15. If a non-singular matrix A is symmetric, show that A^{-1} is also symmetric.

2.7 (1) RANK OF A MATRIX

If we select any r rows and r columns from any matrix A, deleting all the other rows and columns, then the determinant formed by these $r \times r$ elements is called the *minor of A of order r*. Clearly, there will be a number of different minors of the same order, got by deleting different rows and columns from the same matrix.

Def. *A matrix is said to be of rank r when*

(i) it has at least one non-zero minor of order r,

and (ii) every minor of order higher than r vanishes.

Briefly, the rank of a matrix is the largest order of any non-vanishing minor of the matrix.

If a matrix has a non-zero minor of order r, its rank is $\geq r$.

If all minors of a matrix of order $r + 1$ are zero, its rank is $\leq r$.

The rank of a matrix A shall be denoted by $\rho(A)$.

(2) Elementary transformation of a matrix. The following operations, three of which refer to rows and three to columns are known as *elementary transformations :*

I. The interchange of any two rows (columns).

II. The multiplication of any row (column) by a non-zero number.

III. The addition of a constant multiple of the elements of any row (column) to the corresponding elements of any other row (column).

Notation. The *elementary row transformations* will be denoted by the following symbols :

(*i*) R_{ij} for the interchange of the ith and jth rows.

(*ii*) kR_i for multiplication of the ith row by k.

(*iii*) $R_i + pR_j$ for addition to the ith row, p times the jth row.

The corresponding column transformation will be denoted by writing C in place of R.

Elementary transformations do not change either the order or rank of a matrix. While the value of the minors may get changed by the transformation I and II, their zero or non-zero character remains unaffected.

(3) Equivalent matrix. *Two matrices A and B are said to be equivalent if one can be obtained from the other by a sequence of elementary transformations.* Two equivalent matrices have the same order and *the same rank*. The symbol ~ is used for equivalence.

2.9 SOLUTION OF LINEAR SYSTEM OF EQUATIONS

(1) Method of determinants—Cramer's* rule

Consider the equations $\left.\begin{cases} a_1x + b_1y + c_1z = d_1 \\ a_2x + b_2y + c_2z = d_2 \\ a_3x + b_3y + c_3z = d_3 \end{cases}\right\}$ ...(*i*)

If the determinant of coefficient be $\Delta = \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 & c_2 \\ a_3 & b_3 & c_3 \end{vmatrix}$

then $$x\Delta = \begin{vmatrix} xa_1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ xa_2 & b_2 & c_2 \\ xa_3 & b_3 & c_3 \end{vmatrix} \qquad [\text{Operate } C_1 + yC_2 + zC_3]$$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} a_1x + b_1y + c_1z & b_1 & c_1 \\ a_2x + b_2y + c_2z & b_2 & c_2 \\ a_3x + b_3y + c_3z & b_3 & c_3 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} d_1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ d_2 & b_2 & c_2 \\ d_3 & b_3 & c_3 \end{vmatrix} \qquad [\text{By } (i)]$$

Thus $$x = \begin{vmatrix} d_1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ d_2 & b_2 & c_2 \\ d_3 & b_3 & c_3 \end{vmatrix} \div \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 & c_2 \\ a_3 & b_3 & c_3 \end{vmatrix} \quad \text{provided } \Delta \neq 0. \qquad ...(ii)$$

Similarly, $$y = \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & d_1 & c_1 \\ a_2 & d_2 & c_2 \\ a_3 & d_3 & c_3 \end{vmatrix} \div \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 & c_2 \\ a_3 & b_3 & c_3 \end{vmatrix} \qquad ...(iii)$$

and $$z = \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & b_1 & d_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 & d_2 \\ a_3 & b_3 & d_3 \end{vmatrix} \div \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 & c_2 \\ a_3 & b_3 & c_3 \end{vmatrix} \qquad ...(iv)$$

Equation (*ii*), (*iii*) and (*iv*) *giving the values of x, y, z constitute the* **Cramer's rule,** which reduces the solution of the linear equations (*i*) to a problem in evaluation of determinants.

(2) Matrix inversion method

If $$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 & c_2 \\ a_3 & b_3 & c_3 \end{bmatrix}, X = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } D = \begin{bmatrix} d_1 \\ d_2 \\ d_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

then the equations (*i*) are equivalent to the matrix equation $AX = D$ ...(*v*)

where A is the *coefficient matrix*.

Multiplying both sides of (*v*) by the reciprocal matrix A^{-1}, we get

$$A^{-1}AX = A^{-1}D \quad \text{or} \quad IX = A^{-1}D \qquad [\because A^{-1}A = I]$$

**Gabriel Cramer* (1704–1752), a Swiss mathematician.

or $$X = A^{-1}D \quad i.e., \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{\Delta}\begin{bmatrix} A_1 & A_2 & A_3 \\ B_1 & B_2 & B_3 \\ C_1 & C_2 & C_3 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} d_1 \\ d_2 \\ d_3 \end{bmatrix} \qquad ...(vi)$$

where A_1, B_1 etc. are the cofactors of a_1, b_1 etc. in the determinant $\Delta = \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 & c_2 \\ a_3 & b_3 & c_3 \end{vmatrix}$ $(\Delta \neq 0)$

Hence equating the values of x, y, z to the corresponding elements in the product on the right side of (vi), we get the desired solutions.

Obs. *When A is a singular matrix, i.e., $\Delta = 0$, the above methods fail. These also fail when the number of equations and the number of unknowns are unequal. Matrices can, however, be usefully applied to deal with such equations as will be seen in § 2.10(2).*

Example 2.29. *Solve the equations $3x + y + 2z = 3$, $2x - 3y - z = -3$, $x + 2y + z = 4$ by (i) determinants (ii) matrices.*

Solution. (*i*) *By determinants :*

Here $$\Delta = \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & -3 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 3(-3+2) - 2(1-4) + (-1+6) = 8 \quad \text{[Expanding by } C_1\text{]}$$

$\therefore$ $$x = \frac{1}{\Delta}\begin{vmatrix} 3 & 1 & 2 \\ -3 & -3 & -1 \\ 4 & 2 & 1 \end{vmatrix} \quad \text{[Expand by } C_1\text{]}$$

$$= \frac{1}{8}[3(-3+2) + 3(1-4) + 4(-1+6)] = 1$$

Similarly, $$y = \frac{1}{\Delta}\begin{vmatrix} 3 & 3 & 2 \\ 2 & -3 & -1 \\ 1 & 4 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 2 \quad \text{and} \quad z = \frac{1}{\Delta}\begin{vmatrix} 3 & 1 & 3 \\ 2 & -3 & -3 \\ 1 & 2 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = -1$$

Hence $x = 1, y = 2, z = -1$.

2.10 (1) CONSISTENCY OF LINEAR SYSTEM OF EQUATIONS

Consider the system of m linear equations

$$\left.\begin{array}{l} a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n = k_1 \\ a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \dots + a_{2n}x_n = k_2 \\ \dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots \\ a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \dots + a_{mn}x_n = k_m \end{array}\right\} \quad \dots(i)$$

containing the n unknowns $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$. To determine whether the equations (i) are consistent (*i.e.*, possess a solution) or not, we consider the ranks of the matrices

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \dots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad K = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} & k_1 \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} & k_2 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \dots & a_{mn} & k_m \end{bmatrix}$$

A is the *co-efficient matrix* and K is called the *augmented matrix* of the equations (i).

(2) **Rouche's theorem.** *The system of equations (i) is consistent if and only if the coefficient matrix A and the augmented matrix K are of the same rank otherwise the system is inconsistent.*

Proof. We consider the following two possible cases :

I. Rank of A = rank of K = r ($r \leq$ the smaller of the numbers m and n). The equations (i) can, be suitable row operations, be reduced to

$$\left.\begin{array}{l} b_{11}x_1 + b_{12}x_2 + \dots + b_{1n}x_n = l_1 \\ 0.x_1 + b_{22}x_2 + \dots + b_{2n}x_n = l_2 \\ \dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots \\ 0.x_1 + 0.x_2 + \dots + b_{rn}x_n = l_r \end{array}\right\} \quad \dots(ii)$$

and the remaining $m - r$ equations being all of the form $0.x_1 + 0.x_2 + \dots\dots + 0.x_n = 0$.

The equations (ii) will have a solution, though $n - r$ of the unknowns may be chosen arbitrarily. The solution, will be unique only when $r = n$. Hence the equations (i) are consistent.

II. Rank of A (i.e., r) < rank of K. In particular, let the rank of K be $r + 1$. In this case, the equations (i) will reduce, by suitable row operations, to

$$\begin{array}{l} b_{11}x_1 + b_{12}x_2 + \dots + b_{1n}x_n = l_1, \\ 0.x_1 + b_{22}x_2 + \dots + b_{2n}x_n = l_2, \\ \dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots, \\ 0.x_1 + 0.x_2 + \dots + b_{rn}x_n = l_r, \\ 0.x_1 + 0.x_2 + \dots + 0.x_n = l_{r+1}, \end{array}$$

and the remaining $m - (r + 1)$ equations are of the form $0.x_1 + 0.x_2 + \dots + 0.x_n = 0$.

Clearly, the $(r + 1)$th equation cannot be satisfied by any set of values for the unknowns. Hence the equations (i) are inconsistent.

[Procedure to test the consistency of a system of equations in n unknowns :

Find the ranks of the coefficient matrix A and the augmented matrix K, by reducing A to the triangular form by elementary row operations. Let the rank of A be r and that of K be r'.

(*i*) *If* $r \neq r'$, *the equations are inconsistent, i.e., there is no solution.*
(*ii*) *If* $r = r' = n$, *the equations are consitent and there is a unique solution.*
(*iii*) *If* $r = r' < n$, *the equations are consistent and there are infinite number of solutions.* Giving arbitrary values to $n - r$ of the unknowns, we may express the other r unknowns in terms of these.]

Example 2.31. *Test for consistency and solve*

$$5x + 3y + 7z = 4,\ 3x + 26y + 2z = 9,\ 7x + 2y + 10z = 5.$$

(Bhopal, 2008 ; J.N.T.U., 2005 ; P.T.U., 2005)

Solution. We have
$$\begin{bmatrix} 5 & 3 & 7 \\ 3 & 26 & 2 \\ 7 & 2 & 10 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 9 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

Operate $3R_1$, $5R_2$,
$$\begin{bmatrix} 15 & 9 & 21 \\ 15 & 130 & 10 \\ 7 & 2 & 10 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 12 \\ 45 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

Operate $R_2 - R_1$,
$$\begin{bmatrix} 15 & 9 & 21 \\ 0 & 121 & -11 \\ 7 & 2 & 10 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 12 \\ 33 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

Operate $\frac{7}{3}R_1$, $5R_3$, $\frac{1}{11}R_2$,
$$\begin{bmatrix} 35 & 21 & 49 \\ 0 & 11 & -1 \\ 35 & 10 & 50 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 28 \\ 3 \\ 25 \end{bmatrix}$$

Operate $R_3 - R_1 + R_2$, $\frac{1}{7}R_1$,
$$\begin{bmatrix} 5 & 3 & 7 \\ 0 & 11 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

The ranks of coefficient matrix and augmented matrix for the last set of equations, are both 2. Hence the equations are consistent. Also the given system is equivalent to

$$5x + 3y + 7z = 4,\ 11y - z = 3, \quad \therefore\ y = \frac{3}{11} + \frac{z}{11} \quad \text{and} \quad x = \frac{7}{11} - \frac{16}{11}z$$

where z is a parameter.

Hence $x = \frac{7}{11}$, $y = \frac{3}{11}$ and $z = 0$, is a particular solution.

$$= 2 - k_1 - \frac{-}{5} k_2$$

(3) System of linear homogeneous equations. Consider the homogeneous linear equations

$$\left.\begin{aligned} a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n &= 0 \\ a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \dots + a_{2n}x_n &= 0 \\ \dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots \\ a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \dots + a_{mn}x_n &= 0 \end{aligned}\right\} \qquad \dots(iii)$$

Find the rank r of the coefficient matrix A by reducing it to the triangular form by elementary row operations.

I. *If $r = n$, the equations (iii) have only a trivial zero solution*

$$x_1 = x_2 = \dots = x_n = 0$$

If $r < n$, the equation (iii) have $(n - r)$ linearly independent solutions.

The number of linearly independent solutions is $(n - r)$ means, if arbitrary values are assigned to $(n - r)$ of the variables, the values of the remaining variables can be uniquely found.

Thus the equations (*iii*) will have an infinite number of solutions.

II. *When $m < n$* (*i.e.*, the number of equations is less than the number of variables), *the solution is always other than $x_1 = x_2 = \dots = x_n = 0$.* The number of solutions is infinite.

III. *When $m = n$* (*i.e.*, the number of equations = the number of variables), *the necessary and sufficient condition for solutions other than $x_1 = x_2 = \dots = x_n = 0$, is that the determinant of the coefficient matrix is zero.* In this case the equations are said to be *consistent* and such a solution is called *non-trivial solution. The determinant is called the* **eliminant** *of the equations.*

Since A is orthogonal, $A^{-1} = A' = \frac{1}{3}\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & -2 \\ 2 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

2.12 (1) VECTORS

Any quantity having n-components is called a *vector of order n*. Therefore, the coefficients in a linear equation or the elements in a row or column matrix will form a vector. Thus any n numbers $x_1, x_2, ..., x_n$ written in a particular order, constitute a vector $\mathbf{x}$.

(2) Linear dependence. *The vectors* $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, ..., \mathbf{x}_n$ *are said to be* **linearly dependent,** *if there exist numbers* $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, ..., \lambda_r$ *not all zero, such that*

$$\lambda_1\mathbf{x}_1 + \lambda_2\mathbf{x}_2 + ... + \lambda_r\mathbf{x}_r = \mathbf{0}. \qquad ...(i)$$

If no such numbers, other than zero, exist, the vectors are said to be **linearly independent.** If $\lambda_1 \neq 0$, transposing $\lambda_1\mathbf{x}_1$ to the other side and dividing by $-\lambda_1$, we write (i) in the form

$$\mathbf{x}_1 = \mu_2\mathbf{x}_2 + \mu_3\mathbf{x}_3 + ... + \mu_r\mathbf{x}_r.$$

Then the vector $\mathbf{x}_1$ is said to be a linear combination of the vectors $\mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{x}_3, ..., \mathbf{x}_r$.

Example 2.41. *Are the vectors* $\mathbf{x}_1 = (1, 3, 4, 2)$, $\mathbf{x}_2 = (3, -5, 2, 2)$ *and* $\mathbf{x}_3 = (2, -1, 3, 2)$ *linearly dependent? If so express one of these as a linear combination of the others.*

Solution. The relation $\qquad \lambda_1\mathbf{x}_1 + \lambda_2\mathbf{x}_2 + \lambda_3\mathbf{x}_3 = \mathbf{0}.$

i.e., $\qquad \lambda_1(1, 3, 4, 2) + \lambda_2(3, -5, 2, 2) + \lambda_3(2, -1, 3, 2) = \mathbf{0}$

is equivalent to $\lambda_1 + 3\lambda_2 + 2\lambda_3 = 0,\ 3\lambda_1 - 5\lambda_2 - \lambda_3 = 0,$
$4\lambda_1 + 2\lambda_2 + 3\lambda_3 = 0,\ 2\lambda_1 + 2\lambda_2 + 2\lambda_3 = 0$

As these are satisfied by the values $\lambda_1 = 1, \lambda_2 = 1, \lambda_3 = -2$ which are not zero, the given vectors are linearly dependent. Also we have the relation,

$$\mathbf{x}_1 + \mathbf{x}_2 - 2\mathbf{x}_3 = \mathbf{0}$$

by means of which any of the given vectors can be expressed as a linear combination of the others.

Obs. Applying elementary row operations to the vectors $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{x}_3$, we see that the matrices

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_1 \\ \mathbf{x}_2 \\ \mathbf{x}_3 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_1 \\ \mathbf{x}_2 \\ \mathbf{x}_1 + \mathbf{x}_2 - 2\mathbf{x}_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

have the same rank. The rank of B being 2, the rank of A is also 2. Moreover $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2$ are linearly independent and $\mathbf{x}_3$ can be expressed as a linear combination of $\mathbf{x}_1$ and $\mathbf{x}_2$ $\left[\because\ \mathbf{x}_3 = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{x}_1 + \mathbf{x}_2)\right]$. Similar results will hold for column operations and for any matrix. In general, we have the following results :

If a given matrix has r linearly independent vectors (rows or columns) and the remaining vectors are linear combinations of these r vectors, then rank of the matrix is r. Conversely, if a matrix is of rank r, it contains r linearly independent vectors are remaining vectors (if any) can be expressed as a linear combination of these vectors.