

# Lecture 9

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## *Solving Square Linear System IV: Breakdown Cases and Solution Set*

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## Next Two Lectures: Key Questions

Consider a square linear system  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$

**Theorem** If  $A$  is invertible, then the linear system has a unique solution  $x = A^{-1}b$ .

**Question 1:** When is  $A$  invertible?

**Question 2:** How to Express/Compute  $A^{-1}$ ?

(if exists)

Will answer them in the coming lectures.

Q: If  $A$  is not invertible,  
What happens to linear system?

5-7 lectures

# Today's Lecture: Outline

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Today ... **Existence** and **expression**/computation of inverse.

1. Breakdown Cases of Solving Square Linear System
2. Number of Solutions for Different Cases

Strang's book: Sec 2.2,

After this lecture, you should be able to

1. Tell a few breakdown cases for solving square linear system
2. Calculate number of solutions based on final form after elimination

# Part 0 Preview

5 mins

# Square System: What's New Compared to Primary School?

## Primary school:

$$\begin{cases} x_1 + 2x_2 = 3, \\ 2x_1 - 3x_4 = 4. \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} 3x_1 + 2x_2 = 1, \\ 7x_1 - 5x_4 = 4. \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} x_1 - 2x_2 = 3, \\ 4x_1 + 7x_4 = -9 \end{cases} \quad \dots$$

Solve a 2\*2 linear system? So easy!

**Really?**

Can you solve all 2x2 system?  
(Imagine you're 10 yr old kid)



# Square System: What's New Compared to Primary School?

## Primary school:

$$\begin{cases} x_1 + 2x_2 = 3, \\ 2x_1 - 3x_4 = 4. \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} 3x_1 + 2x_2 = 1, \\ 7x_1 - 5x_4 = 4. \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} x_1 - 2x_2 = 3, \\ 4x_1 + 7x_4 = -9 \end{cases} \quad \dots$$

Solve a 2\*2 linear system? So easy!

All



Really?

## University:

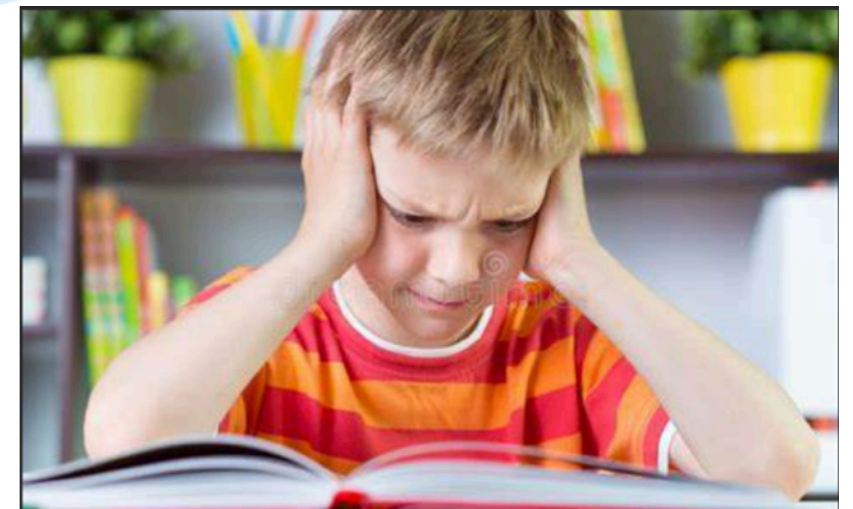
$$\begin{cases} -x_1 + x_2 = 3, \\ 2x_1 - 2x_2 = 4. \end{cases}$$

process

$$\begin{cases} -x_1 + x_2 = 3 \\ 0 \cdot x_1 + 0 \cdot x_2 = 10 \Leftrightarrow 0 = 10 \end{cases}$$

Enumerate by Reasoning

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} -1 & 1 & 3 \\ 2 & -2 & 4 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} -1 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 10 \end{array} \right]$$



Conclusion The solution is NOT existent. (no solution)

# Unknown Unknowns

There are known knowns; there are things we know that we know.

There are known unknowns; that is to say, there are things that we now know we don't know.

But there are also unknown unknowns – there are things we do not know we don't know.

-Donald Rumsfeld



Knowns	<b>Known Knowns</b> Things we are aware of and understand.	<b>Known Unknowns</b> Things we are aware of but don't understand.
	<b>Unknown Knowns</b> Things we understand but are not aware of.	<b>Unknown Unknowns</b> Things we are neither aware of nor understand.
Unknowns	Knowns	Unknowns

## Unknown unknowns

(for (most of the) 5th grade students):

Do I know how to solve all 2\*2 linear systems?

They thought yes (they know). But actually no (they don't know).

Many 5th grade students don't even know what "solve" really means:

It means "find all solutions"!

find the set of solutions.

find a solution.



# Part I “Breakdown” of Solving Square Systems

Sec 2.2, part “Breakdown of elimination”

20-30 mins

# Review: Gaussian Elimination for "Good" Systems

## Pipeline

eliminate entries below  $a_{11}, a_{22}, \dots$

$$\begin{aligned} a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n &= b_1 \\ a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \dots + a_{2n}x_n &= b_2 \\ &\dots \\ a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \dots + a_{mn}x_n &= b_m \end{aligned}$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cccc|c} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} & b_1 \\ 0 & \times & \dots & \times & \times \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & \times & \dots & \times & \times \end{array} \right]$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cccc|c} \times & \times & \times & \times & \times \\ \times & \times & \times & \times & \times \\ & \times & \times & \times & \vdots \\ & & \times & \times & \vdots \\ 0 & & & \times & \vdots \\ & & & & \times \end{array} \right]$$

Upp

$-\frac{a_{21}}{a_{11}} \textcircled{1} + \textcircled{2}$  requires  $a_{11} \neq 0$ . Breakdown when  $a_{11} = 0$ .

$$\begin{cases} x_1 = \textcircled{A} \\ x_2 = \textcircled{B} \\ \vdots \\ x_n = \textcircled{C} \end{cases}$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & & & & \times \\ & 1 & & & \times \\ & & \dots & & \vdots \\ & & & 0 & \vdots \\ 0 & & & 1 & \vdots \\ & & & & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

I

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cccc|c} \times & & & & \times \\ & \times & & & \times \\ & & \times & & \vdots \\ & & & 0 & \vdots \\ 0 & & & \times & \vdots \\ & & & & \times \end{array} \right]$$

Diag

What if there are zero diagonal entries?

# Summary of GE for Solving Square Systems

## Step 1: Forward Elimination.

Perform elementary row operations and try to get an upper triangular matrix.

## Step 2: Backward substitution

Perform elementary row operations and try to get a diagonal matrix.

**Assumption 1** We can get a nonzero-diagonal triangular matrix after Step 1.

**Claim 1** Under Assumption 1, we can get a diagonal matrix at the end of Step 2.

**Corollary 1** Under Assumption 1, the system has a unique solution.

This assumption may not hold for some problems; will discuss later.

*may breakdown*

# Pivot

枢轴.

## Example

$$\begin{cases} x_1 + x_2 = 2, \\ 2x_1 - 2x_2 = 4. \end{cases}$$

Subtract 2\* Eq.1 from Eq. 2

$$\begin{cases} x_1 + x_2 = 2, \\ \end{cases}$$

Matrix form:

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & -2 & 4 \end{array} \right]$$

Goal

Use 1 to eliminate 2.

$$\rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & -4 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

**Pivot**

= first nonzero in the row that does the elimination

The pivots are on the diagonal of the triangle after elimination.

# Pivot: Examples

Lee 6.

$$A \begin{pmatrix} (1,1) \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & | & 6 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & | & 9 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & | & 10 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\downarrow R_2 \leftarrow R_2 - R_1, R_3 \leftarrow R_3 - R_1$$

$$\hat{A} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & | & 6 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & | & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & | & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\downarrow R_3 \leftarrow R_3 - R_2$$

$$\hat{\hat{A}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & | & 6 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & | & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & | & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Step 1 Use  $a_{11} = 1$  to eliminate  
 $a_{21} = 1, a_{31} = 1,$   
so  $a_{11} = 1$  is the 1st pivot

Step 2. Use  $\hat{a}_{22} = 1$  to eliminate  
 $\hat{a}_{32} = 1,$   
so  $\hat{a}_{22} = 1$  is the 2nd pivot.

Step 3 Use  $\hat{\hat{a}}_{33} = 1$  to eliminate  
 $\hat{\hat{a}}_{23} = 1, \hat{\hat{a}}_{13} = 1,$   
so  $\hat{\hat{a}}_{33} = 1$  is the 3rd pivot.

# Question: What if there are zeros?

Example 1 [Permanent failure with no solution.]

$$\begin{cases} x_1 + x_2 = 2, \\ 2x_1 + 2x_2 = 5. \end{cases} \quad \text{Subtract } 2 \times \text{Eq. 1 from Eq. 2} \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} x_1 + x_2 = 2 \\ 0 = 1 \end{array} \right\}$$

Matrix form:

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 & 5 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{-2R_1 + R_2} \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

1st pivot is 1.; 2nd pivot? NO 2nd pivot.

The system has no second pivot.

0 is never allowed as a pivot. No solution

# Question: What if there are zeros?

Example 2 [ Failure with infinitely many solutions . ]

$$\begin{cases} x_1 + x_2 = 2, \\ 2x_1 + 2x_2 = 4. \end{cases}$$

Subtract  $2 \times$  Eq. 1 from Eq. 2

$$\begin{cases} x_1 + x_2 = 2 \\ 0 = 0 \end{cases}$$

Matrix form:

1 pivot

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 & 4 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

Any  $(x_1, x_2)$  satisfying  $x_1 + x_2 = 2$  is a solution.

$(1, 1)$   
 $(2, 0)$   
 $(1.5, 0.5)$

Conclusion Solution is any  $(t, 2-t)$

$\infty$ -many solutions

# English Lesson: Infinitely Many

~~It has <sup>noun</sup> infinity solutions. (grammally not proper).~~

~~$x_1, x_2$  has infinity solutions.~~

Correct:

The system has "infinitely many" solutions.

Informal:  $\infty$  solutions or  $\infty$ -<sup>adj</sup>many solutions.



# Question: What if there are zeros?

Example 3 [Temporary failure (zero). row exchange produces 2 pivots.]

$$\begin{cases} x_2 = 2, \\ 2x_1 + 2x_2 = 4. \end{cases} \quad \text{Exchange two equations}$$

Matrix form:

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 0 & 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 & 4 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{R_1 \leftrightarrow R_2} \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 2 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{array} \right]$$

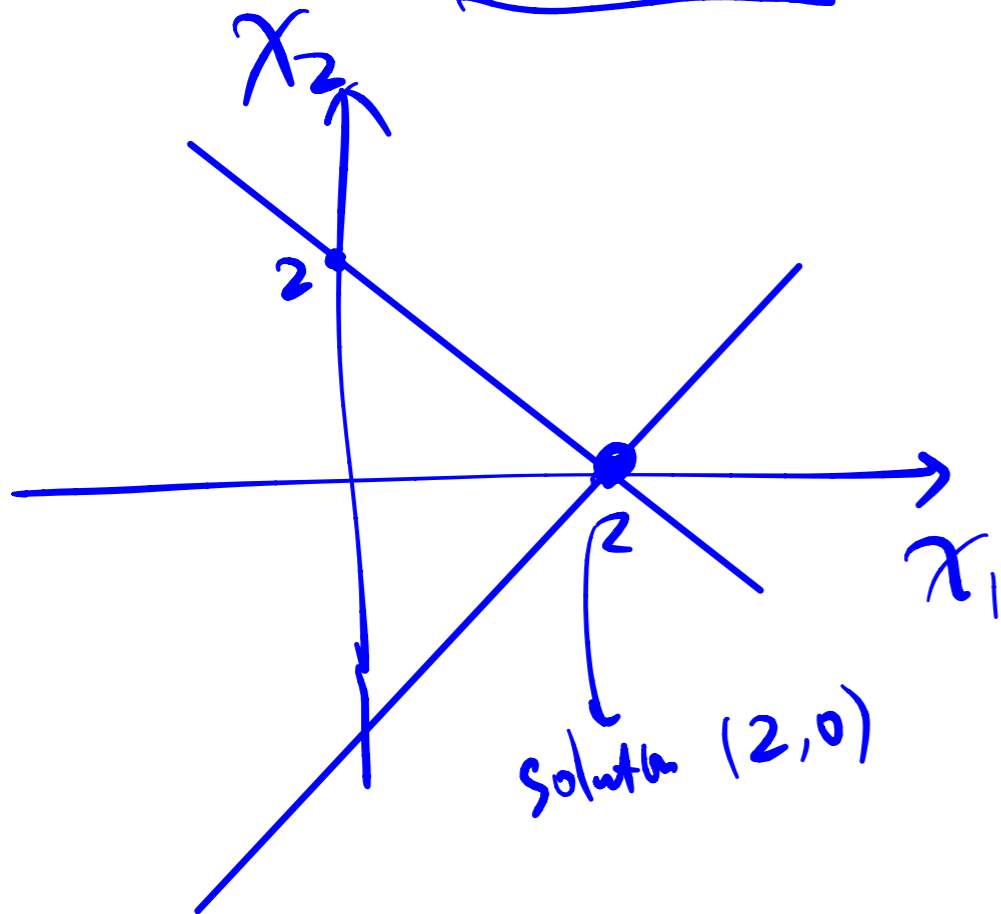
~~no pivot~~

2 pivots

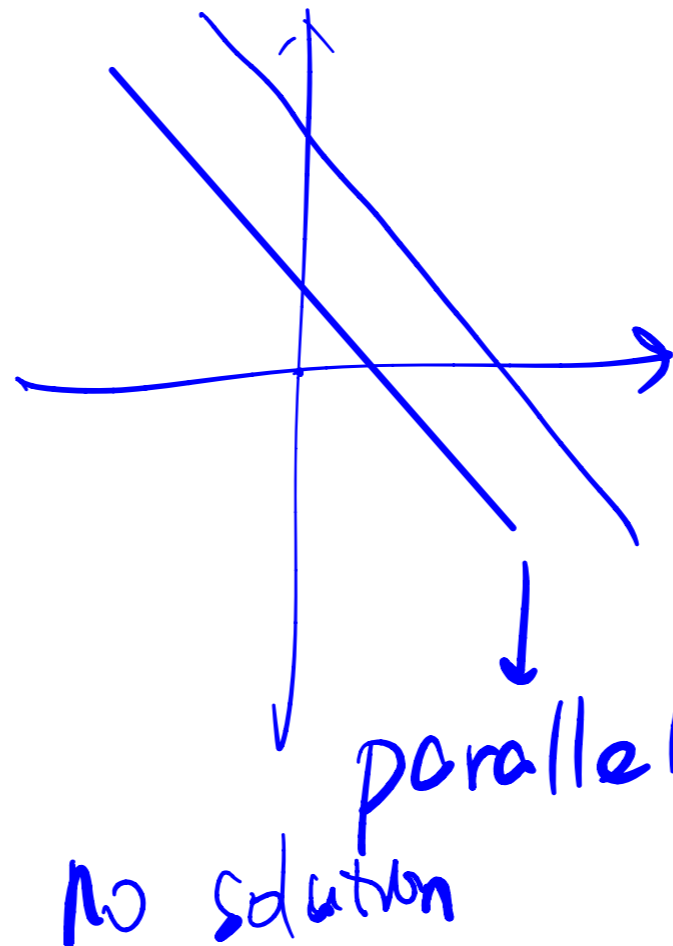
# Visualization of Various Cases: 2 by 2 System

- Examples of solving  $2 \times 2$  and  $3 \times 3$  systems of linear equations  
Elimination!
- **Visualization of a  $2 \times 2$  system of linear equations**

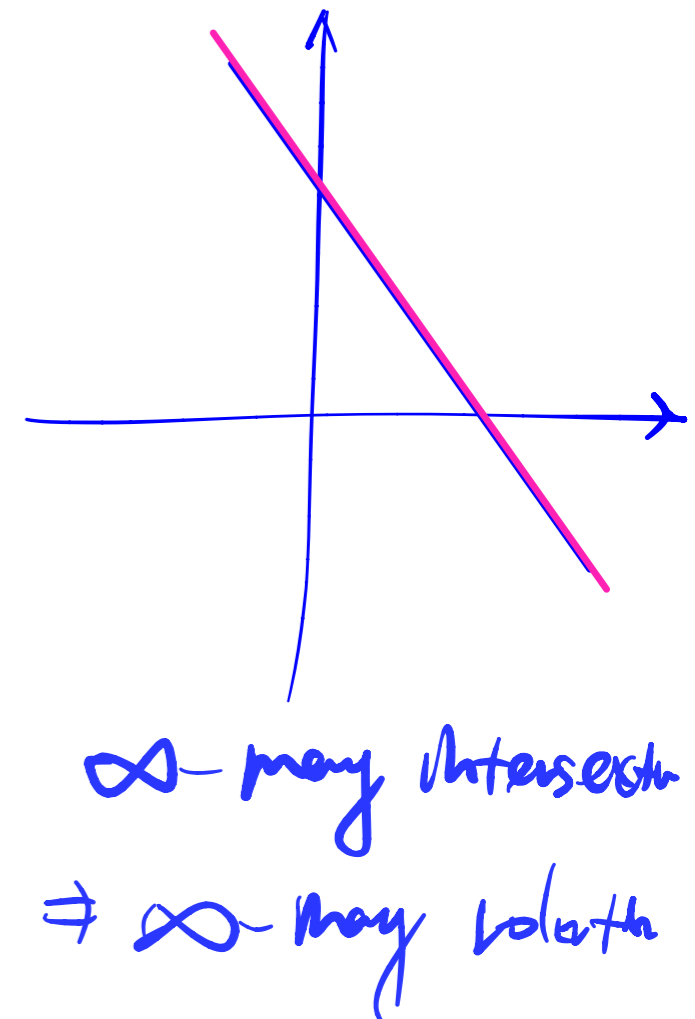
(i)  $x_1 + x_2 = 2$   
 $x_1 - x_2 = 2$



(ii)  $x_1 + x_2 = 2$   
 $x_1 + x_2 = 1$

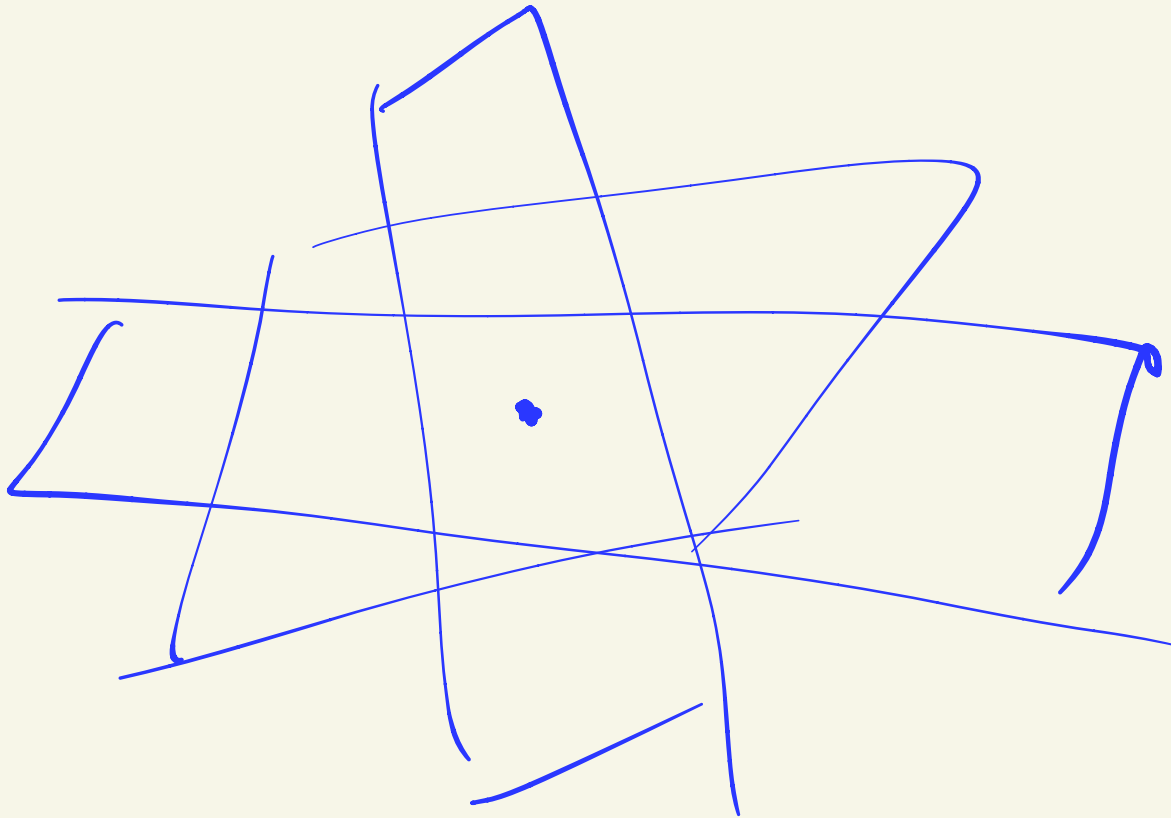


(iii)  $x_1 + x_2 = 2$   
 $-x_1 - x_2 = -2 \Leftrightarrow x_1 + x_2 = 2$



3D

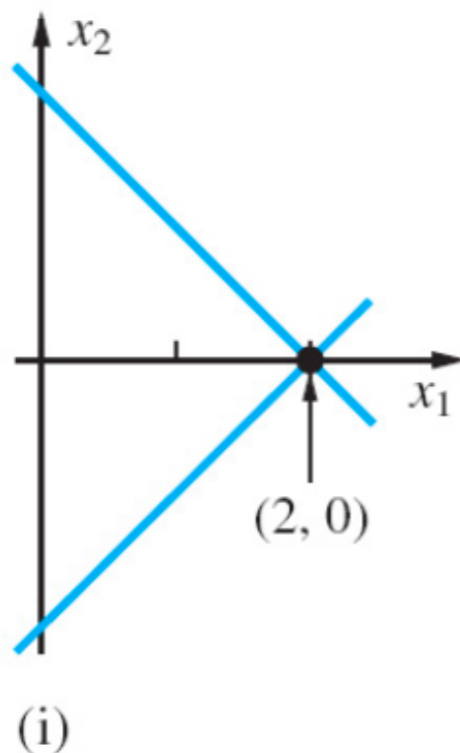
4D



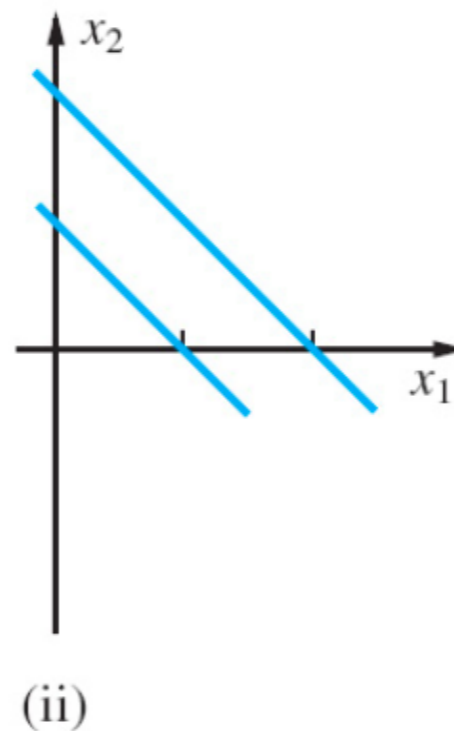
# Visualization of Various Cases: 2 by 2 System

- Examples of solving  $2 \times 2$  and  $3 \times 3$  systems of linear equations  
Elimination!
- **Visualization of a  $2 \times 2$  system of linear equations**

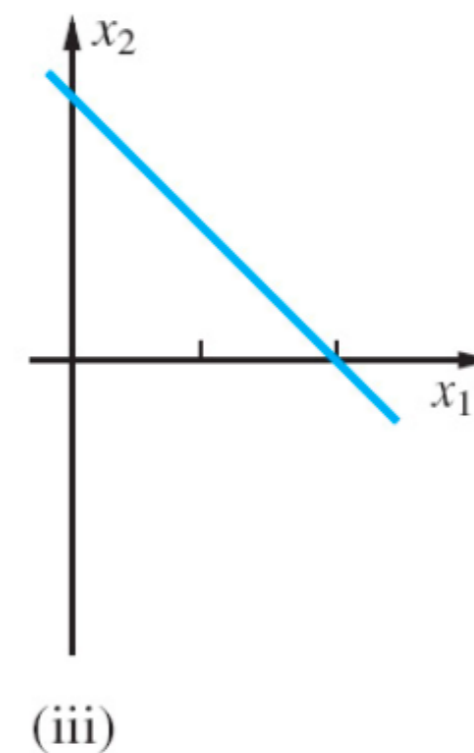
(i)  $x_1 + x_2 = 2$   
 $x_1 - x_2 = 2$



(ii)  $x_1 + x_2 = 2$   
 $x_1 + x_2 = 1$



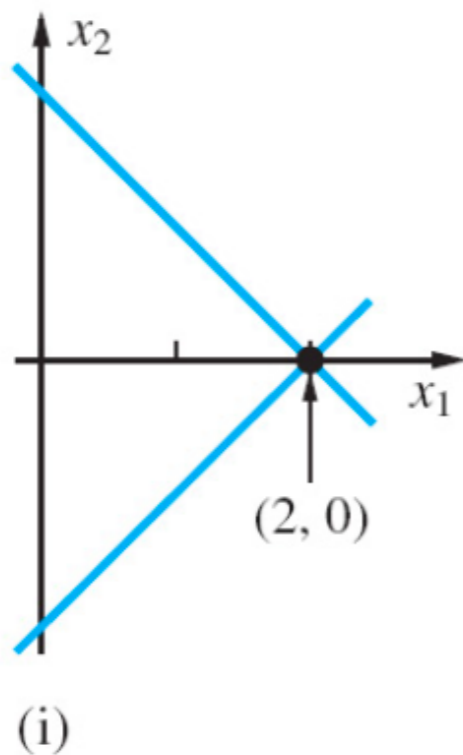
(iii)  $x_1 + x_2 = 2$   
 $-x_1 - x_2 = -2$



# Visualization of Various Cases: 2 by 2 System

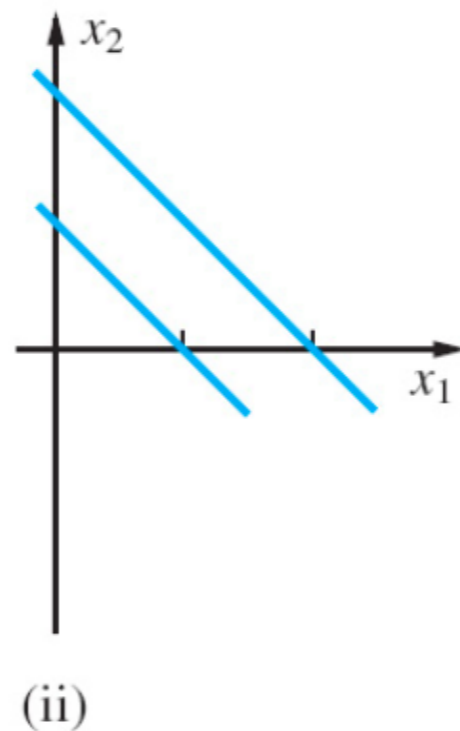
- Examples of solving  $2 \times 2$  and  $3 \times 3$  systems of linear equations  
Elimination!
- **Visualization of a  $2 \times 2$  system of linear equations**

(i)  $x_1 + x_2 = 2$   
 $x_1 - x_2 = 2$



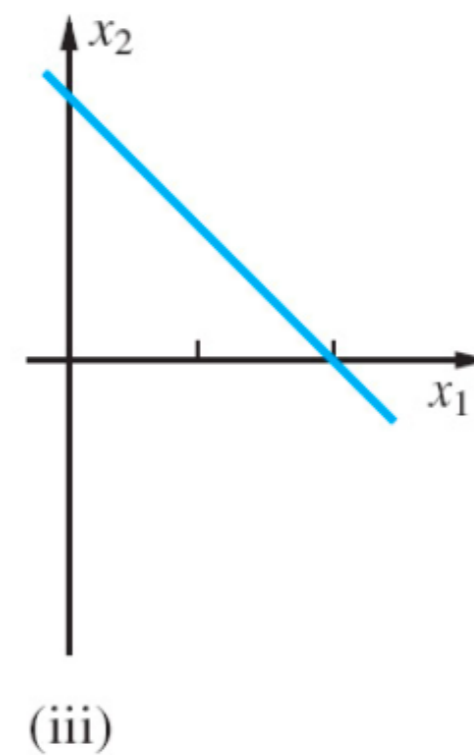
unique solution  $x_1 = 2, x_2 = 0$

(ii)  $x_1 + x_2 = 2$   
 $x_1 + x_2 = 1$



no solution

(iii)  $x_1 + x_2 = 2$   
 $-x_1 - x_2 = -2$



infinitely many solutions

Judgement

A linear system can have  
exactly 3 solutions.

False.

must be 0, 1,  $\infty$ .

# Solution Set

## Definition (Solution and Solution Set)

A **solution** of an  $m \times n$  linear system with variables  $(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  is a vector  $(s_1, \dots, s_n)$  such that if we let  $x_i = s_i$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, n$  the  $m$  equations hold simultaneously.

The **solution set** of an  $m \times n$  linear system is a set that contains all solution(s).

# Examples of Solution Sets

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Example (Solution Set)

$$2x_1 + 3x_2 = 3,$$

$$x_1 - x_2 = 4$$



# Examples of Solution Sets

Example (Solution Set)

$$2x_1 + 3x_2 = 3,$$

$$x_1 - x_2 = 4$$

The solution is  $(3, -1)$ .

The solution set is  $\{(3, -1)\}$

→ double bracket

$$\vec{v} = (3, -1) = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\{\vec{v}\}$$

# Examples of Solution Sets

Example (Solution Set)

$$\begin{aligned}2x_1 + 3x_2 &= 3, \\x_1 - x_2 &= 4\end{aligned}$$

The solution set is  $\{(3, -1)\}$

$$\begin{aligned}2x_1 + 3x_2 &= 3, \\4x_1 + 6x_2 &= 6\end{aligned}$$

# Examples of Solution Sets

Example (Solution Set)

$$\begin{aligned}2x_1 + 3x_2 &= 3, \\x_1 - x_2 &= 4\end{aligned}$$

The solution set is  $\{(3, -1)\}$

$$\begin{aligned}2x_1 + 3x_2 &= 3, \\4x_1 + 6x_2 &= 6\end{aligned}$$

The solution set is  $\left\{ \left( t, \frac{3-2t}{3} \right) \mid t \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$  (Infinitely many)

parameterized set

Will learn how to derive this set in later lectures

# Part II Number of Solutions of Square System

Sec 2.2, part “Breakdown of elimination”

# Have We Enumerated All Cases?

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**Q:** We have seen a few breakdown cases.

Do we know how to handle **ALL** cases?

This section.

Try to enumerate all cases.

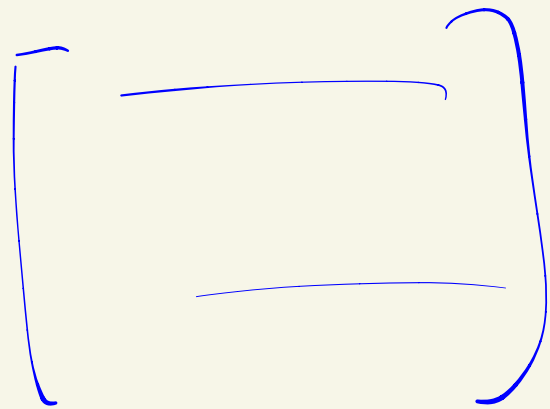
# Check Your Knowledge Boundary: What's Unknown?

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We have talked about  $2 \times 2$  system  
Discussed Breakdown cases.  $\left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 \end{array} \right]$

What about bigger linear systems?

e.g.  $10 \times 10$  system



Are you sure  
you can solve it?

Are you sure  
you can NOT solve it?

# Two Cases for Square Systems

*all possible cases of U*

**Coefficient matrix  $A$ ; square matrix.**

**Gaussian elimination (GE)** (both forward and backward)

$A \rightarrow A_1 \rightarrow A_2 \dots \rightarrow U \rightarrow \dots B_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow D$  D is diagonal?

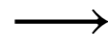
Note: we don't always get a diagonal matrix.

End of forward elimination:  
Upper triangular

End of backward step

**Case 1:** Diagonal entries of  $U$  are nonzero.

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



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



Diagonal matrix

\_\_\_\_\_ pivots

**Case 2:** Some diagonal entries of  $U$  are zero.

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



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

*Non-diagonal*

*Structure:*

$$\begin{bmatrix} I & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

\_\_\_\_\_ pivots

# Two Cases During GE?

End of forward elimination:  
Upper triangular

End of backward step:

final form of GE

**Case 1:**  
n pivots

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 1 & * & * & * \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & * \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 & * \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

→

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

correspond to

$$\begin{cases} x_1 = * \\ x_2 = * \\ \vdots \\ x_n = * \end{cases}$$

**Case 2:**  
< n pivots.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & * & * & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 1 & * & * & * & * & * \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

→

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & * & * & * \\ 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 & * & * & * \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

correspond to

$$\begin{cases} x_1 = * \\ \vdots \\ x_k = * \\ 0 = c_{k+1} \\ \vdots \\ 0 = c_n \end{cases}$$

or sth else ??

**Remark:** Rigorously speaking, there are other cases, which we discuss next.



Q: Can you always get

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

or  $\begin{bmatrix} I & F \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} ?$

Are there other cases?

Answer: No other case, if allow column exchange.

# New Case

Think: Can you make them  $\begin{bmatrix} I & F \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ ?

During Forward elimination:

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

Column exchange

Can we do it?

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

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & * & * & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 1 & * & * & * & * & * \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

$$\begin{bmatrix} I & F \\ 0 & \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 4 & 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

# Another Example.

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc|ccc} 1 & 4 & x & x & x \\ 0 & 1 & x & x & x \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 4 & 7 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 5 & 8 \end{array} \right]$$

$R_3 \leftrightarrow R_4$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc|ccc} 1 & 4 & & & \\ 0 & 1 & & & B \\ \hline & & 0 & 4 & 7 \\ & & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & & 0 & 5 & 8 \end{array} \right]$$

$\downarrow C_3 \leftrightarrow C_4$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc|ccc} 1 & 4 & & & \\ 0 & 1 & & & F \\ \hline & & 4 & 0 & 7 \\ & & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & & 5 & 0 & 8 \end{array} \right]$$

# Effect of Swapping Columns: Concrete example

$$\begin{cases} x_1 + x_2 = 7 \\ 2x_1 + 4x_2 = 18 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} \hat{x}_2 + \hat{x}_1 = 7 \\ 2\hat{x}_2 + 4\hat{x}_1 = 18 \end{cases}$$

$$(x_1, x_2) = (5, 2)$$

exchange entries

$$\begin{cases} 1 \cdot y_1 + 1 \cdot y_2 = 7 \\ 4 \cdot y_1 + 2 \cdot y_2 = 18 \end{cases}$$

$$(y_1, y_2) = \underline{(5, 2)} \\ = (2, 5)$$

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

swap columns

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

changing variable

(change subscripts & order of variables)

# Swapping Columns: Symbolic Proof of 2x2 Case

Can we exchange columns? *yes, if you do extra step.*

Consider  $A = [\vec{a}_1, \vec{a}_2]$

$$Ax = 0 \Leftrightarrow \underline{x_1 \vec{a}_1 + x_2 \vec{a}_2 = 0}$$

Swapping columns, get matrix

$$\hat{A} = [\vec{a}_2, \vec{a}_1]$$

*key property: commutative rule of addition*

**Claim:** Define  $\hat{x} = [x_2, x_1]$ , then

$$Ax = b \Leftrightarrow \hat{A} \hat{x} = b$$

**Corollary:** If  $x = (1, 2)$  is a solution of  $Ax = b$ , then

$\hat{x} = (2, 1)$  is a solution to  $\hat{A} \hat{x} = b$ .

Reason.  $\vec{a}_1 x_1 + \vec{a}_2 x_2 = \vec{a}_2 x_2 + \vec{a}_1 x_1$

i.e.  $Ax = \hat{A} \hat{x}$

Eg 1

$$A \xrightarrow{C1 \leftrightarrow C2} \hat{A}, \quad \hat{A}y = b$$

$x = (p_2, p_1)$  is the original solution

$y = (p_1, p_2)$

← swap  $p_1, p_2$

Eg 2

$$A \xrightarrow{C3 \leftrightarrow C5} \hat{A}, \quad \hat{A}y = b$$

$x = (p_1, p_2, p_5, p_4, p_3)$  ← swap  $p_3$  &  $p_5$

$y = (p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4, p_5)$

Claim Exchange column is OK, if you recover the original solution by swapping entries.

# Swapping Columns: Result

**Proposition:** (swapping columns keep solution set structure)

Consider a linear system  $Ax = b$ .

Suppose  $\hat{A}$  is obtained by exchanging columns of  $A$  multiple times.

Suppose the solution set of  $Ax = b$  is  $X$ ,

the solution set of  $\hat{A}y = b$  is  $Y$ ,

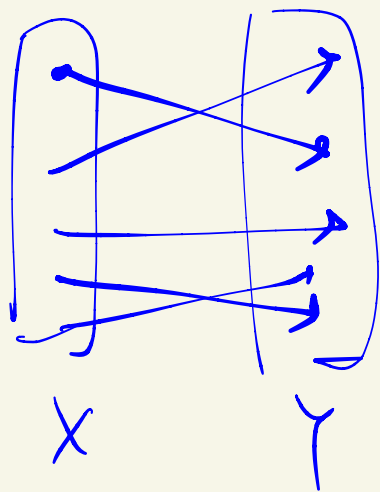
Then there exists a one-to-one mapping from  $X$  to  $Y$ .

mapping = function.  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  means: for any  $x \in X$ , there's a  $f(x) \in Y$ .

1-1 mapping means: for any  $y \in Y$ ,  $\exists$  unique  $x \in X$ , s.t.  $f(x) = y$

**Corollary** If  $Ax = b$  has exactly  $p$  solution(s), where  $p \in \{0, 1, \infty\}$ ,

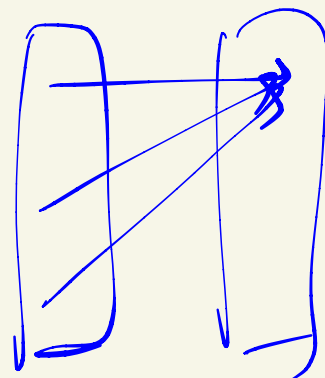
Then  $\hat{A}y = b$  also has exactly  $p$  solutions.



$$f(x) = 2x$$

↪ 1-1 mapping.

∀ y, can find unique x  
s.t.  $y = 2x = f(x)$



$$f(x) = x^2$$

Not 1-1 mapping

because: ① for  $y < 0$   
no x s.t.  $f(x) = y$ .

② for  $y > 0$ ,

∃ two numbers

$$x = \sqrt{y}, -\sqrt{y} \text{ s.t. } x^2 = y.$$



Claim If you allow column exchange in GE,  
then for square matrices, you can obtain

either 
$$\left[ I \mid c \right]$$

or 
$$\left[ \begin{array}{c|c} I_k & F \\ \hline 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{c|c} I_k & F \\ \hline 0 & 0 \end{array}} \right\} \begin{array}{l} (n-k) \text{ rows} \\ (n-k) \text{ columns} \end{array}$$

# Proof Idea (Short version)

Let me call  $\begin{bmatrix} \times & \times & \times \\ 0 & 1 & \times \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & \vdots & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  as  $\hat{I}_k$  (candidate for  $I_k$ ).

Assume you have  $\left[ \begin{array}{c|c} \hat{I}_k & F \\ \hline 0 & B \end{array} \right]$  in the process. To prove: can obtain  $\left[ \begin{array}{c|c} \hat{I}_{k+1} & F_{k+1} \\ \hline 0 & B_{k+1} \end{array} \right]$ .

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c|c} \hat{I}_k & F \\ \hline 0 & B \end{array} \right]$$

either  $B=0$  (done)

or  $B \neq 0$

(use row & column exchange to make  
(k+1, k+1) entry nonzero;

use row operation to make (k+1)-th column

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c|c} \hat{I}_k & F \\ \hline 0 & \times \quad \vdots \\ & \vdots \end{array} \right]$$

$GE$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c|c} \hat{I}_k & \begin{matrix} \times \\ \vdots \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{matrix} \\ \hline 0 & \vdots \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \text{form } \hat{I}_{k+1}$$

This is  $\left[ \begin{array}{c|c} \hat{I}_{k+1} & F_{k+1} \\ \hline 0 & B_{k+1} \end{array} \right]$

# Proof Idea (Longer version)

Case 1.  $B=0$ . Done.

Case 2. Some  $B_{ij} \neq 0$ . Pick the "first" nonzero entry

Informal: in the left-top corner.   
  $\downarrow$  explain below

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 4 & \dots & * \\ 0 & * & \dots & * \\ 0 & * & \dots & * \end{bmatrix}$$

top-left nonzero  
in  $B$

Formal: scan the 1st column of  $B$ ,  
find 1st nonzero entry

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 \\ 0 & x \end{bmatrix}$$

If success, do row exchange.

If fail, scan 2nd column of  $B$

If success, row & col exchange

If fail, scan 3rd col.

$\vdots$

NO other case missing! ☆

Namely: There is NO other case of the final form of GE with column exchange for square linear system.

Next: From the final form,

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c|c} I & F \\ \hline 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\text{how to}} \text{write solution set.}$$

find form

# Only Two Cases!!!! (If Allow Column Exchange)

End of forward elimination: Upper triangular      End of backward step:

**Case 1:**  
n pivots

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 1 & * & * & * \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & * \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 & * \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

correspond to

$$\begin{cases} x_1 = \star, \\ x_2 = \star, \\ \vdots \\ x_n = \star, \end{cases}$$

**Case 2:**  
< n pivots.  
(Allow column Exchange)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & * & * & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 1 & * & * & * & * & * \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & * & * & * \\ 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 & * & * & * \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

I  
I|F  
0|0

correspond to

$$\begin{cases} x_{i_1} = \dots, \\ \vdots \\ x_{i_k} = \dots, \\ 0 = c_{k+1}, \\ \vdots \\ 0 = c_n. \end{cases}$$

**Remark 1:** GE in the textbook does NOT perform column exchange.

**Remark 2:** If allowing swapping columns, then in the end, need to swap entries of obtained solution  $(\hat{x}_1, \dots, \hat{x}_n)$  to obtain original solution.

For now, our goal is to study # of solutions, so we do not discuss details.

# How to Continue to Write Solutions?

For Case 2, GE ends at the above two forms.

How to write solutions.

$$\begin{bmatrix} I & F \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Case 2:  $< n$  pivots. (Allow column exchange)

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & * & \dots & * \\ 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 & * & \dots & * \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & * & \dots & * \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 & * & \dots & * \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{array} \right] \begin{array}{c} \text{RHS} \\ \left[ \begin{array}{c} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ \vdots \\ c_k \\ c_{k+1} \\ \vdots \\ c_n \end{array} \right] \end{array} \quad \text{correspond to} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \hat{x}_1 = ?, \\ \vdots \\ \hat{x}_k = ?, \\ 0 = c_{k+1}, \\ \vdots \\ 0 = c_n. \end{array} \right.$$

Case 2a: If some  $c_i \neq 0$ , then no solution e.g.  $0=3, 0=7.5, \dots$

Case 2b: All  $c_i = 0$ .  
 $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 0=0 \\ \vdots \\ 0=0 \end{array} \right.$

## Case 2b: Simple Example of 3 by 3

Case 2b: All  $c_i = 0$ ..

Simple case:

$$\begin{array}{ccc|c} \hat{x}_1 & \hat{x}_2 & \hat{x}_3 & \\ \hline 1 & 0 & \alpha_1 & c_1 \\ 0 & 1 & \alpha_2 & c_2 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \longrightarrow \begin{cases} \hat{x}_1 + \alpha_1 \hat{x}_3 = c_1 \\ \hat{x}_2 + \alpha_2 \hat{x}_3 = c_2 \\ 0 = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \hat{x}_1 = c_1 - \alpha_1 \hat{x}_3 \\ \hat{x}_2 = c_2 - \alpha_2 \hat{x}_3 \end{cases}$$

It means: For any  $\hat{x}_3 = t$  (free variable).

you can get  $\begin{cases} \hat{x}_1 = c_1 - \alpha_1 t \\ \hat{x}_2 = c_2 - \alpha_2 t \end{cases}$  is solution.

For any  $t$ ,  $(c_1 - \alpha_1 t, c_2 - \alpha_2 t, t)$  is a solution  
 $\infty$ -many solutions

$$\begin{aligned}x_1 &= c_1 \\x_2 &= c_2 \\x_3 &= c_3\end{aligned} \rightarrow \text{unique}$$

$$\begin{aligned}x_1 &= c_1 + \exists x_4 \\x_2 &= c_2 + \exists x_4 \\x_3 &= c_3 + \exists x_4\end{aligned}$$

The above equations are circled in blue. An arrow labeled "free" points to the circled equations.

$x_4 \in \mathbb{R}; \infty\text{-many } x_4 \Rightarrow \infty\text{-many solutions.}$



# Remark

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If original linear system is

$$\begin{cases} x_1 = 2 + x_4 \\ x_2 = 2 - x_4 \\ x_4 = 2 - 2x_4 \end{cases}$$

Then it has  $\infty$ -many solutions.

# Case 2b: General Case Analysis

**Case 2b:** All  $c_i = 0$ ..

**Claim:** Suppose  $c_{k+1} = \dots = c_n = 0$ ..

If  $u_{ij} = 0$  for some  $i$ , then  $Ax = 0$  has \_\_\_\_\_ solution.

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cccc|ccc}
 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & * & \dots & * \\
 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 & * & \dots & * \\
 \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & * & \dots & * \\
 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 & * & \dots & * \\
 \hline
 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\
 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & \ddots & 0 \\
 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0
 \end{array} \right] \begin{array}{l} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ \vdots \\ c_k \\ c_{k+1} \\ \vdots \\ c_n \end{array}$$

correspond to

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \hat{x}_1 = ?, \\ \vdots \\ \hat{x}_k = ?, \\ 0 = c_{k+1}, \\ \vdots \\ 0 = c_n. \end{array} \right.$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \hat{x}_1 = c_1 + \exists \hat{x}_{k+1} + \dots + \exists \hat{x}_n \\ \vdots \\ \hat{x}_k = c_k + \exists \hat{x}_{k+1} + \dots + \exists \hat{x}_n \end{array} \right.$$

$\infty$ -many solutions

# From Matrix to Linear System

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \hat{x}_1 \quad \hat{x}_k \quad \hat{x}_{k+1} \quad \hat{x}_n \\
 \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc}
 1 & & & x & x & x & c_1 \\
 & \ddots & & & & & \vdots \\
 & & 1 & x & \dots & x & c_k \\
 \hline
 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & c_{k+1} \\
 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & c_n
 \end{array} \right]
 \end{array}$$

If  $c_{k+1} = \dots = c_n = 0$

$$\boxed{\hat{x}_1} + 0 \cdot \hat{x}_2 + \dots + 0 \cdot \hat{x}_k + \boxed{\hat{x}_{k+1}} + \dots + \boxed{\hat{x}_n} = c_1$$

$$\hat{x}_k + \hat{x}_{k+1} - \dots - \hat{x}_n = c$$

$$\hat{x}_k + \hat{x}_{k+1} - \dots + \hat{x}_n = c$$

$$\begin{array}{l}
 0 = c_{k+1} \neq 0 \\
 0 = c_n
 \end{array}$$

# From Linear System to Solution

---

$$\begin{cases} \hat{x}_1 + \alpha_1 \hat{x}_{k+1} + \dots + \alpha_n \hat{x}_n = c_1 \\ \vdots \\ \hat{x}_k + \beta_1 \hat{x}_{k+1} + \dots + \beta_n \hat{x}_n = c_n \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \hat{x}_1 = c_1 - \alpha_1 \hat{x}_{k+1} - \dots - \alpha_n \hat{x}_n \\ \vdots \\ \hat{x}_k = c_n - \beta_1 \hat{x}_{k+1} - \dots - \beta_n \hat{x}_n \end{cases}$$

$\hat{x}_{k+1}, \dots, \hat{x}_n$  are free variables.

For any choice of  $\hat{x}_{k+1}, \dots, \hat{x}_n$ , pick  $\hat{x}_1, \dots, \hat{x}_k$  accordingly,  
this gives a solution.

$\infty$  choices of  $\hat{x}_{k+1}, \dots, \hat{x}_n$ , so  $\infty$  solutions.

# Summary of Success/Failure for Square Systems

**Case 1:**  $n$  pivots.

Unique solution.

We may have to exchange the equations (rows).

**Case 2:** For  $n$  by  $n$  systems, we do not get  $n$  pivots.

(allow col exchange)  $\begin{bmatrix} I & F \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

Elimination leads to equations (besides  $x_i = \star$ )

$0 = \square$  (nonzero number) [  $no$  solution(s) ]

all  $0 = 0$  [  $\infty$  many solution(s) ]

# What you (should) know by now

1) How to calculate  
# of solutions for ANY square system,

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2) How to write solution set of ANY square system,  
(Suppose you know: for each "column exchange of matrix",  
you need to perform "entry exchange of final solution")

[ For "writing solution set", will have more lectures )

# Gaussian Elimination for “Good” Systems

Problem: Solve  $n \times n$  linear system of equations.

Preparation: Write the linear system as augmented matrix form.

## Step 1:

Perform elementary row operations to get an **upper triangular** matrix.

## Step 2:

**Step 2.1** Perform elementary row operations to get a **diagonal** matrix.

**Step 2.2** If all **diagonal entries are nonzero**, (i.e.  **$n$  pivots**)

then perform “row multiplication” to get an **identity** matrix.

**Finishing step:** Write down the solution


(**unique solution** for this case).

# Exercise

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$$\left( \begin{array}{ccccc|c} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ -2 & -2 & 0 & 0 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 3 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 2 & 4 & 1 \end{array} \right)$$





# Summary Today (write Your Own)

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**One sentence summary:**

**Detailed summary:**

# Summary Today (of Instructor)

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## **One sentence summary:**

We study

## **Detailed summary:**