# **Matrices**



**ma'tr**|**ix** *n*. (*pl*. ~ices or ~ixes) **5.** (Math.) rectangular array of quantities in rows and columns that is treated as a single quantity.

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 & 0 \\ 9 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$



A matrix is a rectangular array of numbers.

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 & 0 \\ 9 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \qquad \mathbf{M} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 6 & -2 & 3 \\ -1 & 5 & 0 & 7 \end{pmatrix} \qquad \mathbf{v} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \cdot \\ -1 \cdot \\ 5 \cdot \\ 2 \cdot \\ -3 \cdot \end{pmatrix}$$

A matrix has order *m* x *n* if it has *m* rows and *n* columns.

A (1 x n) matrix is known as a *row vector;* an (m x 1) matrix is called a *column vector*.



The *elements* of a matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  are often written



Eg:

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 & 0 \\ 9 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{pmatrix}$$

.

If two matrices are *the same order*, they may be added or subtracted.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix} =$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 6 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} =$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 6 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} =$$

It follows that matrices are *commutative* and *associative* under addition:

 $\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{A}$ 

 $\mathbf{A} + (\mathbf{B} + \mathbf{C}) = (\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B}) + \mathbf{C}$ 

A zero matrix is any matrix with all elements equal to zero, and is usually written **0**:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \qquad \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

A + 0 = 0 + A = A

It is straightforward to multiply matrices by a scalar quantity k:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2k & k & 0 \\ k & k & k \\ 0 & k & 2k \end{pmatrix}$$

Multiplying two matrices together is more complicated.

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{pmatrix} \qquad \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} & b_{13} \\ b_{21} & b_{22} & b_{23} \\ b_{31} & b_{32} & b_{33} \end{pmatrix}$$

<u>Rule:</u> the number of columns of the first matrix must equal the number of rows of the second.

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Multiplication of two matrices can be written as a sum:

$$[\mathbf{AB}]_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^{m} a_{ik} b_{kj}$$

We define the product of a row vector and a column vector as being the sum of the components, added together. E.g:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} =$$



$$\mathbf{AB} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 & 5 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

If the matrices have the "wrong" dimensions for multiplication, then the product *does not exist*. E.g:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 6 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Matrix multiplication is *non-commutative*, i.e. Usually,

AB ≠ BA

$$\mathbf{AB} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} =$$

$$\mathbf{BA} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} =$$

#### Matrix Algebra

Most rules for manipulating matrices are *the same* as those for regular numbers.

Equality:

If  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{B}$  and  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{C}$  then  $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{C}$ 

Associativity under addition:

A+B = B + A(A+B) + C = A + (B + C)

Matrix multiplication is associative

A(BC) = (AB)C

but is non-commutative, i.e. Usually,

 $AB \neq BA$ 

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Matrix multiplication has some other "strange" properties:

1. AB = 0 does not necessarily mean that A = 0 or B = 0

$$\mathbf{AB} = \left(\begin{array}{cc} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{array}\right) \left(\begin{array}{cc} 2 & 0 \\ -2 & 0 \end{array}\right) =$$

**2.** AD = AC does not necessarily mean that D = C

$$\mathbf{AD} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ -3 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

The identity matrix  ${\bf I}$  is the matrix with the property

AI = IA = A

$$\mathbf{I} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

<u>The Inverse of a square matrix</u> The inverse of a square matrix A (written  $A^{-1}$ ) has the property that

$$\mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{I}$$
 and  $\mathbf{A} \mathbf{A}^{-1} = \mathbf{I}$ 

A matrix only has one inverse.

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \qquad \mathbf{A}^{-1} = \frac{1}{ad - bc} \begin{pmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{pmatrix} \qquad \det \mathbf{A} = ad - bc$$

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

The *transpose* of a matrix is obtained by interchanging the rows and the columns:

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 6 & -2 & 3 \\ -1 & 5 & 0 & 7 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 5 & 0 \\ -1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

If A and B have the same order,

$$(\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B})^T = \mathbf{A}^T + \mathbf{B}^T$$
$$(\mathbf{A}^T)^T = \mathbf{A}$$
$$(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{B})^T = \mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{A}^T$$



#### Summary: Rules of matrix algebra

Equality:

If  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{B}$  and  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{C}$  then  $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{C}$ 

Addition:

A+B = B + A(A+B) + C = A + (B + C)

Multiplication:

 $(\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B}) \mathbf{C} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{C} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{C}$  $\mathbf{k} (\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B}) = \mathbf{k}\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{k} \mathbf{B}$  $\mathbf{k}(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{B}) = (\mathbf{k}\mathbf{A}) \mathbf{B}$ 

**Special matrices:** 

AI = IA = AA + 0 = A

If A has an inverse,

 $\mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A} \mathbf{A}^{-1} = \mathbf{I}$ 

Transposes:

 $(\mathbf{A}+\mathbf{B})^{\mathrm{T}} = \mathbf{A}^{\mathrm{T}} + \mathbf{B}^{\mathrm{T}}$  $(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{B})^{\mathrm{T}} = \mathbf{B}^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{A}^{\mathrm{T}}$ 

Remember that in general:

 $AB \neq BA$  AB = 0 does not necessarily mean that A = 0 or B = 0AD = AC does not necessarily mean that D = C

## Main uses of matrices:

Numerical simulations, image processing, solving linear systems of equations ...

Solving systems of Equations

Matrices are very useful for representing systems of linear equations.

E.g. Suppose we want to solve

$$2x + 3y = 5$$

x - 7y = 1

<u>Overview:</u> To solve the system

$$2x_1 + 3x_2 = 5$$
  
$$x_1 - 7x_2 = 1$$

Write in matrix form:

 $\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & -7 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ 

Multiply on the left by the inverse of the square matrix:

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & -7 \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$= \frac{1}{-17} \begin{pmatrix} -7 & -3 \\ -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{17} \begin{pmatrix} 38 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{38}{17} \\ \frac{3}{17} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{A}^{-1} = \frac{1}{ad - bc} \begin{pmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{pmatrix}$$

 $\det \mathbf{A} = ad - bc$ 

Example: Solve the linear system

$$5x_1 - 10x_2 = 3$$
  
$$2x_1 + 3x_2 = 5$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & -10 \\ 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} = \\ \frac{1}{15 - 2 \times (-10)} \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 10 \\ -2 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} = \\ = \frac{1}{35} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \times 3 + 10 \times 5 \\ -2 \times 3 + 5 \times 5 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{35} \begin{pmatrix} 59 \\ 19 \end{pmatrix}$$

## Crammer's Formula

$$5x_{1} - 10x_{2} = 3 \\ 2x_{1} + 3x_{2} = 5 \Leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 5 & -10 \\ 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_{1} \\ x_{2} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$$
$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & -10 \\ 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad D = \det \mathbf{A} = 5 \times 3 - (-10) \times 2 = 35 \qquad \text{D is the determinant of matrix } A.$$

$$D_1 = \det \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -10 \\ 5 & 3 \end{pmatrix} = 3 \times 3 - (-10) \times 5 = 5$$

Replace first column of matrix A with column vector b and find the determinant  $D_1$ .

$$D_2 = \det \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 3 \\ 2 & 5 \end{pmatrix} = 5 \times 5 - 3 \times 2 = 19$$

 $x_1 = \frac{D_1}{D} = \frac{59}{35},$ 

 $x_2 = \frac{D_2}{D} = \frac{19}{35}.$ 

Replace the second column of matrix A with column vector  $\underline{b}$  and find the determinant  $D_2$ .

## Determinants of 3x3 matrices

The cofactors are the signed determinants of the small matrices.

$$\Delta = \begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{vmatrix} = a_{11} \begin{vmatrix} a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{32} & a_{33} \end{vmatrix} - a_{12} \begin{vmatrix} a_{21} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{33} \end{vmatrix} + a_{13} \begin{vmatrix} a_{21} & a_{22} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\Delta = a_{11}(a_{22}a_{33} - a_{23}a_{32}) - a_{12}(a_{21}a_{33} - a_{23}a_{31}) + a_{13}(a_{21}a_{32} - a_{22}a_{31})$$

Steps to compute the determinant using cofactors:

- 1. Remove the top row (or first column)
- 2. Multiply the coefficients of this row with +, -, +, -, +, etc...
- 3. Multiply the coefficients of this row with the determinant of the *minor matrix* i.e. the matrix obtained by deleting the coefficient's row and column

#### **Determinants of 3x3 matrices**

The determinant of a 3 x 3 matrix is given by the formula

$$\Delta = a_{11}(a_{22}a_{33} - a_{23}a_{32}) - a_{12}(a_{21}a_{33} - a_{23}a_{31}) + a_{13}(a_{21}a_{32} - a_{22}a_{31})$$

and is often denoted by |square brackets| around the matrix.

Example: Calculate the determinant of

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 & 2 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 3 & -2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

 $(1 \quad 2 \quad 2)$ 

$$det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 & 2 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 3 & -2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = 1 \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ -2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} - (-2) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + 2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 3 & -2 \end{bmatrix} = 2(1-3) + 2(-2+6) = 8 - 4 = 4$$

Example: Calculate the determinant of

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & -1 & 3 \\ 3 & -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & -1 & 3 \\ 3 & -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = 1 \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 3 \\ -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 3 & -1 \end{bmatrix} + 2 \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 3 & -1 \end{bmatrix} = (1+3) - (-2-9) + 2(-2+3) = 17$$

### Tricks when dealing with determinants

If any row or column contains only zeros then the determinant is zero

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 & 5 \\ 1 & -2 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{vmatrix}$$

If any two rows or columns are identical then the determinant is zero e.g.  $\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 & 5 \end{vmatrix}$ 

To find the determinant of a matrix in *triagonal form,* multiply down the diagonal

e.g.

e.g.

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 & 5 \\ 0 & -2 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 \end{vmatrix} \qquad \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{vmatrix}$$

Use Crammer's method to find the solution of linear system

#### <u>3 x 3 systems</u>

If we can find an inverse of a 3x3 matrix, we can solve 3x3 (or higher) systems:

Put the equations in matrix form:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 & 2 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 3 & -2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Multiply by the inverse *from the left* :

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 & 2 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 3 & -2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

### Finding the inverse of a 3 x 3 matrix

The inverse can be found by using a series of <u>row operations</u>. Any system of equations is unchanged by:

- Multiplying a row by a scalar
- Adding a multiple of one row to another
- Swapping any two rows

Steps to find the inverse of an n x n matrix:

1. "Augment" the matrix:

2. Use row operations to transform the left half into the identity. The right half will then be the inverse.

Example: find the inverse of

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 & 2 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 3 & -2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 & 2 & | 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 & | 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & -2 & 1 & | 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

#### Alternate method for finding the inverse:

1. Compute the matrix of cofactors **C** 

The <u>cofactors</u> are the signed determinants of the small matrices.

$$\begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{vmatrix} = a_{11} \begin{vmatrix} a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{32} & a_{33} \end{vmatrix}$$
$$-a_{12} \begin{vmatrix} a_{21} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{33} \end{vmatrix} + a_{13} \begin{vmatrix} a_{21} & a_{22} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} \end{vmatrix}$$

>

2. Transpose this to form the Adjugate matrix Adj(A)

3. The inverse is then

$$\mathbf{A}^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det \mathbf{A}} \operatorname{Adj} \mathbf{A}$$

## Example: Find the inverse of

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \qquad \qquad \mathbf{A}^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det \mathbf{A}} \operatorname{Adj} \mathbf{A}$$

$$det \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = 2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + 2 \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = 2(1-0) - (-9) - 6 = 5$$

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \qquad \mathbf{A}^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det \mathbf{A}} \operatorname{Adj} \mathbf{A}$$
$$= \begin{pmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} - \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 \end{vmatrix} - \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 \end{vmatrix} - \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 0 \end{vmatrix}$$
$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 9 & -3 \\ -1 & -4 & 3 \\ 1 & -6 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\operatorname{Adj} \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}^c \end{bmatrix}^T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 9 & -4 & -6 \\ -3 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \qquad \mathbf{A}^{-1} = \frac{1}{5} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 9 & -4 & -6 \\ -3 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

The determinant of a 2x2 matrix is written

$$\Delta = ad - bc$$

If  $\Delta$ =0, there is *no unique solution* to the equations  $\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ .

E.g. Consider the system

$$\begin{array}{rcl} x_1 &+ & x_2 &= & 5 \\ x_1 &+ & x_2 &= & 1 \\ & & & (1 & 1) & & (x_1) \end{array}$$

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \qquad \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

### **Definition:**

A linear 3 by 3 system with zeros below the main diagonal is said to be in row-echelon form.

This can be solved using *back-substitution*.

A matrix can be put into row-echelon form using *Row-operations*. This is known as <u>Gauss</u> <u>elimination</u>.

Example: For the system

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
-x_1 + x_2 + 2x_3 &= 2\\
3x_1 - x_2 + x_3 &= 6\\
-x_1 + 3x_2 + 4x_3 &= 4
\end{array}$$

The augmented matrix is

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 2 & | & 2 \\ 3 & -1 & 1 & | & 6 \\ -1 & 3 & 4 & | & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

Any system of equations is unchanged by:

- Multiplying a row by a scalar
- Adding a multiple of one row to another
- Swapping any two rows

#### Under/overspecification of a problem

Example: Does this system of equations have a (unique) solution?

$$2x_{1} + x_{2} = 1$$
  

$$x_{1} + 2x_{2} + x_{3} = -1$$
  

$$+3x_{2} + 2x_{3} = 1$$

We might think so, but here the situation is more complicated than simply having three equations and three unknowns.

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$$+3x_2 + 2x_3 = -3$$

We might think so, but here the situation is more complicated than simply having three equations and three unknowns.