



Math 1050 ~ College Algebra

23 Systems of Linear Equations: Augmented Matrices

Learning Objectives

$$\begin{aligned} -3x + 4y &= 5 \\ 2x - y &= -10 \end{aligned}$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{cc|c} -3 & 4 & 5 \\ 2 & -1 & -10 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^m k = \frac{m(m+1)}{2}$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^n z^k = \frac{1-z^{n+1}}{1-z}$$

- Write a system of linear equations as an augmented matrix.
- Perform row operations on a matrix.
- Convert an augmented matrix to row echelon form.
- Convert an augmented matrix to reduced row echelon form.
- Use matrix row operations to solve systems of linear equations.

Solving three equations in three variables takes a bit of writing. We can reduce some of that by writing the set of equations as an **augmented matrix**. A matrix is a structured array of numbers grouped by square brackets. We only write the coefficients and constants.

Ex 1a: Write this set of equations as an augmented matrix.

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

We can operate on this matrix using the same set of rules that we used for Gaussian elimination in the last section.

1. Exchange two rows.
2. Multiply a row by a nonzero constant.
3. Temporarily multiply a row by a nonzero constant and add it to another row, replacing either of those rows with the result.

Ex 1b: Solve this system of equations from 1a by using these options.

Row Echelon Form

Ex 2: Solve for x, y and z in these augmented matrices representing a set of equations.

$$a) \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

$$b) \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -2 & 3 & 9 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{array} \right]$$

These are examples of row echelon form and reduced row echelon form. Our goal is to reduce a set of equations to one of these forms, using Gaussian elimination.

Ex 3: Solve this set of equations by reducing them to each of the forms above.

$$2x - 2y + z = -9$$

$$x + y + 2z = -5$$

$$x - z = 11$$

Ex 4: Set up this set of equations as an augmented matrix and put in reduced row echelon form.

$$A = 2$$

$$B = -1$$

$$3A + 2C = 0$$

$$2B - D = -5$$

What happens if the system has infinite solutions or no solutions?

Ex 5: Write the solution to each system below.

a)
$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

b)
$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{array} \right]$$

c)
$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$