Question

Matrix

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 2 \\ 3 & 7 & 2 \\ 5 & 1 & 7 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

are given. If vector \mathbf{x} is the solution to the system of equations $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$, which of the following is true for \mathbf{x}

(a) Solution does not exist

(c) Unique solution exists

(b) Infinite solutions exist

(d) Five possible solutions exist

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Solution

Given,

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 2 \\ 3 & 7 & 2 \\ 5 & 1 & 7 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} \tag{1}$$

Form the augmented matrix:

$$\begin{pmatrix}
2 & 0 & 2 & | & 4 \\
3 & 7 & 2 & | & 4 \\
5 & 1 & 7 & | & 5
\end{pmatrix}$$
(2)

According to Gaussian elimination: Replace

$$R_2 \to R_2 - \frac{3}{2}R_1, \quad R_3 \to R_3 - \frac{5}{2}R_1$$

$$\begin{pmatrix}
2 & 0 & 2 & | & 4 \\
0 & 7 & -1 & | & -2 \\
0 & 1 & 2 & | & -5
\end{pmatrix}$$
(3)

Replace

$$R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - \frac{1}{7}R_2$$

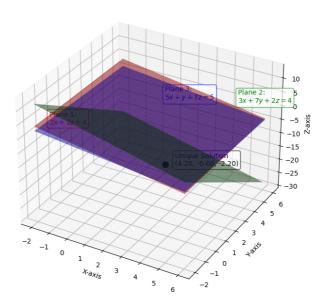
$$\begin{pmatrix}
2 & 0 & 2 & | & 4 \\
0 & 7 & -1 & | & -2 \\
0 & 0 & \frac{15}{2} & | & \frac{-33}{2}
\end{pmatrix}$$
(4)

Now on back-substitute:

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{21}{5} \\ -\frac{3}{5} \\ -\frac{11}{5} \end{pmatrix} \tag{5}$$

Hence, a unique solution exists.

Intersection of Three Planes: Unique Solution



(6)