

MATH 2111: Tutorial 1 Linear System and Echelon Form

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- Linear equation & Linear systems
- Matrix & Augmented matrix
- Elementary Row Operations & Row Equivalent
- Echelon Form & Reduced Echelon Form

Example 1

Can a linear system has finite many solutions, like 2 solutions, or 100 solutions?

Proof: Denote the linear system as

$$\begin{cases} a_{11}x_1 + \dots + a_{1m}x_m = b_1 \\ \vdots \\ a_{n1}x_1 + \dots + a_{nm}x_m = b_n. \end{cases}$$

Suppose $x_1 = x_1^{(1)}, \dots, x_m = x_m^{(1)}$

and

$$x_1 = x_1^{(2)}, \dots, x_m = x_m^{(2)}$$

are two different solutions.

Then for any $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$

$$x_1 = \alpha x_1^{(1)} + (1-\alpha)x_1^{(2)}, \dots, x_m = \alpha x_m^{(1)} + (1-\alpha)x_m^{(2)}$$

is solution to the linear system.

\Rightarrow then the linear system has infinite many solutions.

Example 2

Solve the following linear system with Echelon form

$$\begin{cases} x_1 - x_2 + x_3 = 2, \\ x_1 + 2x_2 = 1, \\ x_1 - x_3 = 4. \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

$$\textcircled{2}-\textcircled{1} \text{ \& } \textcircled{3}-\textcircled{1} \quad \begin{cases} x_1 - x_2 + x_3 = 2 \text{ } \textcircled{1}' \\ 3x_2 - x_3 = -7 \text{ } \textcircled{2}' \\ x_2 - 2x_3 = 2 \text{ } \textcircled{3}' \end{cases} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 3 & -1 & -7 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\textcircled{2}' - 3\textcircled{3}': \quad \begin{cases} x_1 - x_2 + x_3 = 2 \text{ } \textcircled{1}'' \\ 5x_3 = -7 \text{ } \textcircled{2}'' \\ x_2 - 2x_3 = 2 \text{ } \textcircled{3}'' \end{cases} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & -7 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\textcircled{1}'' + \textcircled{3}'' \text{ \& } \textcircled{3}'' + \frac{2}{5}\textcircled{2}'' : \text{ interchange } \textcircled{2}'' \text{ and } \textcircled{3}'' \quad \begin{cases} x_1 - x_3 = 4 \text{ } \textcircled{1}''' \\ x_2 = \frac{4}{5} \text{ } \textcircled{2}''' \\ 5x_3 = -7 \text{ } \textcircled{3}''' \end{cases} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -\frac{7}{5} \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & -7 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Finally} \rightarrow \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \frac{13}{5} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -\frac{7}{5} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{7}{5} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$x_1 = \frac{13}{5}, \quad x_2 = -\frac{7}{5}, \quad x_3 = -\frac{7}{5}$$

Example 3

Solve the following linear system with Echelon form

$$\begin{cases} x + y + z = 0, \\ 2x - 6y + 6z = 2, \\ 4x + 8y + 2z = 4. \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

Augmented Matrix.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & -6 & 6 & 2 \\ 4 & 8 & 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} \rightarrow \textcircled{1} \\ \rightarrow \textcircled{2} \\ \rightarrow \textcircled{3} \end{matrix}$$

$$\begin{matrix} \textcircled{2} - 2 \cdot \textcircled{1} \\ \textcircled{3} - 4 \cdot \textcircled{1} \end{matrix}$$

$$\downarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -8 & 4 & 2 \\ 0 & 4 & -2 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} \rightarrow \textcircled{1}' \\ \rightarrow \textcircled{2}' \\ \rightarrow \textcircled{3}' \end{matrix}$$

$$\textcircled{3}' + \frac{1}{2}\textcircled{2}' \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -8 & 4 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

inconsistent.

Example 4

Solve the following linear system:

$$\begin{cases} a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 = b_1, \\ a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 = b_2, \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

where $a_{11} \neq 0$.

Hint

Need to discuss different cases: inconsistent case, only one solution and infinite many solutions case.

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & b_1 \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & b_2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} \textcircled{1} \\ \textcircled{2} \end{matrix}$$
$$\textcircled{2} - \textcircled{1} \cdot \frac{a_{21}}{a_{11}} \Rightarrow$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & b_1 \\ 0 & a_{22} - a_{12} \cdot \frac{a_{21}}{a_{11}} & b_2 - b_1 \cdot \frac{a_{21}}{a_{11}} \end{pmatrix}$$

(a) $a_{22} - a_{12} \frac{a_{21}}{a_{11}} \neq 0$. only one solution

(b) $a_{22} - a_{12} \cdot \frac{a_{21}}{a_{11}} = 0$ & $b_2 - b_1 \cdot \frac{a_{21}}{a_{11}} \neq 0 \Rightarrow$ inconsistent

(c) $a_{22} - a_{12} \cdot \frac{a_{21}}{a_{11}} = 0$ & $b_2 - b_1 \cdot \frac{a_{21}}{a_{11}} = 0 \Rightarrow$ infinitely many solutions.

$a_{11}, a_{22} = a_{21} \cdot a_{12}, ??$

Example 5

Suppose $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & -1 & -1 & 3 \\ 1 & a & b & 4 \end{pmatrix}$ is an augmented matrix. Determine a and b such that the linear system

- (1) is inconsistent,
- (2) has a unique solution,
- (3) has infinite many solutions.

$$\begin{array}{l} \textcircled{2} - \textcircled{1} \cdot 2 \\ \textcircled{3} - \textcircled{1} \end{array} \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & -3 & 3 \\ 0 & a-1 & b-1 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \textcircled{1}' + \textcircled{2}' / 3 \\ \textcircled{2}' \cdot (-\frac{1}{3}) \end{aligned} \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & a-1 & b-1 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} \textcircled{1}'' \\ \textcircled{2}'' \\ \textcircled{3}'' \end{matrix}$$

$$\textcircled{3}'' - (a-1) \cdot \textcircled{2}'' \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & b-a & \underline{4+(a-1)} \end{pmatrix}$$

(a) $b-a \neq 0 \Rightarrow$ unique solution

(b) $b-a = 0$, & $4+(a-1) = 0 \Rightarrow$ infinitely many

(c) $b-a = 0$ & $4+(a-1) \neq 0 \Rightarrow$ inconsistent.