

1135-C1-2312      **Mary Flagg\*** (flaggm@stthom.edu), University of St. Thomas, 3800 Montrose, Houston, TX  
77006. *Solving a system of linear equations using ancient Chinese methods.*

Gaussian elimination was invented by Carl Friedrich Gauss in the nineteenth century, or was it? The 2000 year old classic Chinese textbook, *The Nine Chapters on the Mathematical Art*, contains a whole chapter on solving systems of linear equations using the Fangcheng Rule. The Fangcheng Rule is equivalent to Gaussian elimination! I created a curriculum module (a Primary Source Project or PSP) designed to be used in an active learning environment that introduces elimination by guiding students through the English translation of the original Chinese text then introduces the modern method. In this talk I will introduce my PSP, describe the results of testing my PSP in linear algebra classrooms in the fall of 2017, and explain how participants may also try my PSP. My project is part of a larger collaborative effort partially supported by the NSF, Transforming Instruction in Undergraduate Mathematics via Primary Historical Sources (TRIUMPHS). (Received September 25, 2017)