
CEGEP Linear Algebra Problems

AN OPEN SOURCE COLLECTION OF
CEGEP LEVEL LINEAR ALGEBRA PROBLEMS

EDITED BY

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Contents

1	Systems of Linear Equations	1
1.1	Introduction to Systems of Linear Equations	1
1.2	Gaussian and Gauss-Jordan Elimination	1
1.3	Applications of Linear Systems	1
2	Matrix Algebra	3
2.1	Introduction to Matrices and Matrix Operations	3
2.2	Matrix Inverses and Algebraic Properties	3
2.3	Elementary Matrices	3
2.4	Linear Systems and Matrices	3
3	Determinants	5
3.1	The Laplace Expansion	5
3.2	Determinants and Elementary Operations	5
3.3	Determinants and Elementary Matrices	5
3.4	Applications of the Determinant	5
4	Vector Geometry	7
4.1	Introduction to Vectors and Lines	7
4.2	Dot Product and Projections	7
4.3	Cross Product and Planes	7
4.4	Areas, Volumes and Distances	7
4.5	Geometry of Solutions of Linear Systems	7
5	Vector Spaces	9
5.1	Introduction to Vector Spaces	9
5.2	Subspaces	10
5.3	Spanning Sets	10
5.4	Linear Independence	10
5.5	Basis	10
5.6	Dimension	11
	Answers to Exercises	13
	References	16
	Index	17

Chapter 1

Systems of Linear Equations

1.1 Introduction to Systems of Linear Equations

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1.2 Gaussian and Gauss-Jordan Elimination

1.2.1 [JH] Use Gauss's Method to find the unique solution for each system.

a.

$$\begin{aligned} 2x + 3y &= 13 \\ x - y &= -1 \end{aligned}$$

b.

$$\begin{aligned} x - z &= 0 \\ 3x + y &= 1 \\ -x + y + z &= 4 \end{aligned}$$

1.3 Applications of Linear Systems

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Chapter 2

Matrix Algebra

2.1 Introduction to Matrices and Matrix Operations

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2.2 Matrix Inverses and Algebraic Properties

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2.3 Elementary Matrices

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2.4 Linear Systems and Matrices

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Chapter 3

Determinants

3.1 The Laplace Expansion

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3.2 Determinants and Elementary Operations

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3.3 Determinants and Elementary Matrices

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3.4 Applications of the Determinant

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Chapter 4

Vector Geometry

4.1 Introduction to Vectors and Lines

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4.2 Dot Product and Projections

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4.3 Cross Product and Planes

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4.4 Areas, Volumes and Distances

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4.5 Geometry of Solutions of Linear Systems

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Chapter 5

Vector Spaces

5.1 Introduction to Vector Spaces

5.1.1 [JH] Name the zero vector for each of these vector spaces.

- The space of degree three polynomials under the natural operations.
- The space of 2×3 matrices.
- The space $\{f : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid f \text{ is continuous}\}$.
- The space of real-valued functions of one natural number variable.

5.1.2 [JH] Find the additive inverse, in the vector space, of the vector.

- In \mathcal{P}_3 , the vector $-3 - 2x + x^2$.
- In the space $\mathcal{M}_{2 \times 2}$,

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- In $\{ae^x + be^{-x} \mid a, b \in \mathbb{R}\}$, the space of functions of the real variable x under the natural operations, the vector $3e^x - 2e^{-x}$.

5.1.3 [JH] For each, list three elements and then show it is a vector space.

- The set of linear polynomials $\mathcal{P}_1 = \{a_0 + a_1x \mid a_0, a_1 \in \mathbb{R}\}$ under the usual polynomial addition and scalar multiplication operations.
- The set of linear polynomials $\{a_0 + a_1x \mid a_0 - 2a_1 = 0\}$, under the usual polynomial addition and scalar multiplication operations.

5.1.4 [JH] For each, list three elements and then show it is a vector space.

- The set of 2×2 matrices with real entries under the usual matrix operations.
- The set of 2×2 matrices with real entries where the 2, 1 entry is zero, under the usual matrix operations.

5.1.5 by Jim Hefferon [JH] For each, list three elements and then show it is a vector space.

- The set of three-component row vectors with their

usual operations.

- The set

$$\{(x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{R}^4 \mid x + y - z + w = 0\}$$

under the operations inherited from \mathbb{R}^4 .

5.1.6 [JH] Show that the following are not vector spaces.

- Under the operations inherited from \mathbb{R}^3 , this set

$$\{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid x + y + z = 1\}$$

- Under the operations inherited from \mathbb{R}^3 , this set

$$\{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1\}$$

- Under the usual matrix operations,

$$\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a & 1 \\ b & c \end{bmatrix} \mid a, b, c \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

- Under the usual polynomial operations,

$$\{a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 \mid a_0, a_1, a_2 \in \mathbb{R}^+\}$$

where \mathbb{R}^+ is the set of reals greater than zero

- Under the inherited operations,

$$\{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid x + 3y = 4, 2x - y = 3 \text{ and } 6x + 4y = 10\}$$

5.1.7 [JH] Is the set of rational numbers a vector space over \mathbb{R} under the usual addition and scalar multiplication operations?

5.1.8 [JH] Prove that the following is not a vector space: the set of two-tall column vectors with real entries subject to these operations.

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} x_2 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 - x_2 \\ y_1 - y_2 \end{pmatrix} \quad r \cdot \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} rx \\ ry \end{pmatrix}$$

5.1.9 [JH] Prove or disprove that \mathbb{R}^3 is a vector space under these operations.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a. } \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \\ z_1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} x_2 \\ y_2 \\ z_2 \end{pmatrix} &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad r \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} rx \\ ry \\ rz \end{pmatrix} \\ \text{b. } \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \\ z_1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} x_2 \\ y_2 \\ z_2 \end{pmatrix} &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad r \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

5.1.10 [JH] For each, decide if it is a vector space; the intended operations are the natural ones.

- a. The set of *diagonal* 2×2 matrices

$$\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & b \end{bmatrix} \mid a, b \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

- b. The set of 2×2 matrices

$$\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x & x+y \\ x+y & y \end{bmatrix} \mid x, y \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

- c. $\{(x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{R}^4 \mid x + y + w = 1\}$
 d. The set of functions $\{f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid df/dx + 2f = 0\}$
 e. The set of functions $\{f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid df/dx + 2f = 1\}$

5.1.11 [JH] Show that the set \mathbb{R}^+ of positive reals is a vector space when we interpret ‘ $x + y$ ’ to mean the product of x and y (so that $2 + 3$ is 6), and we interpret ‘ $r \cdot x$ ’ as the r -th power of x .

5.1.12 [JH] Prove or disprove that the following is a vector space: the set of polynomials of degree greater than or equal to two, along with the zero polynomial.

5.1.13 [JH]

Is $\{(x, y) \mid x, y \in \mathbb{R}\}$ a vector space under these operations?

- a. $(x_1, y_1) + (x_2, y_2) = (x_1 + x_2, y_1 + y_2)$ and $r \cdot (x, y) = (rx, y)$
 b. $(x_1, y_1) + (x_2, y_2) = (x_1 + x_2, y_1 + y_2)$ and $r \cdot (x, y) = (rx, 0)$

5.1.14 [JH]

Prove the following:

- a. For any $\vec{v} \in V$, if $\vec{w} \in V$ is an additive inverse of \vec{v} , then \vec{v} is an additive inverse of \vec{w} . So a vector is an additive inverse of any additive inverse of itself.
 b. Vector addition left-cancels: if $\vec{v}, \vec{s}, \vec{t} \in V$ then $\vec{v} + \vec{s} = \vec{v} + \vec{t}$ implies that $\vec{s} = \vec{t}$.

5.1.15 [JH]

The definition of vector spaces does not explicitly say that $\vec{0} + \vec{v} = \vec{v}$ (it instead says that $\vec{v} + \vec{0} = \vec{v}$). Show that it must nonetheless hold in any vector space.

5.1.16 [JH]

Prove or disprove that the following is a vector space: the set of all matrices, under the usual operations.

5.1.17 [JH]

In a vector space every element has an additive inverse. Is the additive inverse unique (*Can some elements have two or more*)?

5.1.18 [JH]

Assume that $\vec{v} \in V$ is not $\vec{0}$.

- a. Prove that $r \cdot \vec{v} = \vec{0}$ if and only if $r = 0$.
 b. Prove that $r_1 \cdot \vec{v} = r_2 \cdot \vec{v}$ if and only if $r_1 = r_2$.
 c. Prove that any nontrivial vector space is infinite.

5.2 Subspaces

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5.3 Spanning Sets

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5.4 Linear Independence

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5.5 Basis

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5.6 Dimension

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5.1.1

- $0 + 0x + 0x^2 + 0x^3$
- $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$
- The constant function $f(x) = 0$
- The constant function $f(n) = 0$

5.1.2

- $3 + 2x - x^2$
- $\begin{bmatrix} -1 & +1 \\ 0 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$
- $-3e^x + 2e^{-x}$

5.1.3

- $1 + 2x$, $2 - 1x$, and x .
- $2 + 1x$, $6 + 3x$, and $-4 - 2x$.

5.1.4

- $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -2 \\ -3 & -4 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$
- $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -2 \\ 0 & -4 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

5.1.5

- $(1, 2, 3)$, $(2, 1, 3)$, and $(0, 0, 0)$.
- $(1, 1, 1, -1)$, $(1, 0, 1, 0)$ and $(0, 0, 0, 0)$.

5.1.6

For each part the set is called Q . For some parts, there are more than one correct way to show that Q is not a vector space.

- It is not closed under addition.

$$(1, 0, 0), (0, 1, 0) \in Q \quad (1, 1, 0) \notin Q$$

- It is not closed under addition.

$$(1, 0, 0), (0, 1, 0) \in Q \quad (1, 1, 0) \notin Q$$

- It is not closed under addition.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in Q \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \notin Q$$

- It is not closed under scalar multiplication.

$$1 + 1x + 1x^2 \in Q \quad -1 \cdot (1 + 1x + 1x^2) \notin Q$$

- The set is empty, violating the existence of the zero vector.

5.1.7 No, it is not closed under scalar multiplication since, e.g., $\pi \cdot (1)$ is not a rational number.

5.1.8 The '+' operation is not commutative; producing two members of the set witnessing this assertion is easy.

5.1.9

- It is not a vector space.

$$(1 + 1) \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \neq \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

- It is not a vector space.

$$1 \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \neq \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

5.1.10 For each "yes" answer, you must give a check of all the conditions given in the definition of a vector space. For each "no" answer, give a specific example of the failure of one of the conditions.

- a. Yes.
- b. Yes.
- c. No, this set is not closed under the natural addition operation. The vector of all $1/4$'s is an element of this set but when added to itself the result, the vector of all $1/2$'s, is not an element of the set.
- d. Yes.
- e. No, $f(x) = e^{-2x} + (1/2)$ is in the set but $2 \cdot f$ is not (that is, closure under scalar multiplication fails).

5.1.11 Check all 10 conditions of the definition of a vector space.

5.1.12 It is not a vector space since it is not closed under addition, as $(x^2) + (1 + x - x^2)$ is not in the set.

5.1.13

- a. No since $1 \cdot (0, 1) + 1 \cdot (0, 1) \neq (1 + 1) \cdot (0, 1)$.
- b. No since the same calculation as the prior part shows a condition in the definition of a vector space that is violated. Another example of a violation of the conditions for a vector space is that $1 \cdot (0, 1) \neq (0, 1)$.

5.1.14

- a. Let V be a vector space, let $\vec{v} \in V$, and assume that $\vec{w} \in V$ is an additive inverse of \vec{v} so that $\vec{w} + \vec{v} = \vec{0}$. Because addition is commutative, $\vec{0} = \vec{w} + \vec{v} = \vec{v} + \vec{w}$, so therefore \vec{v} is also the additive inverse of \vec{w} .
- b. Let V be a vector space and suppose $\vec{v}, \vec{s}, \vec{t} \in V$. The additive inverse of \vec{v} is $-\vec{v}$ so $\vec{v} + \vec{s} = \vec{v} + \vec{t}$ gives that $-\vec{v} + \vec{v} + \vec{s} = -\vec{v} + \vec{v} + \vec{t}$, which implies that $\vec{0} + \vec{s} = \vec{0} + \vec{t}$ and so $\vec{s} = \vec{t}$.

5.1.15

Addition is commutative, so in any vector space, for any vector \vec{v} we have that $\vec{v} = \vec{v} + \vec{0} = \vec{0} + \vec{v}$.

5.1.16

It is not a vector space since addition of two matrices of unequal sizes is not defined, and thus the set fails to satisfy the closure condition.

5.1.17

Each element of a vector space has one and only one additive inverse.

For, let V be a vector space and suppose that $\vec{v} \in V$. If $\vec{w}_1, \vec{w}_2 \in V$ are both additive inverses of \vec{v} then consider $\vec{w}_1 + \vec{v} + \vec{w}_2$. On the one hand, we have that it equals $\vec{w}_1 + (\vec{v} + \vec{w}_2) = \vec{w}_1 + \vec{0} = \vec{w}_1$. On the other hand we have that it equals $(\vec{w}_1 + \vec{v}) + \vec{w}_2 = \vec{0} + \vec{w}_2 = \vec{w}_2$. Therefore, $\vec{w}_1 = \vec{w}_2$.

5.1.18

Assume that $\vec{v} \in V$ is not $\vec{0}$.

- a. One direction of the if and only if is clear: if $r = 0$ then $r \cdot \vec{v} = \vec{0}$. For the other way, let r be a nonzero scalar. If $r\vec{v} = \vec{0}$ then $(1/r) \cdot r\vec{v} = (1/r) \cdot \vec{0}$ shows that $\vec{v} = \vec{0}$, contrary to the assumption.

- b. Where r_1, r_2 are scalars, $r_1\vec{v} = r_2\vec{v}$ holds if and only if $(r_1 - r_2)\vec{v} = \vec{0}$. By the prior item, then $r_1 - r_2 = 0$.
- c. A nontrivial space has a vector $\vec{v} \neq \vec{0}$. Consider the set $\{k \cdot \vec{v} \mid k \in \mathbb{R}\}$. By the prior item this set is infinite.

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Index

additive inverse, [9](#), [10](#)

diagonal matrix, [10](#)

function space, [9](#), [10](#)

Gaussian Elimination, [1](#)

matrix space, [9](#), [10](#)

ph, [1](#), [3](#), [5](#), [7](#), [10](#), [11](#)

place holder, [1](#), [3](#), [5](#), [7](#), [10](#), [11](#)

polynomial space, [9](#)

positive real numbers, [10](#)

rational numbers, [9](#)

vector space, [9](#), [10](#)

zero vector, [9](#), [10](#)