

Matrices

1.6 – More on Linear Systems and Invertible Systems

**Theorem 1.6.1** A system of linear equations has zero, one, or infinitely many solutions. There are no other possibilities.

Pf: We know a system can have no solution or a unique solution.

If  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$  has solutions  $\vec{x}_1$  &  $\vec{x}_2$ , then

Let  $\vec{x}_0 = \vec{x}_2 - \vec{x}_1$ . Then  $A(\vec{x}_2 - \vec{x}_1) = A\vec{x}_2 - A\vec{x}_1 = \vec{b} - \vec{b} = \vec{0}$

If  $k$  is any scalar, then

$$A(\vec{x}_1 + k\vec{x}_0) = A\vec{x}_1 + kA\vec{x}_0 = \vec{b} + \vec{0} = \vec{b}$$

Infinitely many choices for  $k \Rightarrow$  infinitely many solutions exist.

**Theorem 1.6.2** If  $A$  is an invertible  $n \times n$  matrix, then for every  $n \times 1$  matrix  $\mathbf{b}$ , the system of equations  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  has exactly one solution, namely  $\mathbf{x} = A^{-1}\mathbf{b}$ .

4. Solve the system by inverting the coefficient matrix and using Theorem 1.6.2.

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

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

$$x_2 + x_3 = 5$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 5 & 3 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 3 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \quad R_2 \rightarrow 3R_1 - 5R_2$$

We find that  $A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & -1/2 & 0 \\ -3/2 & 5/2 & -2 \\ 3/2 & -5/2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$  (verify on your own)

Then  $\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & -1/2 & 0 \\ -3/2 & 5/2 & -2 \\ 3/2 & -5/2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -11 \\ 16 \end{bmatrix}$$

(verify)

11. Solve the linear systems. Using the given values for the  $b$ 's solve the systems together by reducing an appropriate augmented matrix to reduced row echelon form.

$$4x_1 - 7x_2 = b_1$$

$$x_1 + 2x_2 = b_2$$

i.  $b_1 = 0, b_2 = 1$

ii.  $b_1 = -4, b_2 = 6$

iii.  $b_1 = -1, b_2 = 3$

iv.  $b_1 = -5, b_2 = 1$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 4 & -7 & b_1 \\ 1 & 2 & b_2 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{R_2 \rightarrow R_1 - 4R_2} \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 4 & -7 & b_1 \\ 0 & -15 & b_1 - 4b_2 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 4 & -7 & b_1 \\ -4 & -8 & -4b_2 \\ \hline 0 & -15 & b_1 - 4b_2 \end{array}$$

$$R_1 \rightarrow 15R_1 - 7R_2$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 60 & -105 & 15b_1 \\ 0 & 105 & -7b_1 + 28b_2 \\ \hline 60 & 0 & 8b_1 + 28b_2 \end{array}$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 60 & 0 & 8b_1 + 28b_2 \\ 0 & -15 & b_1 - 4b_2 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 0 & \frac{2}{15}b_1 + \frac{7}{15}b_2 \\ 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{15}b_1 + \frac{4}{15}b_2 \end{array} \right]$$

$$x_1 = \frac{2}{15}b_1 + \frac{7}{15}b_2$$

$$x_2 = -\frac{1}{15}b_1 + \frac{4}{15}b_2$$

i)  $b_1 = 0, b_2 = 1$

$$x_1 = \frac{7}{15}, x_2 = \frac{4}{15}$$

and so on.

17. Determine conditions on the  $b_i$ 's, if any, in order to guarantee that the linear system is consistent.

$$\begin{aligned}x_1 - x_2 + 3x_3 + 2x_4 &= b_1 \\ -2x_1 + x_2 + 5x_3 + x_4 &= b_2 \\ -3x_1 + 2x_2 + 2x_3 - x_4 &= b_3 \\ 4x_1 - 3x_2 + x_3 + 3x_4 &= b_4\end{aligned}$$

rref for the augmented matrix is

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cccc|cc} 1 & 0 & -8 & -3 & -b_1 & -b_2 \\ 0 & 1 & -11 & -5 & -2b_1 & -b_2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & b_1 - b_2 + b_3 & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -2b_1 + b_2 + b_4 & \end{array} \right]$$

is consistent if

$$\begin{cases} b_1 - b_2 + b_3 = 0 \\ -2b_1 + b_2 + b_4 = 0 \end{cases}$$

$b_1$   $b_2$   $b_3$   $b_4$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 0 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & -1 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \begin{cases} b_1 = b_3 + b_4 \\ b_2 = 2b_3 + b_4 \end{cases}$$

The system is consistent if  $b_1 = b_3 + b_4$  &  $b_2 = 2b_3 + b_4$

**Theorem 1.6.4** Equivalent Statements (extends Theorem 1.5.3)

If  $A$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix, then the following are equivalent.

- $A$  is invertible.
- $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  has only the trivial solution.
- The reduced row echelon form of  $A$  is  $I_n$ .
- $A$  is expressible as a product of elementary matrices.
- $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  is consistent for every  $n \times 1$  matrix  $\mathbf{b}$ .
- $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  has exactly one solution for every  $n \times 1$  matrix  $\mathbf{b}$ .

**Theorem 1.6.5** Let  $A$  and  $B$  be square matrices of the same size. If  $AB$  is invertible, then  $A$  and  $B$  must also be invertible.

Pf: Let  $\vec{x}_0$  be a solution of  $B\vec{x} = \vec{0}$ .

$$\text{Then } (AB)\vec{x}_0 = A(B\vec{x}_0) = A\vec{0} = \vec{0}$$

so  $\vec{x}_0 = \vec{0}$  (Thm 1.6.4 (a) & (b) applied

to  $AB$ ). So  $B\vec{x} = \vec{0}$  has only the trivial solution  $\Rightarrow B$  is invertible

$$A = A(BB^{-1}) = \overbrace{(AB)}^{\uparrow \text{invertible}} \overbrace{B^{-1}}^{\uparrow \text{invertible}}$$

Since  $A$  is a product of 2 invertible matrices,  
 $A$  is invertible.