

**Summary of the number of solutions for a linear system**  
 $A_{m \times n} x_n = b_m$  where  $m < n$ ,  $m = n$ , or  $m > n$ .

From splitting  $A_{m \times n}$  as  $A = U \Sigma V^*$  follows that it suffices to analyze the issue for linear systems  $\Sigma_{m \times n} x_n = b_m$  where  $\Sigma$  is a singular value matrix.

	<b>Full rank</b>	<b>Partial rank</b>
<p><b>Underdetermined</b></p> $\begin{bmatrix} \cdot & & & \\ & \cdot & & \\ & & \cdot & \\ & & & \cdot \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix}$	<p>First <math>m</math> entries uniquely determined; rest undetermined</p> <p><math>\infty</math> many solutions</p>	<p>Additionally, conflict can arise if last entry (entries) of <math>b</math> are non-zero</p> <p>0 or <math>\infty</math> many solutions</p>
<p><b>Square</b></p> $\begin{bmatrix} \cdot & & \\ & \cdot & \\ & & \cdot \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix}$	<p>1 solution</p>	<p>Same as above</p> <p>0 or <math>\infty</math> many solutions</p>
<p><b>Overdetermined</b></p> $\begin{bmatrix} \cdot & & & \\ & \cdot & & \\ & & \cdot & \\ & & & \cdot \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix}$	<p>All unknowns uniquely determined. But conflict if any of the last <math>m-n</math> elements of <math>b</math> are non-zero</p> <p>0 or 1 solution</p>	<p>Same as above</p> <p>0 or <math>\infty</math> many solutions</p>