

Systems of Linear Equations

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Contents

Chapter 1	Introduction	Page 2
1.1	Matrix Notation Coefficient Matrix — 3 • Augmented Matrix — 3	3
1.2	Solving Linear Systems	4
1.3	Identifying Existence and Uniqueness	6
1.4	Exercises	8
Chapter 2	Row Reduction and Echelon Forms	Page 13
2.1	Pivot Positions	13
2.2	The Row Reduction Algorithm	14
2.3	Solutions of Linear Systems Parametric Description of Solution Sets — 18 • Uniqueness and Existence of Solutions — 18	16
2.4	Exercises	18

Chapter 1

Introduction

Definition 1.0.1: Linear Equation

An equation in the form

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

where the constant b and coefficients a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n are real or complex numbers.

Definition 1.0.2: System of Linear Equations

A collection of one or more linear equations involving the same set of variables. When a system of linear equations is written in the form

$$a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + a_3x_3 = b_1$$

$$a_4x_1 + a_6x_3 = b_2$$

The set of variables takes on the longest subscript in the system. In this case, the variables are x_1, x_2, x_3 .

Definition 1.0.3: Solution of a System of Linear Equations

The solution of a system of linear equations is a list of values, (s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n) that makes each equation in the system a true statement when the values are substituted for the variables, i.e. x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n and s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n , where s_n is substituted for x_n

Definition 1.0.4: Solution Set

The set of all possible solutions of a system of linear equations.

Definition 1.0.5: Equivalence

Two linear systems are said to be equivalent if they have the same solution set.

Definition 1.0.6: Consistency

A system of linear equations is said to be consistent if it has at least one solution, and inconsistent if it has no solution.

A system of linear equations can either have:

- No solution - Equations do not intersect
- Exactly one / Unique solution - Equations intersect at a single point
- Infinitely many solutions - Equations are the same

1.1 Matrix Notation

A system of linear equations can be represented in matrix form two ways:

- Coefficient Matrix
- Augmented Matrix

1.1.1 Coefficient Matrix

Definition 1.1.1: Coefficient Matrix

Denoted by A , the coefficient matrix is a matrix that contains the coefficients of the variables in the system of linear equations with the coefficients of each equation making up each row.

Example 1.1.1

For the system of linear equations:

$$a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + a_3x_3 = b_1$$

$$a_4x_1 + a_5x_2 + a_6x_3 = b_2$$

$$a_7x_1 + a_8x_2 + a_9x_3 = b_3$$

The coefficient matrix is:

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ a_4 & a_5 & a_6 \\ a_7 & a_8 & a_9 \end{bmatrix}$$

1.1.2 Augmented Matrix

Definition 1.1.2: Augmented Matrix

Denoted by $[A|B]$, the augmented matrix is a matrix that contains the coefficients of the variables in the system of linear equations with the constant terms of each equation making up the last column.

Example 1.1.2

For the system of linear equations:

$$a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + a_3x_3 = b_1$$

$$a_4x_1 + a_5x_2 + a_6x_3 = b_2$$

$$a_7x_1 + a_8x_2 + a_9x_3 = b_3$$

The augmented matrix is:

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 & b_1 \\ a_4 & a_5 & a_6 & b_2 \\ a_7 & a_8 & a_9 & b_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Definition 1.1.3: Size of a Matrix

The size of a matrix, denoted by $m \times n$, is the number of rows and columns in the matrix respectively. If $n = m$ then the matrix is said to be square, if not, it is said to be rectangular.

1.2 Solving Linear Systems

Definition 1.2.1: Pivot

Diagonal non-zero elements of a linear system

Definition 1.2.2: Forward Elimination Process

The process used to change a system into an upper triangular matrix

Definition 1.2.3: Backward Substitution Method

The process of deriving a solution from an upper triangular matrix

Definition 1.2.4: Identity Matrix

A matrix containing all zeros with pivots of 1

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

One procedure used to solve linear systems is that of simplification. This involves replacing one linear system with a simpler equivalent system. This is done by applying the following operations to the system:

Replacement Replace one equation by the sum of itself and a multiple of another equation.

Interchange Interchange two equations.

Scaling Multiply all the terms in an equation by a non-zero constant.

Example 1.2.1

Question 1

Solve the system

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 - 2x_2 + x_3 &= 0 \\ 2x_2 - 8x_3 &= 8 \\ 5x_1 - 5x_3 &= 10 \end{aligned}$$

Solution: Using the augmented matrix representation, we have:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & -8 & 8 \\ 5 & 0 & -5 & 10 \end{bmatrix}$$

Then we times the first equation through by -5 and add it to the third equation to replace the third equation:

$$\begin{array}{r} -5x_1 + 10x_2 - 5x_3 = 0 \\ \quad 5x_1 - 5x_3 = 10 \\ \hline 10x_2 - 10x_3 = 10 \end{array}$$

Giving us:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & -8 & 8 \\ 0 & 10 & -10 & 10 \end{bmatrix}$$

We then eliminate x_2 by multiplying equation 2 by -5 and add it again to the third equation again replacing it:

$$\begin{array}{r} -10x_2 + 40x_3 = -40 \\ 10x_2 - 10x_3 = 10 \\ \hline 30x_3 = -30 \end{array}$$

Giving us:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & -8 & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & 30 & -30 \end{bmatrix}$$

This new system has a triangular form, i.e.

$$\begin{array}{r} x_1 - 2x_2 + x_3 = 0 \\ 2x_2 - 8x_3 = 8 \\ 30x_3 = -30 \end{array}$$

We then continue eliminating variables until one remains in each equation:

$$\begin{array}{r} -x_3 = 1 \\ x_1 - 2x_2 + x_3 = 0 \\ \hline x_1 - 2x_2 = 1 \end{array}$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & -8 & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & 30 & -30 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 8x_3 = -8 \\ 2x_2 - 8x_3 = 8 \\ \hline 2x_2 = 0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 30 & -30 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 2x_2 = 0 \\ x_1 - 2x_2 = 1 \\ \hline x_1 = 1 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 30 & -30 \end{bmatrix}$$

Giving us the system:

$$\begin{array}{r} x_1 = 1 \\ 2x_2 = 0 \\ 30x_3 = -30 \end{array}$$

Which simplifies into:

$$x_1 = 1$$

$$x_2 = 0$$

$$x_3 = -1$$

Definition 1.2.5: Row Equivalence

Two matrices are row equivalent if there is a sequence of elementary row operations that transforms one matrix into the other

Theorem 1.2.1

If the augmented matrices of two linear systems are row equivalent, then the two equations have the same solution set.

1.3 Identifying Existence and Uniqueness

To determine the nature of a linear system we must answer two fundamental questions:

- Is the system consistent? / Does a solution exist?
- If a solution exists, is it the only one? / Is the solution unique

Example 1.3.1

Question 2

Determine if the following system is consistent:

$$x_1 - 2x_2 + x_3 = 0$$

$$2x_2 - 8x_3 = 8$$

$$5x_1 - 5x_3 = 10$$

Solution: Having already found the solution for this system:

$$x_1 = 1$$

$$x_2 = 0$$

$$x_3 = -1$$

We can determine that a solution exists, and due to the fact x_2 is uniquely determined by equation two, x_3 has only one possible value, and x_1 is also uniquely determined by equation one, we can also conclude this solution is unique.

Example 1.3.2

Question 3

Determine if the following system is consistent:

$$\begin{aligned}x_2 - 4x_3 &= 8 \\2x_1 - 3x_2 + 2x_3 &= 1 \\4x_1 - 8x_2 + 12x_3 &= 1\end{aligned}$$

Solution: The augmented matrix is:

$$\begin{bmatrix}0 & 1 & -4 & 8 \\2 & -3 & 2 & 1 \\4 & -8 & 12 & 1\end{bmatrix}$$

We interchange equations 1 and 2:

$$\begin{bmatrix}2 & -3 & 2 & 1 \\0 & 1 & -4 & 8 \\4 & -8 & 12 & 1\end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned}-4x_1 + 6x_2 - 4x_3 &= -2 \\4x_1 - 8x_2 + 12x_3 &= 1 \\\hline-2x_2 + 8x_3 &= -1\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix}2 & -3 & 2 & 1 \\0 & 1 & -4 & 8 \\0 & -2 & 8 & -1\end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned}2x_2 - 8x_3 &= 16 \\-2x_2 + 8x_3 &= -1 \\\hline0 &= 15\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix}2 & -3 & 2 & 1 \\0 & 1 & -4 & 8 \\0 & 0 & 0 & 15\end{bmatrix}$$

Now in its triangular form, we can determine the existence and uniqueness of the solutions:

$$\begin{aligned}2x_1 - 3x_2 + 2x_3 &= 1 \\x_2 - 4x_3 &= 8 \\0 &= 15\end{aligned}$$

Since there are no coefficients for x_1 , x_2 , and x_3 in equation 3 equation 3 has no solution. This makes the solution set for this linear system $\{1, 8\}$. Because this set is the same as the solution set for the original linear system, $\{8, 1, 1\}$, the original system is inconsistent

1.4 Exercises

Question 4

Determine if the linear system represented by the augmented matrix below is consistent:

$$\left[\begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 5 & 2 & -6 \\ 0 & 4 & -7 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

Solution:

$$x_1 + 5x_2 + 2x_3 = -6$$

$$4x_2 - 7x_3 = 2$$

$$5x_3 = 0$$

$$x_3 = 0$$

$$x_1 + 5x_2 = -6$$

$$x_1 = -6 - 5x_2$$

$$4x_2 = 2$$

$$x_2 = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$x_1 = -6 - 5\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)$$

$$x_1 = -\frac{17}{2}$$

Question 5

Solve the following systems:

1.

$$x_2 + 4x_3 = -5$$

$$x_1 + 3x_2 + 5x_3 = -2$$

$$3x_1 + 7x_2 + 7x_3 = 6$$

2.

$$x_1 - 2x_4 = -3$$

$$2x_2 + 2x_3 = 0$$

$$x_3 + 3x_4 = 1$$

$$-2x_1 + 3x_2 + 2x_3 + x_4 = 5$$

Solution:

1.

$$\left[\begin{array}{cccc} 0 & 1 & 4 & -5 \\ 1 & 3 & 5 & -2 \\ 3 & 7 & 7 & 6 \end{array} \right]$$

$$R_1 \leftrightarrow R_3$$

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

$$\frac{1}{3}R_1 - R_2 \rightarrow R_2$$

$$x_1 + \frac{7}{3}x_2 + \frac{7}{3}x_3 = 2$$

$$\frac{x_1 + 3x_2 + 5x_3 = -2}{\frac{2}{3}x_2 - \frac{8}{3}x_3 = 4}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 7 & 7 & 6 \\ 0 & -\frac{2}{3} & -\frac{8}{3} & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$3R_2$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 7 & 7 & 6 \\ 0 & -2 & -8 & 12 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-\frac{1}{2}R_2 - R_3 \rightarrow R_3$$

$$x_2 + 4x_3 = -6$$

$$\frac{x_2 + 4x_3 = -5}{0 = -1}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 7 & 7 & 6 \\ 0 & -2 & -8 & 12 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Because the system has a contradiction in row 3, $0x_1 + 0x_2 + 0x_3 = -1$, the system has no solution and is therefore inconsistent.

2.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -2 & -3 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 & 1 \\ -2 & 3 & 2 & 1 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R_1 \leftrightarrow R_4$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -2 & 3 & 2 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & -2 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-\frac{1}{2}R_1 - R_4 \rightarrow R_4$$

$$x_1 - \frac{3}{2}x_2 - x_3 - \frac{1}{2}x_4 = -\frac{5}{2}$$

$$\frac{x_1 + 0 + 0 - 2x_4 = -3}{-\frac{3}{2}x_2 - x_3 + \frac{3}{2}x_4 = \frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -2 & 3 & 2 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & -\frac{3}{2} & -1 & \frac{3}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-\frac{3}{4}R_2 - R_4 \rightarrow R_4$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 0 - \frac{3}{2}x_2 - \frac{3}{2}x_3 + 0 = 0 \\ 0 - \frac{3}{2}x_2 - x_3 + \frac{3}{2}x_4 = \frac{1}{2} \\ \hline -\frac{1}{2}x_3 - \frac{3}{2}x_4 = -\frac{1}{2} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -2 & 3 & 2 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{3}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-\frac{1}{2}R_3 - R_4 \rightarrow R_4$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 0 + 0 - \frac{1}{2}x_3 - \frac{3}{2}x_4 = -\frac{1}{2} \\ 0 + 0 - \frac{1}{2}x_3 - \frac{3}{2}x_4 = -\frac{1}{2} \\ \hline 0x_1 + 0x_2 + 0x_3 + 0x_4 = 0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -2 & 3 & 2 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{3}{2}R_2 - R_1 \rightarrow R_1$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 0 + 3x_2 + 3x_3 + 0 = 0 \\ -2x_1 + 3x_2 + 2x_3 + x_4 = 5 \\ \hline 2x_1 + 0 + x_3 - x_4 = -5 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 1 & -1 & -5 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R_3 - R_1 \rightarrow R_1$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 0 + 0 + x_3 + 3x_4 = 1 \\ 2x_1 + 0 + x_3 - x_4 = -5 \\ \hline -2x_1 + 0 + 0 + 4x_4 = 6 \end{array}$$

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

$$2R_3 - R_2 \rightarrow R_2$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 0 + 0 + 2x_3 + 6x_4 = 2 \\ 0 + 2x_2 + 2x_3 + 0 = 0 \\ \hline -2x_2 + 6x_4 = 2 \end{array}$$

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

$$\frac{R_1}{-2}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -2 & -3 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 & 6 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{R_2}{-2}$$

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

$$x_1 + -2x_4 = -3$$

$$x_2 - 3x_4 = -1$$

$$x_3 + 3x_4 = 1$$

$$0 = 0$$

$$x_4 = \frac{1}{2}x_1 + \frac{3}{2}$$

$$x_2 = -1 + 3x_4$$

$$x_3 = 1 - 3x_4$$

$$x_1 = -3 + 2x_4$$

Question 6

For the following matrices find the elementary row operation that transforms the first matrix into the second, and then find the reverse row operation that transforms the second matrix into the first

1.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & -2 & 6 \\ 0 & -5 & 9 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & -4 \\ 0 & 1 & -3 \\ 0 & -5 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

2.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 & -2 & 8 \\ 4 & -1 & 3 & -6 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & 7 & -1 & -6 \end{bmatrix}$$

Solution:

1. Let the first matrix be M_1 and the second be M_2

$$M_1 \rightarrow M_2 = -\frac{1}{2}R_2$$

$$M_2 \rightarrow M_1 = \frac{R_2}{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

2. Let the first matrix be M_1 and the second be M_2

$$M_1 \rightarrow M_2 = -4R_1 + R_3 \rightarrow R_3$$

$$M_2 \rightarrow M_1 = R_3 - 4R_1$$

Chapter 2

Row Reduction and Echelon Forms

Definition 2.0.1: Leading Entry

The leftmost entry in a non-zero row

Definition 2.0.2: Upper triangular matrix / Echelon Form

A rectangular matrix is in echelon form / row echelon form if it has the following proprieties:

- All non-zero rows are above any rows of all zeros
- Each leading entry of a 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 2.0.3: Reduced Row Echelon Form

A matrix is in reduced row echelon form if it meets all the conditions of a matrix in echelon form and:

- The leading entry in each non-zero row is 1
- Each leading 1 is the only non-zero entry in its column

Definition 2.0.4: Echelon Matrix

A matrix that is in echelon form

Definition 2.0.5: Reduced Echelon Matrix

A matrix that is in reduced row echelon form

Theorem 2.0.1 Uniqueness of a Row Reduced Echelon Form

Each matrix is row equivalent to one and only one reduced row echelon form

Therefore if matrix A is row equivalent to an echelon matrix U , U is the echelon form of A , and if A is row equivalent to a reduced echelon matrix R , R is the reduced echelon form of A .

2.1 Pivot Positions

Definition 2.1.1: Pivot Position

A pivot position in matrix A is a location in A that corresponds to a leading 1 in the reduced echelon form of A .

Definition 2.1.2: Pivot Column

A column of a matrix A that contains a pivot position.

A pivot cannot be 0 and a pivot column cannot contain any other non-zero entries. Therefore when identifying pivot positions we look for the first non-zero entry in each row, that is not in a column that already contains a pivot.

Example 2.1.1

For the reduced echelon matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 5 & -9 & -7 \\ 0 & 2 & 4 & -6 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

The pivots positions are $(1, 1)$, $(2, 2)$, $(3, 4)$ and values are $(1, 2, -5)$

2.2 The Row Reduction Algorithm

The row Reduction Algorithm reduces a matrix to its echelon form in four steps with the fifth reducing the echelon matrix to a reduced echelon matrix. These steps are:

1. Start with the leftmost non-zero column, this is the first pivot column, with its pivot position at the top of the column
2. Select a non-zero entry in the pivot column as a pivot, interchanging rows if necessary
3. Use row replacement operations to create all zeros below the pivot.
4. Cover the row containing the pivot and repeat the process for the submatrix that remains.
5. Beginning with the rightmost pivot and working upward to the left, create zeros above each pivot. If the pivot is not 1 make it 1 via a scaling operation

Example 2.2.1

Given the matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & -6 & 6 & 4 & 5 \\ 3 & -7 & 8 & -5 & 8 & 9 \\ 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \end{bmatrix}$$

We interchange the first and second rows to have the first item in the leftmost column be non-zero:

$$R_1 \leftrightarrow R_2$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -7 & 8 & -5 & 8 & 9 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 6 & 4 & 5 \\ 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \end{bmatrix}$$

We then select the non-zero entry in the first column, 3, as the pivot for the first column, and use it to render zeros in the first column below the pivot $R_1 - R_3 \rightarrow R_3$

$$\begin{array}{r} 3x_1 - 7x_2 + 8x_3 - 5x_4 + 8x_5 = 9 \\ 3x_1 - 9x_2 + 12x_3 - 9x_4 + 6x_5 = 15 \\ \hline 2x_2 - 4x_3 + 4x_4 + 2x_5 = -6 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -7 & 8 & -5 & 8 & 9 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 6 & 4 & 5 \\ 0 & 2 & -4 & 4 & 2 & -6 \end{bmatrix}$$

And repeat the process for the remaining columns:

$$\frac{2}{3}R_2 - R_3 \rightarrow R_3$$

$$0 + 2x_2 - 4x_3 + 4x_4 + \frac{8}{3}x_5 = \frac{10}{3}$$

$$\frac{0 + 2x_2 - 4x_3 + 4x_4 + 2x_5 = -6}{0 + 0 + 0 + 0 + \frac{2}{3}x_5 = \frac{28}{3}}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -7 & 8 & -5 & 8 & 9 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 6 & 4 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{2}{3} & \frac{28}{3} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$6R_3 - R_2 \rightarrow R_2$$

$$0 + 0 + 0 + 0 + 4x_5 = 56$$

$$\frac{0 + 3x_2 - 6x_3 + 6x_4 + 4x_5 = 5}{-3x_2 + 6x_3 - 6x_4 = 51}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -7 & 8 & -5 & 8 & 9 \\ 0 & -3 & 6 & -6 & 0 & 51 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{2}{3} & \frac{28}{3} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$12R_3 - R_1 \rightarrow R_1$$

$$0 + 0 + 0 + 0 + 8x_5 = 612$$

$$\frac{3x_1 - 7x_2 + 8x_3 - 5x_4 + 8x_5 = 9}{-3x_1 + 7x_2 - 8x_3 + 5x_4 = 603}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -3 & 7 & -8 & 5 & 0 & 603 \\ 0 & -3 & 6 & -6 & 0 & 51 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{2}{3} & \frac{28}{3} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-\frac{7}{3}R_2 - R_1 \rightarrow R_1$$

$$0 + 7x_2 - 14x_3 + 14x_4 + 0 = -119$$

$$\frac{-3x_1 + 7x_2 - 8x_3 + 5x_4 + 0 = 603}{3x_1 + 0 - 6x_3 + 9x_4 = -722}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 & -6 & 9 & 0 & -722 \\ 0 & -3 & 6 & -6 & 0 & 51 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{2}{3} & \frac{28}{3} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{3}{2}R_3 \rightarrow R_3$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 & -6 & 9 & 0 & -722 \\ 0 & -3 & 6 & -6 & 0 & 51 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 14 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-\frac{1}{3}R_2 \rightarrow R_2$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 & -6 & 9 & 0 & -722 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 2 & 0 & -17 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 14 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{1}{3}R_1 \rightarrow R_1$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -2 & 3 & 0 & -\frac{722}{3} \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 2 & 0 & -17 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 14 \end{bmatrix}$$

2.3 Solutions of Linear Systems

Definition 2.3.1: Free Variable

A variable that does not exist in a row of a matrix

Definition 2.3.2: Parametric Equations

Any equation that expresses the variables in a system of linear equations in terms of a free variable.

Definition 2.3.3: Basic Variable

A variable that exists in a row of a matrix

In deriving a reduced echelon matrix we can determine the consistency of a system of linear equations, and thereby describe the solution set. For example in the case below we have the reduced echelon matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -5 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x_1 - 5x_3 = 1$$

$$x_2 + x_3 = 4$$

$$0 = 0$$

There are three variables x_1 , x_2 , and x_3 , as there are four columns in this augmented matrix. The variables x_1 and x_2 are referred to as basic variables as they have pivots in their columns, and x_3 is a free variable as it does not have a pivot in its column, thus this system is consistent and has infinitely many solutions. Describing the solution set of this equation we can say:

$$\begin{cases} x_1 = 1 + 5x_3 \\ x_2 = 4 - x_3 \\ x_3 \text{ is free} \end{cases}$$

The statement " x_3 is free" means that x_3 can take on any value, and by extension the values of x_1 and x_2 are determined by the value x_3 takes on.

Example 2.3.1

Question 7

Find the general solution of the linear system whose augmented matrix has been reduced to:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 6 & 2 & -5 & -2 & -4 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & -8 & -1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

Solution:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 6 & 2 & -5 & -2 & -4 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & -8 & -1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-1R_3 - R_2 \rightarrow R_2$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
0 + 0 + 0 + 0 - 1 = -7 \\
0 + 0 + 2 - 8 - 1 = -3 \\
\hline
0 + 0 + -2 + 8 + 0 = -10
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 6 & 2 & -5 & -2 & -4 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & 8 & 0 & -10 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-2R_3 - R_1 \rightarrow R_1$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
0 + 0 + 0 + 0 - 2 = -14 \\
1 + 6 + 2 - 5 - 2 = -4 \\
\hline
-1 - 6 - 2 + 5 + 0 = -10
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & -6 & -2 & 5 & 0 & -10 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & 8 & 0 & -10 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R_2 - R_1 \rightarrow R_1$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
0 + 0 - 2 + 8 + 0 = -10 \\
-1 - 6 - 2 + 5 + 0 = -10 \\
\hline
1 + 6 + 0 + 3 + 0 = 0
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 6 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & 8 & 0 & -10 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-\frac{1}{2}R_2 \rightarrow R_2$$

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

$$x_1 + 6x_2 + 3x_4 = 0$$

$$x_3 - 4x_4 = 5$$

$$x_5 = 7$$

$$x_1 = -6x_2 - 3x_4 = 5 + 4x_4$$

$$x_5 = 7$$

\therefore

$$\begin{cases} x_1 = -6x_2 - 3x_4 \\ x_2 \text{ is free} \\ x_3 = 5 + 4x_4 \\ x_4 \text{ is free} \\ x_5 = 7 \end{cases}$$

2.3.1 Parametric Description of Solution Sets

Definition 2.3.4: Parametric Description

A description of the solution set of a system of linear equations in terms of a free variable.

The descriptions given so far are all parametric, i.e., the free variables act as parameters that determine the values of the basic variables.

2.3.2 Uniqueness and Existence of Solutions

Theorem 2.3.1 Existence and Uniqueness Theorem

A linear system is consistent if and only if the rightmost column of the augmented matrix is not a pivot column, i.e., if and only if an echelon form of the augmented matrix has no row of the form:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & b \end{bmatrix}$$

where b is a non-zero number.

If a linear system is consistent then the solution set contains either:

- A unique solution, when there are no free variables.
- Infinitely many solutions in the presence of at least one free variable.

2.4 Exercises

Question 8

Find the general solutions of the systems whose augmented matrices are:

1.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 4 & 7 \\ 3 & 9 & 7 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

2.

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

3.

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

Solution:

1.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 4 & 7 \\ 3 & 9 & 7 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$3R_1 - R_2 \rightarrow R_2$$

$$3 + 9 + 12 = 21$$

$$\frac{3 + 9 + 7 = 6}{0 + 0 + 5 = 15}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 4 & 7 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & 15 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{4}{5}R_2 - R_1 \rightarrow R_1$$

$$0 + 0 + 4 = 12$$

$$\frac{1 + 3 + 4 = 7}{-1 - 3 + 0 = 5}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & -3 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & 15 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{1}{5}R_2$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & -3 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-R_1$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 & -5 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x_1 + 3x_2 = -5$$

$$x_3 = 3$$

$$\begin{cases} x_1 = -5 - 3x_2 \\ x_2 \text{ is free} \\ x_3 = 3 \end{cases}$$

2.

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

$$R_2 \leftrightarrow R_3$$

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

$$R_1 + R_2 \rightarrow R_2$$

$$1 - 7 + 0 + 6 = 5$$

$$\frac{-1 + 7 - 4 + 2 = 7}{0 + 0 - 4 + 8 = 12}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -7 & 0 & 6 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & -4 & 8 & 12 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{1}{4}R_2 + R_3 \rightarrow R_3$$

$$0 + 0 - 1 + 2 = 3$$

$$\frac{0 + 0 + 1 - 2 = -3}{0 + 0 + 0 + 0 = 0}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -7 & 0 & 6 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & -4 & 8 & 12 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-\frac{1}{4}R_2 \rightarrow R_2$$

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

$$x_1 - 7x_2 + 6x_4 = 5$$

$$x_3 - 2x_4 = -3$$

$$0 = 0$$

$$x_1 = 5 - 7x_2 + 6x_4$$

$$x_3 = -3 + 2x_4$$

$$\begin{cases} x_1 = 5 - 7x_2 + 6x_4 \\ x_2 \text{ is free} \\ x_3 = -3 + 2x_4 \\ x_4 \text{ is free} \end{cases}$$

Question 9

Find h and k such that the system has:

1. No solutions
2. A unique solution
3. Many solutions

1.

$$\begin{aligned}x_1 + hx_2 &= 2 \\4x_1 + 8x_2 &= k\end{aligned}$$

2.

$$\begin{aligned}x_1 + 3x_2 &= 2 \\3x_1 + hx_2 &= k\end{aligned}$$

Solution:

1.

$$\begin{aligned}x_1 + hx_2 &= 2 \\4x_1 + 8x_2 &= k\end{aligned}$$

(a)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & h & 2 \\ 4 & 8 & k \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-4R_1 + R_2 \rightarrow R_2$$

$$-4 - 4h = 8$$

$$4 + 8 = k$$

$$0 + (-4h + 8) = (-8 + k)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & h & 2 \\ 0 & (-4h + 8) & (-8 + k) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-4h + 8 = 0$$

$$h = 2$$

$$-8 + k \neq 0$$

$$k \neq 8$$

$\therefore h = 2$ and $k \neq 8$

(b)

$$\begin{aligned} & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & h & 2 \\ 4 & 8 & k \end{bmatrix} \\ & -4R_1 + R_2 \rightarrow R_2 \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad -4 - 4h = 8 \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad 4 + 8 = k \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad 0 + (-4h + 8) = (-8 + k) \\ & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & h & 2 \\ 0 & (-4h + 8) & (-8 + k) \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

$$h \neq 2$$

$$\therefore h \neq 2$$

(c)

$$\begin{aligned} & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & h & 2 \\ 4 & 8 & k \end{bmatrix} \\ & -4R_1 + R_2 \rightarrow R_2 \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad -4 - 4h = 8 \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad 4 + 8 = k \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad 0 + (-4h + 8) = (-8 + k) \\ & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & h & 2 \\ 0 & (-4h + 8) & (-8 + k) \end{bmatrix} \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad -4h + 8 = 0 \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad h = 2 \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad -8 + k = 0 \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad k = 8 \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore h = 2 \text{ and } k = 8$$