

Lecture - 5
Class Note

Gauss elimination method for a system of m linear equations in n variables:

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & \dots & a_{1j} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & \dots & a_{2j} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & & & & \\ a_{i1} & \dots & a_{ij} & \dots & a_{in} \\ \vdots & & & & \\ a_{m1} & \dots & a_{mj} & \dots & a_{mn} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_m \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A_{m \times n} X_n = B_m$$

Consistent system: A system of equation is said to be consistent if it has a solution.

Inconsistent system: A system of equation is said to be inconsistent if it has no solution.

Augmented matrix:

$$\left(\begin{array}{cccc|c} a_{11} & \dots & a_{1j} & \dots & a_{1n} & b_1 \\ \vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots & \vdots \\ a_{i1} & \dots & a_{ij} & \dots & a_{in} & b_i \\ \vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & \dots & a_{mj} & \dots & a_{mn} & b_m \end{array} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \bar{A} = (A_{m \times n} | B_m) \text{ is said to}$$

to be the augmented matrix.

Example: System of equations: -

$$x_1 + x_2 = 4$$

$$x_1 + x_2 - x_3 = 1$$

$$2x_1 + x_2 + 4x_3 = 7$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix}$$

Now the augmented matrix $\bar{A} = \left(\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 & 7 \end{array} \right)$

Note:

If Rank of A
= Rank of augmented
matrix
Then the system is
consistent

Gauss-Elimination method

Let $A_{m \times n} X_n = B_m$ be a given system.

Step 1: Apply elementary row operation on augmented matrix $\bar{A} = (A|B)$ to get a row echelon form of \bar{A} .

Step 2: If row echelon form of $\bar{A} = (A|B)$ is $(A_1|B_1)$

Then, if Rank of $\bar{A} (= (A|B)) = \text{Rank of } A$ then system is consistent.

(Note: Rank of $\bar{A} = \text{no of non zero rows in } (A_1|B_1)$
and Rank of $A = \text{no of non zero rows in } A_1$)

Step 3: Then solve the system $A_1 X = B_1$

Example: Solve the system of equations using Gauss-elimination method:

$$\begin{cases} x_1 + x_2 = 4 \\ x_2 - x_3 = 1 \\ 2x_1 + x_2 + 4x_3 = 7 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 2 & 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow AX = B$$

Soln: Augmented matrix $\bar{A} = \left(\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 4 & 7 \end{array} \right) = (A|B)$

$$\xrightarrow{R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - 2R_1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 4 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_3 \rightarrow R_3 + R_2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Now Rank of $\bar{A} = 3 \Rightarrow$ System is consistent
Rank of $A = 3$

Hence the system $AX = B$ is equivalent to $A_1 X = B_1 \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{aligned} x_1 + x_2 &= 4 \\ x_2 - x_3 &= 1 \\ 3x_3 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow x_3 = 0, x_2 = 1, x_1 = 3.$$

$$\therefore (x_1, x_2, x_3) = (3, 1, 0)$$

Solvability of system of linear equations

Homogeneous & Non-Homogeneous systems: A linear equations $A_{m \times n} X_n = B_m$ is called homogeneous if $B_m = O$ (where $O = \text{zero matrix}$) and non-homogeneous if $B_m \neq O$.

Theorem: A necessary and sufficient condition for a non-homogeneous system $A_{m \times n} X_n = B_m$ to be consistent is, Rank of $A = \text{Rank of augmented matrix} = \text{Rank of } (A|B)$

Existence and number of solutions of the non-homogeneous system $AX=B$, where A is $m \times n$ matrix
Case 1: $m = n$

The system is consistent if and only if
 Rank of $A = \text{Rank of augmented matrix } (\bar{A})$

For a consistent system, two cases arise

Subcase 1: Rank of $A = \text{Rank of } \bar{A} = n$

Then the system possesses the unique solution.

Subcase 2: Rank of $A = \text{Rank of } \bar{A} < n$

Then the system possesses infinitely many solutions.

Case 2: $m < n$

The system is consistent if and only if
 $\text{Rank of } A = \text{Rank of augmented matrix } (\bar{A}) \leq m$
 i.e. if consistent, $\text{Rank } A = \text{Rank } \bar{A} < n$ ($\because m < n$)

Therefore the system possesses infinitely many solutions.

Case 3: $m > n$

The system is consistent if and only if
 $\text{Rank of } A = \text{Rank of augmented matrix } (\bar{A}) \leq n$

For a consistent system two cases arise.

Subcase 1: if $\text{Rank } A = \text{Rank } \bar{A} = n$

The system possesses unique solution

Subcase 2: if $\text{Rank } A = \text{Rank } \bar{A} < n$

The system possesses infinitely many solutions.