

# Linear Algebra Study Guide

Orgho A. Neogi

20 September 2017

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

### 1.1 Systems of Linear Equations

A system of linear equations has

1. no solution, or
2. exactly one solution, or
3. infinitely many solutions.

A system of linear equations is said to be consistent if it has either one solution or infinitely many solutions; a system is inconsistent if it has no solution.

Given an example System of Equations:

$$x_1 - 2x_2 + x_3 = 0 \tag{1.1}$$

$$2x_2 - 8x_3 = 8 \tag{1.2}$$

$$5x_1 - 5x_3 = 10 \tag{1.3}$$

The matrix of coefficients is:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & -8 \\ 5 & 0 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

The augmented matrix is:

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & -8 & 8 \\ 5 & 0 & -5 & 10 \end{array} \right]$$

A system of linear equations can be solved using elementary row operations. Elementary row operations are:

1. (Replacement) Replace one row by the sum of itself and a multiple of another row.
2. (Interchange) Interchange two rows.
3. (Scaling) Multiply all entries in a row by a nonzero constant.

Row operations can be applied to any matrix and are reversible.

## 1.2 Row Reduction and Echelon Forms

**Definition 1.2.1 (Echelon Form)** *A rectangular matrix is in echelon form (or row echelon form) if it has the following three properties:*

1. *All nonzero rows are above any rows of all zeros.*
2. *Each leading entry of a row is in a column to the right of the leading entry of the row above it.*

3. *All entries in a column below a leading entry are zeros.*

*If a matrix in echelon form satisfies the following additional conditions, then it is in reduced row echelon form.*

4. *The leading entry in each nonzero row is 1.*
5. *Each leading 1 is the only nonzero entry in its column.*

**Theorem 1.2.1 (Uniqueness of the Reduced Echelon Form)** *Each matrix is row equivalent to one and only one reduced echelon matrix.*

**Definition 1.2.2 (Pivot Position)** *A pivot position in a matrix  $A$  is a location in  $A$  that corresponds to a leading 1 in the reduced echelon form of  $A$ .*

**Definition 1.2.3 (Pivot Column)** *A pivot column is a column of  $A$  that contains a pivot position.*

**Theorem 1.2.2 (Existence and Uniqueness Theorem)** *A linear system is consistent if and only if the rightmost column of the augmented matrix is not a pivot column; that is, if and only if an echelon form of the augmented matrix has no row of the form:*

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & \dots & 0 & b \end{bmatrix} \text{ With } b \text{ non-zero}$$

*If a linear system is consistent, then the solution set contains either (i) a unique solution, when there are no free variables, or (ii) infinitely many solutions, when there is at least one free variable.*

Using Row Reduction to Solve a Linear System:

1. Write the augmented matrix of the system.
2. Use the row reduction algorithm to obtain an equivalent augmented matrix in echelon form. Decide whether the system is consistent. If there is no solution, stop; otherwise, go to the next step.
3. Write the system of equations corresponding to the matrix obtained in step 3.
4. Rewrite each nonzero equation from step 4 so that its one basic variable is expressed in terms of any free variables appearing in the equation.