

General conditions which guarantee success of Gauss Elimination without zeros arising on the diagonal are the following: 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

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

where the $(i-1)$ th row of B is $a_{i1} - \frac{a_{i2}a_{12}}{a_{11}} - \dots - \frac{a_{i,n-1}a_{1,n-1}}{a_{11}}$

Thus B would be SRDD if $|a_{ii} - \frac{a_{i2}a_{12}}{a_{11}} - \dots - \frac{a_{i,n-1}a_{1,n-1}}{a_{11}}| > \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij} - \frac{a_{ij}a_{1j}}{a_{11}}|$

and because $|a_{ii} - y| \leq |a_{ii}| + |y|$, this is a sufficient condition for this is certainly

$$|a_{ii}| - \frac{|a_{i2}a_{12}|}{|a_{11}|} > \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij}| + \frac{|a_{i2}a_{12}|}{|a_{11}|}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow |a_{ii}| - \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij}| > \frac{|a_{i2}a_{12}|}{|a_{11}|} + \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{|a_{ij}a_{1j}|}{|a_{11}|}$$

So \textcircled{A} is true if $|a_{ii}| \geq \frac{|a_{i2}a_{12}|}{|a_{11}|} + \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij}|$ 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.

However for $p=0$ (where G.E. nodes are we have seen) we have $|a_{ii}| = \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij}|$ in

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

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

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

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

We compute u_j 's to satisfy $\frac{u_{j+1} - 2u_j + u_{j-1}}{h^2} = f(x_j) = 0$

and we have seen for the exact solution $u(x)$

$$\frac{u(x_{j+1}) - 2u(x_j) + u(x_{j-1}))}{h^2} = \frac{u''(x_j)}{6} + \frac{h^2}{24} u''''(x_j) + \frac{h^4}{720} u''''''(x_j)$$

call this τ_j ; note $\tau_j \leq Mh^4$ where bounded constant M depends on f, a, b

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

so if $e_j = u(x_j) - u_j$ we have $\textcircled{2}$: $e_{j+1} - 2e_j + e_{j-1} = \tau_j$

Defn: τ_j is the local truncation error: it is the quantity by which the exact solution of the ODE does not satisfy the finite difference replacement we get $\tau = \max |\tau_j| \leq Mh^4$

Lemma (Maximum Principle): if $e_{j+1} - 2e_j + e_{j-1} \geq 0$ then for each j

$$e_j \leq \max \{0, e_0, e_n\}$$

i.e. the maximum is taken at the boundary (or is 0)

Proof: Assume result not true: then $\exists k \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ such that $e_k > 0$

$$e_k = \max_{j=1, \dots, n} e_j > \max\{e_0, e_n\}$$

then by $\textcircled{2}$ since $e_{k+1} + e_{k-1} \geq 2e_k$ we must have $e_{k+1} = e_{k-1} = e_k$ else e_k is not a max!

Applying again this argument with $j = k+1, k-1$ in $\textcircled{2}$ and continuing $\Rightarrow e_0 = e_1 = \dots = e_k = \dots = e_{n+1}$

Hence the largest value of the discrete function e_j is taken at the boundary if