

# Systems of Linear Equations

(3 by 3: “3” equations with “3” unknowns)

[ MATH by Wilson  
Your Personal Mathematics Trainer  
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**Systems:** More than 1 equation & more than 1 unknown ( $x, y, z, \dots$ )

**Linear:** Powers of the unknowns is 1 ( $x = x^1, y = y^1, \dots$ )

## 1. 3x3: Trade 3x3 for 2x2 for 1x1 & “Back Substitute” if necessary

$$p_1 : x - 2y + 3z = 14$$

$$p_2 : 2x + 3y - z = -7$$

$$p_3 : 4x + y + 2z = 7$$

$$\text{Solution} : (x, y, z) = (?, ?, ?)$$

### a. Graphing: 3 Planes – 3 dimensional – Will NOT do

## b. Substitution Method:

$$p_1 : x - 2y + 3z = 14$$

$$p_2 : 2x + 3y - z = -7$$

$$p_3 : 4x + y + 2z = 7$$

3x3 System  $\Rightarrow$  Trade for 2x2 System:

Smart to choose  $p_1$  for  $x$  OR  $p_2$  for  $z$   $\Rightarrow$  NO fractions ...

Solve  $p_1$  for  $x$ :

$$x - 2y + 3z = 14 \Rightarrow x = 14 + 2y - 3z$$

Substitute for  $x$  in  $p_2$  &  $p_3$  Note: Now  $p_2$  &  $p_3$  have ONLY  $y$  &  $z$  in them

\*\*\* $p_2$

$$\begin{aligned} 2x + 3y - z = -7 &\Rightarrow 2(14 + 2y - 3z) + 3y - z = -7 \Rightarrow 28 + 4y - 6z + 3y - z = -7 \\ &\Rightarrow 7y - 7z = -35 \Rightarrow y - z = -5 \end{aligned}$$

\*\*\* $p_3$

$$\begin{aligned} 4x + y + 2z = 7 &\Rightarrow 4(14 + 2y - 3z) + y + 2z = 7 \Rightarrow 56 + 8y - 12z + y + 2z = 7 \\ &\Rightarrow 9y - 10z = -49 \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \begin{cases} p_2' : y - z = -5 & (\text{or } y = z - 5) \\ p_3' : 9y - 10z = -49 \end{cases}$$

2x2 System  $\Rightarrow$  Trade for 1x1 System:

Solve  $p_2'$  for  $y$  & substitute in  $p_3' \Rightarrow$  1x1 ( $z$  ONLY):

$$\begin{aligned} 9y - 10z &= -49 \Rightarrow 9(z - 5) - 10z = -49 \Rightarrow 9z - 45 - 10z = -49 \Rightarrow -z = -4 \\ &\Rightarrow z = 4 \Rightarrow (x, y, 4) \end{aligned}$$

Back Substitute: Substitute for  $z$  in  $p_2'$  :

$$\begin{aligned} y - z &= -5 \Rightarrow y - (4) = -5 \\ &\Rightarrow y = -1 \Rightarrow (x, -1, 4) \end{aligned}$$

Back Substitute in  $x = 14 + 2y - 3z \Rightarrow x = 14 + 2(-1) - 3(4) \Rightarrow x = 0$

Solution:  $(x, y, z) = (0, -1, 4)$

**c. Elimination (Addition/Subtraction) Method:**

$$p_1 : x - 2y + 3z = 14$$

$$p_2 : 2x + 3y - z = -7$$

$$p_3 : 4x + y + 2z = 7$$

Eliminate  $x$  in  $p_1$  :

$$p_1 \text{ \& } p_2 : -2 * p_1 + p_2$$

$$-2x + 4y - 6z = -28$$

$$\underline{2x + 3y - z = -7 \text{ Add}}$$

$$7y - 7z = -35 \quad (p_2' : y - z = -5)$$

$$p_1 \text{ \& } p_3 : -4 * p_1 + p_3$$

$$-4x + 8y - 12z = -56$$

$$\underline{4x + y + 2z = 7 \text{ Add}}$$

$$9y - 10z = -49 \quad (p_3' : 9y - 10z = -49)$$

$$\therefore \begin{cases} p_2' : y - z = -5 & (y = z - 5) \\ p_3' : 9y - 10z = -49 \end{cases}$$

Previously solved:  $(x, y, z) = (0, -1, 4)$

**d. Matrix Method:**

$$p_1 : x - 2y + 3z = 14$$

$$p_2 : 2x + 3y - z = -7$$

$$p_3 : 4x + y + 2z = 7$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} x & y & z \\ \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -2 & 3 & 14 \\ 2 & 3 & -1 & -7 \\ 4 & 1 & 2 & 7 \end{array} \right] & \text{Goal:} & \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & x \text{ sol} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & y \text{ sol} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & z \text{ sol} \end{array} \right] \end{array}$$

$$-2 * R_1 + R_2 \rightarrow R_2$$

$$-4 * R_1 + R_3 \rightarrow R_3$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -2 & 3 & 14 \\ 0 & 7 & -7 & -35 \\ 0 & 9 & -10 & -49 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\frac{1}{7} * R_2 \rightarrow R_2$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -2 & 3 & 14 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & -5 \\ 0 & 9 & -10 & -49 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\frac{1}{7} * R_2 \rightarrow R_2$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -2 & 3 & 14 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & -5 \\ 0 & 9 & -10 & -49 \end{array} \right] \text{ Rewrote ...}$$

$$2 * R_2 + R_1 \rightarrow R_1$$

$$-9R_2 + R_3 \rightarrow R_3$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & -5 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -4 \end{array} \right]$$

$$-1 * R_3 \rightarrow R_3$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & -5 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{array} \right]$$

$$-1 * R_3 + R_1 \rightarrow R_1$$

$$1 * R_3 + R_2 \rightarrow R_2$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\text{Solution: } (x, y, z) = (0, -1, 4)$$

**e. Determinants – See other notes**

**f. Matrix Inverse – see other notes**



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