

## 1.5 SOLUTION SET OF LINEAR SYSTEMS

\* Def: Let  $A$  be some  $m \times n$  matrix

the Linear System is called "Homogeneous" if it can be written

$$A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$$

\* 2 types of Solutions to Homogeneous Systems:

① Trivial System:  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$  always has a trivial solution  $\rightarrow$

$$\vec{x} = \vec{0}$$

② Non trivial solution:  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$  has a non trivial solution when a free-variable(s) exists.

Strategy:

① Check for free-variables:

\* Row reduce  $[A; \vec{b}]$  to echelon form  $\Rightarrow$  If a row of zeros exists,  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$  has a free-variable(s) & a non trivial solution  $\exists$

② Find a parametric description of the General Solution:  
(vector)

- Continue row-reducing to RREF

- Write the Basic Variables in terms of any free variables

\* Write solution set as a vector

③ Describe the Solution Set using the column picture of  $\vec{x}$

Ex: Find a parametric-vector description of the solution set for the following

$$\begin{cases} x_1 + 2x_2 + 3x_3 = 0 \\ 2x_1 + x_2 + 3x_3 = 0 \\ -x_1 + x_2 = 0 \end{cases}$$

Ans:

\* Row Reduce  $[A : \vec{0}]$  to RREF:

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\begin{array}{l} -2R_1 + R_2 \\ nR_2 \\ R_1 + R_3 \\ nR_3 \end{array}} \left[ \begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 3 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\begin{array}{l} R_2 \\ nR_3 \\ R_2 + R_3 \end{array}} \left[ \begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & -3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

↙ \* Echelon Form

A free variable  $\exists \because A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$  has non trivial solution ✓

$$\rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\begin{array}{l} -2R_2 \\ R_1 \\ nR_1 \end{array}} \left[ \begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \begin{cases} x_1 = -x_3 \\ x_2 = -x_3 \\ x_3 \text{ is free} \end{cases}$$

\* RREF

$\Rightarrow$  Parametric vector for the General Solution  $\vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3$

$$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -x_3 \\ -x_3 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = x_3 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ ST } x_3 \in \mathbb{R}$$

$\vec{x}$  is the set of all scalar-multiples of  $\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  (Line)

Homogenous Eq:  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$  s.t.

\*  $A \rightarrow m \times n$  matrix

\*  $\vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^m$

\* Trivial Solution:  $\vec{x} = \vec{0}$

\* Non-trivial solutions: One or more free variables  $\exists$

Def: A Linear System is called a "Nonhomogeneous Eq" IF it can be defined  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$  | \*  $A \rightarrow m \times n$  matrix | \*  $\vec{x}, \vec{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m$

Note: Some strategy for finding nontrivial solution as  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$

\* Solution set of  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$  :  $\vec{x} = \begin{pmatrix} \text{constant} \\ \text{vector} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \text{solution set} \\ \text{of } A\vec{x} = \vec{0} \end{pmatrix}$

Example: Find a parametric vector description for the following system:

$$x_1 - 2x_2 + 3x_3 = 4$$

Ans: \* already in Echelon Form  $\Rightarrow x_2 \times x_3$  are free variables

$\Rightarrow$  Nontrivial Solution  $\exists$

$$\begin{array}{l} * x_1 = 2x_2 - 3x_3 + 4 \\ * x_2 \text{ is free} \\ * x_3 \text{ is free} \end{array} \Rightarrow \begin{array}{l} x_1 = 4 + 2x_2 - 3x_3 \\ x_2 \text{ is free} \\ x_3 \text{ is free} \end{array}$$

$$\rightarrow \vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 + 2x_2 - 3x_3 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 2x_2 \\ x_2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} -3x_3 \\ 0 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\therefore$  General Sol.:

$$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_3 \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, x_2, x_3 \in \mathbb{R}$$

collection of all linear combinations of  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  &  $\begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\Rightarrow \text{span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \text{ (plane)}$$

$$x_1 - 2x_2 + 3x_3 = 0 \xrightarrow{\substack{\text{remove} \\ \text{const. vector}}} \vec{x} = x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_3 \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, x_2, x_3 \in \mathbb{R}$$

\* Nonhomogeneous Equation:  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b} \Rightarrow$  A nontrivial solution

$\exists$  if a free variable exist.  $\Rightarrow$  A trivial solution  $\exists$  if  $[A : \vec{b}]$  has one unique solution.

Heart Heart Heart

Example Consider the following linear system

$$\begin{cases} 2x_1 + 2x_2 + 4x_3 = 8 \\ -6x_1 - 6x_2 - 12x_3 = -24 \\ -5x_2 - 5x_3 = 15 \end{cases}$$

(a) Write the general solution to  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$  in parametric vector form

(b) Without calculations, use your answer from (a) to find the general solution to the corresponding homogeneous equation

(c) Use a geometric interpretation to describe both solution sets  
(i.e. the relationship between them)

(a) Row reduce  $[A: \vec{b}]$  to Echelon form to check for free variables

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 2 & 2 & 4 & 8 \\ -6 & -6 & -12 & -24 \\ 0 & -5 & -5 & 15 \end{array} \right] \sim \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right] \sim \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

Free Variables  $\exists$   
Echelon Form

$\Rightarrow x_3$  is free variable

$$\begin{array}{c} \frac{-R_2}{R_1} \\ \frac{+R_1}{R_1} \\ \hline \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 1 & 7 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \begin{cases} x_1 = 7 - x_3 \\ x_2 = -3 - x_3 \\ x_3 \text{ is free} \end{cases}$$

\* Write the solution in parametric vector form

$$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 - x_3 \\ -3 - x_3 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ -3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_3 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad x_3 \in \mathbb{R}$$

(skipable)

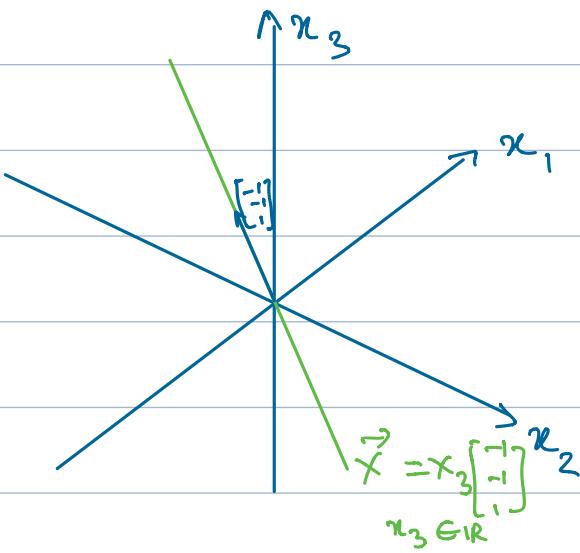
(b) General Solution for  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$

Recall  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b} \rightarrow \vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} \text{constant} \\ \text{vector} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \text{solution set} \\ \text{of } A\vec{x} = \vec{0} \end{bmatrix} \therefore \vec{x} = x_3 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, x_3 \in \mathbb{R}$

### (c) Geometric Interpretation:

$A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$  :  $\vec{x}$  is the set of all scalar multiples of  $\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$

Now: line in  $\mathbb{R}^3$



$A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$ :  $\vec{x}$  is a line passing through  $(7, -3, 0)$  & parallel to the line  $\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

1.5.1  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$

$$\Rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{cccc|c} 8 & -4 & 20 & 1 & 0 \\ -8 & -4 & -14 & 1 & 0 \\ 16 & 8 & 28 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\frac{1}{4}R_1} \left[ \begin{array}{cccc|c} 2 & -1 & 5 & 1 & 0 \\ 4 & 2 & 7 & 1 & 0 \\ 4 & 2 & 7 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\frac{1}{2}R_2} \left[ \begin{array}{cccc|c} 2 & -1 & 5 & 1 & 0 \\ 4 & 2 & 7 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

$\Rightarrow x_3$  is a free variable  $\Rightarrow \therefore$  Nontrivial solutions  $\exists$

1.5.5  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$

$$\Rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 2 & 2 & 4 & 0 \\ -4 & -4 & -8 & 1 \\ 0 & -5 & 15 & 0 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\frac{R_1}{2}} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & 0 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\frac{R_2 - R_1}{1}} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & 0 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\text{Row Swap}} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

Since  $x_3$  is a free variable  $\Rightarrow \therefore$  Nontrivial solutions  $\exists$

$$x_2 - 3x_3 = 0 \Rightarrow x_2 = 3x_3$$

$$x_1 + x_2 + 2x_3 \Rightarrow x_1 = -x_2 - 2x_3$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 = -3x_3 - 2x_3 = -5x_3$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -5x_3 \\ 3x_3 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = x_3 \begin{bmatrix} -5 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

### 1.5.6 $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 18 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 18 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] & \xrightarrow{\substack{2R_1 - R_2 \\ = nR_2}} & \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 18 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 18 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 18 & 0 \end{array} \right] & \xrightarrow{\substack{\frac{R_2}{3}, \frac{R_3}{3} \\ = nR_3}} & \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 18 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 6 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] & \xrightarrow{\substack{x_3 \text{ is a free variable.} \\ \Rightarrow \text{Nontrivial solution}}} \\
 & & & & & \boxed{0} \\
 & & & & & \boxed{0} \\
 & & & & & \boxed{0}
 \end{array}$$

$$\Rightarrow x_2 + 6x_3 = 0 \Rightarrow x_2 = -6x_3$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 = -2x_2 - 18x_3 = 12x_3 - 18x_3 = -6x_3$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -6x_3 \\ -6x_3 \\ 1x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -6 \\ -6 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

### 1.5.11

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \begin{array}{c} A\vec{x} = \vec{0} \\ \Rightarrow \end{array} & \left[ \begin{array}{cccccc|c} 1 & 5 & -1 & 4 & 0 & -4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 9 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -9 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] & \begin{array}{l} \text{Since columns of } x_1, x_3 \text{ and } x_4 \text{ have pivot} \\ \Rightarrow x_1, x_3, x_4 \text{ are Basic Variables} \\ \Rightarrow x_2, x_5, x_6 \text{ are Free Variables} \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

$$\bullet x_4 = 9x_6$$

$$\bullet x_3 = -9x_6$$

$$\bullet x_1 = -5x_2 + x_3 - 4x_4 + 4x_6 \Rightarrow$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 = -5x_2 - 9x_6 - 36x_6 + 4x_6$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 = -5x_2 - 41x_6$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \\ x_6 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -5 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_5 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_6 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

### 1.5.17 $\bullet x_1 + 2x_2 - 3x_3 = 0$

$$\bullet x_1 + 2x_2 - 3x_3 = -7 \Rightarrow x_1 = -2x_2 + 3x_3 - 7$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \downarrow \\
 \vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2x_2 + 3x_3 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = x_2 \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_3 \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} -2x_2 + 3x_3 - 7 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -7 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_3 \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}
 \end{array}$$

1.5.15 The first system:

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 2 & 2 & 4 & 8 \\ -4 & -4 & -8 & -16 \\ 0 & -5 & 15 & 15 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\substack{R_1/2 \\ R_2/-4 \\ R_3/-5}} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & -3 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\substack{R_1 - R_2 \\ = R_2}} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & -3 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\substack{R_3 - R_2 \\ R_1 - R_3}} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

$\Rightarrow x_3$  is a free variable  $\Rightarrow x_2 = -3 + 3x_3$

$$x_1 = -x_2 - 2x_3 + 4 = 3 - 3x_3 - 2x_3 + 4 = -5x_3 + 7$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -5x_3 + 7 \\ 3x_3 - 3 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ -3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_3 \begin{bmatrix} -5 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$


---

1.5.16 The first system  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -3 & 7 & 5 \\ 2 & 1 & 7 & 13 \\ -1 & -4 & 0 & 2 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\substack{R_1 + R_3 \\ = R_3 \\ 2R_1 \\ = R_2}} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -3 & 7 & 5 \\ 0 & -7 & 7 & 7 \\ 0 & -7 & 7 & 7 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\substack{\frac{R_2}{-7} \\ \frac{R_3}{-7} \\ R_2 - R_3 \\ = R_3}} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -3 & 7 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] * R_3 \text{ is a Free Variable}$$

$$\bullet x_2 = -1 + x_3$$

$$\bullet x_1 = 5 + 3x_2 - 7x_3 = 5 - 3 + 3x_3 - 7x_3 = 2 - 4x_3$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_3 \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$


---

1.5.22  $q - p = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -6 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\Rightarrow x = \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -6 \end{bmatrix} t$$