

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} 2x + 3y + 2z = 100 \\ x + y + 4z = 70 \\ 20x + 10y + 10z = 500 \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{System of linear} \\ \text{equations} \end{array}$$

This system is equivalent to the following system.

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} R_2 \leftarrow R_2 - \frac{1}{2} R_1 \\ R_3 \leftarrow R_3 - 10 R_1 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} 2x + 3y + 2z = 100 \\ -\frac{1}{2}y + 3z = 20 \\ -20y - 10z = -500 \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{Second system} \\ \text{of equations} \end{array}$$

This second system of equations is equivalent to the following system.

$$[R_3 \leftarrow R_3 - 40 R_2]$$

$$\begin{array}{l} 2x + 3y + 2z = 100 \\ -\frac{1}{2}y + 3z = 20 \\ -130z = -1300 \end{array}$$

$$0x + y + z = 10$$

$$2x + y + 3z = 4$$

$$2x + 2y + z = 12$$

Back substitution:

$$z = 10$$

$$y = 20$$

$$x = 10$$

Terminology

2 is the pivot in the first stage.

$-\frac{1}{2}$ is the pivot in the second stage.

The above procedure for solving a system of linear equations is called Gaussian elimination.

Q) Does this procedure always work?

A) No. It doesn't work if a pivot at some stage is zero. Some systems have no solution and so the procedure clearly can't work on these.

Back to Calculus

Rates of Change and Differentiation

Given a function $f(x)$ we define its derivative to be a function $f'(x)$ defined as

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

Example Find the derivative $f'(x)$ of the function $f(x) = x^2$.

Solⁿ

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x+h)^2 - x^2}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cancel{x^2} + 2hx + h^2 - \cancel{x^2}}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(2x+h)\cancel{h}}{\cancel{h}}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} (2x+h)$$

$$= 2x$$

So for $f(x) = x^2$ we find

$$f'(x) = 2x$$

Notation For $y = f(x)$ we'll often write

$$\frac{dy}{dx}$$

instead of

$$f'(x)$$

• $\frac{d}{dx} x^n = nx^{n-1}$ for any $n \neq 0$.

• $\frac{d}{dx} \sin x = \cos x$

• $\frac{d}{dx} \cos x = -\sin x$

• $e = 2.71828\dots$

$$\frac{d}{dx} e^x = e^x$$

• etc.