

**Numerical Linear Algebra**  
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**Lecture - 26**  
**Conditioning and Condition Numbers- II**

Hello friends. This is my second lecture on conditioning and condition number 2. Let us, in the previous lecture we discussed what is meant by a conditioning and the condition number and we did some examples also. Let us continue that discussion further and discuss some more examples. Let us say suppose we want to solve this system of linear equations  $\alpha x + y = 0$ ,  $x + \alpha y = 1$ ,  $\alpha x + y = 0$  and  $x + \alpha y = 1$ . Now, we have to discuss the conditioning of computing  $x$  and  $y$  for this system.

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$\alpha x + y = 0$   
 $x + \alpha y = 1$  — (1)

The coefficient matrix  
 $A = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & 1 \\ 1 & \alpha \end{bmatrix}$

The determinant of  $A$   
 $= \begin{vmatrix} \alpha & 1 \\ 1 & \alpha \end{vmatrix} = \alpha^2 - 1$

System (1) has a unique solution if  $\alpha^2 \neq 1$

If  $\alpha^2 = 1$  then  $\alpha = \pm 1$   
When  $\alpha = 1$  then the system (1) becomes  
 $x + y = 0$   
 $x + y = 1$   
No solution

If  $\alpha = -1$  then  
(1)  $\Rightarrow$   
 $-x + y = 0 \Leftrightarrow x - y = 0$   
 $x - y = 1$

Now, we know that when we have a system of linear equations say  $n$  equations in  $n$  unknowns then the system has unique solution provided the determinant of the coefficient matrixes nonzero. So, here the coefficient matrix is  $\alpha$  1, 1  $\alpha$ . So, the determinant of the coefficient matrix is let us say this matrix is  $A$ , the determinant of  $A$  is equal to  $\alpha$  1, 1  $\alpha$  which is equal to  $\alpha^2 - 1$ . So, if the determinant is not equal to 0, then this system has a unique solution. So, when  $\alpha^2 \neq 1$  the system (1) has a unique solution unique solution if  $\alpha^2$  is not equal to 1.

And if alpha square is equal to 1 then let us see what happens? If alpha square is equal to 1 then there are 2 possibilities, either alpha is equal to 1 or alpha is not equal to alpha is equal to minus 1. So, then alpha is equal to plus minus 1. We can see here if alpha is equal to 1 then the given system becomes x plus y equal to 0 and x plus y equal to 1 we cannot find any 2 real numbers x and y such that x plus y is equal to 0 and simultaneously x plus y equal to 1.

So, there is no solution when alpha is equal to 1. Now, if alpha is equal to minus 1 then what happens? Alpha is equal to minus 1 then we have then 1 becomes minus x plus y equal to 0 and x minus y equal to 1. Now, you can see here if you multiply this equation by minus 1 this is same as x minus y equal to 0. So, we have the system 1 becomes x minus y equal to 0 and x minus y equal to 1. Again such number such real numbers are not possible, so no solution.

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**Example:** Let us consider the linear system

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha x + y &= 0 \\ x + \alpha y &= 1 \end{aligned} \quad \dots(1)$$

and discuss the conditioning of computing x and y from (1).  
 It is clear that the system (1) has a unique solution if  $\alpha^2 \neq 1$  and no solution if  $\alpha^2 = 1$ .  
 Hence, let  $\alpha^2 \neq 1$  then solving (1) by the Gaussian elimination procedure outlined for

$$\begin{aligned} ax_1 + bx_2 &= e \\ cx_1 + dx_2 &= f, \quad a \neq 0. \end{aligned}$$

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So, when alpha square is equal to 1 the system has no solution. So, let us discuss the situation when alpha square is not equal to 1.

Now, we have earlier discussed in the previous lectures we have discussed how to solve the system of equations ax 1 plus bx 2 equal to e, cx 1 plus dx 2 equal to f, when a is not equal to 0 by using the Gaussian elimination procedure there we are taken m equal to c by a.

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We have  $m = \frac{c}{a} = \frac{1}{\alpha}$ ,  $d_1 = d - bm = \alpha - \frac{1}{\alpha}$  and  $f_1 = f - em = 1$ .

Thus,  $y = \frac{f_1}{d_1} = \frac{-\alpha}{1 - \alpha^2}$  and  $x = \frac{e - by}{a} = \frac{1}{1 - \alpha^2}$ .

In order to discuss the conditioning of computing the formulas for  $x$  and  $y$ , let us define  $x = f(\alpha) = \frac{1}{1 - \alpha^2}$  and  $y = g(\alpha) = \frac{-\alpha}{1 - \alpha^2}$ .

then  $k_f(\alpha) = \left| \frac{2\alpha}{(1 - \alpha^2)^2} \right|$  and  $k_g(\alpha) = \frac{1 + \alpha^2}{(1 - \alpha^2)^2}$ .

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So, let us apply that Gaussian elimination procedure and assume that alpha square is not equal to 1. Then m is equal to c by a, so here c is equal to 1, a is equal to alpha. So, m is equal to 1 by alpha; d 1 equal to d minus d m substituting the value of m and d n b we get alpha minus 1 by alpha, that is the value of d 1. And y is then is equal to f 1 over d 1, so, and f 1 is equal to f minus m which is equal to 1. So, y is minus alpha over 1 minus alpha square and x is equal to e minus b y over a, which is 1 over 1 minus alpha square.

Now, in order to discuss the conditioning of computing the formulas for  $x$  and  $y$  let us put  $x$  equal to  $f(\alpha)$  and  $y$  equal to  $g(\alpha)$ . Then  $f(\alpha)$  will be equal to  $1 / (1 - \alpha^2)$  and  $g(\alpha)$  will be  $-\alpha / (1 - \alpha^2)$ . So, let us then compute the condition, condition numbers for  $x$  and  $y$ .

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The image shows handwritten mathematical derivations for condition numbers. On the left, it defines the condition number of a function  $f$  at point  $x$  as  $k_f(x) = \frac{\|J_f(x)\|}{\|f(x)\|/|x|}$ , which simplifies to  $\frac{|f'(x)|}{|f(x)|} |x|$  when  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . For the specific function  $f(x) = \frac{1}{1-x^2}$ , it calculates  $k_f(x) = \left| \frac{\frac{2x}{(1-x^2)^2} \cdot (-2x)}{\frac{1}{1-x^2}} \right| = \left| \frac{2x^2}{(1-x^2)^2} \right|$ . On the right, it defines the condition number of a function  $g$  at point  $\alpha$  as  $k_g(\alpha) = \left| \frac{\alpha g'(\alpha)}{g(\alpha)} \right|$ . For  $g(\alpha) = \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha^2}$ , it calculates  $k_g(\alpha) = \left| \frac{-\alpha(1+\alpha^2)}{(1-\alpha^2)^2} \cdot \frac{1-\alpha^2}{-\alpha} \right| = \left| \frac{1+\alpha^2}{(1-\alpha^2)^2} \right|$ .

We know that  $k_f(x)$  is equal to norm of  $J_f(x)$  divided by norm of  $f(x)$  divided by norm of  $x$ , when  $f$  is a mapping from  $\mathbb{R}$  into  $\mathbb{R}$  then this becomes mod of  $f'(x)$  and the denominator is mod of  $f(x)$  over mod of  $x$  or we can say mod of  $f'(x)$  divided by  $f(x)$ , when  $f$  is a function from  $\mathbb{R}$  into  $\mathbb{R}$  in the one dimensional case.

So, let us find. So, here what happens? The condition number we have putting  $x$  equal to  $f(\alpha)$  and  $f(\alpha)$  is  $1/(1-\alpha^2)$ . So, conditioning number for, condition number for  $f$  will be  $k_f(\alpha)$  equal to derivative of  $f$  with respect to  $\alpha$ , so  $1/(1-\alpha^2)$ . So, this will be equal to this is  $f'(\alpha)$  into  $f(\alpha)$  will be  $-1/(1-\alpha^2)^2$  divided by  $f(\alpha)$  that is  $1/(1-\alpha^2)$  mod of this.

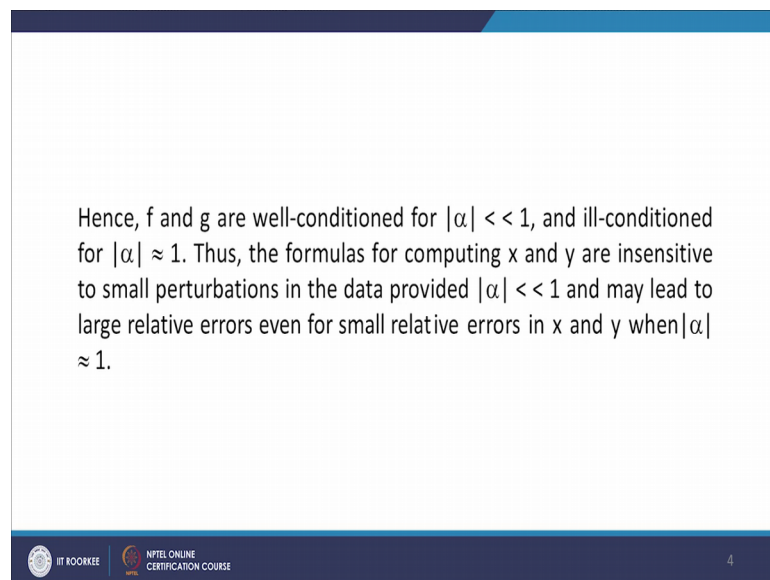
And what is this? This is equal to  $2\alpha^2/(1-\alpha^2)^2$ ;  $x$  into  $f'(\alpha)$  divided by  $f(\alpha)$ ;  $x$  is equal to  $\alpha$   $f(\alpha)$  is equal to  $1/(1-\alpha^2)$ . So,  $\alpha$  times derivative of  $f(\alpha)$  will be  $-1/(1-\alpha^2)^2$  whole square into  $-2\alpha$  and then we divided by  $f(\alpha)$  which is  $1/(1-\alpha^2)$  now this is  $2\alpha^2$  divided by  $(1-\alpha^2)^2$ . So, we have  $2\alpha^2$  divided by  $(1-\alpha^2)^2$ .

And then  $k_g(\alpha)$  we have defined equal to  $g(\alpha)$  and  $y$  was equal to  $-\alpha/(1-\alpha^2)$ . So, this will be equal to again  $\alpha$  into  $g'(\alpha)$  divided by  $g(\alpha)$  mod of this. So, mod of  $\alpha$  into  $g'(\alpha)$  will be we can

differentiate  $g(\alpha)$ . So,  $g'(\alpha)$  is equal to minus derivative of  $\alpha$  is 1, so  $1 - \alpha^2$  and then we have here  $2\alpha$  in  $2\alpha^2$   $\alpha^2$  this will be plus  $\alpha$  because this is minus  $2\alpha$  into  $\alpha$ . So, plus  $2\alpha^2$  divided by  $1 - \alpha^2$  whole square. So, this is  $1 - \alpha^2$  divided by  $1 + \alpha^2$  divided by  $1 - \alpha^2$  whole square. So, we have  $\alpha$  into  $1 - \alpha^2$  divided by  $1 + \alpha^2$  divided by  $1 - \alpha^2$  whole square divided by  $f(\alpha)$ . So, minus  $\alpha$  over  $1 - \alpha^2$ ; this equal to  $1 + \alpha^2$  divided by  $1 - \alpha^2$ . So, what we have here is that we have found the condition numbers for both  $f$  and  $g$ , now let us note the following.

So,  $f$  and  $g$  are well conditioned when mod of  $\alpha$  is very very small then very very small, much smaller than 1 because then what will happen this will not become too large  $f(\alpha)$  will  $k_f(\alpha)$  will not become too large and  $k_g(\alpha)$  will also not become too large if one minus  $\alpha^2$  is not very close to 0. I mean that means, mod of  $\alpha$  is not very very small I mean very very less than 1 and ill-condition when mod of  $\alpha$  is nearly equal to 1.

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So, the formulas for computing  $x$  and  $y$  are insensitive to small perturbations in the data provided mod of  $\alpha$  is very very less than 1 and may lead to large relative errors even for a small relative errors in  $x$  and  $y$  when mod of  $\alpha$  is nearly equal to 1.

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**Example:** Compute (i)  $f(x) = \sin x$  for  $x = 0.51\pi$ .  
(ii)  $f(x) = \tan x$  for  $x = 1.7$  and interpret the condition number.

**Solution: (i)** Let  $f(x) = \sin x$ . We have

$$k_f(x) = \frac{\left| \frac{x f'(x)}{f(x)} \right|}{\left| \frac{x \cos x}{\sin x} \right|} = \frac{0.51\pi \cos(0.51\pi)}{\sin(0.51\pi)}$$
$$= \frac{0.51\pi(0.03141)}{0.99951} = 0.05035.$$

Hence, the function is well-conditioned.

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Now, let us compute  $f(x)$  equal to  $\sin x$  for  $x$  equal to  $0.51\pi$  and  $f(x)$  equal to  $\tan x$  for  $x$  equal to  $1.7$  and interpret the condition number. So, when  $f(x)$  equal to  $\sin x$   $k_f(x)$  is equal to  $\left| \frac{x f'(x)}{f(x)} \right|$  which is equal to  $\left| \frac{x \cos x}{\sin x} \right|$ , when we put the values of  $x \cos x$  and  $\sin x$  we get the value  $0.05035$  and which is not, which is very small. So, we can say that the function is well conditioned.

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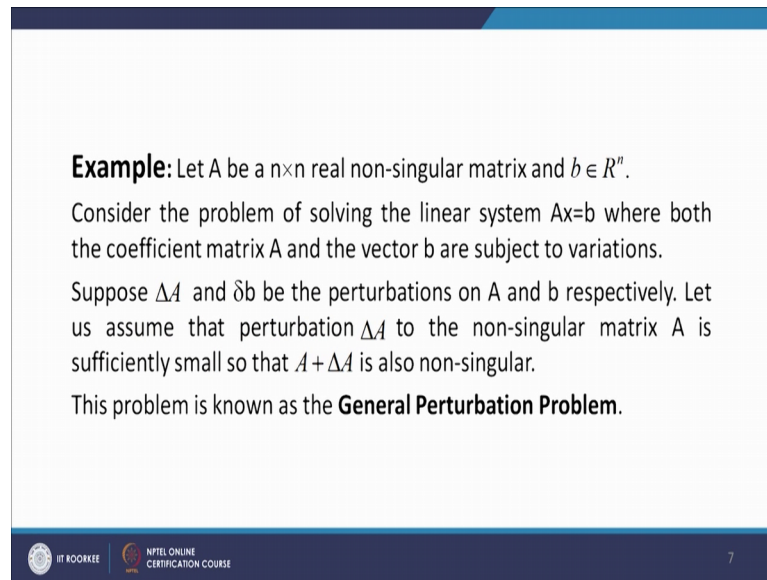
(ii) We have  $f(x) = \tan x$ ,  $f(1.7) = -7.6966$  and  $f'(1.7) = 60.2377$ .

$$k_f(x) = \left| \frac{x f'(x)}{f(x)} \right| = 13.305. \text{ Thus, the function is ill-conditioned.}$$

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Then we have  $f(x)$  equal to  $\tan x$  when  $x$  is 1.7,  $f(1.7)$  is minus 7.6966 and  $f'(x)$  at 1.7 is 60.2377. So,  $\frac{f'(x)}{f(x)}$  is equal to  $\frac{60.2377}{-7.6966}$  which gives us 13.305 which is too large, which means that the function is ill-conditioned.

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**Example:** Let  $A$  be a  $n \times n$  real non-singular matrix and  $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Consider the problem of solving the linear system  $Ax=b$  where both the coefficient matrix  $A$  and the vector  $b$  are subject to variations. Suppose  $\Delta A$  and  $\delta b$  be the perturbations on  $A$  and  $b$  respectively. Let us assume that perturbation  $\Delta A$  to the non-singular matrix  $A$  is sufficiently small so that  $A + \Delta A$  is also non-singular. This problem is known as the **General Perturbation Problem**.

Now, let us consider  $n$  by  $n$  non-singular matrix, non-singular matrix means the matrix which is invertible or you can say the matrix whose determinant is nonzero and  $v$  be a vector belonging to  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Then consider the problem of solving the linear system  $Ax$  equal to  $b$ , where both the matrix  $A$  and the vector  $b$  are subject to variations. Let us suppose that  $\Delta A$  and  $\Delta b$  will be the perturbations on the matrix  $A$  and the vector  $b$  respectively. Let us assume that the perturbation  $\Delta A$  to the non singular matrix  $A$  is sufficiently small so that  $A$  plus  $\Delta A$  is also non singular. Such a problem is known as general perturbation problem.

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We are interested in knowing the conditioning of this problem. The condition number  $k(A)$  of the matrix  $A$  describes the conditioning of the above problem and is given by

$$k(A) = \|A\| \|A^{-1}\|.$$

The problem will be well-conditioned when  $k(A)$  is small and ill-conditioned when  $k(A)$  is large.

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Now, we are interested in knowing the conditioning of this problem the condition number  $k$  of the matrix  $A$  describes the conditioning of the above problem and is given by  $k$  equal to norm of  $A$  into norm of  $A$  inverse, where norm of  $A$  is the matrix norm of  $A$ . The problem will be well conditioned when  $k$  is a small and ill-conditioned when  $k$  is large.

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**Example:** Let us consider the linear system  $Ax = b$ , where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 19 & 2 & 8 & -1 \\ 2 & 21 & 10 & -3 \\ 8 & 10 & 20 & 14 \\ 1 & -3 & 14 & 19 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } b = \begin{bmatrix} 28 \\ 30 \\ 52 \\ 31 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Evidently, the exact solution of the given system is  $x = (1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 1)^T$ .

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Let us consider the linear system  $Ax$  equal to  $b$ , where  $A$  is the matrix. This is 4 by 4 matrix. The first row is 19 2 8 minus 1; second row 2 21 10 minus 3; third row 8 10 20



14; fourth row 1 minus 3 14 19; and b is the column vector 28 30 52 31. You can see that when you when you consider the system Ax equal to b then the trivial solution of this system is there it is 1 1 1 1.

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Handwritten work showing the solution of the system  $Ax = b$ .

Matrix  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 19 & 2 & 8 & -1 \\ 2 & 21 & 10 & -3 \\ 8 & 10 & 20 & 14 \\ 1 & -3 & 14 & 19 \end{bmatrix}$  and vector  $b = \begin{bmatrix} 28 \\ 30 \\ 52 \\ 31 \end{bmatrix}$ .

Let  $x = (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)^T$ . Then  $Ax = b \Rightarrow$

$$\begin{aligned} 19x_1 + 2x_2 + 8x_3 - x_4 &= 28 \\ 2x_1 + 21x_2 + 10x_3 - 3x_4 &= 30 \\ 8x_1 + 10x_2 + 20x_3 + 14x_4 &= 52 \\ x_1 - 3x_2 + 14x_3 + 19x_4 &= 31 \end{aligned}$$

The partial fraction decomposition of the inverse of  $A$  is shown as:

$$A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{-\alpha(1+\alpha^4)}{(1-\alpha^2)^2} & \frac{-\alpha}{(1-\alpha^2)} \\ \frac{\alpha g'(\alpha)}{g(\alpha)} & \frac{g'(\alpha)}{1-\alpha^2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{-\alpha(1+\alpha^4)}{(1-\alpha^2)^2} & \frac{-\alpha}{(1-\alpha^2)} \\ \frac{-\alpha}{(1-\alpha^2)} & \frac{1+\alpha^2}{(1-\alpha^2)^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Let us consider A is equal to 19 2 8 minus 1; and then you have 2 21 10 minus 3, then third row is 8 10 20 14 and then we have 1 minus 3 14 19 and b is 28 30 52 31. So, let us consider the system Ax equal to b.



So, then suppose x has components  $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4$ . Let x be then we, then Ax equal to b will give us the 4 equations  $19x_1 + 2x_2 + 8x_3 - x_4 = 28$ . Similarly  $2x_1 + 21x_2 + 10x_3 - 3x_4 = 30$ . We have similarly  $8x_1 + 10x_2 + 20x_3 + 14x_4 = 52$ ; then  $x_1 - 3x_2 + 14x_3 + 19x_4 = 31$ . Now, you can see 1 1 1 1, x equal to 1 1 1 1 this is the trivial solution of this system because when you take  $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4$  all equal to 1 then  $19 + 2 + 8 - 1 = 28$ . Here  $2 + 21 + 10 - 3 = 30$  and similarly you can put  $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4$  equal to 1 in the remaining 2 equations you can see they are satisfied. So, the exact solution of the given system is x equal to 1 1 1 1 transpose.

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Suppose A and b undergo the perturbations  $\Delta A$  and  $\delta b$  respectively, where

$$\Delta A = \begin{bmatrix} 10^{-3} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 10^{-3} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 10^{-3} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 10^{-3} \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \delta b = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Since the relative errors in A and b are small, the perturbations introduced on A and b are small perturbations.

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Now, let us suppose that A and b undergo the perturbations  $\Delta A$  and  $\delta b$  respectively, where  $\Delta A$  is equal to  $10^{-3}$  0 0 0; then 0  $10^{-3}$  0 0 and so on. So, we give the, we make a slide change in the diagonal elements of the matrix A, there is no change in the non diagonal entries of A. So, and the change in the diagonal entries is of the order of  $10^{-3}$ .



So, we have, we are making very small change in the matrix A and  $\delta b$  is 1 1 minus 1 minus 1. So, in the matrix b we make a change 1 1 here we change by these 2 entries we change by 1 and these 2 entries we change by minus 1 minus 1. Then let us see what happens to the solution x. So, since the relative errors in A and b are small the perturbations introduced on A and b are small perturbations.

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Solving the perturbed system  $(A + \Delta A)(x + \delta x) = b + \delta b$ , we get

$$x + \delta x = \begin{bmatrix} -7324 \\ -9984 \\ 18082 \\ -14512 \end{bmatrix}.$$



Thus a small perturbation on A and b has resulted in a huge change in the solution of the linear system  $Ax = b$ . Hence the solutions of the system  $Ax = b$  are very sensitive to small perturbations on A and b.

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Now, let us solve this perturbed system  $A$  plus  $\Delta A$  into  $x$  plus  $\Delta x$  equal to  $b$  plus  $\Delta b$  by MATLAB we have solved it, it  $x$  plus  $\Delta x$  comes out to be this matrix minus 7324, minus 9981, 18082, minus 14512. Thus A small perturbation on A and b has resulted in a huge change in the solution of the linear system  $Ax$  equal to  $b$  and hence the solutions of the system  $x$  equal to  $b$  are very sensitive to small perturbations on A and b.

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This is because the condition number  $k(A)$  with respect to the Euclidean norm i.e.  $k_2(A) = 3.7211 \times 10^4$ , which is very large.

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And this is because the condition number  $k A$  with respect to the Euclidean norm which also called as the spectral norm of the matrix A. So, the because of that the  $k_2 A$  comes

out to be  $3.7211 \times 10^4$  which is very large. So, because the conditioner number is very large, condition number of the matrix is very large there is a huge change in the value of  $x$ . So, with that I will close this lecture.

Thank you very much for your attention.