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Problem description:

Verify that the dominant term in the operation count (number of multiplications or number of additions) for LU factorization of a matrix of order n by Gaussian elimination is $n^3/3$.

Problem solution:

Algorithm for the Gaussian elimination:

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for k = 1 : (n - 1)
  for i = (k + 1) : n
    Ag(i, k) = Ag(i, k) / Ag(k, k)
    for j = (k + 1) : n
      Ag(i, j) = Ag(i, j) - Ag(i, k) * Ag(k, j)
    end
  end
end
end

```

The number of multiplications m in the algorithm:

$$\begin{aligned}
 m &= \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \left(\sum_{i=k+1}^n \left(1 + \sum_{j=k+1}^n 1 \right) \right) = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \left(\sum_{i=k+1}^n (1 + (n - (k + 1) + 1)) \right) \\
 &= \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} ((n - (k + 1) + 1) \cdot (n - k + 1)) \\
 &= \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} (n^2 + n - (2n + 1)k + k^2) \\
 &= (n - 1) \cdot (n^2 + n) - (2n + 1) \frac{n(n - 1)}{2} + \frac{n(n - 1)(2n - 1)}{6} \\
 &= n^3 \left(1 - \frac{2}{2} + \frac{2}{6} \right) + n^2 \left(1 - 1 + \frac{2 - 1}{2} - \frac{2 + 1}{6} \right) + n \left(-1 + 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{6} \right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{3}n^3 + \frac{2}{3}n.
 \end{aligned}$$

The number of additions a in the algorithm:

$$\begin{aligned}
a &= \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \left(\sum_{i=k+1}^n \left(\sum_{j=k+1}^n 1 \right) \right) \\
&= \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \left(\sum_{i=k+1}^n (n - (k+1) + 1) \right) \\
&= \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} ((n - (k+1) + 1) \cdot (n - k)) \\
&= \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} (n^2 - 2nk + k^2) \\
&= (n-1) \cdot n^2 - 2n \frac{n(n-1)}{2} + \frac{n(n-1)(2n-1)}{6} \\
&= n^3 \left(1 - \frac{2}{2} + \frac{2}{6} \right) + n^2 \left(-1 + \frac{2}{2} - \frac{2+1}{6} \right) + n \frac{1}{6} \\
&= \frac{1}{3}n^3 - \frac{1}{2}n^2 + \frac{1}{6}n.
\end{aligned}$$

Results:

The dominant term in the operation count is both for additions and for multiplications $n^3/3$