

LAST TIME:

- \* Linear Equations
- \* Geometry of Linear equations
  - Row picture, column picture
- \* When do linear equations have
  - (i) a single solution (ii) no solution (iii) many solutions

TODAY:

- \* Solving linear equations using ELIMINATION

## The Idea of Elimination

How would you solve

$$x + 2y = 3 \quad \text{--- (a)}$$

$$3x - y = 2 \quad \text{--- (b)}$$

Step 1: Eliminate the unknown  $x$  from equation (b)

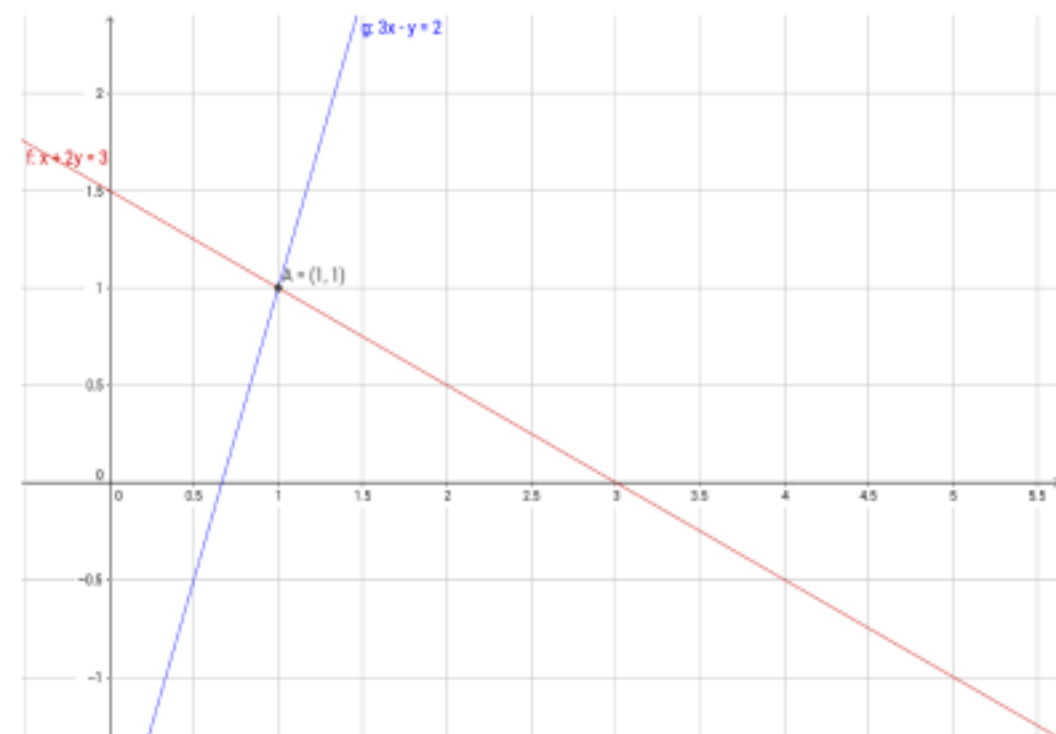
$$\begin{array}{r} \begin{array}{l} x + 2y = 3 \\ 0x - 7y = -7 \end{array} \\ \text{upper triangular system} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{(leave first equation)} \\ \text{unchanged} \\ \text{(b) - 3(a)} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{--- (c)} \\ \text{--- (d)} \end{array}$$

Step 2: "Back-Substitution"

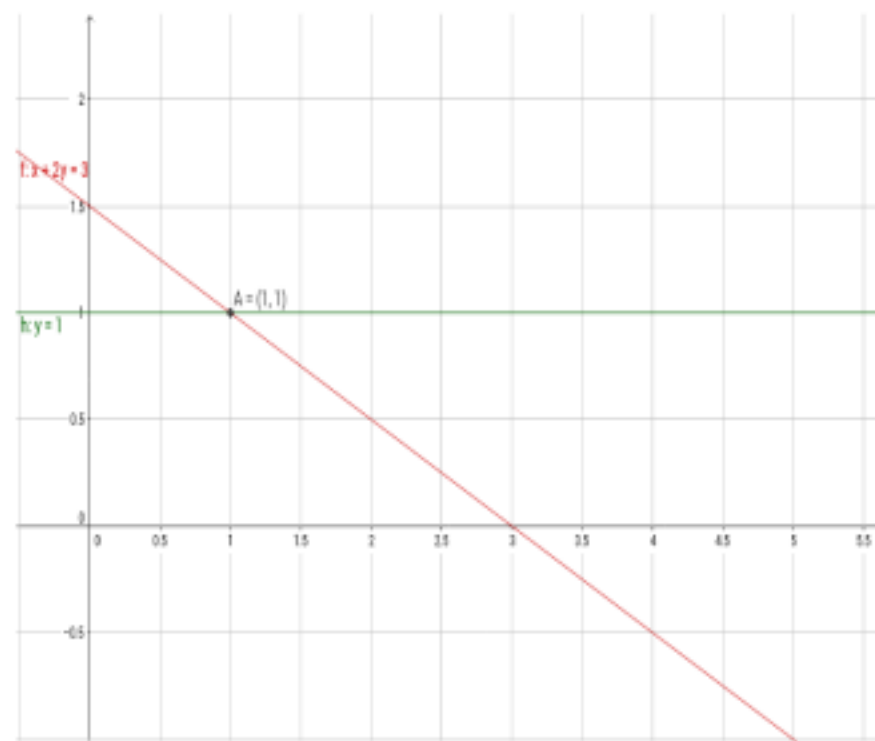
From equation (d) we have  $y = 1$ . Substitute this in equation (c).

We get  $x + 2 = 3$  or  $x = 1$ .

# Geometry of Elimination



Before Elimination



After Elimination

Note: Solution has not changed!

# The Terminology of Elimination

pivot

$$\begin{array}{l} 2x + 4y = 6 \\ 3x - y = 2 \end{array}$$

eliminate x  
→  
Subtract multiple  
of eqn 1 from  
eqn 2.

$$\text{Multiplier} = \frac{3}{2} \text{ pivot}$$

pivots are on diagonal

$$\begin{array}{l} 2x + 4y = 6 \\ -7y = -7 \end{array}$$

System is  
triangular

Pivot = First non-zero entry in  
row that does elimination

Multiplier = (entry to eliminate)  
divided by (pivot)

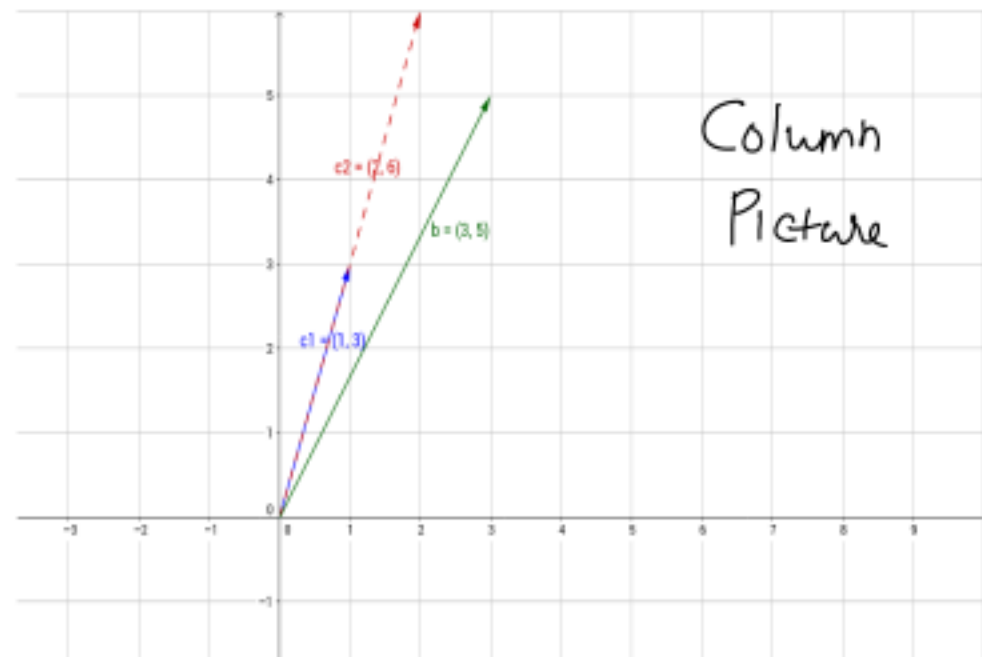
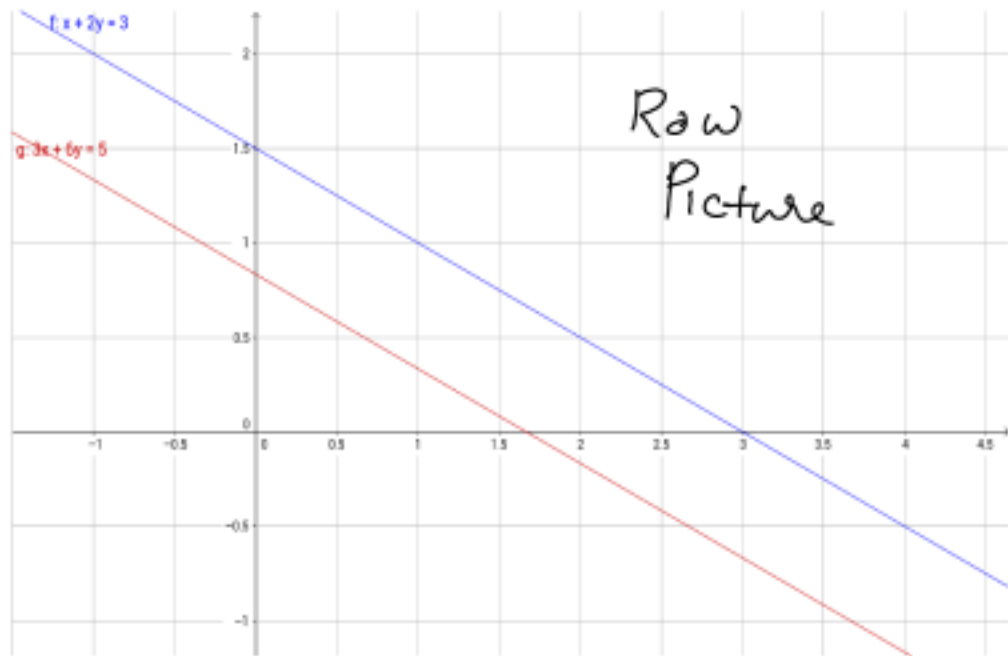
# When does Elimination Break Down?

Case 1: (Permanent Failure) No Solution

$$\begin{array}{r} x + 2y = 3 \\ 3x + 6y = 5 \end{array} \xrightarrow{\text{elimination}} \begin{array}{r} x + 2y = 3 \\ \boxed{0}y = -4 \end{array}$$

zero not allowed as a pivot

LHS of eqn ② = 3x LHS of eqn ①



# When Does Elimination Break Down?

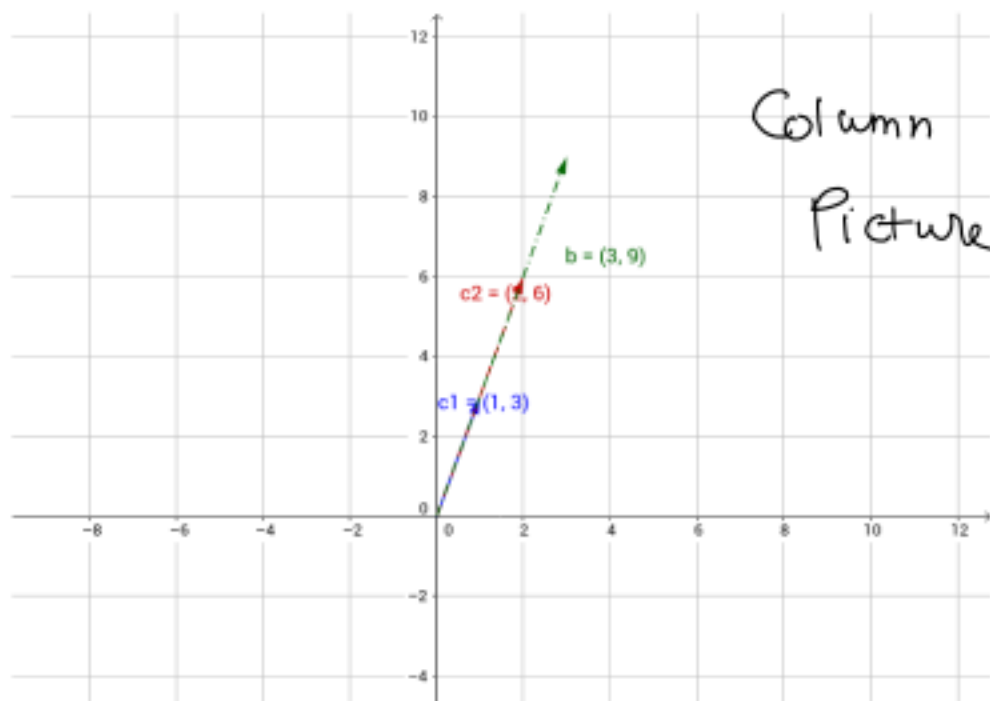
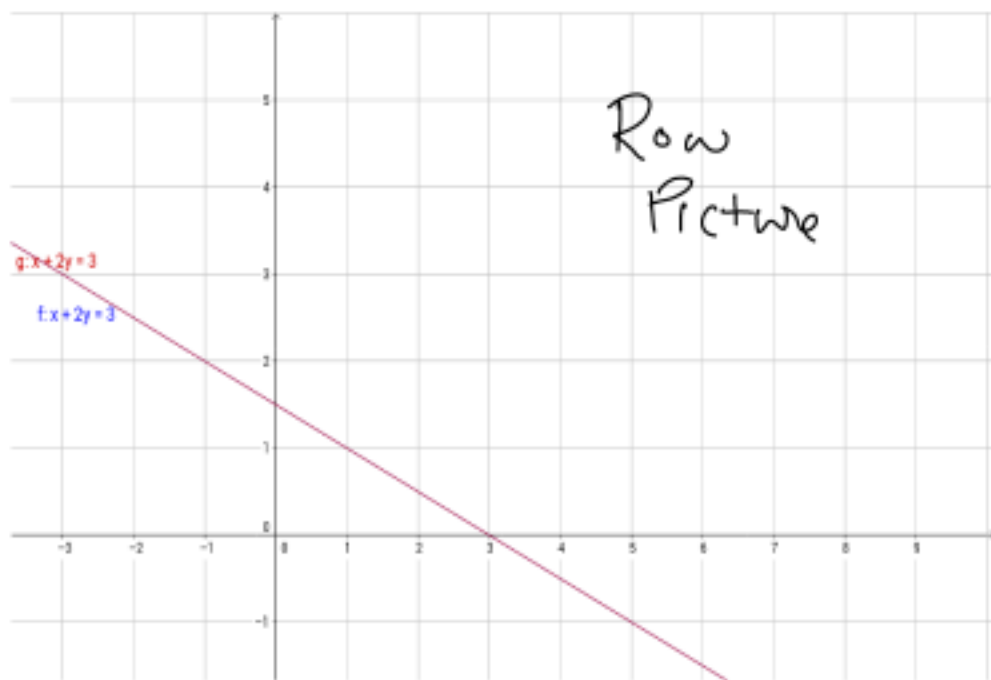
Case 2: (Permanent failure) Infinitely many Solutions

$$\begin{array}{r} x + 2y = 3 \\ \underline{3x + 6y = 9} \end{array} \xrightarrow{\text{elimination}}$$

eqn ② = 3 × eqn ①

$$\begin{array}{r} x + 2y = 3 \\ \underline{0y = 0} \end{array}$$

every  $y$  satisfies  
 $0y = 0$   
( $y$  is "free")  
Second equation is redundant



In both cases, there was only 1 (non-zero) pivot.

In general, for a system of n equations in n unknowns,

elimination breaks down if we do not have n pivots.

no solution or infinitely many solutions } Singular

Note: Temporary failure of Elimination

$$\begin{array}{l} \boxed{0}x + 3y = 3 \\ 3x - y = 2 \end{array} \xrightarrow[\text{rows}]{\text{exchange}} \begin{array}{l} \textcircled{3}x - y = 2 \\ \textcircled{3}y = 3 \end{array}$$

~~Zero pivot?~~      triangular      non-zero pivots      non-singular

Elimination works for larger systems too!

Example: 3 equations in 3 unknowns

$$2x + 3y + z = 4$$

$$3x - y - 3z = -1$$

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

**Step 1a** Eliminate  $x$  from the second equation

pivot  $\left[ \begin{array}{l} 2x + 3y + z = 4 \\ 3x - y - 3z = -1 \\ 2x + 4y + 2z = 6 \end{array} \right.$  Multiplier  $l = \frac{3}{2}$   
 $\xrightarrow{\text{eqn } 2 \rightarrow \text{eqn } 2 - \frac{3}{2} \text{ eqn } 1}$

$$\begin{array}{l} 2x + 3y + z = 4 \\ -\frac{11}{2}y - \frac{9}{2}z = -7 \\ 2x + 4y + 2z = 6 \end{array}$$

**Step 1b** Eliminate  $x$  from the third equation

pivot  $\left[ \begin{array}{l} 2x + 3y + z = 4 \\ -\frac{11}{2}y - \frac{9}{2}z = -7 \\ 2x + 4y + 2z = 6 \end{array} \right.$  Multiplier  $l = 1$   
 $\xrightarrow{\text{eqn } 3 \rightarrow \text{eqn } 3 - \text{eqn } 1}$

$$\begin{array}{l} 2x + 3y + z = 4 \\ -\frac{11}{2}y - \frac{9}{2}z = -7 \\ y + z = 2 \end{array}$$



$$2x + 3y + z = 4$$

$$-\frac{11}{2}y - \frac{9}{2}z = -7$$

$$y + z = 2$$

2x2 system

Step 2

apply elimination  
on this  
system

$$2x + 3y + z = 4$$

$$3x - y - 3z = -1$$

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

Step 2

Eliminate  $y$  from the third equation above

$$2x + 3y + z = 4$$

$$-\frac{11}{2}y - \frac{9}{2}z = -7$$

$$y + z = 2$$

pivot

multiply  $l = -\frac{2}{11}$

eqn 3  $\rightarrow$  eqn 3 -  $(-\frac{2}{11})$  eqn 2

$$2x + 3y + z = 4$$

$$-\frac{11}{2}y - \frac{9}{2}z = -7$$

$$\frac{2}{11}z = \frac{8}{11}$$

$$2x + 3y + z = 4$$

$$3x - y - 3z = -1$$

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

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

$$2x + 3y + z = 4$$

$$-\frac{11}{2}y - \frac{9}{2}z = -7$$

$$y + z = 2$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 2x + 3y + z & = & 4 \\ & -\frac{11}{2}y - \frac{9}{2}z & = -7 \\ & y + z & = 2 \end{array}$$

upper triangular  
 $V\vec{x} = \vec{c}$

**Step 3** Back Substitution

$$\begin{array}{r} 2x + 3y + z = 4 \\ -\frac{11}{2}y - \frac{9}{2}z = -7 \\ \frac{2}{11}z = \frac{8}{11} \end{array}$$

upper triangular  
 $U\vec{x} = \vec{c}$

We get (from third equation)

$$z = 4$$

Substituting this in the second equation, we get

$$-\frac{11}{2}y - 18 = -7 \text{ or } y = -2$$

Substituting for  $z$  and  $y$  in the first equation, we get

$$2x - 6 + 4 = 4 \text{ or } x = 3$$

Worked Examples (#7 in Problem Set 2.2)

For which numbers  $a$  does elimination break down

(1) permanently (2) temporarily?

$$ax + 3y = -3$$

$$4x + 6y = 6.$$

Solve for  $x$  and  $y$  after fixing the temporary breakdown by a row exchange.

## Worked Examples (#7 in Problem Set 2.2)

For which numbers  $a$  does elimination break down

(1) permanently (2) temporarily?

$$ax + 3y = -3$$

$$4x + 6y = 6.$$

Solve for  $x$  and  $y$  after fixing the temporary breakdown by a row exchange.

Observe LHS of the two equations.

What value of  $a$  makes LHS of eqn (2) a multiple of eqn (1)?

$$a=2$$

If  $a=2$ , then  
LHS eqn (2) =  $2 \times$  LHS eqn (1)

$$\begin{array}{l} 2x + 3y = -3 \\ 4x + 6y = 6 \end{array}$$

Permanent Breakdown

elimination  
 $\longrightarrow$

$$\begin{array}{l} 2x + 3y = -3 \\ \underline{0x + 0y = 12} \\ 0 = 12 \end{array}$$

breakdown

NO  
SOLUTION

$$ax + 3y = -3$$

$$4x + 6y = 6.$$

Temporary breakdown of elimination

- should be fixable by a row exchange

Elimination breaks down temporarily if  $a=0$ .

$$0x + 3y = -3$$

$$4x + 6y = 6$$

row  
exchange

$$\begin{array}{l} 4x + 6y = 6 \\ 3y = -3 \end{array}$$

triangular

Back  
substitution

$$\begin{array}{l} y = -1 \\ x = 3 \end{array}$$

Worked Examples (#13 in Problem Set 2.2)

Apply elimination (circle the pivots) and back substitution to

Solve

$$2x - 3y = 3$$

$$4x - 5y + z = 7$$

$$2x - y - 3z = 5.$$

List the three row operations: Subtract \_\_\_\_\_ times row \_\_\_\_\_ from row \_\_\_\_\_.

## Worked Examples (#13 in Problem Set 2.2)

Apply elimination (circle the pivots) and back substitution to solve

$$\begin{aligned}2x - 3y &= 3 \\4x - 5y + z &= 7 \\2x - y - 3z &= 5.\end{aligned}$$

List the three row operations: Subtract \_\_\_\_\_ times row \_\_\_\_\_ from row \_\_\_\_\_.

$2x - 3y = 3$	Subtract $2 \times$ row 1 $\rightarrow$ from row 2	$2x - 3y = 3$	Subtract $1 \times$ row 1 $\rightarrow$ from row 3	$2x - 3y = 3$
$4x - 5y + z = 7$		$y + z = 1$		$y + z = 1$
$2x - y - 3z = 5$		$2x - y - 3z = 5$		$2y - 3z = 2$

## Worked Examples (#13 in Problem Set 2.2)

Apply elimination (circle the pivots) and back substitution to solve

$$\begin{aligned}2x - 3y &= 3 \\4x - 5y + z &= 7 \\2x - y - 3z &= 5.\end{aligned}$$

List the three row operations: Subtract \_\_\_\_\_ times row \_\_\_\_\_ from row \_\_\_\_\_.

$$\begin{aligned}2x - 3y &= 3 \\y + z &= 1 \\2y - 3z &= 2\end{aligned}$$

Subtract  
2 x row 2  
from row 3

$$\begin{aligned}\boxed{2}x - 3y &= 3 \\ \boxed{1}y + z &= 1 \\ \boxed{-5}z &= 0\end{aligned}$$

pivots

Back  
substitution

$$\begin{aligned}z &= 0 \\y &= 1 \\x &= 3\end{aligned}$$