

## Numerical Analysis and Computational Mathematics

*Fall Semester 2025 – CSE Section*

*Prof. Laura Grigori*

*Assistant: Israa Fakih*

**Session 8 – November 5, 2025**

### Numerical integration & Linear systems: direct methods

#### Exercise I (MATLAB)

Consider a function  $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , with  $f \in C^0([a, b])$ , whose integral is  $I(f) = \int_a^b f(x) dx$ . The approximation of  $I(f)$  by means of a simple interpolatory formula reads:

$$I_{approx}(f) = \sum_{j=0}^n \alpha_j f(y_j),$$

where  $\alpha_j$  are the quadrature weights and  $y_j$  the quadrature nodes, with  $j = 0, \dots, n$ . The type of polynomial approximation of the function  $f(x)$  in  $[a, b]$  determines the specific quadrature formula. We observe that such formulas are typically defined on the reference interval  $[\bar{a}, \bar{b}] = [-1, 1]$  where the quadrature nodes  $\bar{y}_j$  and the weights  $\bar{\alpha}_j$  are assigned. Then, the quadrature nodes and weights corresponding to the generic interval  $[a, b]$  are obtained as:

$$y_j = \frac{a+b}{2} + \frac{b-a}{2} \bar{y}_j, \quad \alpha_j = \frac{b-a}{2} \bar{\alpha}_j, \quad \text{for } j = 0, \dots, n.$$

The (simple) *Gauss-Legendre quadrature formulas* constitute a family of interpolatory formulas, each one specified by  $n$ , where  $n+1$  is the number of quadrature nodes and weights. The Gauss-Legendre quadrature formula for  $n \geq 0$  has degree of exactness equal to  $2n+1$ . The quadrature nodes and weights for some of the Gauss-Legendre quadrature formulas on the reference interval  $[\bar{a}, \bar{b}] = [-1, 1]$  are:

$n$	$\{\bar{y}_j\}$	$\{\bar{\alpha}_j\}$
0	$\{0\}$	$\{2\}$
1	$\left\{-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, +\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right\}$	$\{1, 1\}$
2	$\left\{-\frac{\sqrt{15}}{5}, 0, +\frac{\sqrt{15}}{5}\right\}$	$\left\{\frac{5}{9}, \frac{8}{9}, \frac{5}{9}\right\}$

- a) Write the MATLAB function `gauss_legendre_simple_quadrature.m` that implements the approximation of  $I(f)$  by means of the simple Gauss-Legendre quadrature formula for  $n = 0, 1, 2$ . Use the template `gauss_legendre_simple_quadrature_template.m`.

```

function [ Ih ] = gauss_legendre_simple_quadrature( fun, a, b, n )
% GAUSS_LEGENDRE_SIMPLE_QUADRATURE approximate the integral of a function in
% the interval [a,b] by means of the simple Gauss-Legendre quadrature formula
% [ Ih ] = gauss_legendre_simple_quadrature( fun, a, b, n )
% Inputs: fun = function handle,
%         a,b = extrema of the interval [a,b]
%         n + 1 = number of quadrature nodes and weights
% Output: Ih = approximate value of the integral
%
...
return

```

- b) Consider the function  $f(x) = \sin(\frac{7}{2}x) + e^x - 1$  with  $a = 0$  and  $b = 1$ , for which  $I(f) = \frac{2}{7}(1 - \cos(7/2)) + e - 2$ . Use the MATLAB function implemented at point a) to approximate the integral  $I(f)$  by means of the simple Gauss-Legendre formulas, for  $n = 0, 1, 2$ .
- c) We set  $f(x) = x^d$ ,  $a = 0$ , and  $b = 1$ , with  $d \in \mathbb{N}$ , so that  $I(f) = 1/(d + 1)$ . By using the MATLAB function implemented at point a), verify the degrees of exactness of the Gauss-Legendre formulas for  $n = 0, 1, 2$ , by approximating the integral  $I(f)$  for different values of  $d$ . Then, compare the results with the approximated values of the integrals obtained by means of the simple midpoint, trapezoidal, and Simpson quadrature formulas, using the MATLAB functions from Series 7.

### Exercise II (Theoretical)

Prove that, on the reference interval  $I = [-1, 1]$ , the Gauss-Legendre formula for  $n = 1$  has degree of exactness  $r = 3$ . i.e.  $I_{GL,1}(f) = I(f)$  for all  $f \in \mathbb{P}_3$ .

### Exercise III (MATLAB)

Consider the linear system  $Ax = \mathbf{b}$  with  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , with  $n \geq 1$ . We are interested in computing the solution vector  $\mathbf{x}$  by means of the  $LU$  factorization method.

- a) Write the MATLAB functions `{forward,backward}_substitutions.m`, which implement the forward and backward substitutions algorithms, respectively. The forward substitution algorithm should solve the linear system  $L\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{b}$ , with  $L \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  a lower triangular matrix and  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . The backward substitution algorithm should solve the linear system  $U\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}$ , with  $U \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  an upper triangular matrix. Use the templates `{forward,backward}_substitutions_template.m`:

```

function [ y ] = forward_substitutions( L, b )
% FORWARD_SUBSTITUTIONS solve the linear system L y = b by means of the
% forward substitutions algorithm; L must be a lower triangular matrix
% [ y ] = forward_substitutions( L, b )
% Inputs: L = lower triangular matrix (square matrix)
%         b = vector (right hand side of the linear system)
% Output: y = solution vector (column vector)
%
...
return

```

```

function [ x ] = backward_substitutions( U, y )
% BACKWARD_SUBSTITUTIONS solve the linear system U x = y by means of the
% backward substitutions algorithm; U must be an upper triangular matrix
% [ x ] = backward_substitutions( U, y )
% Inputs: U = upper triangular matrix (square matrix)
%         y = vector (right hand side of the linear system)
% Output: x = solution vector (column vector)
%
...
return

```

b) For  $n = 3$ , define the linear system  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  by setting

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -2 & -1 \\ -1 & 3 & -1 \\ -1 & -3 & 5 \end{bmatrix},$$

and by assigning a priori the exact solution

$$\mathbf{x}_{ex} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}; \quad \mathbf{b} = A\mathbf{x}_{ex}.$$

Solve the linear system by means of the  $LU$  factorization method using the MATLAB functions implemented at point a). In order to obtain the  $LU$  factorization of the matrix  $A$ , use the MATLAB function `lu` with the syntax `[L,U,P]=lu(A)` (see `help lu`). Note that the MATLAB function `lu` returns by default the  $LU$  factorization with pivoting even when not strictly required. Compare the result  $\mathbf{x}$  and the exact solution  $\mathbf{x}_{ex}$  by computing the error norm  $\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_{ex}\|_2$ . Verify whether the pivoting technique has been applied by displaying the permutation matrix  $P$ .

c) Consider the following matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  and vectors  $\mathbf{x}_{ex}, \mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ :

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -1 & 0 & & & & \dots & 0 & 1 \\ -2 & 4 & -1 & 0 & & & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & -2 & 4 & -1 & 0 & & \dots & & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & -2 & 4 & -1 & 0 & \dots & & 0 \\ \vdots & & & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & & \vdots \\ 0 & & \dots & & 0 & -1 & -2 & 4 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & & & 0 & -1 & -2 & 4 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & \dots & & & & 0 & -1 & -2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{x}_{ex} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b} = A\mathbf{x}_{ex}.$$

Set  $n = 20$  and use the MATLAB function `diag` to define the matrix  $A$ . Then, repeat point b). In particular, visualize matrices  $A$ ,  $L$ , and  $U$  by means of the MATLAB function `spy`.

d) Consider the matrix  $A$  introduced at point c), with  $n = 1000$ . Define the matrix  $A$  in MATLAB in the *full* format (as done at point c)) and in *sparse* format. In the latter case you can use the MATLAB function `sparse`. Compare the memory required to store in MATLAB the matrix  $A$  in the full and sparse formats by using the command `whos`.

e) With the notation of point b), consider the linear system  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ , with:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -2 & -1 \\ -2 & 7 & -4 \\ -1 & -4 & 6 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{x}_{ex} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b} = A\mathbf{x}_{ex}.$$

The matrix  $A$  is symmetric and positive definite. Solve the linear system by means of the *Cholesky* factorization method using the MATLAB functions implemented at point a). In order to obtain the *Cholesky* factorization of the matrix  $A$ , use the MATLAB function `chol`. Compare the result  $\mathbf{x}$  and the exact solution  $\mathbf{x}_{ex}$  by computing the error norm  $\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_{ex}\|_2$ .

#### Exercise IV (Theoretical)

Consider the following matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3}$ , which depends on the parameter  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ :

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \alpha & -1 \\ \alpha & \frac{35}{3} & 1 \\ -1 & \alpha & 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- Calculate the values of the parameter  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  for which the matrix  $A$  is invertible.
- Without using pivoting, calculate the Gauss factorization of the matrix  $A$  (when non-singular) for a generic value of the parameter  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ . In particular, identify the values of the parameter  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  for which the Gauss factorization (without pivoting) of the matrix  $A$  (when non-singular) exists and is unique.
- Use the pivoting technique to calculate the Gauss factorization  $LU$  of the matrix  $A$  in the case  $\alpha = \sqrt{\frac{35}{3}}$ .
- For  $\alpha = 1$ , the matrix  $A$  is symmetric and positive definite. Calculate the corresponding Cholesky factor of the matrix  $A$ , i.e. the upper triangular matrix  $R$  (with positive elements on the diagonal), such that  $A = R^T R$ .