

# Linear Algebra

Math 314 Fall 2025

Today's poll code:

K3NARW

Lecture 3

## Office hours

Mondays 5–6 pm

Wednesdays 2–3 pm

in Avery 339 (Dr. Grifo)

Tuesdays 11–noon

Thursdays 1–2 pm

in Avery 337 (Kara)

To do list:

- Webwork 1.2 due Friday Sep 5
- Webwork 1.3 due Tuesday Sep 9
- Webwork 2.1 due Tuesday Sep 9
- Webwork 2.2 due Friday Sep 12



Section 1.3  
discussed on Friday

# Math Department Majors Welcome Event

For Math and CAS Data Science Majors

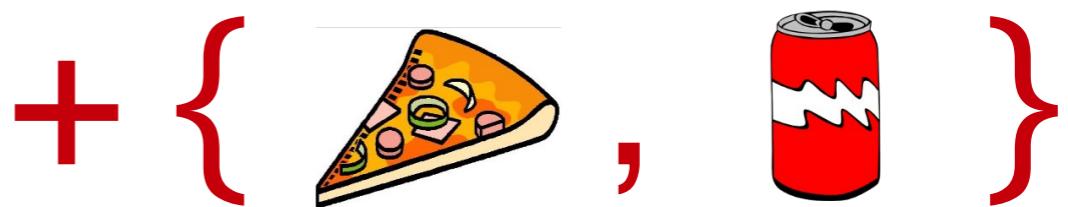
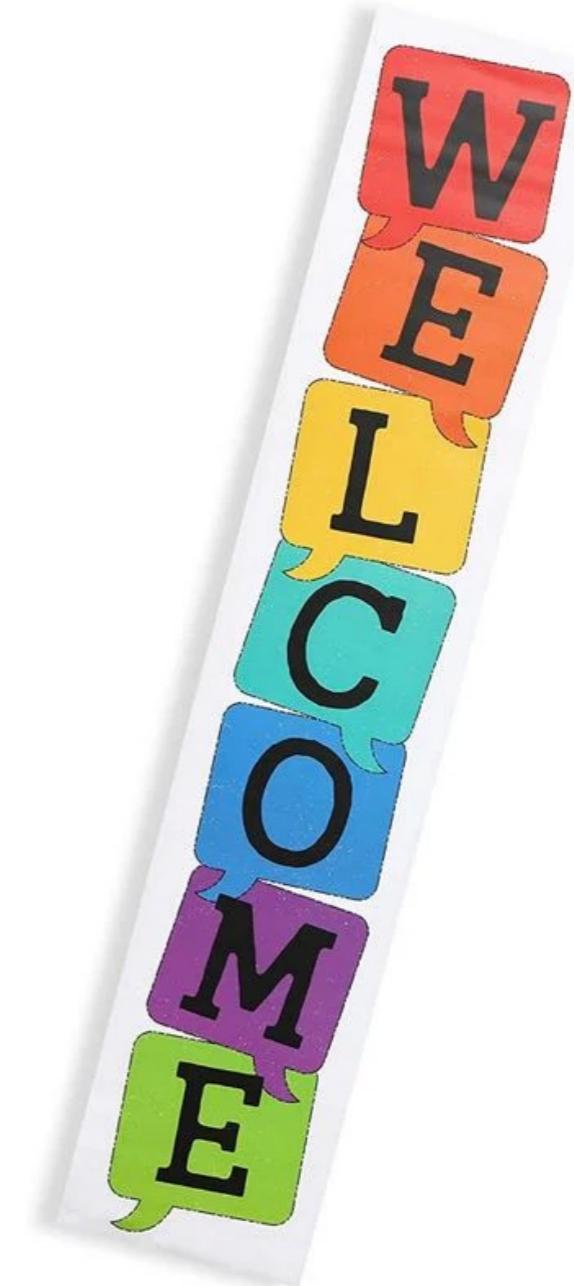
Calling all current and prospective Math and Data Science Majors! Join us to connect with fellow students, explore opportunities in mathematics, and kickstart your semester. Members of the math department advising team, the Math Club, and other organizations will share information about their programs.

Thursday, September 4, at 5:30 pm

in 115 Avery Hall

Refreshments served at 6:30 pm.

N<sup>√</sup> Math Club



# Directed Reading Program

The DRP pairs advanced undergraduates with a graduate student mentor to explore a mathematical topic outside the standard undergraduate curriculum. Students read weekly, meet regularly with their mentor to discuss the material, and conclude the semester by giving a short presentation to fellow DRP participants.

**Applications are due September 9**



<https://drp-unl.github.io/projects.html>

# Office hours

Mondays 5–6 pm and Wednesdays 2–3 pm  
in Avery 339 (Dr. Grifo)

Tuesdays 11–noon and Thursdays 1–2 pm  
in Avery 337 (Kara)

# **Quick Recap**

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} a_{11}x_1 + \cdots + a_{1n}x_n = b_1 \\ \vdots \\ a_{m1}x_1 + \cdots + a_{mn}x_n = b_m \end{array} \right. \quad \text{has}$$

coefficient matrix      constant vector

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & \cdots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_m \end{bmatrix}$$

$$[A|\mathbf{b}] = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & \cdots & a_{1n} & b_1 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & \cdots & a_{mn} & b_m \end{bmatrix}$$

augmented matrix

## reduced row echelon form

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccccccccc} \dots & 0 & 1 & \star & 0 & \star & 0 & \dots & 0 & \star & \star \\ \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & \star & 0 & \dots & 0 & \star & \star \\ \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 & \star & \star \\ \vdots & \dots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 & \star & \star \end{array} \right]$$

if there are zero rows  
they are at the bottom

$\star$  can be anything

In general, a system of linear equations may have:

- No solutions,
- Exactly one solution, or
- Infinitely many solutions.

But it can **never** have a finite number of solutions greater than one.

How do we read the solutions from the RREF?

Once we obtain the RREF of a system:

- Among the columns corresponding to  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ , columns without pivots correspond to free variables.
- Free variables can take arbitrary values.
- Each choice of free variables gives one solution to the system.

A system of linear equations is:

- **Consistent** if it has at least one solution.
- **Inconsistent** if it has no solutions.

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**Theorem.** A linear system of equations is inconsistent if and only if the reduced echelon form of its augmented matrix has a pivot in the last column.

A system of linear equations is:

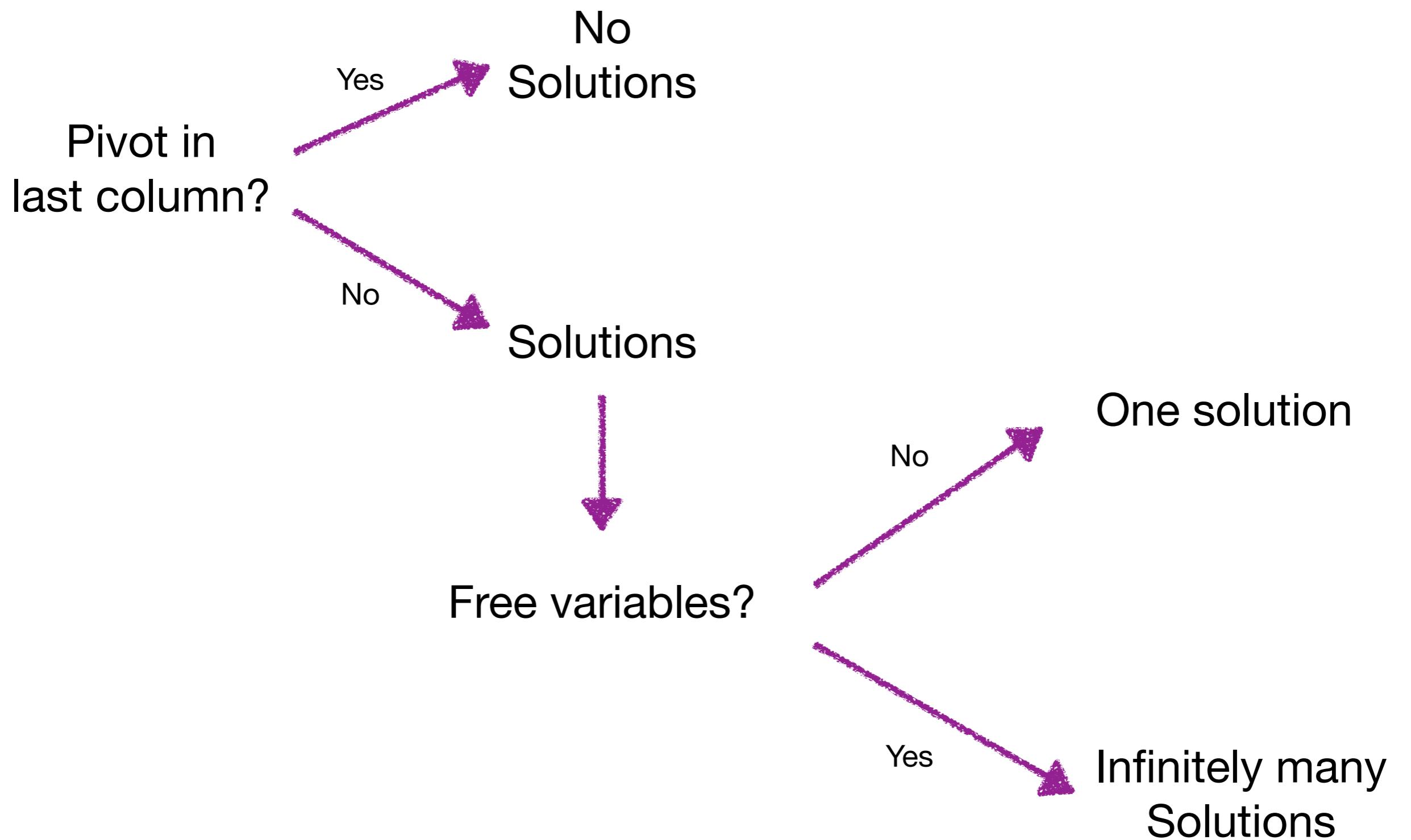
- **Consistent** if it has at least one solution.
- **Inconsistent** if it has no solutions.

**Theorem.** A linear system of equations is inconsistent if and only if the reduced echelon form of its augmented matrix has a pivot in the last column.

so

the system is inconsistent if the RREF has a row of the form

$$[0 \ 0 \ \cdots \ 0 \mid 1].$$



|                      |     |     |    |          |
|----------------------|-----|-----|----|----------|
| Pivot in last column | Yes | Yes | No | No       |
| Free variables       | Yes | No  | No | Yes      |
| Number of solutions  | 0   | 0   | 1  | $\infty$ |

pivot

free variable

augmented matrix

RREF

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

pivot

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infinitely many solutions

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

inconsistent  
no solution

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

consistent

no free vars!

pivot

free variable

augmented matrix

RREF

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

consistent

infinitely many solutions

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

inconsistent  
no solution

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

consistent  
one solution

no free vars!

Finding all solutions:

pivot

free variable

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

solution set:

Finding all solutions:

pivot

free variable

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

solution set:

$$\{(0, 3)\}$$

Finding all solutions:

pivot

free variable

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x_1 + 3x_2 = 5$$

Finding all solutions:

pivot

free variable

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x_1 + 3x_2 = 5 \Leftrightarrow x_1 = -3x_2 + 5$$

Finding all solutions:

pivot

free variable

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x_1 + 3x_2 = 5 \Leftrightarrow x_1 = -3x_2 + 5$$
$$x_2 = t$$

Finding all solutions:

pivot

free variable

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x_1 + 3x_2 = 5 \Leftrightarrow x_1 = -3x_2 + 5$$
$$x_2 = t$$

solution set:

$$\{(5 - 3t, t) \mid t \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

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K3NARW

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K3NARW

The linear system with augmented matrix

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

has    A. 0    B. 1    C. 2    D. infinitely many  
solutions

Today's poll code:

K3NARW

The linear system with augmented matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 7 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 & 0 & 9 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

has    A. 0    B. 1    C. 2    D. infinitely many  
solutions

Today's poll code:

K3NARW

The linear system with augmented matrix

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

- has    A. 0    B. 1    C. 2    D. infinitely many  
solutions

## reduced row echelon form

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if there are zero rows  
they are at the bottom

$\star$  can be anything

# **Chapter 2**

vector = matrix with only one column

$$v = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{bmatrix}$$

vector = matrix with only one column

$$v = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{bmatrix}$$

first component  
nth component

vector = matrix with only one column

$$v = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{bmatrix}$$

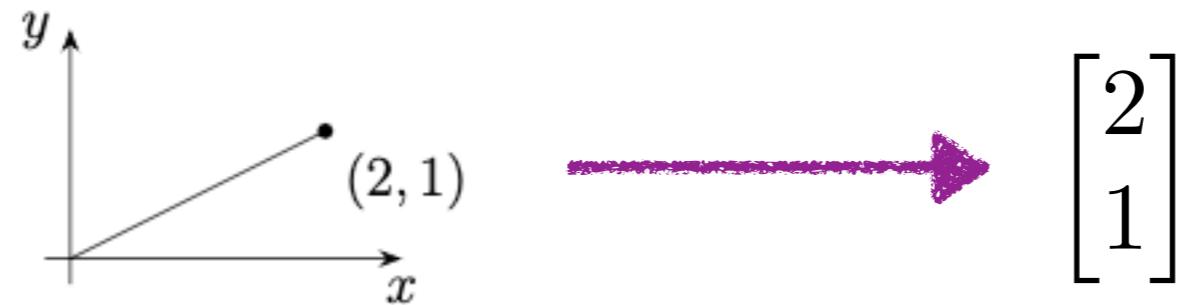
first component  
nth component

$\mathbb{R}^n$  = set of all vectors with  $n$  components

$\mathbb{R}^2 =$  2-dimensional plane



$\mathbb{R}^2 =$  2-dimensional plane

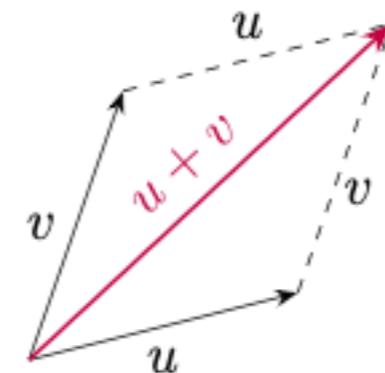


In  $\mathbb{R}^n$ :

$$\overrightarrow{AB} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 - a_1 \\ \vdots \\ b_n - a_n \end{bmatrix} \quad A = (a_1, \dots, a_n) \quad B = (b_1, \dots, b_n)$$

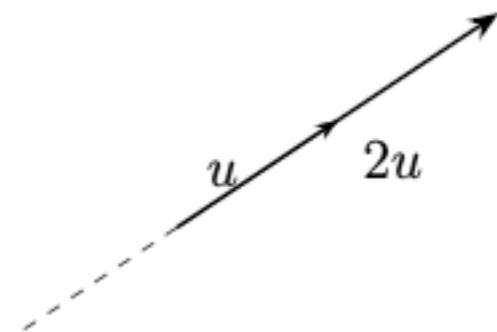
We can add vectors:

$$\begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ \vdots \\ u_n \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 + v_1 \\ \vdots \\ u_n + v_n \end{bmatrix}$$



We can multiply a scalar by a vector:

$$c \cdot \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ \vdots \\ u_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} c u_1 \\ \vdots \\ c u_n \end{bmatrix}$$



Example:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 10 \\ 10 \end{bmatrix}$$

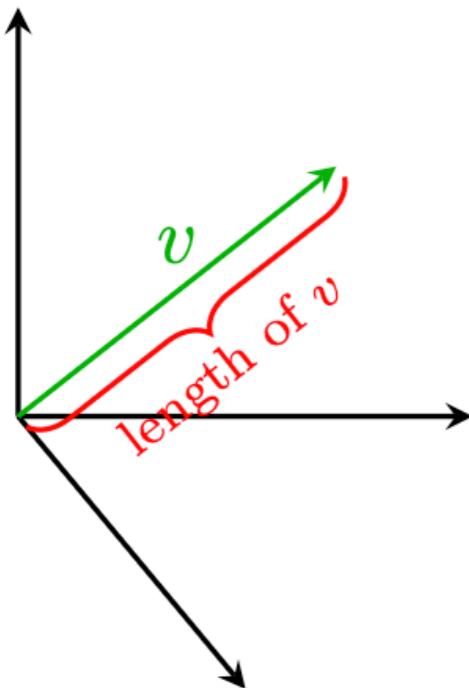
$$2 \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

For all vectors  $u, v, w \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and scalars  $c, d$ :

1.  $u + v = v + u$
2.  $(u + v) + w = u + (v + w)$
3.  $u + 0 = 0 + u = u$
4.  $u + (-u) = -u + u = 0$
5.  $c(u + v) = cu + cv$
6.  $(c + d)u = cu + du$
7.  $c(du) = (cd)u$
8.  $1u = u$

$v$  vector in  $\mathbb{R}^n$

The **length** or **norm** of  $v$  is the nonnegative real number



$$\|v\| := \sqrt{v_1^2 + \cdots + v_n^2}.$$

If  $v$  is a vector in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and  $c$  is any scalar

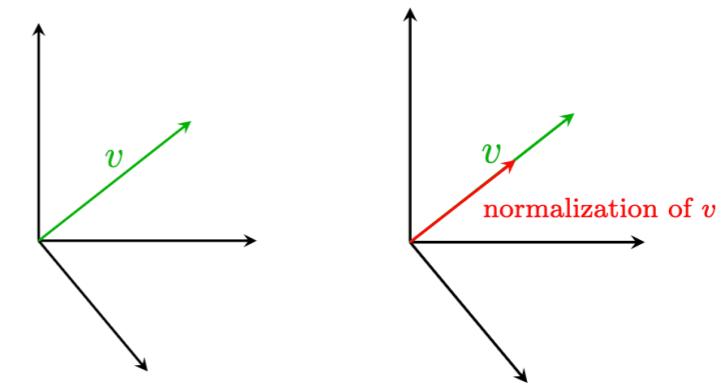
$$\|cv\| = |c| \cdot \|v\|$$

unit vector = vector with length 1

$v \neq 0$

**normalization** of  $v$  =  $\frac{v}{\|v\|}$

= the unit vector  
with same direction as  $v$



$i$ th standard vector  
in  $\mathbb{R}^n$

$$\mathbf{e}_i = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{red arrow}} \text{position } i$$

standard basis for  $\mathbb{R}^n$ :  $\mathbf{e}_1, \dots, \mathbf{e}_n$

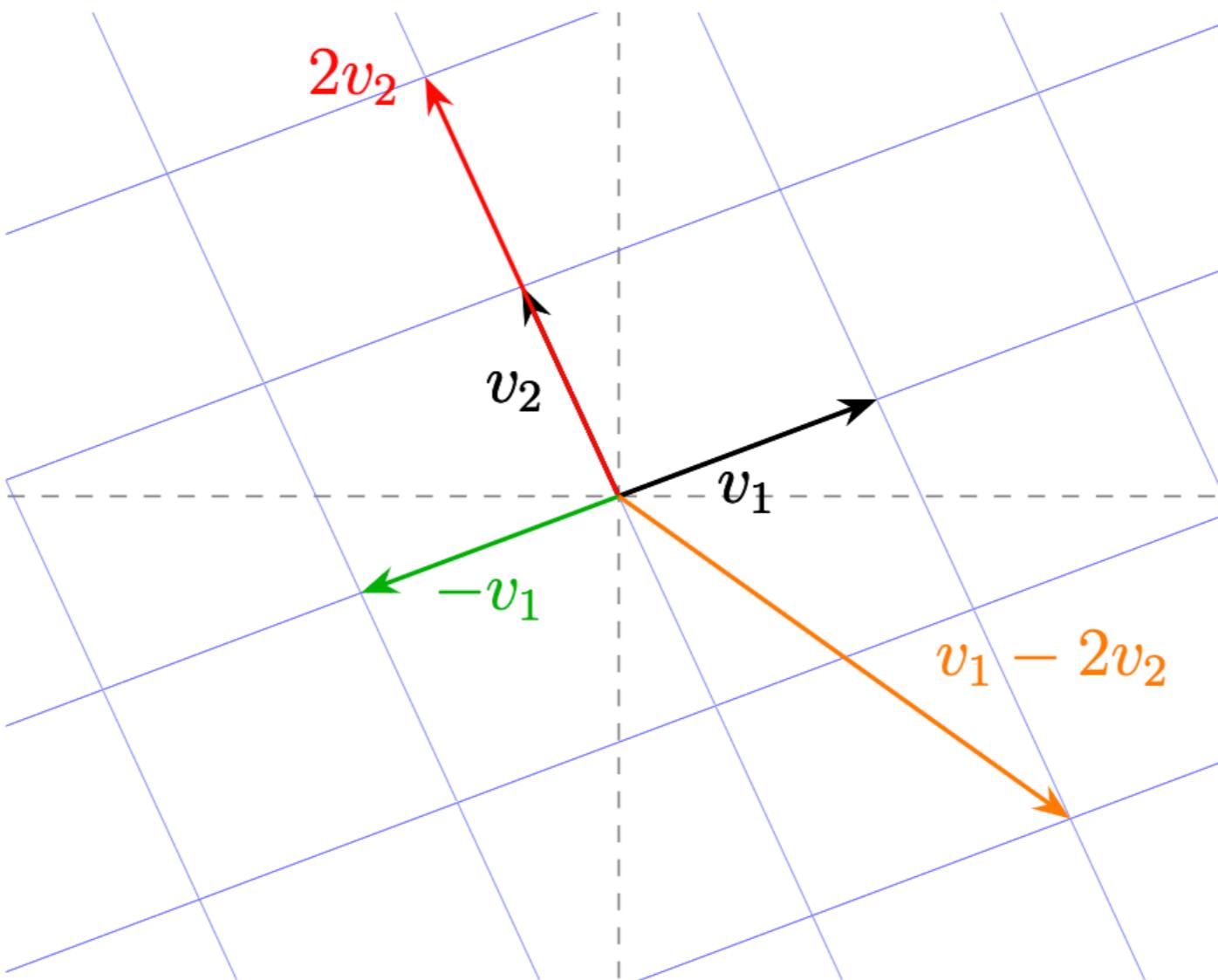
in  $\mathbb{R}^3$   
we sometimes  
write

$$\mathbf{i} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{e}_1 \quad \mathbf{j} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{e}_2 \quad \mathbf{k} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{e}_3$$

Given vectors  $v_1, \dots, v_p$  and scalars  $c_1, \dots, c_p$ , the vector

$$c_1 v_1 + \cdots + c_p v_p$$

is a **linear combination** of  $v_1, \dots, v_p$  with coefficients  $c_1, \dots, c_p$ .



Any point on the plane determined by  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  is a linear combination of  $v_1$  and  $v_2$ .

Question:

Is  $\begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 4 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}$  a linear combination of  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$ ?

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Equivalently:

Does the system  $x_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 4 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}$  have a solution?

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$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 7 \\ -2 & 5 & 4 \\ -5 & 6 & -3 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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No pivots in the last column  
system is consistent

Answer: yes.

Let  $v_1, \dots, v_p$  be vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

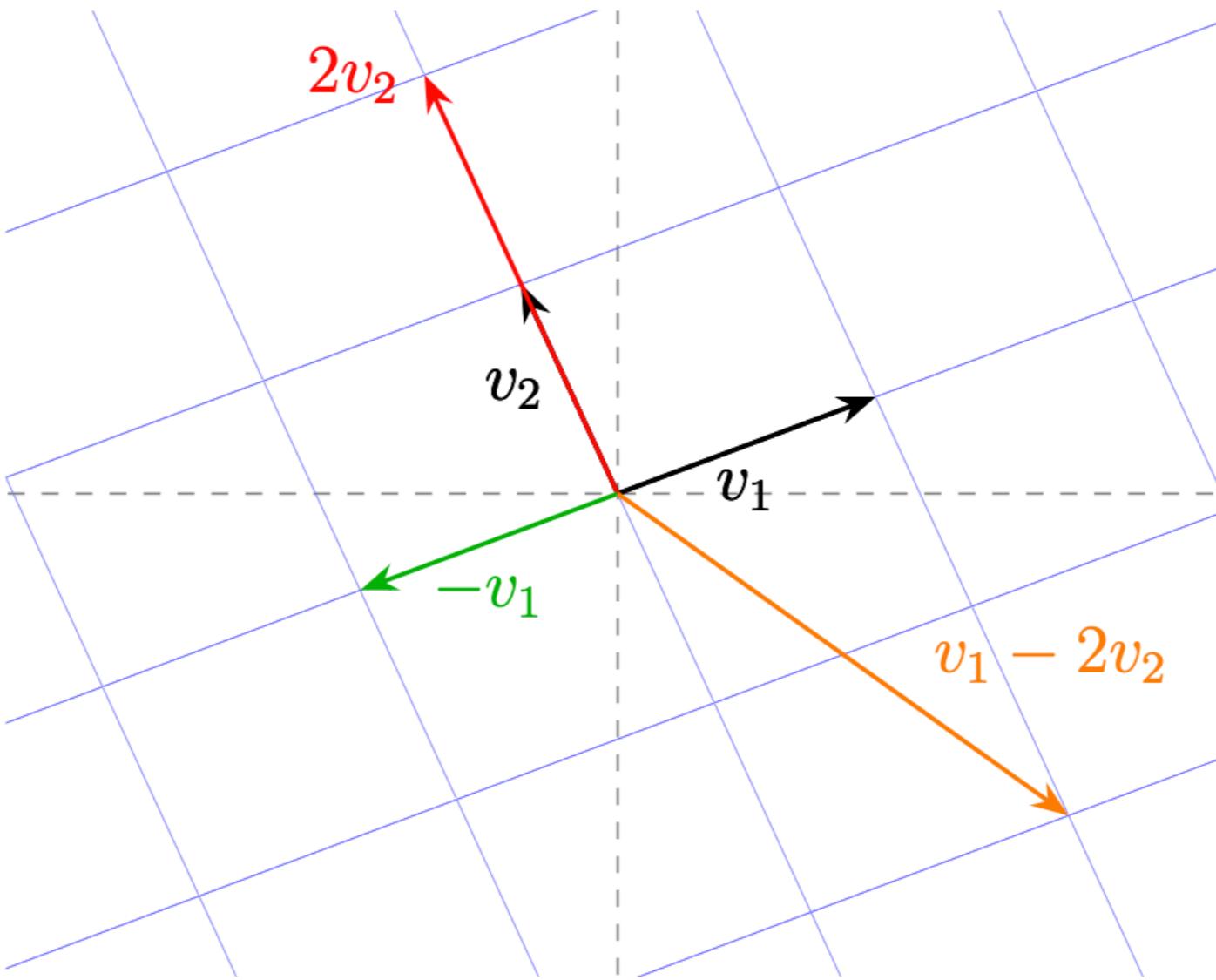
**span** of  $v_1, \dots, v_p$  = set of all linear combinations of  $v_1, \dots, v_p$

$$\text{span}\{v_1, \dots, v_p\} = \{c_1v_1 + \dots + c_nv_n \mid c_i \in \mathbb{R}\}.$$

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$$\text{span}\{v_1, \dots, v_p\} = \{c_1v_1 + \dots + c_nv_n \mid c_i \in \mathbb{R}\}.$$



$\text{span}(\{v_1, v_2\})$  = plane determined by  $v_1$  and  $v_2$

if  $v_1 \neq 0$   
and  $v_2 \neq 0$

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**span** of  $v_1, \dots, v_p$  = set of all linear combinations of  $v_1, \dots, v_p$

$$\text{span}\{v_1, \dots, v_p\} = \{c_1v_1 + \dots + c_nv_n \mid c_i \in \mathbb{R}\}.$$

$\text{span}(\{v_1\})$  = line determined by  $v_1$

if  $v_1 \neq 0$

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$$\text{span}\left\{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}\right\} =$$

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$$\text{span}\{v_1, \dots, v_p\} = \{c_1v_1 + \dots + c_nv_n \mid c_i \in \mathbb{R}\}.$$

$$\text{span}\left\{\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}\right\} = \left\{\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}\right\}$$

$$\text{span}\left\{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}\right\} = \left\{\begin{bmatrix} a \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} : a \text{ any value}\right\}$$

Question:

Is  $\begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 4 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}$  in  $\text{span}\left\{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}\right\}$ ?

Equivalently:

Does the system  $x_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 4 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}$  have a solution?

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No pivots in the last column

system is consistent

Answer: yes.

Today's poll code:

K3NARW

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Fact:  $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 6 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & 9 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$

Is  $\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix}$  in  $\text{span}\left\{\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}\right\}$ ?

- A. Yes                      B. No

Today's poll code:

K3NARW

What is  $\text{span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ ?

A.  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a \\ a \end{bmatrix} : a \text{ is any value} \right\}$

B.  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$

C.  $\mathbb{R}^2$

Question:

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No pivots in the last column  
system is consistent  
Answer: yes.

Solution set:

$$\{(3, 2)\}$$

$$3 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix} + 2 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 4 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

# Math Department Majors Welcome Event

For Math and CAS Data Science Majors

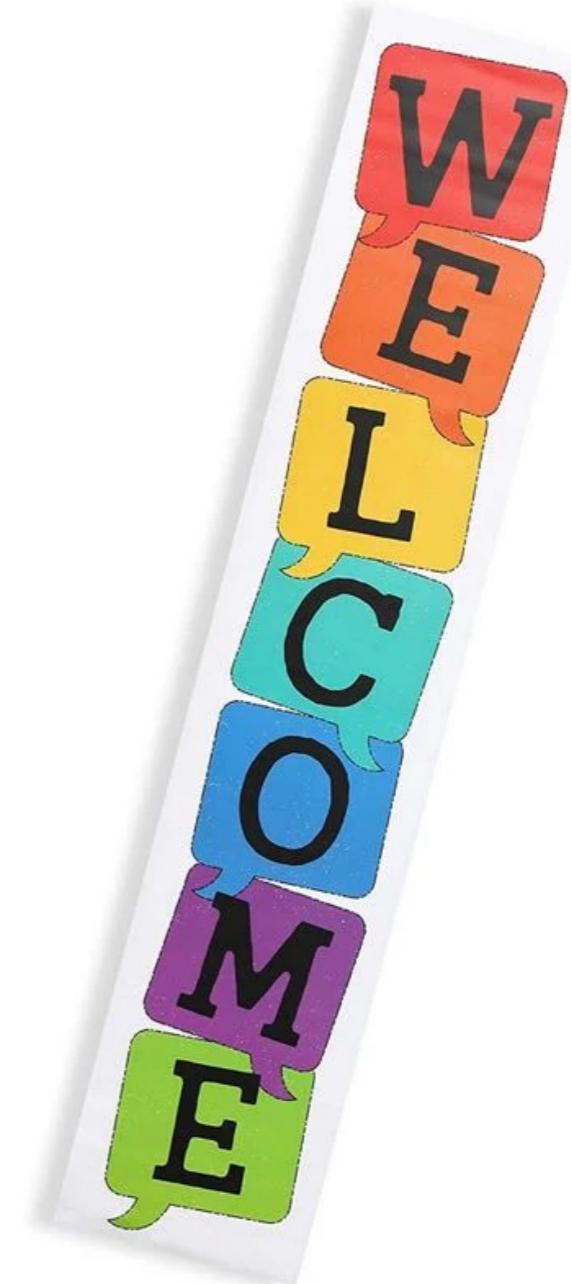
Calling all current and prospective Math and Data Science Majors! Join us to connect with fellow students, explore opportunities in mathematics, and kickstart your semester. Members of the math department advising team, the Math Club, and other organizations will share information about their programs.

Thursday, September 4, at 5:30 pm

in 115 Avery Hall

Refreshments served at 6:30 pm.

N<sup>√</sup> Math Club



# Directed Reading Program

The DRP pairs advanced undergraduates with a graduate student mentor to explore a mathematical topic outside the standard undergraduate curriculum. Students read weekly, meet regularly with their mentor to discuss the material, and conclude the semester by giving a short presentation to fellow DRP participants.

**Applications are due September 9**



<https://drp-unl.github.io/projects.html>

## To do list:

- WebWork 1.2 due Friday Sep 5
- WeBWorK 1.3 due Tuesday Sep 9
- WeWork 2.1 due Tuesday Sep 9



Section 1.3  
discussed on Friday

**On Friday:**

**Quiz 2**  
**at the beginning**  
**of the recitation**  
**on Lectures 1—3**

## Office hours

Mondays 5–6 pm and Wednesdays 2–3 pm  
in Avery 339 (Dr Grifo)

Tuesdays 11–noon and Thursdays 1–2 pm  
in Avery 337 (Kara)