

Step-1

Consider the system of three variables and three equations;

$$\begin{aligned}u + v + w &= 2 \\u + 2v + 3w &= 1 \\v + 2w &= 0\end{aligned}$$

The objective is to explain why this system is singular. Also, to determine the suitable substitution for 0 on the right-hand side of the last equation, such that the system have solutions and then find solutions.

Step-2

Add first and third equations;

$$u + 2v + 3w = 2$$

Right hand side of this equation is same of the second equation but left side is not equal.

So, equation 1 plus equation 3 minus equation 2 gives;

$$\begin{aligned}(u + 2v + 3w) - (u + 2v + 3w) &= 2 - 1 \\0 &= 1\end{aligned}$$

Step-3

Suppose the system is;

$$\begin{aligned}u + v + w &= 2 \\u + 2v + 3w &= 1 \\v + 2w &= a\end{aligned}$$

Add first and third equations;

$$u + 2v + 3w = 2 + a$$

Now, subtract second equation from above equation;

$$\begin{aligned}(u + 2v + 3w) - (u + 2v + 3w) &= 2 + a - 1 \\0 &= 1 + a \\a &= -1\end{aligned}$$

Hence, $\boxed{-1}$ should replace the last zero.

Step-4

Now, consider system in which -1 in place of zero;

$$u + v + w = 2$$

$$u + 2v + 3w = 1$$

$$v + 2w = -1$$

So, this is now consistent and so have infinite solutions.

The 2nd equation indicates that $v = -1 - 2w$, consequently the 1st row turn out to be

$$u + (-1 - 2w) + w = 2$$

$$u - w = 3$$

The two equations $u - w = 3$ and $v + 2w = -1$ require a line of solutions; to determine one solution, then suppose $w = 0$ and solve for u and v . This results the solution

$$\boxed{(u, v, w) = (3, -1, 0)}$$