
MATH 146 Fall 1989: Hoffman–Kunze *Linear Algebra*, 2nd ed.
1 Linear Equations**1.1 Fields****1.2 Systems of Linear Equations**

Exercise 1.2.1. Verify that the set of complex numbers described in Example 1.2.4 is a subfield of C .

Proof. Consider the set of complex numbers S of the form $x + y\sqrt{2}$ for rational x and y , along with complex addition and multiplication.

Both 0 and 1 can be expressed as $0_S = 0 + 0\sqrt{2}$ and $1_S = 1 + 0\sqrt{2}$.

Let $a = x + y\sqrt{2}$ and $b = w + z\sqrt{2}$ be elements of S . Then, it follows that $a + b = (x + w) + (y + z)\sqrt{2}$, $-a = (-x) + (-y)\sqrt{2}$ and $ab = (xw + 2yz) + (wy + xz)\sqrt{2}$ are also in S by properties of the field of rationals. Finally, if $a \neq 0$, then

$$a^{-1} = \frac{1}{x + y\sqrt{2}} = \frac{x - y\sqrt{2}}{x^2 - 2y^2} = \frac{x}{x^2 - 2y^2} + \frac{-y}{x^2 - 2y^2}\sqrt{2}$$

which is in S . Therefore, S is a subfield of C . □

Exercise 1.2.2. Let F be the field of complex numbers. Are the following two systems of linear equations equivalent? If so, express each equation in each system as a linear combination of the equations in the other system.

$$\begin{array}{ll} x_1 - x_2 = 0 & 3x_1 + x_2 = 0 \\ 2x_1 + x_2 = 0 & x_1 + x_2 = 0 \end{array}$$

Proof. They are equivalent. The first system is

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 - x_2 &= (3x_1 + x_2) - 2(x_1 + x_2) \\ 2x_1 + x_2 &= \frac{1}{2}(3x_1 + x_2) + \frac{1}{2}(x_1 + x_2) \end{aligned}$$

and the second system is

$$\begin{aligned} 3x_1 + x_2 &= \frac{1}{4}(x_1 - x_2) + \frac{3}{4}(2x_1 + x_2) \\ x_1 + x_2 &= -\frac{1}{3}(x_1 - x_2) + \frac{2}{3}(2x_1 + x_2) \end{aligned}$$

Since they are linear combinations of each other, they are equivalent. □

Exercise 1.2.3. Test the following systems of equations as in Exercise 1.2.2.

$$\begin{array}{ll} -x_1 + x_2 + 4x_3 = 0 & x_1 - x_3 = 0 \\ x_1 + 3x_2 + 8x_3 = 0 & x_2 + 3x_3 = 0 \\ \frac{1}{2}x_1 + x_2 + \frac{5}{2}x_3 = 0 & \end{array}$$

Proof. They are equivalent and we can show this by creating linear combinations:

$$\begin{aligned} -x_1 + x_2 + 4x_3 &= -(x_1 - x_3) + (x_2 + 3x_3) \\ x_1 + 3x_2 + 8x_3 &= (x_1 - x_3) + 3(x_2 + 3x_3) \\ \frac{1}{2}x_1 + x_2 + \frac{5}{2}x_3 &= \frac{1}{2}(x_1 - x_3) + (x_2 + 3x_3) \end{aligned}$$

and, eliminating using the above,

$$\begin{aligned}x_1 - x_3 &= -\frac{3}{4}(-x_1 + x_2 + 4x_3) + \frac{1}{4}\left(\frac{1}{2}x_1 + x_2 + \frac{5}{2}x_3\right) \\x_2 - 3x_3 &= \frac{1}{4}(-x_1 + x_2 + 4x_3) + \frac{1}{4}\left(\frac{1}{2}x_1 + x_2 + \frac{5}{2}x_3\right)\end{aligned}$$

Since they are linear combinations of each other, they are equivalent. \square

Exercise 1.2.4. Test the following systems as in Exercise 1.2.2.

$$\begin{array}{rcl}2x_1 + (-1 + i)x_2 & + & x_4 = 0 \\3x_2 - 2ix_3 + 5x_4 & = & 0\end{array} \quad \begin{array}{rcl}(1 + \frac{i}{2})x_1 + 8x_2 - ix_3 - x_4 & = & 0 \\ \frac{2}{3}x_1 - \frac{1}{2}x_2 + x_3 + 7x_4 & = & 0\end{array}$$

Proof. They are not equivalent. Suppose for a contradiction that we may write the first equation of the second system as a linear combination a and b of the two equations from the first system:

$$(1 + \frac{i}{2})x_1 + 8x_2 - ix_3 - x_4 = (2a)x_1 + (2(-1 + i)a + 3b)x_2 - (2ib)x_3 + (a + 5b)x_4$$

Equating like terms, we have $2a = 1 + \frac{i}{2}$ so $a = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{i}{4}$. Likewise, $2ib = i$ so $b = \frac{1}{2}$. However, $a + 5b = 3 + \frac{i}{4}$ which is not equal to -1 . Therefore, no such a and b can exist. \square

Exercise 1.2.5. Let F be a set which contains exactly two elements, 0 and 1. Define an addition and multiplication by the tables:

$$\begin{array}{c|cc}+ & 0 & 1 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0\end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c|cc}\cdot & 0 & 1 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1\end{array}$$

Verify that the set F , together with these two operations, is a field.

Proof. We prove the nine properties from section 1.1:

1. Consider the only case of distinct x and y in F , $0 + 1 = 1 + 0 = 1$.
2. Exhaust the 8 cases:

$$\begin{aligned}0 + (0 + 0) &= (0 + 0) + 0 = 0 \\0 + (0 + 1) &= (0 + 0) + 1 = 1 \\0 + (1 + 0) &= (0 + 1) + 0 = 1 \\0 + (1 + 1) &= (0 + 1) + 1 = 0 \\1 + (0 + 0) &= (1 + 0) + 0 = 1 \\1 + (0 + 1) &= (1 + 0) + 1 = 0 \\1 + (1 + 0) &= (1 + 1) + 0 = 0 \\1 + (1 + 1) &= (1 + 1) + 1 = 1\end{aligned}$$

3. Let $0_F = 0$. Then, $0 + 0 = 0$ and $0 + 1 = 1$.
4. We define $-0 = 0$ and $-1 = 1$ so that $0 + (-0) = 0$ and $1 + (-1) = 1$.
5. Again, for the only case of distinct values, $0 \cdot 1 = 1 \cdot 0 = 0$.

6. Exhaust again the 8 cases:

$$\begin{aligned}
 0 \cdot (0 \cdot 0) &= (0 \cdot 0) \cdot 0 = 0 \\
 0 \cdot (0 \cdot 1) &= (0 \cdot 0) \cdot 1 = 0 \\
 0 \cdot (1 \cdot 0) &= (0 \cdot 1) \cdot 0 = 0 \\
 0 \cdot (1 \cdot 1) &= (0 \cdot 1) \cdot 1 = 0 \\
 1 \cdot (0 \cdot 0) &= (1 \cdot 0) \cdot 0 = 0 \\
 1 \cdot (0 \cdot 1) &= (1 \cdot 0) \cdot 1 = 0 \\
 1 \cdot (1 \cdot 0) &= (1 \cdot 1) \cdot 0 = 0 \\
 1 \cdot (1 \cdot 1) &= (1 \cdot 1) \cdot 1 = 1
 \end{aligned}$$

7. Let $1_F = 1$ so $0 \cdot 1 = 0$ and $1 \cdot 1 = 1$.

8. The only non-zero element is 1, and $1 \cdot 1 = 1$, so define $1^{-1} = 1$.

9. Exhaustion! If $x = 0$, then the result is 0. If $y = z$, then we have $1(1+1) = 1(0+0) = 1(0) = 0$. Otherwise, WLOG since we have property 1, we have $1(1+0) = 1(1) = 1$.

Therefore, $(F, +, \cdot)$ is a field. □

Exercise 1.2.6. Prove that if two homogenous systems of linear equations in two unknowns have the same solutions, then they are equivalent.

Proof. Represent two homogenous linear systems a and b in two unknowns, x and y , as

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 a_{11}x + a_{12}y = 0 & b_{11}x + b_{12}y = 0 \\
 a_{21}x + a_{22}y = 0 & b_{21}x + b_{22}y = 0 \\
 \vdots & \vdots \\
 a_{k1}x + a_{k2}y = 0 & b_{k1}x + b_{k2}y = 0
 \end{array}$$

Now, suppose that these systems share the same solutions. As systems of lines in R^2 , the solution set is either a point or a line. If it is a line, then all equations are scalar multiples of that line. It immediately follows that the systems are equivalent.

If the solution set is a point, the point must be the origin. In fact, the first system is uniquely determined by the first two equations which are not multiples of each other. Suppose WLOG that those are the first two equations. Let i be arbitrary and solve for m and n such that $b_{i1}x + b_{i2}y = (ma_{11} + na_{21})x + (ma_{12} + na_{22})y$. Equating coefficients, $b_{i1} = ma_{11} + na_{21}$ and $b_{i2} = ma_{12} + na_{22}$. Then, solving and simplifying,

$$m = \frac{a_{22}b_{i1} - a_{12}b_{i2}}{a_{11}a_{22} - a_{12}a_{21}} \quad \text{and} \quad n = \frac{a_{11}b_{i2} - a_{21}b_{i1}}{a_{11}a_{22} - a_{12}a_{21}}.$$

These are well-defined if and only if $a_{11}a_{22} \neq a_{12}a_{21}$, or equivalently, if $\frac{a_{11}}{a_{21}} \neq \frac{a_{12}}{a_{22}}$. However, this is identical to saying that the first two equations are linearly independent. Therefore, m and n exist for every i , and the systems are equivalent. □

Exercise 1.2.7. Prove that each subfield of the field of complex numbers contains every rational number.

Proof. Let F be a subfield of C and r be a rational number. By definition, we may write $r = \frac{p}{q}$ for integers p and q .

As a subfield of C , 0 and 1 are in F . Then, F also contains $1+1=2$. It follows inductively that F contains all positive integers. Likewise, F contains the additive inverse of all its elements. Therefore, all negative integers are included. It follows that p and q are in F .

We also know that F contains multiplicative inverses, so q^{-1} is in F . Finally, F is closed under multiplication, so $pq^{-1} = r$ is in F , completing the proof. \square

Exercise 1.2.8. Prove that each field of characteristic zero contains a copy of the rational number field.

Proof. As in exercise 1.2.7, it suffices to embed the integers. Let $(F, +_F, \cdot_F)$ be a field of characteristic zero and n be a non-negative integer. Then, there is an additive identity 1_F . Let $n_F = 1_F + 1_F + \cdots + 1_F$ with $|n|$ copies of 1_F . If $n = 0$, let 0_F be the multiplicative identity. Since F has characteristic zero, this is a distinct value for any n . Now, let $-n_F$ be the additive inverse of n_F . It follows that $n \mapsto n_F$ is a bijection that embeds Z in F .

We now apply multiplicative inverses and closure to find that for any $r = \frac{p}{q}$, we may write $r \mapsto r_F$ where $r_F = pq_F^{-1}$, embedding Q in F . \square

1.3 Matrices and Row Operations

Exercise 1.3.1. Find all solutions to the system of equations

$$\begin{aligned}(1-i)x_1 - ix_2 &= 0 \\ 2x_1 + (1-i)x_2 &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Solution. We express the solutions to $AX = 0$ by row-reducing $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1-i & -i \\ 2 & i-1 \end{bmatrix}$:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1-i & -i \\ 2 & i-1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_1 - \frac{1-i}{2}R_2} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 2 & i-1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_1 \leftrightarrow R_2} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & i-1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\frac{1}{2}R_1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \frac{i-1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Therefore, the solutions are $(c, \frac{i-1}{2}c)$ for any c . \square

Exercise 1.3.2. If

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

find all solutions of $AX = 0$ by row-reducing A .

Solution. Row-reduce A :

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -3 & 0 \end{bmatrix} &\xrightarrow{R_1 - 3R_3} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 8 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -3 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_2 - 2R_3} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 8 & 2 \\ 0 & 7 & 1 \\ 1 & -3 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_1 \leftrightarrow R_3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 & 0 \\ 0 & 7 & 1 \\ 0 & 8 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \\ &\xrightarrow{R_2 - \frac{1}{2}R_3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 8 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_1 + R_3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 8 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_3 - \frac{8}{3}R_2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

which after a few scalar multiplications is the identity matrix. Therefore, $X = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ is the only solution. \square