

*In this class:*

*September 29, 2016*

## **Solving $Ax=b$ with Pivoting**

- *Solving  $Ax=b$  with Gaussian Elimination and LU and partial pivoting*

*Next class*

Operations in solving  $Ax=b$   
G&C – Chapter 7

*Next next class*

QR Factorization & Least Squares  
G&C – Chapter 7.6

# Solving $Ax=b$

We use Gaussian Elimination to solve  $Ax=b$

We record the steps in a matrix factorization

$$A = LU$$

So that we can “replay” them more efficiently.

# Solving $Ax=b$

But – there are some issues with this!

- Pivoting is necessary to make this work on the computer!
- Swapping rows to avoid dividing by  
(i) zero or (ii) small numbers

**THEOREM** A matrix is non-singular if and only if the pivoted LU decomposition succeeds without dividing by zero