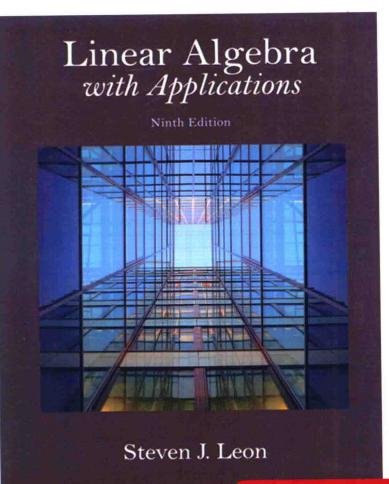


# 线性代数

(英文版·第9版)





史蒂文 J. 利昂(Steven J. Leon) 马萨诸塞大学达特茅斯分校

#### 华章数学原版精品系列

# 线性代数

(英文版・第9版)

# Linear Algebra with Applications (Ninth Edition)

(美) 史蒂文 J. 利昂 (Steven J. Leon) 著马萨诸塞大学达特茅斯分校



#### 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

线性代数 (英文版・第9版) / (美) 史蒂文 J. 利昂 (Steven J. Leon) 著. 一北京: 机械工 业出版社, 2017.2

(华章数学原版精品系列)

书名原文: Linear Algebra with Applications, Ninth Edition

ISBN 978-7-111-56150-7

I. 线··· II. 史··· III. 线性代数 - 教材 - 英文 IV. 0151.2

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2017)第 032260号

#### 本书版权登记号:图字:01-2016-9716

Authorized Adaptation from the English Language edition, entitled Linear Algebra with Applications, Ninth Edition (9780321962218) by Steven J. Leon, Copyright © 2015, 2010, 2006 by Pearson Education, Inc., or its affiliates.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by anymeans, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storageretrieval system, without permission from Pearson Education, Inc.

English language adaptation edition published by Pearson Education Asia Ltd., and China Machine Press Copyright © 2017.

English language adaptation edition is manufactured in the People's Republic of China and is authorized for sale only in People's Republic of China excluding Taiwan, Hong Kong SAR and Macau SAR.

本书英文影印版由 Pearson Education Asia Ltd. 授权机械工业出版社独家出版. 未经出版者书面 许可,不得以任何方式复制或抄袭本书内容.

仅限于中华人民共和国境内(不包括香港、澳门特别行政区及台湾地区)销售发行.

本书封面贴有 Pearson Education (培生教育出版集团)激光防伪标签,无标签者不得销售.

出版发行: 机械工业出版社(北京市西城区百万庄大街22号 邮政编码: 100037)

责任编辑:和静

责任校对:殷虹

町

刷: 北京诚信伟业印刷有限公司

次: 2017年3月第1版第1次印刷 版

开

本: 186mm×240mm 1/16

囙 张: 32

号: ISBN 978-7-111-56150-7

价: 79.00元 定

凡购本书, 如有缺页、倒页、脱页, 由本社发行部调换

客服热线:(010)88378991 88361066

购书热线:(010)68326294 88379649 68995259

投稿热线:(010)88379604 读者信箱: hzjsj@hzbook.com

版权所有·侵权必究 封底无防伪标均为盗版

本书法律顾问:北京大成律师事务所 韩光/邹晓东

### 前言

我非常欣喜地看到本书已经出版到了第9版.大量读者的持续支持和热情让我深受鼓舞.现在线性代数的重要性日益凸显,其应用领域也越来越广泛.这在很大程度上是由于过去75年来计算机技术的革命,线性代数在数学课程中的地位已经上升到与微积分同样重要了.同时,现代软件技术为改进线性代数课程的教学方法提供了可能.

本书的第1版出版于1980年.第2版(1986年)中做了很多重要的调整,特别是大大扩展了练习部分,并大幅调整了线性变换章节的内容.此后的每一个版本都有着显著的变化,包括增加MATLAB计算机练习,大量增加应用的数量,多次改变本书不同章节的顺序等.非常幸运的是,我遇到了很多杰出的审稿人,他们的建议使得本书进行了很多重要的改进.就第9版而言,对以前各个版本中都没有进行主要修正的第7章予以了特别的关注.

#### 第9版中的更新内容

#### 1. 在第3章中增加了新的小节

3.2 节讨论了子空间的问题. 当我们求得了齐次线性方程组的解后,给出了一个子空间的重要例子. 这种子空间称为零空间(null space). 新增加的小节用以说明零空间对于求解非齐次线性方程组的解集也是非常有用的. 该小节中包括了新的定理和用来从几何方面描述定理的新图形.3.2 节练习的最后增加了三个相关的问题.

#### 2. 第 1、5、6 和 7 章中增加了新的应用

在第1章中,我们引入了管理科学领域的一个重要应用.管理决策通常涉及在一些可选项中进行选择.我们假设这些选择在头脑中有着固定的目标,并基于一组评估的标准.这些决策通常包括一些并不一定完全相容的人的判断.层次分析法是一种评估不同可选项的方法,其使用一个包含加权标准和对每一个可选项满足标准的程度进行评估的图表.

第1章中,读者会看到如何设置这个图表或分析过程中的决策树.在对图表中的每一项进行了加权和评估后,对所有可选项的总体评估就可以使用简单的矩阵向量运算进行计算了.第5章和第6章中,我们将回顾该应用,并使用更为高级的矩阵方法来探讨如何确定决策过程中合适的权重和评估.最后,在第7章中,我们给出一个数值算法来计算决策过程中的权重向量.

#### 3. 修订了7.1 节并增加了两个小节

重新修正了 7.1 节以适应时代的需要 . 增加了关于 IEEE 浮点数表示法以及数值算法的精度和稳定性的两个小节 . 有关这些内容的例子和练习也相应进行了增补 .

#### 4. 修订了 7.5 节

修订并扩展了对豪斯霍尔德(Householder)变换的讨论.增加了一个新的小节,在该小节中探讨了使用 OR 分解法求解线性方程组的问题.有关该内容的练习也进行了增补.

#### 5. 修订了 7.7 节

7.7 节探讨求解最小二乘问题的数值方法.修订了该节内容,并增加了一个使用改进的格拉姆施密特方法求解最小二乘问题的小节.在该小节中包含了一个新的算法.

#### 内容概要

本书不但适用于低年级的学生,同时也适用于高年级的学生.学生应熟悉微分和积分的基本知识,即学过一个学期的微积分课程.

若本书作为低年级课程的教材,教师应花更多的时间在前面的章节中,并略去后面的很多章节.对更为高级的课程,可以快速浏览前两章中的很多主题,然后较为完整地讲述后面的章节.本书内容讲解细致,初学者在阅读和理解这些材料时不会有什么问题.为进一步帮助学生,书中还给出了大量的例子.每一章后面的计算机练习有助于学生进行数值计算,学生还可尝试将这些结果进行推广.另外,本书中包含很多应用问题,这些应用问题有助于学生开拓思路并理解学过的相关内容.

本书中包含了美国国家科学基金(NSF)发起的、线性代数课程研究小组(LACSG)推荐的所有内容并有所补充.尽管有很多材料无法包含在一学期的课程中,但本书内容相对独立,教师可以很容易略过不需要的材料,此外,学生可以将本书作为参考,并自学略过的主题。

后面给出了针对不同课程的推荐教学大纲.

理论上讲,本书内容可在两学期内讲授.尽管 LACSG 建议线性代数课程要上两个学期,但这在很多大学中并不现实.目前对中级课程还没有一个公认的核心教学大纲.事实上,如果教师希望中级课程的所有内容能编写在一本书中的话,则这本书将非常厚重.本书尽力覆盖了现代应用问题中需要的所有线性代数基本主题.此外,对中级课程还附加了两个可以从网上下载的章节:

http://pearsonhighered.com/leon

#### 建议的教学大纲

#### 1. 两学期课程

在两个学期的教学中,可以包含本书所有的 40 节. 还可以包含一次额外的课来演示如何使用 MATLAB 软件.

#### II. 低年级学生的一学期课程

#### A. 低年级的基本课程

第1章	1.1 ~ 1.6 节	7 讲
	2.1 ~ 2.2 节	2 讲
第3章	3.1 ~ 3.6 节	9 讲
第4章	4.1 ~ 4.3 节	4 讲
第5章	5.1 ~ 5.6 节	9 讲
第6章	6.1 ~ 6.3 节	4 讲
		总计 35 讲

#### B. LACSG 以矩阵为主的课程

线性代数课程研究小组推荐的核心课程中仅包含欧几里得向量空间.因此,对该类课程,可以忽略 3.1 节(这是关于一般向量空间的内容)以及第 3 章到第 6 章中涉及函数空间的所有内容和练习.本书包含了 LACSG 核心教学大纲中的所有内容,无需再引入其他的辅助材料.LACSG 建议用 28 讲讲授核心材料,这可通过采用每周一讲,并结合复习课来完成.如果没有复习课,推荐使用下面的进度表:

第1章	1.1 ~ 1.6 节		7 讲
第2章	2.1 ~ 2.2 节		2 讲
第3章	3.2 ~ 3.6 节		7 讲
第4章	4.1 ~ 4.3 节		2 讲
第5章	5.1 ~ 5.6 节		9 讲
第6章	6.1、6.3 ~ 6.5 节		8 讲
		总计	35 讲

#### III. 一学期高级课程

.在较为高级的课程中,覆盖的内容取决于学生的知识背景.下面是两个35讲的课程.

#### A. 课程 1

第1章	1.1 ~ 1.6 节	6 讲
第2章	2.1 ~ 2.2 节	2 讲
第3章	3.1 ~ 3.6 节	7 讲
第5章	5.1 ~ 5.6 节	9 讲
第6章	6.1~6.7节(如果时间允许,可加上6.8节)	10 讲
第7章	7.4 节	1 讲
	总计	35 讲

#### B. 课程 2

回顾第1	1~3章各主题	5 讲
第4章	4.1 ~ 4.3 节	2 讲
第5章	5.1 ~ 5.6 节	10 讲
第6章	5.1~6.7节(如果时间允许,可加上6.8节)	11 讲
第7章	7.1 ~ 7.4 节 (如果时间允许,可加上 7.1 ~ 7.3 节)	7 讲
	总计	35 讲

#### 计算机练习

本版每一章的结尾均包含一部分计算练习,这些练习是基于 MATLAB 软件包的.本书的 MATLAB 附录介绍了该软件的基本用法.MATLAB 的优势在于,它是矩阵运算的强大工具,并 易于学习.看完附录后,学生应可以完成计算练习,而不需要参考其他的软件书籍或手册.教

学时,建议用一个学时讲授该软件.这些练习可以作为一般的作业,也可作为规定的计算机实验课程的一部分.

ATLAST 书籍可作为本书 MATLAB 练习的辅助材料(见下面的"补充材料").

虽然课程讲解可以不涉及计算机上的应用,但计算机练习有助于强化学生的学习,并为他们提供线性代数学习的新手段.因此,在线性代数的第一门课程中,建议组成线性代数课程学习小组,这种观点被越来越多的人所认同.

#### 补充材料

#### 网络支持和附加章节

本书的两个附加章节可从作者的主页上下载:

http://www.umassd.edu/cas/math/people/facultyandstaff/steveleon

或从 Pearson 网站下载:

http://pearsonhighered.com/leon

附加的章节为:

- 第 8 章 迭代法
- 第9章 标准型

在 Pearson 网站上,还为学生和教师提供了本书中包括的在线练习的链接.作者的主页中还包括了勘误表.

#### 配套书籍

下面给出了本书的配套书籍,

- Student Study Guide for Linear Algebra with Applications. 该手册总结了重要的定理、 定义和本书中给出的概念,其中还包括部分练习的答案和提示,以及对其他练习的建议.
- ATLAST Computer Exercises for Linear Algebra, Second Edition. ATLAST (扩展的线性代数教学用软件工具, Augmenting the Teaching of Linear Algebra using Software Tools) 是 NSF 为鼓励和促进线性代数教学中使用软件而发起的一个项目. 在 1992 ~ 1997 年间, ATLAST 项目指导了 18 个工作组使用 MATLAB 软件包. 这些工作组为基于软件的线性代数教学设计了上机练习、方案和教学计划.1997 年,从这些素材中选择了一部分内容以手册的形式出版.2003 年,这本手册进行了大量的扩充,出版了第 2 版. 第 2 版共 8 章,每章包含一个简短的练习和一个较大的课题.

与 ATLAST 书籍配套开发的软件包(M-文件)可以从 ATLAST 网站下载:

www1.umassd.edu/specialprograms/atlast

此外, Mathematica 用户可以下载由 Richard Neidinger开发的《ATLAST Mathematica Notebooks》.

- Linear Algebra Labs with MATLAB: 3rd ed. David Hill 和 David Zitarelli 著.
- Visualizing Linear Algebra using Maple. Sandra Keith 著.
- A Maple Supplement for Linear Algebra. John Maloney 著.

• Understanding Linear Algebra Using MATLAB. Erwin 和 Margaret Kleinfeld 著.

#### 致谢

感谢本书所有以前版本的审阅人和做出其他贡献的人,特别感谢第9版的审阅人:

Mark Arnold, 阿肯色大学

J. Lee Bumpus, 奥斯汀学院

Michael Cranston,加利福尼亚大学尔湾分校

Matthias Kawski, 亚利桑那州立大学

同时感谢给出评论和建议的大量读者.特别感谢如 LeSheng Jin 建议增加层次分析法应用的读者.

特别感谢 Pearson 出版社的项目经理 Mary Sanger 和助理编辑 Salena Casha. 非常感谢 Tom Wegleitner 所做的准确修改以及相关的手册 . 感谢 Pearson 公司所有编辑、生产和销售人员所做的努力 . 同时感谢集成软件服务项目经理 Abinaya Rajendran.

感谢 Gene Golub 和 Jim Wilkinson 的贡献. 本书第 1 版中的绝大多数内容写于 1977 ~ 1978 年, ·那时作者在斯坦福大学做访问学者. 在此期间, 作者听取了 Gene Golub 和 J. H. Wilkinson 讲授的数值线性代数课程,这些课程对本书有着深刻的影响. 最后,感谢 Germund Dahlquist 对本书早期版本的建议. 尽管 Gene Golub、Jim Wilkinson 和 Germund Dahlquist 已经离世,但他们仍然活在大家的记忆中.

Steven J. Leon sleon@umassd.edu

## Contents

### Preface ix

1	Ma	trices and Systems of Equations	1
	1.1	Systems of Linear Equations	1
	1.2	Row Echelon Form	11
	1.3	Matrix Arithmetic	27
	1.4	Matrix Algebra	46
	1.5	Elementary Matrices	60
	1.6	Partitioned Matrices	70
		MATLAB Exercises	80
		Chapter Test A—True or False	84
		Chapter Test B	85
2	Det	terminants	.87
	2.1	The Determinant of a Matrix	87
	2.2	Properties of Determinants	94
	2.3	Additional Topics and Applications	101
		MATLAB Exercises	109
		Chapter Test A—True or False	111
		Chapter Test B	111
3	Vec	etor Spaces	112
	3.1	Definition and Examples	112
	3.2	Subspaces	119
	3.3	Linear Independence	130
	3.4	Basis and Dimension	141
	3.5	Change of Basis	147
	3.6	Row Space and Column Space	157
		MATLAB Exercises	165
		Chapter Test A—True or False	166
		Chapter Test B	167

4	Lin	ear Transformations	169
	4.1	Definition and Examples	169
	4.2	Matrix Representations of Linear Transformations	178
	4.3	Similarity	192
		MATLAB Exercises	198
		Chapter Test A—True or False	199
		Chapter Test B	200
5	Ort	thogonality	201
	5.1	The Scalar Product in $\mathbb{R}^n$	202
	5.2	Orthogonal Subspaces	217
	5.3	Least Squares Problems	225
	5.4	Inner Product Spaces	238
	5.5	Orthonormal Sets	247
	5.6	The Gram-Schmidt Orthogonalization Process	266
	5.7	Orthogonal Polynomials	275
		MATLAB Exercises	283
		Chapter Test A—True or False	285
		Chapter Test B	285
6	Eig	genvalues	287
	6.1	Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors	288
	6.2	Systems of Linear Differential Equations	301
	6.3	Diagonalization	312
	6.4	Hermitian Matrices	330
	6.5	The Singular Value Decomposition	342
	6.6	Quadratic Forms	356
	6.7	Positive Definite Matrices	370
	6.8	Nonnegative Matrices	377
		MATLAB Exercises	387
		Chapter Test A—True or False	393
		Chapter Test B	393
7	Nu	merical Linear Algebra	395
	7.1	Floating-Point Numbers	396
	7.2	Gaussian Elimination	404

	7.3	Pivoting Strategies	409
	7.4	Matrix Norms and Condition Numbers	415
	7.5	Orthogonal Transformations	429
	7.6	The Eigenvalue Problem	440
	7.7	Least Squares Problems	451
		MATLAB Exercises	463
		Chapter Test A—True or False	468
		Chapter Test B	468
3	Iterative Methods Onlin		Online*
	8.1	Basic Iterative Methods	
)	Canonical Forms Onlin		Online*
	9.1	Nilpotent Operators	
	9.2	The Jordan Canonical Form	
	App	endix: MATLAB	471
		endix: MATLAB iography	471 483

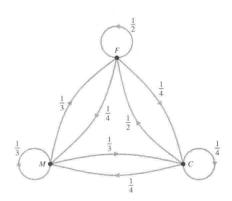
<sup>\*</sup>Online: The supplemental Chapters 8 and 9 can be downloaded from the Internet. See the section of the Preface on supplementary materials.

# 目 录

前言		5.2 正交子空间217
第1章	矩阵与方程组1	5.3 最小二乘问题225
1.	.1 线性方程组	5.4 内积空间 ······238
1.	.2 行阶梯形11	5.5 正交集247
1.	.3 矩阵算术27	5.6 格拉姆 - 施密特正交化过程266
1.	.4 矩阵代数46	5.7 正交多项式275
1.	.5 初等矩阵60	练习······283
. 1.	.6 分块矩阵70	第6章 特征值287
结	段	6.1 特征值和特征向量288
第 2 章	行列式87	6.2 线性微分方程组301
2.	.1 矩阵的行列式87	6.3 对角化312
2.	.2 行列式的性质94	6.4 埃尔米特矩阵 330
2.	.3 附加主题和应用101	6.5 奇异值分解342
经	集习109	6.6 二次型356
第 3 章	<b>台</b> 向量空间 ···········112	6.7 正定矩阵370
3	.1 定义和例子112	6.8 非负矩阵 ······377
3	.2 子空间119	练习 ······387
3	.3 线性无关130	第 7 章 数值线性代数 ······395
3	.4 基和维数141	7.1 浮点数396
3	.5 基变换147	7.2 高斯消元法404
3	.6 行空间和列空间157	7.3 主元选择策略······409
4	集习165	7.4 矩阵范数和条件数415
第 4 章	线性变换169	7.5 正交变换429
4	.1 定义和例子169	7.6 特征值问题440
4	.2 线性变换的矩阵表示178	7.7 最小二乘问题······451
4	.3 相似性192	练习463
经	东习198	附录 MATLAB ·······471
第 5 章	正交性201	参考文献
5	.1 R"中的标量积 ······202	部分练习参考答案486

#### CHAPTER





# Matrices and Systems of Equations

Probably the most important problem in mathematics is that of solving a system of linear equations. Well over 75 percent of all mathematical problems encountered in scientific or industrial applications involve solving a linear system at some stage. By using the methods of modern mathematics, it is often possible to take a sophisticated problem and reduce it to a single system of linear equations. Linear systems arise in applications to such areas as business, economics, sociology, ecology, demography, genetics, electronics, engineering, and physics. Therefore, it seems appropriate to begin this book with a section on linear systems.

#### III Systems of Linear Equations

A linear equation in n unknowns is an equation of the form

$$a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + \cdots + a_nx_n = b$$

where  $a_1, a_2, ..., a_n$  and b are real numbers and  $x_1, x_2, ..., x_n$  are variables. A *linear system* of m equations in n unknowns is then a system of the form

$$a_{11}x_{1} + a_{12}x_{2} + \dots + a_{1n}x_{n} = b_{1}$$

$$a_{21}x_{1} + a_{22}x_{2} + \dots + a_{2n}x_{n} = b_{2}$$

$$\vdots$$

$$a_{m1}x_{1} + a_{m2}x_{2} + \dots + a_{mn}x_{n} = b_{m}$$
(1)

where the  $a_{ij}$ 's and the  $b_i$ 's are all real numbers. We will refer to systems of the form (1) as  $m \times n$  linear systems. The following are examples of linear systems:

(a) 
$$x_1 + 2x_2 = 5$$
 (b)  $x_1 - x_2 + x_3 = 2$  (c)  $x_1 + x_2 = 2$   $2x_1 + 3x_2 = 8$   $2x_1 + x_2 - x_3 = 4$   $x_1 - x_2 = 1$   $x_1 = 4$ 

System (a) is a  $2 \times 2$  system, (b) is a  $2 \times 3$  system, and (c) is a  $3 \times 2$  system.

By a solution of an  $m \times n$  system, we mean an ordered n-tuple of numbers  $(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n)$  that satisfies all the equations of the system. For example, the ordered pair (1, 2) is a solution of system (a), since

$$1 \cdot (1) + 2 \cdot (2) = 5$$
  
 $2 \cdot (1) + 3 \cdot (2) = 8$ 

The ordered triple (2,0,0) is a solution of system (b), since

$$1 \cdot (2) - 1 \cdot (0) + 1 \cdot (0) = 2$$
  
 $2 \cdot (2) + 1 \cdot (0) - 1 \cdot (0) = 4$ 

Actually, system (b) has many solutions. If  $\alpha$  is any real number, it is easily seen that the ordered triple  $(2, \alpha, \alpha)$  is a solution. However, system (c) has no solution. It follows from the third equation that the first coordinate of any solution would have to be 4. Using  $x_1 = 4$  in the first two equations, we see that the second coordinate must satisfy

$$4 + x_2 = 2$$
  
 $4 - x_2 = 1$ 

Since there is no real number that satisfies both of these equations, the system has no solution. If a linear system has no solution, we say that the system is *inconsistent*. If the system has at least one solution, we say that it is *consistent*. Thus system (c) is inconsistent, while systems (a) and (b) are both consistent.

The set of all solutions of a linear system is called the *solution set* of the system. If a system is inconsistent, its solution set is empty. A consistent system will have a nonempty solution set. To solve a consistent system, we must find its solution set.

#### $2 \times 2$ Systems

Let us examine geometrically a system of the form

$$a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 = b_1$$
  
$$a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 = b_2$$

Each equation can be represented graphically as a line in the plane. The ordered pair  $(x_1, x_2)$  will be a solution of the system if and only if it lies on both lines. For example, consider the three systems

(i) 
$$x_1 + x_2 = 2$$
 (ii)  $x_1 + x_2 = 2$  (iii)  $x_1 + x_2 = 2$   $-x_1 - x_2 = -2$ 

The two lines in system (i) intersect at the point (2,0). Thus,  $\{(2,0)\}$  is the solution set of (i). In system (ii) the two lines are parallel. Therefore, system (ii) is inconsistent and hence its solution set is empty. The two equations in system (iii) both represent the same line. Any point on this line will be a solution of the system (see Figure 1.1.1).

In general, there are three possibilities: the lines intersect at a point, they are parallel, or both equations represent the same line. The solution set then contains either one, zero, or infinitely many points.

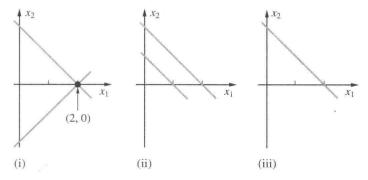


Figure 1.1.1.

The situation is the same for  $m \times n$  systems. An  $m \times n$  system may or may not be consistent. If it is consistent, it must have either exactly one solution or infinitely many solutions. These are the only possibilities. We will see why this is so in Section 1.2 when we study the row echelon form. Of more immediate concern is the problem of finding all solutions of a given system. To tackle this problem, we introduce the notion of equivalent systems.

#### Equivalent Systems

Consider the two systems

(a) 
$$3x_1 + 2x_2 - x_3 = -2$$
  
 $x_2 = 3$   
 $2x_3 = 4$   
(b)  $3x_1 + 2x_2 - x_3 = -2$   
 $-3x_1 - x_2 + x_3 = 5$   
 $3x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3 = 2$ 

System (a) is easy to solve because it is clear from the last two equations that  $x_2 = 3$  and  $x_3 = 2$ . Using these values in the first equation, we get

$$3x_1 + 2 \cdot 3 - 2 = -2$$
$$x_1 = -2$$

Thus, the solution of the system is (-2, 3, 2). System (b) seems to be more difficult to solve. Actually, system (b) has the same solution as system (a). To see this, add the first two equations of the system:

$$3x_1 + 2x_2 - x_3 = -2$$

$$-3x_1 - x_2 + x_3 = 5$$

$$x_2 = 3$$

If  $(x_1, x_2, x_3)$  is any solution of (b), it must satisfy all the equations of the system. Thus, it must satisfy any new equation formed by adding two of its equations. Therefore,  $x_2$  must equal 3. Similarly,  $(x_1, x_2, x_3)$  must satisfy the new equation formed by subtracting the first equation from the third:

$$3x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3 = 2$$

$$3x_1 + 2x_2 - x_3 = -2$$

$$2x_3 = 4$$

Therefore, any solution of system (**b**) must also be a solution of system (**a**). By a similar argument, it can be shown that any solution of (**a**) is also a solution of (**b**). This can be done by subtracting the first equation from the second:

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 x_2 &=& 3 \\
 3x_1 + 2x_2 - x_3 &=& -2 \\
 -3x_1 - x_2 + x_3 &=& 5
 \end{array}$$

Then add the first and third equations:

$$3x_1 + 2x_2 - x_3 = -2$$
$$2x_3 = 4$$
$$3x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3 = 2$$

Thus,  $(x_1, x_2, x_3)$  is a solution of system (b) if and only if it is a solution of system (a). Therefore, both systems have the same solution set,  $\{(-2, 3, 2)\}$ .

Definition

Two systems of equations involving the same variables are said to be **equivalent** if they have the same solution set.

Clearly, if we interchange the order in which two equations of a system are written, this will have no effect on the solution set. The reordered system will be equivalent to the original system. For example, the systems

$$x_1 + 2x_2 = 4$$
  $4x_1 + x_2 = 6$   
 $3x_1 - x_2 = 2$  and  $3x_1 - x_2 = 2$   
 $4x_1 + x_2 = 6$   $x_1 + 2x_2 = 4$ 

both involve the same three equations and, consequently, they must have the same solution set.

If one equation of a system is multiplied through by a nonzero real number, this will have no effect on the solution set, and the new system will be equivalent to the original system. For example, the systems

$$x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 3$$
 and  $2x_1 + 2x_2 + 2x_3 = 6$   
 $-2x_1 - x_2 + 4x_3 = 1$   $-2x_1 - x_2 + 4x_3 = 1$ 

are equivalent.

If a multiple of one equation is added to another equation, the new system will be equivalent to the original system. This follows since the n-tuple  $(x_1, \ldots, x_n)$  will satisfy the two equations

$$a_{i1}x_1 + \dots + a_{in}x_n = b_i$$
  
$$a_{i1}x_1 + \dots + a_{in}x_n = b_i$$

if and only if it satisfies the equations

$$a_{i1}x_1 + \dots + a_{in}x_n = b_i$$
  
$$(a_{j1} + \alpha a_{i1})x_1 + \dots + (a_{jn} + \alpha a_{in})x_n = b_j + \alpha b_i$$

To summarize, there are three operations that can be used on a system to obtain an equivalent system:

- **I.** The order in which any two equations are written may be interchanged.
- II. Both sides of an equation may be multiplied by the same nonzero real number.
- III. A multiple of one equation may be added to (or subtracted from) another.

Given a system of equations, we may use these operations to obtain an equivalent system that is easier to solve.

#### $n \times n$ Systems

Let us restrict ourselves to  $n \times n$  systems for the remainder of this section. We will show that if an  $n \times n$  system has exactly one solution, then operations **I** and **III** can be used to obtain an equivalent "strictly triangular system."

Definition

A system is said to be in **strict triangular form** if, in the kth equation, the coefficients of the first k-1 variables are all zero and the coefficient of  $x_k$  is nonzero  $(k=1,\ldots,n)$ .

EXAMPLE I The system

$$3x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3 = 1$$
$$x_2 - x_3 = 2$$
$$2x_3 = 4$$

is in strict triangular form, since in the second equation the coefficients are 0, 1, -1, respectively, and in the third equation the coefficients are 0, 0, 2, respectively. Because of the strict triangular form, the system is easy to solve. It follows from the third equation that  $x_3 = 2$ . Using this value in the second equation, we obtain

$$x_2 - 2 = 2$$
 or  $x_2 = 4$ 

Using  $x_2 = 4$ ,  $x_3 = 2$  in the first equation, we end up with

$$3x_1 + 2 \cdot 4 + 2 = 1$$
$$x_1 = -3$$

Thus, the solution of the system is (-3, 4, 2).

Any  $n \times n$  strictly triangular system can be solved in the same manner as the last example. First, the nth equation is solved for the value of  $x_n$ . This value is used in the (n-1)st equation to solve for  $x_{n-1}$ . The values  $x_n$  and  $x_{n-1}$  are used in the (n-2)nd equation to solve for  $x_{n-2}$ , and so on. We will refer to this method of solving a strictly triangular system as *back substitution*.