

MATH 1010 ~ Intermediate Algebra

Chapter 4: SYSTEMS OF EQUATIONS

**4.3: LINEAR SYSTEMS IN 3 VARIABLES**

Objectives:

- ✧ Solve systems of equations in row-echelon form by back-substituting.
- ✧ Solve systems of equations using Gaussian elimination
- ✧ Solve application problems using Gaussian elimination.

$$\begin{aligned}3x - 2y + 4z &= -8 \\7y - 2z &= 6 \\3z &= 12\end{aligned}$$

Row echelon form for a system of equations:

(triangular)

$$\begin{array}{r} x - 2y + 3z = 9 \\ y + 2z = 5 \\ z = 3 \end{array}$$

Three Elementary Row Operations:

1. Interchange two rows.
2. Multiply one row by a non-zero constant.
3. Add a multiple of one row to another row.

(elimination step)

Use these operations to get this system of equations in row echelon form.

(using elem. row ops)

$$\begin{array}{l} x - 2y + 3z = 5 \\ \textcircled{-x} + y + 5z = 4 \\ 2x \quad - 3z = 0 \end{array}$$


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$$\begin{array}{l} \textcircled{2} \quad -2x + 4y - 6z = -10 \\ x - 2y + 3z = 5 \\ -y + 8z = 9 \\ \textcircled{2x} \quad -3z = 0 \end{array}$$


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$$\begin{array}{l} x - 2y + 3z = 5 \\ -4y + 3z = 36 \\ \textcircled{4} \quad -y + 8z = 9 \\ \textcircled{4y} - 9z = -10 \end{array}$$

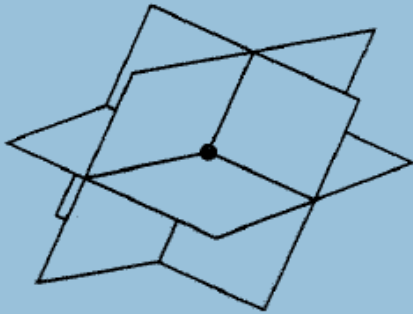

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$$\begin{array}{l} x - 2y + 3z = 5 \\ -y + 8z = 9 \\ 23z = 26 \end{array}$$

now in row-echelon form

Possible solutions to a system of equations in three variables:

① one answer

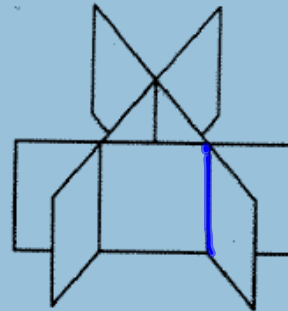


Solution: one point

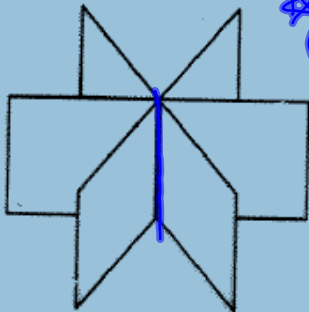
② intersect at all points



Solution: one plane



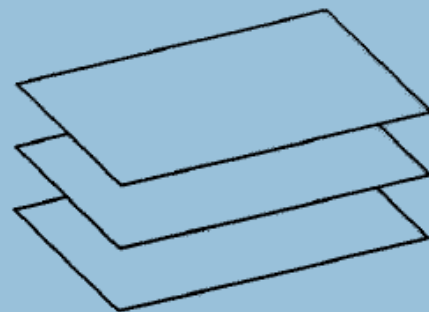
Solution: none



Solution: one line

\* trickiest  
④ infinitely many intersection pts

③



Solution: none

## ① EXAMPLE

Solve this system.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 x - 2y + 2z = 9 \\
 -x + 3y = -4 \\
 2x - 5y + z = 10
 \end{array}$$


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$$\begin{array}{r}
 x - 2y + 2z = 9 \\
 y + 2z = 5 \\
 -y - 3z = -8
 \end{array}$$


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$$\begin{array}{r}
 ① \quad x - 2y + 2z = 9 \\
 ② \quad y + 2z = 5 \\
 ③ \quad -z = -3
 \end{array}$$

$$③ \quad -z = -3 \implies ② \quad y + 2(3) = 5$$

$$y + 6 = 5$$

$$y = -1$$

$$① \quad x - 2(-1) + 2(3) = 9$$

$$x + 2 + 6 = 9$$

$$x + 8 = 9 \implies x = 1$$

Soln:  
 $(1, -1, 3)$

② EXAMPLE:

Solve this system.

$$\begin{array}{l}
 (-2) \quad -2x + 6y - 2z = -2 \\
 \quad x - 3y + z = 1 \\
 \quad \textcircled{2x} - y - 2z = 2 \\
 \quad x + 2y - 3z = -1
 \end{array}
 \quad \left| \quad \begin{array}{l}
 (-1) \quad -x + 3y - z = -1 \\
 \quad x - 3y + z = 1 \\
 \quad \quad 5y - 4z = 0 \\
 \quad \textcircled{x} + 2y - 3z = -1
 \end{array}
 \right.$$


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$$\begin{array}{l}
 (-1) \quad x - 3y + z = 1 \\
 \quad \quad -5y + 4z = 0 \\
 \quad \quad \textcircled{5y} - 4z = -2
 \end{array}
 \quad \left| \quad \begin{array}{l}
 x - 3y + z = 1 \\
 5y - 4z = 0 \\
 \quad \quad 0 \neq -2 \\
 \Rightarrow \textcircled{\text{N.S.}}
 \end{array}
 \right.$$

## ③ EXAMPLE:

Solve this system.

$$\begin{array}{r|l}
 \begin{array}{l}
 x + y - 3z = -1 \\
 y - z = 0 \\
 -x + 2y = 1
 \end{array} &
 \begin{array}{l}
 \text{① } x + y - 3z = -1 \\
 \text{② } y - z = 0 \\
 0 = 0
 \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

(Handwritten notes:  $x + y - 3z = -1$ ,  $-3y + 3z = 0$ ,  $y - z = 0$ ,  $3y - 3z = 0$ )

★ graphically, these intersect in a line.

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \text{② } y - z = 0 & \text{① } x + z - 3z = -1 \\
 y = z & x - 2z = -1 \\
 & x = 2z - 1
 \end{array}$$

$$z = z$$

line of intersection:  $\left. \begin{array}{l} x = 2z - 1 \\ y = z \\ z = z \end{array} \right\}$

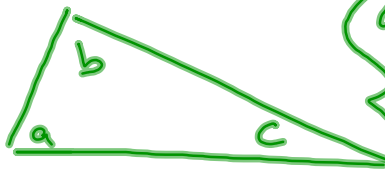
$$(2z - 1, z, z)$$

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

## ④ EXAMPLE:

Write a set of equations to solve this problem.

The measure of one angle of a triangle is two-thirds the measure of a second angle. The measure of the second angle is  $12^\circ$  greater than the measure of the third angle. Find the measures of the three angles of the triangle.


$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} a = \frac{2}{3}b \\ b = 12 + c \\ a + b + c = 180 \end{array} \right. \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} a - \frac{2}{3}b = 0 \\ b - c = 12 \\ a + b + c = 180 \end{array} \right.$$

Answer

$$a = 48^\circ$$

$$b = 72^\circ$$

$$c = 60^\circ$$