

**First name:** Robert  
**Last Name:** Resch  
**Date:** 15.11.04  
**Homework number:** 2  
**Homework Title:** Exercise 2.13

**Problem description:**

How would you solve a partitioned linear system of the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} L_1 & O \\ B & L_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b \\ c \end{bmatrix},$$

where  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  are nonsingular lower triangular matrices, and the solution and right-hand-side vectors are partitioned accordingly? Show the specific steps you would perform in terms of the given submatrices and vectors.

**Problem solution:**

First of all I would solve the equation  $\begin{bmatrix} L_1 & O \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b \\ c \end{bmatrix}$ . Since the right part of the equation matrix is the zero matrix  $O$  it's sufficient to solve the linear system  $L_1 x = b$ .

But as we know,  $L_1$  is a nonsingular lower triangular matrix which we can solve using Forward-Substitution (see the belonging mathematical expression below).

$$x_1 = b_1/l_{11}, x_i = \left( b_i - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} l_{ij}x_j \right) / l_{ii}, i = 2, \dots, n$$

Afterwards I would solve the system  $\begin{bmatrix} B & L_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} c \\ c \end{bmatrix}$  which we could write as  $Bx + L_2 y = c$ . But as we already know the vector  $x$  from the previous step, we can easily compute the vector  $Bx$ . So we only have to solve the linear system  $L_2 y = c - Bx$  where  $L_2$  is a nonsingular lower triangular matrix. Thus, we can solve this linear equation by Forward-Substitution and get the vector  $y$ . Finally, we have found the solution for the linear system

$$\begin{bmatrix} L_1 & O \\ B & L_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b \\ c \end{bmatrix},$$

**Results:**

As we can see in the example aboth, we can bring a nonsingular lower triangular matrix in the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} L_1 & O \\ B & L_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b \\ c \end{bmatrix},$$

and solve it with the described algorithm.