

OBSERVAȚII ASUPRA REZOLVĂRII SISTEMELOR DE ECUAȚII CU
AJUTORUL PROCEDEELOR ITERATIVE

(English translation)
REMARKS ON SOLVING THE SYSTEMS OF EQUATIONS
BY ITERATIVE METHODS¹⁾

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Abstract. In this paper we give a condition for the convergence of an iterative method of Gauss-Seidel type for solving the system of equations:

$$\begin{aligned}x &= \varphi(x, y) \\ y &= \psi(x, y).\end{aligned}$$

We then provide some error evaluations in case of exact and approximate computations. We also provide a sufficient condition when the system contains k equations with k unknowns.

INTRODUCTION

Given the systems of equations:

$$(1) \quad \begin{aligned}x &= \varphi(x, y) \\ y &= \Psi(x, y),\end{aligned}$$

where the functions φ and Ψ are assumed to satisfy:

- a) The functions φ and Ψ are defined on the closed domain \bar{D} , and transform this domain in itself.
- b) The functions φ and Ψ are Lipschitz on \bar{D} , i.e., there exist α, β, a and $b \geq 0$ such that:

$$\begin{aligned}|\varphi(x_1, y_1) - \varphi(x_2, y_2)| &\leq \alpha |x_1 - x_2| + \beta |y_1 - y_2| \\ |\Psi(x_1, y_1) - \Psi(x_2, y_2)| &\leq a |x_1 - x_2| + b |y_1 - y_2|, \quad \forall (x_i, y_i) \in \bar{D}, i = 1, 2.\end{aligned}$$

¹⁾Communication presented at the second Scientific Session of the Youth, May 20-22, 1966, Bucharest, Romania.

We propose the following iterations for solving the system (1). Let $(x_0, y_0) \in \bar{D}$ be an initial approximation; let:

$$(2) \quad \begin{aligned} x_i &= \varphi(x_{i-1}, y_{i-1}) \\ y_i &= \Psi(x_i, y_{i-1}), \quad i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, \end{aligned}$$

Regarding the sequences (2), the following result is well known [1]:

THEOREM 1. *If the functions φ and Ψ satisfy the hypotheses a) and b) with the following restrictions: either $\alpha + \beta < 1$, $a + b < 1$ or $a + \alpha < 1$, $b + \beta < 1$, then the sequences (2) converge to the limits \bar{x} and \bar{y} such that the point $M(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ is a solution of the system (1), and this solution is unique.*

Since Theorem 1 offers sufficient (but not also necessary) conditions for the convergence of the sequences (2), there are cases when the constants α , β , a and b do not satisfy the hypotheses of Theorem 1 but still, the sequences (2) converge. In this note we give certain conditions on the constants α , β , a and b which strictly include those in Theorem 1; our conditions will contain supplementary cases for which the system (1) admits an unique solution, which can be computed with the aid of the sequences (2).

1. AUXILIARY RESULTS

Being given two sequences of nonnegative numbers:

$$(1.1) \quad \begin{aligned} G &= \{g_0, g_1, \dots, g_n, \dots\} \\ f &= \{f_0, f_1, \dots, f_n, \dots\}. \end{aligned}$$

we assume that the elements obey the conditions:

$$(1.2) \quad \begin{aligned} f_n &\leq \alpha' f_{n-1} + \beta' g_{n-1} \\ g_n &\leq a' f_n + b' g_{n-1}, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots, \end{aligned}$$

with α' , β' , and a' , b' nonnegative. We attach to the system of recurrent inequalities (1.2) the following algebraic system in the unknowns k and h :

$$(1.3) \quad \begin{aligned} \alpha' + \beta' h &= kh, \\ a' k + b' &= kh. \end{aligned}$$

LEMMA 2. *The necessary and sufficient condition for the system (1.3) to admit a solution (h_1, k_1) , $h_1 \geq 0$, $k_1 \geq 0$, such that*

$$(1.4) \quad 0 \leq h_1 k_1 \leq q < 1$$

is that the constants α' , β' , a' and b' satisfy the following inequalities:

$$(1.5) \quad \begin{aligned} \alpha' + b' + a' \beta' &< 2 \\ (1 - \alpha') (1 - b') &> a' \beta'. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Necessity. From (1.3) we deduce the following equation in h :

$$(1.6) \quad \beta' h^2 - (b' + \beta' a' - \alpha') h - \alpha' a' = 0.$$

If we add the relation

$$(1.7) \quad p = k \cdot h$$

to the system (1.3) and we eliminate h and k from the three obtained equalities and we take into account (1.6), we obtain the following equation in p :

$$(1.8) \quad F(p) = p^2 - (b' + \beta'a' + \alpha')p + b'\alpha' = 0.$$

Again, from the system (1.3) we deduce the following equation in k :

$$(1.9) \quad a'k^2 - (\alpha' + \beta'a' - b')k - \beta'b' = 0.$$

We notice that the equations (1.6) and (1.9) admit real roots, and since the right-hand side terms from both equations are negative, it follows that these equations admit roots of different signs.

Denote by (h_1, h_2) the roots of (1.6) and by (k_1, k_2) the roots of equations (1.9); then the roots of (1.8) will be $p_1 = k_1h_1$ and $p_2 = k_2h_2$ and these roots are always real. If (k_1, h_1) is the pair of positive solutions of equations (1.6) and (1.9), then it is obvious that $p_1 > p_2$ and $p_2 \geq 0$. Assume that $p_1 < 1$. For this inequality to hold, it is necessary that $F(1) > 0$ and $\frac{p_1+p_2}{2} < 1$ which leads to inequalities (1.5).

Sufficiency. If inequalities (1.5) are true, it follows that:

$$\begin{aligned} F(0) &= b'\alpha' \geq 0 \\ F(1) &= (1 - \alpha')(1 - b') - a'\beta' > 0 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\frac{p_1+p_2}{2} = \frac{(\alpha'+b'+a'\beta')}{2} < 1$$

whence $p_1 < 1$, which finishes the proof. \square

LEMMA 3. *If α' , β' , a' and b' satisfy inequalities (1.5) and the elements of the sequences (1.1) satisfy inequalities (1.2), then there exists a nonnegative constant c_1 for which*

$$(1.10) \quad \begin{aligned} f_n &\leq c_1 h_1^{n-1} k_1^{n-1} \\ g_n &\leq c_1 h_1^n k_1^{n-1} \end{aligned}$$

and, moreover, the series $\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} f_i$ and $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} g_i$ are convergent.

Proof. Let (h_1, k_1) be a solution of the system (1.3) such that the hypotheses of the lemma are satisfied. Assume that for $n = 1$ we have:

$$(1.11) \quad \begin{aligned} f_1 &\leq c_1 \\ g_1 &\leq c_1 h_1 \end{aligned}$$

One notes without difficulty that for these inequalities to hold it suffices to choose c_1 such that:

$$(1.12) \quad c_1 \geq \max \left\{ \alpha' f_0 + \beta' g_0, \frac{\alpha' f_1 + \beta' g_0}{h_1} \right\}.$$

If the inequalities (1.11) are satisfied by the chosen c_1 we assume by induction that:

$$\begin{aligned} f_{n-1} &\leq c_1 h_1^{n-2} k_1^{n-2} \\ g_{n-1} &\leq c_1 h_1^{n-1} k_1^{n-2}. \end{aligned}$$

Based on the fact that the system (1.3) is verified by the solutions h_1 and k_1 from (1.2) we have:

$$f_n \leq c_1 h_1^{n-2} k_1^{n-2} (\alpha' + \beta' h_1) = c_1 h_1^{n-1} k_1^{n-1}$$

and

$$g_n \leq c_1 h_1^{n-1} k_1^{n-2} (a' k_1 + b') = c_1 h_1^n k_1^{n-1}.$$

According to the induction principle, the first part of the lemma is proved. The second part is obvious, since the terms of the two series are majorized by the terms of two geometrical series with subunitary ratio. \square

COROLLARY 4. *If $\alpha' + \beta' < 1$ and $a' + b' < 1$ or $\alpha' + a' < 1$ and $\beta' + b' < 1$, the inequalities (1.5) are satisfied.*

LEMMA 5. *If the elements of the sequence (1.1) satisfy the following inequalities:*

$$(1.13) \quad \begin{aligned} f_n &\leq \alpha' f_{n-1} + \beta' g_{n-1} + \delta \\ g_n &\leq a' f_n + b' g_{n-1} + \delta, \end{aligned}$$

where δ is a positive constant and if α', β', a' and b' satisfy inequalities (1.5), then there exists a positive constant c_1 such that

$$(1.14) \quad \begin{aligned} f_n &\leq c_1 h_1^{n-1} k_1^{n-1} + \frac{\delta}{1-h_1 k_1} \\ g_n &\leq c_1 h_1^n k_1^{n-1} + \frac{\delta h_1}{1-h_1 k_1}. \end{aligned}$$

The proof of this lemma is analogous to the proof of Lemma 2.

2. THEOREM OF EXISTENCE AND UNIQUENESS OF SOLUTION

THEOREM 6. *If the functions φ and ψ satisfy conditions a) and b), and, moreover, the constants α, β, a and b are such that the following inequalities are satisfied:*

$$(2.1) \quad \begin{aligned} a + b + a\beta &< 2 \\ (1 - \alpha)(1 - b) &> a\beta \end{aligned}$$

then system (1) has a unique solution in \bar{D} , given by the limits of the sequences (2).

Proof. We shall show first that the sequences (2) are convergent. One notices that the partial sums of the following series

$$(2.2) \quad \begin{aligned} (X) \quad & x_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (x_i - x_{i-1}) \\ (Y) \quad & y_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (y_i - y_{i-1}) \end{aligned}$$

coincide with the terms of the sequences (2). If we denote $f_{n-1} = |x_n - x_{n-1}|$ and $g_{n-1} = |y_n - y_{n-1}|$, then taking into account condition b) and the terms of the sequences (2) then we are lead to the following inequalities

$$\begin{aligned} f_n &\leq \alpha f_{n-1} + \beta g_{n-1} \\ g_n &\leq a f_n + b g_{n-1}. \end{aligned}$$

By using Lemma 3, it follows that the series (2.2) are absolutely convergent, and therefore convergent. Therefore there exist two numbers \bar{x}, \bar{y} , such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = \bar{x} \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_n = \bar{y}.$$

Taking now into account that functions φ and ψ satisfy condition b), it follows that they are continuous on \bar{D} , and passing to the limit in the equalities

$$\begin{aligned} x_{n+1} &= \varphi(x_n, y_n) \\ y_{n+1} &= \psi(x_{n+1}, y_n) \end{aligned}$$

we get

$$\bar{x} = \varphi(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$$

and

$$\bar{y} = \psi(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$$

whence it follows that \bar{x} and \bar{y} satisfy system (1). Let us now show that the obtained solution is the unique solution of the system (1) in the domain \bar{D} . Assume that, besides the solution (\bar{x}, \bar{y}) the system admits another solution, (\bar{x}_1, \bar{y}_1) which does not coincide with the previous one. We shall show first that if (\bar{x}, \bar{y}) is a solution of (1) and (\bar{x}_0, \bar{y}_0) is an arbitrary element of \bar{D} , then there exist two sequences

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= \varphi(x_0, y_0), \dots, x_n = \varphi(x_{n-1}, y_{n-1}), \dots \\ y_1 &= \varphi(x_1, y_0), \dots, y_n = \varphi(x_n, y_{n-1}), \dots \end{aligned}$$

such that

$$(2.3) \quad \begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |\bar{x} - x_n| &= 0 \\ \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |y - \bar{y}_n| &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Indeed, from the fact that (\bar{x}, \bar{y}) satisfy (1) and if we take into account condition b) we get the following inequalities

$$\begin{aligned} |\bar{x} - x_n| &\leq \alpha |\bar{x} - x_{n-1}| + \beta |\bar{y} - y_{n-1}| \\ |\bar{y} - y_n| &\leq a (\bar{x} - x_n) + b |\bar{y} - y_{n-1}|, \end{aligned}$$

whence, taking into account Lemma 2 it follows that the inequalities (2.3) are true. If (x_0, y_0) and (x'_0, y'_0) are distinct points from \bar{D} and

$$\begin{aligned} x_n &= \varphi(x_{n-1}, y_{n-1}) & x'_n &= \varphi(x'_{n-1}, y'_{n-1}) \\ y_n &= \psi(x_n, y_{n-1}), \quad n = 1, 2, \dots, & y'_n &= \psi(x'_n, y'_{n-1}), \quad n = 1, 2, \dots \end{aligned}$$

are the sequences generated by them, we shall show that

$$(2.4) \quad \begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |x_n - x'_n| &= 0 \\ \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |y_n - y'_n| &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Indeed, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |x_n - y'_n| &\leq \alpha |x_{n-1} - x'_{n-1}| + \beta |y_{n-1} - y'_{n-1}| \\ |y_n - y'_n| &\leq a |x_n - x'_n| + b |y_{n-1} - y'_{n-1}|. \end{aligned}$$

Then Lemma 2 imply the inequalities (2.4). The above relations imply that if $\{x_n\}$ and $\{y_n\}$ are two sequences such that

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n &= \bar{x} \\ \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_n &= \bar{y} \end{aligned}$$

and $\{x'_n\}$ and $\{y'_n\}$ are two sequences such that

$$\begin{aligned} \lim x'_n &= \bar{x}_1, \\ \lim y'_n &= \bar{y}_1, \end{aligned}$$

then we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\bar{x} - \bar{x}_1| &\leq |\bar{x} - x_n| + |x_n - x'_n| + |x'_n - \bar{x}_1| \\ |\bar{y} - \bar{y}_1| &\leq |\bar{y} - y_n| + |y_n - y'_n| + |y'_n - \bar{y}_1|. \end{aligned}$$

These inequalities are true for all n . Passing to limit as $n \rightarrow \infty$ and taking into account the above remarks, we have

$$\bar{x} = \bar{x}_1 \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{y} = \bar{y}_1$$

and therefore the system has a unique solution. \square

COROLLARY 7. *From the consequence of Lemma 3 it follows that the conditions from Theorem 1 are contained also in Theorem 6, but Theorem 6 contains other cases, which are not contained in Theorem 1. We shall illustrate this in the following example.*

EXAMPLE 1. Given the linear system

$$\begin{aligned}x &= 0.1x + 8y - 0,6 \\y &= 0.05x + 0.45y - 0.5.\end{aligned}$$

Theorem 1 can say nothing about this, while if we apply Theorem 6 we obtain the system

$$\begin{aligned}0.1 + 8h &= hk \\0.05 k + 0.45 &= hk\end{aligned}$$

which can be seen to satisfy (1.5). From here we can draw the conclusion that the procedure (2) applied to the above system converges to the solution of this system. Starting from $x_0 = 0$ and $y_0 = 0$ in approximately 150 iterations we obtain the approximate solutions $x = -45.578936$, $y = -5.052631$.

3. THE EVALUATION OF ERRORS IN THE EXACT CASE

In order to evaluate the errors we assume that one can exactly compute the values of φ and ψ at any point in \bar{D} . Consider

$$\begin{aligned}|x_{n+p} - x_n| &\leq |x_{n+p} - x_{n+p-1}| + \dots + |x_{n+1} - x_n| \\&\leq c_1 \left(h_1^{n+p-2} k_1^{n+p-2} + \dots + h_1^{n-1} k_1^{n-1} \right),\end{aligned}$$

whence, passing to limit as $p \rightarrow \infty$, one obtains

$$(3.1) \quad |\bar{x} - x_n| \leq c_1 \frac{h_1^{n-1} k_1^{n-1}}{1 - h_1 k_1}.$$

Analogously, we obtain for the second solution the following evaluation:

$$(3.2) \quad |\bar{y} - y_n| \leq \frac{c_1 h_1^n k_1^{n-1}}{1 - h_1 k_1}.$$

4. THE EVALUATION OF ERRORS IN THE APPROXIMATE CASE

We consider here that the values of the functions φ and ψ cannot be computed at the points in \bar{D} , but we have the possibility to compute the exact values of two functions φ_1 and ψ_1 which are defined on the domain \bar{D} , and the functions φ_1 and ψ_1 transform this domain in itself. We also assume that there exists a positive number δ such that

$$(4.1) \quad \begin{aligned}|\varphi(x, y) - \varphi_1(x, y)| &\leq \delta \\|\psi(x, y) - \psi_1(x, y)| &\leq \delta, \quad \text{for all } (x, y) \in D.\end{aligned}$$

Instead of the system (1) we consider now an approximate one

$$(4.2) \quad \begin{aligned}x^* &= \varphi_1(x^*, y^*) \\y^* &= \psi_1(x^*, y^*).\end{aligned}$$

Regarding the functions φ_1 and ψ_1 we have assumed just that they obey (4.1), and we do not know whether the Gauss-Seidel method applied to it converges. Also, if we intend to stop the iterations when

$$(4.3) \quad \begin{aligned} |x_{n+1}^* - x_n^*| &\leq \varepsilon \\ |y_{n+1}^* - y_n^*| &\leq \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

we have no guarantee that for arbitrary ε the inequalities (4.3) can be satisfied. Indeed, considering the iterations

$$\begin{aligned} x_{n+1}^* &= \varphi_1(x_n^*, y_n^*) \\ y_{n+1}^* &= \psi_1(x_{n+1}^*, y_n^*). \end{aligned}$$

We have

$$|x_{n+1}^* - x_n^*| \leq \alpha |x_n^* - x_{n-1}^*| + \beta |y_n^* - y_{n-1}^*| + 2\delta$$

and

$$|y_{n+1}^* - y_n^*| \leq a |x_{n+1}^* - x_n^*| + b |y_n^* - y_{n-1}^*| + 2\delta.$$

If we take into account Lemma 5 we get

$$(4.4) \quad \begin{aligned} |x_{n+1}^* - x_n^*| &\leq c_1 h_1^{n-1} k_1^{n-1} + \frac{2\delta}{1-h_1 k_1} \\ |y_{n+1}^* - y_n^*| &\leq c_1 h_1^n k_1^{n-1} + \frac{2\delta h_1}{1-h_1 k_1}, \end{aligned}$$

whence it follows that if we choose ε such that

$$(4.5) \quad \varepsilon > \max \left\{ \frac{2\delta}{1-h_1 k_1}, \frac{2\delta h_1}{1-h_1 k_1} \right\},$$

at a certain step n' the inequalities (4.3) will be satisfied. Let now ε be chosen as in (4.5); then there exists n' such that

$$(4.6) \quad \begin{aligned} |x_{n'+1}^* - x_{n'}^*| &\leq \varepsilon \\ |y_{n'+1}^* - y_{n'}^*| &\leq \varepsilon; \end{aligned}$$

we have

$$|\bar{x} - x_{n'+1}^*| \leq \alpha |\bar{x} - x_{n'}^*| + \beta |y - y_n^*| + \delta.$$

If we take into account that for the system (1.3) to admit a solution (h_1, k_1) for which

$$0 \leq h_1 k_1 \leq q < 1,$$

it is necessary that $\alpha < 1$ and $b < 1$. Then we have

$$(4.7) \quad |\bar{x} - x_{n'+1}^*| \leq \frac{\alpha\varepsilon + \delta + \beta(\bar{y} - y_{n'}^*)}{1 - \alpha}.$$

Analogously, we find for $|\bar{y} - y_{n'+1}^*|$ the following evaluation

$$(4.8) \quad |\bar{y} - y_{n'+1}^*| \leq \frac{b\varepsilon + \delta + a|\bar{x} - x_{n'+1}^*|}{1 - b}.$$

From (4.7) and (4.8) we obtain

$$(4.9) \quad |\bar{x} - x_{n'+1}^*| \leq \frac{(\alpha + \beta)\varepsilon + \delta}{1 - \alpha} + \frac{\beta}{1 - \alpha} |\bar{y} - y_{n'+1}^*|$$

$$|\bar{y} - y_{n'+1}^*| \leq \frac{b\varepsilon + \delta}{1 - b} + \frac{a}{1 - b} |\bar{x} - x_{n'+1}^*|.$$

From the above inequalities, taking into account (1.5) we deduce

$$(4.10) \quad |\bar{x} - x_{n'+1}^*| \leq \frac{(1-b)[(\alpha + \beta)\varepsilon + \delta] + \beta(b\varepsilon + \delta)}{(1-\alpha)(1-b) - \beta a}$$

$$|\bar{y} - y_{n'+1}^*| \leq \frac{(1-\alpha)[b\varepsilon + \delta] + a[(\alpha + \beta)\varepsilon + \delta]}{(1-\alpha)(1-b) - \beta a}.$$

5. A GENERALIZATION

Consider now a system of k equations in k unknowns of the form

$$(5.1) \quad x_i = \varphi_i(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, k.$$

Regarding the functions φ_i , $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$, we consider assumptions similar to those considered for the system (1):

- a') The functions φ_i , $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$, transform the domain \bar{D} , of the space E_k , in itself;
- b') There exists a matrix with nonnegative constants, $\beta = (\beta_i^j)$, $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, k$, such that

$$|\varphi_i(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k) - \varphi_i(x'_1, x'_2, \dots, x'_k)| \leq \sum_{j=1}^k \beta_i^j |x_j - x'_j|, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, k$$

for all (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k) and x'_1, x'_2, \dots, x'_k are two points from \bar{D} .

We obtain the following result.

THEOREM 8. *If the functions φ_i , $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$, satisfy conditions a'), b') and the elements of the matrix β are such that the system*

$$\beta_1^1 + \beta_2^1 h_1 + \dots + \beta_k^1 h_1 h_2 \dots h_{k-1} = h_1 h_2 \dots h_k$$

.....

$$\beta_1^i h_i h_{i+1} \dots h_k + \beta_2^i h_1 h_i \dots h_k + \dots + \beta_i^i + \beta_{i+1}^i h_i + \dots + \beta_k^i h_i h_{i+1} \dots h_{k-1} = h_1 h_2 \dots h_k$$

.....

$$\beta_1^k h_k + \beta_2^k h_1 h_k + \dots + \beta_{k-1}^k h_1 h_2 \dots h_{k-2} h_k + \beta_k^k = h_1 h_2 \dots h_k$$

is compatible and has a solution $(h_1^0, h_2^0, \dots, h_k^0)$, $h_i \geq 0$ $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ for which

$$0 \leq h_1^0 h_2^0 \dots h_k^0 \leq q < 1,$$

then the system (5.1) has a unique solution in the domain \bar{D} , which can be obtained from the iterations

$$x_i^{(n)} = \varphi_i \left(x_1^{(n)}, x_2^{(n)}, \dots, x_{i-1}^{(n)}, x_i^{n-1}, \dots, -x_k^{n-1} \right), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, k; \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots,$$

for any initial approximation $(x_1^0, x_2^0, \dots, x_k^0) \in D$.

The proof of this result is obtained analogously to the proof of Theorem 6.

Received by the editors on March 23, 1967.

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