

Solving sparse-dense least squares.

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Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Towards the goal
- 3 1. Arbitrary sparse-dense (ASD) approach
- 4 2. Splitting large cliques by stretching
- 5 3. Null-space approach
- 6 Conclusions

The Linear Least Squares Problem (LS)

$$\min_{x \in \mathbf{R}^n} \|Ax - b\|_2,$$

where $A \in \mathbf{R}^{m \times n}$ with $m \geq n$ is large and sparse, $b \in \mathbf{R}^m$

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Why the problem is so difficult?

- Enormous **variability** of LS problems even when considering them only **algebraically**
- The sparsity structure of $A^T A$ **often harder** than expected.
- Sparsity structure of $A^T A$ is **always behind the scene** in the Cholesky/QR approaches even when the normal equations are not formed.

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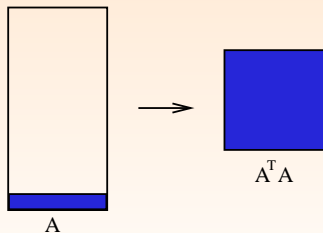
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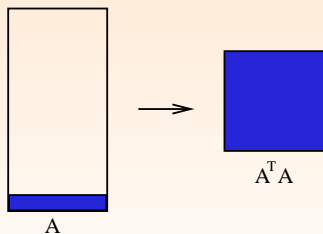


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- This is **only a simple** case, but it may help to understand more complex situations.

Trying to understand difficulties from structural point of view

- Denote rows of A by $a_i, i = 1, \dots, n$. Then (adding rank-one terms)

$$A^T A = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i a_i^T$$

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- $$A = \begin{matrix} \vdots & & & & & & \\ & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ \vdots & \left(\begin{array}{cccccc} \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ * & * & & * & & * \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & & * & * & & \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \end{array} \right) & \end{matrix}$$

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$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & v^T \\ v & C \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ v/a_{11} & I \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & \\ & C - vv^T/a_{11} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & v^T/a_{11} \\ & I \end{pmatrix}$$

- Again, fill-in based on **cliques** (in predefined order)

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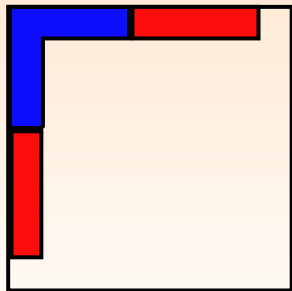
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Normal equations, factorization and implications for us

- Solving LS via normal equations means **structurally two layers** of **cliques**
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 - In incomplete factorizations used as preconditioners this may be a **relation to think about**:
 - ★ There is apparently **no reliable incomplete** QR for solving large least squares. **So far, as I hope.**
 - ★ **Clique-based view**: two levels of approximation possible: (1) for $A^T A$ and (2) for subsequent Cholesky
 - ★ **Motivating example** for the approach: rank-one based preconditioner construction

Motivating example for one-level rank-one updates

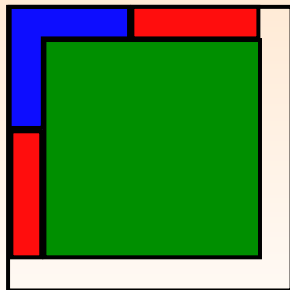
- Rank-1 (rank-k) modifications of (approximate) factorizations from some rows of $A^T A$ (Tismenetsky (1991); Kaporin (1998); Scott, T. (2014)) may generate **dense contributions for the Schur complement**.



Before the update: **blue**: big entries, **red**: small entries

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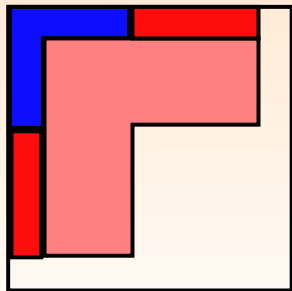
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Should be in the update

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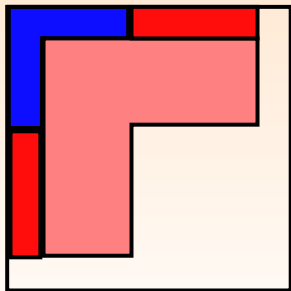
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Really **kept** in the incomplete update

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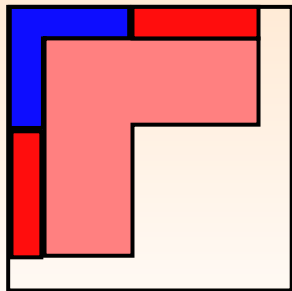
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How to exploit this in the two-level clique-based approximate construction?

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A note: the same structure as in incomplete QR with complete Q

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Back to reality

- The talk mentions the approaches to solve the problem caused by **one large clique** of A only: implied by a set of dense rows in A .
- We call this problem **sparse-dense**
- Of course, we could solve just the sparse problem and then update, but let us try more **integrated** approaches.
- Notation for the mixed sparse-dense problem: sparse problem with a few dense rows (**structurally a clique**)

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} A_s \\ A_d \end{pmatrix}$$

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} A_s^T & A_d^T \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} A_s \\ A_d \end{pmatrix} = A_s^T A_s + A_d^T A_d \equiv C_s + C_d$$

- ▶ $A_s \in \mathbb{R}^{m_s \times n}$ is sparse, $A_d \in \mathbb{R}^{m_d \times n}$ is **dense**, ($m_s \gg m_d$).
- ▶ Full column rank of A (**not necessarily** of A_s)

The approaches

① Combining sparse and dense parts of A

- ▶ Arbitrary sparse-dense (ASD) approach (Scott., T., 2017)
- ▶ Solver: iterative approach based on CG (CGLS1)
- ▶ Specific modifications needed if $rank(A) > rank(A_s)$: .
- ▶ In fact, an implicit combination of the **dense (large clique)** part and the **rest (set of remaining cliques)** coupled together inside CG to get

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2 Transforming A_d to a sparse set of rows at the expense of getting the problem larger.

- ▶ Sparsifying the dense part by **matrix stretching** (Scott, T., 2019)
- ▶ Hoping to get overall “**uniform problem sparsity**”
- ▶ **Traps** on the way: size increase / ill-conditioning
- ▶ Attempts with **QR factorization in extended space** (Scott, T. 2021)

The approaches (2)

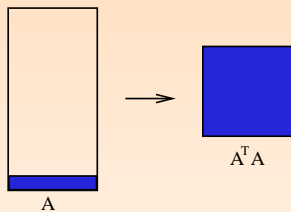
- ③ **Null-space approach** (Scott, T., 2022)
 - Saddle-point structure
 - An approach to develop and test construction of null-space bases of **wide** matrices
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- ④ **Schur complement approach** (Scott, T., 2018)
 - All mentioned approaches have specific **strengths, weaknesses** and a **potential** to be further developed.
 - We intend to discuss here mainly ideas, not techniques.

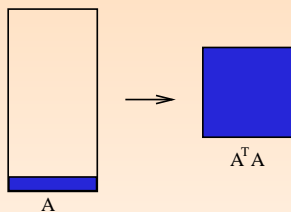
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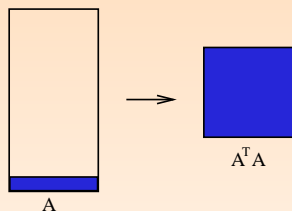
1. Combining sparse and dense parts of A



- Woodbury formulas (1949, 1950) rewritten for residual updates

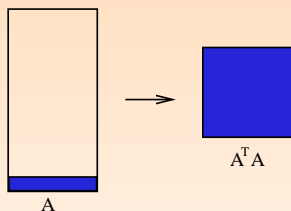
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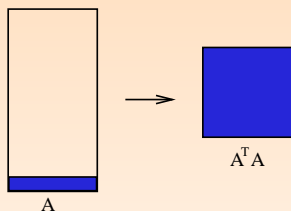
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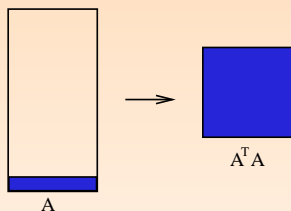
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 - ▶ But even in this one-clique case we have more possible ways: sparse \rightarrow dense, dense \rightarrow sparse.
 - ▶ Moreover, dense part can be structured. Moreover, our approach is: **incomplete clique, incomplete update**
- There are **ways to overcome rank deficiency** of A_s .

Combining sparse and dense parts of A

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- Example of (hidden) Woodbury-like formulas

Theorem

If $C_s = L_s L_s^T$ and ξ_1 minimizes $\|A_s L_s^{-T} z - b_s\|_2$ *exactly*, the *exact* least squares solution of our problem can be written as $x = L_s^{-T} (\xi_1 + \Gamma_1)$, $\rho_d = b_d - A_d L_s^{-T} \xi_1$ and

$$\Gamma_1 = L_s^{-1} A_d^T (I_{m_d} + A_d L_s^{-T} L_s^{-1} A_d^T)^{-1} \rho_d.$$

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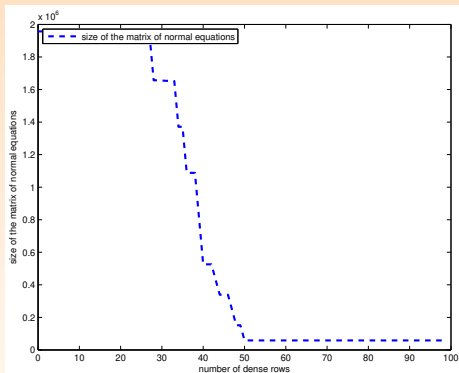
Theorem

If $C_s = L_s L_s^T$ and ξ_1 is *an approximate solution* to the problem $\min_z \|A_s L_s^{-T} z - b_s\|_2$, the *exact* least squares solution of the equivalent problem above can be written as $z = \xi_1 + \Gamma_1$, where $\rho_s = b_s - A_s L_s^{-T} \xi_1$, $\rho_d = b_d - A_d L_s^{-T} \xi_1$ and

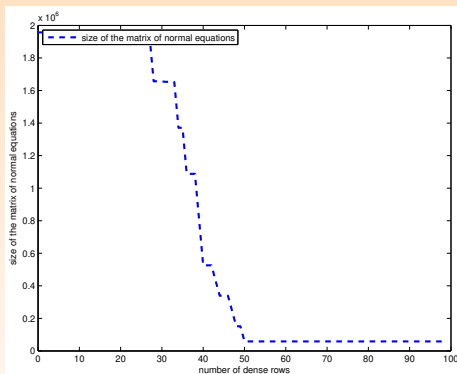
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ASD: Arbitrary sparse-dense preconditioning

SCSD8-2r_a ($m=60,550$; $n=8,650$): size of C_s

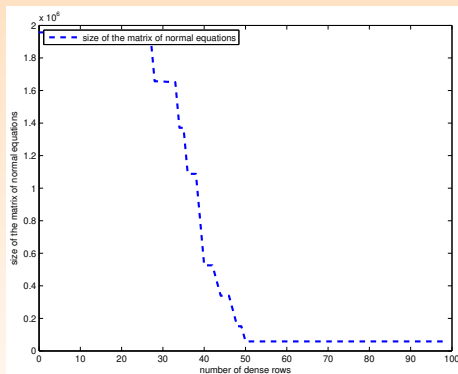


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- They are far from being dense. Can be split into more dense blocks!

ASD: Moving rows one by one from A_s to A_d

SCSD8-2r_a: iteration counts + $size_p/size(A^T A)$

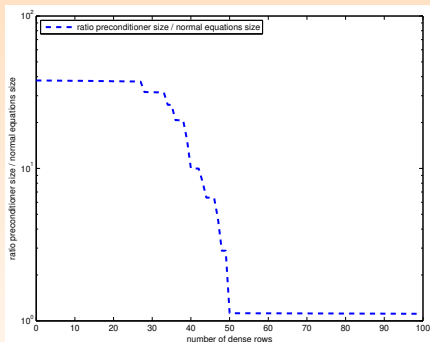
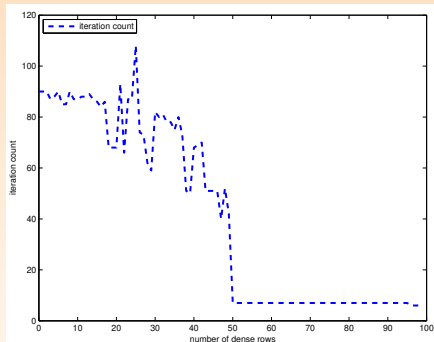


Figure: Problem *Meszaros/scsd8-2r*. Iteration counts (left), and ratio of the preconditioner size to the size of $A^T A$ (right) as the number of dense rows that are removed from A is increased.

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SCSD8-2r_a: timings

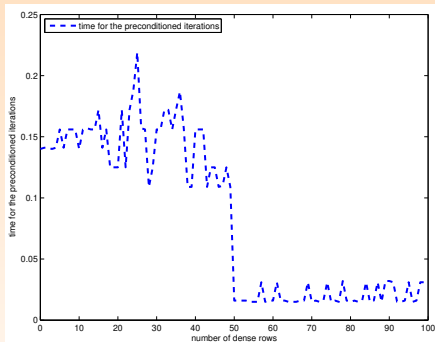
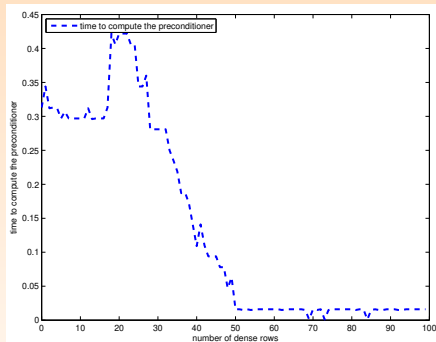


Figure: Problem *Meszaros/scsd8-2r*. Time to compute the preconditioner (left) and time for CGLS (right) as the number of dense rows that are removed from A is increased.

Experimental evaluation of ASD

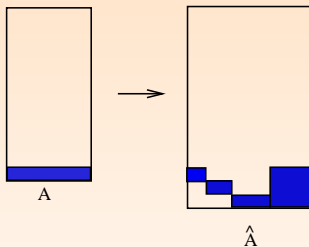
Identifier	Dense rows not exploited				m_d	Dense rows exploited			
	$size_p$	T_p	Its	T_i		$size_ps$	T_p	Its	T_i
lp_fit2p	17,985	0.26	‡	‡	25	4,940	0.09	1	0.01
scsd8-2r	51,885	0.25	90	0.11	50	51,855	0.05	7	0.02
scagr7-2r	197,067	3.34	244	0.53	7	152,977	0.06	1	0.01
scfxm1-2r	227,835	0.59	187	0.51	58	227,823	0.14	33	0.23
neos1	789,471	†	†	†	74	789,471	5.27	132	3.71
neos2	†	†	†	†	90	795,323	5.46	157	4.84
stormg2-125	395,595	0.27	‡	‡	121	7,978,135	0.22	16	0.29
PDE1	†	†	†	†	1	1,623,531	12.7	696	1.28
neos	†	†	†	†	20	2,874,699	4.93	232	15.0
stormg2_1000	3,157,095	19.1	‡	‡	121	3,125,987	19.1	18	2.92
cont1_l	†	†	†	†	1	11,510,370	4.82	1	0.33

2. Matrix stretching

- **Stretching**: a specific sparsification by splitting dense rows into sparse pieces.

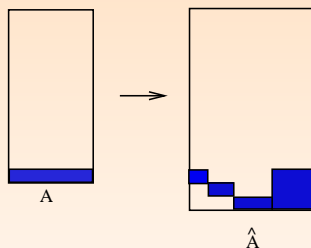
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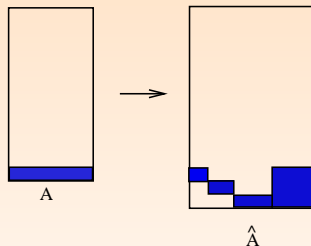
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- Such strategy called **stretching** discussed (among others) by Grcar (1990), Vanderbei (1991), Gondzio (1991), Alvarado (1997), Adler (2000), Adler, Björck (2000), Duff, Scott (2005).

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- Up to now it has **not** been an approach of choice

2. Matrix stretching

- An example of one-row stretching

$$\begin{pmatrix} A_{se} & A_{sf} \\ e & f \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} A_{se} & A_{sf} & 0 \\ \sqrt{2}e & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & \sqrt{2}f & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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- Behind: splitting and an orthogonal transformation.
- The transformation can be used for **more rows and more parts**
- **But, there are problems with stretching.** The first of them: **how many parts?** Grcar (1990):“ the main challenge ... lies in determining the appropriate choice of the number of rows ... to split into ... ”

2. Matrix stretching

- An example of one-row stretching

$$\begin{pmatrix} A_{se} & A_{sf} \\ e & f \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} A_{se} & A_{sf} & 0 \\ \sqrt{2}e & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & \sqrt{2}f & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

- Behind: splitting and an orthogonal transformation.
- The transformation can be used for **more rows and more parts**
- **But, there are problems with stretching.** The first of them: **how many parts?** Grcar (1990):“ the main challenge ... lies in determining the appropriate choice of the number of rows ... to split into ... ”
- Our answer: **Dense cliques should be compatible** with the remaining (**sparse**) part A_s of A .

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How to do this: back to cliques



$$A^T A = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{a}_i, \text{ } a_i, i = 1, \dots, n \text{ are rows of } A.$$

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- \Rightarrow Pattern of \mathbf{a}_j is not needed to get the pattern of $A^T A$.

$$A = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} \vdots \\ \mathbf{a}_i \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{a}_j \\ \vdots \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ * & & & * & & * \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ * & & & * & & \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \end{pmatrix}, \end{matrix} \quad \hat{A}: A \text{ without the row } \mathbf{a}_j$$

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- $A^T A$ and $\hat{A}^T \hat{A}$ have the same sparsity patterns.

Matrix stretching

- The idea: split a_j into (noncontiguous) subvectors dominated by rows in A_s !

$$\mathbf{a}_j \begin{pmatrix} & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ * & * & & & & \\ & & & * & & \\ * & & & * & & * \\ & & * & & * & \\ * & & & & & \\ * & * & * & * & * & \end{pmatrix}$$

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And then stretch

Matrix stretching

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$$\begin{array}{l} \mathbf{a}_{j1} \\ \mathbf{a}_{j2} \end{array} \begin{pmatrix} & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ * & * & & & & & \\ & * & & * & & & \\ * & & * & & * & & \\ * & & & * & & * & * \\ * & & & & * & & * \\ * & & * & & & & * \end{pmatrix}$$

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Covering a row by other rows can be casted as a **minimum cover problem**

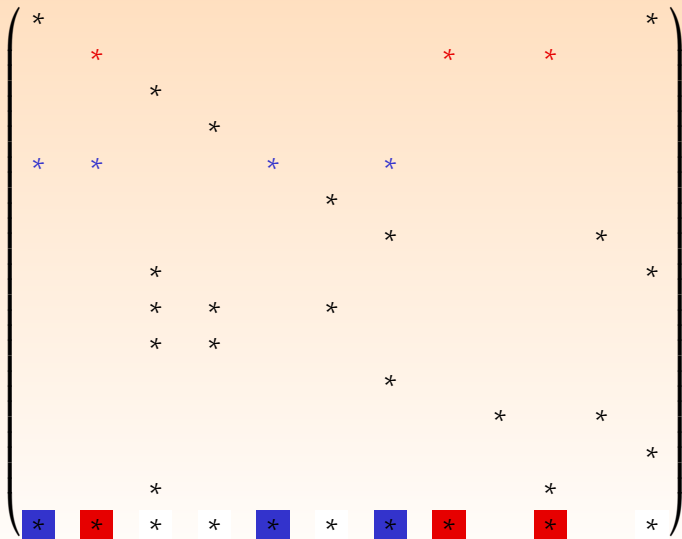
Matrix stretching

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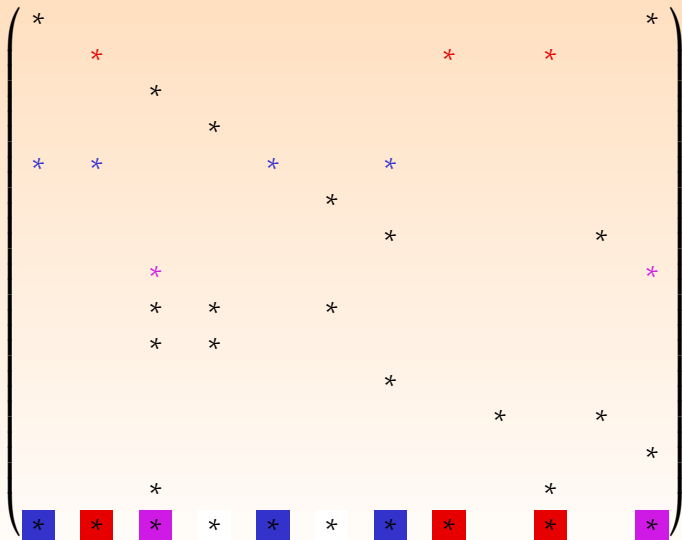
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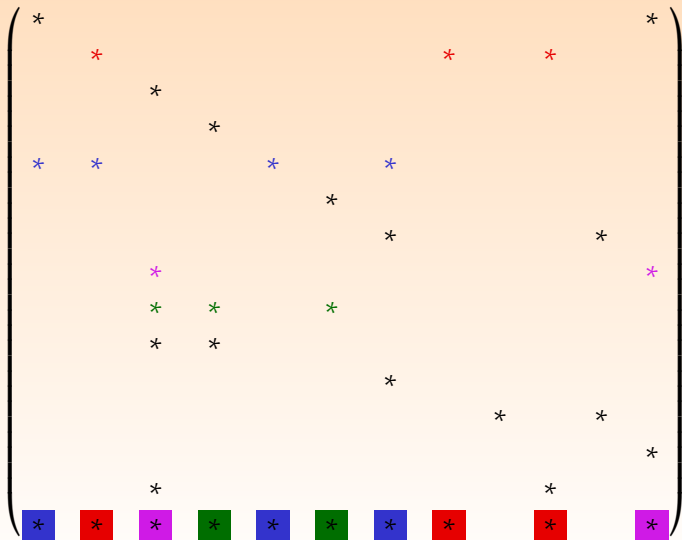
Matrix stretching



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Matrix stretching

- Segments made to be disjoint.

Matrix stretching

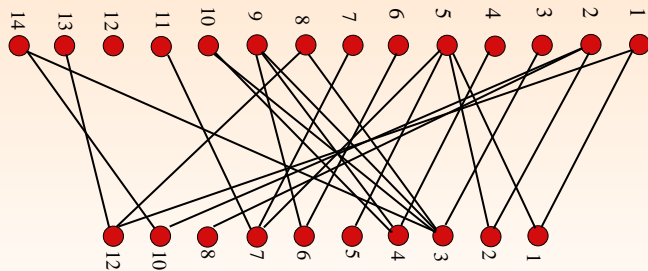
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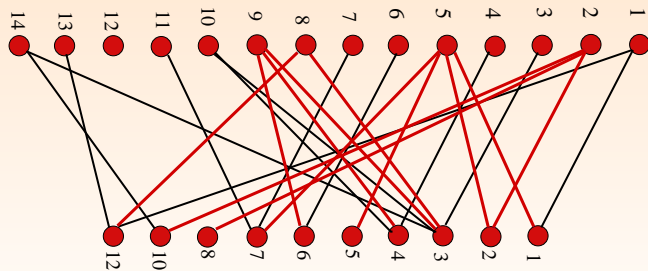
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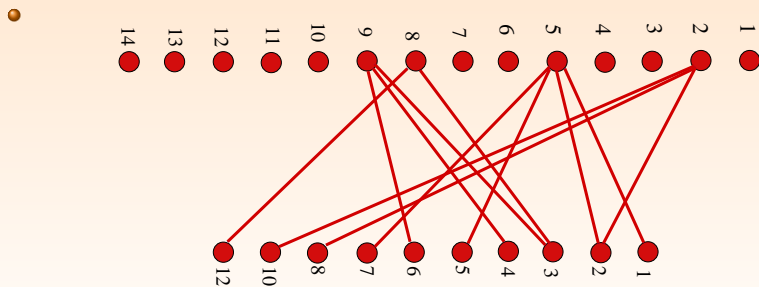
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•

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- $S^T S$ is tridiag $(-1 \quad 2 \quad -1)$
 - ▶ Saddle-point problem?
 - ▶ Scaling?

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- Matrix transformed by the stretching parameter-free based on the **minimum set cover heuristic**
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- This (set cover-based) stretching compared against ad hoc splits.

Matrix stretching

- Number of entries: $A^T A$ and Cholesky factor versus number of parts
- Red dot means the result for the set cover-based stretching

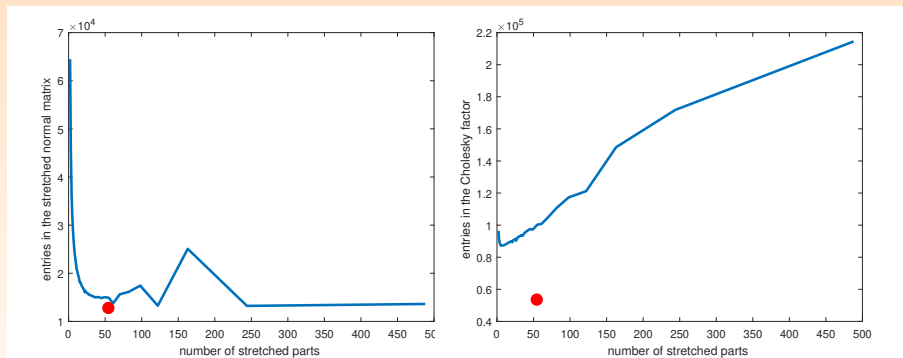


Figure: Comparison of the entries in the stretched normal matrix (left) and its Cholesky factor (right) for problem LP_AGG with one dense row appended.

Matrix stretching

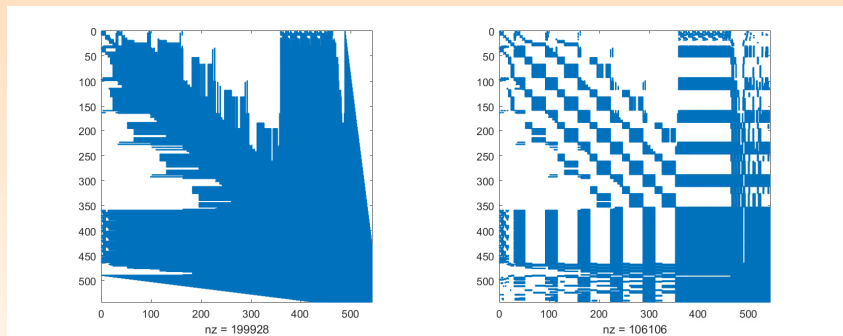


Figure: For problem LP_AGG with one dense row appended, the sparsity pattern of $\hat{L} + \hat{L}^T$ of the Cholesky factor of the stretched normal matrix for ad hoc stretching (left) and set cover-based stretching (right).

Matrix stretching

- The sizes really transfer into the iteration counts

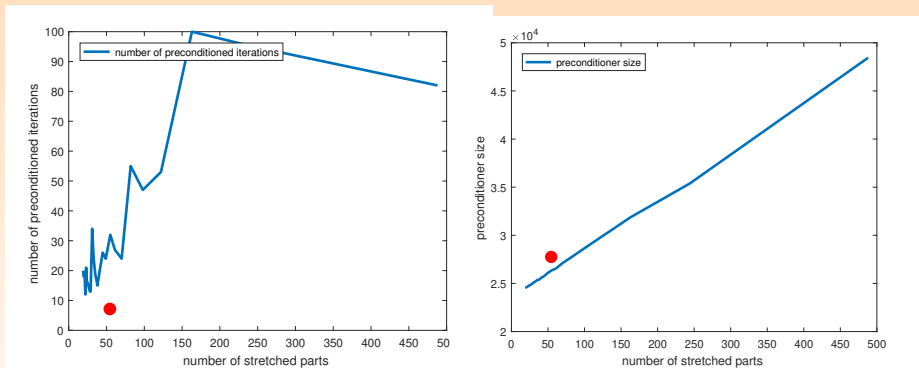


Figure: Comparison of the iteration counts (left) and preconditioner size (right) for the matrix LPAGG. The curve corresponds to the number of entries varying with the number of parts into which is the dense row stretched. CGLS preconditioned by HSL_MI35.

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An upper bound for the condition number of the stretched matrix (p stretched rows, k parts) \hat{A} with $\gamma = 1/2\sqrt{pk}\|A_d\|_2$ is

$$\kappa^2(\hat{A}) \leq \kappa^2(A)k \left(1 + \frac{2pk\|A_d\|_2^2}{\|A\|_2^2} \right) \left(k + 1 + \frac{\sigma_n(A)^2}{\|A_d\|_2^2} \right).$$

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Matrix stretching

- Condition number increase when stretching more rows

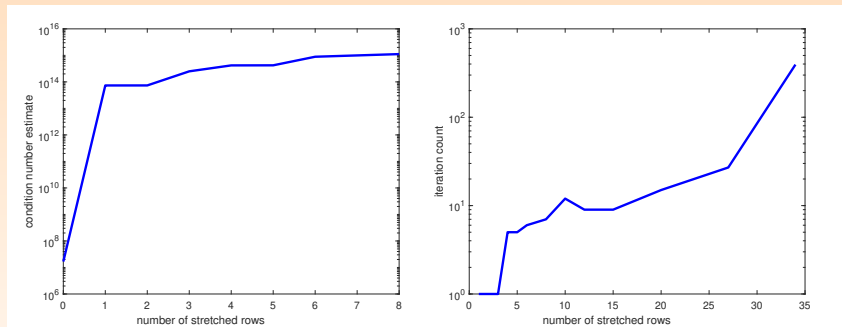


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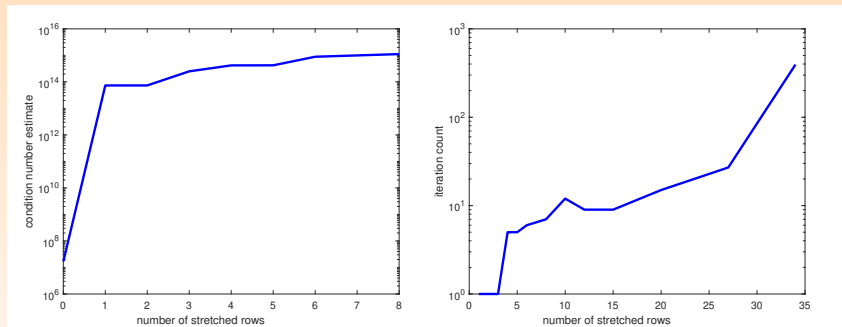


Figure: Condition number estimate (right) and iteration count (left) for problem sctap1-2b as the number of dense rows increases.

- Do we really need to stretch everything (hide all **nasty cliques**)?

Combined approach? What can we do?

- Some cliques can be moved to the dense part (that can be itself structured, banded, block triangular etc.) This processing is cheap. Can be even approximate. And the interaction can be **combined within a preconditioner**.

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- But, first consider an example that motivated our interest in **stretching + direct methods**.

QR factorization for an unstretched system ($A \rightarrow R$)

$$\begin{pmatrix} * & * & * & * & & & & & \\ * & * & * & * & & & & & \\ * & * & * & * & & & & & \\ * & * & * & * & & & & & \\ & & & & * & * & * & * & \\ & & & & * & * & * & * & \\ & & & & * & * & * & * & \\ & & & & * & * & * & * & \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & * & * & \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} * & * & * & * & * & * & * & * & \\ & * & * & * & * & * & * & * & \\ & & * & * & * & * & * & * & \\ & & & * & * & * & * & * & \\ & & & & * & * & * & * & \\ & & & & & * & * & * & \\ & & & & & & * & * & \\ & & & & & & & * & \\ & & & & & & & & * & \\ & & & & & & & & & * \end{pmatrix}$$

QR factorization for stretched system ($A \rightarrow R$)

$$\left(\begin{array}{cccc|cccc|c}
 * & * & * & * & & & & & \\
 * & * & * & * & & & & & \\
 * & * & * & * & & & & & \\
 * & * & * & * & & & & & \\
 & & & & * & * & * & * & \\
 & & & & * & * & * & * & \\
 & & & & * & * & * & * & \\
 & & & & * & * & * & * & \\
 * & * & * & * & & & & & * \\
 * & * & * & * & & & & & * \\
 \end{array} \right) \rightarrow \left(\begin{array}{cccc|cccc|c}
 * & * & * & * & & & & & * \\
 & * & * & * & & & & & * \\
 & & * & * & & & & & * \\
 & & & * & & & & & * \\
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 & & & & & & & * & * \\
 & & & & & & & & * \\
 & & & & & & & & * \\
 \end{array} \right)$$

Matrix stretching and QR

- Despite the sharp contrast between stretched/unstretched, but in our experiments **more theoretical** than really **cutting down efficiency** in practice (**our experience**)
- A flavor of other motivations.
- Like solving rank deficient problems.

The Schur complement approach

- Fully embedded in the Schur complement approach that combines a direct solver, modifications, regularization to get a preconditioner:
- System matrix varying α

$$K(\alpha) = \begin{pmatrix} C_s(\alpha) & A_d^T \\ A_d & -I_{m_d} \end{pmatrix}.$$

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- Once the dense rows are clearly detected, the preconditioned iterative method can be extremely successful in solving some hard problems.

Partial stretching versus Schur complement approach

- A variation of stretching for rank-deficient problems: stretch only the rows needed to have A_s full column rank.

Matrix	Meth	\tilde{m}	\tilde{n}	$nnz(\tilde{R}_s)$	<i>flops</i>	<i>its</i>	<i>ratio</i>
aircraft	PStr	10517	6754	4.719×10^4	9.33×10^5	9	4.947×10^{-12}
	Regu	11271	3754	3.754×10^3	3.37×10^4	7	5.476×10^{-7}
sc205-2r	PStr	64023	36813	3.175×10^5	8.25×10^6	6	9.983×10^{-9}
	Regu	97636	35213	2.704×10^5	1.21×10^7	7	1.002×10^{-8}
scagr7-2b	PStr	15127	11023	1.186×10^5	5.03×10^6	7	2.129×10^{-12}
	Regu	23590	9743	6.027×10^4	3.67×10^6	8	3.979×10^{-9}
scagr7-2br	PStr	50999	37167	4.673×10^5	1.88×10^7	7	1.046×10^{-10}
	Regu	79526	32847	2.273×10^5	1.28×10^7	8	3.470×10^{-8}
scrs8-2r	PStr	32820	19493	4.242×10^5	4.66×10^7	7	3.311×10^{-12}
	Regu	42055	14364	8.200×10^4	2.84×10^6	16	3.532×10^{-7}

Significantly better (quality) than just regularization (and the Schur complement approach)

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- Note that we emphasize here **only one** motivation for the null-space approach!!! There are other ones.
- Is it possible to make this transformation such that the structure of the transformed system is not fully destroyed (**filled**)?

Optimization motivation of the null-space approach



$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f(u) \\ \text{subject to} & B u = g, \end{array} \quad (1)$$

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- Getting the saddle-point problem for the direction vector u .

$$\begin{pmatrix} H & B^T \\ B & 0_{k,k} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \bar{u} \\ v \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} f - H\hat{u} \\ g \end{pmatrix}, \bar{u} = u - \hat{u}, H \in \mathbf{R}^{n \times n}, B \in \mathbf{R}^{k \times n} \text{ (full rank)}. \quad (2)$$

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- The second equation is equivalent to finding $z \in \mathbb{R}^{n-k}$ such that $\bar{u} = Zz$, columns of $Z \in \mathbf{R}^{n \times (n-k)}$ form a basis for $\mathcal{N}(B)$.

Algorithm

Dual variable (null-space) method for solving the saddle-point problem

1. Find Z with columns forming a basis for $\mathcal{N}(B)$
2. Find \hat{u} such that $B\hat{u} = g$.
3. Solve $Z^T H Z z = Z^T (f - H\hat{u})$.
4. Set $x = \hat{u} + Zz$.
5. Solve $BB^T v = B(f - Hu)$ for $v \in \mathbf{R}^k$.



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The LS problem can be written as solving the following system

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- Use more general notation as

$$\mathcal{A} \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} H & B^T \\ B & -C \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} f \\ g \end{pmatrix}, \quad (4)$$

The null space approach to solve sparse/dense LS problems

Theorem

Consider the saddle-point problem above, $\text{rank}(B) = r \leq k$, H, C SPSD, $\mathcal{N}(H) \cap \mathcal{N}(B) = \{0\}$, $\mathcal{N}(C) \cap \mathcal{N}(B^T) = \{0\}$. Then the solution of the system above with generally nonzero C can be obtained by solving a transformed saddle point problem of the order $n + k$ with a symmetric principal leading matrix of order $n - r$.

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The null space approach to solve sparse/dense LS problems

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- Are we able to construct a suitable Z for a wide matrix?

The null space approach to solve sparse/dense LS problems

Sparse Z for a wide (possibly dense) matrix: example

- An example of $BP = QR$

$$B = (1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 10 \ 4), \quad BP = (10 \ 2 \ 3 \ 1 \ 4),$$
$$\tilde{Z}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0.2 & & & & \\ -1 & 1.5 & & & \\ & -1 & 1/3 & & \\ & & -1 & 4 & \\ & & & -1 & \end{pmatrix}, \quad \tilde{Z}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1/5 & 3/10 & 1/10 & 4/10 & \\ -1 & & & & \\ & -1 & & & \\ & & -1 & & \\ & & & -1 & \end{pmatrix}.$$

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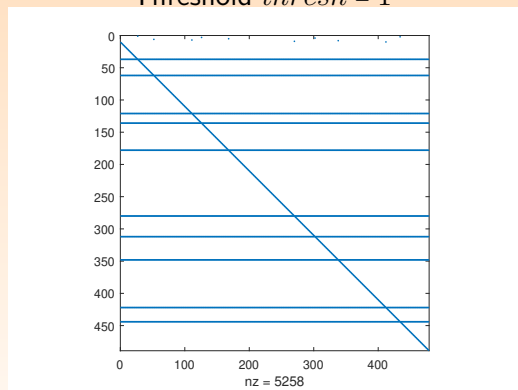
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- QR factorization with threshold pivoting to keep locality: this pivoting offers a suitable compromise.

The null space approach to solve sparse/dense LS problems

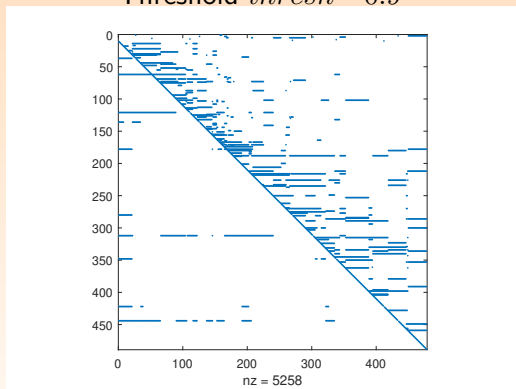
Threshold *thresh* = 1



LPAGG (615×488 , UFL Sparse Matrix Collection) + 10 dense rows.

The null space approach to solve sparse/dense LS problems

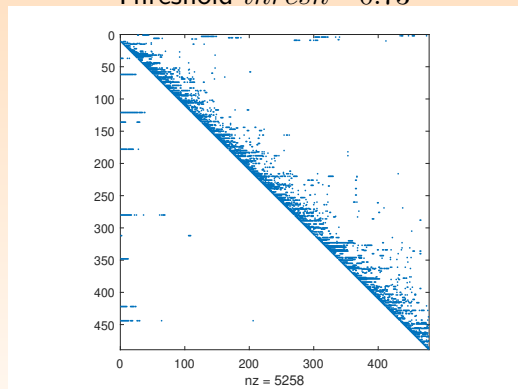
Threshold $thresh = 0.9$



LPAGG (615×488 , UFL Sparse Matrix Collection) + 10 dense rows.

The null space approach to solve sparse/dense LS problems

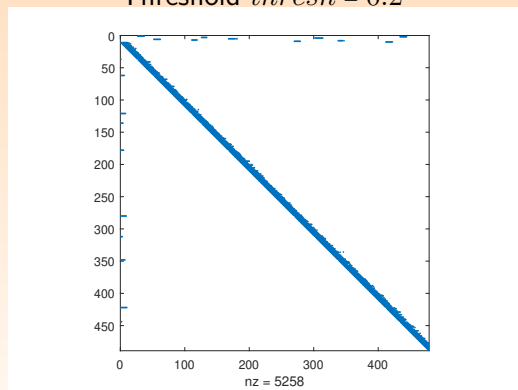
Threshold $thresh = 0.73$



LPAGG (615×488 , UFL Sparse Matrix Collection) + 10 dense rows.

The null space approach to solve sparse/dense LS problems

Threshold *thresh* = 0.2



LPAGG (615×488 , UFL Sparse Matrix Collection) + 10 dense rows.

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- Many more questions than expected at the beginning.

Thank you for your attention!

- Great thanks to the organizers!
- Thanks also to our institution and the Doctoral school (in CZ) supported by ESF in Doctoral school for education in mathematical methods and tools in HPC project, CZ.02.2.69/0.0/0.0/16_018/0002713.