

Re: help about ARPACK solver

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- *From:* lorin <wwang.sz@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 20 May 2007 11:30:09 -0700
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On May 20, 7:31 am, andy2O <and...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On 16 May, 10:54, lorin
<wwang...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

[snip]

Hello,

I used the "parallel" vector to verify if the result satisfies $A * x = \lambda * x$. For the eigenvector from Matlab, $(A * x - \lambda * x)$ could be as precise as (E-14), however, when I used the eigenvector from my fortran program (yes, there is a constant factor between the two eigenvectors), $(A * x - \lambda * x)$ can only be (E-04), sometimes even (E-03), I think such precision can not be satisfied in our application.

Thanks all the same,

With my best wishes,

lorin

Hi lorin,

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[snip]

2) Matlab's `eigs()` function uses ARPACK, so logically your Fortran code *should* be able to solve the problem as accurately as Matlab *if* you get everything set up right... I don't know ARPACK well enough to give detailed help to you, but:

– Matlab uses 'double precision' variables throughout by default. Fortran uses single precision variables by default. If you want accurate results from your Fortran code you *must* use double precision. So:

(a) make sure you declare all your Fortran variables to be double precision – note that if you rely of Fortran's implicit typing mechanism this won't happen.

(b) remember that if you type a number such as 1.234 or 5.67e8 in a Fortran program, that is *single* precision. If you want double precision you need to use 1.234D0 or 5.67D8. This is a common cause of loss of precision in Fortran, particularly in test case code.

If you identify any detailed Fortran problems, try asking in `comp.lang.fortran` – they're very helpful.

[snip]

andy

I've just remembered – you're using complex arithmetic.

Note that a 'COMPLEX' variable in Fortran is by default single precision (In fact in FORTRAN77, there is no double precision complex variable, but many compilers do support it as an extension). Fortran90 and later support double precision complex as standard, but it's still easy to accidentally use single precision COMPLEX variables. For example `COMPLX(1.0D0,2.0D0)` will return a single precision complex number!! I certainly find it confusing....

If you're unsure about the precision of your complex Fortran

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variables, read below (taken from http://gcc.gnu.org/onlinedocs/gcc-3.4.6/g77/CMPLX_0028_0029-of-DOUBLE...) and do some more research.

Yours,
andy

In accordance with Fortran 90 and at least some (perhaps all) other compilers, the GNU Fortran language defines CMPLX() as always returning a result that is type COMPLEX(KIND=1).

This means `CMPLX(D1,D2)', where `D1' and `D2' are REAL(KIND=2) (DOUBLE PRECISION), is treated as:

CMPLX(SNGL(D1), SNGL(D2))

(It was necessary for Fortran 90 to specify this behavior for DOUBLE PRECISION arguments, since that is the behavior mandated by FORTRAN 77.)

The GNU Fortran language also provides the DCMPLX() intrinsic, which is provided by some FORTRAN 77 compilers to construct a DOUBLE COMPLEX entity from of DOUBLE PRECISION operands. However, this solution does not scale well when more COMPLEX types (having various precisions and ranges) are offered by Fortran implementations.

Fortran 90 extends the CMPLX() intrinsic by adding an extra argument used to specify the desired kind of complex result.

Hello, Andy,

Great thanks to you, it's really very nice of you to give me such valuable advices.

Since I'm under Windows platform, the fortran compiler I use is Compaq Visual Fortran, in all my fortran program, I always start my data definition as:

```
Double Precision xxx  
Complex*16 xxx
```

So I think the precision loss should not be an issue for my tests, according to your first advice, I believe it's necessary to compute $A*x - \lambda*x$ using fortran program, and I will do that soon.

Actually what confused me is that why exists such a factor between the eigenvectors obtained from Matlab and my fortran program. I know for a regular eigen-program: $A*x = \lambda*x$, there are many principles and standards to select the eigenvector, I dont know what kind of standards Matlab choose. Because Matlab also adopts the arpack solver,

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I think the eigenvector should also be the same.

Thank you very much, Andy!!

Regards,
lorin

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