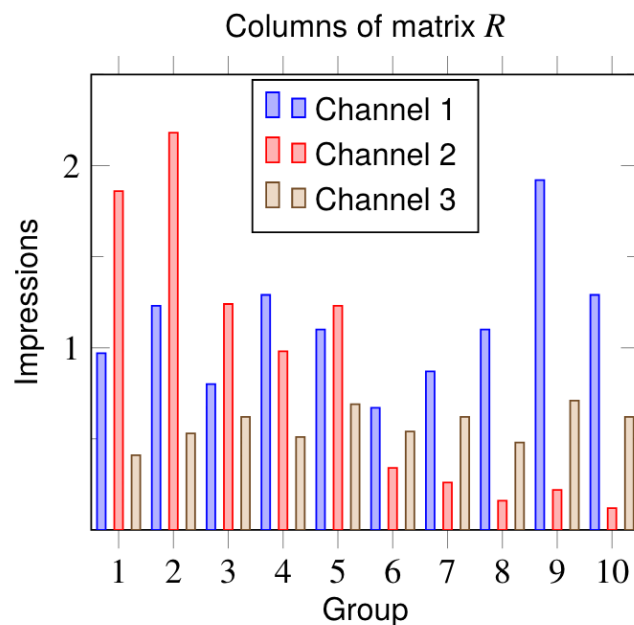


# 11 Least Squares



Unit 1: Vectors, Book ILA Ch. 1-5

Unit 2: Matrices, Book ILA Ch. 6-11 + Book IMC Ch. 2

Unit 3: Least Squares, Book ILA Ch. 12-14

- **11 Least Squares**
- 12 Least Squares Data Fitting
- 13 Least Squares Classification

## Outline: 11 Least Squares

- [Least Square Problem](#)
- [Solution of Least Square Problem](#)

- [Examples](#)

## Survey Results

Videos summarizing some of the concepts of this class:

- <https://www.3blue1brown.com/topics/linear-algebra>

Running the code from the lectures by clicking on Binder:

- <https://github.com/bioshape-lab/ece3>

Final preparation:

- Exercises from HW and class
- Review session with exercises
- Mock exam

## Least Squares Problem

**Definition:** Let be given a  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$  and  $m$ -vector  $b$ . The least squares problem is the problem of choosing an  $n$ -vector  $x$  to minimize:

$$\|Ax - b\|^2.$$

- $\|Ax - b\|^2$  is called the objective function,
- If  $\hat{x}$  is a solution of the linear equation  $Ax = b$ , then  $\hat{x}$  is a solution of the least square problem. The converse is not true.
- $\hat{x}$  is a solution of least squares problem if  $\|A\hat{x} - b\|^2 \leq \|Ax - b\|^2$  for any other  $n$ -vector  $x$ .

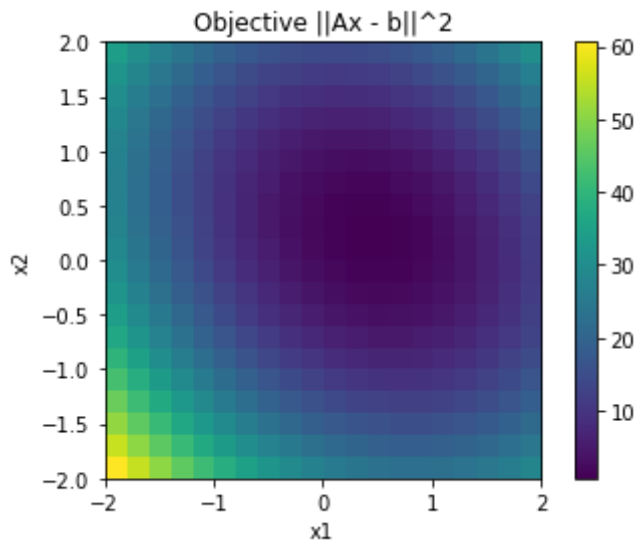
**Exercise:** Consider the matrix  $A$  and vector  $b$  as:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Write the objective function associated to the least square problem defined by  $A$  and  $b$  in terms of entries of  $x$ .

In [8]:

```
# don't worry about this code
import numpy as np; import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
objective = lambda x : (2 * x[0] - 1) ** 2 + (- x[0] + x[1]) ** 2 + (2 * x[1] +
n_points, xmin, xmax, ymin, ymax = 20, -2, 2, -2, 2
x = np.arange(xmin, xmax, (xmax-xmin)/(n_points)); y = np.arange(ymin, ymax, (ym
for i in range(n_points):
    for j in range(n_points):
        Z[i, j] = objective(xx[i, j])
plt.imshow(Z, extent=[xmin, xmax, ymin, ymax]); plt.colorbar(); plt.xlabel("x1")
```



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## Least Square Solution

### Proposition:

- Consider a least square problem  $\|Ax - b\|^2$  for matrix  $A$  and vector  $b$ .
- Assume that  $A$  has linearly independent columns.

Then, there is a unique solution  $\hat{x}$  to the least square problem, defined as:

$$\hat{x} = (A^T A)^{-1} A^T b = A^\dagger b.$$

- $A^\dagger = (A^T A)^{-1} A^T$  is called the pseudo-inverse of  $A$ .

[Exercise](#) (hard): Using the fact that:

$$\|a + b\|^2 = \|a\|^2 + \|b\|^2 + 2a^T b,$$

prove that  $\hat{x}$  defined in the previous slide is indeed a solution.

- Hint: Show that for any other  $n$ -vector  $x$ , we have:

$$\|Ax - b\|^2 \geq \|A\hat{x} - b\|^2.$$

- Hint 2: You will need to show that  $A^T(A\hat{x} - b) = 0$ .

[In Python](#), we use:

- the function `np.linalg.lstsq` : returns the solution as the first element of the returned tuple
- the formula of the solution using transpose  $\cdot T$  , inverse and matrix multiplication.

In [11]:

```
A = np.array([[2, 0], [-1, 1], [0, 2]]); b = np.array([1, 0, -1]); sol1 = np.lin
sol2 = np.linalg.lstsq(A, b); print(sol2)
```

```
[ 0.33333333 -0.33333333]
(array([ 0.33333333, -0.33333333]), array([0.66666667]), 2, array([2.44948974,
2.         ]))
/var/folders/dz/k1hb2xr94k558sjs416njdp40000gn/T/ipykernel_86527/614031835.py:2:
FutureWarning: `rcond` parameter will change to the default of machine precision
times ``max(M, N)`` where M and N are the input matrix dimensions.
To use the future default and silence this warning we advise to pass `rcond=None`
, to keep using the old, explicitly pass `rcond=-1`.
sol2 = np.linalg.lstsq(A, b); print(sol2)
```

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## Political Advertising



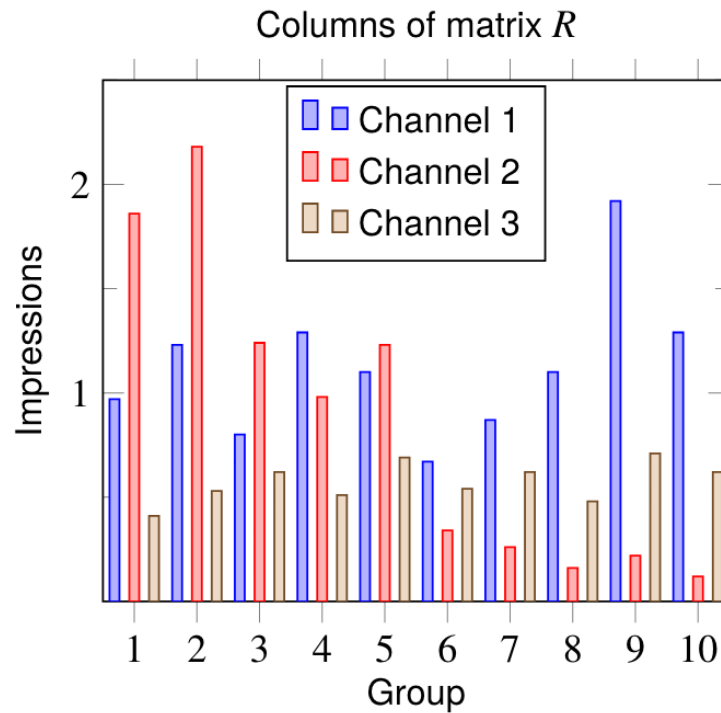
## Example: Political Advertising

- A company wants to advertize to potential voters.
  - $m$  demographics groups,  $n$  advertising channels
  - $v^{target}$  is  $m$ -vector of target views ("impressions") per group
  - $s$  is  $n$ -vector of spending per channel

- $R$  is  $m \times n$  matrix of demographic reach of channels:
  - $R_{ij}$  is number of views per dollar spent (in 1000/\$)
- How much should be spent to be as close as possible to  $v^{target}$ ?

**Example:** What is the optimal spending  $\hat{s}$ ?

- $m = 10$  groups and  $n = 3$  channels,
- $v^{target} = 1000.1_m$ .



In [4]:

```
import numpy as np

R = np.array([
    [0.97, 1.86, 0.41],
    [1.23, 2.18, 0.53],
    [0.8, 1.24, 0.62],
    [1.29, 0.98, 0.51],
    [1.1, 1.23, 0.69],
    [0.67, 0.34, 0.54],
    [0.87, 0.26, 0.62],
    [1.1, 0.16, 0.48],
    [1.92, 0.22, 0.71],
    [1.29, 0.12, 0.62]
])
```

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In [ ]: