

Section E.2

Remark E.2.1 The only important information in a linear system are its coefficients and constants.

Original linear system:

$$\begin{aligned}x_1 + 3x_3 &= 3 \\3x_1 - 2x_2 + 4x_3 &= 0 \\-x_2 + x_3 &= -2\end{aligned}$$

Verbose standard form:

$$\begin{aligned}1x_1 + 0x_2 + 3x_3 &= 3 \\3x_1 - 2x_2 + 4x_3 &= 0 \\0x_1 - 1x_2 + 1x_3 &= -2\end{aligned}$$

Coefficients/constants:

$$\begin{array}{ccc|c}1 & 0 & 3 & 3 \\3 & -2 & 4 & 0 \\0 & -1 & 1 & -2\end{array}$$

Definition E.2.2 A system of m linear equations with n variables is often represented by writing its coefficients and constants in an **augmented matrix**.

$$\begin{array}{cccccc}a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n & = & b_1 \\a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \dots + a_{2n}x_n & = & b_2 \\\vdots & & \vdots \\a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \dots + a_{mn}x_n & = & b_m\end{array} \qquad \left[\begin{array}{cccc|c}a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} & b_1 \\a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} & b_2 \\\vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \cdots & a_{mn} & b_m\end{array} \right]$$

Definition E.2.3 Two systems of linear equations (and their corresponding augmented matrices) are said to be **equivalent** if they have the same solution set.

For example, both of these systems have a single solution: $\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

$$\begin{aligned}3x_1 - 2x_2 &= 1 \\x_1 + 4x_2 &= 5\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}3x_1 - 2x_2 &= 1 \\4x_1 + 2x_2 &= 6\end{aligned}$$

Therefore these augmented matrices are equivalent:

$$\left[\begin{array}{cc|c}3 & -2 & 1 \\1 & 4 & 5\end{array} \right]$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{cc|c}3 & -2 & 1 \\4 & 2 & 6\end{array} \right]$$

Activity E.2.4 (~ 10 min) Following are six procedures used to manipulate an augmented matrix. Label the procedures that would result in an equivalent augmented matrix as **valid**, and label the procedures that would change the solution set of the corresponding linear system as **invalid**.

a) Swap two rows.

d) Multiply a row by a nonzero constant.

b) Swap two columns.

e) Add a constant multiple of one row to another row.

c) Add a constant to every term in a row.

f) Replace a column with zeros.

Definition E.2.5 The following **row operations** produce equivalent augmented matrices:

1. Swap two rows.
2. Multiply a row by a nonzero constant.
3. Add a constant multiple of one row to another row.

Whenever two matrices A, B are equivalent (so whenever we do any of these operations), we write $A \sim B$.

Activity E.2.6 (~ 10 min) Consider the following linear systems.

$\begin{aligned} 3x_1 - 2x_2 + 13x_3 &= 6 \\ (A) \quad 2x_1 - 2x_2 + 10x_3 &= 2 \\ -x_1 + 3x_2 - 6x_3 &= 11 \end{aligned}$	$\begin{aligned} x_1 - 3x_2 + 6x_3 &= -11 \\ (C) \quad 2x_1 - 2x_2 + 10x_3 &= 2 \\ 3x_1 - 2x_2 + 13x_3 &= 6 \end{aligned}$	$\begin{aligned} x_1 - 3x_2 + 6x_3 &= -11 \\ (E) \quad 4x_2 - 2x_3 &= 24 \\ 7x_2 - 5x_3 &= 39 \end{aligned}$
$\begin{aligned} x_1 + 9x_3 &= 16 \\ (B) \quad x_2 + x_3 &= 9 \\ -12x_3 &= -24 \end{aligned}$	$\begin{aligned} x_1 - 3x_2 + 6x_3 &= -11 \\ (D) \quad x_2 + x_3 &= 9 \\ 7x_2 - 5x_3 &= 39 \end{aligned}$	$\begin{aligned} x_1 + 9x_3 &= 16 \\ (F) \quad x_2 + x_3 &= 9 \\ x_3 &= 2 \end{aligned}$

Part 1: Which system can be obtained from System (A) in the fewest number of row operations?

Part 2: Rank the six linear systems from easiest to solve to hardest to solve.

Activity E.2.7 (~ 10 min) Consider the following augmented matrices.

$(A) \quad \left[\begin{array}{ccc c} 3 & -2 & 13 & 6 \\ 2 & -2 & 10 & 2 \\ -1 & 3 & -6 & 11 \end{array} \right]$	$(C) \quad \left[\begin{array}{ccc c} 1 & -3 & 6 & -11 \\ 2 & -2 & 10 & 2 \\ 3 & -2 & 13 & 6 \end{array} \right]$	$(E) \quad \left[\begin{array}{ccc c} 1 & -3 & 6 & -11 \\ 0 & 4 & -2 & 24 \\ 0 & 7 & -5 & 39 \end{array} \right]$
$(B) \quad \left[\begin{array}{ccc c} 1 & 0 & 9 & 16 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 9 \\ 0 & 0 & -12 & -24 \end{array} \right]$	$(D) \quad \left[\begin{array}{ccc c} 1 & -3 & 6 & -11 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 9 \\ 0 & 7 & -5 & 39 \end{array} \right]$	$(F) \quad \left[\begin{array}{ccc c} 1 & 0 & 9 & 16 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 9 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{array} \right]$

Part 1: Rank the six matrices from farthest from a reduced row echelon form (RREF) matrix to closest to a RREF matrix.

Part 2: These matrices are all **row equivalent** and represent equivalent linear systems. Write down one of these linear systems and solve it.

Remark E.2.8 It is important to understand the **Gauss-Jordan elimination** algorithm that converts a matrix into reduced row echelon form, but in practice we don't do this by hand; we use technology to do this for us.

Activity E.2.9 (*~10 min*)

- Go to <http://www.cocalc.com> and create an account.
- Create a project titled “Linear Algebra Team X” with your appropriate team number. Add all team members as collaborators.
- Open the project and click on “New”
- Give it an appropriate name such as “Class 4 workbook”. Make a new Jupyter notebook.
- Click on “Kernel” and make sure “Octave” is selected.
- Type $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 5 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$ to store the matrix in the variable A ; hold shift when you press enter.
- Type `rref(A)` to compute the reduced row echelon form of A .

Remark E.2.10 If you need to find the reduced row echelon form of a matrix during class, you should feel free to use CoCalc/Octave.

You can change a cell from “Code” to “Markdown” or “Raw” to put comments around your calculations such as Activity numbers.

Activity E.2.11 (*~8 min*) Consider our system of equations from above.

$$\begin{aligned} 3x_1 - 2x_2 + 13x_3 &= 6 \\ 2x_1 - 2x_2 + 10x_3 &= 2 \\ -x_1 + 3x_2 - 6x_3 &= 11 \end{aligned}$$

Convert this to an augmented matrix, use CoCalc to compute the reduced row echelon form, and convert back to a simpler system of equations to solve this system. Write your solution on your whiteboard.

Activity E.2.12 (*~7 min*) Consider our system of equations from above.

$$\begin{aligned} 3x_1 - 2x_2 + 13x_3 &= 6 \\ 2x_1 - 2x_2 + 10x_3 &= 2 \\ -x_1 &- 3x_3 = 1 \end{aligned}$$

Convert this to an augmented matrix, use CoCalc to compute the reduced row echelon form, and convert back to a simpler system of equations to solve this system. Write your solution on your whiteboard.