

Math 23, Spring 2017

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§7.3 Systems of linear equations

$$\begin{cases} a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \cdots + a_{1n}x_n = b_1 \\ a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \cdots + a_{2n}x_n = b_2 \\ \vdots \\ a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \cdots + a_{mn}x_n = b_m \end{cases} \iff A \cdot x = b,$$

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

Definition

If $b = 0$ then the systems of linear equations is called **homogeneous**.

The system of linear equations

$$Ax = b$$

as **exactly** one solution if and only if $\det A \neq 0$ (we will discuss \det later on) and A is called **nonsingular**.

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If $\det A = 0$, then A is called **singular**, and either

- there are no solutions (think two parallel lines that do not intersect)
- or, there are infinitely many solutions (think two parallel lines that coincide)

Definition

The augmented matrix of the system $Ax = b$ is

$$A|b = \left(\begin{array}{cccc} a_{11} & \cdots & a_{1n} & b_1 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & \cdots & a_{mn} & b_m \end{array} \right) \text{ it is a } m \times (n + 1) \text{ matrix.}$$

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We can solve the system with elementary operations on the augmented matrix.

1. exchanging **rows**

\Leftrightarrow exchanging the order of the equations

2. adding to a row a multiple of **another** row

\Leftrightarrow multiplying one equation and adding it to another equation

Elementary Operations

1. exchanging **rows**
 \Leftrightarrow exchanging the order of the equations
2. adding to a row a multiple of **another** row
 \Leftrightarrow multiplying one equation and adding it to another equation

Applying the operations above to $A | b$ does not change the solutions of $Ax = b$.

Exercise 7.3.2

Solve

$$\begin{cases} x_1 + 2x_2 - x_3 = 1 \\ 2x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 1 \\ x_1 - x_2 + 2x_3 = 1 \end{cases}$$

Elementary Operations

The general goal we are trying to reach is to reduce the augmented matrix to a matrix

- all nonzero rows are above any rows of all zeroes, and
- the leading coefficient of a nonzero row is always strictly to the right of the leading coefficient of the row above it

Example

$$\begin{pmatrix} \blacksquare & * & * & * \\ 0 & \blacksquare & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ or } \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \blacksquare & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \blacksquare \end{pmatrix}$$

where \blacksquare means $\neq 0$.

Examples in more detail

• $\begin{pmatrix} \blacksquare & * & * & * \\ 0 & \blacksquare & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ has **infinitely** many solutions.

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• $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \blacksquare & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \blacksquare \end{pmatrix}$ has **no** solutions.

Examples in more detail

• $\begin{pmatrix} \blacksquare & * & * & * \\ 0 & \blacksquare & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ has **infinitely** many solutions.

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• $\begin{pmatrix} \blacksquare & * & * & * \\ 0 & \blacksquare & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & \blacksquare & * \end{pmatrix}$ has **exactly one** solution.

Only for square matrices

$$\cdot \det \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = ad - bc$$

Only for square matrices

- $\det \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = ad - bc$
- For 3×3 there are many "ways" to compute:

$$\begin{aligned} \det \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{pmatrix} &= (aei + bfg + cdh) - (afh + bdi + ceg) \\ &= a \det \begin{pmatrix} e & f \\ h & i \end{pmatrix} - b \det \begin{pmatrix} d & f \\ g & i \end{pmatrix} + c \det \begin{pmatrix} d & e \\ g & h \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Determinants

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{pmatrix} = (aei + bfg + cdh) - (afh + bdi + ceg)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= a \det \begin{pmatrix} \otimes & \otimes & \otimes \\ \otimes & e & f \\ \otimes & h & i \end{pmatrix} - b \det \begin{pmatrix} \otimes & \otimes & \otimes \\ d & \otimes & f \\ g & \otimes & i \end{pmatrix} + c \det \begin{pmatrix} \otimes & \otimes & \otimes \\ d & e & \otimes \\ g & h & \otimes \end{pmatrix} \\ &= -b \det \begin{pmatrix} \otimes & \otimes & \otimes \\ d & \otimes & f \\ g & \otimes & i \end{pmatrix} + e \det \begin{pmatrix} a & \otimes & c \\ \otimes & \otimes & \otimes \\ g & \otimes & i \end{pmatrix} - h \det \begin{pmatrix} a & \otimes & c \\ d & \otimes & f \\ \otimes & \otimes & \otimes \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Determinants

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} a^{\oplus} & b^{\ominus} & c^{\oplus} \\ d^{\ominus} & e^{\oplus} & f^{\ominus} \\ g^{\oplus} & h^{\ominus} & i^{\oplus} \end{pmatrix} = (aei + bfg + cdh) - (afh + bdi + ceg)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= a \det \begin{pmatrix} \otimes & \otimes & \otimes \\ \otimes & e & f \\ \otimes & h & i \end{pmatrix} - b \det \begin{pmatrix} \otimes & \otimes & \otimes \\ d & \otimes & f \\ g & \otimes & i \end{pmatrix} + c \det \begin{pmatrix} \otimes & \otimes & \otimes \\ d & e & \otimes \\ g & h & \otimes \end{pmatrix} \\ &= -b \det \begin{pmatrix} \otimes & \otimes & \otimes \\ d & \otimes & f \\ g & \otimes & i \end{pmatrix} + e \det \begin{pmatrix} a & \otimes & c \\ \otimes & \otimes & \otimes \\ g & \otimes & i \end{pmatrix} - h \det \begin{pmatrix} a & \otimes & c \\ d & \otimes & f \\ \otimes & \otimes & \otimes \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Determinant 4x4 example

Using the last row (in both matrices)

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 1^{\oplus} & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 0^{\ominus} & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0^{\oplus} & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0^{\ominus} & 0^{\oplus} & 0^{\ominus} & 1^{\oplus} \end{pmatrix} = -0 \det(3 \times 3) + 0 \det(3 \times 3) - 0 \det(3 \times 3) + 1 \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 1^{\oplus} & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 0^{\ominus} & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0^{\oplus} & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0^{\ominus} & 0^{\oplus} & 0^{\ominus} & 1^{\oplus} \end{pmatrix} = -0 \det(3 \times 3) + 0 \det(3 \times 3) - 0 \det(3 \times 3) + 1 \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{and } \det \begin{pmatrix} 1^{\oplus} & 2 & 3 \\ 0^{\ominus} & 1 & 2 \\ 0^{\oplus} & 0^{\ominus} & 1^{\oplus} \end{pmatrix} &= 0 \det(2 \times 2) - 0 \det(2 \times 2) + 1 \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= 0 - 0 + 1(1 \cdot 1 - 2 \cdot 0) = 1 \end{aligned}$$

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Therefore, $\det(4 \times 4) = 1$

Checkout the KA video: [link](#)

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Find all the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of $A = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 2 & 4 \\ 2 & 0 & 2 \\ 4 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$.

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Definition

- The **characteristic polynomial** of A is $\det(A - \lambda I)$
- **eigenvalues** are the roots of the characteristic polynomial of A
- **eigenvectors** corresponding to an eigenvalue $\tilde{\lambda}$ are the vector solutions of

$$(A - \tilde{\lambda}I)v = 0 \Leftrightarrow Av = \tilde{\lambda}v$$

Solution Exercise 7.3.24 (eigenvalues)

$$\begin{aligned}\det(A - \lambda I) &= \det \begin{pmatrix} 3 - \lambda & 2 & 4 \\ 2 & 0 - \lambda & 2 \\ 4 & 2 & 3 - \lambda \end{pmatrix} \\ &= (3 - \lambda) \det \begin{pmatrix} -\lambda & 2 \\ 2 & 3 - \lambda \end{pmatrix} - 2 \det \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 2 & 3 - \lambda \end{pmatrix} + 4 \det \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ -\lambda & 2 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= -\lambda^3 + 6\lambda^2 + 15\lambda + 8 = -(\lambda + 1)^2(\lambda - 8)\end{aligned}$$

The eigenvalues are -1 and 8 .

Solution Exercise 7.3.24 (eigenvectors for $\lambda = -1$)

$$(A - (-1)I)v = 0 \Leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 2 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 & 2 \\ 4 & 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

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Row reduce the augmented matrix $\begin{pmatrix} 4 & 2 & 4 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 4 & 2 & 4 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \rightsquigarrow \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

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$$\Leftrightarrow 2x_1 + x_2 + 2x_3 = 0 \Leftrightarrow x_1 = -\frac{1}{2}x_2 - x_3.$$

In terms of vectors $\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{2}x_2 - x_3 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{2} \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}}_{v_1} x_2 + \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}}_{v_2} x_3$

Solution Exercise 7.3.24 (eigenvectors for $\lambda = -1$)

$$v_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{2} \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } v_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ are both eigenvectors for } \lambda = -1$$

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Any linear combination of them is also an eigenvector, just check it:

$$A \cdot (c_1 v_1 + c_2 v_2) = c_1 A \cdot v_1 + c_2 A \cdot v_2 = c_1 \lambda v_1 + c_2 \lambda v_2 = \lambda (c_1 v_1 + c_2 v_2)$$

Solution Exercise 7.3.24 (eigenvectors for $\lambda = 8$)

$$(A - 8I)v = 0 \Leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -5 & 2 & 4 \\ 2 & -8 & 2 \\ 4 & 2 & -5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

Solution Exercise 7.3.24 (eigenvectors for $\lambda = 8$)

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Row reduce the augmented matrix $\begin{pmatrix} -5 & 2 & 4 & 0 \\ 2 & -8 & 2 & 0 \\ 4 & 2 & -5 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \rightsquigarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -4 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

$$\begin{cases} x_1 - 4x_2 + x_3 = 0 \\ 2x_2 + x_3 = 0 \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} x_1 = 2x_2 \\ x_3 = 2x_2 \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow v = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} x_2$$

Linear independence

We say that $b_1 = \begin{pmatrix} b_{11} \\ \vdots \\ b_{n1} \end{pmatrix}, \dots, b_k = \begin{pmatrix} b_{1k} \\ \vdots \\ b_{nk} \end{pmatrix}$ are **linearly dependent** if exists c_1, \dots, c_k not all zeros such that

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In other words, if $\begin{pmatrix} b_{11} & \cdots & b_{1k} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ b_{n1} & \cdots & b_{nk} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ \vdots \\ c_k \end{pmatrix} = 0$ has a nontrivial solution.

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If $k = n$, then linearly independence can be checked by computing the determinant of the matrix above!