

Solution, homogeneous, nonhomogeneous.

coefficients, constants

$$x_1 + 2x_2 + 3x_3 + 4x_4 = 8$$

$(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  vector of unknowns

$$2x_1 + 5x_2 + 10x_3 + 5x_4 = 8$$

Matrix of coefficients

Vector of "system constants"

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 5 & 10 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix}$$

Solution  $(24 + 5a - 10b, -8 - 4a + 3b, a, b)$

$\forall a, b \in \mathbb{R}$

Means  $x_1 = 24 \dots$

Real solution:  $(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n)$

Complex

Many ways to write solution:

$$\begin{array}{l|l} x_1 + x_2 = 3 & x_1 = 1 \\ 3x_1 - 2x_2 = -1 & x_2 = 2 \end{array} \quad \text{or } (1, 2)$$

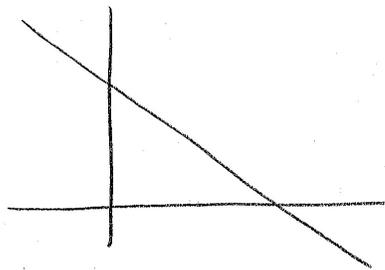
Q: Existence?

How many?

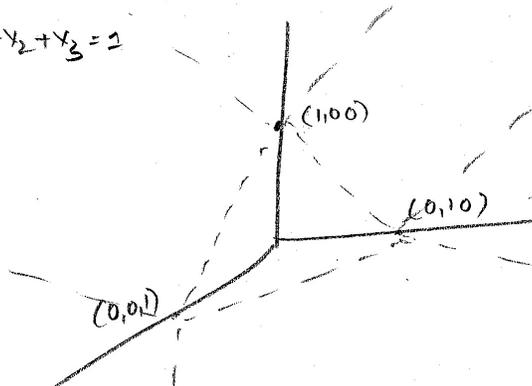
How to determine?

Geometry

$$x_1 + x_2 = 3$$



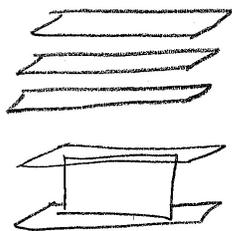
$$x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 2$$



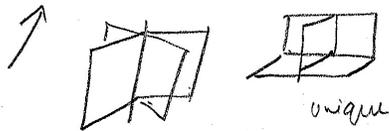
So each equation defines a plane.

3 equations is 3 unknowns.

↓  
defines a plane.



No solutions (No common points in all 3 planes.)



Consistency: at least one solution

Inconsistency: No solution.

Augmented matrix (to be defined next to matrix of coefficients)

Vector formulation

$$-2x_1 + 5x_3 - x_4 = 6$$

$$4x_1 - x_2 + 2x_3 + 2x_4 = -2$$

$$-7x_1 - 6x_2 + 4x_4 = -8$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -2 & 0 & 5 & -1 \\ 4 & -1 & 2 & 2 \\ -7 & -6 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ -2 \\ -8 \end{bmatrix}$$

We also define the augmented matrix

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cccc|c} -2 & 0 & 5 & -1 & 6 \\ 4 & -1 & 2 & 2 & -2 \\ -7 & -6 & 0 & 4 & -8 \end{array} \right]$$

In general

$$A \vec{x} = \vec{b} \quad \text{is a vector eqn.}$$

$A$  is  $m \times n$      $\vec{x}$  is an  $n \times 1$  column vector

$b$  is an  $m \times 1$  column vector.

$\vec{b}$  we may call the "right hand side."

