

PART 1

SOLVING LINEAR EQUATION SYSTEMS

① INTRODUCT ~~RON~~

You have undoubtedly seen linear equations before.
Here, for example, are 4 equations in 4 unknowns:

$$\begin{aligned} 2x_1 - 3x_2 + 2x_3 + 5x_4 &= 3 \\ x_1 - x_2 + x_3 + 2x_4 &= 1 \\ 3x_1 + 2x_2 + 2x_3 - x_4 &= 0 \\ x_1 + x_2 - 3x_3 - x_4 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Handwritten notes:
- $-\frac{3}{2}$ 1st $\rightarrow$ to eq #2
- $-\frac{3}{2}$
- $-\frac{1}{2}$
- $(+) \#(3)$
- $(-) \#(4)$
- $-\frac{1}{2}$ subtract $\frac{1}{2}$ 2nd from 1st
- $-11 - \frac{3}{2}$ 2nd from 1st
- $-11 - \frac{1}{2}$ 2nd from 1st

→ The idea is to determine values of the variables x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 that will satisfy all 4 equations.

More generally, we will write a "system" of m linear equations in n variables as

equation $\rightarrow$ row column $\rightarrow$ variable

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

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{ij} \end{bmatrix}$$

i = equations
 j = variables

a_{ij}
 $i = 1, \dots, m$
 $j = 1, \dots, n$
 $a_{ij} \equiv$ coeff. of the variables x_j in all equations

The values a_{ij} are "coefficients" of the variables x_j , and the b_i are "constants" of "right hand side" values

We will concentrate on the case $m=n$ but many of our methods will be applicable in the more general case

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ l_{21} & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ l_{31} & l_{32} & 1 & 0 \\ l_{41} & l_{42} & l_{43} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

② SOLVING LINEAR SYSTEMS: AN EXAMPLE

You probably have some idea how to go about "solving" the preceding example to get the desired values of the variable

As a start, take a closer look at this solution process.

Elimination
(substitution)

a: Using the first equation, you can solve for x_1 in terms of the other variables.

$$x_1 = \frac{3}{2}x_2 + x_3 + \frac{5}{2}x_4 + \frac{3}{2} = 1.5 + 1.5x_2 - x_3 - 2.5x_4$$

$$x_1 = 1.5 + 1.5x_2 - x_3 - 2.5x_4$$

eliminate
 x_1

Then you can substitute this expression for x_1 in the other three equations, to get

$$+0.5x_2 + 0x_3 - 0.5x_4 = -0.5$$

$$\frac{6.5}{-5} = 13$$

$$6.5x_2 - x_3 - 8.5x_4 = -4.5$$

$$2.5x_2 - 4x_3 - 3.5x_4 = -1.5$$

$$\frac{2.5}{-5} = 5$$

Using the first remaining equation, you can solve for x_2 :

$$x_2 = -1 - 0x_3 + x_4$$

Then you can substitute this expression for x_2 in the other two remaining equations:

$$-4 \quad | \quad -x_3 - 2x_4 = 2$$

$$\frac{-4}{-1} = +4$$

$$+4x_3 + 8x_4 = -8$$

$$-4x_3 - x_4 = 1$$

$$-4x_3$$

Finally, you can use the first of these to solve for x_3 :

$$x_3 = -2 - 2x_4$$

and can substitute this expression for x_3 in the second, to get

$$7x_4 = -7$$

Obviously this one equation is solved by $x_4 = -1$.

Now you've finished all the hard work,
and you can easily "substitute back" to get the solution:

$$x_4 = -1 \Rightarrow x_3 = -2 - 2x_4 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x_2 = -1 + x_4 = -2$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 = 1.5 + 1.5x_2 - x_3 - 2.5x_4 = 1$$

Thus $x_1=1, x_2=-2, x_3=0, x_4=-1$ satisfies the equations.

b: There is another way to view the above operations.
It relies on the following observation:

Starting with any system of equations,
you can derive an equivalent system ...

by subtracting any multiple of any one equation
from any other equation.

By an "equivalent" system of equations, *same sets of solution*
we mean a system that has exactly the same solutions
as the original system that you started with.

Consider what happens if you start with the original system
from ①, and you make the following subtractions:

subtract 0.5 times 1st equation from 2nd equation
subtract 1.5 times 1st equation from 3rd equation
subtract 0.5 times 1st equation from 4th equation

The resulting equivalent system is then as follows:

$$2x_1 - 3x_2 + 2x_3 + 5x_4 = 3$$

$$+ 0.5x_2 \quad - 0.5x_4 = -0.5$$

$$6.5x_2 - x_3 - 8.5x_4 = -4.5$$

$$2.5x_2 - 4x_3 - 3.5x_4 = -1.5$$

- ② The first equation is unchanged. But in the other equations, subtracting off a multiple of the first made the coefficient of x_1 exactly zero.

Notice that the last three equations are now exactly the same as what you arrived at in (a) before, when you solved for x_1 and substituted.

To continue, suppose you subtract just enough of the first equation from the 3rd and 4th equation so as to make coefficients of x_1 exactly zero. To do so, you must

$\left(\begin{array}{l} \text{subtract } 13 \text{ times the 2nd equation from the 3rd} \\ \text{subtract } 5 \text{ times the 2nd equation from the 4th} \end{array} \right)$

and the resulting equivalent system is as follows:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 2x_1 - 3x_2 + 2x_3 + 5x_4 & = & 3 \\ 0.5x_2 & - & 0.5x_4 = -0.5 \\ & - & x_3 - 2x_4 = 2 \\ & - & 4x_3 - x_4 = 1 \end{array}$$

$$-\frac{4}{-1} = +4$$

The last two equations are now exactly the same as what you arrived at in (a) before, when you solved for x_2 and x_3 .

To finish the procedure, subtract just enough of the 3rd equation from the 4th equation to make the coefficient of x_3 exactly zero. That is,

subtract 4 times the 3rd equation from the 4th equation and you end up with the following equivalent system:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 2x_1 - 3x_2 + 2x_3 + 5x_4 & = & 3 \\ 0.5x_2 & - & 0.5x_4 = -0.5 \\ & - & x_3 - 2x_4 = 2 \\ & & 7x_4 = -7 \end{array}$$

substitution
Back

you
end up

GAUSSIAN ELIMINATION

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Now you have all the same equations that you derived in (a) — and you can once again "substitute back" to get the solution.

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c: As you have seen, the approaches employed in (a) and (b) lead to essentially the same series of calculations.

the 2nd
make the
t

Thus this section has described essentially just one method for solving linear systems.

rd equation
th equation

This method is known as GAUSSIAN ELIMINATION.

$$\begin{cases} 2x_1 - 3x_2 + 2x_3 + 5x_4 = 3 \\ x_1 - x_2 + x_3 + 2x_4 = 1 \\ 3x_1 + 2x_2 + 2x_3 - x_4 = 0 \\ x_1 + x_2 - 3x_3 - x_4 = 0 \end{cases}$$

→ Determine values of x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4

$$x_1 = 1.5 + 1.5x_2 - x_3 - 2.5x_4$$

eliminate from
the other
equations

$$1.5 + 1.5x_2 - x_3 - 2.5x_4 - x_2 + x_3 + 2x_4 = 1$$

$$+0.5x_2 + 0x_3 + 0.5x_4 = -0.5$$

$$3(1.5 + 1.5x_2 - x_3 - 2.5x_4)$$

$$4.5 + 4.5x_2 - 3x_3 - 7.5x_4 + 2x_2 + 2x_3 - x_4 = 0$$

$$6.5x_2 - x_3 - 8.5x_4 = -4.5 \quad \checkmark$$

$$1.5 + 1.5x_2 - x_3 - 2.5x_4 + x_2 - 3x_3 - x_4 = 0$$

$$2.5x_2 - 4x_3 - 3.5x_4 = -1.5 \quad \checkmark$$

$$\begin{cases} 0.5x_2 + 0x_3 - 0.5x_4 = -0.5 \\ 6.5x_2 - x_3 - 8.5x_4 = -4.5 \\ 2.5x_2 - 4x_3 - 3.5x_4 = -1.5 \end{cases}$$

Eliminate

→ solve for x_2

$$x_2 = -0.1 + x_4$$

substitute
in the
rest

$$-6.5 + 6.5x_4 - x_3 - 8.5x_4 = -4.5$$

$$x_3 = -2x_4 + 2$$

$$+8x_4 + 6 - x_4 = 1$$

$$-x_3 - 8.0x_4 = +2$$

$$-4x_3 - x_4 = +1$$

$$7x_4 = -7$$

$$\begin{aligned} -2.5x_2 + 2.5x_4 - 4x_3 \\ -3.5x_4 = -1.5 \end{aligned}$$

③ GAUSSIAN ELIMINATION: OUTLINE OF TOPICS

The rest of this section (and part of the next) will be concerned with solving linear equation systems, primarily by Gaussian elimination.

Here is an outline of the topics to be covered:

- a: Matrix and vector notation
- b: Matrix interpretation of Gaussian elimination
- c: Cost of Gaussian elimination
- d: Does Gaussian elimination always work?

Answer: No.

Modifications to make it work, when possible.

- e: Does Gaussian elimination work on a computer?

Answer: Only if you're careful.

Modifications to make the computations "stable".

- f: Classical theory of linear equation systems

Conditions under which a solution exists

Conditions under which exactly one solution exists

MATRIX-VECTOR MULTIPLICATION

a: use shorthand $Ax = b$ to represent

$$a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n = b_1$$

$$a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \dots + a_{2n}x_n = b_2$$

.....

$$a_{n1}x_1 + a_{n2}x_2 + \dots + a_{nn}x_n = b_n$$

b: A is an $n \times n$ matrix; x, b are n -vectors

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \dots & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix} \quad x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_n \end{bmatrix}$$

for instance, in the preceding example,

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 & 2 & 5 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 2 & 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & -3 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

solution vector

c: definition: if A an $n \times n$ matrix, x an n -vector,
the i th element of $Ax = (Ax)_i = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}x_j \quad (i=1, \dots, n)$

d: two ways to think about it:

- (i) $(Ax)_i$ is inner product of x and i th row of A
- (ii) Ax is a weighted sum of the columns of A :
weight on j th column is x_j

⑤ MATRIX FORM OF AN ELIMINATION STEP

a: in example, first elimination step takes

$$b = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -0.5 \\ -4.5 \\ -1.5 \end{bmatrix}$$

by subtracting 0.5, 1.5, 0.5 times b_1 from b_2 .

b: what is a matrix E such that
first elimination step takes $b \rightarrow Eb$?

$$E = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -0.5 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1.5 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -0.5 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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MOTIVATION OF MATRIX MULTIPLICATION

a: since $Ax=b$, it had better be true that $E(Ax) = Eb$

b: but notice also that, analogously to above, first elimination step takes

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 & 2 & 5 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 2 & 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & -3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 & 2 & 5 \\ 0 & 0.5 & 0 & -0.5 \\ 0 & 6.5 & -1 & -8.5 \\ 0 & 2.5 & -4 & -3.5 \end{bmatrix}$$

by subtracting 0.5, 1.5, 0.5 times first row from 2nd, 3rd, 4th rows

c: so, by analogy, want to say that elimination takes $b \rightarrow Eb$ and $A \rightarrow EA$, yielding $(EA)x = Eb$

d: conclusion — must define matrix product EA so that $E(Ax) = (EA)x$

$$\begin{aligned} e: [E(Ax)]_i &= \sum_{j=1}^n e_{ij} (Ax)_j \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^n (e_{ij} \sum_{k=1}^n a_{jk} x_k) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n (\sum_{j=1}^n e_{ij} a_{jk}) x_k \end{aligned}$$

$$[(EA)x]_i = \sum_{k=1}^n (EA)_{ik} x_k$$

THUS, to have $E(Ax) = (EA)x$, it is necessary to define EA by

$$(EA)_{ik} = \sum_{j=1}^n e_{ij} a_{jk}$$

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D MATRIX MULTIPLICATION

of A a: ways to think of it —

$$(AB)_{ik} = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} b_{jk}$$

$(AB)_{ik}$ = inner product of i th row of A with k th column of B

k th column of AB is A times the k th column of B

b: associative — $A(BC) = (AB)C$

c: distributive — $A(B+C) = AB + AC$
 $(B+C)D = BD + CD$

d: not commutative — in general, $AB \neq BA$

e: to come later:

similar definitions for non-square matrices
matrix analogues of 1 (identity) and $\frac{1}{a}$ (inverse)

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⑥A ALTERNATE MOTIVATION

a: notice that elimination operates on each column of A exactly, as it does on b

b: so define the product EA as follows:

if the k th column of A is A_k ,
then the k th column of EA is $E A_k$

(where A_j is treated as an n -vector)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{c: } (EA)_{ik} &= (EA_k)_i \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^n e_{ij} (A_k)_j \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^n e_{ij} a_{jk} \end{aligned}$$

SAME RESULT AS BEFORE

⑧ MATRICES AND ELIMINATION

a: original system —

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 & 2 & 5 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 2 & 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & -3 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

b: first elimination step —

subtract $l_{21} = 0.5$ times 1st equation from 2nd

subtract $l_{31} = 1.5$ times 1st equation from 3rd

subtract $l_{41} = 0.5$ times 1st equation from 4th

$$E_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -0.5 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1.5 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -0.5 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad E_1 A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 & 2 & 5 \\ 0 & 0.5 & 0 & -0.5 \\ 0 & 6.5 & -1 & -8.5 \\ 0 & 2.5 & -4 & -3.5 \end{bmatrix} \quad E_1 b = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -0.5 \\ -4.5 \\ -1.5 \end{bmatrix}$$

c: second elimination step —

subtract $l_{32} = 13$ times 2nd equation from 3rd

subtract $l_{42} = 5$ times 2nd equation from 4th

$$E_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -13 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -5 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad E_2 E_1 A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 & 2 & 5 \\ 0 & 0.5 & 0 & -0.5 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & -4 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad E_2 E_1 b = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -0.5 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

d: third elimination step —

subtract $l_{43} = 4$ times 3rd equation from 4th

$$E_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -4 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad E_3 E_2 E_1 A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 & 2 & 5 \\ 0 & 0.5 & 0 & -0.5 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \quad E_3 E_2 E_1 b = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -0.5 \\ 2 \\ -7 \end{bmatrix}$$

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⑧ e: summary — elimination took $Ax = b$ to

$$E_3 E_2 E_1 Ax = E_3 E_2 E_1 b \equiv Ux = c$$

where U is upper triangular — all zero below diagonal

f: hence elimination effectively transforms an arbitrary linear system to an equivalent upper-triangular system

and upper-triangular systems are trivial to solve, by back-substitution

⑨ ELIMINATION AS TRIANGULAR FACTORIZATION

a: since $Ax=b$ and $Ux=c$ are equivalent,
can consider running the whole elimination in reverse —

b: undo the third elimination step —
add $l_{43} = 4$ times 3rd equation to 4th

$$F_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad F_3 Ux = F_3 c$$

c: undo the second elimination step —
add $l_{32} = 13$ times 2nd equation to 3rd
add $l_{42} = 5$ times 2nd equation to 4th

$$F_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 13 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad F_2 F_3 Ux = F_2 F_3 c$$

d: undo the first elimination step —
add $l_{21} = 0.5$ times 1st equation to 2nd
add $l_{31} = 1.5$ times 1st equation to 3rd
add $l_{41} = 0.5$ times 1st equation to 4th

$$F_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0.5 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1.5 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0.5 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad F_1 F_2 F_3 Ux = F_1 F_2 F_3 c$$

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⑨ e: the elimination is now entirely undone, so it must be that

$$F_1 F_2 F_3 U = A$$

$$f: F_1 F_2 F_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0.5 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1.5 & 13 & 1 & 0 \\ 0.5 & 5 & 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = L$$

L is unit lower triangular, and

L's below-diagonal elements are exactly the multipliers ℓ_{ij} !

g: conclusion —

Gaussian elimination finds a factorization $A = LU$
where L is unit lower- Δ , U is upper- Δ

h: similar factorizations —

L is lower- Δ , U is unit upper- Δ

$B = LDU$, L is unit lower- Δ , U is unit upper- Δ ,
D is diagonal

$$L = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & -3 & -1 \\ & 1 & & & \\ & & 1 & & \\ & & & 1 & \\ & & & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow A = \dots$$

$$\Rightarrow [L \ U] = \text{lu}(\text{sym}(A))$$

$$L = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1/2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3/2 & 1/3 & 1 & 0 \\ 1/2 & 5 & 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad L = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ \times & 1 & & \\ \times & & 1 & \\ \times & & & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 & 2 & 5 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 0 & -1/2 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \quad U = \begin{bmatrix} \times & \times & \times & \times \\ 0 & \times & \times & \times \\ 0 & 0 & \times & \times \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \times \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow X = \text{vpa}(A \setminus b, 4)$$

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$