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### A positive definite system of real-valued singularly perturbed problems

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We are interested in the numerical solution of a singularly perturbed, fourth-order ordinary differential equations.

Our model differential equation is

$$-\varepsilon u^{(4)}(x) + au''(x) - bu(x) = f(x)$$
 on  $\Omega := (0, 1),$  (1)

subject to the boundary conditions

$$u(0) = u''(0) = 0,$$
  $u(1) = u''(1) = 0.$ 

Here  $\varepsilon$  is a positive, real-valued parameter:  $0 < \varepsilon \le 1$ , but typically  $\varepsilon \ll 1$ . And so the problem is **singularly perturbed**. The coefficient functions *a*, *b* and right-hand side function *f* are real or complex-valued functions on the interval  $\Omega$ .



We consider the numerical solution of real-valued singularly perturbed, fourth-order ordinary differential equations, and in particular, problems of the following form.

### [Shanthi and Ramanujam, 2002]:

$$-\varepsilon u^{(4)}(x) + au''(x) - bu(x) = f(x)$$
 on  $\Omega := (0, 1),$  (2)

subject to the boundary conditions

$$u(0) = u''(0) = u(1) = u''(1) = 0.$$

The coefficient functions *a*, *b* and right-hand side function *f* are real-valued functions on the interval  $\Omega$ .

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We now propose an simple approach that allows one to reformulate (2) as a system with a (non-symmetric) positive definite coefficient matrix. We set

$$\mathbf{u}'' := \alpha \mathbf{w} + \beta \mathbf{u},$$

and, consequently,

$$\boldsymbol{u}^{(4)} = \alpha \boldsymbol{w}^{\prime\prime} + \beta \alpha \boldsymbol{w} + \beta^2 \boldsymbol{u}.$$

With this, (2) can be transformed as a system of two equations of the form

$$-\varepsilon w'' + (a\alpha - \varepsilon \alpha \beta)w + (a\beta - \varepsilon \beta^2 - b)u = f,$$
 (3a)

$$-u'' + \alpha w + \beta u = 0, \qquad (3b)$$

subject to the boundary conditions

$$u(0) = w(0) = u(1) = w(1) = 0.$$



Written in matrix form, this is

$$-\begin{pmatrix}\varepsilon & 0\\ 0 & 1\end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix}w''\\ u''\end{pmatrix} + B\begin{pmatrix}w\\ u\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}f\\ 0\end{pmatrix}.$$

where

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} a\alpha - \varepsilon \alpha \beta & a\beta - \varepsilon \beta^2 - b \\ \alpha & \beta \end{pmatrix}.$$

This *B* satisfies  $\mathbf{v}^T B \mathbf{v} \ge \gamma \mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{v}$ , for all *v*, if and only if,  $M = (B^T + B)/2$  is symmetric positive definite. Here

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} a\alpha - \varepsilon\alpha\beta & \frac{1}{2}(a\beta - \varepsilon\beta^2 - b + \alpha) \\ \frac{1}{2}(a\beta - \varepsilon\beta^2 - b + \alpha) & \beta \end{pmatrix}$$

Clearly, *M* is symmetric.



### What conditions on $\alpha$ and $\beta$ ensure that *M* is a positive definite?

Each of the following tests is a necessary and sufficient condition for a symmetric matrix M to be Positive definite:

(i) 
$$\mathbf{v}^T M \mathbf{v} \ge \gamma \mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{v}$$
, for all  $\mathbf{v}$ ,

(ii) All eigenvalues of *M* are positive,

(iii) Determinant test,

(iv) Pivot test.

There is the case if *M* is *strictly diagonally dominant*, with positive diagonal entries, i.e.,  $M_{ii} > \sum_{j \neq i} |M_{ij}|$  for i = 1, 2 [Beezer, 2008]. So, thus, we require that

(i) 
$$|a\alpha - \varepsilon \alpha \beta| > 0$$
,  
(ii)  $|\beta| > 0$ ,  
(iii)  $|a\alpha - \varepsilon \alpha \beta| > \frac{1}{2}|a\beta - \varepsilon \beta^2 - b + \alpha|$ ,  
(iv)  $|\beta| > \frac{1}{2}|a\beta - \varepsilon \beta^2 - b + \alpha|$ .



By applying the eigenvalue test on the matrix M. We can see that

$$-\varepsilon\beta^{2} + a\beta + b - 2\sqrt{a\beta b - \varepsilon\beta^{2}b} \le \alpha \le -\varepsilon\beta^{2} + a\beta + b + 2\sqrt{a\beta b - \varepsilon\beta^{2}b}$$

Suppose  $\beta = 1$ , then  $\alpha = a + b - \varepsilon$ . These are two conditions on  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  to be ensure that *M* is a positive definite. We can rewrite (2) as a system

$$-\begin{pmatrix}\varepsilon & 0\\ 0 & 1\end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix}w''\\ u''\end{pmatrix}+B\begin{pmatrix}w\\ u\end{pmatrix}=\begin{pmatrix}f\\ 0\end{pmatrix}.$$

where

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} (a+b-\varepsilon)(a-\varepsilon) & a-\varepsilon-b\\ a+b-\varepsilon & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

# Coercivity property of the matrix



### Lemma

When  $\beta = 1$  and  $\alpha - a + b - \varepsilon$ , the matrix M is coercive (for sufficiently small  $\varepsilon$ ). Further more there is a positive  $\gamma$  such that  $\gamma \in [\lambda_{\min}, \lambda_{\max}]$ , where  $\lambda_{\min}$  and  $\lambda_{\max}$  are eigenvalues of matrix M, and

$$\frac{\mathbf{v}^T M \mathbf{v}}{\mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{v}} \ge \gamma \quad \text{for all } \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^2.$$
(4)





Now consider the real-valued problem:

$$-\varepsilon u^{(4)}(x) + 2u''(x) - 4u(x) = f(x) \qquad \text{on} \qquad \Omega := (0, 1), \quad (5)$$

subject to the boundary conditions

$$u(0) = u''(0) = 0,$$
  $u(1) = u''(1) = 0.$ 

If we take  $\alpha = 6 - \varepsilon$  and  $\beta = 1$ , we have

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} 12 - 8\varepsilon + \varepsilon^2 & -(\varepsilon + 2) \\ 6 - \varepsilon & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ and } M = \begin{pmatrix} 12 - 8\varepsilon + \varepsilon^2 & -\varepsilon + 2 \\ -\varepsilon + 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

where *M* is a symmetric positive definite for  $\varepsilon < 1$ .



- We also aim to extend the work to complex-valued case where the associated 4 × 4 coefficient matrix in the second order system is a positive definite.
- We are now working on the analysis of methods for fourth-order complex-valued problems in the case where the problem can be re-cast as a coupled system of second-order problems (see, e.g., [Xenophontos et al., 2013]).
- We also aim to extend the work to complex-valued fourth-order ones which cannot be written as a coupled system of second-order ones (e.g., [Constantinou et al., 2016]).

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