Multivariable Calculus

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1 Linear Equations in Linear Algebra

1.1 Systems of Linear Equations

Definition 1.1. A *linear equation is an equation of the form*

$$a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + \cdots + a_nx_n = b$$

Definition 1.2. A *linear system* is a set of linear equations involving like variables.

Definition 1.3. A *solution* to a linear system is an ordered set that makes the linear system true.

Definition 1.4. A *solution set* is the set of all possible solutions to the linear system.

Remark. Two linear systems with like solution sets are *equivalent*.

Remark. A linear system is *consistent* if it has at least one solution, and *inconsistent* if it has no solutions.

Definition 1.5. A *coefficient matrix* is a matrix that consists of the coefficients of the variables of a linear system.

Remark. Each column of the coefficient matrix corresponds to a variable in the linear system.

Definition 1.6. An *augmented matrix* consists of the coefficient matrix with an added column containing the constants of the RHS of the linear system.

Definition 1.7. An $m \times n$ *matrix* is a rectangular array of elements with m rows and n columns.

1.1.1 Elementary Row Operations

- add the multiple of one row to another
- switch two rows
- scale a row by a nonzero constant

Remark. Row operations are reversible.

Definition 1.8. Two matrices are *row equivalent* if a sequence of row operations can transform one into the other.

Remark. All row equivalent augmented matrices have the same solution set.

1.1.2 Questions

- does a solution to the linear system exist?
- If it does, is it unique?

1.2 Row Reduction and Echelon Forms

Definition 1.9. The *leading entry* of a row is its left-most non-zero entry.

Definition 1.10. A matrix is in *echelon form* if:

- all non-zero rows are above any all-zero rows
- the leading entry of each row is in a column to the right of the leading entry of the row above it
- all entries in a column below a leading entry are zeros

Definition 1.11. A matrix is in *reduced row echelon form* if:

- it's in echelon form
- all leading entries are 1
- all leading entries are the only non-zero entries in their columns

Remark. A matrix can be row equivalent with many echelon forms but only one reduced echelon form.

Definition 1.12. A *pivot position* corresponds to the position of one of the leading entries of the reduced echelon form of a matrix.

Definition 1.13. A column of the coefficient matrix is a *free column* if it doesn't contain a pivot position.

Definition 1.14. A column of the augmented matrix is a *pivot column* if it contains a pivot position.

Remark. Variables corresponding to free columns are *free variables.* Variables corresponding to pivot columns are *basic variables.*

Remark. The solution set of a consistent linear system has a *parametric representation* in which by convention free variables act as parameters. The solution set of an incosistent linear system is empty and has **no** parametric representation.

Remark. Solving a system amounts to finding a parametric representation of the solution set or determing that the solution set is empty.

Remark. A linear system is consistent iff the right-most column of the augmented matrix is **not** a pivot column.

Remark. A consistent linear system has either a unique solution, if it has no free variables, or infinitely many solutions if it has at least one free variable.

1.3 Vector Equations

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{R}^n &:= \text{ Set of ordered n-tuples } \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \dots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} \text{ where } x_1, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{R} \\
\mathbb{R}^1 &:= \mathbb{R} = \text{Set of real numbers} = \text{Number line} \\
\mathbb{R}^2 &:= \text{ Plane} \\
\mathbb{R}^3 &:= \text{ Space}
\end{aligned}$$

Definition 1.15. A *vector* in $\mathbb{R}^n$ is an element of $\mathbb{R}^n$.

Remark. Two vectors are equal iff their corresponding entries are equal.

1.3.1 Algebraic Properties of $\mathbb{R}^n$

$$\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ and } c, d \in \mathbb{R} \tag{1}$$

- $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{u}$
- $(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) + \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w})$
- $\mathbf{u} + 0 = 0 + \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}$
- $\mathbf{u} + (-\mathbf{u}) = -\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{u} = 0$
- $c(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = c\mathbf{u} + c\mathbf{v}$
- $(c + d)\mathbf{u} = c\mathbf{u} + d\mathbf{u}$
- $c(d\mathbf{u}) = (cd)\mathbf{u}$
- $1\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}$

Definition 1.16. Let $\mathbf{v}_1, \cdots, \mathbf{v}_p \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $c_1, \cdots, c_p \in \mathbb{R}$, then

$$\mathbf{y} = c_1\mathbf{v}_1 + \cdots + c_p\mathbf{v}_p$$

is a linear combination of $\mathbf{v}_1, \cdots, \mathbf{v}_p$

Definition 1.17. $\text{Span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \cdots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$ is the set of all linear combinations of $\mathbf{v}_1, \cdots, \mathbf{v}_p$.