

Q.1) Determine the values of β for which the system has no solutions, exactly one solution,

or infinitely many solutions
$$\begin{cases} x + y + \beta z = 1 \\ -x - 2y = -1 \\ \beta x + 8z = 2 \end{cases} \quad [4 \text{ Marks}]$$

Answer:

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & \beta \\ -1 & -2 & 0 \\ \beta & 0 & 8 \end{vmatrix} = (-16 + 0 + 0) - (-2\beta^2 + 0 - 8) = 2\beta^2 - 8 = 2(\beta^2 - 4) = 2(\beta - 2)(\beta + 2)$$

• if $\beta \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{\pm 2\}$ the system has unique solution

• if $\beta = -2$, then the augmented matrix is $\left(\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & -2 & 1 \\ -1 & -2 & 0 & -1 \\ -2 & 0 & 8 & 2 \end{array} \right) \rightarrow \left(\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 4 & 4 \end{array} \right)$

• if $\beta = 2$, then the augmented matrix is $\left(\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ -1 & -2 & 0 & -1 \\ 2 & 0 & 8 & 2 \end{array} \right) \rightarrow \left(\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 4 & 0 \end{array} \right)$

Q.2) Solve the system by inverting the coefficient matrix

$$\begin{cases} x_1 - x_2 - x_3 = 0 \\ 2x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 3 \\ x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3 = 0 \end{cases}$$

Answer: (*) Can be written as $AX = B$ with $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$; $X = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix}$; $B = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$

$$(A|I) = \left(\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & -1 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right) \rightarrow \left(\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & -1 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 3 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 2 & -1 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\rightarrow \left(\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & -1 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -2/3 & 1/3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & -1 & 1 \end{array} \right) \rightarrow \left(\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & -1 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1/3 & -2/3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\rightarrow \left(\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1/3 & -2/3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 \end{array} \right) \rightarrow \left(\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1/3 & 1/3 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1/3 & -2/3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 \end{array} \right)$$

So $A^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1/3 & 1/3 & 0 \\ 1/3 & -2/3 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$

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We deduce that $X = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = A^{-1}B = \begin{pmatrix} 1/3 & 1/3 & 0 \\ 1/3 & -2/3 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$

$x_1 = 1$; $x_2 = -2$ and $x_3 = 3$

Q.3) Find the values of α for which A is invertible, where

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 \\ \frac{1}{2} & \alpha & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \alpha \end{pmatrix}.$$

Answer:

A is invertible iff $|A| \neq 0$

$$\begin{aligned} |A| &= \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 \\ \frac{1}{2} & \alpha & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \alpha \end{vmatrix} = (\alpha^2 - 1/4 + 1/4) - (\frac{\alpha}{2} + \frac{1}{4} - \frac{\alpha}{2}) \\ &= \alpha^2 - \frac{1}{4} = (\alpha - \frac{1}{2})(\alpha + \frac{1}{2}) \end{aligned}$$

A is invertible iff $\alpha \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{\pm 1/2\}$

End of quiz