

5.2.70

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Question: For which values of p does the pair of equations given below have a unique solution.

$$\begin{aligned} 4x + py + 8 &= 0 \\ 2x + 2y + 2 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Solution:

Given:

$$4x + py + 8 = 0 \quad (0.1)$$

$$2x + 2y + 2 = 0 \quad (0.2)$$

Standard Form: $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ where:

$$\text{Coefficient Matrix: } \mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & p \\ 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Constant Vector: } \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} -8 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Augmented Matrix: } [\mathbf{A}|\mathbf{b}] = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & p & -8 \\ 2 & 2 & -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

For Unique Solution:

Unique Solution: $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = \text{rank}([\mathbf{A}|\mathbf{b}]) = n$ (number of variables)

For our system: $n = 2$ variables

Finding $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A})$ - Rank of Coefficient Matrix

Initial Matrix \mathbf{A} :

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & p \\ 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.3)$$

Row Operations on \mathbf{A} :

$$R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - \frac{1}{2}R_1 \quad (0.4)$$

Row Echelon Form of \mathbf{A} :

$$\begin{pmatrix} 4 & p \\ 0 & 2 - \frac{p}{2} \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.5)$$

Rank Analysis:

Case 1: If $2 - \frac{p}{2} \neq 0$ (i.e., $p \neq 4$)

Both rows are non-zero and linearly independent

$\Rightarrow \text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = 2$

Case 2: If $2 - \frac{p}{2} = 0$ (i.e., $p = 4$)

Second row is zero, only first row is non-zero

$\Rightarrow \text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = 1$

Finding $\text{rank}([\mathbf{A}|\mathbf{b}])$ - Rank of Augmented Matrix

Initial Augmented Matrix:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 4 & p & -8 \\ 2 & 2 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.6)$$

Row Operation on $[\mathbf{A}|\mathbf{b}]$:

$$R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - \frac{1}{2}R_1 \quad (0.7)$$

Row Echelon Form of Augmented Matrix:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 4 & p & -8 \\ 0 & 2 - \frac{p}{2} & 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.8)$$

Rank Analysis:

Case 1: If $p \neq 4$:

$\Rightarrow \text{rank}([\mathbf{A}|\mathbf{b}]) = 2$

Case 2: If $p = 4$:

$\Rightarrow \text{rank}([\mathbf{A}|\mathbf{b}]) = 2$

Comparing Ranks and Providing Solution Type

Value of p	$\text{rank}(\mathbf{A})$	$\text{rank}([\mathbf{A} \mathbf{b}])$	Comparison	Solution Type
$p \neq 4$	2	2	$\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = \text{rank}([\mathbf{A} \mathbf{b}]) = 2$	UNIQUE
$p = 4$	1	2	$\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) < \text{rank}([\mathbf{A} \mathbf{b}])$	NO SOLUTION

\therefore For $p \in \mathbb{R} - \{4\}$, the pair of equations has an Unique Solution. (0.9)

