Section E.1

Remark E.1.1 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.1.2 A system of m linear equations with n variables is often represented by writing its coefficients and constants in an **augmented matrix**.

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

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

Example E.1.3 The corresopnding augmented matrix for this system is obtained by simply writing the coefficients and constants in matrix form.

Linear system:

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

Augmented matrix:

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

Definition E.1.4 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 share the same solution set $\left\{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}\right\}$.

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

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

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.1.5 *($\sim$10 min)* Following are seven 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 might change the solution set of the corresponding linear system as **invalid**.

a) Swap two rows.

b) Swap two columns.

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

d) Multiply a row by a nonzero constant.

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

f) Replace a column with zeros.

g) Replace a row with zeros.

Definition E.1.6 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.1.7 *($\sim$10 min)* Consider the following (equivalent) linear systems.

(A)

$$\begin{aligned} -2x_1 + 4x_2 - 2x_3 &= -8 \\ x_1 - 2x_2 + 2x_3 &= 7 \\ 3x_1 - 6x_2 + 4x_3 &= 15 \end{aligned}$$

(B)

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 - 2x_2 + 2x_3 &= 7 \\ -2x_1 + 4x_2 - 2x_3 &= -8 \\ 3x_1 - 6x_2 + 4x_3 &= 15 \end{aligned}$$

(C)

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 - 2x_2 + 2x_3 &= 7 \\ 2x_3 &= 6 \\ -2x_3 &= -6 \end{aligned}$$

(D)

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 - 2x_2 + 2x_3 &= 7 \\ x_3 &= 3 \\ -2x_3 &= -6 \end{aligned}$$

(E)

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

(F)

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 - 2x_2 + 2x_3 &= 7 \\ 2x_3 &= 6 \\ 3x_1 - 6x_2 + 4x_3 &= 15 \end{aligned}$$

Part 1: Rank the six linear systems from hardest to solve to easiest to solve.
Part 2: Determine the row operation necessary in each step to transform the hardest system's augmented matrix into the easiest.

Observation E.1.8 We can rewrite the previous in terms of augmented matrices

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} -2 & 4 & -2 & -8 \\ 1 & -2 & 2 & 7 \\ 3 & -6 & 4 & 15 \end{array}\right] \sim \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -2 & 2 & 7 \\ -2 & 4 & -2 & -8 \\ 3 & -6 & 4 & 15 \end{array}\right] \sim \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -2 & 2 & 7 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 6 \\ 3 & -6 & 4 & 15 \end{array}\right]$$

$$\sim \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -2 & 2 & 7 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & -6 \end{array}\right] \sim \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -2 & 2 & 7 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & -6 \end{array}\right] \sim \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -2 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}\right]$$

The system was simplified by changing as many numbers in the matrix to 0 and 1 as possible. This simplest matrix equivalent to a given matrix is called its "reduced row echelon form".

Activity E.1.9 *(∼10 min)* A matrix is in **reduced row echelon form** (**RREF**) if

1. The leading term (first nonzero term) of each nonzero row is a 1. Call these terms **pivots**.
2. Each pivot is to the right of every higher pivot.
3. Each term above or below a pivot is zero.
4. All rows of zeroes are at the bottom of the matrix.

Circle the leading terms in each example, and label it as RREF or not RREF.

(A)
$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}\right]$$

(B)
$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 4 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}\right]$$

(C)
$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \end{array}\right]$$

(D)
$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 2 & -3 \\ 0 & 3 & 3 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}\right]$$

(E)
$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 0 & 1 & 0 & 7 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}\right]$$

(F)
$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 7 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array}\right]$$

Remark E.1.10 It is important to understand the **Gauss-Jordan elimination** algorithm that converts a matrix into reduced row echelon form.

A video outlining how to perform the Gauss-Jordan Elimination algorithm by hand is available at `https://youtu.be/Cq0Nxk2dhhU`. Practicing several exercises outside of class using this method is recommended.

In the next section, we will learn to use technology to perform this operation for us, as will be expected when applying row-reduced matrices to solve other problems.