

General condition which guarantees success of Gauss Elimination without zeros arising on the diagonal are the conditions: simply applicable sufficient conditions are particularly valuable:

Defn: $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is strictly row diagonally dominant (SRDD) if $|a_{ii}| > \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij}|$ for every i

Theorem: if Gauss Elimination is applied to a SRDD matrix then no zeros arise on the diagonal during the elimination process

Proof: SRDD for $i=1 \Rightarrow a_{11} \neq 0$ so 1st column can be eliminated to give a matrix of the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ 0 & 1 & \dots & b \\ 0 & \vdots & & \\ 0 & \vdots & & \end{bmatrix}$$

where the $(i-1)$ th row of B is

$$a_{i2} - \frac{a_{i1}}{a_{11}} a_{12} \dots a_{ij} - \frac{a_{i1}}{a_{11}} a_{1j} \dots a_{in} - \frac{a_{i1}}{a_{11}} a_{1n}$$

Thus B would be SRDD if

$$|a_{ii} - \frac{a_{i1}}{a_{11}} a_{1i}| > \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij} - \frac{a_{i1}}{a_{11}} a_{1j}|$$

and because $|a_{i1} - \frac{a_{i1}}{a_{11}} a_{11}| = |a_{i1} - a_{i1}| = 0$, this is certainly a sufficient condition for this to be certainly

$$|a_{ii}| - \frac{|a_{i1}|}{|a_{11}|} |a_{1i}| > \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij}| + \frac{|a_{i1}|}{|a_{11}|} |a_{1i}|$$

for each i

$$\Leftrightarrow |a_{ii}| - \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij}| > |a_{i1}| \left(\frac{|a_{1i}|}{|a_{11}|} + \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{|a_{1j}|}{|a_{11}|} \right)$$

$$|a_{ii}| > \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij}| + \frac{|a_{i1}|}{|a_{11}|} |a_{1i}|$$

which is certainly true. Hence B is SRDD.

Thus SRDD is preserved under 1st stage of G.E. Inductively apply the same argument to B to complete the proof.

Remark: it can similarly be proved that if A is strictly column D D (SCDD) then B as defined in the above proof satisfies this property also.

Corollary: For an SCDD matrix, all of the multipliers in GE are of absolute value less than 1.

Note: that the linear system derived from central difference replacement of $u'' + pu' + qu = f$ is SRDD and SCDD if $p > 0$ and $q > 0$ for example.

$$|a_{ii}| = \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij}| \quad \text{in}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & & \\ 1 & 2 & 1 & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

and RDD $(|a_{ii}| \geq \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij}|)$ is not sufficient to get non-zero diagonals

$$\text{e.g. } \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{GE}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

B. Error Analysis: consider just the model problem $u'' = f$, $u(a) = \alpha$, $u(b) = \beta$

$$u_{j+1} - 2u_j + u_{j-1} = f(x_j) = 0$$

$$u(x_{j+1}) - 2u(x_j) + u(x_{j-1}) = \frac{h^2}{6} f''(\xi_j)$$

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