

Goals

- Algebra & geometry of systems of linear eq'ns
- Intro to Gaussian elimination / row reduction

Note Today,  $F = \mathbb{R}$ . Non-geometry work over any field.

Example 1 Solve  $\begin{cases} 3x + 2y = 5 \\ 2x - y = 1 \end{cases}$  system of linear eq'ns  
in 2 variables  $x, y$

Multiply 2nd eq'n by 2, then add eq'ns to eliminate  $y$ :

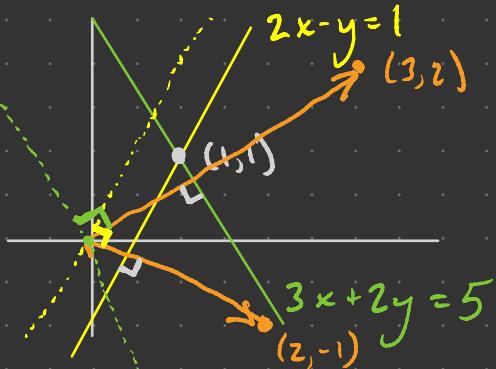
$$\begin{array}{rcl} 3x + 2y & = & 5 \\ + & 4x - 2y & = 2 \\ \hline 7x & = & 7 \end{array} \Rightarrow x = 1$$

Sub  $x=1$  into first eqn to get

$$3 \cdot 1 + 2y = 5 \Rightarrow y = 1.$$

Thus  $x=y=1$  is the unique solution.

Geometrically :



Question What is the relationship b/w  $2x - y = 1$  and  $(2, -1)$ ?

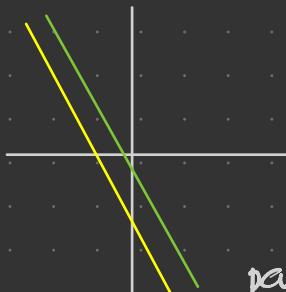
$3x + 2y = 5$  and  $(3, 2)$ ?

Example 2 System  $-9x - 3y = 6 \quad (1)$   
 $3x + y = -2 \quad (2)$

Here  $(1) = -3 \cdot (2)$  so they have the same solutions.

Example 3 System  $-9x - 3y = 6 \xrightarrow{\cdot \frac{-1}{3}} 3x + y = -2$   
 $3x + y = -1$

Cannot both be true!  
Thus no solutions.



parallel lines — same normal vectors!

## Gaussian elimination

Idea: Transform a system into a new one with

(a) same set of solutions

(b) evident solutions

Legal transformations :

(1) Multiply an eq'n by  $\lambda \in F^x = \{x \in F \mid x \neq 0\}$

(2) Swap two eq'ns

(3) Add a multiple of one eq'n to another

Discuss Why are these "legal"?

## Augmented matrices

$$x + 2y + z = 0$$

$$x + z = 4$$

$$x + y + 2z = 1$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{array}$$

Just record  
the coefficients!

Notation:  $r_i$  =  $i$ -th row of augmented matrix

Now eliminate:

elim x from 2nd eqn

$$\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{array} \xrightarrow[r_2 \rightarrow r_2 - r_1]{r_3 \rightarrow r_3 - r_1} \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 1 \end{array}$$

elim x from 3rd eqn

$$r_2 \rightarrow -\frac{1}{2}r_2 \rightarrow \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right) \quad r_3 \rightarrow r_3 + r_2 \rightarrow \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \end{array} \right)$$

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Solve for  $y$   
in 2nd eqn

elim  $y$   
from 3rd eqn

$$r_1 \rightarrow -2r_2 + r_1 \rightarrow \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \end{array} \right) \quad r_1 \rightarrow -r_3 + r_1 \rightarrow \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \end{array} \right)$$

elim  $y$   
from 1st eqn

Thus the unique sol'n is  $(x, y, z) = (5, -2, -1)$ .

Question Check this!

Example 4 Solve  $x + 2y + z = 0$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} & & x + 2y + z = 0 \\ & & x \quad \quad \quad + z = 4 \\ & & x + y \quad + z = 1 \end{array}$$

Then

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right) \rightsquigarrow \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{array} \right)$$

and thus  $x=4, y=-2, z=-1$   $\textcircled{X}$

There are no sol'n's to this system.

Example 5 Another small modification:

$$x + 2y + z = 0$$

$$x + z = 4$$

$$x + y + z = 2$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 2 \end{array} \right) \rightsquigarrow \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\text{so } x + z = 4$$

$$y = -2 \implies \text{sol'n set } \{(x, -2, 4-x) \mid x \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

$$0 = 0 \quad \text{a line in } \mathbb{R}^3,$$

Note Each "row reduction" ended in "reduced echelon form".

To do : (a) define this

(b) prove Gaussian reduction always gives this form

(c) understand sol'n sets from REF.