

1.1. Systems of linear equations

(Lay, Lay, McDonald)

Linear equation:

$$a_1 x_1 + a_2 x_2 + \dots + a_n x_n = b$$

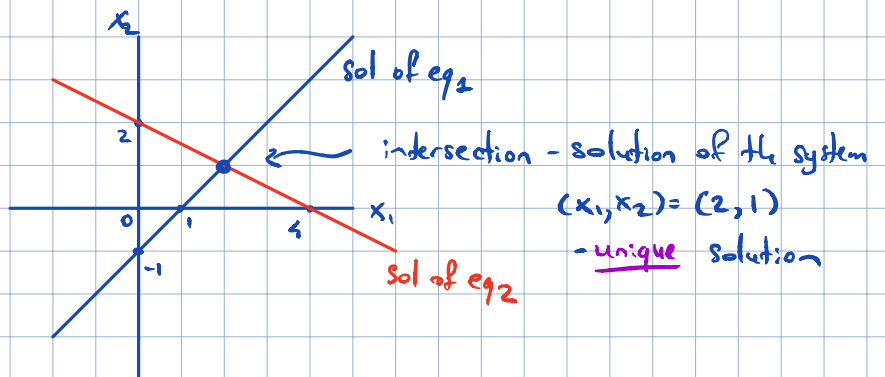
variables (indeterminates) \downarrow
 a_1 a_2 a_n
 \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow
 coefficients \leftarrow given real/complex numbers

System of linear equations:

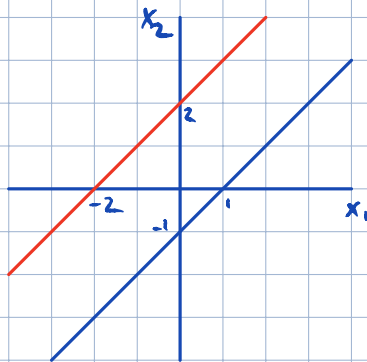
m equations on n variables

\rightarrow set of all solutions ("solution set")

Ex: (a) $x_1 - x_2 = 1$ (eq₁)
 $x_1 + 2x_2 = 4$ (eq₂)

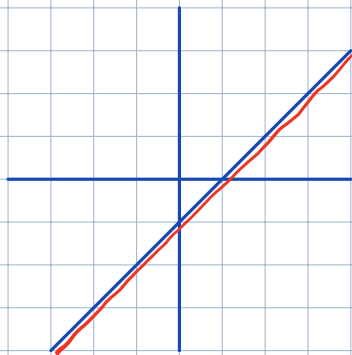


(b) $x_1 - x_2 = 1$
 $-2x_1 + 2x_2 = 4$



parallel lines
 \rightarrow no solutions
 \Rightarrow system is inconsistent

(c) $x_1 - x_2 = 1$
 $-2x_1 + 2x_2 = 2$



lines coincide
 \rightarrow infinitely many solutions
 $x_1 = x_2 + 1$, x_2 any number

Any system of lin. eq. has

either
 or

- ① no solutions] system inconsistent
- ② exactly one solution] system consistent
- ③ infinitely many solutions]

Matrix notation

Linear system

$$\begin{array}{r}
 x_1 - 2x_2 + x_3 = 0 \\
 3x_2 - 3x_3 = 6 \\
 2x_1 \quad \quad + 3x_3 = 3
 \end{array}$$

(coefficients of each variable aligned in columns)

→ matrix of coefficients $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & -3 \\ 2 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$

3 rows (3 equations)
3 columns (3 variables) } ⇒ matrix of size 3x3

augmented matrix $\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & -3 & 6 \\ 2 & 0 & 3 & 3 \end{array} \right]$ a 3x4 matrix

↑
added a column of right-hand sides

Solving a linear system

- idea use x_1 -term in eq₁ to eliminate x_1 from the other equations
- use x_2 -term in eq₂ to eliminate x_2 from the other eq. etc.
- obtain a very simple equivalent linear sys. (i.e. with the same solution set)

Ex: $x_1 - 2x_2 + x_3 = 0$
 $3x_2 - 3x_3 = 6$
 $2x_1 \quad \quad + 3x_3 = 3$

$$\left[\begin{array}{cccc} 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & -3 & 6 \\ 2 & 0 & 3 & 3 \end{array} \right]$$

• keep x_1 in eq₁ and eliminate it from other eq. :

add $(-2) \cdot eq_1$ to eq₃
 $r_3 \rightarrow r_3 - 2r_1$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 -2 \cdot eq_1 \\
 + eq_3 \\
 \hline
 \text{new eq}_3
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{r}
 -2x_1 + 4x_2 - 2x_3 = 0 \\
 2x_1 \quad \quad + 3x_3 = 3 \\
 \hline
 4x_2 + x_3 = 3
 \end{array}$$

new system: $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & -3 & 6 \\ 0 & 4 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\begin{array}{l}
 x_1 - 2x_2 + x_3 = 0 \\
 3x_2 - 3x_3 = 6 \\
 4x_2 + x_3 = 3
 \end{array}$$

• multiply eq₂ by $\frac{1}{3}$, to get 1 as the coeff of x_2 in eq₂ (optional - simplifies the next step)

$r_2 \rightarrow r_2 \cdot \frac{1}{3}$

$$\begin{array}{l}
 x_1 - 2x_2 + x_3 = 0 \\
 x_2 - x_3 = 2 \\
 4x_2 + x_3 = 3
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \left[\begin{array}{cccc} 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 2 \\ 0 & 4 & 1 & 3 \end{array} \right]$$

use x_2 -term in eq₂ to eliminate x_2 from eq₃: replace eq₃ with eq₃ - 4·eq₂

$$\begin{array}{l}
 -4 \cdot \text{eq}_2 \\
 \hline
 \text{eq}_3 \\
 \hline
 \text{new eq}_3
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{l}
 -4x_2 + 4x_3 = -8 \\
 \hline
 4x_2 + x_3 = 3 \\
 \hline
 5x_3 = -5
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{l}
 x_1 - 2x_2 + x_3 = 0 \\
 x_2 - x_3 = 2 \\
 5x_3 = -5
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{l}
 r_3 \rightarrow r_3 - 4r_2 \\
 \left[\begin{array}{cccc}
 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\
 0 & 1 & -1 & 2 \\
 0 & 0 & 5 & -5
 \end{array} \right]
 \end{array}$$

multiply eq₃ by $\frac{1}{5}$

$$\begin{array}{l}
 x_1 - 2x_2 + x_3 = 0 \\
 x_2 - x_3 = 2 \\
 x_3 = -1
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{l}
 r_3 \rightarrow r_3 \cdot \frac{1}{5} \\
 \left[\begin{array}{cccc}
 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\
 0 & 1 & -1 & 2 \\
 0 & 0 & 1 & -1
 \end{array} \right]
 \end{array}$$

a system in "triangular" (or "echelon") form

Eliminate x_3 from eq₁, eq₂: eq₂ \rightarrow eq₂ + eq₃, eq₁ \rightarrow eq₁ - eq₃

$$\begin{array}{l}
 x_1 - 2x_2 = 1 \\
 x_2 = 1 \\
 x_3 = -1
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{l}
 r_2 \rightarrow r_2 + r_3 \\
 r_1 \rightarrow r_1 - r_3 \\
 \left[\begin{array}{cccc}
 1 & -2 & 0 & 1 \\
 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\
 0 & 0 & 1 & -1
 \end{array} \right]
 \end{array}$$

Eliminate x_2 from eq₁: eq₁ \rightarrow eq₁ + 2eq₂

$$\begin{array}{l}
 x_1 = 3 \\
 x_2 = 1 \\
 x_3 = -1
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{l}
 r_1 \rightarrow r_1 + 2r_2 \\
 \left[\begin{array}{cccc}
 1 & 0 & 0 & 3 \\
 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\
 0 & 0 & 1 & -1
 \end{array} \right]
 \end{array}$$

\rightarrow we proved that the only solution of the original sys. is (3, 1, -1)

check (substitute into orig. sys.)

$$\begin{array}{l}
 3 - 2 \cdot 1 + (-1) = 0 \\
 3 \cdot 1 - 3(-1) = 6 \\
 2 \cdot 3 + 3(-1) = 3
 \end{array}$$



- Solving a lin. sys. we use the operations:
- replace an eq. with itself plus a multiple of another eq.
 - interchange two equations
 - multiply all terms in an equation by a nonzero constant

- for the augmented matrix, we perform the corresponding elementary row operations
- (replacement) replace a row with itself plus a multiple of another row
 - (interchange) interchange two rows
 - (scaling) multiply all entries in a row by a nonzero constant

def Two matrices are row equivalent iff they can be transformed one into another by a sequence of elem. row operations

- Row operations are reversible.
- If the augm. matrices of two lin. sys. are row equivalent, then the two systems have the same solution set.

1.2. Row reduction and echelon forms

- Leading entry in a row = leftmost nonvanishing entry
- a rectangular matrix is in row echelon form (REF) if
 - all nonzero rows are above zero rows
 - each leading entry in a row is (in a column) to the right of the leading entry in a row above it
 - all entries in a column below a leading entry are zero.

Ex:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \circ & * & * & * \\ \circ & \circ & * & * \\ \circ & \circ & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \circ & * & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & \circ & \circ & \circ & * & * & * \\ 0 & \circ & \circ & \circ & \circ & * & * \\ 0 & \circ & \circ & \circ & 0 & 0 & \circ \end{bmatrix}$$

pivot columns pivot positions

\circ - leading entries * - any entries
 $\neq 0$

A matrix is in reduced row echelon form (RREF) if additionally

- all leading entries are 1
- each leading 1 is the only nonzero entry in its column.

Ex:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & * & * \\ 0 & 1 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & * & 0 & 0 & * & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & * & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & * & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Any matrix can be row reduced (transformed by a sequence of elem. row op.) into more than one matrix in REF. However, RREF of a matrix is unique.
- Leading entries are always in same positions for any REF of A = pivot positions. A column containing a pivot position = "pivot column"

Leading entries in a REF of A = pivots.
 (numbers)

Row reduction algorithm

matrix $A \xrightarrow{\text{steps I-IV}} \text{REF of } A \xrightarrow{\text{step V}} \text{RREF of } A$
 "forward phase" "backward phase"

Ex:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & -6 & -1 & -2 \\ 2 & 1 & 9 & 9 & 6 \\ 2 & 4 & 0 & 6 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Step I: begin with leftmost nonzero column. It is a pivot column; pivot pos. is at the top

Step II: select a nonzero entry in pivot col. as pivot. If necessary, interchange rows to move this entry into pivot pos.

interchange $r_1 \leftrightarrow r_3$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 0 & 6 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 9 & 9 & 6 \\ 0 & 2 & -6 & -1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Step III Use row replacement to create zeros in all positions below the pivot

$r_2 \rightarrow r_2 - r_1$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 0 & 6 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & 9 & 3 & 6 \\ 0 & 2 & -6 & -1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Step IV Cover (or ignore) the rows containing pivot pos. and all rows above it.

Apply steps I-III to the remaining submatrix.

Repeat until there are no nonzero rows to modify.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 0 & 6 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & 9 & 3 & 6 \\ 0 & 2 & -6 & -1 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{r_3 \rightarrow r_3 + \frac{2}{3}r_2} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 0 & 6 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & 9 & 3 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{optional } r_2 \rightarrow -\frac{1}{3}r_2} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 0 & 6 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & -1 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

new pivot (pointing to -3), already in REF. => IV stops (pointing to 1), new pivot (pointing to 1), (REF!) (circled)

If we want RREF:

Step V: beginning with rightmost pivot and working upward and to the left, create zeros above each pivot. If pivot is not 1, make it 1 by rescaling rows

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 0 & 6 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & -1 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\substack{r_2 \leftrightarrow r_2 r_3 \\ r_1 \rightarrow r_1 - 4r_2}} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 0 & 0 & -12 \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{r_1 \rightarrow r_1 - 4r_2} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 12 & 0 & -12 \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Created zeros above pivots

$$\xrightarrow{\substack{\text{rescale} \\ r_1 \rightarrow r_1 \cdot \frac{1}{2}}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 6 & 0 & -6 \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \leftarrow \text{RREF of A}$$

Solutions of lin. sys. Suppose augm. mat. of a lin. sys. has been reduced to RREF

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

x_1 x_2 x_3
 ↓ ↓ ↓
 pivot pivot free

i.e. system

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 + 3x_3 &= -1 \\ x_2 + 2x_3 &= 5 \\ 0 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

variables x_1, x_2 corresponding to pivot columns are "basic variables";
var. x_3 corresp to a non-pivot col. is a "free variable".

Can solve for basic variables in terms of free variables:

$$\begin{cases} x_1 = -1 - 3x_3 \\ x_2 = 5 - 2x_3 \end{cases} \quad \text{- description of all sols of the lin. sys.}$$

x_3 is free (takes any values)

e.g. can take $x_3 = 1 \rightarrow (-4, 3, 1)$ is a sol.
 $-1 - 3 \cdot 1 = -4$ $5 - 2 \cdot 1 = 3$

A system is consistent iff RREF of the augm. mat. does not have a row of form
 $[0 \dots 0 \mid b]$ $(\Rightarrow 0 = b)$ (i.e. iff the last column is not pivot)
 contradictory e.g.

solution of a consistent sys. is unique iff there are no free variables,
 i.e. no non-pivot columns (except the last one)