

Matrix Theory (EE5609) Assignment 12

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Abstract—This document proves that, each field of the characteristic zero contains a copy of the rational number field.

All the codes for the figure in this document can be found at

https://github.com/Arko98/EE5609/blob/master/Assignment_12

1 PROBLEM

Consider the system of equations $\mathbf{AX} = 0$ where

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$$

is a 2×2 matrix over the field F . Prove the following

- If every entry of \mathbf{A} is 0, then every pair (x_1, x_2) is a solution of $\mathbf{AX} = 0$.
- If $ad - bc \neq 0$, then the system $\mathbf{AX} = 0$ has only the trivial solution $x_1 = x_2 = 0$.
- If $ad - bc = 0$ and some entry of \mathbf{A} is different from 0, then there is a solution (x_1^0, x_2^0) such that (x_1, x_2) is a solution if and only if there is a scalar y such that $x_1 = yx_1^0$ and $x_2 = yx_2^0$.

2 SOLUTION

2.1 Solution 1

If every entry of \mathbf{A} is 0 then the equation $\mathbf{AX} = 0$ becomes,

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \quad (2.1.1)$$

$$\implies 0.x_1 + 0.x_2 = 0 \quad \forall x_1, x_2 \in F \quad (2.1.2)$$

Hence proved, every pair (x_1, x_2) is a solution for the equation $\mathbf{AX} = 0$.

2.2 Solution 2

Given $ad - bc \neq 0$, we can perform row reduction on the augmented matrix of equation $\mathbf{AX} = 0$ as follows,

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b & 0 \\ c & d & 0 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_1 = \frac{1}{a}R_1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{b}{a} & 0 \\ c & d & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.2.1)$$

$$\xrightarrow{R_2 = R_2 - cR_1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{b}{a} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{ad-bc}{a} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.2.2)$$

$$\xrightarrow{R_2 = \frac{a}{ad-bc}R_2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{b}{a} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.2.3)$$

$$\xrightarrow{R_1 = R_1 - \frac{b}{a}R_2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.2.4)$$

From the reduced form of the augmented matrix we can see that it has only trivial solutions $x_1 = x_2 = 0$. Hence proved, the equation $\mathbf{AX} = 0$ has only one trivial solution $x_1 = x_2 = 0$.

2.3 Solution 3

Let, a be the non-zero entry of \mathbf{A} . Given $ad - bc = 0$, we can perform row reduction on augmented matrix of equation $\mathbf{AX} = 0$ as follows,

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b & 0 \\ c & d & 0 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_1 = \frac{1}{a}R_1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{b}{a} & 0 \\ c & d & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.3.1)$$

$$\xrightarrow{R_2 = R_2 - cR_1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{b}{a} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad [\because ad - bc = 0] \quad (2.3.2)$$

Hence from (2.3.2), $\mathbf{AX} = 0$ if and only if

$$x_1 = -\frac{b}{a}x_2 \quad [a \neq 0] \quad (2.3.3)$$

Letting $x_1^0 = -\frac{b}{a}$ and $x_2^0 = 1$ we get for $y = 1$,

$$x_1 = yx_1^0 \quad (2.3.4)$$

$$x_2 = yx_2^0 \quad (2.3.5)$$

which is a solution of the equation $\mathbf{AX} = 0$. An analogous argument can be given if we assume any

other of the entries to be different from 0. Hence proved.