

1.7.1 Solve $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$ when $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 5 & 7 \\ 2 & 5 & 4 \\ 3 & 5 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$, $\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix}$, and $\vec{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 14 \\ 8 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ using the observation

that $-3 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + 2 \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 5 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

$$b = 2v_3 = -6v_1 + 4v_2$$

You shouldn't need to row reduce.

$$x_1 = -6 + 3x_3$$

$$x_2 = 4 - 2x_3$$

x_3 is free

Exam: Is $\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 6 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}$ on the plane containing $\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$, and $\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$?

(a) Write the parametric/vector equation $\vec{x} = \dots$ with \vec{x} actually having variables in it.

$$\vec{x} = \vec{v}_1 + s(\vec{v}_2 - \vec{v}_1) + t(\vec{v}_3 - \vec{v}_1)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + s \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

(b) Write down how you would solve that equation, or why no one can solve it.

$$x_1 = 5, x_2 = 6, x_3 = 7$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 6 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + s \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} = s \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ but } s=2, t=3 \text{ gives } \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ not } \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

no solution

1.7: Linear Dependence

MA322-001 Feb 5 Worksheet

Why does $x_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} + x_3 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} = \vec{b}$ either have no solutions or infinitely many solutions?

Be prepared to answer to the class.

$V_3 = 2V_1 + V_2$. We can replace an x_3 with $2 \cdot x_1$ and an x_2

$$x_1 = ? - 2x_3$$

$$x_2 = ? - x_3$$

x_3 is free

"No" versus "infinitely many" depends on the numbers in \vec{b} of course.

How do you tell which \vec{b} have any solutions?

Be prepared to answer to the class.

$$\vec{b} = x_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} + x_3 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 + 2x_3 \\ x_1 + 2x_3 \\ x_2 + x_3 \\ 5x_2 + 5x_3 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{so } b_1 = b_2$$

$$b_4 = 5b_3$$

If $b_1 = b_2$ and $b_4 = 5b_3$, then ∞ solutions. Otherwise none.

Takeaway: If the columns of a matrix A are linearly independent, then there is at most one solution $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$, never infinitely many. The only way to get infinitely many is (the reason above; fill in the official version here).

Infinitely many solutions only when one of the columns is dependent / redundant. $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$ are exactly the ways in which columns are redundant.

Weird question: You should have asked: "hrm, what about the rows? do the rows need to be linearly independent? What's up with that?" So... what IS up with that?

Best answer wins $\approx \$5$ gift certificate!