

Sample Solutions – Quiz 1

Consider the following system of linear equations:

$$\begin{array}{rrcr} x_1 & +2x_2 & -2x_3 & = & 9 \\ 3x_1 & +6x_2 & +x_3 & = & 34 \\ -2x_1 & -4x_2 & +5x_3 & = & -17 \end{array}$$

1.) Write down the augmented matrix corresponding to this system.

Solution:

$$[A|b] = \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & -2 & 9 \\ 3 & 6 & 1 & 34 \\ -2 & -4 & 5 & -17 \end{array} \right]$$

2.) Perform Gaussian elimination on this matrix to obtain a matrix in **reduced row echelon form**.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} [A|b] &\sim \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & -2 & 9 \\ 0 & 0 & 7 & 7 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right] && \begin{array}{l} R1 \\ R2 - 3 \cdot R1 \\ R3 + 2 \cdot R1 \end{array} \\ &\sim \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 0 & 11 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] && \begin{array}{l} R1 + 2R3 \\ R3 \\ R2 - 7 \cdot R3 \end{array} \end{aligned}$$

This last matrix is in r.r.e.f.

3.) Using the result of (2) above, find all solutions to the original linear system.

Solution: The solutions are

$$\begin{array}{rcl} x_1 & = & 11 - 2r, \\ x_2 & = & r, \\ x_3 & = & 1 \end{array}$$

where r can be any number.