

# 1.5. Describing Solutions to $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} x_1 + 2x_2 + 3x_3 = 9 \\ -4x_1 + 2x_2 = -20 \\ 2x_1 + x_2 - 2x_3 = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

$$x_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + x_3 \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 9 \\ -20 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ -4 & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 9 \\ -20 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

# The General Solution to $Ax = b$ in Parametric Form

$$\left[ \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline A & |b \\ \hline \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{ccccc|c} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & x_4 & x_5 & \\ \hline 1 & 0 & 2 & 6 & -1 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & 0 & 2 & 7 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 & 11 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

Pivot      ↓ $s$       ↓ $t$

$x_1$      $x_2$      $x_3$      $x_4$      $x_5$

GENERAL  
SOLUTION

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} x_1 = 5 - 2x_3 + x_5 = 5 - 2s + t \\ x_2 = 7 + 3x_3 - 2x_5 = 7 + 3s - 2t \quad \text{for all } s, t \in \mathbb{R} \\ x_3 = \text{free } s \\ x_4 = 11 - 3x_5 = 11 - 3t \\ x_5 = \text{free } t \end{array} \right.$$

$$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 - 2s + t \\ 7 + 3s - 2t \\ s \\ 11 - 3t \\ t \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} p \\ q \\ r \\ s \\ t \end{bmatrix} + s \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 0 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

PARAMETRIC FORM of  
General solution

# The General Solution to $Ax = 0$ in Parametric Form

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c|c} A & \left[ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{ccccc|c} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & x_4 & x_5 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 & 6 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

Pivot      ↓ $s$ <sup>Free</sup>      ↓ $t$

“Homogeneous” equations

GENERAL  
SOLUTION

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{lcl} x_1 & = & -2x_3 + x_5 = -2s + t \\ x_2 & = & +3x_3 - 2x_5 = +3s - 2t \\ x_3 & = & \text{free } s \\ x_4 & = & -3x_5 = -3t \\ x_5 & = & \text{free } t \end{array} \right.$$

$$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2s + t \\ +3s - 2t \\ s \\ -3t \\ t \end{bmatrix}$$

$$s \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 0 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Solution to  $Ax = 0$   
“homogeneous” equations

# The General Solution to $Ax = \mathbf{b}$ in Parametric Form

$[A | b] \rightarrow$

Pivot	$\downarrow s$ Free	$\downarrow t$
1	0	2
0	1	-3
0	0	1
0	0	0
5	7	11
0	0	0

Particular solution to  $Ax = b$

Solution to  $Ax = 0$   
“homogeneous” equations

GENERAL SOLUTION

$$\begin{cases} x_1 = 5 - 2x_3 + x_5 \\ x_2 = 7 + 3x_3 - 2x_5 \\ x_3 = \text{free } s \\ x_4 = 11 - 3x_5 \\ x_5 = \text{free } t \end{cases} = \begin{cases} 5 - 2s + t \\ 7 + 3s - 2t \\ s \\ 11 - 3t \\ t \end{cases} \text{ for all } s, t \in \mathbb{R}$$

$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 - 2s + t \\ 7 + 3s - 2t \\ s \\ 11 - 3s - 3t \\ t \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} p \\ 5 \\ 7 \\ 0 \\ 11 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{\vec{p}} + s \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{\vec{u}} + t \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 0 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{\vec{v}}$

PARAMETRIC FORM of  
General solution

# The Geometry of the Solution

$$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -2s + t \\ 7 & +3s - 2t \\ s \\ 11 & -3s - 3t \\ t \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \vec{p} \\ 5 \\ 7 \\ 0 \\ 11 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + s \begin{bmatrix} \vec{u} \\ -2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} \vec{v} \\ 1 \\ -2 \\ 0 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Particular solution to  $Ax = b$

Solution to  $Ax = 0$   
“homogeneous” equations

