

LU-Factorizations

∃ 3 (similar) variations called Doolittle's factorization, Crout's factorization and Cholesky's factorization.

LU-Factorizations are closely related to the Gaussian elimination.

Assume $A = LU$ where L is lower triangular and U is upper triangular.

Then $Ax = b$ can be solved as follows:

(Note $Ax = LUx = L(Ux) = b$)

First find z s.t. $Lz = b$ (by forward subst.)

Then find x s.t. $Ux = z$ (by back subst.)

When an LU-decomposition exists it is not unique!

Let L be a lower triangular matrix. We say that L is a unit lower triangular matrix if $L_{ii} = 1 \forall i$. Similarly if U is upper triangular we say that U is unit upper triangular if $U_{ii} = 1 \forall i$.

e.g. $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ * & 1 & 0 \\ * & * & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & * & * \\ 0 & 1 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

Say $A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & \dots & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} l_{11} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ * & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ l_{n1} & \dots & \dots & l_{nn} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u_{11} & u_{12} & \dots & u_{1n} \\ 0 & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & \dots & u_{nn} \end{pmatrix} = LU$

Then $l_{ij} = 0$ if $i < j$ and $u_{ij} = 0$ if $i > j$

and $a_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^{\min(i,j)} l_{ik} u_{kj}$

So $a_{11} = \sum_{k=1}^1 l_{1k} u_{k1} = l_{11} u_{11}$ (By choosing l_{11} or u_{11} we can determine the other.)

Next, we consider $a_{12} = \sum_{k=1}^1 l_{1k} u_{k2} = l_{11} u_{12}$ so u_{12} is also determined!

similarly, we can determine the entire first row of U by

$a_{1j} = l_{11} u_{1j}$

Then similarly $a_{i1} = l_{i1} u_{11}$ determines the first column of L uniquely.

Say we determined the first $r-1$ rows of U and the first $r-1$ columns of L .

Then $a_{rr} = \sum_{k=1}^r l_{rk} u_{kr} = l_{r1} u_{1r} + l_{r2} u_{2r} + \dots + l_{r,r-1} u_{r-1,r} + l_{rr} u_{rr}$

each term is already determined by assumption

$l_{rr} u_{rr} = 1$ (Doolittle's) $= 1$ (Crout's) if $l_{rr} = u_{rr}$ (Cholesky's)

choose a value for one of them to determine the other as before.

then for $t > r$

$a_{rt} = \sum_{k=1}^r l_{rk} u_{kt} = l_{r1} u_{1t} + l_{r2} u_{2t} + \dots + l_{r,r-1} u_{r-1,t} + l_{rr} u_{rt}$

each term is already determined by assumption

$l_{rr} u_{rt}$ determined above

so u_{rt} is also determined

\Rightarrow r th row of U is completely determined.

similarly, r th column of L can be determined.

This completes the induction step.

Of course, the above process do not always work.

e.g. if $a_{11} = 0$ then $a_{11} = l_{11} u_{11} \Rightarrow$ either l_{11} or u_{11} is 0.

Say $l_{11} = 0$ then if $0 \neq a_{12} = l_{11} u_{12} = 0 u_{12}$ leads to a contradiction.

If we choose $l_{ii} = 1 \forall i$ during the whole process, in other words if L is unit lower triangular, this algorithm is known as Doolittle's factorization. If $u_{ii} = 1 \forall i$, it is known as Crout's factorization. When $U = L^T$ (so that $u_{ij} = l_{ji}$), the algorithm is called Cholesky's factorization.

Note if $U = L^T$ then $A = LU = LL^T = L^T L^T = (LL^T)^T = A^T$.

So Cholesky's factorization can only work on symmetric matrices.

In fact, A needs to be real, symmetric, and positive definite.

Example Find LU factorizations of $A = \begin{pmatrix} 60 & 30 & 20 \\ 30 & 20 & 15 \\ 20 & 15 & 12 \end{pmatrix}$

Set $l_{11} = 1$ (Doolittle's factorization)

$a_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^{\min(i,j)} l_{ik} u_{kj}$

then $u_{11} = a_{11} = 60$

$30 = a_{12} = l_{11} u_{12} = u_{12}$

$20 = a_{13} = l_{11} u_{13} = u_{13}$

$30 = a_{21} = l_{21} u_{11} = 60 l_{21}$

$20 = a_{31} = l_{31} u_{11} = 60 l_{31}$

hence $l_{21} = \frac{1}{2}$

hence $l_{31} = \frac{1}{3}$

