

1.1 Systems of Linear Equations

A linear equation in n unknowns is an equation of the form

1 single linear eqn $\rightarrow a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + \dots + a_nx_n = b$

where a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n and b are real numbers and x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n are variables. A linear system of m equations in n unknowns is then a system of the form

a system of linear eqns.

$$\begin{cases} \text{1st eqn} \rightarrow a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n = b_1 \\ \text{2nd eqn} \rightarrow a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \dots + a_{2n}x_n = b_2 \\ \vdots \\ \text{mth eqn} \rightarrow a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \dots + a_{mn}x_n = b_m \end{cases}$$

(1) m eqns
 n unknowns

$m \times n$ system

of eqn # of unknown

where the a_{ij} 's and the b_i 's are all real numbers. We will refer to systems of the form (1) as $m \times n$ linear systems. The following are examples of linear systems:

Ex/

$$\begin{cases} 1 \checkmark 2x_1 - x_3 + x_4 = 4 \\ 2 \checkmark x_1 - x_5 = 2 \end{cases} \quad \left. \begin{matrix} m \times n \\ \text{system} \end{matrix} \right\} \begin{matrix} m=2 \\ n=5 \end{matrix} \rightarrow \begin{matrix} 2 \times 5 \\ \text{linear system} \end{matrix}$$

$\rightarrow (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5) \leftarrow$ solution

solution. If a linear system has no solution, we say that the system is **inconsistent**. If the system has at least one solution, we say that it is **consistent**. Thus system (c) is

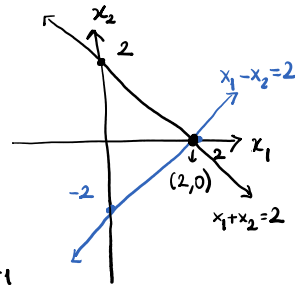
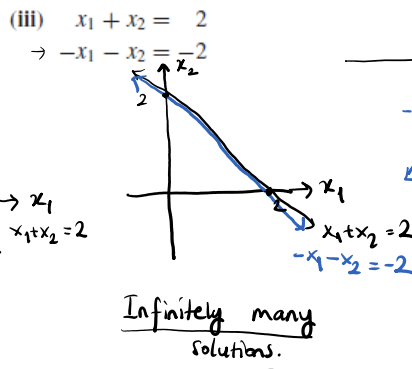
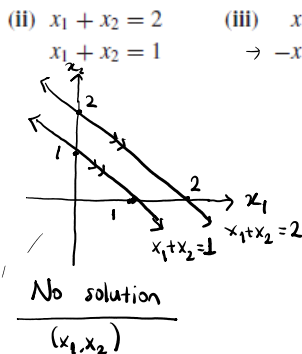
2 x 2 Systems

Let us examine geometrically a system of the form

$$\begin{aligned} -2/a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 &= b_1 \\ + a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 &= b_2 \end{aligned} \quad \rightarrow \quad -2a_{11}x_1 - 2a_{12}x_2 = -2b_1$$

Each equation can be represented graphically as a line in the plane. The ordered pair (x_1, x_2) will be a solution of the system if and only if it lies on both lines. For example,

(i) $\begin{cases} x_1 + x_2 = 2 \\ -x_1 - x_2 = 2 \end{cases}$
Soln $\Rightarrow (x_1, x_2) = (2, 0)$
A unique solution.
 $x_1 = 2$
 $x_2 = 0$



In general, there are three possibilities: the lines intersect at a point, they are parallel, or both equations represent the same line. The solution set then contains either one, zero, or infinitely many points.

- ✓ 1 solution
- ✓ No solution
- ✓ Infinitely many solutions

no other possibilities exist about the number of solutions of a system of linear eqns.

Allowed operations on eqns in a system

- 1) $[i] \leftrightarrow [j]$ exchange the place
- 2) $c \cdot [i]$
constant
- 3) $c \cdot [j] + [i]$

1) the idea of elimination

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{(i)} \quad \cancel{x_1} + \cancel{x_2} = 2 \\ + \quad \cancel{x_1} - \cancel{x_2} = 2 \end{array}$$

$$2x_1 = 4$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{x_1 = 2} \leftarrow$$

2) substitution $2 + x_2 = 2$

$$\boxed{x_2 = 0}$$

the unique
sol.

$$(x_1, x_2) = (2, 0)$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{(ii)} \quad x_1 + x_2 = 2 \\ \textcircled{-1} \quad x_1 + x_2 = 1 \end{array}$$

$$\rightarrow \cancel{x_1} + \cancel{x_2} = 2$$

$$+ \quad \cancel{-x_1} - \cancel{x_2} = -1$$

$$0 + 0 = 1$$

$$\boxed{0 = 1}$$

impossible!

No solution!

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{(iii)} \quad \overset{2}{\cancel{x_1}} + \overset{0}{\cancel{x_2}} = 2 \\ + \quad \cancel{-x_1} - \cancel{x_2} = -2 \end{array}$$

$$0 + 0 = 0$$

$$\boxed{0 = 0}$$

always true!

Infinitely many
solutions.

$$\begin{array}{l} (1, 1) \\ (2, 0) \\ (-2, 4) \\ \vdots \end{array}$$