

1. Put $Ax = b$ into its augmented matrix $[A|b]$. Use three elementary row operations (3ERO):
 (1) $(i) \leftrightarrow (j)$, (2) $\alpha(i)$, (3) $\alpha(i) \rightarrow (j)$. (Gauss Elimination and Gauss-Jordan Reduction)
2. Reduce $[A|b]$ to its (reduced) Echelon form and determine if $Ax = b$ has (1) no solution, (2) unique solution or (3) infinite many solutions. In cases of (2)/(3), find all solutions.
3. Find A^{-1} , $A_{2 \times 2}^{-1} = \frac{1}{d} \begin{bmatrix} a_{22} & -a_{12} \\ -a_{21} & a_{11} \end{bmatrix}$, ($d = |A|$) or $[A|I] \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow [I|A^{-1}]$ using 3ERO.
4. Evaluate $|A|$. $n = 2, 3$, use the diagram. $n = 4$, use cofactor expansion along a row/column
 $|A| = \sum_{k=1}^n (-1)^{i+k} a_{ik} |M_{ik}| = \sum_{k=1}^n (-1)^{k+j} a_{kj} |M_{kj}|$, use properties and 3ERO $(-1, \alpha, 1)$.
5. Vector spaces and subspaces (closed in $\alpha v_1 + \beta v_2$). Find $\mathcal{N}(A) \Leftrightarrow$ solve $Ax = 0$ for all x .
6. Linear Combination: $c_1 A_1 + \cdots + c_n A_n = b \Rightarrow Ax = b$ where $x = (c_1, \dots, c_n)^T$, $A = [A_1 \dots A_n]$.
7. Check $S = \text{span}\{v_1, \dots, v_m\}$. Any $v \in S, v = c_1 v_1 + \cdots + c_m v_m$, e.g., $S \subset V = \mathbb{R}^n$ and $V = P_n$.
8. Linear independent/dependent: ask if $c_1 v_1 + \cdots + c_n v_n = 0$ has a nonzero solution (c_1, \dots, c_n) ?
9. Basis $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ to V if (a) v_1, \dots, v_n are LI and (b) $V = \text{span}\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$. ($n = \dim(V)$). Given $\{u_1, \dots, u_m\}$ in V with $\dim(V) = n$, LD if $m > n$, cannot span if $m < n$ and LI \Leftrightarrow span if $m = n$.
10. Reduce a spanning set to a basis by (11) and extend a LI set to a basis by $[A|I]$ and (11).
11. $v_1 = (a_{11}, a_{21}, \dots, a_{n1})^T, \dots, v_m = (a_{1m}, a_{2m}, \dots, a_{nm})^T$, $A = [v_1 \ v_2 \ \dots \ v_m] \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow U$ (Echelon form by 3ERO): (a) Columns of U with a leading 1 are LI, (b) A column of U without a leading 1 can be written as LC of columns with leading 1's to the left. (c) The same to A .
12. To be able to use Equivalent Statements on $A_{n \times n}$:
 (a) A is nonsingular; (b) $Ax = 0$ has only zero solution $x = 0$ ($\mathcal{N}(A) = \{0\}$);
 (c) A is row equivalent to I ; (d) $Ax = b$ has a unique solution for each $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$; (e) $|A| \neq 0$; (f) Columns/rows of A are LI, span \mathbb{R}^n , form a basis for \mathbb{R}^n .
13. To be able to solve problems in $P_n = \text{span}\{1, x, \dots, x^n\}$, collect and equate coefficients of like powers, then turn to solve a linear system $Ax = b$ or $Ax = 0$ or use equivalent statements.
14. Coordinates w.r.t. a basis $E = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$. $[v]_E = (c_1, \dots, c_n)^T \in \mathbb{R}^n \Leftrightarrow v = c_1 v_1 + \dots + c_n v_n$.
15. Transition matrix T from $F = \{u_1, \dots, u_n\}$ to $E = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$. $T = \begin{bmatrix} [u_1]_E & [u_2]_E & \dots & [u_n]_E \end{bmatrix}$.
 $[v]_E = T[v]_F, \forall v \in V$.
16. In \mathbb{R}^n , if $U = [u_1 \dots u_n], V = [v_1 \dots v_n]$ are two bases, then $U[w]_U = V[w]_V$.
 So from $U \rightarrow V, [w]_V = V^{-1}U[w]_U$ and from $V \rightarrow U, [w]_U = U^{-1}V[w]_V$.
17. For $A_{m \times n}$, find bases for $\mathcal{N}(A)$, $CS(A)$, $RS(A)$. $n = r + k$ where $k = \dim(\mathcal{N}(A))$ and $r = \text{rank}(A) = \#$ of leading 1's $= \dim(CS(A)) = \dim(RS(A))$.