

Lecture 2: Solving Systems of LINEAR Equations (Part II).

Problem : Find all x, y, z such
that

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

$$x + 2y + 2z = 34$$

$$3x + 2y + z = 26.$$

Solution

Idea: These equations involve 9 non-zero terms on their left hand sides. We'll use algebra to systematically eliminate non-zero terms until we've left with the simplest equations describing the solution set.

Algebraic Manipulation

says that

$$x = -1.5$$

$$y = 12.75$$

$$z = 5$$

is the only possible solution.

Plugging into original equations
we see that this is indeed a
solution.

This manipulation (while correct)

took a long time.

Writing down x, y, z and $+$ signs
in each step is slowing us down.

~~Our first method~~

We will introduce notation so that
we don't have to do so much
writing.

We can encode our system of
linear equations as an augmented
matrix:

$$\begin{array}{l} x + 2y + 3z = 39 \\ x + 2y + 2z = 34 \\ 3x + 2y + z = 26 \end{array} \iff \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 2 & 2 & 3 & 39 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & 34 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 & 26 \end{array} \right]$$

Examples

$$\begin{aligned} 3x + 2y &= 7 \\ x + 5y &= 2 \end{aligned} \iff \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & | & 7 \\ 1 & 5 & | & 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$x_1 + 3x_2 + 7x_4 + 8x_5 = 1 \iff [1 \ 3 \ 0 \ 7 \ 8 \ | \ 1]$$

x_3 is missing. Is there an x_6 is missing?

$$x_1 + 3x_2 + 7x_4 + 8x_5 = 1$$

To write down augmented matrix we have to know how many variables there are and we should have a preferred ordering of our variables.

Algebraic manipulations of equations correspond to algebraic manipulations of rows of matrix.

Solution using aug. matrix:

(1) Encode system as augmented matrix

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & 39 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & 34 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 & 36 \end{array} \right]$$

(2) Perform row operations to increase # of zeros of left of dotted line.

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$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & | & 39 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & | & 34 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 & | & 26 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & | & 39 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & | & -5 \\ 0 & -4 & -8 & | & -91 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & | & 39 \\ 0 & -4 & -8 & | & -91 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & | & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & | & 39 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & | & 22.75 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & | & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & | & -16.5 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & | & 22.75 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & | & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & | & -1.5 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & | & 12.75 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & | & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x = -1.5, \quad y = 12.75, \quad z = 5.$$

When Solving a System of Linear Equations which manipulations of the rows do we need / can we use?

Something you shouldn't do

Starting with an equation

$$y + 3x = 7$$

\implies
Multiply
it by 0

$$0 \cdot y + 0 \cdot x = 0$$

or

$$0 = 0$$

Solutions
are
a line

Solutions are
all x and y

- ★ This algebraic manipulation increases the set of solutions.
- ★ In order to make sure our solution set stays the same we want to make manipulations that are reversible.

To solve systems of linear equations (in matrix form) it's okay / enough to use the following row operations:

Elementary Row Operations

① Switch two rows of your augmented matrix $R_i \leftrightarrow R_j$

② Multiply a row by a non-zero number $R_i \mapsto cR_i$

③ Add a multiple of the i th row to the j th row $R_j \mapsto R_j + cR_i$

Problem: Solve

$$9z = 3$$

$$8x + 4y + 3z = 25$$

$$2x + y + 6z = 8.$$

Solution

Step 1: encode as augmented matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 9 & | & 3 \\ 8 & 4 & 3 & | & 25 \\ 2 & 1 & 6 & | & 8 \end{bmatrix} \xRightarrow{\text{II} \leftrightarrow \text{III}} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 6 & | & 8 \\ 8 & 4 & 3 & | & 25 \\ 0 & 0 & 9 & | & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Step 2: Apply row operations to decrease complexity.

$$\xRightarrow{\text{II} - 4\text{I}} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 6 & | & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & -21 & | & -7 \\ 0 & 0 & 9 & | & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\xRightarrow{\begin{array}{l} \frac{1}{-21} \cdot \text{II} \\ \frac{1}{9} \cdot \text{III} \end{array}} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 6 & | & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & | & \frac{1}{3} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & | & \frac{1}{3} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\xRightarrow{\begin{array}{l} \text{I} - 6\text{II} \\ \text{III} - \text{II} \end{array}} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 & | & \frac{2}{3} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & | & \frac{1}{3} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & | & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Decoding we have that the
system

$$2x + y = 6$$

$$z = 1/3$$

has the same solution set.

Next time we'll start by understanding
this set geometrically.

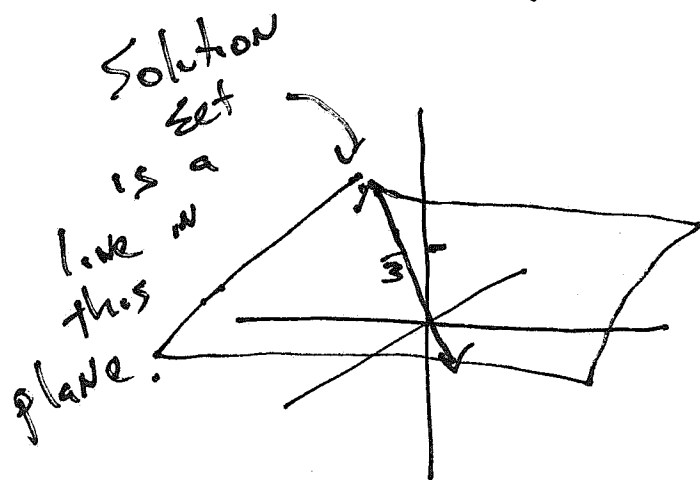
$$\begin{aligned} & \text{I} - 6\text{II} \\ & \text{III} - \text{II} \\ & \Rightarrow \end{aligned}$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 2 & 1 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1/3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right].$$

I claim at this point there are no more elementary row operations we can do to make the matrix have more zero-entries.

Plane $2x + y = 6 \Rightarrow x + \frac{y}{2} = 6$
 Plane $z = 1/3$

$$\begin{aligned} x + \frac{y}{2} &= 6 \\ z &= 1/3 \end{aligned}$$



Solution set is contained in the plane $z = 1/3$

∞ -many solutions.