

# Numerical Methods in Linear Algebra

Dénes Sexty

University of Graz

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- 1 Examples: Bridge, multidim Newton's method, QM, vibrational eigenmodes
- 2 Linear equations
- 3 Gauss elimination, Pivoting
- 4 Numerical errors, condition number
- 5 LU decomposition, iterative improvement
- 6 Householder reduction
- 7 iterative solution: Gauss-Seidel, Successive overrelaxation (SOR), Conjugate gradient (CG) and others
- 8 Eigenvalues Subspace methods, power iteration, Lánczos method, Krylov Schur
- 9 Diagonalization with Fourier transformation
- 10 Eigenvalues transformation method

We want to get to the conjugate gradient method, let's first discuss the Gradient method (a.k.a Steepest descent, Richardson's method)

Take

$$N = \frac{1}{\alpha}, \quad P = \frac{1}{\alpha} - A \quad (1)$$

with  $\alpha > 0$ . This leads to

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{x}_k + \alpha(\mathbf{b} - A\mathbf{x}_k) \quad (2)$$

This converges for  $0 < \alpha < 2/\lambda_{\max}(A)$  for a positive definite  $A$  and might not converge for a non positive definite  $A$

Suppose  $A$  is symmetric (hermitic) and positive definit (  $\forall \mathbf{x} : \mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x} > 0$  )  
define

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{b} \quad (3)$$

Since  $A$  is positive definit, this has a minimum. There we have  $\nabla f(\mathbf{x}) = 0$

$$\nabla f(\mathbf{x}) = A \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b} = 0 \quad (4)$$

Minimum of  $f(\mathbf{x})$  solves the eq.  $A \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$

The iteration

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{x}_k + \alpha(\mathbf{b} - A \mathbf{x}_k) \quad (5)$$

steps along the negative gradient of  $f(\mathbf{x})$ .

If  $\alpha$  is small enough (  $0 < \alpha < 2/\rho(A)$  ) than  $f(\mathbf{x})$  decreases  $\rightarrow$  we might get to the minimum

if we take small steps it's going to take long to get to the minimum.

Idea: choose  $\alpha$  such that  $f(\mathbf{x} + \alpha(\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}))$  is minimized  $\rightarrow$  optimal stepsize

$$f(\mathbf{x} + \alpha\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{x} + \alpha\mathbf{r})^T \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x} + \alpha\mathbf{r}) - \mathbf{b}^T(\mathbf{x} + \alpha\mathbf{r}) \quad (6)$$

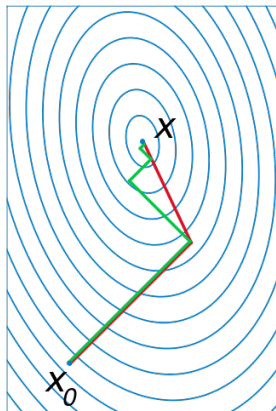
We get minimum from  $\partial_\alpha f(\mathbf{x} + \alpha\mathbf{r}) = 0$

$$\implies \alpha = \frac{\mathbf{r}^T \mathbf{r}}{\mathbf{r}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{r}} \quad (7)$$

Green: Gradient method with optimal stepsize

Can still take many steps to converge

Teaser: Red corresponds to Conjugate Gradient, which converges in two steps (in 2d)



Some definitions first:

The vector space spanned by  $\{\mathbf{r}, A\mathbf{r}, \dots, A^k\mathbf{r}\}$  is the **Krylov subspace** corresponding to  $A$  and  $\mathbf{r}$ , denoted by  $K_k$

$k_0$  is the **Krylov critical dimension** if  $K_{k_0} = K_{k_0+1}$

two vectors  $u$  and  $v$  are **conjugate** with respect to  $A$  if we have  $u^T Av = 0$ .

Consider a gradient method with whatever stepsize

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{x}_k + \alpha_k(\mathbf{b} - A\mathbf{x}_k) = \mathbf{x}_k + \alpha_k\mathbf{r}_k \quad (8)$$

Then  $\mathbf{r}_k \in K_k$  and  $\mathbf{x}_{k+1} - \mathbf{x}_0 \in K_k$

Shown by  $\mathbf{b} - A\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{b} - A\mathbf{x}_k - \alpha A\mathbf{r}_k \implies \mathbf{r}_{k+1} = \mathbf{r}_k - \alpha A\mathbf{r}_k$

The conjugate gradient method (CG) searches for the minimum of  $f(\mathbf{x}_{k+1})$  in the affine subspace  $[\mathbf{x}_0 + K_k]$  (this means  $\mathbf{x}_{k+1} - \mathbf{x}_0 \in K_k$ ), where  $K_k$  is the krylov subspace of  $\mathbf{r}_0$

The Conjugate Gradient satisfies:

- 1  $\mathbf{x}_{k+1}$  is chosen such that  $r_{k+1} \perp K_k$
- 2  $\mathbf{x}_{k+1}$  is chosen such that it minimizes  $f(\mathbf{x})$  in  $[\mathbf{x}_0 + K_k]$

This means that CG converges in at most  $n$  iterations. (But usually one needs less for a good solution)



The Algorithm for finding that minimum is:

Initialization:  $\mathbf{p}_0 = \mathbf{r}_0 = \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_0$

Loop:  $\alpha_i = \mathbf{r}_i^T \mathbf{r}_i / (\mathbf{p}_i^T \mathbf{A}\mathbf{p}_i)$

$\mathbf{x}_{i+1} = \mathbf{x}_i + \alpha_i \mathbf{p}_i$

$\mathbf{r}_{i+1} = \mathbf{r}_i - \alpha_i \mathbf{A}\mathbf{p}_i$

$\beta_i = \mathbf{r}_{i+1}^T \mathbf{r}_{i+1} / (\mathbf{r}_i^T \mathbf{r}_i)$

$\mathbf{p}_{i+1} = \mathbf{r}_{i+1} + \beta_i \mathbf{p}_i$

one can show by induction:

$$\forall i \neq j : \mathbf{r}_i^T \mathbf{r}_j = 0, \quad \mathbf{p}_i^T \mathbf{A}\mathbf{p}_j = 0, \quad \mathbf{r}_i^T \mathbf{p}_j = 0 \quad (9)$$

Also,  $\alpha_i$  is chosen such that  $f(\mathbf{x}_i + \alpha_i \mathbf{p}_i)$  is minimized in  $\alpha_i$ .  
 $\mathbf{p}_i$  is sometimes called the “search direction”

since  $\forall i \neq j : \mathbf{r}_i^T \mathbf{r}_j = 0$ , the CG converges in at most  $n$  iterations in an  $n$  dimensional vectors space (less

However, rounding errors lead to  $\mathbf{r}_{n+1} \neq 0$ , so we should use a small  $\epsilon$  and stop when

$$\frac{\|\mathbf{r}_k\|}{\|\mathbf{r}_0\|} < \epsilon \quad (10)$$

for large systems,  $n$  and  $k_0 \sim 10^4$  or larger, typically one needs much less than  $n$  iterations.

**Costs:**  $n$  iterations maximally.

One iteration: matrix-vector product:  $O(n^2)$ , linear combinations of vectors  $O(n)$

Total:  $\approx n^3$  slightly worse than Gauss or LU decomp.

But: usually needs less than  $n$  iterations.

Sparse matrices: multiplication costs only  $O(n)$  operations

One can show: The norm of  $\mathbf{e}_i = \mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}$  is reduced in each iteration by the factor at least

$$\frac{\sqrt{\text{cond}_2 A} - 1}{\sqrt{\text{cond}_2 A} + 1} \quad (11)$$

### Preconditioning

given a matrix  $M$  such that:

$$M^{-1}\mathbf{v} \text{ is easy to calculate}$$

$$\text{cond}_2(M^{-1}A) < \text{cond}_2(A)$$

We can solve the **preconditioned system**  $M^{-1}A\mathbf{x} = M^{-1}\mathbf{b}$  instead of  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ , converges faster.

Initialization:  $\mathbf{r}_0 = \mathbf{b} - A\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{z}_0 = M^{-1}\mathbf{r}_0, \mathbf{p}_0 = \mathbf{z}_0$

Loop:  $\alpha_i = \mathbf{z}_i^T \mathbf{r}_i / (\mathbf{p}_i^T A \mathbf{p}_i)$

$$\mathbf{x}_{i+1} = \mathbf{x}_i + \alpha_i \mathbf{p}_i$$

$$\mathbf{r}_{i+1} = \mathbf{r}_i - \alpha_i A \mathbf{p}_i$$

$$\mathbf{z}_{i+1} = M^{-1} \mathbf{r}_{i+1}$$

$$\beta_i = \mathbf{z}_{i+1}^T \mathbf{r}_{i+1} / (\mathbf{z}_i^T \mathbf{r}_i)$$

$$\mathbf{p}_{i+1} = \mathbf{z}_{i+1} + \beta_i \mathbf{p}_i$$

What happens if we have  $A$  non-symmetric positive definite?

Use  $B = AA^+$ :  $\mathbf{v}^+ B \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}^+ A A^+ \mathbf{v} = \|A^+ \mathbf{v}\|^2 > 0$  if  $A$  is non-singular  
 solve  $B \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{b}$  using CG, this means  $AA^+ \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{b}$   
 $\implies \mathbf{x} = A^+ \mathbf{y}$  solves  $A \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$

Further iterative methods:

**BiConjugate Gradient (BiCG, BiCGStab), Generalized minimal residual (GMRES)**:  $A$  does not need to be positive def, not guaranteed to converge, but often does.

**Block-CG**: we want to solve  $A \mathbf{x}_k = \mathbf{b}_k$  for several right hand side  $\mathbf{b}$  vectors. We do the iterations the same time where the search directions for different  $k$  “communicate”, such that we look for a minimum on a larger Krylov space, ensuring faster convergence

**Multishift-CG**: we want to solve  $(A + m_i \mathbf{1}) \mathbf{x}_i = \mathbf{b}_i$ . These have all the same Krylov space. One can solve all of them in the same iteration with just one matrix-vector multiplication and many linear combinations of vectors.

So far we had  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ , now we look at  $A\mathbf{x} = 0$

General eigenvalue problem:

$$A(\lambda)\mathbf{x} = 0 \quad (12)$$

solutions at  $\det(A(\lambda)) = 0$ , giving eigen values  $\lambda_i$  and eigenvectors  $\mathbf{x}_i$ .

Regular eigenvalue problem:  $A(\lambda) = A - \lambda\mathbf{1}$ , this gives the usual form:

$$A\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x} \quad (13)$$

$\det(A - \lambda\mathbf{1}) = \text{polynomial of degree } n \implies \lambda \in \{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n\}$

Eigenvectors are determined up to a factor  $\implies$  choose  $x_1$  at will and solve for  $x_j$ ,  $j > 1$  using methods detailed before.

In practice looking for the roots of a large polynomial is hard (no direct method for  $n > 4$ , even calculating the coefficients of the polynomial is hard for large  $n$ )

### 1 Subspace methods

Aim at finding a few eigenvalues with high precision by keeping track of a subspace using a few vectors, and iteratively improving the precision.

### 2 Transformation methods

If we find  $Q$  such that

$$Q^{-1}AQ = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n) \quad (14)$$

then  $\lambda_i$  are the eigenvalues,

$AQ = Q \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n) \implies$  columns of  $Q$  are the eigenvectors

Usually  $Q$  is built iteratively  $Q = Q_1 Q_2 \dots Q_n \dots$ , such that the non diagonal elements of the transformed  $A$  decrease

- ### 3 Fourier transformation
- Works in some cases: for a certain class of matrices:  $M_{j,k} = \sum_i \alpha_i \delta_{j,k+n_i}$ , using periodic boundary conditions  
 These types of matrices are often come up in physics, discretization of PDEs, etc.

Consider the matrix

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \dots & \dots & 0 & \epsilon \\ 1 & 0 & \dots & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (15)$$

Let's choose  $\epsilon = 10^{-n}$ , with  $n$  even. The characteristic polynomial for this is:

$$p_A(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda \mathbf{1}) = (\lambda^n - \epsilon) \quad (16)$$

$\implies \lambda_i = 10^{-1}$  All eigenvalues are the same.

However, if we take  $\epsilon = 0$  we have  $\lambda_i = 0$

$\implies$  in some cases small variations of the matrix give a large change in the eigenvalues.

We define the eigenvalue condition number

$$\Gamma(A) = \inf_{P^{-1}AP=\text{diag}} \text{cond}(P), \quad \text{with } \text{cond}(P) = \|P\| \|P^{-1}\| \quad (17)$$

This means  $\Gamma(A) \geq 1$

For symmetric (hermitian) matrices we have  $\Gamma_2(A) = 1$ , as we  $\|P\|_2 = 1$  for orthogonal (unitary)  $P$  matrices

### Bauer-Fike Theorem:

If we perturb the matrix  $A \rightarrow A + \delta A$ , the eigenvalues change  $\lambda_i \rightarrow \lambda'_i$

We have an upper estimate of their change:

$$|\lambda_i - \lambda'_i| \leq \Gamma(A) \|\delta A\| \quad (18)$$

For a norm which satisfies  $\|\text{diag}(d_1, \dots, d_n)\| = \max|d_i|$



aka. von Mises Method – simplest subspace method

Suppose we have a symmetric (Hermitian) matrix, such that the eigenvalues are non degenerate (we really need the largest absolute value is non-degenerate)

$$|\lambda_1| > |\lambda_2| > \dots > |\lambda_n| \quad (19)$$

$\implies$  any vector can be written as a linear combination of the eigenvectors  $\mathbf{x}_i$

$$\mathbf{v} = \sum \alpha_i \mathbf{x}_i \quad (20)$$

We can start applying  $A$ :  $\mathbf{v}_0 = \mathbf{v}$ ,  $\mathbf{v}_1 = A\mathbf{v}_0$ , and so on:  $\mathbf{v}_k = A\mathbf{v}_{k-1} = A^k\mathbf{v}_0$ .

We can see:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{v}_1 &= \sum \alpha_i \lambda_i \mathbf{x}_i \\ \mathbf{v}_k &= \sum \alpha_i \lambda_i^k \mathbf{x}_i \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

Our assumption means that at large  $k$  the first eigenvector will dominate

Use the following iteration:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{v}_0 &= \mathbf{v} / \|\mathbf{v}\| \\ \mathbf{v}_{k+1} &= A\mathbf{v}_k / \|A\mathbf{v}_k\|\end{aligned}\tag{22}$$

We can write  $\mathbf{v}_k = \alpha_j^{(k)} \mathbf{x}_j$

We can also write

$$\mathbf{v}_k = A^k \mathbf{v}_0 / \|A^k \mathbf{v}_0\| = \frac{\frac{1}{\lambda_1^k} A^k \mathbf{v}_0}{\left\| \frac{1}{\lambda_1^k} A^k \mathbf{v}_0 \right\|} = \frac{\alpha_1 \mathbf{x}_1 + \sum_{i=2}^n \left(\frac{\lambda_i}{\lambda_1}\right)^k \mathbf{x}_i}{\left\| \alpha_1 \mathbf{x}_1 + \sum_{i=2}^n \left(\frac{\lambda_i}{\lambda_1}\right)^k \mathbf{x}_i \right\|}\tag{23}$$

$\implies$  convergence rate given by  $|\lambda_2|/|\lambda_1|$

$\mathbf{v}_k$  converges to the eigenvector  $\mathbf{x}_1$

Using  $\mathbf{d}_k = \mathbf{x}_k - \mathbf{x}_{k-1}$

$$A\mathbf{d}_k = A\mathbf{x}_k - A\mathbf{x}_{k-1} = A\mathbf{x}_k - \lambda\mathbf{x}_k\tag{24}$$

for some  $\lambda$  (as we calculate  $\mathbf{x}_k$  by normalizing  $A\mathbf{x}_{k-1}$ )

$\implies \|A\mathbf{d}_k\|$  helps judge how close we are to an eigenvalue.

We can get the eigenvalue by:  $\mathbf{e}_k^T A\mathbf{v} / (\mathbf{e}_k^T \mathbf{v})$  (e.g. picking a component of a vector, preferably a large one)

Sometimes we need the smallest eigenvalue:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{v}_0 &= \mathbf{v} / \|\mathbf{v}\| \\ \text{solve } A\mathbf{y}_k &= \mathbf{v}_{k-1} \text{ for } \mathbf{y}_k \\ \mathbf{v}_{k+1} &= \mathbf{y}_k / \|\mathbf{y}_k\| \end{aligned} \tag{25}$$

Is equivalent to power iteration with  $A^{-1}$ , which has eigenvalues  $\{1/\lambda_1, \dots, 1/\lambda_n\}$

$$\left| \frac{1}{\lambda_1} \right| < \left| \frac{1}{\lambda_2} \right| < \dots < \left| \frac{1}{\lambda_n} \right| \tag{26}$$

$\implies$  power iteration will give the smallest eigenvalue,  $1/\lambda_n$   
 Can be efficiently carried out by calculating the LU decomposition of  $A$

If we know the largest eigenvalue  $\lambda_1$  and eigenvector  $\mathbf{x}_1$  make our vector orthogonal to that:

$$\mathbf{v}_0 = \mathbf{v} / \|\mathbf{v}\| \quad (27)$$

$$\mathbf{y}_k = A\mathbf{v}_{k-1}$$

$$\mathbf{v}_{k+1} = \mathbf{y}_k - \mathbf{x}_1(\mathbf{x}_1^T \mathbf{y}_k) \quad (28)$$

$\implies$  This converges to the eigenvector of the second largest eigenvalue.

If we know there is an eigenvalue close to  $\mu$ :

$$|\lambda_i - \mu| < |\lambda_j - \mu| \text{ for } j \neq i \quad (29)$$

We can use power iteration of  $(A - \mu\mathbf{1})^{-1}$ :

$$\mathbf{v}_0 = \mathbf{v} / \|\mathbf{v}\| \quad (30)$$

$$\text{solve } (A - \mu\mathbf{1})\mathbf{y}_k = \mathbf{v}_{k-1} \text{ for } \mathbf{y}_k$$

$$\mathbf{v}_{k+1} = \mathbf{y}_k / \|\mathbf{y}_k\|$$

$\implies$  This converges to  $\mathbf{x}_i \implies \lambda_i$  is found

What if we need more than a few eigenvectors? We should not throw away all but the last vector in the Krylov space

$$K_k = \{\mathbf{v}, A\mathbf{v}, A^2\mathbf{v}, \dots, A^k\mathbf{v}\} \quad (31)$$

Build the following base of the Krylov space (with  $A$  symmetric (hermitian) matrix):

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \frac{\mathbf{v}}{\|\mathbf{v}\|} \quad (32)$$

$$\mathbf{v}_k = \frac{\mathbf{y}_k}{\|\mathbf{y}_k\|}, \quad \text{with} \quad \mathbf{y}_k = A\mathbf{v}_{k-1} - \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} ((A\mathbf{v}_{k-1})^+ \mathbf{v}_i) \mathbf{v}_i$$

In words: take the new vector  $A\mathbf{v}_{k-1}$ , make it orthogonal to previous vectors and normalize it.

This is equivalent to using the Gram-Schmidt procedure on the Krylov space if  $\mathbf{v}_k$  is zero for some  $k$ , then we have exhausted the Krylov space of the vector  $\mathbf{v}$  and the iteration is stopped.

$$\mathbf{y}_k = A\mathbf{v}_{k-1} - \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} ((A\mathbf{v}_{k-1})^+ \mathbf{v}_i) \mathbf{v}_i \quad (33)$$

if  $A$  is symmetric we can write

$$((A\mathbf{v}_{k-1})^+ \mathbf{v}_j) = (\mathbf{v}_{k-1}^+ A\mathbf{v}_j) = \underbrace{(\mathbf{v}_{k-1}^+ \mathbf{y}_{j+1})}_{=0 \text{ if } j < k-2} + \sum_{i=1}^j ((A\mathbf{v}_j)^+ \mathbf{v}_i) \underbrace{(\mathbf{v}_{k-1}^+ \mathbf{v}_i)}_{=0 \text{ for } j < k-1} \quad (34)$$

So we only need to make the new vector orthogonal for the last two vectors

$$\mathbf{y}_k = A\mathbf{v}_{k-1} - \sum_{i=k-2}^{k-1} ((A\mathbf{v}_{k-1})^+ \mathbf{v}_i) \mathbf{v}_i \quad (35)$$

Rewriting the last equation we have:

$$A\mathbf{v}_{k-1} = \mathbf{v}_k \|\mathbf{y}_k\| + ((A\mathbf{v}_{k-1})^+ \mathbf{v}_{k-1})\mathbf{v}_{k-1} + \|\mathbf{y}_{k-1}\| \mathbf{v}_{k-2} \quad (36)$$

We collect  $k$  column vectors into a matrix  $V_k$ , than this equation says:

$$AV_k = V_k T_k + \mathbf{y}_{k+1} e_k^T \quad (37)$$

with  $e_k^T = (0, \dots, 0, 1)$  the row vector of length  $k$

i.e. If we apply  $A$  to our column vectors we get a linear combination of our column vectors (the coefficients are in the  $T_k$ , which is a  $k \times k$  matrix), except for the last vector, which has an extra contribution that goes into the last column

This also means if we multiply with  $V_k^T$  from the left:

$$V_k^T AV_k = T_k \quad (38)$$

and  $V_k^T V_k = \mathbf{1}_{k \times k}$  since  $V_k$  is built from orthonormal vectors

Looking at the coefficients above, we also see that  $T_k$  is tridiagonal (and symmetric)

Why is this useful?

$T_k$  is a  $k \times k$  matrix:  $V_k^T A V_k = T_k$  : can think of it as  $A$  restricted to the vector space given by the basis  $V_k$

Eigenvalues of  $T_k$  are related to eigenvalues of  $A$

One can show: For any eigenvalue  $\lambda_T$  of  $T_k$  there exists an eigenvalue  $\lambda_A$  of  $A$  such that

$$|\lambda_T - \lambda_A| \leq \|\mathbf{y}_{k+1}\| \quad (39)$$

One can show even more: if  $y$  is the eigenvector of  $T_k$  corresponding to  $\lambda_T$  than

$$|\lambda_T - \lambda_A| \leq \|\mathbf{y}_{k+1}\| \frac{\mathbf{e}_k^T y}{\|y\|} \quad (40)$$

Which means we have a particularly good approximation if the last element of the eigenvector  $y$  is small

Generalization for non-hermitian: **Arnoldi method**.  $T_k$  is upper Hessenberg in this case.



Lanczos is very useful, but we have no way to control which eigenvalues we get. With large  $k$  the method becomes intractable. restarting can improve one eigenvalue, but what if we need more?

## Krylov-Schur

We start with an Arnoldi iteration

$$AV_k = V_k T_k + \mathbf{y}_{k+1} \mathbf{e}_k^T \quad (41)$$

With unitary transformations on the  $\mathbf{v}_k$  and  $T_k$  we can achieve a partition:

$$A(V_1 V_2) = (V_1 V_2) \begin{pmatrix} B_{11} & B_{12} \\ 0 & B_{21} \end{pmatrix} + \mathbf{u}_{k+1} (\mathbf{b}_1^+ \mathbf{b}_2^+) \quad (42)$$

Such that  $V_1$  contains the eigenvectors corresponding to eigenvalues we want to calculate,  $V_2$  contains uninteresting eigenvalues. We can now simply drop  $V_2$  and start iterating again from

$$AV_1 = V_1 B_{11} + \mathbf{u}_{k+1} \mathbf{b}_1^+ \quad (43)$$

We can do the expand-drop cycle until eigenvalues and eigenvectors converge  
 See details e.g. in: G.W. Stewart: *Matrix Algorithms Vol II: Eigensystems*