

# Lecture I: Solving Systems of Linear Equations (Part I).

Warm-up Problem:

Graph the solution set to

$$4x + 3y = 2$$

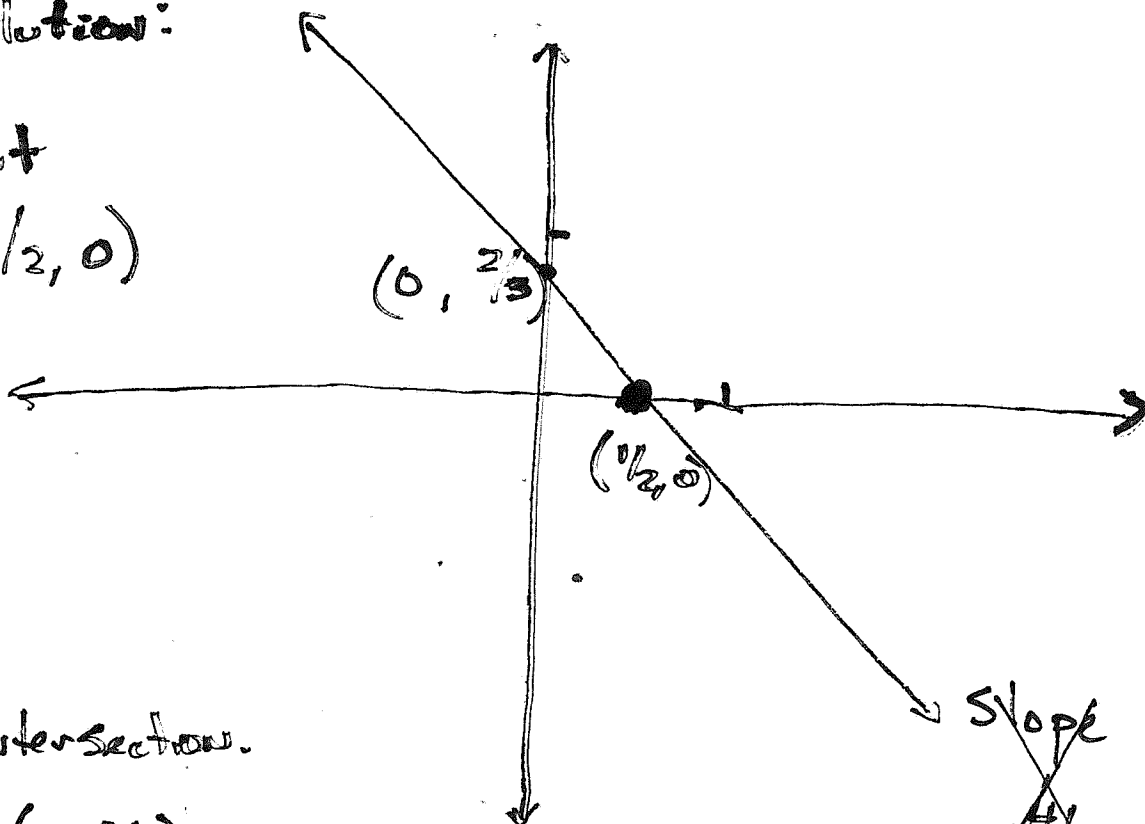
in the  $(x, y)$ -plane.

Solution:

x int

$$\left(\frac{1}{2}, 0\right)$$

$$\left(0, \frac{2}{3}\right)$$



y intersection.

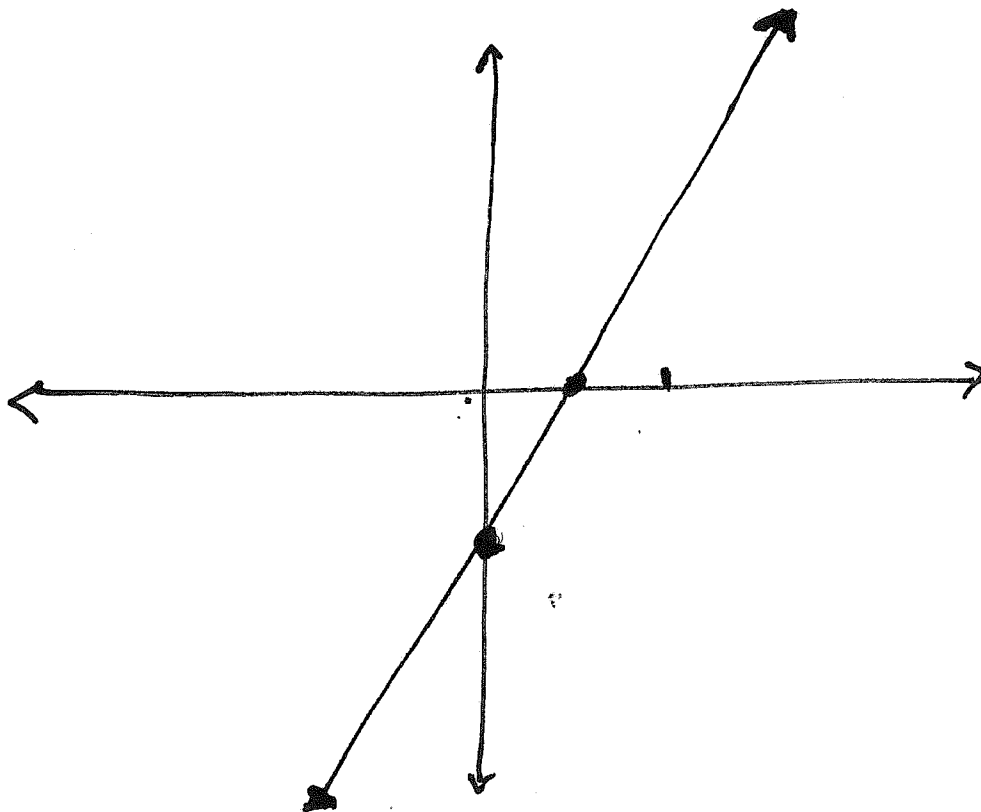
$$\left(0, \frac{2}{3}\right)$$

~~Slope~~  
 ~~$-\frac{4}{3}$~~

Doesn't  
help  
us  
graph.

Warm-up II: Graph the solution set to

$$2x - y = 1$$



x int

$$(\frac{1}{2}, 0)$$

y int

$$(0, -1)$$

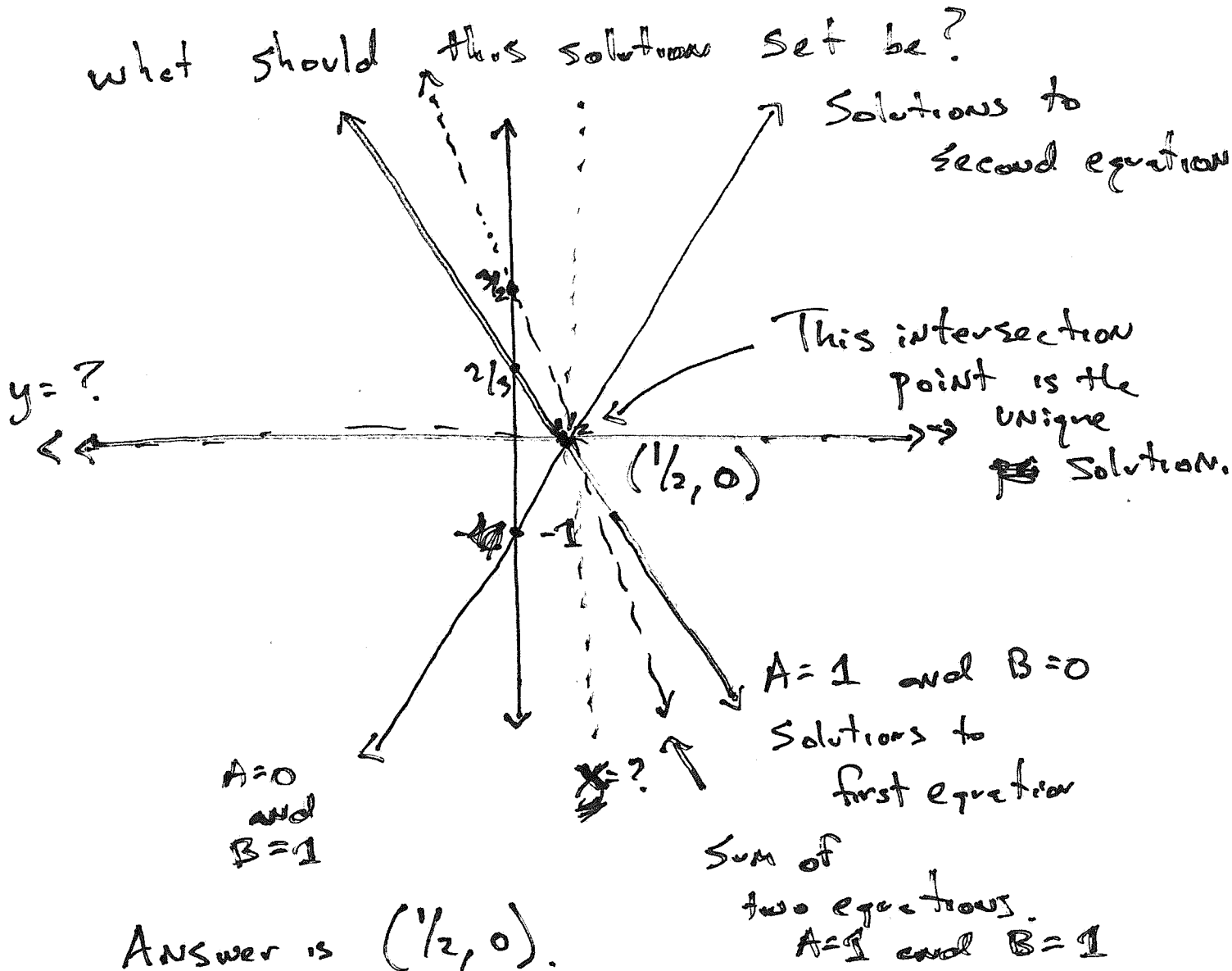
Problem I: Find all  $(x, y)$  such that

$$4x + 3y = 2$$

and

$$2x - y = 1.$$

what should this solution set be?



More generally you'd expect a unique solution when you have the equations for two lines.

\* We can understand the solution set geometrically which gives us insight into "how many" solutions there ~~set~~ should be.

\* To find actual solutions we will make algebraic manipulations.

Let's pretend we didn't know the solution already.

Solving the system of linear equations would mean giving expressions of the form

vert.  $x = \text{a number}$   
hor.  $y = \text{a number.}$  ] geometrically  
these are also equations of lines.

Find other lines which pass through the same solution set.

Algebraically

$$(4x + 3y) + (2x - y) = 2 + 1$$

New line that goes through our solution point.

$$6x + 2y = 3.$$

More generally, for any scalars  $A$  and  $B$

$$A(4x + 3y) + B(2x - y) = 2A + B.$$

is a line through the solution.

When we solve the problem algebraically we are looking for the  $A$  and  $B$  which gives us the vert. (resp. horizontal line).

Algebraic Solution:

$$\begin{array}{l} 4x + 3y = 2 \\ 2x - y = 1 \end{array} \quad \text{I} - 2 \cdot \text{II} \Rightarrow \begin{array}{l} (4x + 3y) - 2(2x - y) = 2 - 2 \cdot 1 \\ 2x - y = 1 \end{array}$$

$$\Rightarrow 5y = 0$$

$$\begin{array}{l} 2x - y = 1 \end{array}$$

divide  
by 5 in I

$$\Rightarrow y = 0$$

$$2x - y = 1$$

I  
II + I

$$\Rightarrow$$

$$y = 0$$

$$(2x - y) + y = 1 + 0$$

$$y = 0$$

$$2x = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow$$

$$\boxed{\begin{array}{l} y = 0 \\ x = 1/2 \end{array}}$$

Let's analyze how we solved problem I.

Goal: Replace our skew lines with nicer lines (vert + horizontal)

Idea behind Solution: Algorithmically eliminate how many ~~non-zero~~ variables occurred in each equation

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Problem II: Solve

$$\begin{array}{r} x + 2y + 3z = 39 \\ \hline x + 2y + 2z = 34 \\ 3x + 2y + z = 26. \end{array}$$

The solutions to each eq. individually is a plane in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

Solution: Expect that there should be a unique solution. (Since 3 planes usually intersect in a point)

want (ideally)

$$\begin{array}{l} x = ? \\ y = ? \\ z = ? \end{array}$$

Next step: solve this algebraically.

Step 1: eliminate x-terms from equations  
2 and 3.

$$x + 2y + 3z = 39$$

$$(x + 2y + 2z) - (x + 2y + 3z) = 34 - 39$$

$$(3x + 2y + z) - 3(x + 2y + 3z) = 26 - 3 \cdot 39.$$

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$$x + 2y + 3z = 39$$

$$\square \quad -z = -5$$

$$\square \quad -4y - 8z = (26 - 117)$$

we have to switch the order of these  
equations since there is no y-term in the second

$$x + 2y + 3z = 39$$

$$-4y - 8z = \cancel{26 - 117}$$

$$-z = -5$$

divide by leading coeff.

$$x + 2y + 3z = 39$$

$$y + 2z = -9/4$$

$$z = 5.$$

... Continued  
Next time.