Math 218D Problem Session

Week 1

1. Row Echelon Form

a) In REF, pivots are 1 and 3

b) In REF, pivots are 5 and 6

c) Not in REF

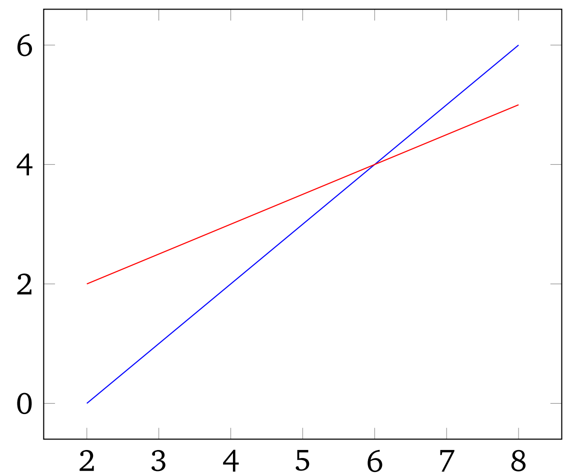
d) In REF, pivots are 2 and 5

e) Not in REF

f) Not in REF

2. Two Equations and Two Unknowns

a)



b) The linear system is

$$\begin{aligned} x - y &= 2 \\ 2x - 4y &= -4. \end{aligned}$$

Subtract $2 \cdot R_1$ from R_2 to obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} x - y &= 2 \\ -2y &= -8. \end{aligned}$$

c) Divide the second row by 2 to obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} x - y &= 2 \\ y &= 4. \end{aligned}$$

d) Add the second row to the first row to obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} x &= 6 \\ y &= 4. \end{aligned}$$

This is the solution.

e) $6-4=2,\ 2\cdot 6-4\cdot 4=-5.$

f) The system first becomes in REF after the 1st row operation. The pivots are 1 and -2.

3. **Three Equations Three Unknowns**

a) $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 & 1 \\ 2 & -8 & 8 \\ -6 & 3 & -15 \end{pmatrix}$, $b = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -2 \\ 9 \end{pmatrix}$.

b) The augmented matrix is

$$\left(\begin{array}{rrr|r} 1 & -3 & 1 & 4 \\ 2 & -8 & 8 & -2 \\ -6 & 3 & -15 & 9 \end{array}\right).$$

c) First, replace R_2 by $R_2 - 2R_1$ ($R_2 \mathrel{+}= -2R_1$).

$$\left(\begin{array}{rrr|r} 1 & -3 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & -2 & 6 & -10 \\ -6 & 3 & -15 & 9 \end{array}\right).$$

Then $R_3 \mathrel{+}= 6R_1$:

$$\left(\begin{array}{rrr|r} 1 & -3 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & -2 & 6 & -10 \\ 0 & -15 & -9 & 33 \end{array}\right).$$

Now, you can do row scaling here, although you don't need to. Let's do it now to simplify our rows: $R_2 \times= -(1/2)$ and $R_3 \times= -(1/3)$ (combining two elementary operations at once):

$$\left(\begin{array}{rrr|r} 1 & -3 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & 5 \\ 0 & 5 & 3 & -11 \end{array}\right).$$

We do one more row addition, replacing R_2 with $R_2 - 5R_1$ ($R_2 \mathrel{-}= 5R_1$):

$$\left(\begin{array}{rrr|r} 1 & -3 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 18 & -36 \end{array}\right).$$

Do one more row scaling, replacing R_3 with $\frac{1}{18}R_3$ ($R_3 \times= 1/18$):

$$\left(\begin{array}{rrr|r} 1 & -3 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 \end{array}\right).$$

d) I used 6 elementary row operations, but the row scalings could have been avoided, giving you as few as 3.

e) The system of equations is now

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 - 3x_2 + x_3 &= 4 \\ x_2 - 3x_3 &= 5 \\ x_3 &= -2. \end{aligned}$$

Substituting $x_3 = -2$, we obtain the system

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 - 3x_2 &= 6 \\ x_2 &= -1 \\ x_3 &= -2. \end{aligned}$$

Substituting $x_2 = -1$, we obtain the system

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= 3 \\ x_2 &= -1 \\ x_3 &= -2, \end{aligned}$$

which is the solution.

f) Check $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 & 1 \\ 2 & -8 & 8 \\ -6 & 3 & -15 \end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -2 \\ 9 \end{pmatrix}$.

4. Another One—What's Different?

Consider the system of three linear equations

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 - 2x_2 + x_3 &= -2 \\ 2x_1 - 4x_2 + 8x_3 &= 2 \\ x_1 - 3x_2 - x_3 &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

a) The linear system is

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 - 2x_2 + x_3 &= -2 \\ 2x_1 - 4x_2 + 8x_3 &= 2 \\ x_1 - 3x_2 - x_3 &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

By doing two row subtraction operations ($R2 -= 2R_1$ and $R_3 -= R_1$), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 - 2x_2 + x_3 &= -2 \\ 6x_3 &= 6 \\ -x_2 - 2x_3 &= 3. \end{aligned}$$

b) We swap rows 1 and 2 to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 - 2x_2 + x_3 &= -2 \\ -x_2 - 2x_3 &= 3 \\ 6x_3 &= 6. \end{aligned}$$

c) Dividing row 3 by 6 gives $x_3 = 1$, which we substitute into the first two equations:

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 - 2x_2 &= -3 \\ -x_2 &= 5 \\ x_3 &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

Dividing row 2 by -1 gives $x_2 = -5$, which we substitute into the 1st equation:

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= -13 \\ x_2 &= -5 \\ x_3 &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

This is the solution.

5. Traffic Jam

a) We start with

$$\begin{aligned} 120 + w &= 250 + x \\ 120 + x &= \ \ 70 + y \\ 390 + y &= 250 + z \\ 115 + z &= 175 + w \end{aligned}$$

or

$$\begin{aligned} x - w &= -130 \\ -x + y &= \quad 50 \\ -y + z &= \quad 140 \\ -z + w &= \quad -60. \end{aligned}$$

Eliminating x from the second equation gives

$$\begin{aligned} x - w &= -130 \\ y - w &= \quad -80 \\ -y + z &= \quad 140 \\ -z + w &= \quad -60. \end{aligned}$$

b) Eliminating y from the third equation gives

$$\begin{aligned} x - w &= -130 \\ y - w &= \quad -80 \\ z - w &= \quad 60 \\ -z + w &= \quad -60. \end{aligned}$$

c) Eliminating z from the fourth equation gives

$$\begin{aligned} x - w &= -130 \\ y - w &= \quad -80 \\ z - w &= \quad 60 \\ 0 + 0 &= \quad 0. \end{aligned}$$

d) We can't just use substitution, as our final equation is not of the form $w = (?)$. The number of cars on roads x, y, and z all depend on how many cars are on w.

e) The system has infinitely many solutions. There can be as many cars as you want, travelling in a circle around the town.

f) The augmented matrix is

$$\left(\begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & -130 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & -80 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 60 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}\right).$$

The pivots are the 1's. Not every row has a pivot. The fourth column does not have a pivot - as we will discuss in week 3, this means that we can find a solution which makes the fourth variable take any value we want. Such a variable is called a *free variable*.