5.3.39

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Question

Using matrices, solve the following system of equations:

$$x + y + z = 6$$
$$x + 2z = 7$$
$$3x + y + z = 12$$

Solution

Forming the augmented matrix,

$$\left(\begin{array}{cc|cc|c}
1 & 1 & 1 & 6 \\
1 & 0 & 2 & 7 \\
3 & 1 & 1 & 12
\end{array}\right)$$

Perform row operations to reduce to row echelon form:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & | & 6 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 & | & 7 \\ 3 & 1 & 1 & | & 12 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_2 \to R_2 - R_1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & | & 6 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & | & 1 \\ 3 & 1 & 1 & | & 12 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\frac{R_3 \to R_3 - 3R_1}{\Rightarrow} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 6 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -2 & -2 & -6 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\frac{R_3 \to R_3 - 2R_2}{\Rightarrow} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 6 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -4 & -8 \end{pmatrix}$$

From the third row:

$$-4z = -8 \implies z = 2$$

From the second row:

$$-y + z = 1 \implies -y + 2 = 1 \implies y = 1$$

From the first row:

$$x + y + z = 6 \implies x + 1 + 2 = 6 \implies x = 3$$

Thus, the solution is:

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Plot

Intersection of Three Planes

