

$$\begin{aligned} 2x + 3y - 2z &= 2 & (1) \\ x + 2y + z &= 1 & (2) \\ x + 5y + \alpha z &= \beta & (3) \end{aligned}$$

From (1)

$$x = 2 - 3y + 2z \quad (4)$$

Sub (4) into (2)

$$2 - 3y + 2z + 2y + z = 1$$

$$1 - y + 3z = 0$$

$$y = 1 + 3z \quad (5)$$

Sub (5) into (4)

$$x = 2 - 3(1 + 3z) + 2z = -1 - 7z \quad (6)$$

Sub (5) and (6) into (3)

$$(-1 - 7z) + 5(1 + 3z) + \alpha z = \beta$$

$$4 + 8z + \alpha z = \beta \quad (7)$$

$$(4 + \alpha)z = \beta - 4$$

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If  $\alpha \neq -8$ ,

$$z = (\beta - 4) / (\alpha + 8) \quad (8)$$

Sub (8) into (6) and (5)

$$x = -1 - 7(\beta - 4) / (\alpha + 8) \quad (9)$$

$$y = 1 + 3(\beta - 4) / (\alpha + 8) \quad (10)$$

If  $\alpha = -8$ ,

then if  $\beta = 4$ ,

~~there are infinitely many solutions, go~~

(7) reduces to  $0 = 0$

~~then~~ if instead  $\beta \neq 4$

(7) has no solution.

So if  $\alpha = -8$  and  $\beta = 4$ , the linear system has infinitely many solutions given by  $x = -1 - 7z$ ,  $y = 1 + 3z$ ,  $z \in \mathbb{R}$ . If  $\alpha = -8$  and  $\beta \neq 4$ , the linear system has no solutions. If  $\alpha \neq -8$ , the linear system has a unique solution  $x = -1 - 7(\beta - 4) / (\alpha + 8)$ ,  $y = 1 + 3(\beta - 4) / (\alpha + 8)$ ,  $z = (\beta - 4) / (\alpha + 8)$

The linear system can be written as  $A \cdot \vec{x} = \vec{b}$

where

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & -2 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 5 & \alpha \end{pmatrix} \quad \vec{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ \beta \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ \alpha \end{pmatrix} \text{ span } \vec{b} \text{ iff } A \cdot \vec{x} = \vec{b} \text{ has at}$$

least one solution iff  $\alpha \neq -8$  or  $\beta = 4$ .