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Subject: Re: Sparse matrix algorithms

Posted by [the\\_cacc](#) on Mon, 03 Dec 2001 14:56:19 GMT

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> did they say when a new edition can be expected?

No, but I didn't ask. Email [nr@nr.com](mailto:nr@nr.com) and they'll write back promptly (in my experience).

> ... Some of my matrices are  
> extremely skinny, with an extremely large "long" dimension (on  
> the order of millions), and I have to compute the matrix  
> multiply transpose(A)##A which in the sparse algorithm loops  
> over the smaller dimension. Filling this out might be costly  
> (timewise) for me, though I'm just speculating.

I think you may be right - storing millions of zeros does defeat the purpose. In my case,  $10^4$  zeros is not such a burden. From what you say it seems you may be attempting to solve  $Ax = b$  by using  $A^T A x = A^T b$ . If so, don't forget that matrix algebra is associative so you can do  $A^T (Ax)$  rather than  $(A^T A)x$  and save some CPU cycles.

> ...the sparse  
> bi-conjugate gradient solver implemented (since they could rip  
> it directly out of NR).  
>

I found this to be slower than the conjugate gradient solver, which you'll have to implement yourself (v. easy by the way) and which is guaranteed to converge for the problem  $A^T A x = A^T b$ .

Ciao.

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