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Matrix Theory: Assignment 2

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Abstract—This is a problem to balance a chemical equation using system of linear equations.

Download all codes from

https://github.com/Ritesh622/Assignment_EE5609/ tree/master/Assignment 2

1 Problem

Balance the following chemical equation.

Zinc + Silver nitrate \rightarrow Zinc nitrate + Silver (1.0.1)

2 Solution

Equation 1.0.1 can be written as:

$$Zn + AgNO_3 \rightarrow Ag + Zn(NO_3)_2$$
 (2.0.1)

Suppose balance form of the equation is:

$$x_1Zn + x_2AgNo_3 \rightarrow x_3Ag + x_4Zn(NO_3)_2$$
 (2.0.2)

which results in the following equations:

$$(x_1 - 2x_4)Zn = 0 (2.0.3)$$

$$(x_2 - x_3)Ag = 0 (2.0.4)$$

$$(x_3 - 2x_4)N = 0 (2.0.5)$$

$$(3x_3 - 6x_4)O = 0 (2.0.6)$$

which can be expressed as

$$x_1 + 0.x_2 + 0.x_3 - x_4 = 0$$
 (2.0.7)

$$0.x_1 + x_2 - x_3 + 0.x_4 = 0 (2.0.8)$$

$$0.x_1 + 0.x_2 + x_3 - 2.x_4 = 0 (2.0.9)$$

$$0.x_1 + 0.x_2 + 3x_3 - 6.x_4 = 0 (2.0.10)$$

resulting in the matrix equation

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -6 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$$
 (2.0.11)

where,

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{pmatrix} \tag{2.0.12}$$

(2.0.11) can be reduced as follows:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -6 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_4 \leftarrow R_4 - 3R_3} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
(2.0.13)

Thus,

$$x_1 = x_4, x_2 = 2x_4, x_3 = 2x_4$$
 (2.0.14)

$$\implies \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_4 \\ 2x_4 \\ 2x_4 \\ x_4 \end{pmatrix} = x_4 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{2.0.15}$$

by substituting $x_4 = 1$, we get :

$$\implies \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{2.0.16}$$

Hence, (2.0.2) finally becomes

$$Zn + 2AgNO_3 \rightarrow 2Ag + Zn(NO_3)_2$$
 (2.0.17)