

# 10.34: Numerical Methods Applied to Chemical Engineering

Lecture 4:  
Gaussian elimination  
Sparse matrices

# Recap

- Vector spaces
- Linear dependence
- Existence and uniqueness of solutions
- Four fundamental subspaces

# Recap

- What is the column space of a matrix?
- What is the null space of a matrix?
- What are the conditions for existence and uniqueness of solutions to linear equations?

# Easy to Solve Linear Equations

- Diagonal:
  - Go row by row

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

- Triangular:
  - Back substitution

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

- Goal: transform complicated equations into easy ones

# Gaussian Elimination

- Solving N equations with N unknowns:

- **Example:**
$$\begin{array}{rclcl} 2x_1 & -x_2 & 0 & = & 0 \\ -x_1 & +2x_2 & -x_3 & = & 1 \\ 0 & -x_2 & +2x_3 & = & 0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

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

- Convert to triangular form using elementary row operations

- $(\text{row})_1 \rightarrow c(\text{row})_1$

- $(\text{row})_1 \rightarrow a(\text{row})_1 + b(\text{row})_2$

- $(\text{row})_1 \leftrightarrow (\text{row})_2$

# Gaussian Elimination

- Solving N equations with N unknowns:

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

- **step 1:**  $(\text{row})_2 \rightarrow (\text{row})_2 + (1/2)(\text{row})_1$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3/2 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

- **step 2:**  $(\text{row})_3 \rightarrow (\text{row})_3 + (2/3)(\text{row})_2$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3/2 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 4/3 & 2/3 \end{array} \right]$$

- solve by back substitution.

# Gaussian Elimination

- Solving N equations with N unknowns:

- **Example:** 
$$\left[ \begin{array}{cccc|c} A_{11} & A_{12} & \dots & A_{1N} & b_1 \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & \dots & A_{2N} & b_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \\ A_{N1} & A_{N2} & \dots & A_{NN} & b_N \end{array} \right]$$

- **step 1, select pivot:**  $A_{11}$      $\lambda_{k1} = A_{k1}/A_{11}$

- **step 2, do row operations:**  $(\text{row})_k \rightarrow (\text{row})_k - \lambda_{k1}(\text{row})_1$      $k > 1$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cccc|c} A_{11} & A_{12} & \dots & A_{1N} & b_1 \\ 0 & A_{22} - \lambda_{21}A_{12} & \dots & A_{2N} - \lambda_{21}A_{1N} & b_2 - \lambda_{21}b_1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \\ 0 & A_{N2} - \lambda_{N1}A_{12} & \dots & A_{NN} - \lambda_{N1}A_{1N} & b_N - \lambda_{N1}b_1 \end{array} \right]$$

- **step 3, select pivot:**  $A_{22} - \lambda_{21}A_{12}$      $\lambda_{k2} = A_{k2}/(A_{22} - \lambda_{21}A_{12})$

- **step 4, do row operations:**  $(\text{row})_k \rightarrow (\text{row})_k - \lambda_{k2}(\text{row})_2$      $k > 2$

- rinse and repeat until upper triangular

- solve by back substitution

# Gaussian Elimination

- Gaussian elimination requires how many operations?
- Is Gaussian elimination reliable (stable)?

- Example:

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

- Partial pivoting:
  - If a selected pivot is zero, perform an additional row operation and reselect the pivot.
    - Swap the pivot row for a row with a non-zero pivot:  $(\text{row})_k \leftrightarrow (\text{row})_l$
    - What if all potential pivots are zero?

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# Gaussian Elimination

- Pivoting to improve accuracy:

- Example with three digit accuracy:  $\left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 10^{-4} & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 \end{array} \right]$

- eliminate first column:

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 10^{-4} & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1.00 \times 10^4 & -1.00 \times 10^4 \end{array} \right]$$

- solve by back substitution:  $x_1 = 0.00 \quad x_2 = 1.00$
- exact solution is:  $x_1 = 0.9999 \quad x_2 = 0.9999$
- repeat after swapping rows 1 and 2...
- Small pivots can lead to large errors.
- Therefore, many algorithms implement a pivoting strategy that uses the largest available pivot to minimize numerical errors.

# Gaussian Elimination

- Example: Gaussian elimination of a sparse  $N \times N$  system

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} -3 & 0 & 1 & b_k \\ & 0 & & \vdots \\ & 1 & & \vdots \end{array} \right]$$

- What is the most memory I would need to perform Gaussian elimination?
- What is the least amount of memory I would need to perform Gaussian elimination?
- How should I store the matrix?

# Sparse Matrices

- Example: a finite volume model of diffusion

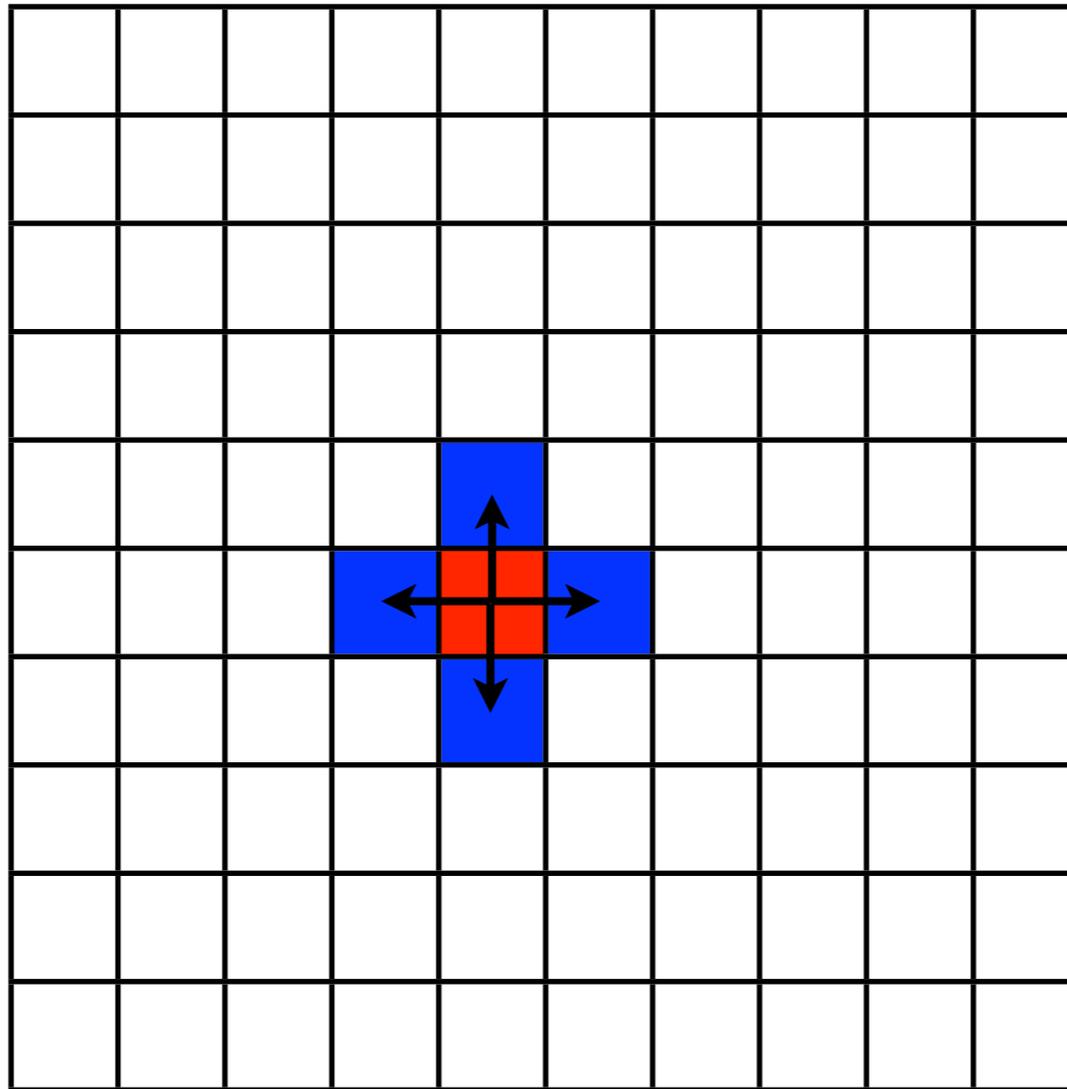
$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} = D \nabla^2 c$$



# Sparse Matrices

- Example: a finite volume model of diffusion

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} = D \nabla^2 c$$



conserve the flux from  
one cell to the next

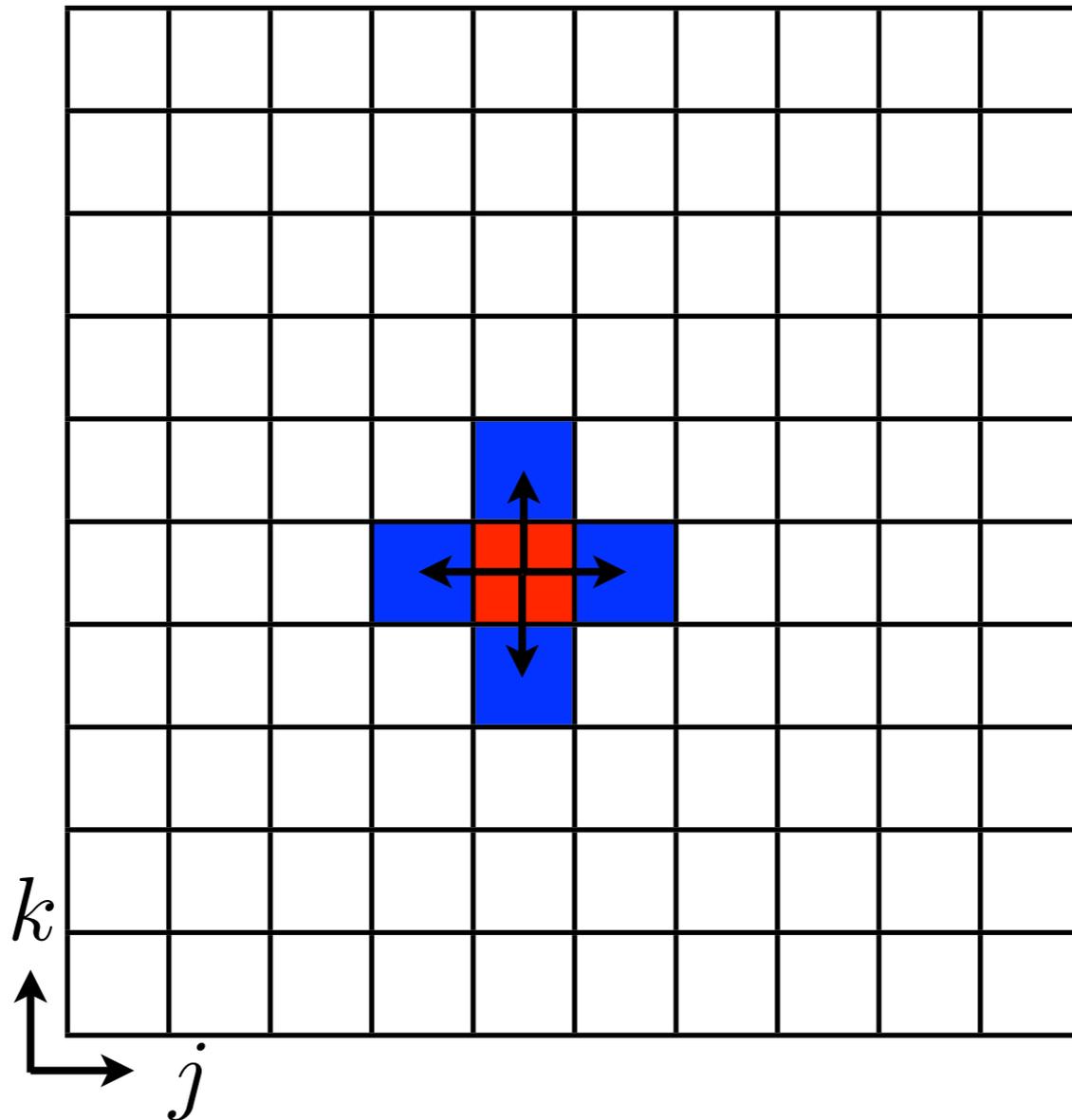
only neighboring cells  
interact

$$\mathbf{c}_{i+1} = \mathbf{c}_i + \frac{\Delta t D}{\Delta x^2} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{c}_i$$

# Sparse Matrices

- Example: a finite volume model of diffusion

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} = D \nabla^2 c$$



conserve the flux from  
one cell to the next

only neighboring cells  
interact

$$c_{i+1}^{j+Nk} = c_{i+1}^{j+Nk} + \frac{\Delta t D}{\Delta x^2} \left( c_i^{j+1+Nk} + c_i^{j-1+Nk} + c_i^{j+N(k+1)} + c_i^{j+N(k-1)} - 4c_i^{j+Nk} \right)$$

# Sparse Matrices

- Example: a finite volume model of diffusion

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} = D \nabla^2 c$$



$$c_{i+1}^{j+Nk} = c_{i+1}^{j+Nk} + \frac{\Delta t D}{\Delta x^2} \left( c_i^{j+1+Nk} + c_i^{j-1+Nk} + c_i^{j+N(k+1)} + c_i^{j+N(k-1)} - 4c_i^{j+Nk} \right)$$





# Sparse Matrices

- Example: Gaussian elimination of a structured matrix

- Before elimination: 
$$\left[ \begin{array}{cccccc|c} \times & \times & \times & \times & \times & \times & \times \\ \times & \times & & & & & \times \\ \times & & \times & & & & \times \\ \times & & & \times & & & \times \\ \times & & & & \times & & \times \\ \times & & & & & \times & \times \end{array} \right]$$

- First column eliminated: 
$$\left[ \begin{array}{cccccc|c} \times & \times & \times & \times & \times & \times & \times \\ & \times & \times & \times & \times & \times & \times \\ & \times & \times & \times & \times & \times & \times \\ & \times & \times & \times & \times & \times & \times \\ & \times & \times & \times & \times & \times & \times \\ & \times & \times & \times & \times & \times & \times \end{array} \right]$$

- After elimination: 
$$\left[ \begin{array}{cccccc|c} \times & \times & \times & \times & \times & \times & \times \\ & \times & \times & \times & \times & \times & \times \\ & & \times & \times & \times & \times & \times \\ & & & \times & \times & \times & \times \\ & & & & \times & \times & \times \\ & & & & & \times & \times \end{array} \right]$$

# Sparse Matrices

- Example: Gaussian elimination of a structured matrix

- Before elimination: 
$$\left[ \begin{array}{cccccc|c} \times & \times & \times & \times & \times & \times & \times \\ \times & \times & & & & & \times \\ \times & & \times & & & & \times \\ \times & & & \times & & & \times \\ \times & & & & \times & & \times \\ \times & & & & & \times & \times \end{array} \right]$$

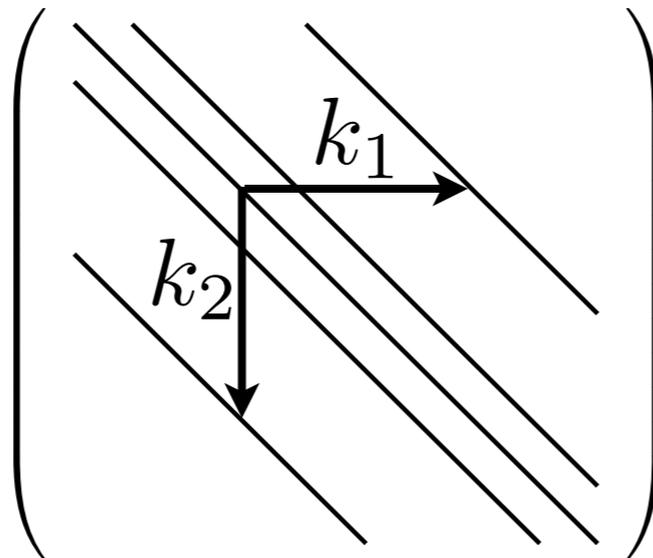
- Swap last and first rows and columns: 
$$\left[ \begin{array}{cccccc|c} \times & & & & & \times & \times \\ & \times & & & & \times & \times \\ & & \times & & & \times & \times \\ & & & \times & & \times & \times \\ & & & & \times & \times & \times \\ \times & \times & \times & \times & \times & \times & \times \end{array} \right]$$

- After elimination:

# Fill-in

- Gaussian elimination fills in sparse matrices
- The amount of fill-in depends on the sparse structure.
- In general, lower bandwidth sparsity patterns, have smaller amounts of fill-in.

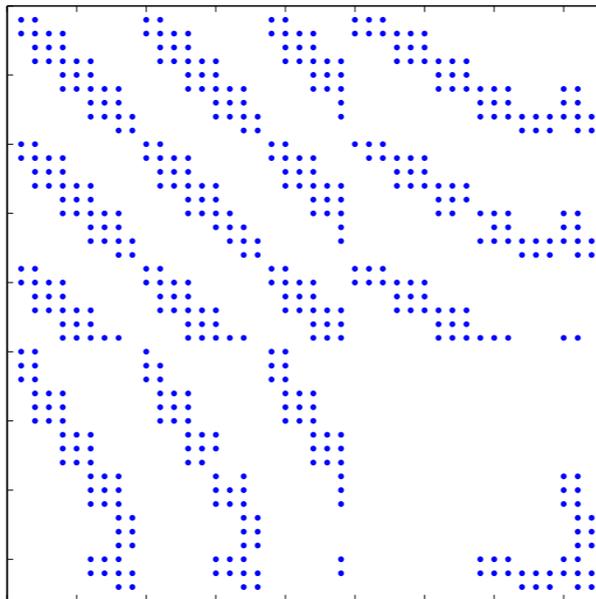
- Bandwidth:



- In the worst case, GE doubles the bandwidth
- There are algorithms that reorder matrices with the goal of minimizing the amount of fill-in.

# Fill-in

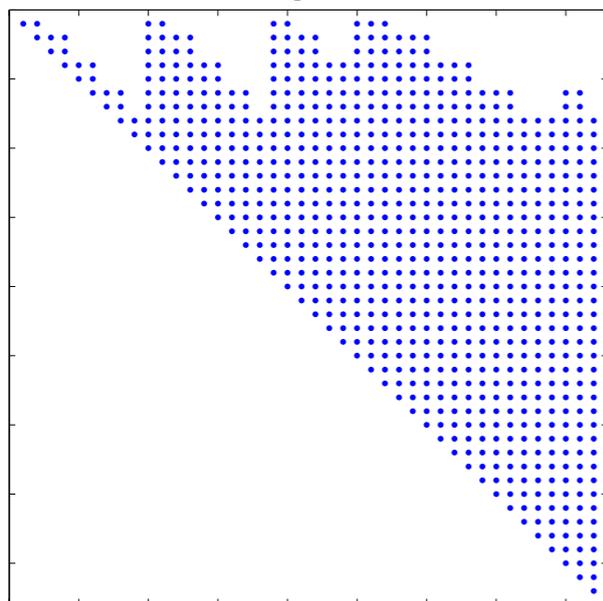
- Fill-in is reduced by reordering:



505 non-zero

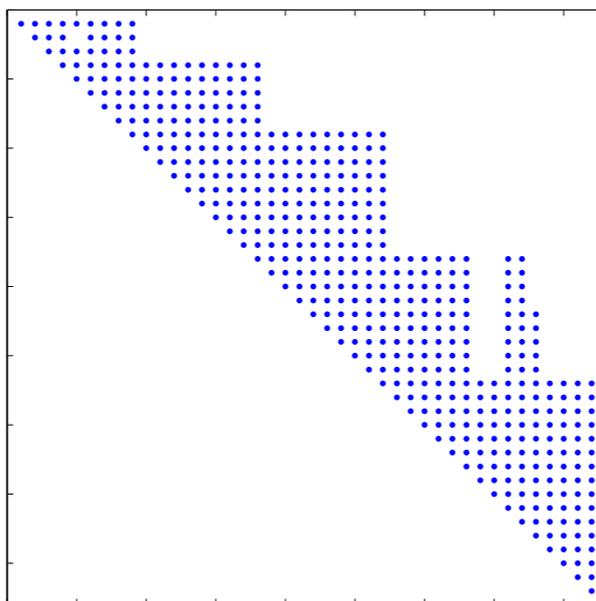
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original



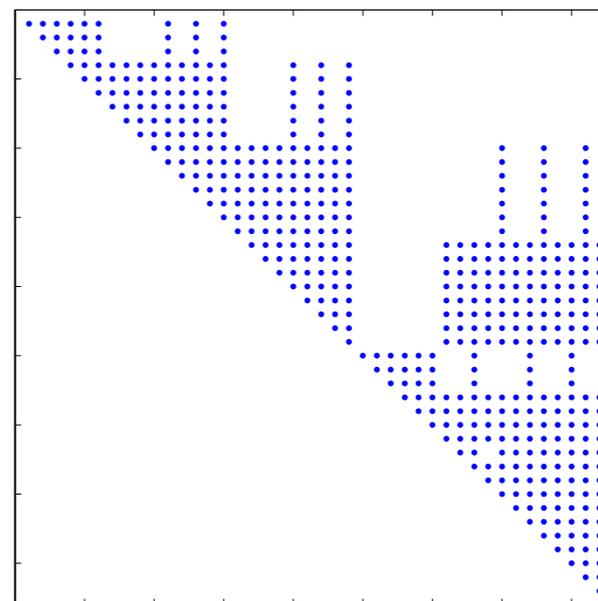
780 non-zero

symrcm



490 non-zero

symamd



479 non-zero

# Permutation

- Reordering through use of permutation matrices:
  - Consider the operation of swapping two rows. This can be done through matrix multiplication.

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

swap row 1 and 2

identity

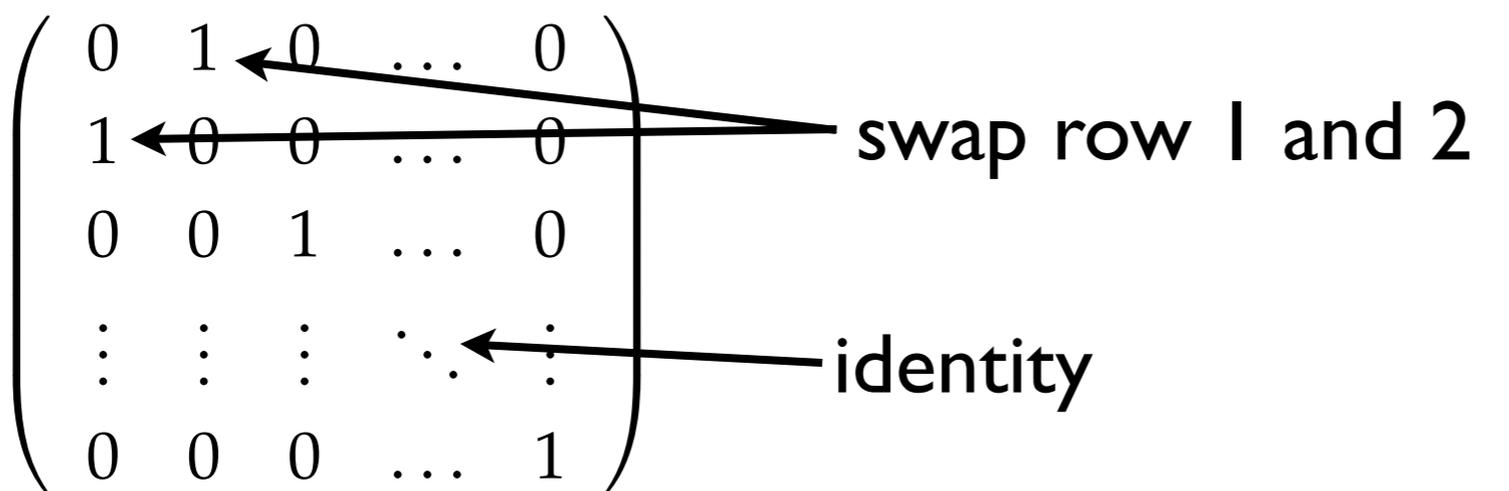
- For example:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_2 \\ x_1 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Permutation

- Reordering through use of permutation matrices:
- Consider the operation of swapping two rows. This can be done through matrix multiplication.

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$


  
 swap row 1 and 2  
 identity

$$PA = \left( PA_1^C \quad PA_2^C \quad \dots \quad PA_N^C \right) = \begin{pmatrix} A_2^R \\ A_1^R \\ A_3^R \\ \vdots \\ A_N^R \end{pmatrix}$$

# Permutation

- Reordering through use of permutation matrices:
  - How do I swap columns?

- Permutation matrices are unitary:

$$\mathbf{P}\mathbf{P}^T = \mathbf{I}$$
$$\mathbf{P}^T = \mathbf{P}^{-1}$$

- Reordering a system of equations:

$$(\mathbf{P}_1\mathbf{A}\mathbf{P}_2^T)(\mathbf{P}_2\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{P}_1\mathbf{b}$$

- Reordering is a form of preconditioning!
- Reordering can be used for pivoting!

# Permutation

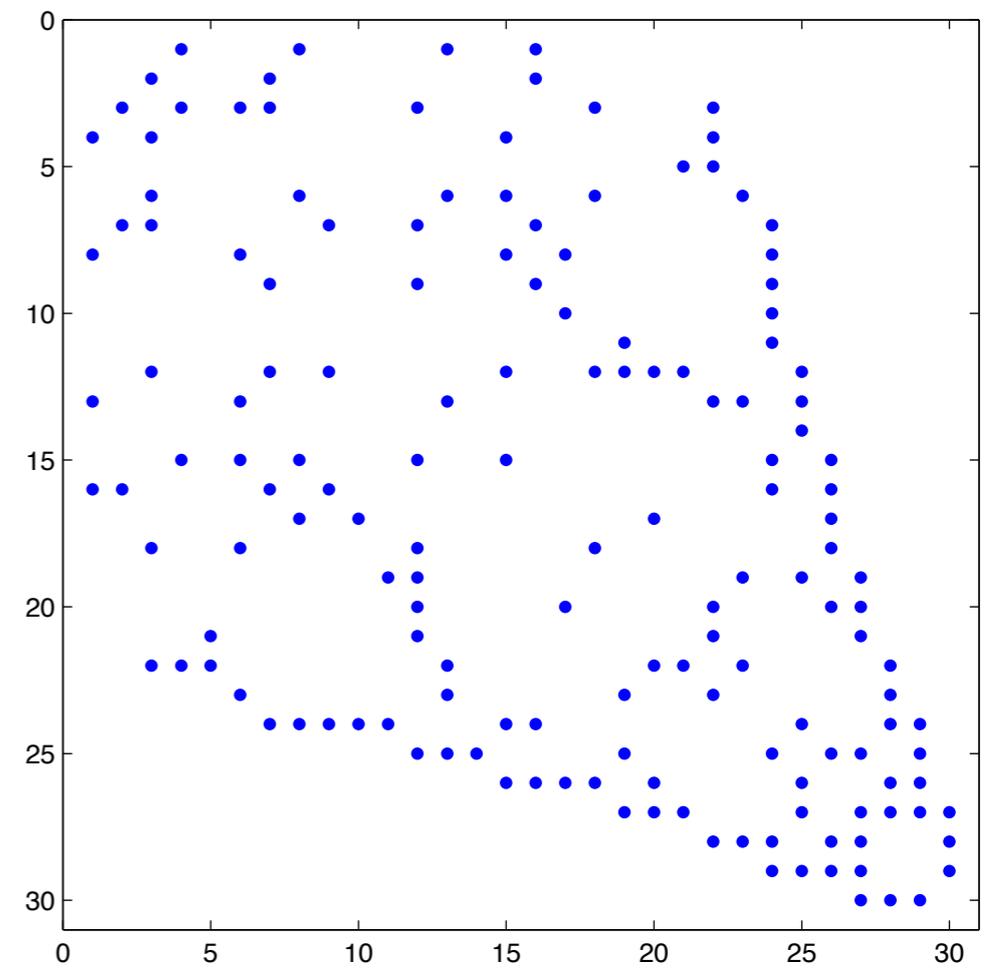
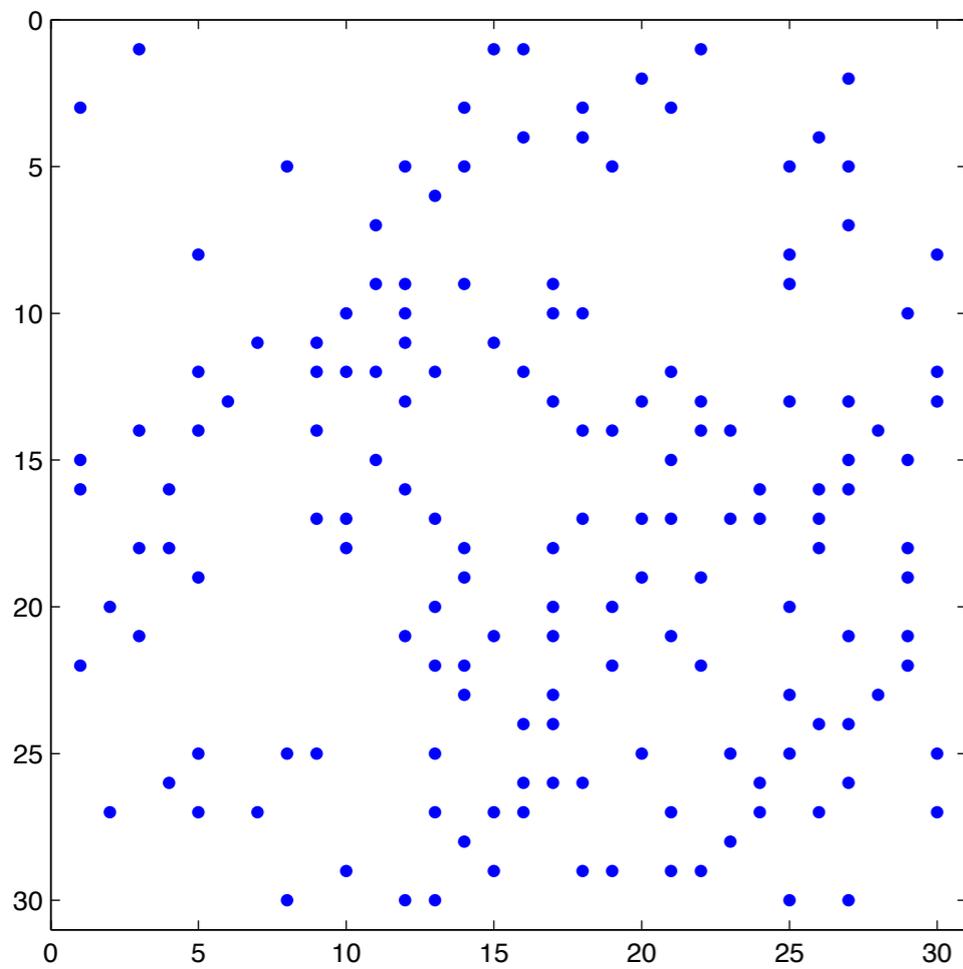
- Reordering through use of permutation matrices:
  - Permutation matrices are sparse too. How are they stored?
  - Example reversing the order of 10 rows:

old position	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
new position	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

- Permutation matrices are sparse too. How are they used?
  - $P = [ 10 \ 9 \ 8 \ 7 \ 6 \ 5 \ 4 \ 3 \ 2 \ 1 ]$
  - $A = A( P, : )$

# Permutation

- Reordering through use of permutation matrices:
  - Example:
    - $P = \text{symrcm}(A);$
    - `figure; spy(A);`
    - `figure; spy( A( P, P ) )`



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