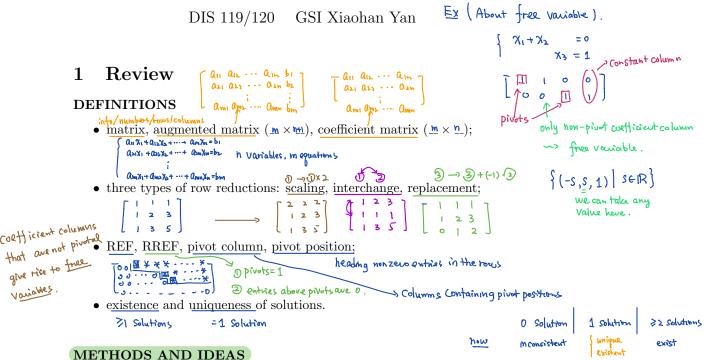
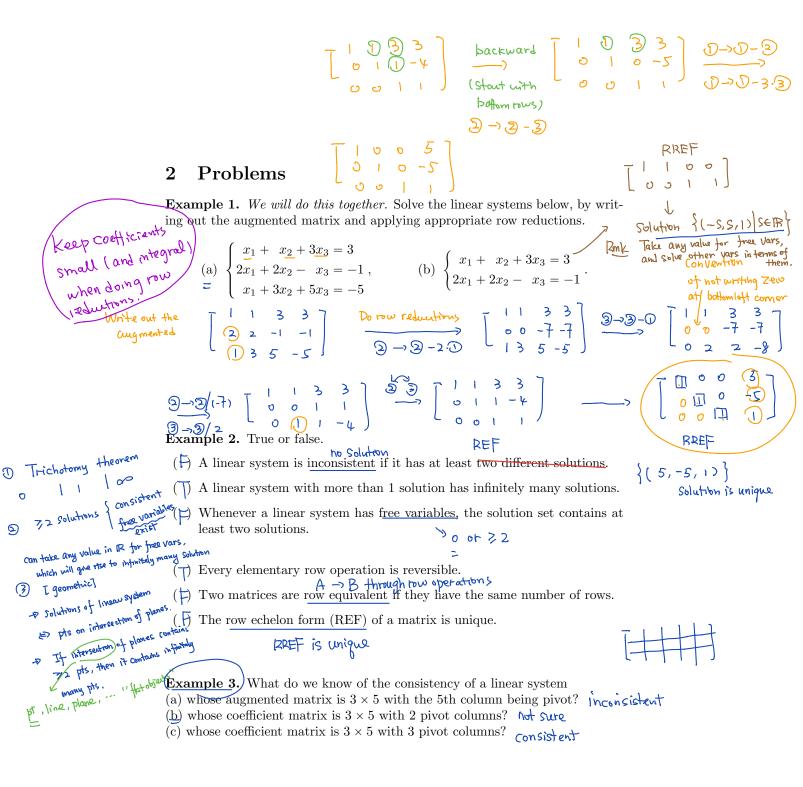
## Worksheet 2 (Jan. 25)



- METHODS AND IDEAS
  - To solve linear systems, we transform them into simpler systems. This can be done by writing the coefficients and constants of a system into a matrix (called the **augmented matrix**), and then doing row reductions to transform the matrix into its **row Echelon form**, or even its **row reduced Echelon form**. [For the algorithm see P12 of the professor's lecture notes 2.]
- (Criterion of existence and uniqueness) Solutions of a linear system exist if and only if the last column (the constant column) of REF of the augmented matrix is not pivot. The solution uniquely exists if and only if there are no free variables, i.e. all except the last column of REF are pivot.
  - Note that we need only **REF** but not RREF to determine existence and uniqueness.



**Example 4.** Find all intersection points of the following three planes in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ 

$$x_1 + x_2 + 3x_3 = 3$$
,  $2x_1 + 2x_2 - x_3 = -1$ ,  $x_1 + 3x_2 + 5x_3 = -5$ .

Hint: Recall Example 1.

**Remark 1.** What else can the intersection of three planes in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  look like? If this is too hard, what can the intersection of two lines in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  look like?