

lecture 5.  
Sensitivity of  $Ax = b$

Consider  $Ax = b$ .

$A$  - non-singular.

$b \in \text{span of columns of } A$

$b \neq 0$ .

then unique  $x \neq 0$  s.t.  $Ax = b$ .

perturb  $b$  by  $\delta b$  and consider  
new system.

$$A\hat{x} = b + \delta b.$$

Will it also have a unique  $\hat{x}$ ?

Yes.

How far is  $x$  from  $\hat{x}$ ? Let  $\delta x = \hat{x} - x$ .

Can we say that for small  $\delta b$ ,  $\delta x$  will be small?

Relative error?

But we have vectors here!

Why did we introduce norms earlier!

Precisely for this reason.

Size of  $\delta b$  relative to  $b$  is given by

$$\frac{\|\delta b\|}{\|b\|}$$

similarly

$$\frac{\|\delta x\|}{\|x\|}$$

Now for small  $\frac{\|\delta b\|}{\|b\|}$

is  $\frac{\|\delta x\|}{\|x\|}$  small?

lets find out!

$$Ax = b$$

$$A(x + \delta x) = b + \delta b$$

then.  $\delta x = A^{-1} \delta b$ .

$$\boxed{\|\delta x\| \leq \|A^{-1}\| \|\delta b\|} \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

Also  $b = Ax \Rightarrow \|b\| \leq \|A\| \|x\|$ .

or  $\boxed{\frac{1}{\|x\|} \leq \|A\| \frac{1}{\|b\|}} \quad \text{--- (2)}$

(1) & (2) gives

$$\boxed{\frac{\|\delta x\|}{\|x\|} \leq \underbrace{\|A\| \|A^{-1}\|}_{\uparrow} \frac{\|\delta b\|}{\|b\|}} \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

Condition number.

$$k(A) := \|A\| \|A^{-1}\|$$

① & ② are sharp inequalities

i.e. equality is possible.

③ is also sharp.

Easy to see.

$$(i) \quad \kappa(A) = \kappa(A^{-1})$$

$$(ii) \quad \kappa(cA) = \kappa(A) \text{ for any } c \neq 0 \text{ (scalar)}$$

What does ③ tell us about sensitivity?

It says that if  $\kappa(A)$  is not too big  
small changes in  $b$  gives small changes  
in  $x$ .

On the other hand if  $\kappa(A)$  is large  
there is no such guarantee.

Due to sharpness of ③ there is  $\delta b \approx b$   
for which  $\frac{\|\delta x\|}{\|x\|}$  is larger. ~~that~~

ill conditioned system!

Some more observations about

$$\kappa(A) \geq 1. \quad (\text{Why?})$$

$$1 = \|I\| \quad \kappa = \|AA^{-1}\| \leq \|A\| \|A^{-1}\| \quad \kappa = \kappa(A)$$

So best possible value is 1!

What is worst value? ~~to~~ Very large no.

When  $A$  is close to being singular.

$$\kappa_p(A) = \|A\|_p \|A^{-1}\|_p$$

for  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$

1-norm,  $\infty$ -norm, 2-norm.

Ex:  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1000 & 999 \\ 999 & 998 \end{bmatrix}$

$$A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} -998 & 999 \\ 999 & -1000 \end{bmatrix}$$

Calculate

$$\|A\|_{\infty} = 1999 = \|A\|_1$$

$$\|A^{-1}\|_{\infty} = \|A^{-1}\|_1 = 1999$$

$$\kappa_1(A) = \kappa_{\infty}(A) = (1999)^2$$

Which is very high

Recall geometric picture we saw earlier.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1000 & 999 \\ 999 & 998 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} 1000x_1 + 999x_2 = b_1 \\ 999x_1 + 998x_2 = b_2 \end{array} \quad |$$

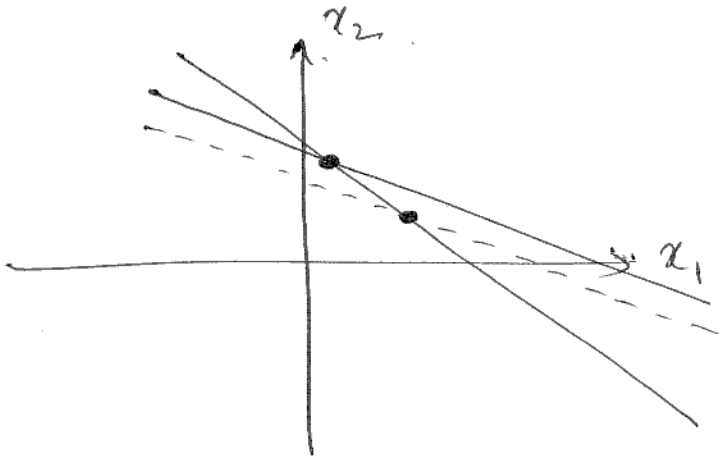
$$\cancel{x_2} = \frac{b_1}{999} + \frac{1000}{999}x_1$$

$$x_2 = \frac{b_2}{998} + \frac{999}{998}x_1$$

Calculate slopes.  $m_1 = \frac{-1000}{999}$

$$\& m_2 = \frac{-999}{998}$$

Nearly parallel lines.



This <sup>diagram</sup> is for demonstration. Actual ill-conditioning leads to lines even more parallel.

---

In practice we do not know  $b$ , we use  $\underline{b + \delta b}$  & solve the system.  $A\hat{x} = \underline{b + \delta b}$

let say  $\frac{\|\delta b\|}{\|b\|} \approx 10^{-4}$

was specified. (Tolerance)

Now solving we get  $x + \delta x$   
and not  $x$ .

then  $\frac{\|\delta x\|}{\|x\|} \leq K(A) 10^{-4}$

Now if  $K(A) \leq 10^2$

then in worst case  $\frac{\|\delta x\|}{\|x\|} \leq 10^{-2}$

which is in most cases  
acceptable.

but if let's say  $K(A) \approx 10^4$

then it is possible that

$$\frac{\|\delta x\|}{\|x\|} \approx 1$$

which is unacceptable.

It seems that <sup>range</sup>  $10^2$  to  $10^4$  is sort of  
a boundary bet<sup>n</sup> well-conditioned &  
ill-conditioned.

~~It~~ It can also be decided by floating pt. arithmetic.

$b$  may be accurate but while storing on computer we may lose some decimal places & be forced to work with  $b + \delta b$ .

Then again  $K(A)$  will depend on how accurately we are able to store  $b$  well in computer.

if we are able to store up to 6 decimal places. then  $\frac{\| \delta b \|}{\| b \|} \approx 10^{-7}$

Then ~~even~~  $K(A) \approx 10^7$  would be problematic

But,  $K(A)$  of  $10^3$ ,  $10^4$ , may be good enough for our purposes.

Maximum & minimum magnification

$$\max \text{mag}(A) = \max_{\|x\|=1} \|Ax\|$$

$$\min \text{mag}(A) = \min_{\|x\|=1} \|Ax\|$$

$$(i) \quad \max \text{mag}(A) = \frac{1}{\min \text{mag}(A^{-1})}$$

$$\max_{\|x\|=1} \|Ax\| = \frac{1}{\min_{\|x\|=1} \|A^{-1}x\|}$$



$$\text{maxmag}(A) = \max_{\|x\| \neq 0} \frac{\|Ax\|}{\|x\|}$$

Let  $Ax = y$

$$\text{maxmag}(A) = \max_{\|x\| \neq 0} \frac{\|y\|}{\|x\|}$$

$$= \max_{\|x\| \neq 0} \frac{\|y\|}{\|A^{-1}y\|}$$

$$= \max_{\|y\| \neq 0} \left[ \frac{1}{\frac{\|A^{-1}y\|}{\|y\|}} \right]$$

$$= \min_{\|y\| \neq 0} \left[ \frac{\|A^{-1}y\|}{\|y\|} \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{\text{minmag}(A^{-1})}$$

Similarly,

$$\text{minmag}(A) = \frac{1}{\text{maxmag}(A^{-1})}$$

$$\text{then } \kappa(A) = \|A\| \|A^{-1}\| = \frac{\text{maxmag}(A)}{\text{minmag}(A^{-1})}$$

So. if  $\text{minmag}(A) \ll \text{maxmag}(A)$ ,

results in illconditioning.

for singular  $A$

$$\text{minmag}(A) = 0 \quad ?$$

Also,  $\det(A) = 0$ .

Is determinant related to the condition.

- no. ?

ex:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 90 & 0 \\ 0 & 90 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\det(A) = (90)^2 = 8100$$

$$\text{but } \kappa(A) = 1$$

Scaling affects determinant but not condition number.

ex: From Watkins' book

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1000 & 999 \\ 999 & 998 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\|A\|_{\infty} = 1999$$

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ gives } \text{max mag. direction}$$

$$A \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1999 \\ 1997 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} -998 & 999 \\ 999 & -1000 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{~~1999~~$$

$$A^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 1997 \\ 1999 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1000 & 999 \\ 999 & 998 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} -998 & 999 \\ 999 & -1000 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{max mag}(A) \\ = \|A\|_{\infty} = 1999 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{min mag}(A) \\ = \frac{1}{\text{max mag}(A^{-1})} \\ = \frac{1}{\|A\|_{\infty}} = \frac{1}{1999} \end{aligned}$$

direction of max mag.  
 $\arg \max_{\|x\|_{\infty}=1} \|Ax\|_{\infty}$

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

since  $A \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$   
 $= \begin{bmatrix} 1999 \\ 1997 \end{bmatrix}$  lies in the

direction of min mag  
of  $A^{-1}$

direction of ~~max~~ mag.  
of  $A^{-1}$

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ +1 \end{bmatrix}$$

since  $A^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$   
 $= \begin{bmatrix} 1997 \\ -1999 \end{bmatrix}$

lies in the  
direction of min mag  
of  $A$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1000 & 999 \\ 999 & 998 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1999 \\ 1997 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$Ax = b$$

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

and

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1000 & 999 \\ 999 & 998 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{x}_1 \\ \hat{x}_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1998.99 \\ 1997.01 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$A\hat{x} = b + \delta b, \quad \delta b = \begin{bmatrix} -0.01 \\ 0.01 \end{bmatrix} = 0.01 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$\delta b$  is in the direction of max. mag.  
of  $A^{-1}$ .

$$\delta x = \begin{bmatrix} 19.97 \\ -19.99 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$\hat{x} = x + \delta x.$$

$$\hat{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 20.97 \\ -18.99 \end{bmatrix}.$$

If system is ill conditioned we can build such examples.

$$\boxed{\frac{\|\delta b\|}{\|b\|} \leq \kappa(A) \frac{\|\delta x\|}{\|x\|}} \quad - \textcircled{IE}$$

Example we saw was

small change in  $b$   
gives  
large change in  $x$

$\textcircled{IE} \rightarrow$  Small change in  $x$  may occur for even if we change  $b$  significantly

For such system solving for  $x$  is meaningless!

The<sup>soln</sup> may jump places ~~even~~ in presence of uncertainties!

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \epsilon \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \epsilon \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\kappa_1(A) = \kappa_2(A) = \kappa(A) = \frac{1}{\epsilon}$$

$A = [a_1 \ a_2 \ \dots \ a_n]$  then

$$\text{then } k_p(A) \geq \frac{\|a_i\|_p}{\|a_j\|_p}, \quad 1 \leq p \leq \infty.$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Clearly } Ae_i = a_i$$

$$Ae_j = a_j$$

$$\max \text{mag}(A) = \max_{\|x\|_p \neq 0} \frac{\|Ax\|_p}{\|x\|_p} \geq \frac{\|Ae_i\|_p}{\|e_i\|_p} = \|a_i\|_p$$

$$\text{Similarly } \min \text{mag}(A) \leq \|a_j\|_p.$$

$$k_p(A) = \frac{\max \text{mag}(A)}{\min \text{mag}(A)} \geq \frac{\|a_i\|_p}{\|a_j\|_p}$$

So scaling is critical

if one column differs from other by orders of magnitude.

- Estimating condition no.  
 $\text{cond}(A)$  - Matlab.

$A$  large. then Calculating  $A^{-1}$  is huge task.

In general no need of perfection. Order of magnitude is enough.

Estimate of  $\kappa(A)$

$$\kappa_1(A) = \|A\|_1 \|A^{-1}\|_1$$

$\|A\|_1$ , easy. Column sum.

We need estimate  $\|A^{-1}\|_1$ ,

for any  $b \neq 0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

$$\frac{\|A^{-1}b\|_1}{\|b\|_1} \leq \max_{y \neq 0} \frac{\|A^{-1}y\|_1}{\|y\|_1} = \|A^{-1}\|_1$$

let ~~w = b~~,  $A^{-1}b = x$

$$\frac{\|x\|_1}{\|b\|_1} \leq \|A^{-1}\|_1$$

and  $\kappa_1(A) \geq \|A\|_1 \frac{\|x\|_1}{\|b\|_1}$ ,

we get a lowerbound.

- ①  $\otimes$  LU decomposition of  $A$ .
- ② Calculate  $x$  from it  $Ax = b = w$ .  
(roughly,  $O(n^2)$ )

If  $b$  is chosen in direction  
near max mag of  $A^{-1}$  then  
estimate

$$\kappa_1(A) \approx \|A\|_1 \frac{\|A^{-1}b\|_1}{\|b\|_1}$$

In general, take different directions  $b$   
and compute  $\kappa_1(A)$ .

---

Perturbation in  $A$  (the coefficient matrix)

$$\begin{aligned} Ax &= b. \\ (A + \delta A) \hat{x} &= b. \end{aligned} \quad \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{Assumption!} \\ \frac{\|\delta A\|}{\|A\|} \text{ is small} \end{array} \right]$$

Now  $A$  is non-singular.

-  $x$  is unique soln to  $Ax = b$ .

- Same cannot be said about  
 $(A + \delta A) \hat{x} = b$ .

- Can we ensure this!

i.e., when is  $A + \delta A$  non-singular.

Thm: If  $A$  is non-singular and

$$\frac{\|\delta A\|}{\|A\|} < \frac{1}{\kappa(A)}$$

then  $(A + \delta A)$  is  
non-singular



Proof [If  $A + \delta A$  is singular.

then  $\|\delta A\| \|A^{-1}\| \geq 1$ ].?

if  $A + \delta A$  is singular.  
there is  $y \neq 0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$   
 $(A + \delta A)y = 0$ .

$$Ay = -\delta A y$$

$$y = -A^{-1} \delta A y$$

$$\|y\| \leq \|A^{-1}\| \|\delta A\| \|y\|$$

$$\|A^{-1}\| \|\delta A\| \geq 1.$$

If  $\|\delta A\| \|A^{-1}\| < 1$  then.

$A + \delta A$  is non-singular.

i.e., if

$$\frac{\|\delta A\|}{\|A\|} < \frac{1}{\|A\| \|A^{-1}\|} < \frac{1}{k(A)}$$

then  $A + \delta A$  is non-singular.

\* Distance ~~to~~ ~~so~~ of a matrix to non-singularity.

Given  $A$  - non-singular.

$A + \delta A$  singular  $\Rightarrow \frac{\|\delta A\|}{\|A\|}$  is at least  $\frac{1}{K(A)}$   
[Relative error in  $A$ ].

for 2-norm. (spectral norm)

$$\frac{\|\delta A\|_2}{\|A\|_2} = \frac{1}{K(A)_2}$$

Proof  
later!