Lesson 13: General solution of Ax = b $(A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m})$ matrix formulation

- New concepts:
 - Gaussian multiplier matrix
 - $oldsymbol{L}oldsymbol{U}$ factorization

Matrix formulation of row combinations

 Recall the basic operation in row echelon reduction: constructing a linear combination of rows to form zeros beneath the main diagonal, e.g.

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1m} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2m} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & \dots & a_{3m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \dots & a_{mm} \end{pmatrix} \sim \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1m} \\ 0 & a_{22} - \frac{a_{21}}{a_{11}} a_{12} & \dots & a_{2m} - \frac{a_{21}}{a_{11}} a_{1m} \\ 0 & a_{32} - \frac{a_{31}}{a_{11}} a_{12} & \dots & a_{3m} - \frac{a_{31}}{a_{11}} a_{1m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & a_{m2} - \frac{a_{m1}}{a_{11}} a_{12} & \dots & a_{mm} - \frac{a_{m1}}{a_{11}} a_{1m} \end{pmatrix}$$

• This can be stated as a matrix multiplication operation, with $l_{i1} = a_{i1}/a_{11}$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ -l_{21} & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ -l_{31} & 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -l_{m1} & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1m} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2m} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & \dots & a_{3m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \dots & a_{mm} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1m} \\ 0 & a_{22} - l_{21}a_{12} & \dots & a_{2m} - l_{21}a_{1m} \\ 0 & a_{32} - l_{31}a_{12} & \dots & a_{3m} - l_{31}a_{1m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & a_{m2} - l_{m1}a_{12} & \dots & a_{mm} - l_{m1}a_{1m} \end{pmatrix}$$

Gaussian multiplier

Definition. The matrix

$$\boldsymbol{L}_{k} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \dots & 0 & \dots & 1 \\ 0 & \ddots & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & -l_{k+1,k} & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & -l_{k+2,k} & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \dots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & -l_{m,k} & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

with $l_{i,k} = a_{i,k}^{(k)} / a_{k,k}^{(k)}$, and $\mathbf{A}^{(k)} = \left(a_{i,j}^{(k)}\right)$ the matrix obtained after step k of row echelon reduction (or, equivalently, Gaussian elimination) is called a Gaussian multiplier matrix.

Matrix formulation of Gaussian elimination

• For $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$ nonsingular, the successive steps in row echelon reduction (or Gaussian elimination) correspond to successive multiplications on the left by Gaussian multiplier matrices

$$L_{m-1}L_{m-2}...L_{2}L_{1}A = U$$

The inverse of a Gaussian multiplier is

$$m{L}_k^{-1} = \left(egin{array}{cccccc} 1 & \dots & 0 & \dots & 1 \\ 0 & \ddots & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & l_{k+1,k} & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & l_{k+2,k} & \dots & 0 \\ dots & \dots & dots & \ddots & dots \\ 0 & \dots & l_{m,k} & \dots & 1 \end{array}
ight) = m{I} - (m{L}_k - m{I})$$

$oldsymbol{L}oldsymbol{U}$ factorization

• From $(\boldsymbol{L}_{m-1}\boldsymbol{L}_{m-2}...\boldsymbol{L}_{2}\boldsymbol{L}_{1})\boldsymbol{A} = \boldsymbol{U}$ obtain

$$A = (L_{m-1}L_{m-2}...L_2L_1)^{-1}U = L_1^{-1}L_2^{-1} \cdot ... \cdot L_{m-1}^{-1}U = LU$$

• Due to the simple form of $m{L}_k^{-1}$ the matrix $m{L}$ is easily obtained as

$$\boldsymbol{L} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ l_{2,1} & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ l_{3,1} & l_{3,2} & 1 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ l_{m-1,1} & l_{m-1,2} & l_{m-1,3} & \dots & 1 & 0 \\ l_{m,1} & l_{m,2} & l_{m,3} & \dots & l_{m,m-1} & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$oldsymbol{L}oldsymbol{U}$ factorization formulation of linear system solution

- Using the concept of an LU factorization, finding the solution to a linear system Ax = b can be formulated as the following steps:
 - 1. Find the LU factorization, LU = A
 - 2. Replace factorization into system and regroup $Ax = b \Leftrightarrow (LU)x = b \Leftrightarrow Ly = b$. Solve the lower triangular Ly = b system to find y
 - 3. Solve the upper triangular system Ux = y to find x
- The above formulation of the steps within Gaussian elimination is very useful in computer calculations