



**Course Name: Linear Algebra (MT 104)**

**Topic: Matrix Equation (Exercise 1.4)**

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## Discuss **Exercise 1.3**

## 1.4 The Matrix Equation $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$

- Matrix-Vector Multiplication
  - Linear Combination of the Columns
- Matrix Equation
  - Three Equivalent Ways of Viewing a Linear System
- Existence of Solution
  - Matrix Equation Equivalent Theorem
- Another method for computing  $\mathbf{Ax}$ 
  - Row-Vector Rule

## Matrix-Vector Multiplication

### Key Concepts to Master

Linear combinations can be viewed as a matrix-vector multiplication.

### Matrix-Vector Multiplication

If  $A$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix, with columns  $\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n$ , and if  $\mathbf{x}$  is in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , then the **product of  $A$  and  $\mathbf{x}$** , denoted by  $A\mathbf{x}$ , is the **linear combination of the columns of  $A$  using the corresponding entries in  $\mathbf{x}$  as weights**. i.e.,

$$A\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_1 & \mathbf{a}_2 & \cdots & \mathbf{a}_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = x_1 \mathbf{a}_1 + x_2 \mathbf{a}_2 + \cdots + x_n \mathbf{a}_n$$

## Matrix-Vector Multiplication: Examples

Example

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -4 \\ 3 & 2 \\ 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ -6 \end{bmatrix} = 7 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + -6 \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ 2 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} =$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 21 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 24 \\ -12 \\ -30 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 31 \\ 9 \\ -30 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Matrix-Vector Multiplication: Examples

### Example

Write down the system of equations corresponding to the augmented matrix below and then express the system of equations in vector form and finally in the form  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  where  $\mathbf{b}$  is a  $3 \times 1$  vector.

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cccc|c} 2 & 3 & 4 & 9 \\ -3 & 1 & 0 & -2 \end{array} \right]$$

**Solution:** Corresponding system of equations (fill-in)

Vector Equation:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 9 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Matrix equation (fill-in):

## Matrix Equation

### Three Equivalent Ways of Viewing a Linear System

- 1 as a system of linear equations;
- 2 as a vector equation  $x_1\mathbf{a}_1 + x_2\mathbf{a}_2 + \cdots + x_n\mathbf{a}_n = \mathbf{b}$ ; or
- 3 as a matrix equation  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ .

### Useful Fact

The equation  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  has a solution if and only if  $\mathbf{b}$  is a

\_\_\_\_\_ of the columns of  $A$ .

## Matrix Equation: Theorem

### Theorem

If  $A$  is a  $m \times n$  matrix, with columns  $\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n$ , and if  $\mathbf{b}$  is in  $\mathbf{R}^m$ , then the matrix equation

$$A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$$

has the same solution set as the vector equation

$$x_1\mathbf{a}_1 + x_2\mathbf{a}_2 + \cdots + x_n\mathbf{a}_n = \mathbf{b}$$

which, in turn, has the same solution set as the system of linear equations whose augmented matrix is

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cccc|c} \mathbf{a}_1 & \mathbf{a}_2 & \cdots & \mathbf{a}_n & \mathbf{b} \end{array} \right].$$



## Matrix Equation: Example

### Example

Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 5 \\ -3 & -11 & -14 \\ 2 & 8 & 10 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix}$ .

Is the equation  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  consistent for all  $\mathbf{b}$ ?

**Solution:** Augmented matrix corresponding to  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ :

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 4 & 5 & b_1 \\ -3 & -11 & -14 & b_2 \\ 2 & 8 & 10 & b_3 \end{array} \right] \sim \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 4 & 5 & b_1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 3b_1 + b_2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -2b_1 + b_3 \end{array} \right]$$

$A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  is \_\_\_\_\_ consistent for all  $\mathbf{b}$  since some choices of  $\mathbf{b}$  make  $-2b_1 + b_3$  nonzero.

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, etc.

## Matrix Equation: Example (cont)

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 5 \\ -3 & -11 & -14 \\ 2 & 8 & 10 \end{bmatrix}$$

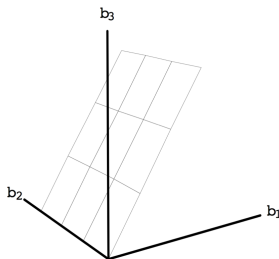
$\uparrow \quad \uparrow \quad \uparrow$   
 $\mathbf{a}_1 \quad \mathbf{a}_2 \quad \mathbf{a}_3$

The equation  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  is consistent if

$$-2b_1 + b_3 = 0.$$

(equation of a plane in  $\mathbf{R}^3$ )

$x_1\mathbf{a}_1 + x_2\mathbf{a}_3 + x_3\mathbf{a}_3 = \mathbf{b}$   
if and only if  $b_3 - 2b_1 = 0$ .



Columns of  $A$  span a plane  
in  $\mathbf{R}^3$  through  $\mathbf{0}$

Instead, if *any*  $\mathbf{b}$  in  $\mathbf{R}^3$  (not just those lying on a particular line or in a plane) can be expressed as a linear combination of the columns of  $A$ , then we say that the columns of  $A$  span  $\mathbf{R}^3$ .

## Matrix Equation: Span $\mathbb{R}^n$

### Definition

We say that **the columns of**  $A = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_1 & \mathbf{a}_2 & \cdots & \mathbf{a}_p \end{bmatrix}$  **span**  $\mathbb{R}^m$  if every vector  $\mathbf{b}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^m$  is a linear combination of  $\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_p$  (i.e.  $\text{Span}\{\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_p\} = \mathbb{R}^m$ ).

### Theorem (4)

Let  $A$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix. Then the following statements are logically equivalent:

- 1 For each  $\mathbf{b}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^m$ , the equation  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  has a solution.
- 2 Each  $\mathbf{b}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^m$  is a linear combination of the columns of  $A$ .
- 3 The columns of  $A$  span  $\mathbb{R}^m$ .
- 4  $A$  has a pivot position in every row.

## Matrix Equation: Example

### Example

Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \\ 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix}$ . Is the equation  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  consistent for all possible  $\mathbf{b}$ ?

**Solution:**  $A$  has only \_\_\_\_\_ columns and therefore has at most \_\_\_\_\_ pivots.

Since  $A$  does not have a pivot in every \_\_\_\_\_,  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$

is \_\_\_\_\_ for all possible  $\mathbf{b}$ , according to Theorem 4.

## Matrix Equation: Example

### Example

Do the columns of  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 4 & 6 \\ 0 & 3 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$  span  $\mathbf{R}^3$ ?

**Solution:**

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 4 & 6 \\ 0 & 3 & 9 \end{bmatrix} \sim$$

(no pivot in row 2)

By Theorem 4, the columns of  $A$