

**MAT222**  
**LINEAR ALGEBRA**  
**HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT 1**  
**SOLUTIONS**

(1) Suppose that the row echelon form of the augmented matrix of a given linear system is

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & \vdots & 0 \\ 0 & m & m & \vdots & m^2 - m \\ 0 & 0 & m^2 - m & \vdots & m \end{bmatrix}$$

Determine (and explain your reasoning) whether

- (a) the system has infinitely many solutions depending on one parameter if  $m = 0$
- (b) the system has infinitely many solutions depending on one parameter if  $m = 1$
- (c) the system is inconsistent for  $m = 1$
- (d) the system has infinitely many solutions for  $m = 0$  and  $m = 1$
- (e) the system has exactly one solution for  $m \neq 0$

**Solution:**

(a) If  $m = 0$ , then we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & \vdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \vdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \vdots & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

which shows that the system has infinitely many solutions depending on two parameters. Hence the statement is false.

(b) If  $m = 1$ , then we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & \vdots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & \vdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \vdots & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

which shows that the system has no solutions. Hence the statement is false.

(c) If  $m = 1$ , then we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & \vdots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & \vdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \vdots & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

which shows that the system is inconsistent. Hence the statement is true.

(d) Because of parts (a) and (b), the statement is false.

(e) If  $m \neq 0$ , then we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & \vdots & 0 \\ 0 & m & m & \vdots & m^2 - m \\ 0 & 0 & m^2 - m & \vdots & m \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow[\frac{1}{m^2-m}III]{\frac{1}{m}II} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & \vdots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & \vdots & m-1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \vdots & \frac{1}{m-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

which shows that the system has no solutions if  $m = 1$ . Hence the statement is false. ■

(2) Determine the values of  $k$  for which the system

$$\begin{aligned} y + 2kz &= 0 \\ x + 2y + 6z &= 2 \\ kx + 2z &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

has no solution.

**Solution:** The augmented matrix corresponding to the system is

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2k & \vdots & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 6 & \vdots & 2 \\ k & 0 & 2 & \vdots & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2k & \vdots & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 6 & \vdots & 2 \\ k & 0 & 2 & \vdots & 1 \end{bmatrix} &\xrightarrow{R_2 \leftrightarrow R_1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 6 & \vdots & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2k & \vdots & 0 \\ k & 0 & 2 & \vdots & 1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_3 - kR_1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 6 & \vdots & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2k & \vdots & 0 \\ 0 & -2k & 2 - 6k & \vdots & 1 - 2k \end{bmatrix} \\ &\xrightarrow[R_3 + 2kR_2]{R_1 - 2R_2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 6 - 4k & \vdots & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2k & \vdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2(2k - 1)(k - 1) & \vdots & 1 - 2k \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

The system has no solution when

$$2(2k - 1)(k - 1) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad 1 - 2k \neq 0.$$

This happens only when  $k = 1$ . ■

(3) A conic section is a curve in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  that can be described by an equation of the form

$$f(x, y) = c_1 + c_2x + c_3y + c_4x^2 + c_5xy + c_6y^2 = 0,$$

where at least one of the coefficients  $c_k$  is nonzero. Find all conics through the points  $(1, 0)$ ,  $(2, 0)$ ,  $(2, 2)$ ,  $(5, 2)$ , and  $(5, 6)$  using Gauss-Jordan elimination.

**Solution:** We have the system of equations

$$\begin{aligned} c_1 + c_2 + c_4 &= 0 \\ c_1 + 2c_2 + 4c_4 &= 0 \\ c_1 + 2c_2 + 2c_3 + 4c_4 + 4c_5 + 4c_6 &= 0 \\ c_1 + 5c_2 + 2c_3 + 25c_4 + 10c_5 + 4c_6 &= 0 \\ c_1 + 5c_2 + 6c_3 + 25c_4 + 30c_5 + 36c_6 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

with the corresponding augmented matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 & 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & 4 & 4 & 4 \\ 1 & 5 & 2 & 25 & 10 & 4 \\ 1 & 5 & 6 & 25 & 30 & 36 \end{bmatrix}.$$

We have

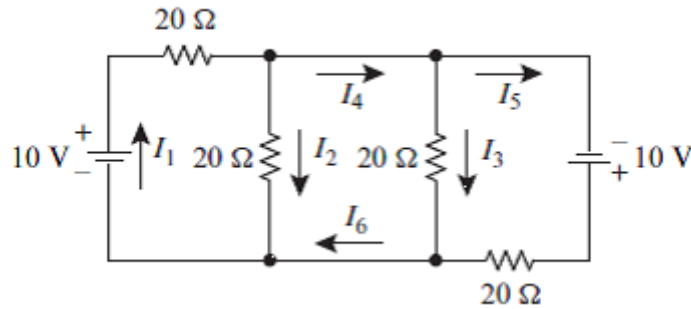
$$\begin{aligned}
& \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 & 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & 4 & 4 & 4 \\ 1 & 5 & 2 & 25 & 10 & 4 \\ 1 & 5 & 6 & 25 & 30 & 36 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\substack{R_2-R_1 \\ R_3-R_1 \\ R_4-R_1 \\ R_5-R_1}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 4 \\ 0 & 4 & 2 & 24 & 10 & 4 \\ 0 & 4 & 6 & 24 & 30 & 36 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\substack{R_1-R_2 \\ R_3-R_2 \\ R_4-4R_2 \\ R_5-4R_2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 4 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 12 & 10 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 & 12 & 30 & 36 \end{bmatrix} \\
& \xrightarrow{\frac{1}{2}R_3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 12 & 10 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 & 12 & 30 & 36 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\substack{R_4-2R_3 \\ R_5-6R_3}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 12 & 6 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 12 & 18 & 24 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\frac{1}{12}R_4} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & \frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 12 & 18 & 24 \end{bmatrix} \\
& \xrightarrow{\substack{R_1+2R_4 \\ R_2-3R_4 \\ R_5-12R_4}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{3}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & \frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 12 & 24 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\frac{1}{12}R_5} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{3}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & \frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\substack{R_1-R_5 \\ R_2+\frac{3}{2}R_5 \\ R_3-2R_5 \\ R_4-\frac{1}{2}R_5}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}.
\end{aligned}$$

Thus, the system reduces to

$$\begin{aligned}
c_1 - 2c_6 &= 0 \\
c_2 + 3c_6 &= 0 \\
c_3 - 2c_6 &= 0 \\
c_4 - c_6 &= 0 \\
c_5 + 2c_6 &= 0
\end{aligned}$$

The solution set is then found to be  $\{(2c_6, -3c_6, 2c_6, c_6, -2c_6, c_6) : c_6 \in \mathbb{R}\}$ . Choosing, for example,  $c_6 = 1$ , we find the conic  $2 - 3x + 2y + x^2 - 2xy + y^2 = 0$ . ■

(4) Analyze the given electrical circuit by finding the unknown currents.



**Solution:** By Kirchhoff's current and voltage laws, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
I_1 &= I_2 + I_4 & I_1 - I_2 - I_4 &= 0 \\
I_2 &= I_1 - I_6 & I_1 - I_2 - I_6 &= 0 \\
I_4 &= I_3 + I_5 & I_3 - I_4 + I_5 &= 0 \\
I_3 &= I_6 - I_5 & I_3 + I_5 - I_6 &= 0 \\
20I_1 + 20I_2 &= 10 & 2I_1 + 2I_2 &= 1 \\
20I_3 - 20I_2 &= 0 & -2I_2 + 2I_3 &= 0 \\
-20I_3 + 20I_5 &= 10 & -2I_3 + 2I_5 &= 1 \\
20I_1 + 20I_5 &= 20 & 2I_1 + 2I_5 &= 2
\end{aligned}$$

In the augmented matrix form, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow[\begin{smallmatrix} R_3-R_1 \\ R_4-2R_1 \end{smallmatrix}]{\begin{smallmatrix} R_2-R_1 \\ R_3-R_1 \end{smallmatrix}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 4 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\
& \xrightarrow[\text{interchangings}]{\text{Row}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 4 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow[\begin{smallmatrix} R_4+R_2 \\ R_3-4R_2 \end{smallmatrix}]{\begin{smallmatrix} R_1+R_2 \\ R_3-4R_2 \end{smallmatrix}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -2 & -4 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\
& \xrightarrow[\text{interchangings}]{\text{Row}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -2 & -4 & 0 & -3 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow[\begin{smallmatrix} R_6+2R_3 \\ R_5-R_3 \end{smallmatrix}]{\begin{smallmatrix} R_4-R_3 \\ R_5-R_3 \end{smallmatrix}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -2 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 4 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -2 & -4 & 0 & -3 \end{bmatrix} \\
& \xrightarrow[\begin{smallmatrix} R_3+R_5 \\ R_7+R_5 \\ R_8+R_6 \end{smallmatrix}]{\begin{smallmatrix} R_3+R_5 \\ R_7+R_5 \\ R_8+R_6 \end{smallmatrix}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -2 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 4 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.
\end{aligned}$$

Thus, the system reduces to

$$\begin{aligned}
-2I_6 &= -1 \\
-2I_4 &= -1 \\
I_1 + I_5 &= 1 \\
2I_4 + 4I_5 &= 3 \\
I_2 + I_5 + I_6 &= 1 \\
I_3 + I_5 - I_6 &= 0
\end{aligned}$$

The solution is then found to be  $I_1 = I_4 = I_5 = I_6 = 0.5$ ,  $I_2 = I_3 = 0$ . ■

(5) Let  $A$  be the matrix of size  $4 \times 10$  with entries  $a_{ij} = \frac{j}{j+i}$  and  $B$  be the matrix of size  $10 \times 3$  with entries  $b_{ij} = \frac{j}{i^2+i}$ . If  $AB = C$  with entries  $c_{ij}$ , find  $c_{21}$ .

**Solution:** By the definition of matrix multiplication, we have

$$c_{21} = \sum_{k=1}^{10} a_{2k} b_{k1}.$$

We then find

$$\begin{aligned} c_{21} &= \sum_{k=1}^{10} a_{2k} b_{k1} = \sum_{k=1}^{10} \left( \frac{k}{k+2} \cdot \frac{1}{k^2+k} \right) = \sum_{k=1}^{10} \frac{1}{(k+2)(k+1)} \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{10} \left( \frac{1}{k+1} - \frac{1}{k+2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} + \cdots + \frac{1}{10} - \frac{1}{11} + \frac{1}{11} - \frac{1}{12} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{12} = \frac{5}{12}, \end{aligned}$$

the desired entry. ■