

Enrichment
Objective 3.02 and 4.03
Solving systems using matrices

You can use matrices to solve systems of equations.

Example:

$$2x + 6y = 80$$

$$4x + 5y = -1$$

Step 1: Make a coefficient matrix, variable matrix, and a constant matrix.

$$\begin{array}{cc} x & y \\ \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 6 \\ 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix} & \times \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 80 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{coefficient matrix} & \text{variable matrix} & \text{constant matrix} \\ A & X & B \end{array}$$

You can use the inverse property of matrices to solve for X: $A^{-1}B = X$

Step 2: Put A (coefficient matrix) and B (constant matrix) in your calculator.

Step 3: Enter in the following to get your answer for x and y.

$$[A]^{-1}[B]$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -29 \\ 23 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x = -29 \quad y = 23 \quad \text{or} \quad (-29, 23)$$

You try:

1. $x + 8y = 16$
 $9x + 12y = 66$
2. $29x + 7y = 1012$
 $8x - 25y = 737$

Answer: 1. (5.6, 1.3) 2. (39, -17)

Solving Systems with three variables using matrices

$$\begin{aligned}x - y + z &= -1 \\x + y + 3z &= -3 \\2x - y + 2z &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Step 1: Set up a coefficient, variable, and constant matrix

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 3 \\ 2 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} & \times & \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{A} & & \text{X} \quad \text{B} \end{array}$$

Step 2: Put A (coefficient matrix) and B (constant matrix) in your calculator.

Step 3: Enter $A^{-1}B$ to solve for x, y, z.

Answer: $x = 4$ $y = 2$ $z = -3$ or (4, 2, -3)

*If there is a variable missing in the equation ex: $x + y = 2$, the coefficient for z is 0**

You try:

$$\begin{aligned}1. \quad 2x - y + z &= -2 \\x + 3y - z &= 10 \\x \quad + 2z &= -8\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}2. \quad 13 &= 3x - y \\4y - 3x + 2z &= -3 \\z &= 2x - 4y\end{aligned}$$

*Hint: put all equations in standard form first!

Answers: 1. (2, 1, -5) 2. (5, 2, 2)