

# 25MT103: Linear Algebra

## Unit 2: Systems of Linear Equations

**Dr. D Bhanu Prakash**

Course Page: [dbhanuprakash233.github.io/LA](https://dbhanuprakash233.github.io/LA)

Assistant Professor,  
Department of Mathematics and Statistics.  
Contact: [db\\_maths@vignan.ac.in](mailto:db_maths@vignan.ac.in).  
[dbhanuprakash233.github.io](https://dbhanuprakash233.github.io).



## Linear Systems - Lecture Slides

# Syllabus

- ☞ Systems of Linear Equations
- ☞ Matrix Representation
- ☞ Consistency using rank
- ☞ Gaussian Elimination
- ☞ Gauss-Jordan method
- ☞ Do-little method

# Outline

## 1 Definitions

## 2 Solution Methods

- Gaussian Elimination
- Gauss–Jordan
- Doolittle (LU)

# Outline

- 1 Definitions
- 2 Solution Methods
  - Gaussian Elimination
  - Gauss–Jordan
  - Doolittle (LU)

# Linear Equation

## Definition

A linear equation is an equality where each term is either a constant or a constant multiplied by a variable (no products or powers of variables). It is of the form

$$a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + \cdots + a_nx_n = b.$$

# Linear Equation

## Definition

A linear equation is an equality where each term is either a constant or a constant multiplied by a variable (no products or powers of variables). It is of the form

$$a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + \cdots + a_nx_n = b.$$

## Examples

- ①  $2x + 3y = 5$
- ②  $4x - y = 1$
- ③  $x = 0$

# Linear System

## Definition

A *linear system* consists of one or more linear equations. In  $n$  variables, it takes the form

$$a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \cdots + a_{1n}x_n = b_1, \quad \dots, \quad a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \cdots + a_{mn}x_n = b_m.$$

# Linear System

## Definition

A *linear system* consists of one or more linear equations. In  $n$  variables, it takes the form

$$a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \cdots + a_{1n}x_n = b_1, \quad \dots, \quad a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \cdots + a_{mn}x_n = b_m.$$

## Example

$$2x + 3y = 5$$

$$4x - y = 1$$

represents a 2x2 linear system. Solutions correspond to intersection points of lines in 2D space.



# Matrix Representation of Linear Systems

## Representation

The system

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

can be compactly written as  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ , with

$$A = (a_{ij})_{m \times n}, \quad \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ \vdots \\ b_m \end{pmatrix}.$$

### Example

For the system  $2x + 3y = 5$ ,  $4x - y = 1$ ,

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 4 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

# System & Solution Space

## System of Linear Equations

A collection of linear equations in variables  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ ; can be written as

$$A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}, \quad A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n, \mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m.$$

# System & Solution Space

## System of Linear Equations

A collection of linear equations in variables  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ ; can be written as

$$A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}, \quad A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n, \mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m.$$

## Solution Types

- *Unique solution* if  $\text{rank}(A) = \text{rank}([A|\mathbf{b}]) = n$ .
- *No solution* (inconsistent) if  $\text{rank}(A) < \text{rank}([A|\mathbf{b}])$ .
- *Infinitely many solutions* if  $\text{rank}(A) = \text{rank}([A|\mathbf{b}]) < n$  (free variables exist).

# ERO and Rank

# ERO and Rank

## Elementary Row Operations

Three types: (1) swap two rows, (2) multiply a row by nonzero scalar, (3) add a multiple of one row to another. These preserve solution set.

## Rank

$\text{rank}(M)$  is the number of leading 1s (pivot columns) in row-echelon form of  $M$ , equivalently dimension of column space. Use rank to determine consistency.

# Rank and Consistency

## Augmented Matrix

Represent the system  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  by the augmented matrix  $[A|\mathbf{b}]$  obtained by appending  $\mathbf{b}$  as an extra column to  $A$ . Row operations on  $[A|\mathbf{b}]$  correspond to equivalent systems.

## Consistency Criterion

System is consistent iff  $\text{rank}(A) = \text{rank}([A|\mathbf{b}])$ . If consistent and  $\text{rank} = n$ , unique solution.

# Examples

## Case 1

Calculate the number of solutions for

$$x + 2y - z = 3$$

$$2x - y + 3z = 7$$

$$3x + y + 2z = 10$$



# Examples

## Case 1

Calculate the number of solutions for

$$x + 2y - z = 3$$

$$2x - y + 3z = 7$$

$$3x + y + 2z = 10$$

**Unique Solution.**

# Examples

## Case 2

$$x + y + z = 6$$

$$2x + 2y + 2z = 12$$

$$x - y + 0z = 0$$

# Examples

## Case 2

$$x + y + z = 6$$

$$2x + 2y + 2z = 12$$

$$x - y + 0z = 0$$

**Infinitely many solutions.**

# Examples

## Case 3

$$x + y + z = 3$$

$$2x + 2y + 2z = 6$$

$$x + y + z = 4$$

# Examples

## Case 3

$$x + y + z = 3$$

$$2x + 2y + 2z = 6$$

$$x + y + z = 4$$

**No Solution.**

# Examples

## Case 4

$$x + 2y + 3z = 1$$

$$2x + 4y + 6z = 2$$

# Examples

## Case 4

$$x + 2y + 3z = 1$$

$$2x + 4y + 6z = 2$$

**Infinitely many solutions.**

# Outline

- 1 Definitions
- 2 **Solution Methods**
  - Gaussian Elimination
  - Gauss–Jordan
  - Doolittle (LU)



## Worked Example: Problem Statement

Solve the system:

$$x + y + z = 6$$

$$2x + 3y + z = 14$$

$$x - y + 2z = 2$$

We will solve this system by (1) Gaussian elimination, (2) Gauss–Jordan, and (3) Doolittle (LU) decomposition — step by step.

# Gaussian Elimination

## Gaussian Elimination

Reduce  $[A|\mathbf{b}]$  to *row-echelon form* (upper triangular) using elementary row operations; then use back-substitution to find unknowns.

# Gaussian Elimination

$$[A|\mathbf{b}] = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 1 & 6 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 & 14 \\ 1 & -1 & 2 & 2 \end{array} \right]$$

# Gaussian Elimination

$$[A|\mathbf{b}] = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 1 & 6 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 & 14 \\ 1 & -1 & 2 & 2 \end{array} \right]$$

Use  $R_2 \leftarrow R_2 - 2R_1$  and  $R_3 \leftarrow R_3 - R_1$ :

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 1 & 6 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 2 \\ 0 & -2 & 1 & -4 \end{array} \right]$$

# Gaussian Elimination

Pivot in row2 is 1. Use  $R_3 \leftarrow R_3 + 2R_2$ :

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 1 & 6 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

# Gaussian Elimination

Pivot in row2 is 1. Use  $R_3 \leftarrow R_3 + 2R_2$ :

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 1 & 6 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

Back-substitution:

from row3,  $-z = 0 \Rightarrow z = 0$ .

Row2:  $y - z = 2 \Rightarrow y = 2$ .

Row1:  $x + y + z = 6 \Rightarrow x = 4$ .

Unique solution:  $(x, y, z) = (4, 2, 0)$ .

# Gauss–Jordan Method

## Gauss–Jordan

Reduce  $[A|\mathbf{b}]$  to reduced row-echelon form (RREF) so each pivot is 1 and is the only nonzero entry in its column. Solutions are read directly; no back-substitution required.

# Gauss–Jordan: Start with augmented matrix

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 1 & 6 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 & 14 \\ 1 & -1 & 2 & 2 \end{array} \right]$$



## Gauss–Jordan: Make zeros below and above pivots

First eliminate below pivot in column1:  $R_2 \leftarrow R_2 - 2R_1$ ,  $R_3 \leftarrow R_3 - R_1$  giving

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 1 & 6 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 2 \\ 0 & -2 & 1 & -4 \end{array} \right]$$

## Gauss–Jordan: Make zeros below and above pivots

First eliminate below pivot in column1:  $R_2 \leftarrow R_2 - 2R_1$ ,  $R_3 \leftarrow R_3 - R_1$  giving

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 1 & 6 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 2 \\ 0 & -2 & 1 & -4 \end{array} \right]$$

Then make pivot in row2 the only nonzero in its column: add  $2 \times$  row2 to row3 and subtract row2 from row1:

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

## Gauss–Jordan: Make zeros below and above pivots

First eliminate below pivot in column1:  $R_2 \leftarrow R_2 - 2R_1$ ,  $R_3 \leftarrow R_3 - R_1$  giving

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 1 & 6 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 2 \\ 0 & -2 & 1 & -4 \end{array} \right]$$

Then make pivot in row2 the only nonzero in its column: add  $2 \times$  row2 to row3 and subtract row2 from row1:

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

Finally scale row3 by  $-1$  to make pivot 1 and eliminate above:  $R_3 \leftarrow -R_3$  then  $R_1 \leftarrow R_1 - 2R_3$ ,  $R_2 \leftarrow R_2 + R_3$  leads to RREF

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

# Doolittle (LU) Method

## Doolittle's LU Decomposition

If  $A$  is square and can be decomposed as  $A = LU$  where  $L$  is unit lower-triangular (1s on diagonal) and  $U$  is upper-triangular, solve by

$$L\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{b} \quad (\text{forward substitution}), \quad U\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y} \quad (\text{back substitution}).$$

Doolittle constructs  $L$  with unit diagonal and computes entries row-by-row.

# Doolittle: Setup

We want  $A = LU$  with

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad L = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \ell_{21} & 1 & 0 \\ \ell_{31} & \ell_{32} & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad U = \begin{pmatrix} u_{11} & u_{12} & u_{13} \\ 0 & u_{22} & u_{23} \\ 0 & 0 & u_{33} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Doolittle computes rows of  $U$  and columns of  $L$  sequentially.

# Doolittle: Compute LU

From  $u_{1j} = a_{1j}$ :  $u_{11} = 1, u_{12} = 1, u_{13} = 1$ . Compute  $\ell_{21} = a_{21}/u_{11} = 2/1 = 2$ ,  
 $\ell_{31} = a_{31}/u_{11} = 1/1 = 1$ .

# Doolittle: Compute LU

From  $u_{1j} = a_{1j}$ :  $u_{11} = 1, u_{12} = 1, u_{13} = 1$ . Compute  $\ell_{21} = a_{21}/u_{11} = 2/1 = 2$ ,  
 $\ell_{31} = a_{31}/u_{11} = 1/1 = 1$ .

Compute  $u_{22} = a_{22} - \ell_{21}u_{12} = 3 - 2 \cdot 1 = 1$ .

Compute  $u_{23} = a_{23} - \ell_{21}u_{13} = 1 - 2 \cdot 1 = -1$ .

Compute  $\ell_{32} = (a_{32} - \ell_{31}u_{12})/u_{22} = (-1 - 1 \cdot 1)/1 = -2$ .

## Doolittle: Compute LU

From  $u_{1j} = a_{1j}$ :  $u_{11} = 1, u_{12} = 1, u_{13} = 1$ . Compute  $\ell_{21} = a_{21}/u_{11} = 2/1 = 2$ ,  
 $\ell_{31} = a_{31}/u_{11} = 1/1 = 1$ .

Compute  $u_{22} = a_{22} - \ell_{21}u_{12} = 3 - 2 \cdot 1 = 1$ .

Compute  $u_{23} = a_{23} - \ell_{21}u_{13} = 1 - 2 \cdot 1 = -1$ .

Compute  $\ell_{32} = (a_{32} - \ell_{31}u_{12})/u_{22} = (-1 - 1 \cdot 1)/1 = -2$ .

Compute

$$u_{33} = a_{33} - \ell_{31}u_{13} - \ell_{32}u_{23} = 2 - 1 \cdot 1 - (-2) \cdot (-1) = 2 - 1 - 2 = -1.$$

So

$$L = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad U = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$



## Doolittle: Solve $Ly = \mathbf{b}$ (forward sub)

Solve

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ y_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 14 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Forward substitution:  $y_1 = 6$ .  $2y_1 + y_2 = 14 \Rightarrow y_2 = 14 - 2 \cdot 6 = 2$ .  
 $y_1 - 2y_2 + y_3 = 2 \Rightarrow y_3 = 2 - 6 + 4 = 0$ . So  $\mathbf{y} = (6, 2, 0)^T$ .

## Doolittle: Solve $U\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}$ (back sub)

Solve

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Back substitution: from row3  $-z = 0 \Rightarrow z = 0$ . Row2:  $y - z = 2 \Rightarrow y = 2$ .

Row1:  $x + y + z = 6 \Rightarrow x = 4$ .

# Thank You!

**Dr. D Bhanu Prakash**

[dbhanuprakash233.github.io](https://dbhanuprakash233.github.io)

Mail: [db\\_maths@vignan.ac.in](mailto:db_maths@vignan.ac.in)

I can't change the direction  
of the wind, but I can adjust  
my sails to always reach  
my destination.

(Jimmy Dean)

