

# Linear Systems

→ A **linear equation** is one where all unknowns are polynomials of order-1

$$a_1 x_1 + a_2 x_2 + \dots + a_n x_n = b$$

$b, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  known  
 $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  unknown

A **nonlinear equation** is one where at least one unknown is not polynomial of order-1

$$a_1 x_1 + a_2 \sin(x_2) + \dots + a_n x_n = b$$

A **system of linear equations** are many linear equations sharing unknowns

$$\begin{aligned} a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + a_{13}x_3 &= b_1 \\ 0x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + a_{23}x_3 &= b_2 \\ 0x_1 + 0x_2 + a_{33}x_3 &= b_3 \end{aligned}$$

$a_{ij}, b_i$  known,  $x_i$  unknown

Write as

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ 0 & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ 0 & 0 & a_{33} \end{bmatrix}}_{\underline{A}} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix}}_{\underline{x}} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix}}_{\underline{b}} \in \text{A linear system}$$

Recall that if  $\underline{A}^{-1}$  exists ( $\underline{A}\underline{A}^{-1} = \underline{A}^{-1}\underline{A} = \underline{I}$ )  
then given  $\underline{Ax} = \underline{b}$ ,  $\underline{x} = \underline{A}^{-1}\underline{b}$

But  $A^{-1}$  not existing does not mean there is no  $\underline{x}$  such that  $A\underline{x} = \underline{b}$

Goal: Given  $A$  &  $\underline{b}$  is there an  $\underline{x}$  such that  $A\underline{x} = \underline{b}$

Need: (1) Existence: Does  $\underline{x}$  exist?

(2) Uniqueness: If  $\underline{x}$  exists is it unique?

(3) Methods to obtain  $\underline{x}$ .

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Existence & Uniqueness

Given the columns of  $A$ , can I take a linear combination that gives  $\underline{b}$ ?

$$\underline{a}_1 x_1 + \underline{a}_2 x_2 + \dots + \underline{a}_n x_n = \underline{b}$$

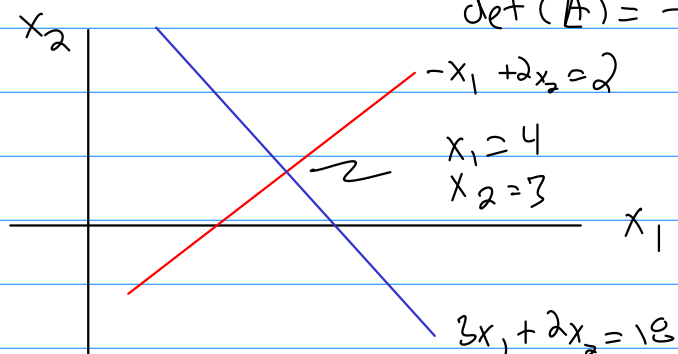
Look at

$$\begin{aligned} a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 &= b_1 \\ a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 &= b_2 \end{aligned} \quad \Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

↑  
Linear means straight lines!

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \begin{aligned} -x_1 + 2x_2 &= 2 \\ 3x_1 + 2x_2 &= 18 \end{aligned} \Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 2 \\ 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 18 \end{bmatrix}$$

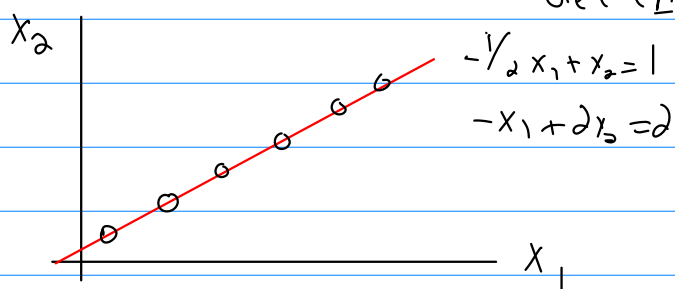
$$\det(A) = -8 \Rightarrow A^{-1} \text{ exists, } \underline{x} = A^{-1} \underline{b}$$



$$\underline{x} = A^{-1} \underline{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad \begin{aligned} -\frac{1}{2}x_1 + x_2 &= 1 \\ -x_1 + 2x_2 &= 2 \end{aligned} \Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{2} & 1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \underline{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

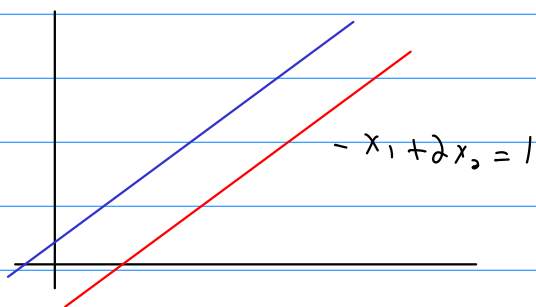
$$\det(A) = 0 \Rightarrow A^{-1} \text{ does not exist}$$



Infinite # of solutions!

$$\textcircled{3} \quad \begin{aligned} -\frac{1}{2}x_1 + x_2 &= 1 \\ -x_1 + 2x_2 &= 1 \end{aligned} \Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{2} & 1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \underline{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-\frac{1}{2}x_1 + x_2 = 1 \quad \det(A) = 0 \Rightarrow A^{-1} \text{ does not exist}$$



No crossing  $\Rightarrow$  no solutions

$\Rightarrow$  Only possibilities for  $Ax=b$

(1)  $x$  exists & is unique

(2)  $x$  exists & is not unique (infinite # of  $x$ )

(3)  $x$  does not exist

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### Gaussian Elimination

Gaussian Elimination: A method to solve linear systems

Also called row reduction

Write  $Ax=b$  as an augmented matrix:  $[A : b]$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} \underline{x} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} : b_1 \\ a_{21} & a_{22} : b_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

You can:

1) Swap rows

2) multiply a row by a non-zero scalar

3) Add one row to another

2) & 3) are usually combined.

Goal: Get  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & c : d \\ \textcircled{0} & 1 : e \end{bmatrix}$  or  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 : f \\ \textcircled{0} & 1 : g \end{bmatrix}$

$$x_2 = e \quad x_1 = d - ec$$

$$x_1 = f \quad x_2 = g$$

$$\text{ex.) } \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & -1 \\ -3 & -1 & 2 \\ -2 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ -11 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} L_1 \\ L_2 \\ L_3 \end{array} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & -1 & : & 8 \\ -3 & -1 & 2 & : & -11 \\ -2 & 1 & 2 & : & -3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$L_1 + L_3 \rightarrow L_3 : \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & -1 & : & 8 \\ -3 & -1 & 2 & : & -11 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & : & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{3}{2}L_1 + L_2 \rightarrow L_2 : \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & -1 & : & 8 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & : & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & : & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-4L_2 + L_3 \rightarrow L_3 : \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & -1 & : & 8 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & : & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & : & 1 \end{bmatrix} \leftarrow$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \frac{1}{2}L_1 \rightarrow L_1 \\ 2L_2 \rightarrow L_2 \\ -1L_3 \rightarrow L_3 \end{array} : \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & : & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & : & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & : & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow x_3 &= -1 \\ x_2 + x_3 &= 2 \Rightarrow x_2 = 3 \\ x_1 + \frac{1}{2}x_2 - \frac{1}{2}x_3 &= 4 \Rightarrow x_1 = 2 \end{aligned} \quad \Rightarrow \underline{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

This matrix is in row echelon form

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b & c & : & g \\ 0 & d & e & : & h \\ 0 & 0 & f & : & i \end{bmatrix}$$

↑  
pivots

The leading # in each row is a pivot

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b & c & : & g \\ 0 & 0 & d & : & h \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & : & i \end{bmatrix}$$

↑  
pivots

A matrix is in Reduced Row Echelon Form (rref) if:

- 1) It is in row echelon form
- 2) each pivot is equal to one
- 3) The only non-zero in columns containing a pivot is that pivot.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 9 & : & 4 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 & : & 10 \\ 0 & -4 & -4 & : & -40 \end{bmatrix}$$

Not in row echelon form

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 9 & : & 4 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 & : & 10 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & : & -20 \end{bmatrix}$$

2 pivots in row echelon form

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 9 & : & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & : & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & : & -20 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 5 & -16 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -20 \end{array} \right] \quad \begin{array}{l} 2 \text{ pivots} \\ \text{rref} \end{array}$$

$\uparrow \quad \uparrow$

The rref tells how many solutions there are to  $Ax = b$

One Solution: The # of pivots equals the number of rows & unknowns (columns)  
 $\Rightarrow A$  must be Square

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & a \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & b \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & c \end{array} \right] \Rightarrow \underline{x} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{ex. 1)} \quad \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 2 & 4 & 8 & 8 \\ 3 & 5 & 12 & 10 \end{array} \right] \Rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \end{array} \right]$$

$\infty$ -Solutions: The # of pivots is less than the # of rows or columns and each row is consistent / possible

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & a & 0 & b \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & c \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] \quad \begin{array}{l} 2 \text{ pivots} \\ x_3 = c \\ x_1 = b - ax_2 \\ x_2 = ? \end{array}$$

$x_1 \quad x_2 \quad x_3$

The last row is true no matter the value of  $x_2$ !  
 $0x_1 + 0x_2 + 0x_3 = 0$

$x_2$  is a **free variable**  $\Rightarrow$  it can be any number!

Once  $x_2$  is chosen then you have  $x_1$  &  $x_3$ ,  
which are **fixed variables**

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 3 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{ref}} \begin{bmatrix} \textcircled{1} & 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & \textcircled{1} & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} x_1, x_2 \rightarrow \text{fixed} \\ x_3 \rightarrow \text{free} \end{array}$$

$$\text{let } x_3 = 1 \Rightarrow \begin{array}{l} x_2 + 2x_3 = 2 \Rightarrow x_2 = 0 \\ x_1 + x_3 = 3 \Rightarrow x_1 = 2 \end{array}$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{check: } \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2+3 \\ 2 \\ 2+1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Note:  $x_2 = -1$  is also valid  
 $x_3 = 0$



zero solutions: # of pivots is less than # of rows or columns with at least one inconsistent row.

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & a & 0 & b \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & c \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow 0x_1 + 0x_2 + 0x_3 = 1$$

↑  
not possible!

$\Rightarrow Ax = b$  has no solution!

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RREF, Inverse, Determinants

let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$

You can get the inv of any matrix.

Recall that if  $m=n$  &  $\det(A) \neq 0$ , then  $A^{-1}$  exists

If  $A^{-1}$  exists then there is a unique  $x$

such that  $Ax = b \Rightarrow x = A^{-1}b$

You can not have 2 inverses!

Now recall pivots

$\rightarrow$  # pivots = # rows & # columns (square)  $\rightarrow$  one solution

# pivots  $\neq$  # rows or # columns  $\rightarrow \infty$  or no solution

Start building the following theorem:

Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ . All of these statements are equivalent

①  $A$  is invertible ( $A^{-1}$  exists)

②  $\det(A) \neq 0$

③  $A$  has  $n$ -pivots in  $\text{ref}(A)$

④  $\text{ref}(A) = I$

⑤  $Ax = b$  has a unique solution for any  $b$

If any of these are true, then all are true.

If any is false, then all are false.

You do not know if you have 0 or  $\infty$   
solutions, if  $\det(A) = 0$  w/o knowing  
what  $b$  is,

# Gaussian Elimination Algorithm

Look at Gaussian elimination of

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_0 & b_0 & c_0 \\ d_0 & e_0 & f_0 \\ g_0 & h_0 & i_0 \end{bmatrix} \quad a_0 \rightarrow i_0 \text{ all non-zero}$$

$$\text{Step 1: } \begin{bmatrix} a_0 & b_0 & c_0 \\ d_0 & e_0 & f_0 \\ g_0 & h_0 & i_0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & b_0/a_0 & c_0/a_0 \\ d_0 & e_0 & f_0 \\ g_0 & h_0 & i_0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{Step 2: } \begin{bmatrix} 1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ d_0 & e_0 & f_0 \\ g_0 & h_0 & i_0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ 0 & (e_0 - b_1 d_0) & (f_0 - c_1 d_0) \\ g_0 & h_0 & i_0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{Step 3: } \begin{bmatrix} 1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ 0 & e_1 & f_1 \\ g_0 & h_0 & i_0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ 0 & e_1 & f_1 \\ 0 & h_0 - g_0 b_1 & i_0 - g_0 c_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{Step 4: } \begin{bmatrix} 1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ 0 & e_1 & f_1 \\ 0 & h_1 & i_1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ 0 & 1 & f_1/e_1 \\ 0 & h_1 & i_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{Step 5: } \begin{bmatrix} 1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ 0 & 1 & f_2 \\ 0 & h_1 & i_1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ 0 & 1 & f_2 \\ 0 & 0 & i_1 - h_1 f_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{Step 6: } \begin{bmatrix} 1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ 0 & 1 & f_2 \\ 0 & 0 & i_2 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & c_1 - b_1 f_2 \\ 0 & 1 & f_2 \\ 0 & 0 & i_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$7: \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & c_2 \\ 0 & 1 & f_2 \\ 0 & 0 & i_2 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & c_2 \\ 0 & 1 & f_2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$8 \& 9: \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & c_2 \\ 0 & 1 & f_2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

This will fail if the leading element of a row is zero.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 4 \\ -2 & -4 & -9 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & -2 & -7 \end{bmatrix}$$

To fix this, introduce *pivoting*

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & -2 & -7 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 2 & 9 \end{bmatrix} \quad i=2, j=2$$



$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 9 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

## General Algorithm

let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$

$i = 1, j = 1$     % Start at first row, first column

while  $i \leq m$  &  $j \leq n$     % iterate until either  $i$  or  $j$  exceed size

Select  $k \geq i$  that maximizes  $|A_{kj}|$     % Row with largest value  
% in same Column

Swap rows  $k$  &  $i$     % make pivot location largest value

if  $|A_{ij}| > 10^{-16}$     % Pivot might be zero  
     $a = A_{ij}$     % Store original pivot value  
    for  $k = [j:n]$     % normalize row  $i$   
         $A_{ik} = A_{ik} / a$   
    end

for  $k = [1:i-1 \ i+1:m]$     % other rows  
     $a = A_{kj}$     % original value in row  
    for  $l = [j:n]$     % other columns  
         $A_{kl} = A_{kl} - A_{il} a$   
    end

end

$i = i + 1, j = j + 1$

else

$j = j + 1$     % same row, next column

end

end

$$\begin{array}{c} \downarrow \\ \left[ \begin{array}{ccccc} 1 & 0 & a & b & c \\ 0 & \underline{0} & \overset{\text{red}}{1} & d & e \\ 0 & 0 & f & g & h \end{array} \right] \end{array}$$