

Answer on Question #65544, Math / Statistics and probability

Find all the basic solutions of the following system of equations:

$$\begin{cases} x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3 = 14 \\ 3x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 12 \end{cases}$$

Which of these solutions are basic feasible solutions?

Solution

Definition Basic Solution: A solution obtained by setting exactly $n-m$ variables to zero provided the determinant formed by the columns associated to the remaining m variables is non-zero is called Basic Solution.

$$\begin{cases} x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3 = 14 \\ 3x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 12 \end{cases}$$

$$[A, b] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 14 \\ 3 & 1 & 1 & 12 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - (3)R_1$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 14 \\ 0 & -5 & -2 & -30 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R_2 \rightarrow R_2 / (-5)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 14 \\ 0 & 1 & 2/5 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R_1 \rightarrow R_1 - (2)R_2$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1/5 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2/5 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

Basic solutions

$$x_1 = 2, \quad x_2 = 6, \quad x_3 = 0$$

$$x_1 = -1, \quad x_2 = 0, \quad x_3 = 15$$

$$x_1 = 0, \quad x_2 = 2, \quad x_3 = 10$$

x is a feasible basic solution if x is basic and $x \geq 0$.

Therefore

$x = (2, 6, 0)^T$ is a basic feasible solution

$x = (-1, 0, 15)^T$ is a basic feasible solution but not feasible

$x = (0, 2, 10)^T$ is a basic feasible solution

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