

# Gaussian elimination

$$\begin{cases} a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + a_{13}x_3 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n = b_1 \\ a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + a_{23}x_3 + \dots + a_{2n}x_n = b_2 \\ a_{31}x_1 + a_{32}x_2 + a_{33}x_3 + \dots + a_{3n}x_n = b_3 \\ \vdots \\ a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + a_{m3}x_3 + \dots + a_{mn}x_n = b_m \end{cases}$$

eliminate by e.r.o.'s  
**step 1**

eliminate by e.r.o.'s  
**step 2**

...

$$\underline{A} \underline{x} = \underline{b}$$

full matrix

$$[A = (a_{ij})]$$

$$\underline{U} \underline{x} = \underline{c}$$

modified RHS of the original system

upper triangular matrix

same vector of unknowns

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

← 5x5 example

lower triangular

$$\underline{A} = \underline{L} \underline{U}$$

? quick way to find L

## Clearing columns

$$A \in M_{n \times m}(\mathbb{R})$$

$$a_{11} \neq 0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & \dots & a_{1m} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} & \dots & a_{2m} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} & \dots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & a_{n3} & \dots & a_{nm} \end{bmatrix}$$

↑  
must be "cleared"

$$\begin{aligned} R_2 &\rightarrow R_2 - \frac{a_{21}}{a_{11}} R_1 \\ R_3 &\rightarrow R_3 - \frac{a_{31}}{a_{11}} R_1 \\ &\vdots \\ R_n &\rightarrow R_n - \frac{a_{n1}}{a_{11}} R_1 \end{aligned}$$

notation:

$$\begin{cases} \lambda_2 = -\frac{a_{21}}{a_{11}} \\ \lambda_3 = -\frac{a_{31}}{a_{11}} \\ \vdots \\ \lambda_n = -\frac{a_{n1}}{a_{11}} \end{cases}$$

elementary  
matrices:

$$\begin{cases} E_{R_2 \rightarrow R_2 + \lambda_2 R_1} \\ E_{R_3 \rightarrow R_3 + \lambda_3 R_1} \\ \dots \\ E_{R_n \rightarrow R_n + \lambda_n R_1} \end{cases}$$

$E_{R_2 \rightarrow R_2 + \lambda_2 R_1} A \rightarrow$  clears the first entry  
in the second row

$E_{R_3 \rightarrow R_3 + \lambda_3 R_1} (E_{R_2 \rightarrow R_2 + \lambda_2 R_1} A) \rightarrow$  clears the first entries in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> rows

⋮

$E_{R_n \rightarrow R_n + \lambda_n R_1} \dots E_{R_3 \rightarrow R_3 + \lambda_3 R_1} E_{R_2 \rightarrow R_2 + \lambda_2 R_1} A$   
 clears all the entries in the first row which are below  $a_{11}$

$$Q_1 = E_{R_n \rightarrow R_n + \lambda_n R_1} \dots E_{R_2 \rightarrow R_2 + \lambda_2 R_1}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \lambda_2 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \lambda_3 & 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \lambda_n & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Q_1 A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1m} \\ 0 & a_{22}^{(1)} & \dots & a_{2m}^{(1)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & a_{n2}^{(1)} & \dots & a_{nm}^{(1)} \end{bmatrix}$$

has been "cleared"  $A^{(1)}$

$$Q_1^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ x & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ x & 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Q_2^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \otimes & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \otimes & 0 & 0 & \dots & \otimes \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Q_3^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \otimes & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \otimes & 0 & \dots & \otimes \end{bmatrix}$$

and  
soon....

Note that :

$$Q_1^{-1} Q_2^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ x & 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ x & \otimes & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ x & \otimes & 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x & \otimes & 0 & 0 & \dots & \otimes \end{bmatrix}$$

etc

$$Q_1 A = A^{(1)} \Rightarrow A = Q_1^{-1} A^{(1)}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ -\lambda_2 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ -\lambda_3 & 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -\lambda_n & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Next  $\rightarrow$  "clear" the elements in the 2<sup>nd</sup> column, below the 2<sup>nd</sup> pivot

$$Q_2 Q_1 A = A^{(2)} \Rightarrow A = Q_1^{-1} Q_2^{-1} A^{(2)}$$

$$A^{(2)} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1m} \\ 0 & a_{22}^{(1)} & \dots & a_{2m}^{(1)} \\ 0 & 0 & a_{33}^{(2)} & \dots & a_{3m}^{(2)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & a_{m3}^{(2)} & \dots & a_{nm}^{(2)} \end{bmatrix}$$

The process continues until all entries below the pivots have been "cleared".

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$$A = \underbrace{Q_1^{-1} Q_2^{-1} \dots Q_k^{-1}}_{?} A^{(k)} \rightarrow \text{upper triangular}$$

# Example (quick way to find L)

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 4 & 7 & 7 \\ 6 & 18 & 22 \end{pmatrix} \rightsquigarrow ? L \& U \text{ s.t. } A = LU$$

Solution:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 4 & 7 & 7 \\ 6 & 18 & 22 \end{pmatrix} \sim \begin{matrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{matrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 3 & 3 \\ 0 & 12 & 16 \end{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} \\ R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - 2R_1 \\ R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - 3R_1 \end{matrix} \sim$$

$R_i \rightarrow R_i + \lambda R_j$   
record  $(-\lambda)$

$$\sim \begin{matrix} 4 \\ \underbrace{\hspace{10em}} \\ U \end{matrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 3 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix} R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - 4R_2$$

$$L = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \square & 1 & 0 \\ \square & \square & 1 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 4 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \otimes$$

$Q_1 A \rightarrow Q_2(Q_1 A) = (Q_2 Q_1) A$   
produces the zeros in the 1st column      produces the zero in the 2nd column      U upper triangular

$$A = Q_1^{-1} Q_2^{-1} U$$

$$Q_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -3 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 \\ -3 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$Q_1^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$Q_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -4 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$Q_2^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$\Rightarrow$

$$\Rightarrow Q_1^{-1} Q_2^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 4 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$L$

$$A = LU \quad \text{where} \quad L = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 4 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

[Compare with  $\otimes$  on the previous page]

Example (continued)  $\rightarrow$  Solving  $A\underline{x} = \underline{b}$  using the LU factorisation

$$\begin{cases} 2x_1 + 2x_2 + 2x_3 = 12 \\ 4x_1 + 7x_2 + 7x_3 = 24 \\ 6x_1 + 18x_2 + 22x_3 = 12 \end{cases}$$

$$A\underline{x} = \underline{b}$$

$$\underline{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 12 \\ 24 \\ 12 \end{pmatrix}$$

Gaussian elimination:

$$\underline{U}\underline{x} = \hat{\underline{b}}$$

backward substitution

$$\hat{\underline{b}} = \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 24 \\ 70 \end{pmatrix}$$

LU decomposition

$$(LU)\underline{x} = \underline{b} \Leftrightarrow L(\underline{U}\underline{x}) = \underline{b}$$

$\underline{y}$

Step 1: Solve  $L\underline{y} = \underline{b}$  (forward substitution)

Step 2: Solve  $\underline{U}\underline{x} = \underline{y}$  (backward substitution)

$$\underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 4 & 1 \end{pmatrix}}_L \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ y_3 \end{pmatrix}}_y = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 12 \\ 24 \\ 12 \end{pmatrix}}_b \Rightarrow \begin{aligned} y_1 &= 12 \\ y_2 &= 24 - 2y_1 = 0 \\ y_3 &= 12 - 3y_1 - 4y_2 = -24 \end{aligned}$$

$$\underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 3 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix}}_U \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix}}_x = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 12 \\ 0 \\ -24 \end{pmatrix}}_y \Rightarrow \begin{aligned} x_3 &= -24/4 = -6 \\ x_2 &= (0 - 3x_3)/3 = 6 \\ x_1 &= (12 - 2x_2 - 2x_3)/2 = 6 \end{aligned}$$

OBS.  $A \underline{x} = \underline{b}$  ①

•  $[A | \underline{b}] \rightarrow$  echelon form  
 $\uparrow$   
 $\approx \frac{n^3}{3}$  operations

• "clearing" a column in a  $n \times n$  matrix  $\rightarrow \approx n^2$  operations.

• LU factorisation for solving ① is relatively cheap when that system must be solved for different  $\underline{b}$ 's

$$\underline{A} \underline{x} = \underline{b}_1, \underline{A} \underline{x} = \underline{b}_2, \underline{A} \underline{x} = \underline{b}_3, \dots$$

$\downarrow$   
 same coefficient matrix