

## Application Activities - Module E Part 1 - Class Day 3

**Definition 3.1** A **linear equation** is an equation of the variables  $x_i$  of the form

$$a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + \cdots + a_nx_n = b.$$

A **solution** for a linear equation is expressed in terms of the Euclidean vectors

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} s_1 \\ s_2 \\ \vdots \\ s_n \end{bmatrix}$$

and must satisfy

$$a_1s_1 + a_2s_2 + \cdots + a_ns_n = b.$$

**Observation 3.2** The linear equation  $3x - 5y = -2$  may be graphed as a line in the  $xy$  plane.



The linear equation  $x + 2y - z = 4$  may be graphed as a plane in  $xyz$  space.

**Remark 3.3** In previous classes you likely assumed  $x = x_1$ ,  $y = x_2$ , and  $z = x_3$ . However, since this course often deals with equations of four or more variables, we will almost always write our variables as  $x_i$ .

**Definition 3.4** A **system of linear equations** (or a **linear system** for short) is a collection of one or more linear equations.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \cdots + a_{1n}x_n & = & b_1 \\ a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \cdots + a_{2n}x_n & = & b_2 \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \cdots + a_{mn}x_n & = & b_m \end{array}$$

A **solution**

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} s_1 \\ s_2 \\ \vdots \\ s_n \end{bmatrix}$$

for a linear system satisfies

$$a_{i1}s_1 + a_{i2}s_2 + \cdots + a_{in}s_n = b_i$$

for  $1 \leq i \leq m$  (that is, the solution satisfies all equations in the system).

**Remark 3.5** When variables in a large linear system are missing, we prefer to write the system in one of the following standard forms:

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:

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

Concise standard form:

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

**Definition 3.6** A linear system is **consistent** if there exists a solution for the system. Otherwise it is **inconsistent**.

**Fact 3.7** All linear systems are either **consistent with one solution**, **consistent with infinitely-many solutions**, or **inconsistent**.

**Activity 3.8** Consider the following graphs representing linear systems of two variables. Label each graph with **consistent with one solution**, **consistent with infinitely-many solutions**, or **inconsistent**.



**Activity 3.9** All inconsistent linear systems contain a logical **contradiction**. Find a contradiction in this system.

$$\begin{aligned}-x_1 + 2x_2 &= 5 \\2x_1 - 4x_2 &= 6\end{aligned}$$

**Activity 3.10** Consider the following consistent linear system.

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

*Part 1:* Find three different solutions  $\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} r_1 \\ r_2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} s_1 \\ s_2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} t_1 \\ t_2 \end{bmatrix}$  for this system.

*Part 2:* Let  $x_2 = a$  where  $a$  is an arbitrary real number, then find an expression for  $x_1$  in terms of  $a$ . Use this to describe *all* solutions (the **solution set**)  $\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} ? \\ a \end{bmatrix}$  for the linear system in terms of  $a$ .

**Activity 3.11** Consider the following linear system.

$$\begin{aligned}x_1 + 2x_2 \quad - \quad x_4 &= 3 \\x_3 + 4x_4 &= -2\end{aligned}$$

Describe the solution set

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} ? \\ a \\ ? \\ b \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} t_1 \\ 0 \\ t_3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + a \begin{bmatrix} ? \\ 1 \\ ? \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + b \begin{bmatrix} ? \\ 0 \\ ? \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

to the linear system by setting  $x_2 = a$  and  $x_4 = b$ , and then solving for  $x_1$  and  $x_3$ .

---

**Observation 3.12** Solving linear systems of two variables by graphing or substitution is reasonable for two-variable systems, but these simple techniques won't cut it for equations with more than two variables or more than two equations.

**Remark 3.13** 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 3.14** A system of  $m$  linear equations with  $n$  variables is often represented by writing its coefficients and constants in an **augmented matrix**.

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

**Definition 3.15** 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:  $(x_1, x_2) = (1, 1)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} 3x_1 - 2x_2 &= 1 \\ x_1 + 4x_2 &= 5 \end{aligned} \quad \begin{aligned} 3x_1 - 2x_2 &= 1 \\ 4x_1 + 2x_2 &= 6 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore these augmented matrices are equivalent:

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 3 & -2 & 1 \\ 1 & 4 & 5 \end{array} \right] \quad \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 3 & -2 & 1 \\ 4 & 2 & 6 \end{array} \right]$$

**Activity 3.16** 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.                       |
-