

Lecture 6  
**LU and LDU Factorizations**

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Strang Sections 2.6 – Elimination = Factorization:  $A = LU$   
and 2.7 – Transposes and Permutations

Course notes adapted from *Introduction to Linear Algebra* by Strang (5<sup>th</sup> ed),  
N. Hammoud's NYU lecture notes, and *Interactive Linear Algebra* by  
Margalit and Rabinoff, in addition to our text



# LU Factorization

## Example – Factorize (LU) the matrix $A$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 5 \\ 4 & 6 & 8 \end{bmatrix}$$

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**Why is this Important?**

# Why are LU Factorizations Important?

Consider the system  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  with LU factorization  $A = LU$ . Then we have

$$L \underbrace{U\mathbf{x}}_{=\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{b}.$$

Therefore we can perform (a now familiar) 2-step solution procedure:

1. Solve the lower triangular system  $L\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{b}$  for  $\mathbf{y}$  by forward substitution.
2. Solve the upper triangular system  $U\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}$  for  $\mathbf{x}$  by back substitution.

Moreover, consider the problem  $AX = B$  (i.e., many different right-hand sides that are associated with the same system matrix). In this case we need to compute the factorization  $A = LU$  only once, and then

$$AX = B \iff LUX = B,$$

and we proceed as before:

1. Solve  $LY = B$  by many forward substitutions (in parallel).
2. Solve  $UX = Y$  by many back substitutions (in parallel).



# Solving Systems of Equations

$$\begin{aligned}7x_1 - 2x_2 + x_3 &= 12 \\14x_1 - 7x_2 - 3x_3 &= 17 \\-7x_1 + 11x_2 + 18x_3 &= 5\end{aligned}$$

# Solving Systems of Equations

# Solving Systems of Equations



# LDU Factorization

# Goal

# Let's try this with an Example

Find the  $LDU$  factorization of  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ .

## Let's try this with an Example – Find U

Find the  $LDU$  factorization of  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ .

## Let's try this with an Example – Find L

Find the  $LDU$  factorization of  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ .



## Let's try this with an Example – Find D

Find the  $LDU$  factorization of  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ .



# Symmetric Matrices

# What is a Symmetric Matrix?

# Properties of a Symmetric Matrix

- The inverse of a symmetric matrix is symmetric.

# Properties of a Symmetric Matrix

- $AA^T$  and  $A^T A$  are symmetric.

# Properties of a Symmetric Matrix

- If  $A$  is symmetric, then elimination leads to  $A = LDL^T$ .

# Example

Factor the following symmetric matrices into  $A = LDL^T$ :

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

# Example

Factor the following symmetric matrices into  $A = LDL^T$ :

- $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$



# Example

Factor the following symmetric matrices into  $A = LDL^T$ :

- $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$



$$PA = LU$$

# PA = LU?

So far, our assumption has been that we always have nonzero pivots. In case a pivot is zero, we can't use it to eliminate elements below it, so we have to exchange rows to find a nonzero pivot before we can start eliminating.

In this case, we can't find  $A = LU$ . We can, however, find  $PA = LU$ , where  $P$  corresponds to row exchanges done on  $A$  (in advance).

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}.$$

**Find  $\mathbf{PA} = \mathbf{LU}$  for  $\mathbf{A}$  below**

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}.$$