

# Lecture 1: Systems of Linear Equations

CECC122: Linear Algebra and Matrix Theory

Manara University

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## Systems of Linear Equations

### 1.1 Introduction to Systems of Linear Equations

- **a linear equation in  $n$  variables:**  $a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + \cdots + a_nx_n = b$

$a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n, b$ : real numbers

$a_1$ : leading coefficient

$x_1$ : leading variable

- **Notes:**

(1) Linear equations have no products or roots of variables and no variables involved in trigonometric, exponential, or logarithmic functions.

(2) Variables appear only to the first power.

## ■ Ex 1: (Linear or Nonlinear)

**Linear** (a)  $3x + 2y = 7$

(b)  $\frac{1}{2}x + y - \pi z = \sqrt{2}$  **Linear**

**Linear** (c)  $x_1 - 2x_2 + 10x_3 + x_4 = 0$

(d)  $(\sin \frac{\pi}{2})x_1 - 4x_2 = e^2$  **Linear**

**NonLinear** (e)  $(xy) + z = 2$

Products

(f)  $(e^x) - 2y = 4$  **NonLinear**

Exponential

**NonLinear** (g)  $(\sin x_1) + 2x_2 - 3x_3 = 0$

Trigonometric functions

(h)  $(\frac{1}{x}) + (\frac{1}{y}) = 4$  **NonLinear**

Not the first power

- **a solution of a linear equation in  $n$  variables:**

$$a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + \cdots + a_nx_n = b$$

$$x_1 = s_1, x_2 = s_2, \dots, x_n = s_n \quad \text{such that: } a_1s_1 + a_2s_2 + \cdots + a_ns_n = b$$

- **Solution set:** the set of all solutions of a linear equation
- **Ex 2: (Parametric representation of a solution set)**

$$x_1 + 2x_2 = 4 \quad (2, 1) \text{ is a solution, i.e. } x_1 = 2, x_2 = 1$$

If you solve for  $x_1$  in terms of  $x_2$ , you obtain  $x_1 = 4 - 2x_2$

By letting  $x_2 = t$  you can represent the solution set as  $x_1 = 4 - 2t$

And the solutions are  $\{(4 - 2t, t) | t \in R\}$  or  $\{(s, 2 - \frac{1}{2}s) | s \in R\}$

In vector form:  $(x_1, x_2) = (4, 0) + t(-2, 1) = (0, 2) + s(1, -\frac{1}{2})$

- a system of  $m$  linear equations in  $n$  variables:

$$a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \cdots + a_{1n}x_n = b_1$$

$$a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \cdots + a_{2n}x_n = b_2$$

$$\vdots$$

$$a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \cdots + a_{mn}x_n = b_m$$

- **Consistent:**

A system of linear equations has at least one solution.

- **Inconsistent:**

A system of linear equations has no solution.

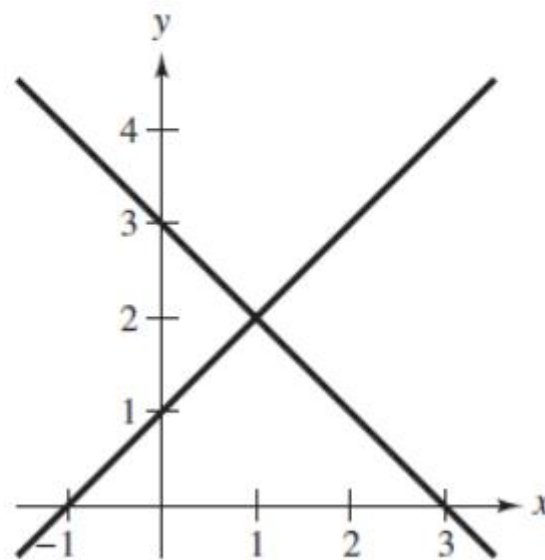


### ■ Ex 3: (Solution of a system of linear equations)

$$x + y = 3$$

$$x - y = -1$$

two intersecting lines

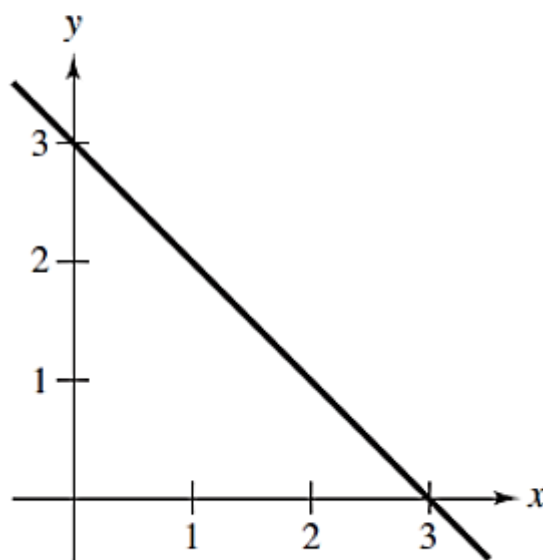


exactly one solution

$$x + y = 3$$

$$2x + 2y = 6$$

two coincident lines

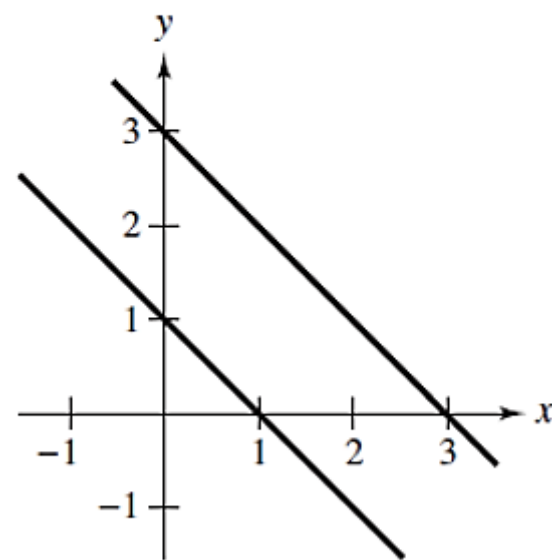


infinite number

$$x + y = 3$$

$$x + y = 1$$

two parallel lines



no solution

■ **Ex 4: (Using back substitution to solve a system in row echelon form)**

$$x - 2y = 5 \quad (1)$$

$$y = -2 \quad (2)$$

**Sol:** By substituting  $y = -2$  into (1), you obtain

$$x - 2(-2) = 5$$

$$x = 1$$

The system has exactly one solution:  $x = 1, y = -2$



■ **Ex 5: (Using back substitution to solve a system in row echelon form)**

$$x - 2y + 3z = 9 \quad (1)$$

$$y + 3z = 5 \quad (2)$$

$$z = 2 \quad (3)$$

**Sol:** Substitute  $z = 2$  into (2)

$$y + 3(2) = 5$$

$$y = -1$$

and substitute  $y = -1$  and  $z = 2$  into (1)

$$x - 2(-1) + 3(2) = 9$$

$$x = 1$$

The system has exactly one solution:  $x = 1, y = -1, z = 2$

- **Equivalent:**

Two systems of linear equations are called **equivalent** if they have precisely the same solution set

- **Notes:**

Each of the following operations on a system of linear equations produces an equivalent system.

- (1) Interchange two equations.
- (2) Multiply an equation by a nonzero constant.
- (3) Add a multiple of an equation to another equation.

■ **Ex 6: Solve a system of linear equations (consistent system)**

$$x - 2y + 3z = 9 \quad (1)$$

$$-x + 3y = -4 \quad (2)$$

$$2x - 5y + 5z = 17 \quad (3)$$

**Sol:**  $(1) + (2) \rightarrow (2)$

$$\begin{array}{rclcl} x & - & 2y & + & 3z & = & 9 \\ & & y & + & 3z & = & 5 \\ 2x & - & 5y & + & 5z & = & 17 \end{array} \quad (4)$$

$(1) \times (-2) + (3) \rightarrow (3)$

$$\begin{array}{rclcl} x & - & 2y & + & 3z & = & 9 \\ & & y & + & 3z & = & 5 \\ & & -y & - & z & = & -1 \end{array} \quad (5)$$

$$(4) + (5) \rightarrow (5)$$

$$x - 2y + 3z = 9$$

$$y + 3z = 5$$

$$2z = 4$$

(6)

$$(6) \times \frac{1}{2} \rightarrow (6)$$

$$x - 2y + 3z = 9$$

$$y + 3z = 5$$

So the solution is:  $\bar{x} = 1, y = -1, z = 2$

■ **Ex 7: Solve a system of linear equations (inconsistent system)**

$$x_1 - 3x_2 + x_3 = 1 \quad (1)$$

$$2x_1 - x_2 - 2x_3 = 2 \quad (2)$$

$$x_1 + 2x_2 - 3x_3 = -1 \quad (3)$$

**Sol:**  $(1) \times (-2) + (2) \rightarrow (2)$

$(1) \times (-1) + (3) \rightarrow (3)$

$$\begin{array}{rclcl} x_1 & - & 3x_2 & + & x_3 & = & 1 \\ & & 5x_2 & - & 4x_3 & = & 0 \end{array} \quad (4)$$

$$\begin{array}{rclcl} & & 5x_2 & - & 4x_3 & = & -2 \end{array} \quad (5)$$

$$(4) \times (-1) + (5) \rightarrow (5)$$

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

$$5x_2 - 4x_3 = 0$$

$$0 = -2 \quad (\text{a false statement})$$

So the system has no solution (an inconsistent system).



■ **Ex 8: Solve a system of linear equations (infinitely many solutions)**

$$x_2 - x_3 = 0 \quad (1)$$

$$x_1 - 3x_3 = -1 \quad (2)$$

$$-x_1 + 3x_2 = 1 \quad (3)$$

**Sol:**  $(1) \leftrightarrow (2)$

$$x_1 - 3x_3 = -1 \quad (1)$$

$$x_2 - x_3 = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$-x_1 + 3x_2 = 1 \quad (3)$$

$(1) + (3) \rightarrow (3)$

$$x_1 - 3x_3 = -1$$

$$x_2 - x_3 = 0$$

$$3x_2 - 3x_3 = 0 \quad (4)$$

$$(2) \times (-3) + (4) \rightarrow (4)$$

$$x_1 - 3x_3 = -1$$

$$x_2 - x_3 = 0$$

$$0 = 0$$

(a True statement)

$$\Rightarrow x_2 = x_3, \quad x_1 = -1 + 3x_3$$

letting  $x_3 = t$ , then the solutions are

$$\{(3t - 1, t, t) | t \in R\}$$

So the system has infinitely many solutions.

## 1.2 Gaussian Elimination and Gauss-Jordan Elimination

- $m \times n$  matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & & & \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \dots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} \\ \\ \\ m \text{ rows} \\ \end{matrix}$$

$n$  columns

## ■ Notes:

- (1) Every **entry**  $a_{ij}$  in a matrix is a number.
- (2) A matrix with  $m$  rows and  $n$  columns is said to be of **size**  $m \times n$ .
- (3) If  $m = n$ , then the matrix is called **square of order  $n$** .
- (4) For a square matrix,  $a_{11}, a_{22}, \dots, a_{nn}$  are called **the main diagonal entries**.

■ Ex 1:	Matrix	Size
	$[2]$	$1 \times 1$
	$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	$2 \times 2$
	$\left[ 1 \quad -3 \quad 0 \quad \frac{1}{2} \right]$	$1 \times 4$
	$\begin{bmatrix} e & \pi \\ 2 & \sqrt{2} \\ -7 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$	$3 \times 2$

- a system of  $m$  equations in  $n$  variables:

$$a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \cdots + a_{1n}x_n = b_1$$

$$a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \cdots + a_{2n}x_n = b_2$$

$$\vdots$$

$$a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \cdots + a_{mn}x_n = b_m$$

Matrix form:  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \cdots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_m \end{bmatrix}$$

### ■ Augmented matrix:

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cccc|c} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} & b_1 \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} & b_2 \\ & \vdots & & & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \dots & a_{mn} & b_m \end{array} \right] = [A \mid \mathbf{b}]$$

### ■ Coefficient matrix:

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cccc} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ & \vdots & & \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \dots & a_{mn} \end{array} \right] = A$$

### ■ Elementary row operation:

(1) Interchange two rows.

(2) Multiply a row by a nonzero constant.

(3) Add a multiple of a row to another row.

$$r_{ij}: R_i \leftrightarrow R_j$$

$$r_i^{(k)}: (k)R_i \rightarrow R_i$$

$$r_{ij}^{(k)}: (k)R_i + R_j \rightarrow R_j$$



- **Row equivalent:**

Two matrices are said to be **row equivalent** if one can be obtained from the other by a finite sequence of elementary row operation.

- Row-echelon form: (1, 2, 3)
- Reduced row-echelon form: (1, 2, 3, 4)

- (1) All row consisting entirely of zeros occur at the bottom of the matrix.
- (2) For each row that does not consist entirely of zeros, the first nonzero entry is 1 (called **a leading 1**).
- (3) For two successive (nonzero) rows, the leading 1 in the higher row is farther to the left than the leading 1 in the lower row.
- (4) Every column that has a leading 1 has zeros in every position above and below its leading 1.

■ Ex 4: (Row-echelon form or reduced row-echelon form)

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

row-echelon form

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

reduced row-  
echelon form

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -5 & 2 & -1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

row-echelon form

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

reduced row-  
echelon form

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

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

- **Gaussian elimination:**

The procedure for reducing a matrix to a row-echelon form.

- **Gauss-Jordan elimination:**

The procedure for reducing a matrix to a reduced row-echelon form.

- **Notes:**

(1) Every matrix has an unique reduced row echelon form.

(2) A row-echelon form of a given matrix is not unique.

(Different sequences of row operations can produce different row-echelon forms.)

- Ex 5: Solve a system by Gauss-Jordan elimination method (one solution)

$$\begin{array}{rclcrcl} x & - & 2y & + & 3z & = & 9 \\ -x & + & 3y & & & = & -4 \\ 2x & - & 5y & + & 5z & = & 17 \end{array}$$

**Sol:** augmented matrix

$$\begin{aligned} & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 & 9 \\ -1 & 3 & 0 & -4 \\ 2 & -5 & 5 & 17 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{r_{12}^{(1)}, r_{13}^{(-2)}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 & 9 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & 5 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{r_{23}^{(1)}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 & 9 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \\ & \xrightarrow{r_3^{(\frac{1}{2})}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 & 9 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{r_{31}^{(-3)}, r_{32}^{(-3)}, r_{21}^{(2)}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{aligned} x &= 1 \\ y &= -1 \\ z &= 2 \end{aligned} \end{aligned}$$



■ **Ex 7: Solve a system by G.J. elimination method (infinitely many solutions)**

$$\begin{aligned} 2x_1 + 4x_2 - 2x_3 &= 0 \\ 3x_1 + 5x_2 &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

**Sol:**

**augmented matrix**

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 2 & 4 & -2 & 0 \\ 3 & 5 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

$$r_1^{(\frac{1}{2})}, r_{12}^{(-3)}, r_2^{(-1)}, r_{21}^{(-2)}$$

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

**reduced row-echelon form**

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

leading variables:  $x_1, x_2$

free variable:  $x_3$



$$x_1 = 2 - 5x_3$$

$$x_2 = -1 + 3x_3$$

letting  $x_3 = t$ , then the solutions are:

$$\{(2 - 5t, -1 + 3t, t) | t \in R\}$$

So the system has infinitely many solutions.

■ **Ex 8: Solve a system by Gauss-Jordan elimination method (no solution)**

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

$$x_1 + x_3 = 6$$

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

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

**Sol:**

**augmented matrix**

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 2 & 4 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 6 \\ 2 & -3 & 5 & 4 \\ 3 & 2 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{r_{12}^{(-1)}, r_{13}^{(-2)}, r_{14}^{(-3)}, r_{23}^{(1)}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 5 & -7 & -11 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

$$x_2 - x_3 = 2$$

$$\longrightarrow \quad \quad \quad 0 = -2$$

$$5x_2 - 7x_3 = -11$$

Because the third equation is not possible, the system has no solution.