

Definition (Matrix)

If m and n are positive integers then an $m \times n$ matrix is a rectangular array of the form:

$$\begin{matrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} & \dots & a_{3n} \\ & & & \ddots & \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & a_{m3} & \dots & a_{mn} \end{matrix}$$

There are n columns

There are m rows

Notice that each entry number inside the array is of the following form: a_{ij} for $1 \leq i \leq m$, $1 \leq j \leq n$

A matrix with $m, n \geq 1$ is said to be a matrix of size: $m \times n$

When $m = n$ a matrix has the same number of rows and columns. We call it a square matrix. It is said to have size $n \times n$ ($n \geq 1$) or order n , $n \geq 1$

If a given matrix is square of size $n \times n$, $n \geq 1$, then the entries $a_{11}, a_{22}, a_{33}, \dots, a_{nn}$ are called the main diagonal entries.

Note: Notice that a typical diagonal entry is of the form a_{ii} , $1 \leq i \leq n$

Example:

Consider matrix $A = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 4 & -1 & 3 \\ 7 & 2 & 6 \end{pmatrix}$

Note that A is a square matrix of size 3×3 . The diagonal entries are: $a_{11} = -2$, $a_{22} = -1$, $a_{33} = 6$

Definition Augmented matrix and coefficient matrix:

Given a system of m linear equations in n variables, then the matrix derived from the coefficients and the constant terms of the system is called: the augmented matrix of the system

Example:

$$(*) \begin{cases} 2x + y = 3 \\ -x + y = 1 \end{cases}$$

(*) is a system of $n = 2$ linear equations in $n = 2$ variables.

The corresponding augmented matrix is:

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

The corresponding coefficient matrix is:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Recall: (Elementary row operations)

- 1) Interchanging two rows
- 2) Multiply one row by a non-zero constant
- 3) Adding a multiple of one row to another row

Row-echelon form and reduced row-echelon form

form:

A matrix in a row-echelon form has the following properties:

- 1) Any row consisting of zeros occur at the bottom of the matrix
- 2) For each row that does not consist entirely of zeros, the first non-zero entry is 1
- 3) For two successive (non-zero) rows, the leading 1 in the higher row is farther to the left than the leading 1 in the lower row.

example:

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

A matrix in a row-echelon form, but not in a reduced row-echelon form

4) A matrix is in a reduced row-echelon form when every column that has a leading 1, it has zeros in every position above and below its leading 1.

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

The matrix is in a reduced and row-echelon form, this implies that it is in a row-echelon form

Remark: To solve a system of linear equations, we can use a Gaussian Elimination with back substitution:

- 1) write the augmented matrix of the system
- 2) use elementary row operations to write the matrix in a row-echelon form:
- 3) write the system of linear equations corresponding to the matrix obtained in step 2)
- 4) Use a back substitution to solve the system

Example: Solve the given system using a Gaussian Elimination:

$$(*) \quad \begin{cases} x - 2y + 3z = 9 \\ -x + 3y = -4 \\ 2x - 5y + 5z = 17 \end{cases}$$

Answer: $(*)$ is a system if $m = 3$ linear equations in $n = 3$ variables

The corresponding augmented matrix to $(*)$ is:

$$* \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 & 9 \\ -1 & 3 & 0 & -4 \\ 2 & -5 & 5 & 17 \end{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} R_1 \\ R_2 \\ R_3 \end{matrix}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 & 9 \\ -1 & 3 & 0 & -4 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 & 9 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & 5 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 & 9 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 & 9 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

The matrix is on a row-echelon form

The corresponding system is:

$$\begin{cases} x - 2y + 3z = 9 \\ y + 3z = 5 \\ z = 2 \end{cases}$$

We use a back substitution

$$\textcircled{2} \rightarrow y = 5 - 3z = 5 - 3(2) = 5 - 6 = -1$$

$$\textcircled{3} \rightarrow x = 2y - 3z - 9 = 2(-1) - 3(2) - 9 = 1$$

The system is consistent, it has a unique solution and the solution set is $\{(1, -1, 2)\}$

Remark: A Gauss-Jordan Elimination involves writing the matrix associated to the system in a reduced row-echelon form:

After applying elementary row-operation we showed that the augmented matrix to system (*) can be written in a row-echelon form

$$2 * \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 & 9 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 9 & 19 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 9 & 19 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

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

Then $x = 1$, $y = -2$, $z = 2$

The system is consistent and has a unique solution set $\{(1, -1, 2)\}$

Example: Solve the system using gauss-elimination