)$ , and  $\rho$  is less than one. Let  $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and let  $c = B^{-1}b$ . Consider the iteration:

$$x_{k+1} = x_k - B^{-1}Ax_k + c$$

1. (2pts) Find a fixed point  $x^*$  of the iteration.
2. (3pts) Define the error  $e_k = \|x_k - x^*\|_2$ . For any  $x_0$ , show that  $e_k \leq C\rho^k$  for some  $C$  and  $\rho$  (find these values).

### 3 Transformations

Let

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_k \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad y = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ x_k \\ x_{k+1} \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}$$

with  $x_k \neq 0$ . Find  $u, v \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that:

$$(I - uv^T)x = y$$

and  $(I - uv^T)$  is upper triangular.

### 4 Least Squares with Block Elimination

Let

$$A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}, \quad B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times q}, \quad C \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times q}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^p, \quad y \in \mathbb{R}^q, \quad d \in \mathbb{R}^m.$$

Assume that *each of  $A, B, C$  has full column rank*. Consider the coupled least-squares objective

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^p, y \in \mathbb{R}^q} \|Ax + By\|_2^2 + \|Cy - d\|_2^2.$$

1. Write down the least squares problem in standard form. That is find  $\hat{A}, \hat{b}$  such that the least squares problem is equivalent to  $\min_{\hat{x}} \|\hat{A}\hat{x} - \hat{b}\|_2^2$ .
2. Find the (block) normal equations.
3. Do a step of block Gaussian elimination to find a linear system that  $y$  satisfies. That is, find  $H$  and  $v$  such that  $Hy = v$ .
4. Recover  $x$  from  $y$ .

### 5 First Row of Matrix Inverse

Suppose  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  is invertible, and we have its LU  $A = LU$ . Describe an algorithm to compute the first row of  $A^{-1}$  in  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$

### 6 Leading Principal Submatrices and Conditioning (SPD case)

Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  be symmetric positive definite (SPD). Denote its eigenvalues by

$$0 < \lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \cdots \leq \lambda_n.$$

Let  $A_{11} \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times k}$  be the leading principal submatrix of  $A$  (first  $k$  rows and columns), with eigenvalues

$$\mu_1 \leq \mu_2 \leq \cdots \leq \mu_k.$$

Cauchy's interlacing theorem: For a symmetric matrix  $A$  and its leading principal submatrix  $A_{11}$ ,

$$\lambda_j \leq \mu_j \leq \lambda_{n-k+j}, \quad j = 1, \dots, k.$$

1. Show that for SPD  $A$ , the singular values of  $A$  equal its eigenvalues.
2. With  $A$  and  $A_{11}$  as above, prove that

$$\kappa_2(A_{11}) \leq \kappa_2(A).$$