

# Echelon Forms

Sect 1.2 (Lay's Book).

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 & -2 & -5 \\ 0 & -2 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 & 4 & -3 & 2 & 5 \\ 0 & 9 & -2 & 2 & 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 6 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad D = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -2 & 3 & 0 & -24 \\ 0 & -3 & -2 & 2 & 0 & -7 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 9 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$E = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

## 1.2 Row Reduction and Echelon Form.

Previous to the definition:

Nonzero row or Nonzero Column:

It is a row or column that contains at least one nonzero number or entry.

Leading Entry of a Row:

It is the leftmost nonzero entry in a nonzero row.

Some important forms of matrices

Property 1:- All nonzero rows are above any row of all zeros.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 & 3 & 4 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \sim \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 5 & 3 & 4 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Property 2:- Each leading entry of a row is in a column to the right of the leading entry of the row above it.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 4 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & -5 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \sim \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 3 & -5 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 4 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

A Consequence of properties 1 and 2 is

Property 3.- All entries in a column below a leading entry are zeros.

Definition.

A rectangular matrix is in echelon form or row echelon form if it satisfies properties 1 and 2.

Two more important properties:

Property 4.- The leading entry in each nonzero row is 1.

Property 5.- Each leading 1 is the only nonzero entry in its column.

The previous matrices are in row echelon form but they do not satisfy properties 4 and 5.

In fact,

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 5 & 3 & 4 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 3 & -5 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 4 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

However, by performing some more row operations they can be transformed into "row-equivalent" matrices that satisfy properties 4 and 5

In fact,

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 5 & 3 & 4 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow[\uparrow]{\frac{\text{row 2}}{5}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{3}{5} & \frac{4}{5} & -\frac{1}{5} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{(-2)\text{row 2} + \text{row 1}} \boxed{\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -\frac{6}{5} & -\frac{8}{5} & \frac{22}{5} \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{3}{5} & \frac{4}{5} & -\frac{1}{5} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}}$$

Also,

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 3 & -5 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 4 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow[\uparrow]{\frac{\text{row 2}}{2}, \frac{\text{row 3}}{4}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 3 & -5 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & \frac{5}{4} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \sim$$

$$\xrightarrow{(-3)\text{row 2} + \text{row 1}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & -5 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & \frac{5}{4} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{(5)\text{row 3} + \text{row 1}} \boxed{\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \frac{41}{4} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & \frac{5}{4} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}}$$

Definition A rectangular matrix in echelon form is in reduced row echelon form or reduced echelon form if it satisfies properties 4 and 5.

## Definition

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Solutions of Linear Systems from Augmented matrix in row echelon form.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -2 & -5 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{cases} x_3 = 1 \\ x_2 = 2 - 3x_3 = 2 - 3(1) = -1 \\ x_1 = -5 + 2x_3 = -5 + 2 = -3 \end{cases}$$

There are no free variables

"Unique Solution"

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 5 & -4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{cases} x_3 = -4 - 5x_4 \\ x_2 = 2 - 3x_4 \\ x_1 = -1 - 2x_4 \end{cases}$$

$x_4$  is called a free Variable.

"Infinitely many solutions"

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & -11 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$0 = 0$$

$$0 = 1 \text{ Contradiction!}$$

$$x_3 = 5$$

$$x_1 = -11 - 2x_2$$

"No Solutions"

Are these matrices in "Reduced Row Echelon Forms"?

## Definition

Two matrices are called row equivalent if there is a sequence of elementary row operations that transforms one matrix into the other.

## Theorem 1 Uniqueness of the Reduced Echelon Form

Each matrix is row equivalent to one and only one reduced echelon matrix.

Observation: For any echelon form matrix <sup>of a given matrix</sup> the leading entries are always in the same position.

## Definition

A pivot position in a matrix  $A$  is a location in  $A$  that corresponds to a leading 1 in the reduced echelon form of  $A$ .

A pivot column is a column of  $A$  that contains a pivot position.

From the previous observation and definition, we can also define a pivot position as a location in the original matrix  $A$  that corresponds to a leading entry in any echelon form of  $A$ .

# Section 1.2 (Lay's Book)

(Edition 4th) Problem #3

$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 4 & 8 \\ 2 & 4 & 6 & 8 \\ 3 & 6 & 9 & 12 \end{bmatrix}$ 
 $\xrightarrow{\begin{matrix} \text{Leading entry 1st row} \\ (-2)\text{row}_1 + \text{row}_2 \\ (-3)\text{row}_1 + \text{row}_3 \end{matrix}}$ 
 $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 4 & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & -8 \\ 0 & 0 & -3 & -12 \end{bmatrix}$ 
 $\xrightarrow{(-\frac{3}{2})\text{row}_2 + \text{row}_3}$

first non-zero entry in column 1

$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 4 & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & -8 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ 
 $\xrightarrow{(-\frac{1}{2})\text{row}_2}$ 
 $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 4 & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ 
 $\xrightarrow{(-4)\text{row}_2 + \text{row}_1}$ 
 $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & -8 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

Pivot positions

Pivot positions

Pivot positions

$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 4 & 8 \\ 2 & 4 & 6 & 8 \\ 3 & 6 & 9 & 12 \end{bmatrix}$

Pivot positions

Pivot columns: 1 and 3.

Echelon form of A

Reduced Row echelon form of A

If the matrix  $A$  were the augmented matrix of a linear system then, this linear system would be

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 + 2x_2 + 4x_3 &= 8 \\ 2x_1 + 4x_2 + 6x_3 &= 8 \\ 3x_1 + 6x_2 + 9x_3 &= 12 \end{aligned} \quad A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 4 & 8 \\ 2 & 4 & 6 & 8 \\ 3 & 6 & 9 & 12 \end{bmatrix}$$

After the row reduction

$$\tilde{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & -8 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{aligned} x_1 + 2x_2 &= -8 \\ x_3 &= 4 \\ 0 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

General Solution:

$$\begin{cases} x_1 = -8 - 2x_2 \\ x_2 \text{ free} \\ x_3 = 4 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= -8 - 2x_2 \text{ free variable} \\ x_3 &= 4 \end{aligned}$$

Basic Variables

They correspond to pivot positions.

Infinitely many solutions. They depend on the value of  $x_2$ .

If  $x_2 = 1 \Rightarrow x_1 = -10, x_3 = 4$ . Two solutions are

If  $x_2 = -1 \Rightarrow x_1 = -6, x_3 = 4$

$$\begin{cases} x_1 = -10 \\ x_2 = 1 \\ x_3 = 4 \end{cases}, \begin{cases} x_1 = -6 \\ x_2 = -1 \\ x_3 = 4 \end{cases}$$

## THEOREM 2 Existence and Uniqueness Theorem

1. A linear system is consistent if and only if the rightmost column of the augmented matrix is not a pivot column, that is, if and only if an echelon form of the augmented matrix has no row of the form  $[0 \ . \ . \ . \ 0 \ b]$ , with  $b \neq 0$ .
  
2. If a linear system is consistent, then the solution set contains either
  - (i) a unique solution, when there are no free variables, or
 

*Equivalent to say every column is a pivot column. of the coefficient matrix.*
  
  - (ii) infinitely many solutions, when there is at least one free variable.
 

*Equivalent to say:*  
*Not every column is a pivot column. of the Coefficient matrix*

Consider the following coefficients matrices.  
in echelon form.

I)  $A_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  # nonzero rows = 3  
Linear System  
will be consistent

# free Variables = 0.  
# of Variables = 3

II)  $A_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$  # nonzero rows = 3  
Lin. syst. consistent  
# free Variables = 1  
# Variables = 3

$A_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 & 2 & -4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  # nonzero rows = 2  
Linear system consistent  
# free Variables = 2  
# Variables = 4

Notice,

$\# \text{ free Variables} = \# \text{ Variables} - \# \text{ nonzero rows.}$

|| definition

$\text{rank}(A)$ .

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Def. The rank of a coefficient matrix  $A$  is the number of nonzero rows in any of their row echelon form matrices.

Rank Theorem.

Let  $A$  be the coefficient matrix of a system of linear equations with  $n$  variables. If the system is consistent, then

$$\# \text{ free Variables} = n - \text{rank}(A).$$

## Homogeneous System

$$\begin{aligned} x - y + 2z &= 0 \\ 4x - 3y - z &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Constant term in each equation is zero} \\ \# \text{ equations} = m = 2 \end{array}$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -1 & 2 & 0 \\ 4 & -3 & -1 & 0 \end{array} \right) \sim \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & -7 & 7 & 0 \end{array} \right) \quad \text{free Variable}$$

$[A|0]$

# Variables =  $n = 3$ ,  $\# \text{ nonzero rows in Echelon form matrix} = \text{rank}(\text{coeff. matrix}) = 2$

$$\# \text{ free Variables} = n - \text{rank}(A) = 3 - 2 = 1.$$

Thm 2.3 If  $[A|0]$  corresponds to a homogeneous system of  $m$  equations with  $n$  variables and  $m < n$ , then the system has infinitely many solutions.

Proof - i)  $\# \text{ nonzero rows} \leq m < n \rightarrow \text{rank}(A) < n$

ii) Also, the system is consisting

then, according to rank theorem

$$\# \text{ free Variables} = n - \text{rank}(A) > 0 \rightarrow \text{Infinitely many Solutions.}$$

## 2.2 # 30) Gauss-Jordan Elimination

$$-x_1 + 3x_2 - 2x_3 + 4x_4 = 0$$

$$2x_1 - 6x_2 + x_3 - 2x_4 = -3$$

$$x_1 - 3x_2 + 4x_3 - 8x_4 = 2$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 3 & -2 & 4 & 0 \\ 2 & -6 & 1 & -2 & -3 \\ 1 & -3 & 4 & -8 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \sim$$

$$\sim \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 & 2 & -4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -3 & 6 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & -4 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Row 1 =  $(-1) \times \text{row 1}$   
 Row 2 =  $(-2) \times \text{Row 1} + \text{row 2}$   
 Row 3 =  $(-1) \times \text{Row 1} + \text{row 3}$

$$\sim \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 & 2 & -4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Row 2 =  $-\frac{1}{3} \times \text{row 2}$   
 Row 3 =  $(-2) \times \text{Row 2} + \text{row 3}$

In row echelon form

$$\sim \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 & 0 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Row 1 =  $(2) \times \text{row 2} + \text{row 1}$   
 Backward Substitution  
 $x_3 = 1 + 2x_4$  (Free Variables)  
 $x_1 = -2 + 3x_2$  (Free Variables)

In reduced row echelon form

So Vector Solutions

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 + 3x_2 \\ x_2 \\ 1 + 2x_4 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + x_4 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

2.2.

#46) Line of intersection of planes:

$$4x + y + z = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad 2x - y + 3z = 2.$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 4 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & -1 & 3 & 2 \end{array} \right) \sim \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 2 & -1 & 3 & 2 \\ 4 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right) \quad (-2)$$

$$\sim \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 2 & -1 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & 3 & -5 & -4 \end{array} \right) \quad \begin{array}{l} 3y = -4 + 5z \quad (1) \\ 2x = 2 + x_2 - 3z \quad (2) \end{array}$$

or

$$\text{or } \boxed{y = -\frac{4}{3} + \frac{5}{3}z}$$

$$2x_1 = 2 - \frac{4}{3} + \frac{5}{3}z - 3z$$

$$2x = \frac{2}{3} - \frac{4}{3}z$$

$$\boxed{x = \frac{2}{6} - \frac{4}{6}z}$$

Then,

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{4}{6}z + \frac{2}{6} \\ \frac{5}{3}z - \frac{4}{3} \\ z \end{bmatrix} = z \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{2}{3} \\ \frac{5}{3} \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{3} \\ -\frac{4}{3} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

So line of intersection:

$$\boxed{\vec{X} = t \vec{v} + \vec{p}}, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \vec{v} = \begin{pmatrix} -2/3 \\ 5/3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\vec{p} = \begin{pmatrix} 1/3 \\ -4/3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$