

## 2.5 Gaussian Elimination (cont.)

We can also find the exact solutions to systems which have infinitely many solutions.

Determine the solution set to

$$5x_1 - 6x_2 + x_3 = 4$$

$$2x_1 - 3x_2 + x_3 = 1$$

$$4x_1 - 3x_2 - x_3 = 5$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 5 & -6 & 1 & 4 \\ 2 & -3 & 1 & 1 \\ 4 & -3 & -1 & 5 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\begin{array}{l} A_{31} (-1) \\ \hline \sim \end{array}$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -3 & 2 & -1 \\ 2 & -3 & 1 & 1 \\ 4 & -3 & -1 & 5 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\begin{array}{l} A_{12} (-2) \\ \hline A_{13} (-4) \\ \hline \sim \end{array}$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -3 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 3 & -3 & 3 \\ 0 & 9 & -9 & 9 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\begin{array}{l} M_2 (1/3) \\ \hline \sim \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -3 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 9 & -9 & 9 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\begin{array}{l} M_{23} (-9) \\ \sim \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -3 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

$x_3$

Notice the equation in the last row is  $0x_1 + 0x_2 + 0x_3 = 0$ , which is true for any  $x_1, x_2$  and  $x_3$ .

So although we have three variables we only have two equations relating them and we are free to specify the third variable arbitrarily.

The variable we choose to specify is called a free variable.

## Rule

Choose free variables for every column which has no corresponding leading 1.

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -3 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

Let  $x_3 = t$

$$x_2 - t = 1 \Rightarrow x_2 = 1 + t$$

$$x_1 - 3(1+t) + 2t = -1 \Rightarrow$$

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= 3 + 3t - 2t - 1 \\ &= 2 + t \end{aligned}$$

The solution set  $S$  to the system

is

$$S = \{(2+t, 1+t, t) \mid t \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

$$= \{(2, 1, 0) + t(1, 1, 1) \mid t \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

Ex Use Gaussian elimination to solve the system

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

$$3x_1 + x_2 + 6x_3 + 11x_4 = 16$$

$$2x_1 - x_2 + 4x_3 + 4x_4 = 9$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & -2 & 2 & -1 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 6 & 11 & 16 \\ 2 & -1 & 4 & 4 & 9 \end{array} \right] \sim$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & -2 & 2 & -1 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

$x_3$        $x_4$

$$L_{rf} \quad x_4 = t$$

$$x_3 = s$$

$$x_2 + 2t = 1 \Rightarrow x_2 = 1 - 2t$$

$$x_1 - 2(1 - 2t) + 2s - t = 3$$

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= 2 - 4t - 2s + t + 3 \\ &= 5 - 2s - 3t \end{aligned}$$

$$S = \{ (5 - 2s - 3t, 1 - 2t, s, t) \mid s, t \in \mathbb{R} \}$$

$$= \{ (5, 1, 0, 0) + s(-2, 0, 1, 0) + t(-3, -2, 0, 1) \mid s, t \in \mathbb{R} \}$$

HW 6

Using Gauss - Jordan elimination  
determine the solution set to

$$x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3 = 1$$

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

$$2x_1 + 6x_2 + 7x_3 = 1$$

HW 7

$$2x_1 - x_2 + 3x_3 = 14$$

$$3x_1 + x_2 - 2x_3 = -1$$

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

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

HW 8

$$x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3 + x_4 - 2x_5 = 3$$

$$x_3 + 4x_4 - 3x_5 = 2$$

$$2x_1 + 4x_2 - x_3 - 10x_4 + 5x_5 = 0$$

Solve the following systems

HW9

$$2x_1 - 4x_2 + 6x_3 = 0$$

$$3x_1 - 6x_2 + 9x_3 = 0$$

$$x_1 - 2x_2 + 3x_3 = 0$$

$$5x_1 - 10x_2 + 15x_3 = 0$$

HW10

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

$$3x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3 - 5x_4 = -6$$

$$x_1 - 2x_2 + 3x_3 + x_4 = 6$$



## 2.6 The Inverse of a Square Matrix

In this section we consider a different viewpoint for solving a system of linear equations. Although computationally it is no more efficient than previous methods it gives us a much better conceptual understanding of linear algebra.

In this section we assume all  
matrices are  $n \times n$  square matrices

Say we want to solve a system

$$Ax = b$$

Assume we know a matrix  $B$  where

$$AB = BA = I_n$$

Then instead of using Gaussian elimination,  
we can easily solve the system using  
the fact that

$$BAx = Bb$$

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$$Ix = Bb \Rightarrow x = Bb$$

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Unfortunately finding this matrix  $B$   
(if it exists) is no more computationally  
efficient than our earlier methods for solving  
systems of equations.

Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix if there exists  
a matrix  $A^{-1}$  satisfying

$$AA^{-1} = A^{-1}A = I_n$$

then we call  $A^{-1}$  the inverse of  $A$

We say  $A$  is invertible if  $A^{-1}$  exists

Note if there is an inverse matrix  
it is unique

To see this note if  $AB = BA = I_n$  and then  
 $AC = CA = I_n$

$$C = CI = C(AB) = (CA)B = I \cdot B = B$$

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The existence of an inverse (even if we don't know explicitly what it is) allows us to establish many important properties without working directly with explicit matrices

Thm

If  $A^{-1}$  exists, there is a unique  
solution to the system of equations

$$Ax = b$$

PF

(Existence)

$$Ax = b \Rightarrow$$

$$A^{-1}Ax = A^{-1}b \Rightarrow$$

$$Ix = A^{-1}b \Rightarrow$$

$$x = A^{-1}b$$

(Uniqueness)

$$\text{Assume } Ax_1 = b$$

$$Ax_2 = b$$

$$\text{Then } \begin{aligned} A^{-1}Ax_1 &= A^{-1}b \\ A^{-1}Ax_2 &= A^{-1}b \end{aligned} \Rightarrow$$

$$x_1 = A^{-1}b = x_2$$

The following is a very important equivalence  
we use throughout the semester.

Thm /  $A$  is invertible  $\Leftrightarrow \text{rank}(A) = n$



Note so far we haven't said how to explicitly find what  $A^{-1}$  is

One method is essentially the same thing as Gauss - Jordan elimination

We call it the Gauss - Jordan technique.

Write the matrices  $A$  and  $I$  next to each other

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c|c} A & I \end{array} \right]$$

Then use Gauss-Jordan elimination on both  $A$  and  $I$  to rewrite  $A$  in reduced row echelon form.

The resulting matrix on the right is  $A^{-1}$ .

$$[A | I] \sim \dots \sim [I | A^{-1}]$$

Ex / Find  $A^{-1}$  if  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 5 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 5 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \sim \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & -10 & -3 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\sim \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -14 & -3 & -2 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\sim \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3/14 & 2/14 & -1/14 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\sim \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 0 & 5/14 & -6/14 & 3/14 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -6/14 & 10/14 & 2/14 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3/14 & 2/14 & -1/14 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\sim \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1/4 & -16/4 & 1/4 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -6/4 & 10/4 & 2/4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3/4 & 2/4 & -1/4 \end{array} \right]$$

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{14} \begin{bmatrix} 11 & -16 & 1 \\ -6 & 10 & 2 \\ 3 & 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$