



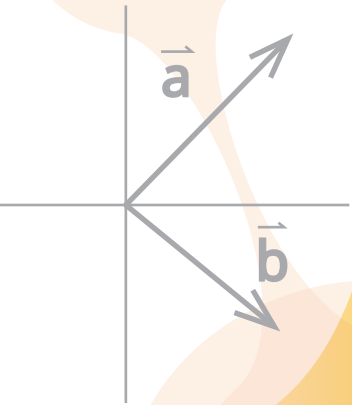
# MAT223H

## Linear Algebra I

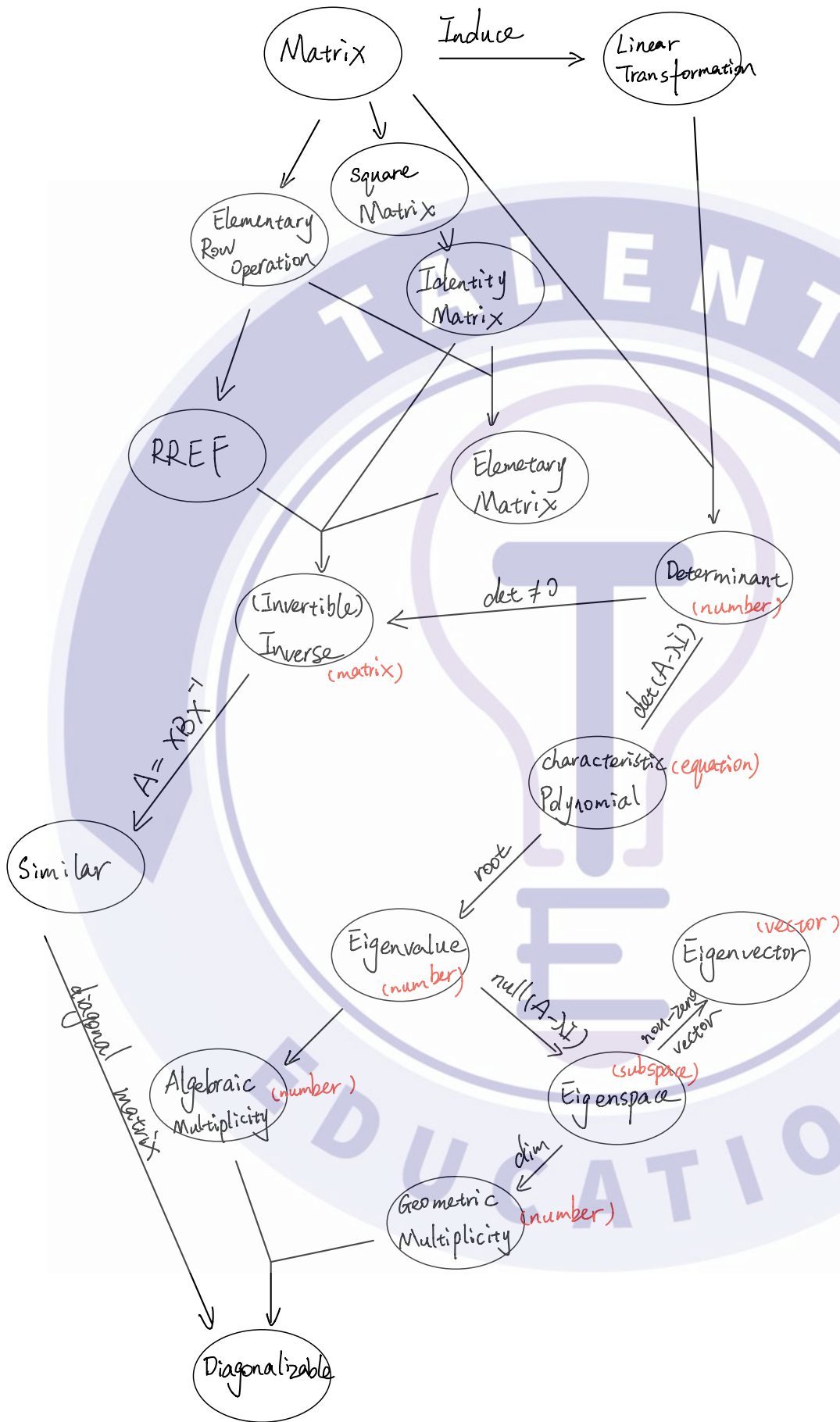
Fall 2021

Week 1

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$







# SYSTEMS OF LINEAR EQUATIONS

## Systems of Linear Equations and Elimination

A **linear equation** in the variables  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  is an equation that can be written in the form

$$a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + \dots + a_nx_n = b$$

where  $b$  and the **coefficients**  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  are real or complex numbers, usually known in advance.

A **system of linear equations** (or a **linear system**) is a collection of one or more linear equations involving the same variables.

A **solution** of the system is a list  $(s_1, \dots, s_n)$  of numbers that makes each equation a true statement when the values  $s_1, \dots, s_n$  are substituted for  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ , respectively. The set of all possible solutions is called the **solution set** of the linear system.

### PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Find the solution of the linear equation

$$2x_1 + 3x_2 = 9$$

$$x_1 - 2x_2 = 1$$

## The Matrix Representation of a System of Linear Equations

The essential information of a linear system can be recorded compactly in a rectangular array called a **matrix**. Given the system

$$x_1 - 2x_2 + x_3 = 0$$

$$2x_2 - 8x_3 = 8$$

$$5x_1 - 5x_3 = 10$$

with the coefficients of each variable aligned in columns, the matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & -8 \\ 5 & 0 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

is called the **coefficient matrix** (or **matrix of coefficients**) of the system, and

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & -8 & 8 \\ 5 & 0 & -5 & 10 \end{array} \right]$$

is called the **augmented matrix** of the system.

### Elementary Row Operation

1. (Scaling) Multiply all entries in a row by a nonzero constant.
2. (Interchange) Interchange two rows.
3. (Replacement) Replace one row by the sum of itself and a multiple of another row.

## Row Echelon Form

A nonzero row or column in a matrix means a row or column that contains at least one nonzero entry. A

**leading entry** of a row refers to the leftmost nonzero entry (in a nonzero row).

A rectangular matrix is in **echelon form** (or **row echelon form**) if it has the following three properties:

1. All nonzero rows are above any rows of all zeros.
2. Each leading entry of a row is in a column to the right of the leading entry of the row above it.
3. All entries in a column below a leading entry are zeros.

If a matrix in echelon form satisfies the following additional conditions, then it is in **reduced echelon form** (or **reduced row echelon form**):

4. The leading entry in each nonzero row is 1.
5. Each leading 1 is the only nonzero entry in its column.

## PRACTICE QUESTION

2. Indicate the following matrices are in row echelon form or reduced row echelon form or nothing.

$$(i) \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & -1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(ii) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(iii) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(iv) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(v) \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(vi) \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(vii) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(viii) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 3 & 5 & 10 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 & 3 & 10 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(ix) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -5 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Pivot Positions

A **pivot position** in a matrix  $A$  is a location in  $A$  that corresponds to a leading 1 in the reduced echelon form of  $A$ . A **pivot column** is a column of  $A$  that contains a pivot position.

A **pivot** is a nonzero number in a pivot position that is used as needed to create zeros via row operations.

## PRACTICE QUESTIONS

3. Find the solutions to the following system of linear equations using row reductions.

$$2x - y + z = 3$$

$$2x + 3y - 6z = -4$$

$$-x - 2y + 5z = 4$$

## Consistent Systems and Unique Solutions

A system of linear equation is said to be **consistent** if it has either one solution or infinitely many solutions; a system is **inconsistent** if it has no solution.

The variables corresponding to pivot columns in the matrix are called **basic variables**. The other variables, are called **free variables** where free means that you are free to choose any value for the variable.

### Theorem

A linear system is consistent if and only if the rightmost column of the augmented matrix is not a pivot column. That is, if and only if an echelon form of the augmented matrix has no row of the form

$$[0 \ \cdots \ 0 \ b] \quad \text{with } b \text{ nonzero}$$

If a linear system is consistent, then the solution set contains either (i) a unique solution, when there are no free variables, or (ii) infinitely many solutions, when there is at least one free variable.



**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

4. How many free variable columns does each augmented matrix have?

a.  $\left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 8 & -8 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$

b.  $\left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 0 & 9 \\ 0 & 1 & -7 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$

c.  $\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 3 & -6 & -9 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$

5. The reduced row-echelon forms of the augmented matrices of four systems are given below. How many solutions does each system have?

a.  $\left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$

b.  $\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 14 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -12 \end{array} \right]$

c.  $\left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 0 & 19 \\ 0 & 1 & -6 \end{array} \right]$

d.  $\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$

(Winter 2019 TT1 Q2) Consider the system 
$$\begin{cases} x_1 + 2x_2 - 3x_3 = b_1 \\ 2x_1 + 4x_2 - 6x_3 + x_4 = b_2 \\ 6x_1 + 13x_2 - 17x_3 + 4x_4 = b_3 \end{cases} .$$

In this problem you may use the fact that  $\text{rref} \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & -3 & 0 & -5 \\ 2 & 4 & -6 & 1 & -8 \\ 6 & 13 & -17 & 4 & -21 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -5 & 0 & -7 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} .$

(a) (2 points) Write the complete solution to the system when  $b_1 = -5$ ,  $b_2 = -8$ ,  $b_3 = -21$ . Express your answer in vector form.

(b) (2 points) Are there values of  $b_1$ ,  $b_2$ ,  $b_3$  that make the system inconsistent? If so, given an example of such values. If not, explain why not.