

Let us not forget the **elementary matrices**: $S_{p,q}$, $M_p(\lambda)$ and $L_{p,q}(\lambda)$. Write them once more for your recollection. Multiplying these matrices on the left of a matrix A is called an **elementary row operation** on A .

Let us call a matrix to be a **row echelon matrix**¹ if it has the following three properties.

- I. First nonzero entry in each row is 1. This entry is to be called the **pivot** of the row.
- II. The pivot of a (not entirely 0) row is to the right of the pivot of the preceding row. If a row is entirely 0 then all the subsequent rows are also entirely 0.
- III. All entries above pivots are zero. (or equivalently, the pivot element of a row is the only nonzero element of the column it belongs to).

¹ Different books will have a variation in this definition. We stick to the above definition in this course.

We may convert a matrix into a row echelon matrix through successive elementary row operations.

1. Which of the following are row echelon matrices?

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \text{III} & & & & & & \\ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 5 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, & \text{II} & & \\ & & & & & & \\ \text{III} & & & & & & \\ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, & \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, & \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{array}$$

✓! Vacuously!

In each of the cases when matrix is not row echelon, list the condition(s) I, II, III of the definition that it fails to satisfy.

2. Using 0, 1 and 2 make as many 2×2 row echelon matrices as you can.
3. Using 0 and 1 how many 3×3 row echelon matrices can you make? List all of them.

2. $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & * \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

There are six such matrices.

3. $\begin{pmatrix} * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} * & * & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & * \\ 0 & 1 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$

$* = 1 \text{ or } 0$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$8 + 3 + 4 + 1 = 16$ matrices.

4. Is there a 3×3 rotation matrix which is a row echelon matrix?

Yes,
$$I_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = R_{x,0} = R_{y,0} = R_{z,0}$$

There is no other rotation matrix that is a row echelon matrix. Why?

5. Convert the following matrices into a row echelon matrix by suitable sequence of elementary row operations.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 4 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 5 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{L_{2,1}(-4)} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\xrightarrow{L_{3,1}(-7)} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 \\ 0 & -6 & -12 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 \\ 0 & -6 & -12 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{M_2\left(-\frac{1}{3}\right)} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & -6 & -12 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\xrightarrow{M_3\left(-\frac{1}{6}\right)} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{L_{3,2}(-1)} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\xrightarrow{L_{1,2}(-2)} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

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

This matrix is a row echelon matrix

Just to summarize

$$L_{1,2}(-2) L_{3,2}(-1) M_3\left(-\frac{1}{6}\right) M_2\left(-\frac{1}{3}\right) L_{3,1}(-7) L_{2,1}(-4) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{pmatrix} \\ = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

For fun, let us calculate

$$L_{1,2}(-2) L_{3,2}(-1) M_3\left(-\frac{1}{6}\right) M_2\left(-\frac{1}{3}\right) L_{3,1}(-7) L_{2,1}(-4) \\ = L_{1,2}(-2) L_{3,2}(-1) M_3\left(-\frac{1}{6}\right) M_2\left(-\frac{1}{3}\right) L_{3,1}(-7) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -4 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ = L_{1,2}(-2) L_{3,2}(-1) M_3\left(-\frac{1}{6}\right) M_2\left(-\frac{1}{3}\right) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -4 & 1 & 0 \\ -7 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ = L_{1,2}(-2) L_{3,2}(-1) M_3\left(-\frac{1}{6}\right) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 4/3 & -1/3 & 0 \\ -7 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ = L_{1,2}(-2) L_{3,2}(-1) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 4/3 & -1/3 & 0 \\ 7/6 & 0 & -1/6 \end{pmatrix} \\ = L_{1,2}(-2) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 4/3 & -1/3 & 0 \\ -1/6 & 1/3 & -1/6 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -5/3 & 2/3 & 0 \\ 4/3 & -1/3 & 0 \\ -1/6 & 1/3 & -1/6 \end{pmatrix}$$

Check that

$$\begin{pmatrix} -5/3 & 2/3 & 0 \\ 4/3 & -1/3 & 0 \\ -1/6 & 1/3 & -1/6 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

and be sure that your calculations are correct!

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 4 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 5 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{L_{3,2}(-1)} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 4 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & -3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 4 & 3 \\ 0 & 3 & -8 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & -3 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{M_2\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 4 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & -8/3 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & -3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 4/3 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & -8/3 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & -3 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{M_3\left(\frac{1}{5}\right)} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 4/3 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & -8/3 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3/5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 14/5 \\ 0 & 1 & -8/3 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3/5 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{L_{2,3}(8/3)} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 14/5 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -13/5 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3/5 \end{pmatrix}$$

6. Take a 2×2 matrix $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$ for which $ad - bc \neq 0$. Then multiply A by suitable elementary matrices to convert it to a row echelon matrix in each of the following cases.

(a) When $a \neq 0$.

(b) When $a = 0$ but $b \neq 0$.

Keeping track of which elementary matrices were used in the process, find a 2×2 matrix B for which $AB = BA = I_2$? Can you write A itself as a product of elementary matrices?

(a) When $a \neq 0$, division by a is possible.
Hence a^{-1} makes sense.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} & \xrightarrow{L_{2,1}(-a^{-1}c)} & \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & d - a^{-1}cb \end{pmatrix} \\
 \text{This is possible} & \xrightarrow{\text{because } ad - bc \neq 0} & M_2\left(\frac{1}{d - a^{-1}cb}\right) \\
 \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} & \xleftarrow{M_1(a^{-1})} & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & ba^{-1} \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\
 & & \downarrow L_{1,2}(-ba^{-1}) \\
 & & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = I_2
 \end{array}$$

Therefore

$$\underbrace{L_{1,2}(-ba^{-1}) M_1(a^{-1}) M_2\left(\frac{1}{d - a^{-1}cb}\right) L_{2,1}(-a^{-1}c)} \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = I_2$$

This product must be the inverse of $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$.

We calculate it.

$$\begin{aligned}
 & L_{1,2}(-ba^{-1}) M_1(a^{-1}) M_2\left(\frac{1}{d - a^{-1}cb}\right) L_{2,1}(-a^{-1}c) \\
 &= L_{1,2}(-ba^{-1}) M_1(a^{-1}) M_2\left(\frac{1}{d - a^{-1}cb}\right) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -a^{-1}c & 1 \end{pmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= L_{1,2}(-b\bar{a}^{-1}) M_1(\bar{a}^{-1}) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ \frac{-\bar{a}^{-1}c}{d-\bar{a}^{-1}cb} & \frac{1}{d-\bar{a}^{-1}cb} \end{pmatrix} \\
&= L_{1,2}(-b\bar{a}^{-1}) \begin{pmatrix} \bar{a}^{-1} & 0 \\ \frac{-\bar{a}^{-1}c}{d-\bar{a}^{-1}cb} & \frac{1}{d-\bar{a}^{-1}cb} \end{pmatrix} \\
&= \begin{pmatrix} -\bar{a}^{-1} + \frac{b\bar{a}^{-1}\bar{a}^{-1}c}{d-\bar{a}^{-1}cb} & \frac{-b\bar{a}^{-1}}{d-\bar{a}^{-1}cb} \\ \frac{-\bar{a}^{-1}c}{d-\bar{a}^{-1}cb} & \frac{1}{d-\bar{a}^{-1}cb} \end{pmatrix} \\
&= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{d}{ad-bc} & \frac{-b}{ad-bc} \\ \frac{-c}{ad-bc} & \frac{a}{ad-bc} \end{pmatrix}
\end{aligned}$$

If you wish, you can verify your calculations for a particular matrix. My favorite is $\begin{pmatrix} 5 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$, whose

inverse, as per above calculation must be $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ -2 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$.

(b) When $a=0$, $b \neq 0$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{S_{1,2}} \begin{pmatrix} c & d \\ 0 & b \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{M_2(b^{-1})} \begin{pmatrix} c & d \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Complete yourself
rest of the calculation.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \xleftarrow{M_1(\bar{c}^{-1})} \begin{pmatrix} c & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \xleftarrow{L_{1,2}(-d)} \begin{pmatrix} c & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Hint:

Writing a matrix as product of elementary matrices.

" If $E_n \cdots E_3 E_2 E_1 A = \text{Identity matrix}$

then $A = E_1^{-1} E_2^{-1} \cdots E_n^{-1} = \text{a product of elementary matrices.}$